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# BAY AREA REPORTER

VOL. XVI NO. 49 DECEMBER 4, 1986

1528 15TH STREET, SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94103

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## Thanksgiving, 1986:

### It Means Turkeys, Marchers And A Man Named Brent Earle

by Allen White

In the midst of a devastating health crisis, San Francisco's gay community took time for reflection as well as giving thanks.

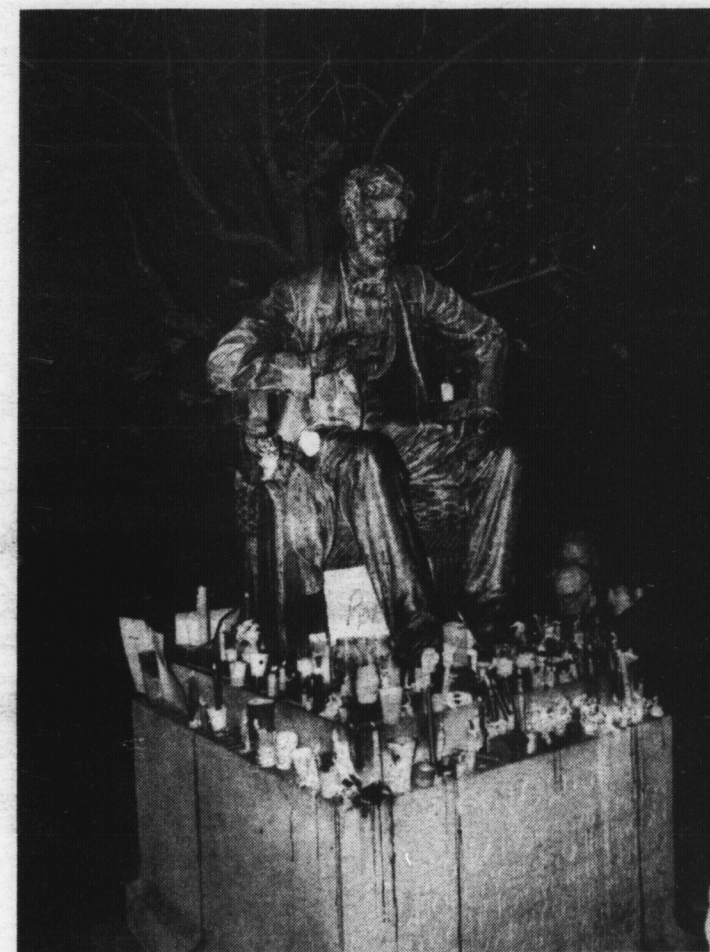
There were traditional Thanksgiving Day dinners across the city, none more special than the dinner for people who have AIDS or ARC sponsored by the San Francisco AIDS Foundation. Several hundred people gathered at the Holy Redeemer Church for dinner. There were dozens of Thanksgiving turkeys served with all the trimmings. One Castro area resident reportedly baked almost three dozen pumpkin pies for the dinner. Those attending were provided with an afternoon of entertainment produced by Danny Williams. Members of the Gay Softball League were among those who helped serve.

In the Tenderloin many gay men and lesbians took time to help serve Thanksgiving dinner at Glide Church and at St. Anthony's Dining Room.

The Annual Empress Tessie Thanksgiving Dinner was reported to be a big success. The traditional event was held this year at St. Paulus Lutheran Church on Gough Street.

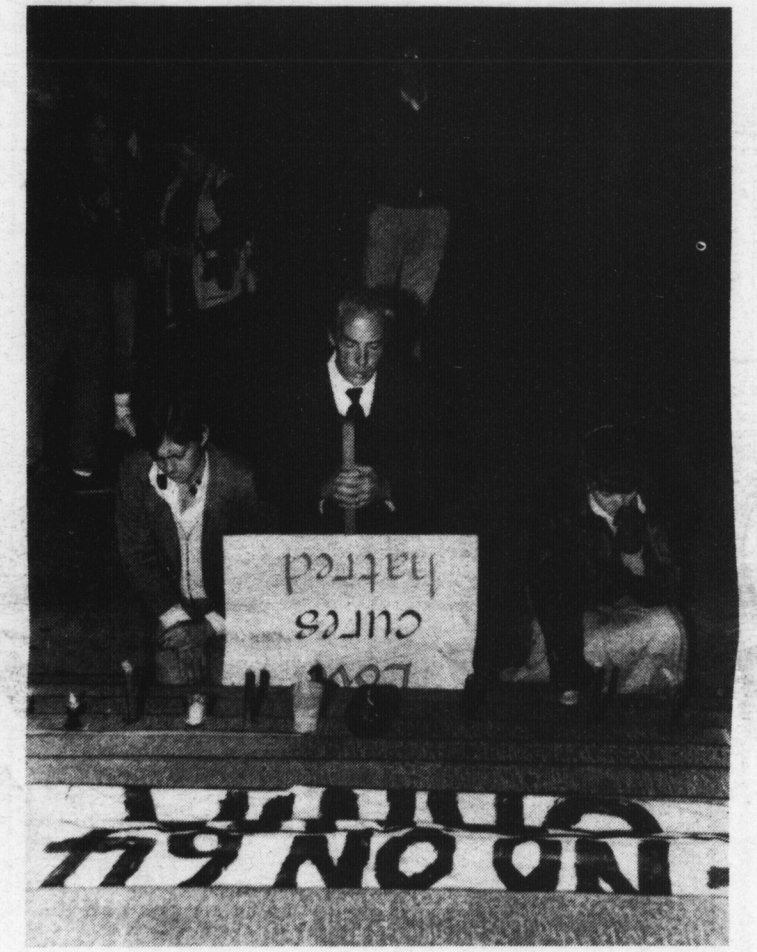
At the SF Eagle, several dozen people gathered for a combination beer bust, Thanksgiving Day dinner and fundraiser. The event

(Continued on page 17)



'The area around the Lincoln statue became an altar of flickering candles...'

(Photos: S. McLennan)



'As they stood or knelt in the brisk cold night air, they gave new meaning to the words 'family' and 'Thanksgiving.'

## Pac. Bell to Pay \$3M. for Bias

### Settlement Could Total \$5M; Largest Award for Gay Job Rights

by Charles Linebarger

A \$3 million settlement has been reached with Pacific Bell Telephone ending *Gay Law Students Association v. Pacific Bell*, the largest and longest-running gay employment discrimination lawsuit in history. The record-breaking settlement is the culmination of an 11-year battle which also produced a landmark California Supreme Court decision (May 1979) protecting gays and lesbians in California from discrimination on the job.

"We beat the phone company," said Jean O'Leary, executive director of National Gay Rights Advocates (NGRA). "We brought the phone company to its knees. The \$3 million settlement will go directly to the gay community. First, it will go to the claimants and whatever is left over will go to the Golden Gate Business Association Foundation, that was our choice. All gay organizations

in California will be able to apply to the foundation for grants from this money. The point is that every penny of this will go to the gay community," said O'Leary.

The settlement agreement will be filed with San Francisco Superior Court this morning, Dec. 4. NGRA legal director Leonard Graff told the Bay Area Reporter that NGRA will request a hearing

(Continued on page 2)

## Today

**Can We Talk?:** Give the gift that keeps on giving this Christmas, come out to mom and dad. Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays has some pointers on how to do it. Gerard Koskovich has the story, page 18.

**A.B. 1:** The job rights bill has been launched once again, but this time there's a twist. See page 14.

**Tradition:** It can be an inspiration — or a kick in the behind. Peter Brown tells of his experience, page 16.

**MeatMen:** A sock-it-toya collection of sex and satire comics from *Gay Sunshine Press* is reviewed by John Karr, page 29.

## Trial Lawyers Blast Insurers

### Agnos Praises Science Academy AIDS Guidelines

by George Mendenhall

"In pressing for this Machiavellian and discriminatory legislation," the president of the California Trial Lawyers Association said this week, "the insurance industry has once again shown its contempt for the American public." Browne Greene, who heads the 5,400-member group, condemned the state insurance industry for its announced attempt to seek legislation which would require citizens who apply for life or health insurance to first submit to mandatory AIDS testing.

Greene cited a study by the American Heart Association which forecasts that almost one million people will die this year from heart disease. He asked, "Would insurers like to refuse coverage to these people, too? Or how about potential cancer victims? Where will it end?"

"The original purpose of insurance was to accept and spread

risk so that all benefited and none suffered catastrophically, financially or otherwise. That is the social function of insurance, but I think it's the moral function, too. Insurers seem to have forgotten this in their rush to the bank."

The CTLA official said his group would be in what Assem-

(Continued on page 2)

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By **DR. RICK PETTIT**

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Sermon: Rev. Jim Mitulski  
7:00 pm - Advent Vespers.  
Sermon: Mr. Bill Lowell

December 14: 10:30 am - Choral Eucharist.  
Sermon: Rev. Steve Pieters  
7:00 pm - Advent Vespers.  
Sermon: Rev. Jim Mitulski

December 21: 10:30 am - Choral Eucharist.  
Sermon: Rev. Jim Mitulski  
7:00 pm - CHORAL CONCERT  
MCC-SF Choir & Orchestra  
featuring Vivaldi "Gloria"

December 24: 10:30 pm - Service of Lessons & Carols with Holy Communion  
Sermon: Rev. Jim Mitulski

December 25: 10:30 am - Christmas Day Worship Service.  
Sermon: Mr. Bill Lowell

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## Insurers

(Continued from page 1)

blyman Art Agnos has called "one colossal fight" when the insurance industry introduces its legislation in Sacramento early next year. He said trial lawyers will battle Lewis Keller, the insurers' Sacramento lobbyist, who has said that those who test positive on the tests would be refused policies and deemed "uninsurable" — although he admitted that there were doubts about the test's reliability.

Greene felt "Agnos was correct in his assessment that the insurance companies are simply trying to enhance and protect their record 1986 profits by perpetuating a hoax on the public. The legal community in this state has been saying the same thing for quite a while.

"If it's a fight they want on this," Greene added, "then so be it. Hopefully, the public is slowly beginning to understand that insurers like nothing better than to reap enormous profits regardless of the human costs involved."

The National Science Academy issued AIDS antibody test-

ing guidelines this week that will also assist in the lobbying against the insurance companies. The group urged that, "In no case should a test be made without the subject's prior knowledge (or that of a duly appointed proxy when the test subject's competence is questioned). We do not recommend compulsory reporting of seropositive test results."

Agnos praised the group who released the guidelines which was co-chaired by Nobel prize winner Dr. David Baltimore and Dr. Sheldon Wolff. The assemblyman said the guidelines were released after "the most comprehensive examination of the AIDS crisis in America."

The academy also called for counseling to be available after tests are given, urges that people with AIDS be considered handicapped on a federal level, and opposes discrimination in employment for people with AIDS.

### AGNOS CLARIFIES

The controversy will center over current law (AB-403) which was introduced by Agnos. It requires written consent before a person can be tested, written authorization for disclosure of

test results, penalties for unauthorized disclosure, prohibitions against using test results for employment, and prohibitions against using test results for qualifying people for insurance.

Agnos recently asked the California Legislative Counsel, which officially interprets state law, for two clarifications on interpreting the legislation. He asked if criminal conduct would create an exception to the written consent requirement. He was told it would not. It added that the only exception would be that a person who requests testing at an alternate testing site may give oral approval.

Agnos asked whether AIDS antibody test results could be disclosed, with or without consent, by anyone other than a provider of health care services. The counsel replied that "Written authorization" as used in this section, applies only to the disclosure of the test results by a person responsible for the care and treatment of the person subject to the test. Written authorization is required for each separate disclosure of the test results, and shall include to whom the disclosure would be made."

## Pac Bell

(Continued from page 1)

ing on the settlement agreement for Mar. 5, 1987. At that time a judge of the San Francisco Superior Court will be asked to rule whether the agreement is a fair and reasonable settlement of the plaintiffs' claims.

Should the court approve the settlement, as O'Leary and Graff expect will happen, then potential claimants across the state will be notified of the settlement through ads placed in newspapers around California by Pacific Bell.

"At that point," explained Graff, "the clock is ticking for claimants to file their claims. They'll be given 120 days from the last date of publication. From the date the Superior Court approves the settlement, I expect it could take as long as a year to fifteen months before there is a distribution (of awards) to claimants."

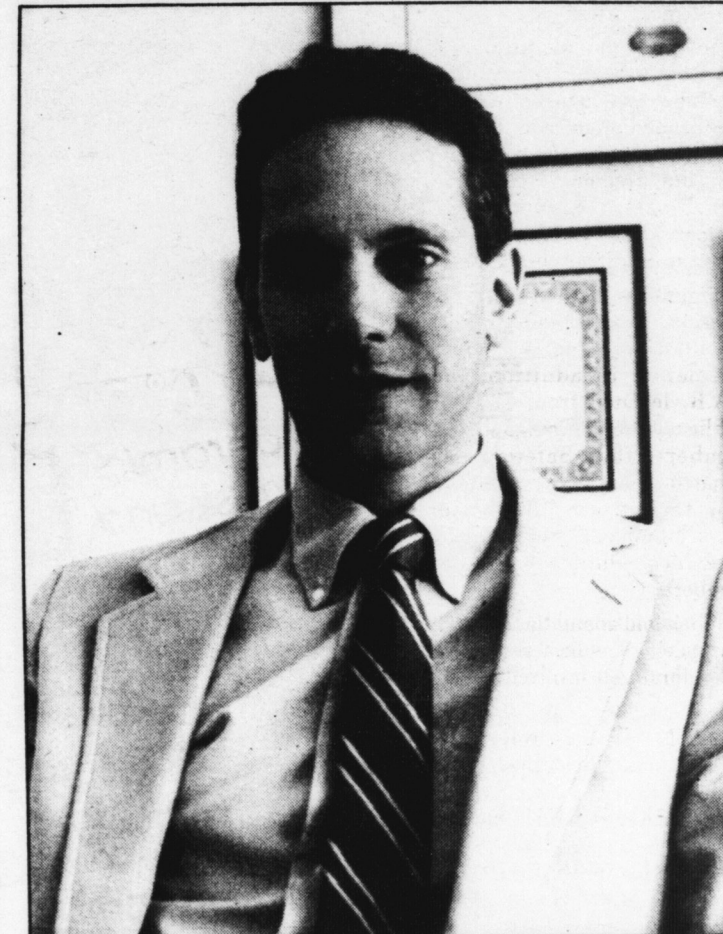
According to the terms of the settlement, it will be presumed that a claimant was discriminated against if the events about which the plaintiff is complaining occurred before Sept. 1, 1980. That is the date Pacific Bell's own anti-discrimination rule came into effect barring discrimination on the basis of sexual preference.

Said Graff, "We feel that the awards will range anywhere from as low as \$2,000 to maybe as large as \$50,000." The cost of attorneys fees will also be paid by Pacific Bell but not out of the \$3 million that has been set aside for paying victims of discrimination.

As of Dec. 2, there were 250 claimants involved in the case, though the number is expected to grow as Pacific Bell's notices of the settlement begin appearing across the state.

In addition to the monetary settlement, the cost of placing public notices, and attorneys fees for individual claimants, O'Leary estimated that the company will have to pay nearly \$750,000 in legal costs accrued by attorneys who have represented the plaintiffs in the class action case.

Explained O'Leary, "I see about half a million dollars in attorney fees and \$200,000 in out of pocket court expenses (court reporters, filing fees and the attendant expenses of litigation). Most of this will be going to reim-



Leonard Graff  
(Photo: S. Martin)

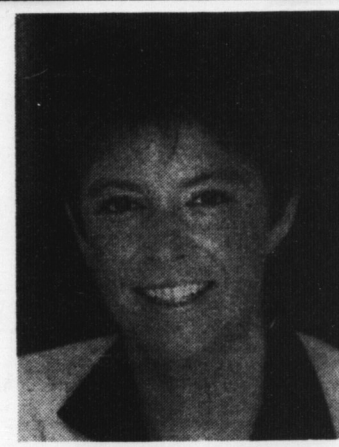
burse Heller, Ehrman, White and McAuliffe (a private San Francisco law firm) for their out of pocket expenses and attorney time in helping us prosecute the case."

"We have class members all over the state," said Graff; "we've had to fly all over California, and this lawsuit has been going on for eleven years.

"It's really going to cost Pacific Bell \$5 million in all, possibly more," added Graff.

The original suit was filed in June, 1975. The case began when two gay men complained that Pacific Bell had discriminated against them because they were gay. One man was turned down for a job when the interviewer learned that he was gay. The other individual was harassed and forced to leave his job when co-workers learned that he was gay.

NGRA later learned that Pacific Bell had a specific policy, approved by company management, forbidding the employment of "manifest homosexuals." The company rejected these gay applicants, labeling their job applications "Code 48 - Homosexual."



Jean O'Leary

The case went to the California Supreme Court in May 1977, leading to a landmark decision on May 31, 1979. "The court said," explained O'Leary, "that gays and lesbians are protected in this state (against employment discrimination) because the California Labor Code says you can't discriminate on the basis of political orientation. The judges interpreted coming out as the most political act a person can make.

"This is the biggest award that the gay community has won in a case like this by far," said O'Leary. "How many people can challenge the phone company and win?"

# Ho! Ho! Ho! Drop A Nickel In, Save Someone From Sin

## Fresh From Battling Gay Rights Around the World, Salvation Army Hits the Stores For Christmas

by Charles Linebarger

The soldiers of the Salvation Army (SA) will be out ringing their bells again this Christmas and no doubt will be expecting gay men and lesbians to drop donations into their little red cauldrons. But the Army's record on gay rights has not been particularly good: the SA has sent funds to New Zealand to try to prevent passage of that nation's newly enacted gay rights law and went to court to fight New York Mayor Ed Koch's executive order banning discrimination against gays in city contracts.

Many businesses and organizations are supporting Salvation Army Christmas efforts this year, however. Beginning in October, the Safeway store at Market and Church Streets, in one of the city's gayest neighborhoods, began printing on its cash register receipts the statement, "Support the Salvation Army."

Safeway store manager, Nick Haloski, admitted, "We've never done that before." He said the decision to put the statement on store receipts had been made by the district office.

Jeff Britton, of Safeway's district office, where the wording on store cash register receipts was decided upon, said, "Some of it (the wording) is up to the store, but 'Support the Salvation Army' was division-wide. Of course, the individual stores had to put it into their computers."

Regardless of who made the decision, the statement is still on the store's receipts as of early December. In addition, the B.A.R. learned from Safeway public relations officer, Deborah Lambert, that Safeway has donated money to the SA's food program this year. "But we are not a foundation and we don't give large donations," said Lambert.

When told about the SA's anti-gay policies, Lambert responded, "We don't get involved in politics."

KRONTV is also involved with the SA this Christmas. Stacy McNutt, of the station's public affairs office, explained that this was the fourth year KRON would be participating with the SA in food drives at Bay Area shopping malls. "Usually someone like Mark Thompson, or another on-air person, is there to persuade people to donate food to the

### Merchants Donate Holiday Profits

When shopping for that special someone this year, look for posters identifying participating merchants in the San Francisco AIDS Foundation's 1986 Holiday Fundraising Drive.

These merchants have agreed to donate a portion of their holiday profits to the fight against AIDS. You can help by visiting these merchants.

For your free Participating Merchants directory, call 864-4376.



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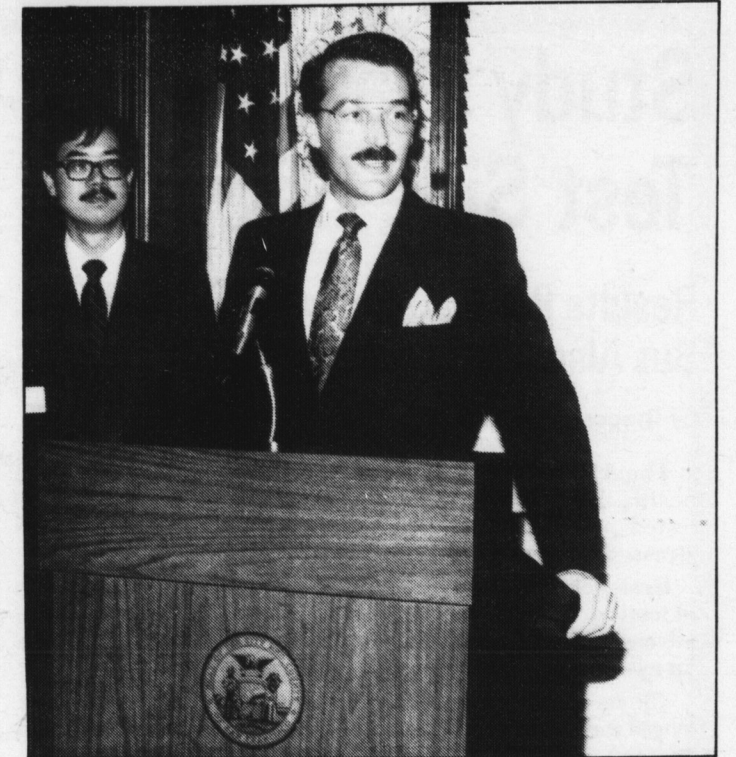
- Buy any ceramic mask and get a ceramic animal hook FREE!
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Steven Rascher.

(Photo: M. Hicks)

and position in our programs. I think that was what was at stake in New York."

Representative of the reaction of many gays is that of Steven Rascher, director of the Golden Gate Business Association and a member of the San Francisco

Small Business Commission. Said Rascher, "I think that with our present health crisis our efforts should be on behalf of our own people in need, especially considering the past history of the Salvation Army toward the gay and lesbian community."

# Study Warns Of Test Side-Effects

Results Produce Behavior Change; But Also Strain Relationships

by Gregory Douthwaite

The AIDS antibody test can be hazardous to your mental health. According to a new San Francisco study, gay men who tested positive to HIV said they suffered from increased stress, depression, and relationship breakups.

Researchers say people should be warned of the side effects of testing. "People should be made aware of the possibility of adverse psychological consequences," said Dr. Steve Morin, an assistant professor of clinical medicine at UCSF.

"Stress and depression, if prolonged and excessive, may have a negative impact on people's health," he said.

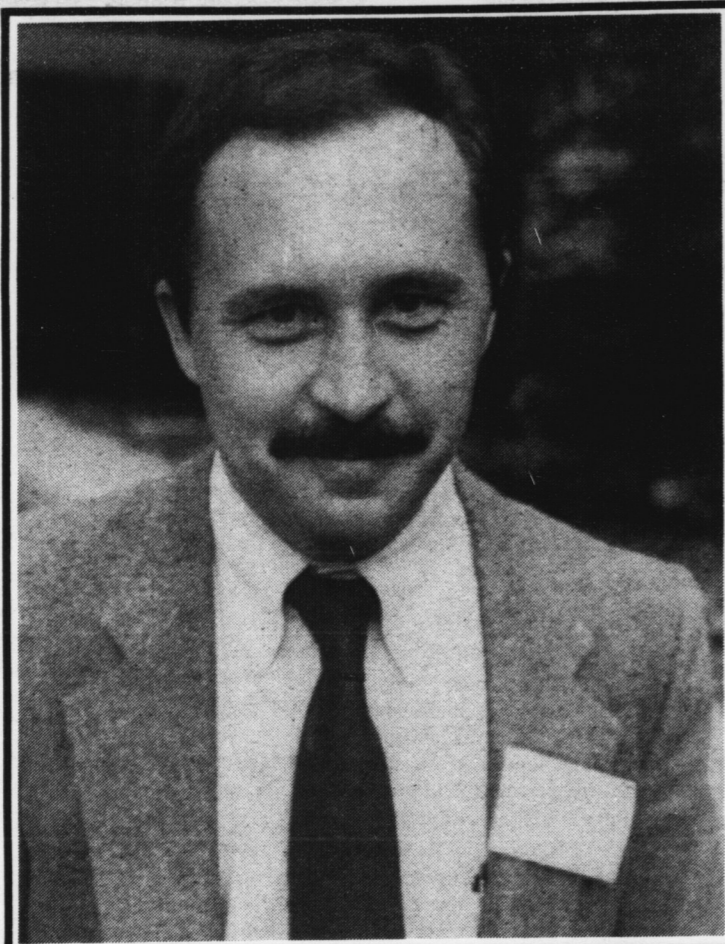
Losing committed relationships could also be damaging, Morin said. "People in difficult situations are in need of a good deal of social support," he said. "If they don't want to be around other people, it cuts them off from support systems which buffer illness."

Further study is needed to determine whether the side effects are lasting, or whether people adjust to the results after a year, Morin said. "I expect some of the initial reaction dissipates," he said.

The test did have the desired effect of reducing high-risk sex, according to the study. Positives had less unprotected anal sex, used condoms more often, and were celibate more often after testing, it was found.

The study began in November, 1984, before the AIDS-virus antibody test became available. Researchers interviewed 560 gay and bisexual men, and 69 percent said they would like to be tested.

The reason given by 73 percent of those desiring testing was to reduce uncertainty and anxiety. Men were curious, and they wanted to avoid spreading the disease to others.



'People in difficult situations are in need of a good deal of social support. If they don't want to be around other people, it cuts them off from support systems which buffer illness.'

—Dr. Steve Morin

(Photo: Rink)

But when the test became available, opposition to it mounted. Some claimed that the risk of discrimination and psychological distress outweighed the benefits of the test. They said that high-risk persons were already motivated to reduce the risk of infection.

In November 1985, the men were surveyed again. The test had been available for months; it was free and results were confidential. But only 23 percent of those who were interested had been tested. Furthermore, only 8 percent still desired testing.

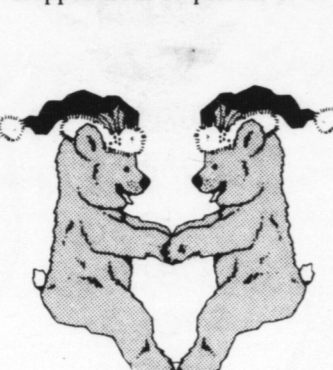
Those who had taken the test and were positive (38 men) reported reducing their high-risk sexual activity more than those who tested negative or those who were not tested. But they also reported suffering the greatest amount of stress and depression and the greatest number of relationship failures.

Before testing, 53 percent of men who would later test positive had a special relationship. After testing positive, only 40 percent still had that relationship. By contrast, men who avoided the test still had that special guy: the number in relationships remained stable at 58 percent.

Celibacy rates more than tripled among sero positives, jumping from 8 percent to 26 percent.

Among negatives, the celibacy rate declined slightly, from 23 percent to 21 percent. Among men avoiding the test, the celibacy rate climbed slightly, from 10 to 14 percent.

Everybody had less anal sex without condoms. The number of positives having receptive anal sex without protection dropped from 26 percent to 13 percent. Among negatives, the rate dropped from 9 to 4 percent. Among men avoiding the test, the rate dropped from 16 percent to 10 percent.



## New Friends

A Statement of Purpose

We are a loosely organized group of men and women who have experienced the shock and confusion of having been diagnosed with AIDS or ARC. Our primary purpose is to share our strength, hope, and practical knowledge on a one-to-one basis with any individual who has been recently diagnosed. Our group consciousness tells us that the first six weeks are crucial to the newly diagnosed person. Their personal and emotional experiences during that time could determine his/her attitudes regarding their future pursuits and personal well-being, while remaining a capable individual within the community. We feel we are in a unique position to have a significant and positive impact during that crucial time.

Our individual commitment to our New Friend is for a duration of two to six weeks from time of contact. The time commitment and personal logistics will be determined by the two people involved and as needed.

New Friends will not take the place of any other organization or project dealing with individuals diagnosed with AIDS or ARC. And although some of our activities as New Friends may overlap an existing service, our primary goal is to lessen some of the fears and anxieties that affect many individuals right after diagnosis.

We may act as a referral resource for the emotional, physical, and financial services that are available in the community. We will not make choices for our friends. However, we will assist him/her in sorting through the wealth of real and esoteric information available.

Our volunteer commitment will officially end after the six-week period when our friends have hopefully made their own choices about existing support groups, social services, other agencies and foundations. That is not to say that a relationship can't continue by agreement between two friends, but that in the first six weeks, the New Friend coming from service and integrity has fulfilled their primary purpose of sharing experience, strength, and hope.

New Friends shall never have more than the prudent amount of \$500 in its treasury. At the end of each month any monies accrued in excess of the prudent amount shall be turned over immediately to an agency or project directly serving the PWA/ARC community.

New Friends has no opinion on any outside issues nor will we be drawn into any controversy or politics which diverts us from our primary purpose. Our primary purpose is to assist the newly diagnosed to take their first steps towards personal dignity and independence.

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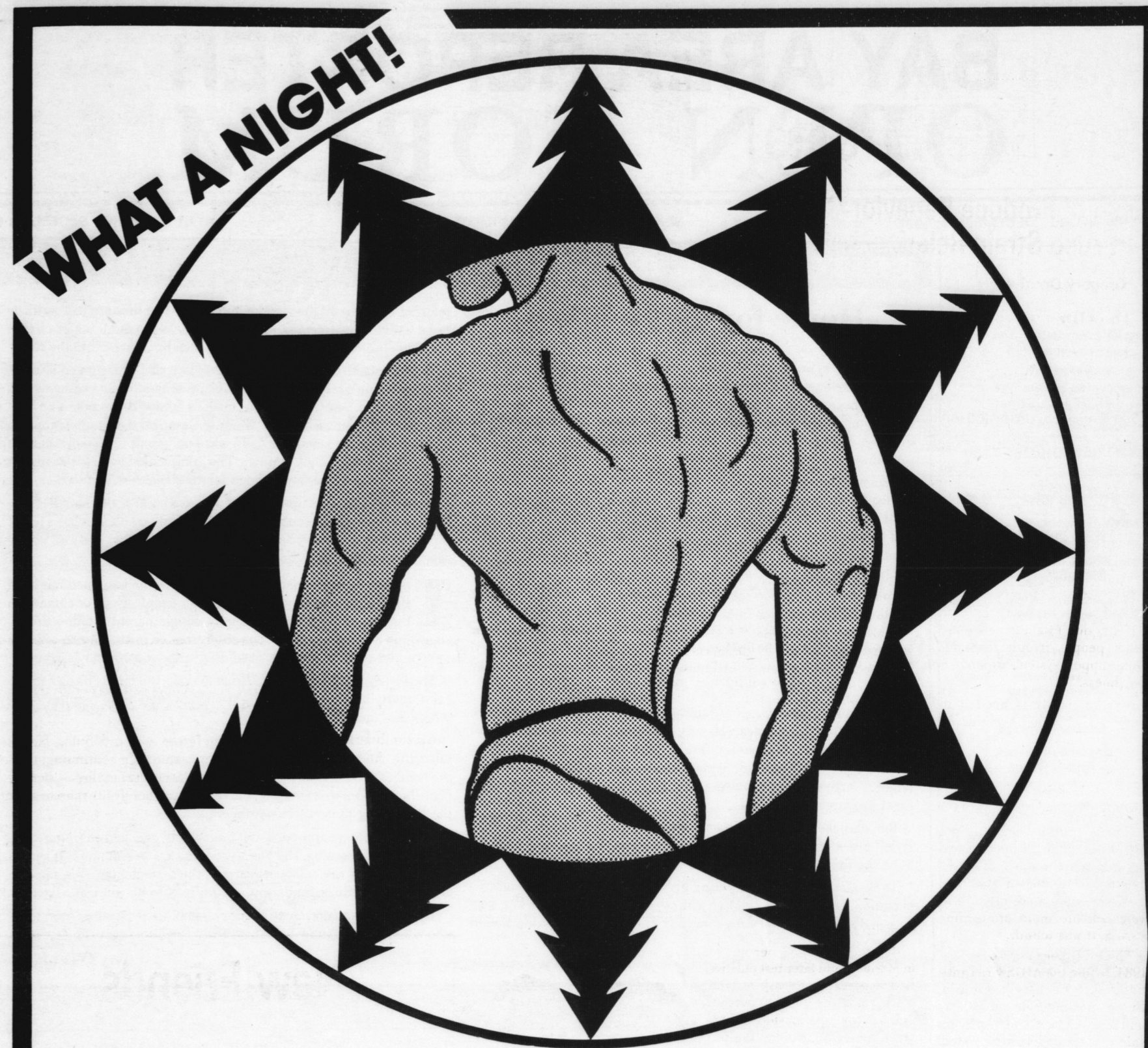
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# BAY AREA REPORTER OPEN FORUM

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## EDITORIAL & OPINION

### Home for the Holidays

Here they are again — The Holidays. Hardly seems like a year has gone by since Thanksgiving-Christmas last. One season of good cheer and good wishes and publicly unbridled sentimentality. For one month, the cute references to mythical families will saturate our lives. We all know the hype for what it is. What gets lost is the fact that something real is also taking place.

I spent Thanksgiving with my family. I don't mean mom and dad, sisters, brothers and cousins. I mean my adopted family, some of whom I did not know until we all sat down to dinner Thursday. Between now and Christmas, I will do the same with more family. After all, I come from a large family and it takes a while to see them all.

I don't dispute the need for or the value of families even though I do get tired of the use of family ideals for other purposes. The current political fashion employs frequent references to The Family. But those who bleat so loudly about The Family seem to have funny notions about what a family really is. Their idea of family is used to exclude many and increase the power of some. Real families are inclusive and there are many kinds.

One of the new forms of family uses surrogate parents to have children for couples who very much want a family but cannot make their own babies. You'd think that the so-called "pro-family" types would be wildly applauding this new development. Nuclear families can continue to nucleate through the scientific wonder of artificial insemination.

But, alas, the "pro-family" campaigners vehemently oppose this "life-style." For some reason, it would — we've heard this before — "undermine the family."

These days, it seems, everything undermines The Family. Women's liberation, homosexuals, children who ask questions, television and even taxes have all undermined the family. If The Family is so weak, should we prop it up?

Did anybody ever live in the primrose path family that is commonly

referred to by the Right-wing myth makers? Families are just as likely to be battlefields, frequently with violence. You stand a better chance of being murdered by a family member than by a stranger in the street.

Raising a family has its problems these days, that's for sure. As is usual, the Right-wing's response to the problems of families is as dreamy and off-base as is its perception of what makes a family. To promote The Family, a Reagan commission (The Working Group on the Family) proposes to teach "reliable standards" of right and wrong in schools and cut welfare benefits to single mothers. The group railed against permissive social conditions that have eroded family structures.

Well, what's the real agenda here? The real point of this so-called pro-family report is 1) yet another Reagan-inspired assault on what's left of the American social service system; and 2) an attempt to shore up the sagging system of straight male privilege.

The fact is, most Americans do not live in the imagined family of Right-wing ideology. Fewer and fewer people live in or come from the over-praised nuclear family. Single parent families are increasingly common whether due to divorce or to the choice of some women and some men to have children without a spouse assistant.

Most annoying is the Right's effort to make the family its own political property as if no one but Right-wingers came from families — all others are "anti-family."

Gays and lesbians have been at the forefront of redefining family. Adopting children or each other, single parenting, co-parenting, making families of choice, caring for those abandoned by families — we have contributed more to renovating and revitalizing family life than have all the Right-wing ranters put together.

As The Holidays approach and our society gets jacked up on some ritual myth concerning The Family, we who are in real families should not be fooled by the hollow whining of the demagogues. Yes, families are wonderful things. Some you're born into, some you make later on.

The warmth and creativity of our real families protects us from those who would make "family" a war cry and a means of oppressing creation.

Ray O'Loughlin

## OPINION

### Offering Prophetic Christian Witness

A Message to the Gay and Lesbian Community and to Our Catholic Brothers and Sisters Regarding the Recent Vatican Letter on Homosexuality From Dignity/San Francisco

The recent pronouncement from the Vatican Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith (CDF) entitled A Letter to the Bishops of the Catholic Church on the Pastoral Care of Homosexual Persons has caused much grief and anger among members of the gay and lesbian community, both here and worldwide.

Numerous Dignity members, along with other gay and lesbian Catholics and those who minister to them, have already publicly responded to this document. Our national president, Jim Bussen of Chicago, has called the letter "un-Christian, unconscionable, and an abomination."

Dignity/San Francisco has held two lengthy consultation sessions on the document and small group discussions on the letter and its impact on Dignity have taken place in members' homes. In addition, many of our members attended a recent forum sponsored by Most Holy Redeemer parish. Through this process we have reached consensus on an appropriate and honest response.

We of Dignity/San Francisco are outraged by the CDF document, not least of all because a large part of the letter is a mean-spirited attack on the work of Dignity and other progressive organizations in the church. These groups face condemnation by the CDF because their members seek to promote a just and responsible sexual ethic which acknowledges God's love for all persons. Such is not the ethic promoted by the *magisterium*, or teaching authority, as interpreted by the letter signed by Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger, prefect of the CDF.

Who regard the statements of Cardinal Ratzinger, not the compassionate ministry to gay and lesbian people which he tries to halt with this letter, as the real source of scandal to the church and to the gospel. The letter is a cruel, patronizing, and futile attempt by the CDF to squelch the voice of the Holy Spirit in our community. It contains bad scriptural exegesis, bad theology, bad psychology and bad sociology.

The document goes far beyond the already sex-negative tradition of our church by providing a rationalization for physical and political violence against our people. As baptized Christians, we are horrified by

this misuse of charisma and power by those entrusted with preaching the gospel.

The document puts the responsibility for carrying out its directives into the hands of local bishops and pastors, to whom the letter is written. We are thankful that here in the San Francisco Archdiocese, charity has prevailed thus far. The Ratzinger letter has had a cool reception from many pastors; it is obvious that these clergy share some of our anger and disbelief at the CDF's statements. The pastor of our present home has stated that we will continue to be welcome at Saint Boniface Church and that he will not ask us to leave. Public statements from the archdiocese have not disclosed any plan to take action against our ministry.

Thus, despite the Ratzinger letter, Dignity is alive and well and continues to minister to the needs of the gay and lesbian Catholic community in San Francisco and over 100 cities nationwide. In fact, Dignity/San Francisco is now the largest chapter in the national organization.

Many of our brothers and sisters in the lesbian and gay community may well ask, "Why does Dignity bother?" Our members have been encouraged to join other communities. We have received hearty welcomes and messages of support from our sister churches, for which we are grateful. Others may wonder why we belong to any church at all.

There are as many answers to these questions as there are Christians. Suffice it to say that we, as Dignity and Catholic Christians, find the true source of our faith not in Vatican pronouncements, but in the fellowship we share around the Lord's table. The reality of Christ's presence in our local community convinces us that no Roman bureaucracy can monopolize the church's life and tradition. Such would defeat the purpose of the gospel, and render the word "Catholic" meaningless. God has called us to preach Christ's justice to the world especially when the Church, claiming to speak for Christ, commits injustice.

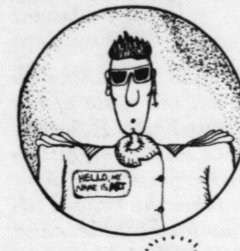
Words are not enough to respond to this letter; prayerful and prophetic action is required. First, we will continue to do what we have been doing for fourteen years in San Francisco: minister to the spiritual, social and educational needs of the lesbian and gay Catholic community and to our non-Catholic friends as well. Second, we will meet with Archbishop John R. Quinn and ask him to convey to the CDF and the pope, prior to the upcoming papal visit, our community's outrage at the document. Third, we will make a vigorous and creative public statement during the pope's stay in San Francisco, offering him prophetic Christian witness of the gay and lesbian community's faith, hope and love.

We invite you to join our struggle for justice, whether as a member of our congregation, or simply with your prayers, good thoughts and support. We intend to stay and make our church the best it can be, with God's help. We're here for good.

The Board of Directors  
Dignity/San Francisco

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## MEMBERS

### That Reviewer Was Opinionated!

★ Recent record reviews in B.A.R. by David-Alex Nahmod covering Megatone's Sylvester and Modern Rocketry product were beyond newsworthy in date. Syl's album *Call Me* was released in 1983. Modern Rocketry's self-titled LP is from the summer of 1985.

This reviewer was more than opinionated, he seemed to be judge and jury as well. His interpretation of Modern Rocketry's *Homosexuality* was totally misunderstood. The songwriters cited their inspiration for writing the song by saying, "We went to a party at the Galleria where Sylvester was performing. The music was hot, all these men were dancing, and it seemed as though everybody was feeling good about having a good time — it was beautiful! We tried to put that feeling into *Homosexuality*." Is Nahmod crazy? He thinks the song advocates unsafe sex practices!

Allen White recently reported Sylvester's big deal with Warner Bros. Records. He forgot (or didn't know) that Megatone's Marty Bleeman arranged the entire deal with WB's Craig Kostich. Five of the seven album deal is in conjunction with Megatone. Sylvester was almost signed by his own management to A&M whose black music department apparently reeks of homophobia.

General opinion from your readers would probably agree that all the facts are necessary for a truly good story. It's time to stop admonishing Megatone Records, however unintentionally, and give credit where it is due.

Jeffrey Wilson  
Hot Wax Music Report  
San Francisco

### David-Alex Nahmod replies:

*It was an oversight on my part not to check the release dates of those two albums. I simply reviewed them as soon as I received them at the B.A.R. office. Sylvester's Call Me got a good write-up because Sylvester has a beautiful voice and puts feeling into his music. Modern Rocketry is cold, computerized trash, and was trashed accordingly. I should point out that my job here requires me to be opinionated. That's my job description. Few writers give good reviews as often as I do.*

*As for your questioning my sanity. No, I am not crazy. Are you?*

### No Bull

★ In response to your editorial of Nov. 26, I would like to express my disappointment and my dismay at your editorial skills. I would also like to comment on your lack of information and understanding of the entire "Vatican Letter" situation.

In your newspaper edition of Nov. 6, you have a front page article informing the community that the Pope has told us to "Drop Dead" (the quotes are yours, not mine). The Pope said no such thing! You also state in the headlines that a "Papal Bull" ended all debate. The Pope has issued no "Bull." What was issued was a letter concerning ministry to homosexual people, not from the Pope, but from Cardinal Ratzinger, head of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith. Could we AT LEAST get our facts straight?

In that same article you quote Tom Kaun and Tom McLoughlin, co-chairs of the local Dignity Chapter extensively as they made statements about the shock and concern of Dignity about the Cardinal's letter. You also quoted me, Tom Carroll, Regional Director of Dignity/USA, speaking about the lack of anything "new" in the Cardinal's letter. I was also quoted as

telling my chapters to stay in the churches until a local bishop forces them out, and then to not "go quietly."

In your editorial, you state that Dignity is timid because it is not protesting too much to the local bishop. If you had actually read the letter, you would note that it is a letter to the bishops, not from them. Why should we protest to Mayor Feinstein because of something stupid Mr. Reagan does?

As members of the Roman Catholic Church, we respect the authority and position of our bishops, even when we don't always agree with them. When our Archbishop does something stupid or foolish, we respond. A few years ago Archbishop Quinn issued a plan for ministry to homosexuals. It was a farce, both in content as well as in its manner of formulation. Dignity publicly rejected the plan, explaining why and offering suggestions for a better approach. Your newspaper reported that incident with gusto. Dignity also was very vocal and public in its denunciation of the lack of social justice and basic courtesy shown to Dignity by Most Holy Redeemer Parish that same year. Your newspaper milked that for all it was worth as well! Are you interested in reporting news, and opinions, or just sensationalizing events?

Our community has become overly fond of attacking one another. Can you imagine the strength and power gay and lesbian people could show if we used our energies working together and supporting each other rather than criticizing at every opportunity? The B.A.R. could become a major force in the unifying of the gaylesbian community instead of being just another bar rag to read quickly and wrap the garbage in! Responsible journalism and positive approaches could do more good than all of the "naysaying" and negative commentary you put out.

By the way, Mr. O'Loughlin, do you often take editorial space to criticize religious groups? As advertisers in your newspaper, this would seem offensive, to say the least! Let us hope in the future that you will get your facts straight, report accurately, and think before you castigate!

Thomas J. Carroll  
National Director  
Dignity/Region IX  
San Francisco

*ED. NOTE: Too bad you don't direct some of this energy toward your real opponent. Regardless of what obscure medieval category you want to put the Vatican letter, it was papal bull, no doubt about it. All quotes in the article were accurate and taken directly from your written or spoken comments or from the document itself, copies of which B.A.R. had while Dignity was claiming none were available. Your letter is a good example of how Dignity is more "loyal" than it is "opposition."*

Ray O'Loughlin

### The Patron Saint Of Whips?

★ So there is a controversy over whether Father Serra should be elevated to sainthood because he whipped the Mission Indians.

In the light of the Holy Inquisition's recent pastoral letter about Roman Catholic Gays it seems to me that Father Serra is a perfect candidate for Roman Catholic sainthood.

The only question is: did he whip enough Indians to qualify?

Ken Clark  
San Francisco

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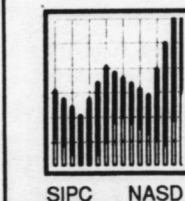


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## LETTERS

### JP II: Why?

★ Does a person deliberately choose beforehand to turn himself into a homosexual, or does a person discover — after the fact — that he is a homosexual because he has experienced a consistent history of involuntary, reflexive sexual arousal towards persons of the same gender?

If the former view is true, then the person has chosen a homosexual "lifestyle." If homosexuality is morally wrong, then this choice is an immoral one. If homosexuality is not morally wrong, then the choice is not morally wrong.

If the latter view is correct, there is no choice; without choice, the condemnation and punishment of a homosexual for his condition is illogical and itself immoral.

In spite of the fact that common sense and all evidence and authority on the subject points strongly to the latter view, the Catholic Pope has recently decided to adopt the "lifestyle" theory of homosexual genesis as the official church position. He then declares that homosexuality is an "objective disorder" and immoral (without any evidence or rational argument supporting that declaration) and urges intolerance, discrimination, violence and the murder of homosexuals merely because they express their desire to be treated with equality and dignity.

If homosexuals do not choose their condition, then the Pope's actions amount to bullying and scapegoating on an innocent and relatively powerless minority. The resulting suffering and death to countless individual homosexuals will be enormous.

The obvious question, then, is why the Catholic Pope has decided to ignore all of the evidence and choose to make such a powerful broadside attack on the homosexual. Why indeed?

Stuart A. McDonald  
San Francisco

### Viva Jose

★ Loved Jose's satire of the religious mentality. Long may she reign!

Frederic Millen  
Editor, NEWS  
The Parsonage  
San Francisco

### Swapping Prejudices

★ In his rather rambling letter to the B.A.R. (Nov. 26), Martin Stow quotes the Catholic Church as calling homosexuals "intrinsically disordered," and then goes on to say that, quote "the Orthodox Jewish psychoanalysts couldn't have put it better."

Now it is hardly a secret that some Orthodox Jewish religious leaders condemn homosexuality no less than the Vatican does, (witness the Orthodox rabbis in New York opposing the passage of gay rights legislation), but Orthodox Jewish psychoanalysts? What are Orthodox Jewish psychoanalysts?

One must wonder what position Mr. Stow, himself a psychoanalyst I believe, ascribes to: non-Orthodox Jewish psychoanalysts, or, for that matter, to Orthodox non-Jewish psychoanalysts.

I was just getting ready to laugh, but then I realized that it hardly helps solving our problems to substitute one sort of prejudice for another.

Walter Ems  
San Francisco

### Apologia Pro Roma

★ Your letter and editorial writers reveal a lot about their own sexual insecurities and ignorance of the Church. You should note that what the Roman Catholic Church pronounces on, even if it is not officially ex cathedra, must be seen as the Church speaking as final judge, a role it has in other contexts unequivocally explained it has no authority to assume (but it does it anyway). We should not forget that even the Pope himself would admit if pushed to it that God is the final judge.

Therefore, homosexuals should respond to the Church's pronouncements on sexuality just as the rest of the human family does. What is the official Church view on contraception? How many in or out of the official Church follow it? What is its view on divorce? How many Catholics follow it? They follow conscience and leave God to judge.

Never forget the Church has for centuries sponsored monastic life. In that life many homosexuals have found happiness — not all of them through the strict practice of celibacy. The real church is wise and compassionate. We suspect that Friar X is fucking Friar Z. But they are discreet. We have no doubt in any case that they love one another. As long as that is the case, we will not act against them. We suspend judgment (in tempore).

True, the Church did not foresee 20th century sexuality San Francisco-style, I do not think, but then

who is to judge?

David Soulangier  
San Francisco

**ED. NOTE: I am a "Fallen" Catholic who once had a gay priest tell me some of the things you've said in your letter. However, your letter will not serve much comfort to some poor gay soul who becomes the violent victim of someone who takes the Vatican literally. Isn't it about time for bluntness and honesty toward Rome? The Church's lack of humanity toward lesbians and gay men is an affront to all of us. Your "Apologia Pro Roma" has only an aroma . . . and not a very nice one, either.**

Will Snyder

### God Loves Me

★ After reading your editorial (B.A.R., Nov. 26), my first impression was, how could he write such a cruel, negative editorial? But after reading it two or three more times I think I can understand how you and possibly other people could reach the conclusions you did.

Before I continue I would like it understood that this letter contains solely my opinions; it does not necessarily reflect that of Dignity San Francisco's Board of Directors, or its membership.

First of all, Dignity is not a gay Catholic organization, nor is it a Roman Catholic progressive community. Dignity is an organization of gay and lesbian Catholics, their family and friends working for justice. To rephrase this in any way takes away the meaning of Dignity, as you did in your column.

Second, you stated that it was Dignity's decision not to protest vigorously and that Dignity has had a "timid response to the Vatican's outrage." In quoting a very famous man, "Those who live by the sword shall die by the sword." (Matthew 26:52). Why should Dignity play by their rules? Also, just how much "vigorous protest" is enough? Dignity's president has been on national television in protest. Locally, Dignity San Francisco has been circulating letters in protest. But just whose authority should Dignity yield to? The Vatican's? Maybe, maybe not. God's? I certainly hope so.

I know God created me into who and what I am. I don't need to beg the authorities to leave me some room. I also know God loves me and accepts me as is. I also believe God loves and accepts homosexuals as is. Open your Bible to 1 Samuel, Chapter 18, verses 1-4 and tell me what it says to you.

I don't know what it was that made you write this editorial, but I must say it hurt a great deal to read it.

We live in a world where it is looked down upon for a gay or lesbian couple to walk down the street hand in hand. There are laws in certain parts of the country where it is illegal to have gay sex. Recently in California, some people tried to pass a proposition that would have quarantined people with AIDS. We live in a place where gays and lesbians can't even defend their own country openly.

The gay community has enough problems with the "normal world" already. It doesn't need any more enemies from within "doing the devil's work." You have criticized Dignity's position and effectiveness as a gay representative, how about some advice and support? What would you have Dignity do?

Dignity is still alive and well. And Dignity's door will always be open to anyone who wishes to find a gay and lesbian accepting, caring, and loving community in which to nurture and rediscover their own spirituality.

As for locally, Dignity San Francisco isn't doing bad. Within the last month the San Francisco chapter has received 20 new members.

John Caldera  
San Francisco

**ED. NOTE: As for what I would have Dignity do: take yourselves seriously enough to get angry.**

Ray O'Loughlin

### Thanks To All

★ The Empress Tenderloin Tessie Memorial Holiday Dinner Committee wishes to thank the following, whose generous support made the Gay Community Thanksgiving possible: St. Paulus Church for donating the use of the parish hall; The Tavern Guild for a generous cash donation; the Stallion for hosting our auction; the Gay Rescue Mission, which donated a lot of the food and recruited volunteers; the bar owners who donated the turkeys; Mr. Marcus and the Bay Area Reporter who helped with the publicity for the auction and the dinner; all of the volunteers who worked so hard rounding up the food, cooking the turkeys and serving the dinner, and the 400 guests who honored us with their presence.

Rev. Donald Jackson  
San Francisco

## LETTERS

### Consider This Alternative

★ On Dec. 10, the first payment of San Francisco property tax is due. Thanks to City Attorney Louise Renne, a long-time community arts supporter, those receiving property tax bills will have an opportunity to make a contribution to arts organizations like the Gay Men's Chorus, The Lesbian and Gay Chorus, Theatre Rhinoceros, and The San Francisco Band Foundation.

The Voluntary Arts Contribution Fund, administered by the Hotel Tax Fund, provides equipment and building improvement money to community arts organizations in San Francisco.

Making a donation along with one's property tax is convenient and will create a fund which will allow the arts organizations in our community to grow and prosper while they bring their dynamic message of pride to San Francisco.

I hope property owners in our community will read and consider the Voluntary Arts Contribution Fund solicitation card when they receive their tax bill.

Don Johnson  
San Francisco

### Tiano Has To Change

★ This letter was sent to Ann MacMillan, KQED Auction, 500 Eighth Street, San Francisco, CA 94103-4492.

Dear Ms. MacMillan:

I am in receipt of your solicitation for items to be auctioned at the annual KQED event. Either you have a questionable sense of humor or you have no knowledge of my company's current position on KQED. In either case, let me make you aware of the following:

R. Kassman Piano represents only the finest quality keyboard instruments and is the official piano purveyor to the San Francisco Opera and the San Francisco Ballet. As such, we deal in a strictly ethical and professional manner. We are a company concerned with factual representation of both our instruments and our company's standards of service. We consider ourselves to be active in the fine arts community and we are a socially conscious company, concerned about political and social issues within the community in which we do business. Unfortunately, due to KQED's lack of representation of the community it serves, we have found it necessary to question its motives and broadcasting ethics.

I have personally been active in trying to have these concerns addressed by KQED. After having received personal assurances from Mr. Tiano that issues I was concerned about would, at the very least, be open to discussion and then having those discussions rudely and abruptly terminated, I found no choice other to completely sever my support of KQED. I intend to work vigorously towards convincing my fellow businessmen, particularly in arts-related fields, to follow my example.

Should Mr. Tiano have a change of heart, and decide to alter his current biased programming to more adequately represent the community which he is supposedly serving, we will gladly reconsider our position on financial support of KQED.

Cordially,

Russell I. Kassman  
San Francisco

### Banished Bulging Buns

★ I have followed the letters written about alleged rigging of Endup contests and too would like to comment.

Four years ago my lover took me to the Endup and I won the Jockstrap Contest that night. Four months ago, single, I lost the Calendar Contest. As a professional strip-tease artist I was very upset that I didn't at least place in the runner-up categories. Eric Hellman wrote of his discontent that week in the Sentinel entitled, "Where Bare Bottoms End Up As Art," subtitled "Rooting for #10. (That's me.)"

I was sure my bulging handful of tickets had to tally at least 150. But when showed the ticket tally, I scored only 52 votes from the also disappointed following of mine and strangers too.

The winners tickets counted 350 plus — much more than any of the other 18 contestants. Our immediate reaction was that our tickets had been put in the count of Contestant #1, who seemed to be the producer's fave.

Granted, I may have loused up my chances when three weeks before John asked me to be a guest stripper for a jockstrap contest by refusing to take payment in check form. In my seven years of dancing I had always been paid in cash form for my act. (The crowd loved my style.)

John over-reacted, in my opinion — as he had not made himself clear on the Endup's payment policy, and equally as much my fault for taking previous experience for granted and assumed cash payment. I felt sure they had tried to pull a smooth one on me

Tom Winter  
Mr. Gay Maine, 1985  
San Francisco

### The Media Goofed

★ I believe that media coverage of the police tends to focus unfairly on the negative. A recent experience leads me to comment.

On Sept. 9 a friend of mine was killed by an unknown assailant. Within two days SFPD's Homicide Department had arrested a suspect. Even if they had not, my appreciation of the inspectors' work on this case would be the same.

Some words that describe my experience with the police are *thorough, committed, and considerate*. Inspectors Gerrans and Mullane, and the rest of their team, devoted a tremendous amount of time and effort to this case. They worked around the clock, followed all leads, and treated the case with dignity, unlike the media, which seemed interested only in whatever sensational angles they could develop. Meanwhile, the fine job these men did went almost unnoticed. I believe it should be acknowledged publicly and completely.

Media portrayals had led me to conclude that the police were rude and inept. My personal experience engenders only respect and gratitude. It also makes me impatient with the generally one-sided coverage the police receive. Whether I ever read of the good side of police behavior, I now know it exists. I am only sorry that it took a personal experience such as this to show me the better side.

I think members of the media need to examine their own behavior as it relates to the fairness with which they cover the police. A broader, more complete coverage would give a truer picture. Current coverage, I think, misleads the public, "educating" them to only one side of police behavior.

Joseph Falardi  
San Francisco

### A Message About Massages

★ I think it's time someone said (wrote) something about the ads the models-escorts-masseurs place in the B.A.R. Unquestionably, most of them are liars, ok let's say they are not truthful.

When a prospective client calls them, in my case each call is long distance, and asks them for their stats (e.g., color of hair, eyes, build, age, how well hung, etc.), why would they lie about their stats?

If you call from outside the 415 area and get their recording, they will not return your call. Why don't they realize the B.A.R. is distributed anywhere from San Jose to Santa Rosa and Guerneville?

It takes me over an hour to get to these residences, only to discover most of them are ugly! (They advertise "very handsome." Maybe some are!) I now know why they don't show their faces in the ads! They have bad breath, bad teeth, bulging stomachs, body odor and are on *drugs*. (I said "most.")

You ask them on the phone if they are versatile, to which they say "yes." They can sound so pleasant and courteous on the phone. Yet when you are at their place and suggest doing your thing, they say, "I'm not into that."

I know they get stood up sometimes — but they do it also!

I've also noticed most of the ads do not appear in the B.A.R. for more than approx. five to seven months, if that. Perhaps San Francisco isn't the "promised land" after all. Maybe if they were honest and lived by the Golden Rule, they would better satisfy their clientele and do better financially.

One more thing — all of the masseurs I've engaged are not certified, or qualified. How can they advertise that they are masseurs? My pet canary could give a better massage. It is a rather sorry situation.

Chuck De Brava  
Santa Rosa

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Wayne Friday

S.F. GOP Self-Destructs

The Republican party — what is left of it — has apparently decided to throw in the towel in the city. The GOP, with a party registration of less than 19 percent in a city dominated by liberals and Democrats closed up shop last week at their office on Geary Street. They sold the furniture and put their meager records in cold storage, probably forever.

With only 72,000 voters out of 700,000 population, and not a single Republican holding office, there was little else for the beleaguered GOP to do. The party has been operating here for the past few years with a county committee that was constantly fighting among themselves with lawsuit after lawsuit being filed against each other.

County chairperson, attorney Harriet Ross, was unpopular even among those who shared her political philosophy. Ross probably did more to discourage Republicans, particularly gay ones that I have spoken with, than any "leader" in recent years. Now she says she is discouraged by the endless lawsuits that her fellow Republicans keep filing against each other, and the futility of it all has led her to get out. "I can't do it anymore," says Ross, "besides I'm tired of worrying whether I too might be sued."

Veteran state Senator Milton Marks, the last elected local GOP lawmaker, jumped ship last year and joined the Democrats. There are no Republicans on the 11-member Board of Supervisors, and Eugene Garfinkle, the last Republican to hold office, lost his BART board seat in the recent election to Democrat Arlo Hale Smith.

Despite the seemingly pointless task of winning in this city, the local party stalwarts, backed financially by the United San Francisco Republican Finance Committee, have kept their small office open in hopes of possibly mending themselves and presenting some kind of "loyal opposition" to the Democrats. But in the end, the bitter in-fighting won out, and the Republican party in San Francisco is now a thing of the past. None of the players in this self-destructive party fight wanted to speak with us this week.

The only semblance of Republican party organization left in San Francisco is the mostly-gay Concerned Republicans for Individual Rights. Whether those still interested in promoting the party of Lincoln, Eisenhower and Reagan will help keep this organization going remains to be seen.

Secretary of State George Schultz last week approved a plan to screen Foreign Service applicants, employees and their dependents for the AIDS virus in what is the first civilian AIDS testing policy among federal workers. Civil libertarians are rightfully worried that the policy could serve as a precedent for private industry.

Meanwhile, discrimination due to AIDS becomes more and more apparent. In Indianapolis, a judge recently terminated the right of a divorced father to visit his 2-year-old daughter because tests showed that Thomas Stewart, a 31-year-old construction worker, has been exposed to HIV. The drastic action taken by the judge is a step that courts usually take only after repeated child



B.A.R. columnist Wayne Friday and State Sen. Quentin Kopp at Wayne's birthday party at the Comstock. Wayne turned 50 years young last week. (Photo: Savage Photography)

abuse or neglect. Full custody was granted to the child's mother despite her admission that she was a user of the drug PCP.

City Attorney Louise Renne is the guest of honor at the Bay Area Non-Partisan Alliance's Christmas Party at the Comstock Club on Dec. 8; \$35 donation, hors d'oeuvres, no-host bar. Call Don Disler at 392-2800 for reservations or info.

In Atlanta, a man known as "Mr. T" confessed to a series of gay murders that terrorized that city's gay community. Michael Terry, 26, was charged with six murders after admitting to the killings between December, 1985 and October, 1986.

Former Menlo Park Assemblyman Bob Naylor, who gave up his Assembly seat to wage an unsuccessful campaign for the U.S. Senate, is the early favorite to become the new state GOP chairperson when the 1,237 members of the California Republican Central Committee meet in February.

City Hall staffers say that

Mayor Dianne Feinstein is really sore at Speaker Willie Brown over his planned bill that would allow out-of-state ownership of California banks. The still unwritten bill could assist a takeover of BofA by Citicorp of New York and those close to Her Honor say the plan has Feinstein fuming.

Political writers still shaking their heads at the cost of California political races. More than \$40 million was spent on the recent gubernatorial and U.S. Senate races. A state "record" was set in Billings, Montana this year when GOP State Senator-elect Al Bishop unseated incumbent Democrat Thomas Towe. The Republican spent \$22,015, while the loser spent \$22,706.

State Sen. Quentin Kopp took a double-decker bus load of friends and political supporters to Sacramento Monday to watch him take the oath of office.

Kopp, incidentally, will make his first appearance before a gay

group next Monday, Dec. 8, when he speaks to the Toklas Democratic Club where he is expected to outline his Sacramento AIDS agenda (8 p.m. at the Women's Building on 18th Street).

Quote of the week from Dr. Mervyn Silverman, president of the American Foundation for AIDS Research, in a Los Angeles Times interview: "There has been a persistent failure of moral leadership on the AIDS crisis from the president on down. Pres. Reagan didn't even mention the epidemic for four years and then only to alarm people about the blood supply and to endorse the alarm of parents over AIDS children going to school, in both cases ignoring the medical evidence."

A note of thanks to all those who made my recent birthday party at the Comstock Club such a pleasant one. Over \$6,000 will be split evenly between the S.F. AIDS Emergency Fund and Coming Home Hospice. Thanks again to everyone.

Brian Jones

'Well! My Dear . . .'  
The Life and Crimes  
Of Gene Zuchelli

Gene Zuchelli was 15 and there was a war on. This had its advantages. Said Gene later: "I was crazy about uniforms. There were servicemen all over the place and I was just not able to stand it." Certainly, Gene's hometown, Knight's Landing on the Sacramento River, was too far from the front.

Thus the spring of 1945 found Gene, in full drag, lying in the arms of a sailor at night on the beach at San Diego. Gene got busted, of course.

When they took the "young lady" down to the station house, Gene was handed over to the matron and taken to the women's strip search room.

"You're not going to believe this," Gene said. "I'm a guy." The matron believed it. She hauled Gene back to the booking sergeant and said, "This one's yours."

The cops shipped Gene back to his mother and dropped the charge. But Gene could not go back to Knight's Landing. He switched buses along the way, boarding one marked SAN FRANCISCO. He never looked back.

Gene Zuchelli's friends were looking back this week as they buried Gene's body in a sunny hillside plot at San Rafael. Gene Zuchelli, 57, died Nov. 24 of AIDS-related pneumonia.

Gene Zuchelli was a remarkable sissie who lived a remarkable gay life. From that day in 1945 he was out of the closet and lived as an openly gay man. His life was profoundly important to gay liberation although Gene was never an activist, as such.

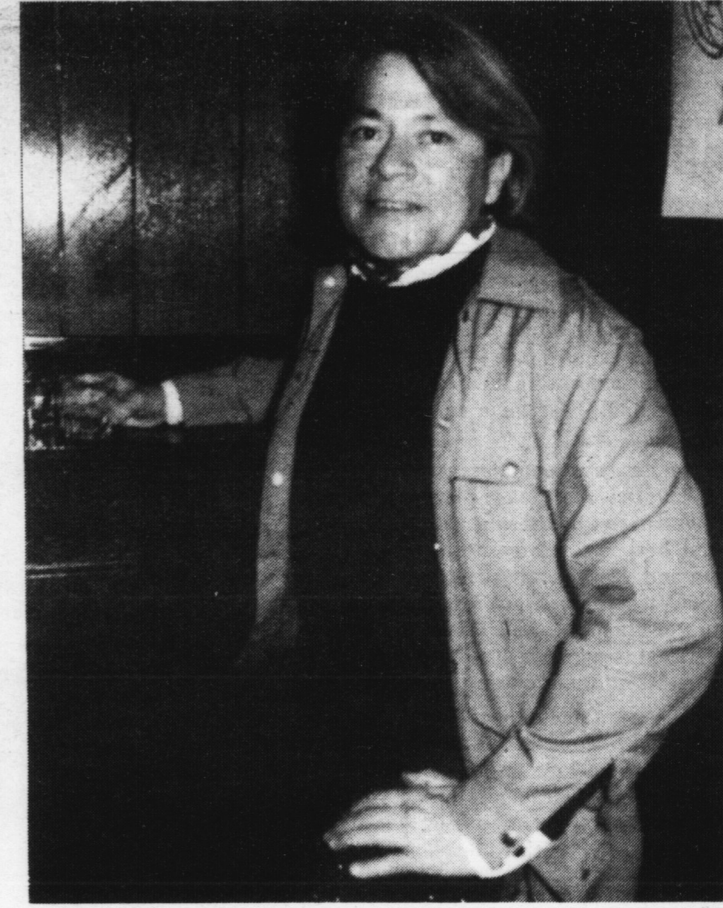
He was put in jail for being gay, he was fired from jobs for being gay, and yet in 40 years as an up-front fairy, Gene was never consumed by bitterness or resentment.

Gene Zuchelli did not fight homophobia; he transcended it. Recalling the words of Oscar Wilde—"I put my talent into my work, but I put my genius into my life"—Gene lived a gay life. Gene Zuchelli's presence was proof enough that a gay life was not only possible, but probable.

With his flowing silver-grey mane (in later years) and his carefully constructed rainbow outfits, Gene made a statement about gay lib just by standing still and waiting for the bus.

Jerry Smith of Minneapolis knew Gene for 40 years. Jerry had a special bond with Gene—"We met when he unwittingly tried to steal my lover"—and Jerry had occasion to bail Gene out of jail.

That was in 1947. Gene was still dressing in drag, running over to Oakland and "yoo-hooing" at the sailors. The Oakland authorities were not amused even though many of the sailors were



Gene Zuchelli

Barbara Cameron, former co-chair of the Lesbian and Gay Freedom Day Parade Committee, was among Gene's close circle of friends. She wrote Gene's personal history in the 1983 parade program because "his history spans a significant period of San Francisco history beginning from the late Forties."

Said Gene in the interview, "It was so exciting in San Francisco. All I had to do was stand on the streets and smile." Gene sought the company of older, wealthy men. One—Richard Schiff—became his lover for a few years un-

til Richard died.

Evenings would find Richard and Gene, with Gene now dressed as the dapper gay blade in a double-breasted suit, sipping champagne at the Fairmont.

When the Korean War came along Gene went down to the draft board and told them he was homosexual. "Gay" was an unknown word at the time.

A few years later, Gene was shipping out on cruise ships as a beautician. His Korean War "confession" was dug up and

one day, as he tried to board ship, two men in trenchcoats barred his way and Gene's shipping-out days were over. That was life in the McCarthy era for an up-front fairy.

For the past nine years, Gene worked for a state consulting firm in the City. While he was never less than outrageous—punctuating all his important statements, for 20 years, with the phrase "Well! My dear . . ."—his inherent kindness and gentleness won the hearts of the straight people who worked with him. The day of Gene's funeral, Monday, was an office holiday. Gene's straight co-workers joined Gene's gay friends to take Gene to the cemetery.

The Catholic funeral mass was a Zuchelli classic: colorful and dramatic. Even as the gay community fumed at the Pope's recent condemnation of homosexuality, Gene planned a traditional Catholic funeral at St. Boniface in the Tenderloin.

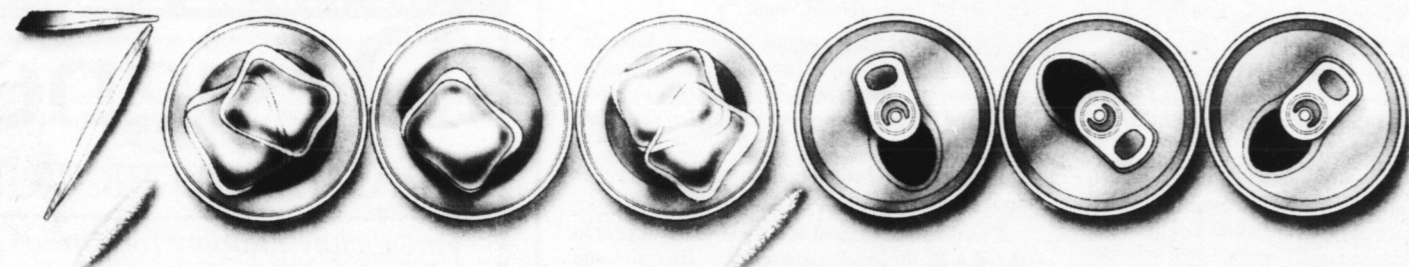
This was a typical Gene response. To homophobic outbursts such as the Pope's, Gene would raise a glass of champagne, say, "Well! My dear . . .", tell an old story—then go on with his own life, on his own terms.

Gene was laid to rest wearing purple cotton over yellow, a shroud of crimson velvet covering his slate-blue casket. He was buried at Mount Tamalpais Cemetery in San Rafael.

At his side until the end was his gay family—Emilio, Peter, Tod, Ken, Barbara, Jerry and Brian. Also mourning his passing were his "niece," Carl, of Minneapolis; and his current beau, Marvelous Marv.

To paraphrase Shakespeare, from the Eulogy of Julius Caesar: "This was a Sissie."

LIFE AT THE CLOSET DOOR



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HEALTH

Speed Kills

by Frank Davis,  
18th Street Services

Many gays use "speed," a drug also commonly called "crystal" or "crank." Its pharmaceutical name is methamphetamine. It is a powerful drug that can be swallowed, snorted, injected or taken rectally. It is also very dangerous, and can be deadly.

Speed is a strong stimulant of the central nervous system. Some of its effects are increased heart rate, blood pressure and breathing rate. It also creates chemical imbalances in the brain which can lead to psychosis, paranoia and depression. The hazards of high doses of speed include risk of stroke or heart failure caused by an increase in blood pressure (which may be sudden if speed is injected). Continued high doses with associated appetite loss may lead to malnutrition (loss of weight, skin troubles, ulcers) and a physically worn-down condition which invites infection. This is particularly dangerous for people also at high risk for AIDS.

Injection of speed carries more dangers. Embolisms (injected air bubbles) can be fatal. Abscesses (localized bacterial infections at the injection site) can be serious enough to require hospitalization. Sharing of needles can transmit hepatitis or AIDS. Impurities in street speed can cause various diseases which may result in death.

Perhaps the greatest danger of speed is that it is very addictive. It produces an intense wave of physical and psychological exhilaration, especially when injected, a wave of pleasure generally

called a "rush." Many people become psychologically addicted to speed, and because they build up a tolerance, they need to take increasingly large amounts to get the same high.

Many people who have become addicted to speed go on "runs" — extended periods of high-dosage use of the drug every few hours. The user may stay awake for days, eating little or nothing during that time. This run may be followed by a long sleep and depression, sometimes called a "crash." Needless to say, this lifestyle is not healthy.

Many gay men closely associate speed use with sex. In fact, the two become so intertwined for some men that they cannot have sex without speed, or speed without sex. They become psychologically addicted to the sex as to the speed. Speed runs become sex runs as well. Often the sex is unsafe and needles are shared because judgment is impaired by the drug use. This type of lifestyle is just asking for AIDS, and it is no wonder that presently about 12 percent of the gay and bisexual AIDS patients in San Francisco report a history of IV drug use.

Those who don't associate speed use with sex may become equally addicted for other reasons. Maybe they like to take some crystal and go out dancing all night, or they feel they need it in their work to stay up longer and work harder. Weekend or occasional use may quickly develop into a daily need.

(Continued on next page)

New Years Resolutions:

- Relationships
- Quit smoking... again
- Become active in community
- Stop feeling guilty
- Volunteer for Shanti now

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## Mike Hippler

### The Belle of Polk Street

If you've ever been in the vicinity of Polk and Sutter, even if you've never seen David Kelsey you've probably heard him. You'd have to be totally deaf to have missed the waves of sound blasting from the stage, rocking the very foundations of the New Bell Saloon where he plays, and rumbling down the block in either direction. This virtuoso performer, who has been a vital part of the San Francisco entertainment scene for more years than he cares to remember, has been called many things throughout his career, but "subtle" is not one of them.

Pedestrians are drawn to the front door of the New Bell like scientists to the Shroud of Turin. They want to know what the fuss is all about. Those in the know enter fearlessly. Others glance in, shake their heads in disbelief, and beat a hasty retreat.

I am one of the former. I have come to the New Bell, next to an adult bookstore that calls itself "A Veritable Supermarket of

Smut," this Thursday evening not only to enjoy the music but also to meet friends. These friends seldom have much to say, but it hardly matters. In the New Bell, I couldn't hear them anyway.

When I make my entrance just past 9:30, David is already playing. Wearing a tropical shirt and seated between a three-tiered organ and a grand piano on an elevated stage, he is definitely the center of attention. This is not some tired lounge act, hired to provide background music.

This man is a star. If the music doesn't convince you, the attitude will. Only three people in the world consume cigarettes with such flamboyant assurance — Bette Davis, Charles Pierce, and La Kelsey.

For the first twenty minutes, until David plays "I Only Have Eyes For You," I recognize none of these songs. Consequently, I concentrate on those around me instead. When one elderly gentleman approach-



David Kelsey.

(Photo: Rink)

es the bar, bartender Mark Friese says, "Hey Grandma, nice to see ya. How're the hemorrhoids?"

street, people ask him if he wants a burger with that shake."

David breaks from a song to reply, "Oh, Jane, you're so cruel!"

David engages in lots of banter

of this sort, both with the bartender and with customers. At one point he takes time to sign an album, "To Liz." A little later, he pauses to let someone he calls Dr. Rhythm hook up his rhythm box.

When one customer feels compelled to protest ("Play some music!"), David balks. "How much did you pay to get in here?" he snaps. The customer, who backs down immediately, really has no grounds for complaint. Despite the interruptions, David's sets are long and extraordinarily vigorous.

One of David's specialties is playing the organ and the piano behind him at the same time — a hand on every instrument in sight. He does this now on a rousing medley of songs from *Oliver!* This is followed by an audience request, "Jazz Hot," from *Victor/Victoria*. While he plays many show tunes like these, David does not confine himself to any one particular style of music. "I like anything that's pretty, happy, or sentimental," he claims. "What I don't like is oppressive music."

Although David could not have predicted tenure at the New Bell as part of his future, "I always knew I wanted to perform," he says. "As early as I can remember, I wanted to make a living this way." A native of Northern California, David has studied piano and organ since he was seven years old. He has earned money in other ways — on a farm, in a bakery, and in a mortuary, for instance — but he has never forsaken his original goal.

Moving to San Francisco in the late 1950s, David played for a number of years at the Levee, "a sort of bike club/dinner house on the waterfront." He began playing at the New Bell in 1974. In 1979 he formed a group called David Kelsey and Pure Trash, a Dixieland jazz show band. Pure Trash, which was an immediate success, delighted audiences from San Diego to Vancouver

(Continued on page 22)

## Speed

(Continued from previous page)

Whatever the reason, if you have problems with speed, I strongly suggest you get help for it. It isn't easy to kick a speed addiction, but it can be done. It won't get any easier the longer you wait — in fact, the addiction will only get worse and harder to solve. For more information, counseling or referral for a speed problem, gay men may call 18th Street Services, 861-4898, lesbians may call Iris Project, 864-2364, and both men and women may call Operation Recovery, 626-7000.

If you aren't ready yet to stop shooting speed, at least don't share needles. You don't need the added risk of AIDS on top of the dangers of speed itself. Remember, a person can look perfectly healthy but still be infectious with the AIDS virus and give it to you.

If you must share a needle, at least learn how to clean it between uses. Before you use a needle that has been used by someone else, fill it twice with liquid bleach (such as Clorox), squirting out the bleach after each filling. Then fill it and rinse it twice with water. This should kill the AIDS virus, and it all takes less than a minute.

But always remember that your first choice for good health is to get off the speed entirely. If you don't remember anything else from this column, please remember one thing — Speed kills.

## NATIONAL & WORLD NEWS

### Fundamentalist Must Stand Trial

**PALM SPRINGS**—Christian Fundamentalist Betty Batey faces a possible three-year prison term if she is convicted of child-stealing. The child-stealing case, which involved her former husband, Frank Batey (a gay man) and their son, Brian, has attracted national attention. The California State Supreme Court rejected a lower court ruling which attempted to drop the child-stealing charges.

The Bateys were divorced in 1975, at that time, Mrs. Batey was granted custody of the then-four-year-old Brian. Seven years later, Frank was given custody of Brian when Betty allegedly refused to grant Frank court-ordered visitation rights. No more than a week later, Betty disappeared, surfacing 19 months later in Denver. There, she was arrested for investiga-

tion of child stealing. She explained during a custody hearing that she feared Brian would be corrupted by his father's gay lifestyle.

In 1984, Mrs. Batey was found in contempt of court for violating a court order by taking the child out of the state and refusing to return him to his father. She was fined and sent briefly to jail.

When felony child-stealing charges were pressed separately by the district attorney, Superior Court Judge Earl Maas dismissed the charges, ruling that she had already been punished for the same conduct and that double jeopardy would be violated. However, the 4th District Court of Appeals reinstated the charge last July by a 2-1 vote.

—The Palm Springs Desert Sun

### 'No, No Nanny!' Cries Jane Wyman

**LOS ANGELES**—When the fall television season started, actress Jane Wyman had an obsession, but it wasn't terribly magnificent for the lesbian and gay community. Wyman, who at one time was married to Pres. Ronald Reagan, apparently used her clout to keep a lesbian plot out of her popular CBS-TV series, *Falcon Crest*.

According to OUT, a New Zealand gay newspaper, Wyman told producers she was offended by the affair which had been planned for characters Errin Jones and Meredith, a "sinister nanny." The two women apparently will have to be content to remain good platonic friends.

—OUT of New Zealand

### Massachusetts Takes New Look At Gay Parents

**BOSTON**—There may be some light forming at the end of Massachusetts' foster care tunnel. The state, through the whims of Gov. Michael Dukakis, has refused to allow gay men and lesbians to be foster parents, may change its policy soon. That was the recommendation of a subcommittee of Human Services Secretary Phillip Johnston.

The subcommittee recommended that foster care placements be judged by social workers on a case-by-case basis. This recommendation conflicts dramatically with a policy reinstated in May, 1985 by Massachusetts' Department of Social Services. At that time, the DSS required children to be placed in "traditional" families with heterosexual partners.

The subject of gay and lesbian foster parents has been controversial in this state ever since two foster children were removed from the home of two gay men, Donald Babet and David Jean.

—The Gay Community News of Boston

### Grand Jury Probes Extortion Charges In Gay Bars

**BOSTON**—A Massachusetts grand jury is studying allegations of police extortion from gay bars. The investigation is the end result of more than five years of probes by the FBI and the Justice Department. During that time, licensing records of 249 restaurants and bars have been subpoenaed.

### TV Soap Picks Up On AIDS Theme

**NEW YORK**—A long-time television soap opera has decided that three characters will be involved in an AIDS story line. The soap opera is *As The World Turns*, a 31-year-old soap which plays on CBS-TV and locally on Channel 5.

Dr. David Stewart, a longtime resident of the fictional Oakdale, IL, announced on the Nov. 21 episode of the soap that he was leaving for Africa to join a research team studying AIDS. Meanwhile, his wife, Ellen, told friends at a party that she will organize benefits to raise money to fight the disease. Her friend, Nancy Hughes, volunteered to help Ellen.

—The Philadelphia Gay News

### The Gay Community News of Boston

### Austin Group Wants To Protect Persons With AIDS

**AUSTIN, TX**—Austin Human Relations Committee members are asking the City Council to consider passing a law to bar discrimination against people with AIDS.

Commissioners voted unanimously in October to push for the measure to protect AIDS victims from discrimination in employment, housing and access to businesses and public services.

Glen Maxey, co-chairman of a group that will lobby for the law, said there have been 25 to 30 cases of discrimination against AIDS victims in the Texas capital.

Craig C. McDaniel

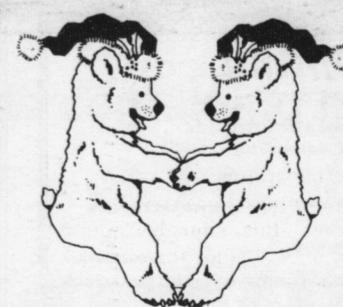
### Time Poll: AIDS Sex Info Is OK

**NEW YORK**—An overwhelming majority of Americans support putting AIDS information in sex education classes for 12-year-old children. According to Time Magazine, 95 percent of 1,015 American backed the input of AIDS information.

Another interesting fact found out by the national newsweekly was that while 76 percent favored information about homosexuality, over half of those in favor (56 percent) also said homosexuality should be presented as "immoral."

When polled individually, 37 percent of the mothers and 35 percent of the fathers said they had told their children between 8-12 years of age about homosexuality while 48 percent of the mothers and 42 percent of the fathers reported having discussed AIDS with the children.

—The Philadelphia Gay News



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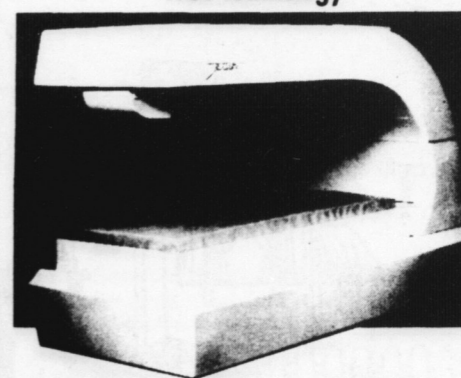
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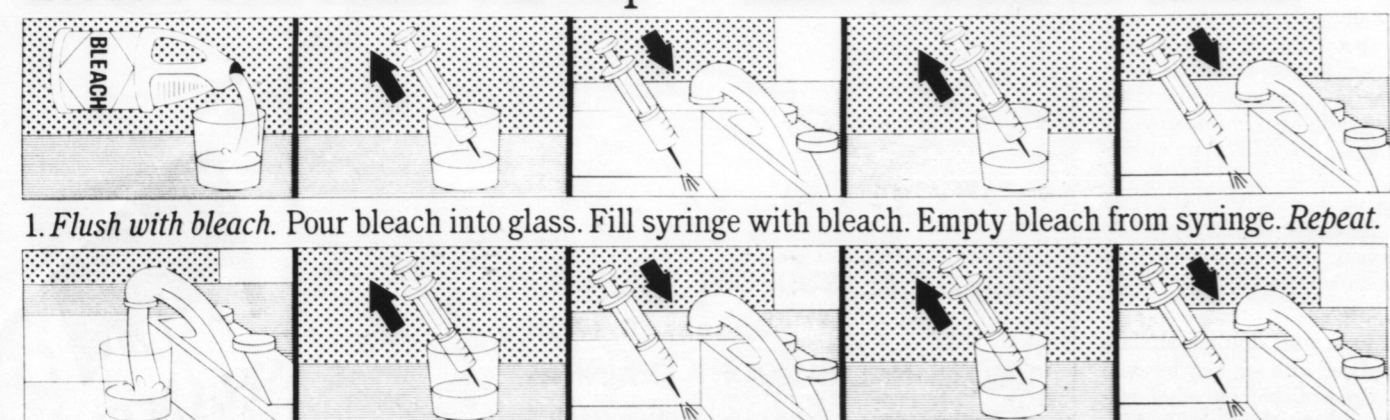


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For more facts about AIDS and cleaning needles:

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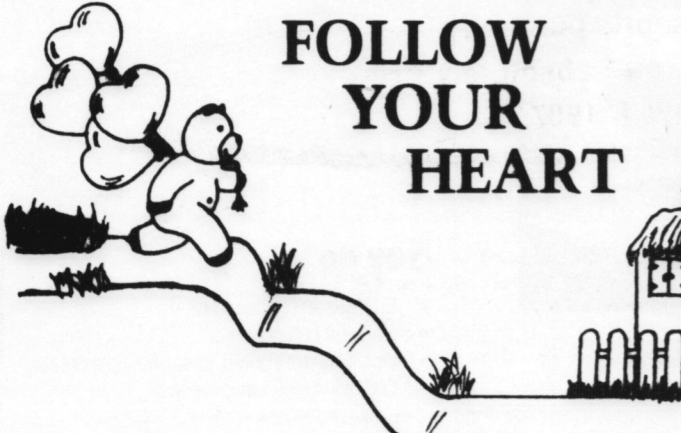
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## A.B. 1 Launched Again This Time With A Twist

### Labor Code Already Prohibits Anti-Gay Bias; New Bill Standardizes Job Rights

Assemblyman Art Agnos (D-SF) has again introduced AB 1, the bill to include job bias against lesbians and gay men in the state Fair Employment and Housing Act. This time, he predicted victory.

"We have turned the corner and victory is in sight," Agnos said. "We no longer face a debate over whether antigay job bias is prohibited—because we now know that it is illegal—but rather how to handle the complaints."

"The only issue for A.B. 1 in this session is whether we will handle the antigay job bias complaints through the Labor Code, where the protection now exists, or through the Fair Employment and Housing Act," he said.

Agnos said that the fight against antigay job bias was won when the Attorney General ruled last April that an existing labor code forbids all such discrimination. According to Agnos, the Department of Industrial Relations has agreed that it will handle all complaints of antigay job bias and set forth procedures to handle complaints.

As the California Labor Code Sections 1101 and 1102 now stand, a lesbian or gay man who has a complaint of job discrimination would go to the Department of Industrial Relations, which would hear the case, decide if discrimination had taken place, and then could be awarded back pay and reinstatement by the Department.

"That's very similar to the remedies in the Fair Employment and Housing Act, which deals with job discrimination based on race, sex, religious creed, color, national origin, ancestry, physical handicap, medical condition, marital status, or sex," said Agnos.

"But in addition to those remedies, the Labor Code also includes a possible prison term for employers who violate its provisions, and that goes beyond the Fair Employment and Housing Act provisions," he added.

The Labor Code also does not exempt religious organizations or small employers from its coverage, as is provided for in the Fair Employment and Housing Act. The purpose behind A.B. 1, is



Art Agnos (Photo: Rink)

now to standardize treatment of all job discrimination.

"The bigots who wanted to us A.B. 1 as a focal point for their campaigns of hatred and money-raising schemes lost the battle without ever knowing what hit them," Agnos said. "It's a done deal."

"I look forward to working with the Deukmejian Administra-

tion in bringing a single standard to this last remaining element in California public policy against antigay bias," Assemblyman Agnos concluded.

Other California laws already provide protections to lesbians and gay men in housing, public accommodations, as victims of attacks motivated by hatred, and in public employment.

• The Unruh Civil Rights Act protects against discrimination in housing and public accommodations.

• An executive order banning discrimination in public employment, including such jobs as teachers, police, firefighters and other positions, was signed by Gov. Jerry Brown. It was upheld by Gov. George Deukmejian when he reviewed it as Attorney General and issued a formal opinion concurring that such discrimination is illegal.

• A.B. 848 (Bates) of the 1983 Session includes lesbians and gay men in the special protections against violence based on hatred, in a bill that was signed by Deukmejian.

### AIDS RESEARCH

## New Virus Found; Snags Blood Test

by David Lambie

Swedish scientists have announced the discovery of a third AIDS virus and American and French researchers have indicated that there may be more to come. The new virus, given the name SBL (State Bacteriology Laboratory) 6669 V-2, may necessitate the development of a more sophisticated blood test to screen out AIDS. Discovery of the third virus in West African patients, receiving treatment in Sweden, is not viewed as surprising by scientists who point out that there are several types of polio virus, at least three of which can lead to paralysis.

Thus far, neither the new Swedish virus nor a second AIDS virus found by French scientists, LAV-2, has turned up in blood samples in the United States. LAV-2 has been found in blood tests in three European and six West African countries and researchers are continuing to look for it in the epidemic devastating Central Africa.

One of the difficulties facing scientists is that there are some microbes which belong to the same family of retroviruses as the AIDS viruses and yet do not themselves appear to cause the disease in humans. The HTLV-4 virus has so far apparently not caused any human AIDS cases among the 300 or so persons found with it. HTLV-4 is biologically close to the virus found in African monkeys.

American AIDS researcher, Dr. Robert C. Gallo, says he and his colleagues are puzzled by the differences in the viruses' behavior. "What makes one cause disease, another not, I don't know," said Gallo. Noting research underway to discover a

new gene that might determine how viruses affect the body, Gallo predicted, "The answer will come in 1987."

Gallo noted that he was studying the paper on the SBL 6669 V-2 virus and would review his findings in Science magazine.

French researcher, Dr. Luc Montagnier, stated in an interview in The New York Times that the heterosexual pattern of the African epidemic seems to be continuing. Montagnier explained that some African patients have been infected by at least two of the AIDS viruses adding that a virus could infect the population for quite some time before it would be discovered by scientists.

Meanwhile, the New York Native reports the possibility of a link between the African Swine Fever Virus (ASFV) and a new virus HBLV (Human B-Cell Lymphotropic Virus) recently discovered by Gallo. Native publisher Charles L. Ortleb wrote, "The epidemiology of the new virus suggests that it may be highly contagious and cause ailments (Continued on page 19)

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"I do what a lot of us do: I make it a point to celebrate life and its holidays, not so much with those who only gave me life and my early years, but with those who've contributed to my life's greatest meaning."

—Peter Brown  
(Photo: Photo Graphics/Darlene)

## Tradition It Can Be An Inspiration — Or A Kick In The Ass

by Peter Brown

Halfway into cocktails, something wonderful happened. I'd been suffering through the high blood pressure, failing eyesight, gaining-too-much-weight woes of middle-age conversation, when Mario suddenly began talking about the "old days" in San Francisco.

I went out to dinner this Thanksgiving — okay, no big deal — but it was only the second time in more than 15 years that I've eaten the traditional bird outside my own home. The reason for that goes beyond the fact that next to Mom's, I like my own cooking best. The truth is that without having given it thought, I've made it a practice to avoid the observance of any American Tradition with people, my family included, who do not accept homosexuality (mine or anyone's) as being right up there with cranberry sauce and pumpkin pie.

Mario's eyes twinkled, his speech became animated, and he spoke with all the beguiling charm of a Spanish Charles Boyer.

"I went into my first gay bar in San Francisco and saw all these men, these real men who were not afraid to be men!" His voice was lilting, his memory clear, his accent commanding me to pay closer attention.

"They were not nellie drag queens like you had to be in my country," said Mario. I'd heard those stories before. But somehow, when Mario (not his real name) spoke, they struck new meaning. He was talking about San Francisco, not of the 1970s as I knew it, but of the '50s! He'd emigrated from Mexico almost thirty-five years ago and made his way in the business world. He and the mate he found here became, in their own way, part of the tradition that helped establish San Francisco as a Gay Mecca, a place where homosexual men and women could be what they are, without being shackled with the guilt and the ever-present sense of wrongdoing that seem to accompany being gay.

Mario's mate died two years ago, after their being together for thirty-one years. Despite his loss

plary jerk, right down the crease of my slacks to the shine of my shoes.

I can still hear Sister Rosetta telling my mother, "You've just got to be proud of that boy!"

And proud she was, until I broke ranks at age thirty and became a born-again iconoclast. Specifically, I broke the traditions on which I was carefully nurtured, and I deserted my wife and two boys to take up with another MAN. In short, I surrendered to a greater truth and came out.

At that point, tradition took a hard smack at my behind. So it is with everyone who comes out. And the further out one comes, the harder the smack in the behind.

Tradition is still very important to me, even though I've come to trust little and to question everything. And when it comes to observing traditional holidays like Thanksgiving, I am but one of millions of homosexual men and women who teeter somewhere between doing so with family or doing so with those who give us basic acceptance.

To suffer a holiday celebration with my family would be to endure the weird glances and unspoken, off-color remarks of peripheral relatives — nieces and nephews and cousins and in-laws — who've not progressed beyond "queer." Just thinking about it is enough to bring on a case of hives.

Anger rises in me that there is no affirming place in tradition for me as a homosexual man, that there is little real acceptance of gays, unless polite tolerance counts. It angers me that there is no place in mainstream America for us. On the whole, the neighbors don't want us, churches don't want us, schools don't want us, business doesn't want us, our country doesn't want us, and our parents, like my Mom, are still not-so-secretly wondering/hoping whether we'll ever find a nice "girl" and get married so as to put an end to their shame.

As a result, I do what a lot of us do: I make it a point to celebrate life and its holidays, not so much with those who only gave me life and my early years, but with those who've contributed to my life's greatest meaning. It would be divine if the two could be one, for then, I would be complete. My past would be more closely aligned with my destiny, and I would no longer be one of the millions of society's bastard

(Continued on next page)

## Thanksgiving

(Continued from page 1)

was a welcome for cross-country runner Brent Nicholson Earle and a money-raiser for the S.F. AIDS Emergency Fund and the ARCAIDS Vigil.

On Thursday night, several hundred people gathered at Market and Castro Street for the candlelight memorial march to honor Sup. Harvey Milk and Mayor George Moscone. For eight years, people have remembered the two men who were assassinated in their City Hall offices on Nov. 27, 1978.

The march has now become a memorial to people who have died of AIDS as well as to Milk and Moscone. This year, the march concluded when people gathered at the monument to Abraham Lincoln in front of San Francisco's City Hall.

The area around the Lincoln statue became an altar of flickering candles. The tiny flames seemed to glisten in the eyes of the many people who stood quietly. As they stood or knelt in the brisk cold night air, they gave new meaning to the words "family" and "Thanksgiving."

Many in the march carried cards with the names of friends or lovers who have died of AIDS. Many, with tear-filled eyes placed the posters and the candles on the monument.

Earle left San Francisco Sunday afternoon to continue his journey around the United States raising money for AIDS education and research.

On Thanksgiving morning he was met by members of the San Francisco FrontRunners and the San Francisco Leather and Blues Motorcycle Club. He then began his run across the Golden Gate Bridge. As he ran, his 70-year old mother, Marion Nicholson, made the trip riding on a motorcycle. "It certainly was exciting," she said later.

Once across the bridge, Earle ran through the Presidio, then over to the Holy Redeemer Church. He said "the feeling was emotional and spectacular" to see the huge Castro Theatre sign come into view as his group approached the area. With him

were many FrontRunners who had been with him as he ran in the Gay Games II marathon last August.

He then went to the San Francisco AIDS Foundation dinner



Who says jogging is a chore? You sure couldn't guess it by looking at these runners as they crossed the Golden Gate Bridge. The event was the American Run For AIDS (ARFA). The run was on Thanksgiving Day for the Bay Area and local runners had to be inspired by the smiling example of Brent Nicholson Earle, who not only jogged across the bridge, but ran all the way out from New York just to do it. (Photo: Photo Graphics/Darlene)

Street, across Market and then over to the Holy Redeemer Church. He said "the feeling was emotional and spectacular" to see the huge Castro Theatre sign come into view as his group approached the area. With him

were many FrontRunners who had been with him as he ran in the Gay Games II marathon last August.

He then went to the San Francisco AIDS Foundation dinner

for people with AIDS and ARC. There he was presented with a proclamation from the City of San Francisco from Sup. John Molinari. Earle then ran to the Eagle where he was present for the San Francisco AIDS Emer-

gency Fund and the ARCAIDS Vigil fundraiser.

In the evening he joined Candlelight marchers. He told the marchers he had been inspired by "The Times of Harvey Milk" film. When he saw it, he said, he made his decision to begin his run.

Friday was a day to be with the people he is running for, the people with AIDS. In the afternoon, he went to Ward 5-A at San Francisco General Hospital. After speaking to the nurses, he went into several of the rooms and spent time with the patients. He was visibly moved by the experience. But he didn't quit for the day. He then went to the ARCAIDS Vigil.

On Sunday morning, he was honored by Rev. Cecil Williams at Glide Methodist Church. Earle received a sustained standing ovation when he was introduced.

When he began his run, he knew it would take him 3,927 miles to reach the steps of San Francisco City Hall. His goal is to run 10,000 miles and have it end up as part of next year's National March on Washington.

But as the Candlelight marchers braved the Thanksgiving night chill, Earle looked out at the crowd. He knew he had run a long way to join quite a family gathering.

# DOPE AND BOOZE

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<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	2. Have I ever tried to cut down on my drugging or drinking, but failed to live up to my promises?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	5. Have I ever tried changing my drink or drug of choice, thinking a particular type was my problem?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	3. Have I ever gotten in trouble with a lover, friend, job or the law due to my drinking or drugging?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	6. Have I come to depend on drinking or drugging to help me socialize and meet people?

If you answered "Yes" to even one of these questions, it is likely that you have a substance abuse problem.

Getting high on drugs and alcohol used to be the thing to do. Now, times have changed.

Laws have been written to increase jail sentences for people convicted of drunk driving. Employers have begun to randomly test workers for drug use. If you do lose your job because of substance abuse, you may find it hard to get another one. Companies have installed procedures to avoid hiring people with drug or alcohol problems.

Drug and alcohol abuse has special significance to gay men. Dope and booze suppress the immune system. There is a clear connection between how high

you are and how likely you are to engage in unsafe sex. And, there is no question, sharing needles spreads the AIDS virus.

Do not wait until you have been arrested, have a serious health problem or lose your job and friends. Get help now.

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# BAY AREA REPORTER ENTERTAINMENT

## Hog Heaven Chic

The Glitterati Were the Show at Wilkes' Bash

by Bob Woolhouse

Unadulterated Decadence. Lavish Attitude. Divine Madness. Outrageous Camp. Those were the ingredients, my dears, of one of the best You-Look-Maaahvelous parties since Billy Crystal discovered Fernando Lamas and virtually made a career out of the catchphrase.

The gowns, the show, the girls, and especially the boys all looked marvelous.

It was Wilkes Bashford's \$60,000 extravaganza, entitled Nightclub — high fashion and high camp. With this stylish, musical-comedy fundraiser, benefiting the city's Youth Program (including the Larkin St. Youth Center), Folsom intersected Pacific Heights and the Castro by way of Sutter Street as Bashford staged his particular brand of cabaret Sunday night at Bimbo's. And as it had to be — Joel Grey headlined the show.

The glitterati arrived en masse, rediscovering old friends and ex lovers they hadn't seen since the last big party two nights ago. Flashbulbs and video camera lights illuminated designer gowns, jeweled tuxedos, Nautilus bodies, \$5,000 smiles, and \$20,000 facelifts. My dears, it was nothing short of Hog Heaven Chic.

After self-parking my ghastly '72 Toyota in the Safeway lot rather than alighting from a chauffeur-driven stretch limo like everyone else, I entered the lobby to find myself in what looked like



Wilkes Bashford shows off his taste in dogs while Willie Brown tries to look white and Joel Grey tries to look butch at Wilkes' first bash to work off his 'community service' hours (Photo: M. Hitchcock)

the first act of *Mame*. It seemed as though the Beekman Place penthouse had been transported to Bimbo's with the original cast intact.

The name-recognition people were gathered at the watering hole — power brokers, the boys in the band, show-biz types, the old guard with the avant garde, Pat Steger's cast of characters, and elegant courtesans of all possible persuasions.

Posing with practiced flair for the paparazzi were suave Antony with dearest Didi, the always-together Billy and Kevin, four Don Johnson look-alikes, and the Mayor of Telegraph Hill with Aunt God. They could have eclipsed *Beach Blanket Babylon* even with Cyril Magnin on stage.

Herb Caen, leaning on a walking stick after orthoscopic surgery for Tennis Kneecap, called the event Bashford's "Punishment Fashion Show," his penance for the \$1 million rent dispute with the city. Sponsoring this black-tie affair was part of his 1,200 hours of community service sentence imposed by the court.

Now, darlings, you may indeed dispute the sentence, but do remember that he isn't trying to get a book out of it like the Watergate crowd, R. Foster Winans, the Mayflower Madam, or those dreadful palimony people.

After cocktails I joined my table and met a bride and groom to be who had just returned from two weeks at the Paris Ritz. The all-inclusive trip was a gift from their friends, along with the Nightclub tickets at \$150 a pop. "So much nicer than the usual bridal shower, don't you think?" he murmured.

She was ready for Christmas in a red and green satin Gallanos accentuated by antique crystal chandelier drop earrings. The only person present with longer earrings was the groom, but of course he had a longer neck, and besides, they matched the large beaded brooch on his bolero dinner jacket.

They're to be married Christmas Day at — can you believe it? — Sonoma's Auberge du Soleil. One just doesn't do Grace Cathedral anymore, you know.

During dinner the simply divine young man at the piano knocked out vintage Rogers and Hart plus other meaningful old-

ies like "I'll Be Seeing You/in every lovely summer's day/in everything that's bright and gay/I'll always think of you that way . . ." My dears, they simply don't write lyrics like that anymore.

Then it was on with the show. The production exploded before us as a troupe of athletic young gypsies exercised to an aerobic version of *A Chorus Line*. It was all color and energy and pizzazz, like the clothes being introduced.

They were from the new Sport Shop collection, a parcel of original creations by Bashford and his designer, Jim Georgedes, who also staged the Nightclub production.

At this point, Speaker of the State Assembly Willie Brown — dazzling in white tails — took over as M.C., which he usually does for Bashford bashes. He deadpanned, "This (show) is real special; it's like Wilkes' coming-out party after all his trials and tribulations." Judging by the ovation from the female — as well as the male — post-debutantes, that crowd was hot for coming-out parties.

Brown declared that the next clothes to be seen were "so sexy and sultry that they shouldn't have passed customs." He described them as "Unadulterated Decadence, from the Gilda look of Rita Hayworth to the now look of Kathleen Turner," and summed it all up as unmitigated "Lavish Attitude."

After that introduction it was time to get down. And what to my wondering eyes did appear but the muscle men of Folsom in black leather harnesses, G-strings, and boots. They perpetrated the "Leader of the Pack" number choreographed, like the rest of the show, by Willie's wife, Blanche. My dears, the S.F. Eagle was flying. Defiant models of the bitch and butch variety cruised the runway in the glare of Harley-Davidson headlights.

The next fashion statement was — can you possibly guess? —

(Continued on page 36)

## Women Are Sissies Too!

Southern Playwright Goes West

by Steve Warren

There's a sort of Gothic sensibility in the gay community," smiles playwright Terry Garner, who was labeled a "Southern Gothic" writer during last year's enormously successful studio production of her *Livin' on Salvation Street* at Theatre Rhinoceros. She hopes to peel away that label while retaining its companion, "most promising," with this week's premiere of *Sissy Goes West* at Intersection for the Arts.

While the title may remind other gay men — as it does me — of their individual journeys to San Francisco, Sissy is an 18-year-old Georgia woman who leaves home in 1965 to chase her American dream to Los Angeles.

Garner claims to be "taking the concept of women as victims to the nth degree and then turning it around." This gives the

play its Gothic flavor, an exaggerated "humor of oppression, which women certainly know." So, she points out at other times in our conversation, do blacks, gays, and Southerners. "One takes (the humor) to an extreme because one is on the outside, not allowed in, so all one can do is poke fun."

*Sissy* also takes Garner into what might be described as early Sam Shepard — "Sam Shepard with a kind of *Alice in Wonderland* twist," she amends — a mythical territory of symbols and barren landscapes where people are threatened by vague external forces.

The impetus for expanding her style, other than avoiding typecasting, came, Garner says, from working with Ellen Sebastian and observing a number of people, mostly involved in per-

(Continued on page 36)

## Bambi Explains Herself

And How She Escaped Redwood City for the Cockettes and the Galaxy Club

by Jon Sugar

In San Francisco, everything is debatable. In 1986, amongst talk of gay rights and women's struggles, it's easy for someone like Bambi Purcell to be forgotten about completely.

Johnny Purcell grew up in Redwood City, had a relatively normal childhood, and was quite popular with the girls, graduating a B+ student from the local high school. Times were different then, if you will, for John changed his name to Bambi and now lives as a woman. He is a she now (at least partially, having breasts but keeping her penis), and works at the Galaxy Club on Broadway as a stripper, entertaining sailors, yuppies, and tourists who all pay to see Bambi's charms.

Bambi sings torch songs at the Club 181 on Saturdays to a sometimes appreciative audience. Life hasn't been easy for Bambi, living on Polk Street with hustlers and other outcasts, as she has for years, but she's not unhappy and she's led a very interesting life, doing everything from working the streets to touring with world-renowned recording stars and playing the lead in Lloyd Stensrud's *The Mary Club*, a play about a surviving drag queen in Miami after the bomb is dropped. Her fans love her. Some remember her from the Angels of Light shows in the '70s. The Strangers took Bambi with them on their European tour in 1983 after seeing her strip show in a

(Continued on page 36)

ALL MALE - ALL LIVE - ALL NUDE

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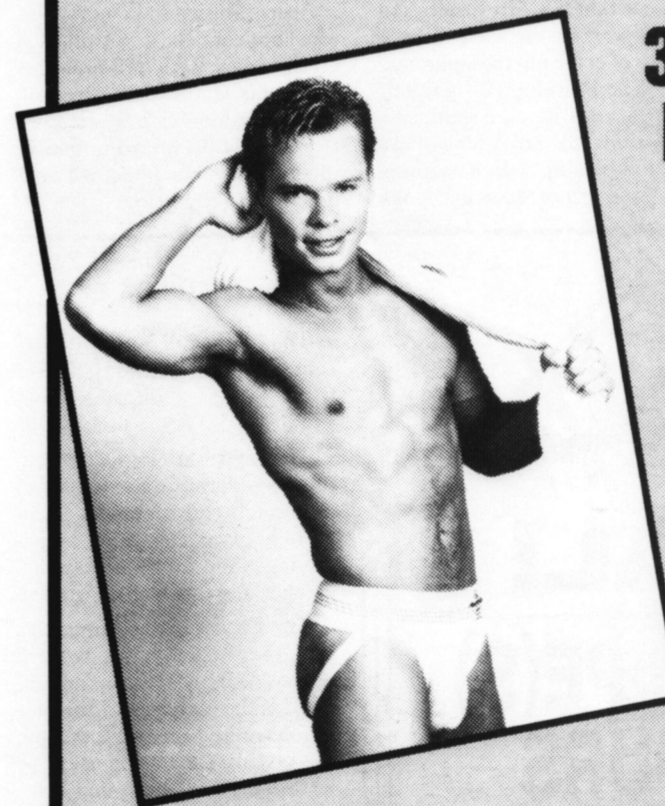
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# Arthur Tress: Ritually Dancing With the World

by Mark I. Chester

Photographers are weird people. I know. It may be all that time spent in small dark rooms with poor ventilation and funny smelling chemicals. Or it may be because they are caught in an unsolvable paradox: The camera never lies, but it doesn't always tell the truth. The camera is only a mechanical instrument that records reflected light on a light-sensitive material. But when that reflection is filtered through the photographer's eye, a magical transformation occurs; the truth that we see is just the photograph's reflection on the mirror of our soul.

For Arthur Tress, the photograph is a magical object, conceived in a strange, mystical process. According to Tress, the magical photograph goes "beyond the immediate context of the recorded experience into realms of the undefinable." It is in this dark dimension that Tress has been photographing since the mid 1960s. *Talisman* (Thames and Hudson Inc., \$19.95, paperback), Tress' latest book, offers a retrospective look at the explosively different work created by Tress over the last 20 years.

Tress, working in a square format, is best known for a number of series of photographs that explore and expose the human psyche against a backdrop of rituals, dreams, fantasies, death, sex, and archetypal energy. Included in this are images from Tress' *Facing Up*, homo-erotic themes photographed on the abandoned piers in New York.

Using his photographic frame as if it were a stage, Tress has his photographic subjects create little psychodramas, slowly, step-by-step, instinctively digging deeper into their hidden thoughts, passions, fears, and desires. A wide-angle lens and a tilting perspective add to the sense that something other-worldly is going on in these images. Tress also opposes a figure in the foreground with an object or person in the distant



Surfers, Miami 1980

background, automatically creating a mysterious connection, if somewhat stagey and set up.

Out of this process the viewer gets: Ed Berman standing next to his bedraggled mother in a middle-class housecoat, her hand pinioned by the iron in his hand; a young, long-haired rocker wearing a Led Zeppelin t-shirt pointing a gas pump nozzle suggestively out from his crotch like a giant cock, his down-home Mom leaning up against the gas pump, one finger suggestively pointed

at her crotch; a nude man with a tumescent cock, sitting in a cemetery with a skull hiding his face.

But it is the overview of the rest of Tress' career that makes this book particularly interesting and worthwhile. The work is radically different from the first four series. *Shadows* is an out-of-print Avon book that uses only shadow photographs Tress took of himself to tell a story of discovery and the search for enlightenment. Tress' shadow portraits, with their elongated body perspec-

tives and highly angled camera perspectives, make these images vibrate with life-energy. It is an unusual, creative, and technically difficult project.

And there is more. A series of constructions made from found objects that finds its inspiration in the work of the surrealists. A series of color photographs called "The Presidential Cabinet" focusing on human skull constructions that are color saturated and blazing with a searing combination of dada and punk

energy. These photographs are so well crafted, they could easily be made into full-scale drawings or paintings. A series of black and white photographs of abstract designs and constructions, some with spray painting or rubbings, take as much from the abstract design photographs of the 1930s as they do from the design and perspective-based drawings by Ed Ruscha.

Possibly the most unusual photographs are a series of color photographs of still constructions on a small stage set called "The Teapot Opera." Exploring the process of artistic creation, Tress has created an intellectually abstract story that uses the archetypal myths of creation, heroic quest, and apocalyptic destruction in eternally repeating cycles.

*Talisman* also contains formerly unpublished texts by Tress talking about the series represented in the book. In talking about *Facing Up* Tress says, "I have had a homosexual orientation since I was ten years old." While this does not sound like an exceptional declaration, it is. It is one thing to photograph men, even men in erotic situations, but to admit your homosexuality in print is a rare step for someone in the photographic mainstream.

*Talisman* has been laid out with a simple efficiency that adds to the power of the photographs. Arranged for the most part chronologically, most pages contain only a single photograph. The stock is a semi-gloss and the printing is exceptional except in achieving a deep black, the most common printing problem with photographs.

Arthur Tress is a photographer who happens to be gay, exploring on the edge. With *Talisman*, he stakes his claim for a piece of photographic history without turning his back on his sexual identity. It is a magical act and one worth supporting. ●

## Folsom Follies

The Inter-Club Fund will present the Folsom Follies Dec. 13 at 6 p.m. at the California Club, 1750 Clay St. Admission is \$10.

The Inter-Club Fund is a non-profit, philanthropic group of motorcycle club members devoted to helping each other by endowing grants for health care, accidents, and financial assistance.

The Fund's major fundraiser this year will be the Folsom Follies. As in the past this annual event is the highlight of the party season and for the first time this original cabaret revue will be a Christmas celebration.

Tickets are available at Mr. S Products, 227 7th St., S.F. Call 668-3115 for more information. ●

## Holiday Carols

The choir of the Metropolitan Community Church of San Francisco will perform Antonio Vivaldi's *Gloria* with a chamber orchestra Dec. 21 at 7 p.m. at the church, 150 Eureka St. The performance will be part of an Advent Vesper service which will also include the music of Holst, Praetorius, Billings, and Handel along with festive holiday carols. The service is free. Call 863-4434 for more information. ●

John Karr

## MeatMen, and Women Too

This year's hottest Christmas gift will undoubtedly be *MeatMen*, a hefty 200-page anthology of heated-up gay comics published by Gay Sunshine Press (paper, \$10.95). The book's sock-it-to-ya collection of sex and satire will rock your socks off—and maybe even sock your rocks off.

And that's the idea, too. The book is not merely a historical overview of gay comics, ranging from Blade's pioneering "Truck-Hiker" of the late 1940s up 'til today's most popular artists, but a political broadside of liberation, hot-and-heavy style. These comics may only be lines on paper, but, as cartoonist Jerry Mills points out in his introduction, "the same could be said about the blueprints for the atomic bomb!" *MeatMen* is explosive on nearly every page, and while Mill's introduction links the hand-in-hand flourishing of gay life with the flowering of gay comics, a note from publisher and editor Winston Leyland explains why this collection packs such a wallop.

"I've long enjoyed creating 'shocking' dichotomies, contrasts," says Leyland. His GS Press has a history of publishing literary works and sex tales in close juxtaposition—sometimes within the same covers. Leyland filled volumes of gay poetry with hard-on art work, and followed up his critically acclaimed collection of Latin American gay fiction, *My Deep Dark Pain is Love*, with the jack-off anthologies *Trash*, *Lust*, and *Hot Studs*. While it's true that sales of the sex titles support the literary titles, there's more to Leyland's method, and less distance in the work's supposed dichotomies than people presume.

The contrasts created by Leyland at Gay Sunshine throw light on the barriers which have long held back gay rights and culture. "Obviously," says Leyland, "sex is politics is politics is politics." When he shows us sex in art, we can discern the art in sex. Comics, combining pictorial and literary forms, do this simultaneously. And that explains why Leyland's collection of comics is so pointed and on the mark. In *MeatMen*, Leyland has combined the dichotomies of his press in one book.

Ranging over 30 years of comics, Leyland looked for work that was not only humorous, but thought-provoking and sexy. Attempting a balance, Leyland claims only one-third of this collection is sexually explicit, with due attention paid to fantasy, lifestyles, and politics. But these comics are gay, and even when not explicit, sexuality is implicit and pervasive, in the drawings or between-the-line atmosphere.

The sexually explicit sections include a classic Tom of Finland tale, the hilarious take-off on *Star Wars*, Sean's "Come Wars" (how does he think up these coupleings?) and pages of A. Jay's "Harry Chess," Bill Ward's "Drum," and Stephen's "Meatmen," among other rock-hard tales.

Perhaps the most sophisticated of comics is here, Tom Hachtman's "Gertrude's Follies," as well as scrumptious pages devoted to Jerry Mills' "Poppers." These panels, together with Howard Cruse's "Billy Goes

Out!" combine sex with satire to amazing proportions. Billy's night out, from 6 o'clock news to cruising the bars, then crawling through after-hours sex clubs to his near-dawn arrival home, is accompanied in split panels by his non-stop inner monologue. His penis, his parents, his past, and his conscience mimic his every move and desire. It's an amazing sequence, brilliantly realized and carried out, and though sharp, it doesn't sting. This is affectionate satire, and the height of Cruse's work. It's typical of *MeatMen*, and Leyland's pungent sensibility, that this strip shows up here and not in another company's full-length collection of Cruse's work. Leyland goes for the sharpest work his artists have created, and the resulting collection scores again and again. It's hard to pick out a favorite, and they're all here: a blast from the past, "Miss Thing," the mod stylings of "Jason," interracial romance from Burton Clarke, bi-

sexuality from Robert Triptow, photo-realism from Nico, fables from Michael Goldberg ... on and on.

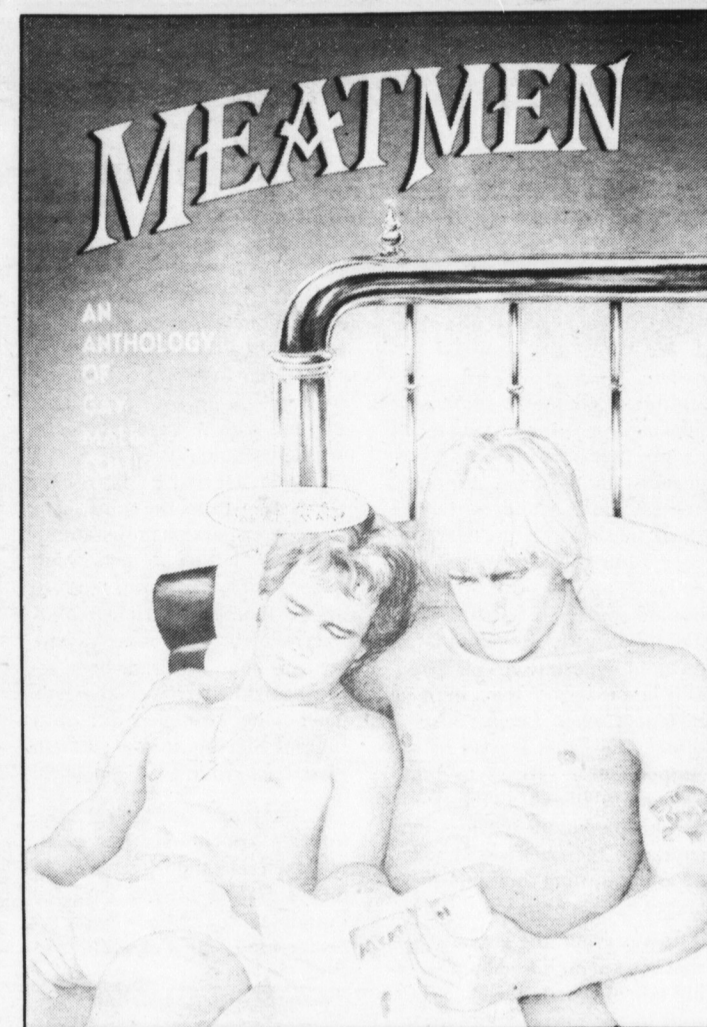
The only trouble with giving *MeatMen* as a Christmas gift is that you won't be able to wait 'til then to open it! For a special treat, meet some of the contributing artists and editor Leyland at the Walt Whitman Bookshop on Saturday, Dec. 6, from 3 to 5 p.m.

\*\*\*

Two other Gay Sunshine books plow perhaps overtilled ground, giving the customer what he thinks he wants but in truth has already had. *Trucker*, Volume 2 (paper, \$10.95) brings us yet another collection of basically homophobic trucker stories—blow jobs in roadside johns, deep pumping in diesel cabs, and cheese-licking in back alleys.

Neither well-written, imagi-

(Continued on page 44)



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### Satanic Influences

Although conservative fundamentalists — who often invoke the National Enquirer and Holy Bible as legitimate firsthand sources of information — keep trying to tell people that AIDS is God's vengeance against some purported homosexual alliance with the Devil, that's hardly the truth. Indeed, from what I've been seeing recently on operatic stages it would seem as if Satan — just like the overwhelming statistics on child molestation — is decidedly heterosexual. Even in those instances when Lucifer loses a round, the Faust legend hardly supports the "Right to Life" movement because, thanks to Mephisto's cunning devices, lyric sopranos keep getting knocked up and drowning their infants on stages across America.

In any event, the good news is that two operas based on the age-old tale of the man who sold his soul to the devil received commendable revivals this fall. This is particularly heartening since, in recent years the New York City Opera's *Mefistofele* had lost much of its dramatic punch while the San Francisco Opera's *Faust* had always been looked upon as a bit of a dog. News of their new-found health is even more gratifying when one considers that each of these productions is nearly 20 years old.

#### BOYS WILL BE BOYS

In 1977, when Jacques Karpou staged *Faust* for the San Francis-

co Opera, his production included such questionable touches as a mirrored disco ball intended to reflect the light from Marguerite's jewels all over the stage. This fall, with Wolfram Skalicki's original sets modified by SFO's resident lighting designer, Thomas J. Munn, the third act of Gounod's opera was substantially reworked. The statues which once seemed to come to life before the terror-stricken Marguerite in Act III's church scene are now gone and have been replaced by the sight of Valentin's dead body, stretched out on a funeral bier against a stained-glass background.

Even more important, the opera's apotheosis has been reworked into a glorious piece of melodramatic kitsch. Director Francesca Zambello — who experimented with this ending in Houston last year — has further enhanced the effect in San Francisco by using a larger staircase, a deeper stage, increased fog, and a star-lit sky drop. Although Zambello and conductor Jean Fournet did their best to transform this revival into a viable *Faust* production, a steady string of cast changes undermined much of the event's dramatic freshness.

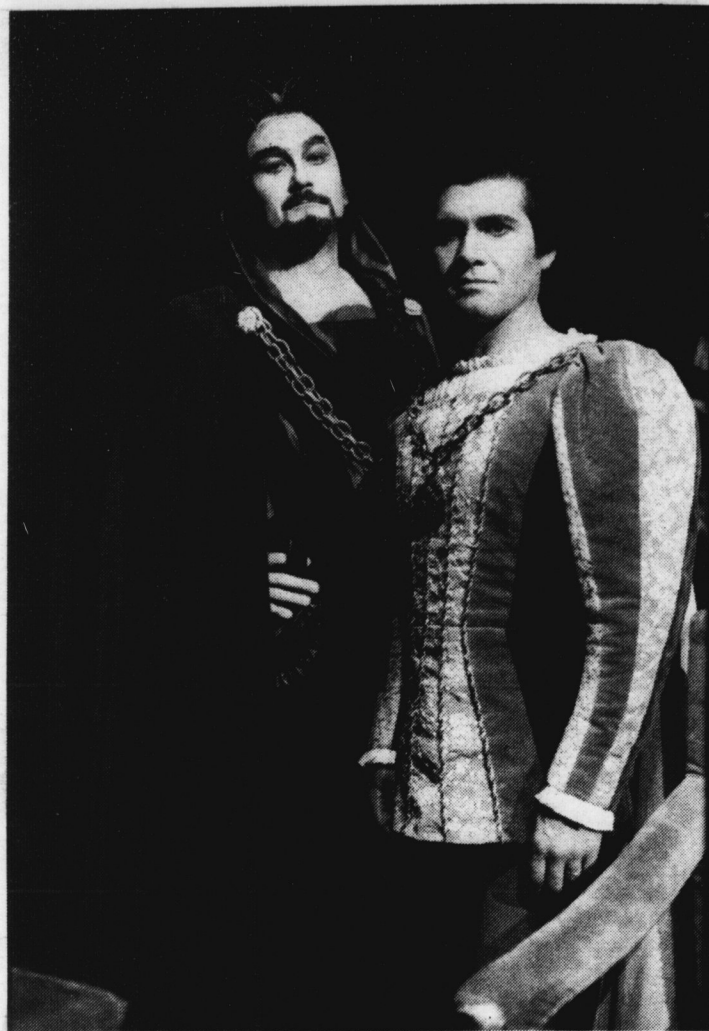
As seen with Justino Diaz, Luis Lima, Alan Titus, and Mary Jane Johnson heading up the cast, Gounod's most popular work was clearly mounted but noticeably lacking in electricity. Some of this may have been because the

four principals involved are basically second stringers within the opera profession; artists who suffer from what is known as "the All-American syndrome." In other words, they are highly efficient vocal and dramatic craftsmen who lack the essential charisma to become major stars. While their work is laudable and extremely well-produced, it often remains on a par with that of Judith Christin's Marthe, Mark Delavan's Wagner, and Kathryn Cowdrick's Siebel: functionally very good, but decidedly not great.

#### THE DEVIL GETS HIS DUE

When Ron Bentley (who was originally scheduled to stage the New York City Opera's production of *Mefistofele* this fall) died of AIDS in September, Beverly Sills asked her old friend, Gigi Denda, to come to the rescue. As Tito Capobianco's wife, Denda had been in on this historic production from its conception in 1969, when it was first mounted for Norman Treigle. She has since staged it for a variety of regional American opera companies.

Whether due to the emergency nature of her participation in this revival or the fact that bass-baritone John Cheek was making his long-overdue City Opera debut in the title role, the opening night of *Mefistofele* glowed with dramatic energy. David Mitchell's sets, combined with Hans Sondheimer's lighting, are still



Mephisto (Justino Diaz) and Faust (Luis Lima) were just a couple of guys out for a night on the town in Gounod's *Faust*.

quite effective, although the orgy scene during the Witches' Sabbath now has an air of nostalgia to it.

Much of the evening's excitement came from Christopher Keene's conducting of the powerful music in Boito's prologue and John Cheek's willingness to throw himself wholeheartedly into the role of the devil. Cheek created a more sardonic and malevolent portrayal of Mefisto-

fele than this production has enjoyed for quite some time, his hearty voice and forceful body language drawing loud and appreciative ovations from the audience. His was one of the more triumphant debuts in the history of the New York City Opera.

In the tenor role, Robert Grayson offered a sturdy, if one-dimensional Faust. However, soprano Marianna Christos pulled

(Continued on page 44)

### More Jarmania and Home-Groan Sci-Fi

If *Caravaggio* was your introduction to gay filmmaker Derek Jarman you may or may not want to catch up on his earlier films. Frameline gives you a chance next week with a four-day retrospective.

*Sebastiane*, Jarman's homoerotic, Latin-dialogued — pay attention and you'll learn how to say "motherfucker" in the ancient tongue — tale of the making of a martyr is tedious but offers lovely manscapes and interesting underlying ideas. I've seen it three times. It plays next Tuesday through Thursday at the Roxie with a different co-feature each night: *Jubilee* (Wednesday) is a bizarre satirical reminder that England's punk movement was about politics, not just music and fashion. *The Tempest* (Tuesday) is Jarmanized Shakespeare, outrageous but not satisfying. *Angelic Conversation* (Thursday with *The Queen Is Dead*, the Smiths' music video) is a wordless gay love story to a soundtrack of Judi Dench reading Shakespearean sonnets, blown up from super-8 with eyestraining results.

We'll preview the final day, super-8s at the Cinematheque, next week.

#### BACK TO THE PRESENT

"We were shooting in San Francisco," William Shatner told Joan Rivers. "We wore our costumes and nobody gave us a second look." If I'm going to watch that lousy show I may as well get some quotes out of it.

*Star Trek IV: The Voyage Home* is both the most predictable and the most fun of the big-screen series. Coincidentally, with the popularity of time-travel movies, the familiar crew of the temporarily destroyed (see *Star Trek III: The Search for Spock*) Starship Enterprise encounters one of the rare problems that can't be dealt with in a futuristic setting; they have to come back to our present to Save the Whales.

It seems that in the 23rd century an alien space probe is about to unwittingly destroy Earth because it can't make contact with humpback whales, which have been extinct since the 21st century. Stop giggling, dammit — this is the serious part! The UFO is phallus-shaped, with one testicle that looks like a soccer ball suspended by a scrotal light.

The Enterprisers are bound for Earth to answer charges based on their misconduct in the last movie (did they expect Oscars?) when they get word of what's happening. Before you can sing "Let's do the time warp again" they're landing in Golden Gate Park in 1986, a simpler time when you could ride a Muni bus from North Beach to downtown Sausalito. They split into teams for a three-part mission: A) round up two humpback whales; B) get plexiglass to build a tank to transport them in; and C) siphon off nuclear power from — what else? — the USS Enterprise to recharge their Klingon crystals.

One of the screenwriters, Nicholas Meyer, is the link between *Star Trek* (he directed *Star Trek II: The Wrath of Khan*) and time-travel-to-present-day-San Francisco movies (he wrote and directed the semi-classic *Time After Time*). The four of them have peppered the script with amusing but mundane touches

on the way to a conclusion so foregone that, under Leonard Nimoy's otherwise capable direction, there is very little excitement, let alone suspense. The unimportance of the plot is evidenced in the sound mix, where in crucial moments the dialogue is submerged beneath Leonard Rosenman's music. This points to one of the film's themes, the value of emotion over reason, stressed in the retraining of Spock, who at the beginning is still "not exactly working on all thrusters."

You'll be happy to know that San Francisco Bay has warmed up by the 23rd century, so the cast is able to splash around in it without turning blue. (*Regency I*, Century Plaza, Geneva)

#### ROLLERBABIES

*Solarbabies* seems to have been written by a computer programmed with elements from a number of successful movies — *The Road Warrior*, *Star Wars*, *Lord of the Rings*, and *Rollerball* among them — with the obligatory teenage twist.

In this world of the future, the evil Protectorate controls the water to keep the population under its thumb. They put children in state orphanages to train them to be "useful." These kids not only play skateboard but also use roller skates for transportation and hockey sticks as weapons. The chief rivals at Orphanage 43 are the Solarbabies, darlings of kindly warden Charles Durning, and the Hitlerjungen-type Scorpions under Richard Jordan, head of the crypto-fascist E-Police.

A glowing sphere named Bohdi arrives from space to set things right, adopting baby Solarbaby Lukas (*Witness*) Haas as its keeper. And the chase is on, with the kids skating across the desert (!) from one strange outpost to another. When they eventually destroy the Protectorate, restoring weather to the world, Bohdi returns to space; but the last line, as original as everything else in the movie, says that like the Force, Bohdi "will always be with us."

Some of the Rollerbabies aren't bad to look at, if the jury is still out regarding their acting ability. They include debuting Jason Patric, blond Peter Kowanko, Peter (son of Dom) DeLuise and Adrian (*Streets of Gold*) Pasdar. Jami Gertz is less obnoxious than she was in *Crossroads* and *Quicksilver*.

*Solarbabies* doesn't improve on any of the films it imitates, so you're better off renting the originals. (*Presidio*, Century Plaza)

#### A FEW GOOD WIMPS

We'll review Clint Eastwood's *Heartbreak Ridge* next week, but the Department of Defense has already seen it and found it wanting. They've canceled scheduled benefit openings and ordered the Marine Corps to withhold further cooperation.

Their objection? Eastwood, who plays a Marine sergeant, is too macho. He drinks heavily, swears a lot, and shoots someone in the back — three things no real Marine would ever do.

If the Corps wants to promote a new image, perhaps they should

(Continued on page 44)

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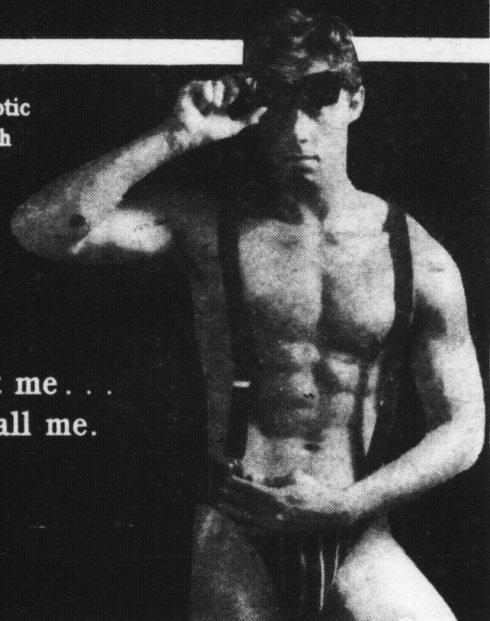


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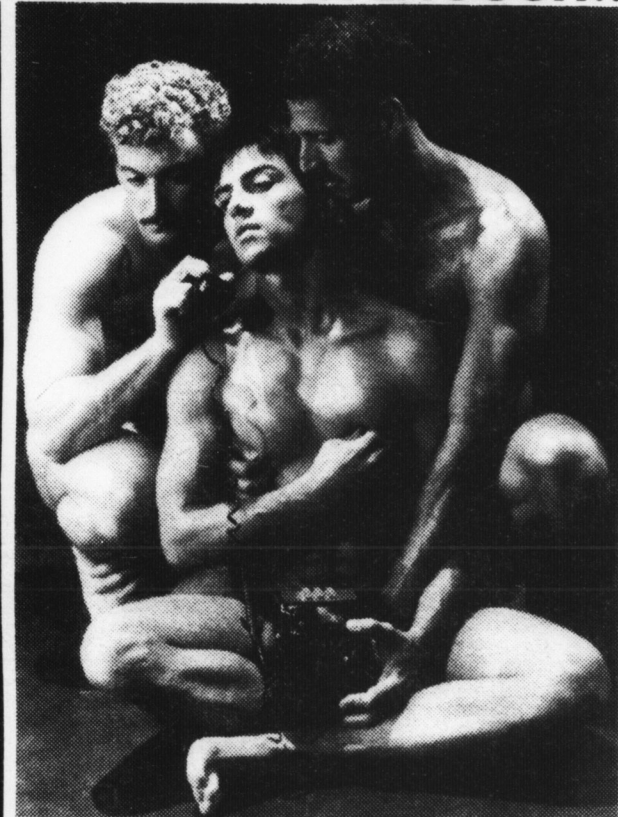
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## Rushing Headlong Into The Countdown

**C**an you believe it's the end of the year already? Only 21 days until Christmas and I'll bet you haven't even started shopping yet! Time to get out that plastic and embark on a spending spree you'll be paying for until next May.

It has been a busy year for everyone. The Cable Car Awards people are busy getting all the facts together for their presentations next year. Committees have been formed and already they're cruising the city getting materials together for your decorations, parties, fundraisers, etc. The great amount of effort put forth by the men and women of this community will be scrutinized for nomination. Put your best foot forward for outstanding achievement in virtually every field of endeavor.

As this is being written late on Monday night, word just reached me that the Ambush closed its portals at the close of business due to insurance problems. I will bring you up to date on any developments. This, just after celebrating their 13th Anniversary over the Thanksgiving weekend. If anyone went hungry in this community it's a shame. There were free dinners all over the place besides at the Ambush, including the SF-Eagle and the Empress Tessie Memorial dinner. Thank you all for donating the turkeys, hams, and other goodies provided for the gay seniors and the needy.

Tonight, the Endup will conduct another search for the 1988 Buns Calendar; I would like to invite David Saks and Paul Gonzales to be judges tonight or any contest night in the future if they believe the contests are fix-edriggered or in any way other than the way the points are accumulated for the contestants. Having MCD countless contests in San Francisco for more than a



Wally and Eddie, newcomers from New Orleans, made a surprise visit to the Sandmutopia (Drummer store) opening (Photo: R. Pruzan)

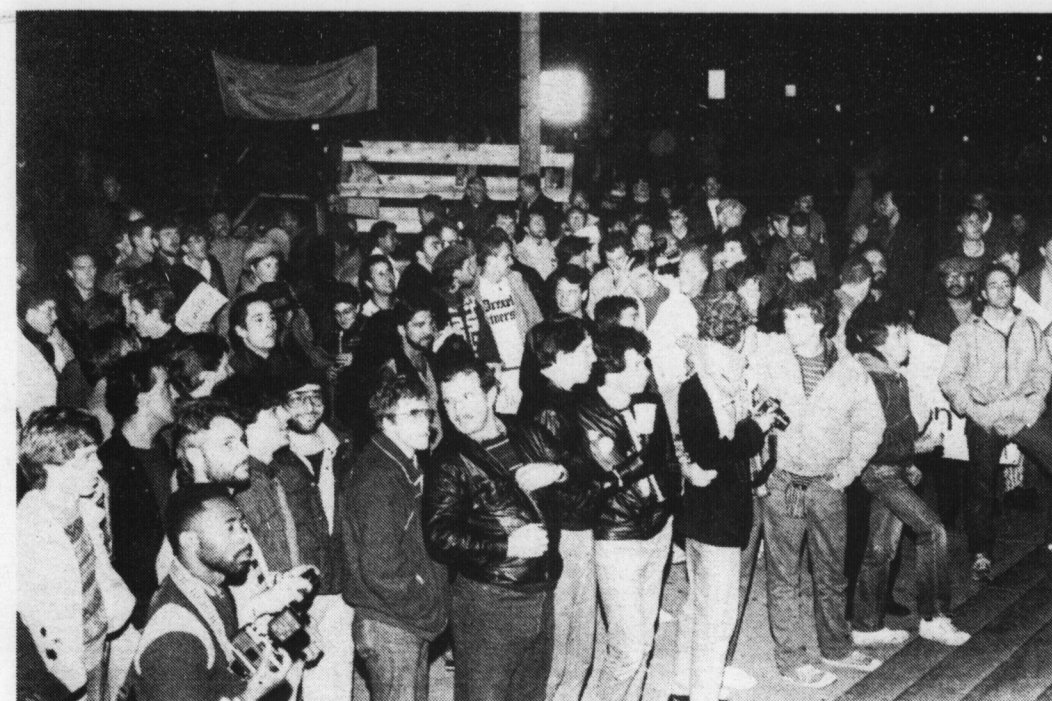
decade, I can truthfully say I would have absolutely no part of any such irregularities. I often try to select judges who may be visiting from another city/country and ordinary bar patrons without titles, including women. The judges you complained about in your recent letter to this publication are of high integrity, and the Australian woman judge had only been in town for some six hours when I picked her. The

winner of the contest garnered 600 vote tickets from the audience and while your assessment of his buns may have been to the contrary, the other 598 voters could not be accused of a "conspiracy" either. The winner had only been in town a week himself! Personally, I was quite dismayed at his lack of cooperation in answering the few questions required of most contestants, but I

(Continued on next page)



The SF Eagle and Leather & Blue motorcycle clubs escorted Brent Earle into the City by the Bay San Francisco-style (Photo: Photo Graphics/Darlene)



The crowd at City Hall at the conclusion of the Milk/Moscone Candlelight March Nov. 27 (Photo: Photo Graphics/Darlene)

## Marcus

(Continued from previous page)

don't get to vote and the decision of the audience and the judges is absolutely final. The invitation for you both to be judges stands up to the final contest. Your move, David and Paul.

You'll be getting lots of invitations to festive parties in the coming weeks, but if it's not your thing or you prefer other social endeavors you could check out the following: This Saturday, the SF Trojans go up against the SF Deputy Sheriffs in the third annual Charity Bowl, a benefit for the AIDS Emergency Fund and Meals on Wheels. The Trojans believe in the old adage, "the third time is the charm,"

and will try to make it come true this year. The team has been defeated soundly in both previous efforts. I talked with a lot of the players last Sunday afternoon at their beer bust at the Eagle and they all seem confident of victory. The Trojan Boosters worked their little fannies to the bone last Sunday as another mob scene was on hand to meet the players, eat barbecued chicken, and cruise heavily. The kickoff this Saturday, Dec. 6, is at 1300 at McAteer High and tickets are going fast at both Headlines stores. Your \$5 stub also entitles you to a post-game victory party and dance at the I-Beam. I wonder how Fred Badelamente let that happen! Go Trojans Go!

There's an auction for Karl Stewart at the Galleon that day as well as a beer bust at the High Chaparral for the Ms. Interna-

tional Leather Steering Committee from 1500-1900 hours for a paltry \$5. Let's get out and help Mistress Kathy get this extravaganza going.

And there's still time to get your logo into the parade committee if you hurry. They'll be deciding a three-color design at their meeting Dec. 9, so get busy!

Inter-Club Fund presents the Folsom Follies Sat., Dec. 13, at the California Club and tickets are only \$10. Doors open at 1800, curtain 2000, and this one promises to be great! Still no word on the Cheaters M/C Presidents Convention!

Rita Rockett's 5th Annual Reunion and Xmas Party is set for Friday, Dec. 12, to benefit Ward 5-A Buffets and Christmas Day '86 party for the patients. It's at the High Chaparral from

2000 to 0200 so bring small animals, books, stationery, shaving kits, games, etc. DJ Odis Campbell will spin the discs!

There's a beer bust benefit for the AIDS Rest Stop at the Eagle Fri., Dec. 12, too with fabulous door prizes including a Sony Trinitron Color TV, a two-night stay at that great RushRiv resort, The Willows, and other goodies from the Obelisk, All That Jazz, and others. Sable Clown entertains and tickets are \$5 in advance or \$6 at the door.

Lights for Life, the annual lighting ceremony, begins at the Eagle Thursday, 18 Dec.—\$5 a light for AIDS patients.

Also be reminded that nominations are open all this month at the Eagle for the Golden Dildeaux Awards—know anyone who fits into the 22 categories?

Mobilization Against AIDS is having a "Kiss '86 Goodbye" party at the Endup Wed., Dec. 17, from 2000 to 2400—come and meet every celebrity in town. It

will be a party similar to their Spring Fling earlier this year.

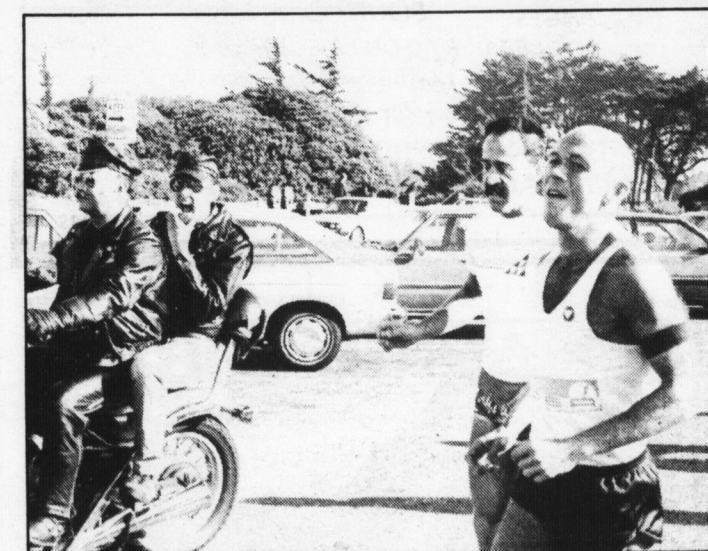
If you're not a gad-about you might get the Mr. Drummer '86 Video from M.E.N. Video—only \$59.95 for the one-hour leather-thon. Check it out!

★ ★ ★

The decision has been made. Ms. Peckerhead will Co-MC the Annual Golden Dildeaux Awards with former Mr. Leather Daddy Tom Roller at the SF-Eagle Sunday, Jan. 25 at the Eagle—the nominations are rolling in already. Have you nominated anyone yet? Anyone who gets seven nominations gets on the ballot. The voting begins New Years Day and will cost you \$1 a ballot. Brian Berger got 27 nominations on the first day of nominating! (In several categories!)

**WHEN DISH TURNS TO SHOVE & VICE-VERSA**

The SF Fire Dept. has been (Continued on next page)



Brent Earle (r.) looking good on the last leg of his 3,000-mile run for the end of AIDS (Photo: Photo Graphics/Darlene)

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**Marcus**  
(Continued from previous page)  
busy lately what with so many individuals celebrating their birthdays. Last Sunday, David (Stella) Stoll celebrated his 42nd, and among other gifts got a snazzy leather jacket lined with Possum fur from the same dude who has already expended close to \$5,000 in flowers this year alone! We of course did not ask if the dude in question even got a "sniff" out of Stella.

And Wednesday (last night) Mike Polansky hosted a surprise birthday for Steven Blair (also known as Blossom Blearly) with a lot of the Eagle gang and fans in attendance. Honey, all those candles burning are scary! At Wayne Friday's 50th extravaganza at the Comstock Club last week some \$6,000 was raised, and nice going!

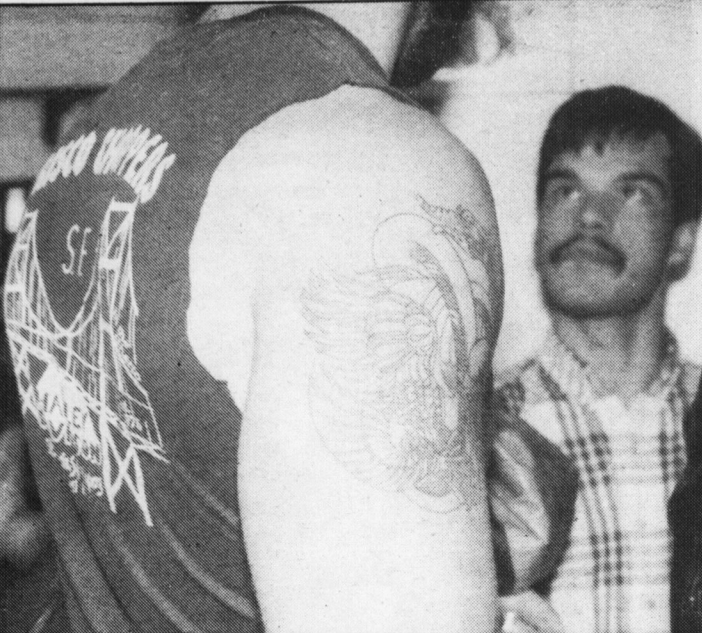
Modern technology being what it is, you really have to read directions when you buy new appliances. Mike Mergin, up at the RushRiv, learned the hard way last week that you do not, repeat, do not put your latex dildoes in a microwave oven—the tune of a shriveled up two-headed job costing \$42.50! Without a carousel for even distribution of the microwaves you could ruin a lot of rubber and leather as well! Tsk-Tsk.

Speaking of the Russian River, that fair-haired boy Noah the landscape architect/gardener got first dibs on the new "heiress" in Monte Rio already and the whole RushRiv is abuzz about the wedding which may be the biggest thing ever to happen in Guerneville except for the Mr. Russian River Contest, which the leading queens have tried to dignify. Stay tuned. It looks like another winter of intrigue/passion/madness up there this winter.

Our own backyard is no haven for halos either. Mr. Leather of SF some years ago, Jim Cvitanich took his leathers out of mothballs and has been seen quite frequently at the Eagle. Not trying to capture or re-capture a title, just hot after Derek, the new swamper. With a moustache like that, he could sweep La Cvitanich right off his feet, and I think he's succeeded already!

With Ringold Alley and Shipley St. getting to look more and more like a convention of sisters, the after-bar-closing venues are becoming places where you go to get recipes for Christmas dinner these nights. So the smart ones have wandered off into a parking lot a few scant steps off Folsom, and the action is so heavy they're calling it the Briar Patch—wear your boots and run like hell. The SF Pee Dee (not the gay ones, the straight Hot Dogs) are beginning to harass people for no reason whatsoever, and if the Captain from Southern Station doesn't want a serious confrontation some night he should give more than cursory attention to complaints from fellow police officers who have witnessed the unwarranted harassment going on more and more frequently. I have yet to see the yuppies in the Oasis and other clubs get even a stare from the cops when they're breaking beer bottles all over Folsom and by-ways with their nauseating antics! Furthermore, since the new SOMA (South of Market Business Association) is so interested in getting the South of Market neighborhood together, they should investigate all the night-time bullshit going on!

Would you give credence to the rumor that with the Mr. CMC Carnival title safely in his possession, Duke Armstrong is giving serious consideration to running for International Mr. Leather?



Hot items abounded at the Sandmutopia (Drummer store) opening last Wednesday evening (Photo: R. Pruzan)

Don't blink! Hey, this is getting heecccccaavy! Speaking of the Carnival, tomorrow night, Dec. 5, the California Motor Club and the two contestants for Mr. Carnival will present checks representing the money they collected at the Carnival to the charities they designated. This will be the highlight of the CMC Open Meeting, presuming you attended their open meeting just before the carnival. It starts at 2030 hours and if you were at the last one, it shouldn't last more than 15 minutes.

The Corresponding Secretary of the Year will be announced at the Cheaters M/C Presidential Convention (with Rocky's permission) and as soon as they find a place for the function, it will be announced.

In the meantime, presuming the SF Forum raised enough money for their Xmas Party, that too will be announced, and I know you're all holding your breath—after all, you paid for it.

Kudos to M.E.N. for taking video tapes of all this year's functions to the AIDS patients at SF



Motorcycle outriders at the Candlelight March (Photo: Rink)

**Night of a Thousand Clowns**  
The Imperial Court System of North America will be honored at Night of a Thousand Clowns, a tribute to the pioneering role of drag in the gay community Saturday, March 27, in the Grand Ballroom of the Waldorf Astoria hotel in New York City. This first national charity ball hopes to attract 3,000 attendees from throughout the US and Canada to raise \$500,000 for several national gay organizations primarily concerned with AIDS funding and gay civil rights. Proceeds from the ball will be distributed evenly between the AIDS Action Council, The March on Washington Committee, The Human Rights Campaign Fund, the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, and the New York Gay and Lesbian Community Center, which is serving as a local sponsor. During the evening a complete orchestra will play in the Grand Ballroom, cabaret acts will appear in one of the smaller ballrooms, and Empress I and Emperor I of New York will be coronated by a major celebrity. A donation of \$250 includes admission to Night of a Thousand Clowns. To receive a formal invitation and necessary information on hotels, air fare, limosines, etc., please write: Night of a Thousand Clowns, 106 1/4 Lexington Ave., New York, NY 10016. Female impersonators should make a note on their request to receive a special communication.

**Mark Friese**  
**I Do Like to Party!**

The start of the holiday season has been deluged with birthday parties, and Wayne Friday has already committed himself to no less than 400 birthday parties as a result of his highly successful birthday party last week at the Comstock Club. For those of you who weren't there you certainly missed a who's who party in the old style. The party raised \$6,000, money that will be split between the S.F. AIDS Emergency Fund and Coming Home Hospice. A comment that was made by Soderia Wilson was overheard by Moi, and definitely summed up the feeling of the evening. That was, "a nice party for a good man, and a good cause." I knew there was more than one reason I voted for Soderia!

As a pleasant breather between the parties, Bob Golovich invited 200 of his closest friends to have Thanksgiving dinner with him at Sutter's Mill, and quite a party it was! The dinner was fabulous and the Mariachi Band that entertained was excellent, with the singing of Pauline and Teresita

'When the next party will happen is anyone's guess, but be prepared!'

complementing them nicely. The seating arrangements at these parties are always interesting as the table I was at included Pauline, Randy Johnson, Allen White, Henry Leleu, and other enchanting people. Needless to say there was a little bit of dirt that flew around that particular table, and one can only guess the conversations at the other tables! A very nice way to spend Thanksgiving, and my thanks to you, Bob!

Sunday was Sweetlips' 64th birthday at Ginger's Too and the crowd that showed up was indeed a cross-section of the community. Reba was working his first job in a while, but we won't go into that. Bette Bonko and Paul Ruehl were being their usual humorous selves, the Bumps family were there promising me they would soon add another room to their Lake Merced villa so I can move in, providing I bring my extensive collection of magazines! Once again the food by Beverley was outstanding, and of course Sweetlips was the gracious hostess as he left the following day for holiday in Portland. When the next party will happen is anyone's guess, but be prepared!

Tonight the Gay Games II Board of Directors will present the Gay Games II Awards Night at the Trocadero Transfer, 520 4th St. The party is from 8 'til 11 p.m. and there will be food, a no-host bar, and music by Beau Thomson. By the way, Beau Thomson is now playing all Thursday nights at the Troc, and is a nice addition to their DJ line-up!

June Starling is proof that you can't keep a good girl down! As most of you know she had a heart attack and is now recovering nicely. Part of her therapy is the "Holiday Handcraft Raffle" she has put together for the Godfather Service Fund to help finance the Christmas dinners for persons with AIDS in various San Francisco hospitals. The tickets are now on sale from vari-

ous people, and some of the prizes include a handmade Raggedy Ann and Andy, a stained glass gay flag, handmade afghan, and other prizes to be announced. The tickets cost \$1, and the drawing will be held Dec. 21 with the location to be announced soon. Need not be present to win!

Once again there will be a benefit by Greater Tuna to benefit the Night Ministry. This year's benefit will take place this Sunday at the Mason St. Theatre, 340 Mason St., and the performances will be at 3 and 7 p.m. with all the tickets priced at \$15. You can reserve six or get more info by calling 392-7461. Kudos to Greater Tuna for all their efforts for the Night Ministry!

Pearl Harbor Day, Sunday the 7th, looks like it will be busy all around as Emperor Matthew and Empress Sable invite you to a beer bust at the S.F. Eagle from 3 to 6 p.m. for the 45th anniversary of Pearl getting bombed—another excuse to drink! The cost will be \$6 and that will include beer, food, and of course the usual glamour and excitement that goes with these events.

Don't put away the Sunday portion of your calendar yet as the Galleon will present two smart soirees for your enjoyment. From 4 to 6 p.m. it will be the Widow Norton's Christmas Opera Benefit Show. And at 8 p.m. you can join the Grand Ducal Family for their Christmas Party and Show. Somehow it doesn't seem Christmas should be here quite so soon!

Larry O'Leno is holding forth at the New Bell Saloon Monday and Tuesday evenings at 8:30 p.m. and is also playing at Teddy Bears, 131 Gough St., a couple nights a week with Pauline joining him on Wednesday evenings.

Upcoming events for the holidays include Tatiana's Christmas Party for the Shanti Project at the High Chaparral Thursday, Dec. 11, from 8 p.m. 'til midnight, with the cost being a \$5 donation. The evening is dedicated to Lady Gene Forrest. Rita Rockett will be taking over the High Chaparral the following evening for her 5th annual Family Reunion and Christmas Party that also is a benefit for Ward 5-A Branches and the Christmas 1986 Day Party. This party goes from 8 p.m. 'til 2 a.m. and will feature the music of DJ. Odis Campbell.

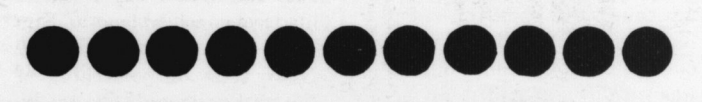
The Inter-Club Fund will present Folsom Follies at the California Club, 1750 Clay, Saturday, Dec. 13, with the doors opening at 6 p.m. and the show starting at 8 p.m. The New Bell will host a Christmas Plant Auction Sunday, Dec. 14, for the Open Hand meal program that delivers meals to persons with AIDS and AIDS Related Conditions. The auction starts at 2 p.m. and the New Bell is pleased to announce that we will have Camille as our hostess and also a featured entertainer for that day!

Is the proverbial dirt being flung in the race for Emperor and Empress, I think not! After all these are adults that are thinking of voting for this title, and it is the holidays! But time will tell, and if time doesn't, I will!

I guess I will close for now and rest up for the next column when I am positive to be deluged with the rest of the events for the season, and remember I do like to party! Hope all yours are joyful!



This was not the Headdress Ball, but the SF Opera's Fol De Rol last Monday (Photo: R. Pruzan)



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FRIDAY 11/5  
Victory Party, for Mr. Gay Don and Miss Gay Kitty, Kokpit, 8-11 p.m.  
CMC Chapter Check (O.M.), SF Eagle, 8:30 p.m.  
SATURDAY 11/6  
A Trip To The Races (Bay Meadows), sponsored by The Galleon and The Village, bus leaves 10:30 a.m. from Galleon, 10:45 a.m. from the Village, \$25 includes bus, program, res. seat, lunch in the Club House.  
Benefit Auction for Karl Stewart, Men's Room, 2-5 p.m.  
GSL Meeting, Trax, noon.  
SUNDAY 11/7  
Blaire Thanks SF, Men's Room, 2-6 p.m.  
Imperial Beer Bust, SF Eagle, 3-6 p.m., \$6.  
The Widow Norton's Christmas Opera Benefit, Galleon, 4-6 p.m.  
Bobby Callicoaette in Concert, Kokpit, 5 p.m.  
TUESDAY 11/9  
Annual Christmas Party, Castro Station, 8 p.m.  
Compiled by Karl Stewart and Diedre



Bambi performs

## Bambi

(Continued from page 26)

San Francisco club.

Jon Sugar: Explain yourself, Bambi.

**Bambi:** When I came to San Francisco, I wanted to sing, wanted everyone to like me, so I worked with the Cockettes, joined the Angels of Light, met Divine and John Waters, went to Europe, lived in Berlin, met Bowie and Iggy Pop, started hormones, came back to S.F., became a punk rocker, met the Clash, Johnny Thunders, joined Verses with Olga de Volga, went to L.A. with Frightwig.

J.S.: What do you want to do now?

**B.:** I want to do a video about a beautiful transvestite cabaret star with magic powers who lives in the past and the future. In the past I would rescue Marie Antoinette from the guillotine and meet Dorian Grey. In the future, I'd battle road warriors and Japanese robots. Flash to 1940, I'd open a finishing school for English schoolboys on the French Riviera. I'd go to Tom-of-Finland-Land, create a gay army, and liberate France from Hitler.

Oh, how Bambi goes on. She looks marvelous, with her own beautiful platinum blonde hair.

I accompanied her to an antique dress store where she picked up a '40s gown priced at \$200. Her beauty does not come cheap.

J.S.: Do you have any personal heroes?

**B.:** Oscar Wilde, Japanese comics; I think I do the best Dietrich and I always have.

From a very early age Bambi demanded dolls from her parents. There were six boys and two girls in Johnny Purcell's Irish Catholic family, and Bambi didn't know she was a boy until the second grade. As far as sex was concerned, Bambi never had it with girls. When Bambi was in college her folks found out she was turning gay and threw her out of the house.

I first saw Bambi in *The Mary Club* in her role as a sort of "Mad Maxine" after the bomb is dropped. Bambi was flawless, superb, her fans crowded the play's run, and gave her a standing ovation. You can see Bambi Monday through Friday doing her striptease at The Galaxy Club, but I suggest you catch her cabaret shows at Club 181 for a real San Francisco treat.

Bambi is a very nice person, a marvelous entertainer, and one of the reasons this city is so much fun.

Bambi will perform at Lipps Dec. 4 and Club Nine Dec. 10 and 17.

## Sissy

(Continued from page 26)

formance art, she wanted to collaborate with. In order to retain a certain amount of control Garner put this production together herself, raising money from family and friends. Her sometimes-employer Carole Shorestein Hayes donated rehearsal space.

Starting with producer Steve Seferain and director Zoe Elton, the team "grew organically," Garner says, adding actors Sheila Balter and Roxanna Augersen, set designers Courtenay Marvin and Andrea Staley, composer/musician Donna Viscuso, and others. "It's what a lot of playwrights back away from. They let go of their pieces. I mean, eventually you have to..."

When she let go of *Salvation Street* after the happy experience at Rhino, it was staged by a company in Los Angeles where, Garner reports, it "didn't do well."

The three acts of *Sissy Goes West* form a trilogy of sorts. Act One, *Possessions*, was performed by itself at the Santa Cruz Women's Festival and People's Theatre Coalition, but the playwright intends to keep them together now: "I've always had in my mind to follow the whole journey."

Each act finds the heroine in a different place with a different woman — Babe, her mother; Corrine, a desert bag lady/entrepreneur; and Dee Dale, a starlet foiled by her resemblance to Kim Novak, if not a lack of talent. "Sissy takes on something of each of the women," Garner explains. "She has to look at each of them and decide what she's going to be."

The author is less concerned with a plot than with recurring images that impress the viewer: ants, apple pie, tattoos, and the "x" that marks the spot. "The more I look at the piece it's about images and a woman being haunted by them in a way... She's trying to deal with what she's haunted by and not sink into it."

"I'm really trying to play with powerful images," Garner continues. "Tattoos and ants are really charged images in our culture." She's pleased that the name Sissy has negative connota-



Playwright Terry Garner

(Photo: S. Warren)

tions for me, and says it does for women, too. "That name is something Sissy will have to overcome. Babe and Sissy are both very patronizing names."

The playwright's job, Garner feels, is to affect an audience, but not necessarily to have the same effect on each member of the audience.

In *Live! on Salvation Street* there are three women and one gay male character. *Sissy Goes West* has four women with only cameo appearances by two men and a lot of talk about Sissy's brain-damaged brother and smelly "old geezer" of a father. To the comment that there's not much room for men in her theatrical universe Garner replies pleasantly, "The next play I'm writing has two grown men in it. My universe is opening up."

She explains more seriously that she wanted to start cautiously in areas she understood and felt comfortable with, "a certain sensibility from a woman's point of view." Now that she's sure she knows what she's doing, "I want

to take that view into the world... My interest is the breadth of human experience, and I want to write about all kinds of characters."

The Tennessee native believes Southerners carry a certain amount of guilt around with them. "Out of that guilt you build humor into absurdity... take it to an extreme to get at the underlying truth."

"If you're into guilt, obsession, and absurdity, come see *Sissy Goes West*."

*Sissy Goes West*  
Intersection for the Arts  
Dec 4-20; 626-3311

## Wilkes' Bash

(Continued from page 26)

lace! The defiant ones appeared in black lace tights or body stockings over black leather bikinis. Pandemonium Time. And the South of Market contingent — west-end subdivision — looked as though it was going to storm the runway from the audience when more hunks came out with black leather whips.

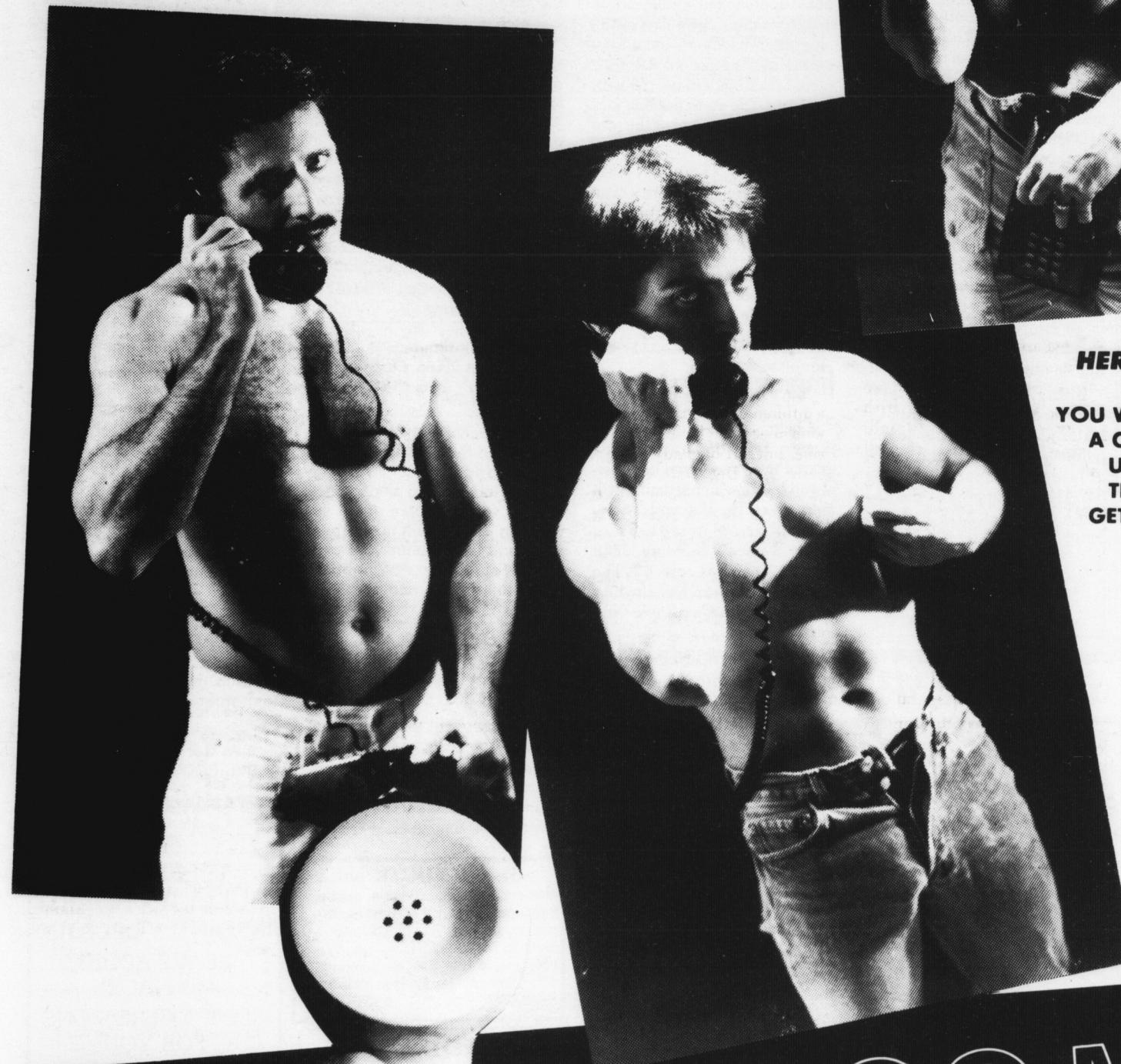
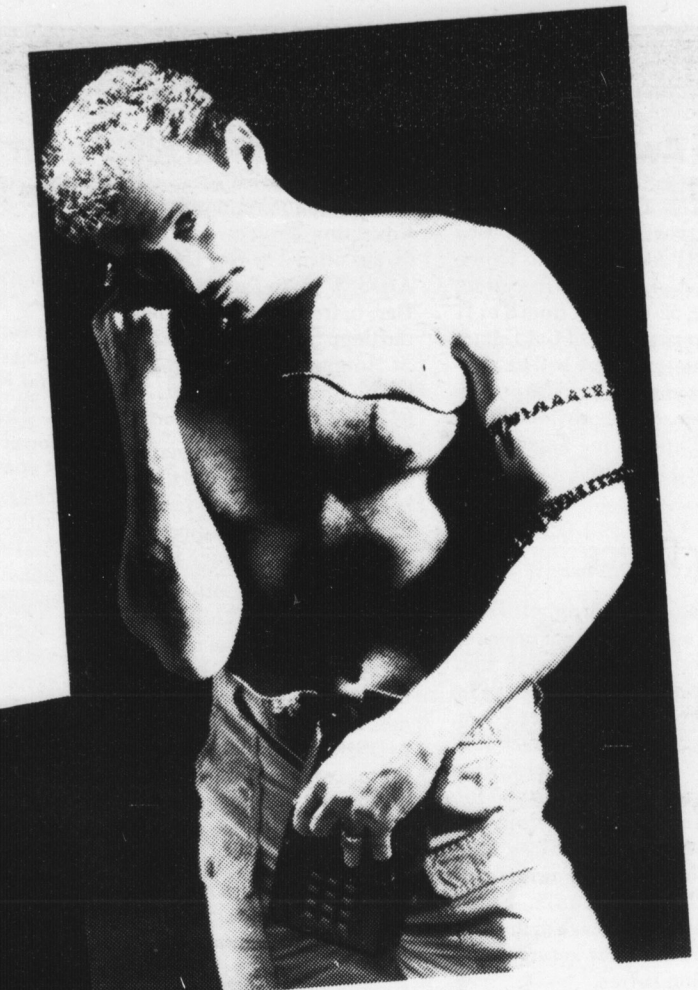
Who could have followed this razzle-dazzle but headliner Joel Grey, small of stature but large of stage presence? With everyone towering over him, he still dominated the scene, this time simply by modeling — his first non-singing, non-dancing gig. He was a one-man demolition crew in his classic black tails and not the usual over-the-calf length, but right down to the floor. And those chrome-tipped sneakers!

Then came a mind-bending array of simple little \$100 pick-me-ups to \$3,000 Valentine gowns. Formal baggies, animal prints, and outerwear corsets zoomed by at a dizzying pace. Here was Big Bang promotion; retailing backed up by entertainment; merchandising enlivened with show biz. Like Bloomingdales, Bashford is selling the steak as well as the sizzle, only he does it better.

Nightclub closed with that sound of the 1925 Cabaret band once more grinding out the "Willkommen" number followed by the distinctive Joel Grey voiceover: "Madames et Messieurs, Damen und Herren, Ladies und Gentlemen. Where are your troubles now? Auf Wiedersehen. A Bientot. Good Night."

*Singing in the Rain* should be that good.

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# BAY AREA REPORTER

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## Close AIDS Vigil, Founders Urge

### U.S. Official Calls Vigil 'Blight'; Educating Homeless, Say Supporters

by Allen White

Two founders of the 13-month long ARC/AIDS Vigil have come out in support of the recommendation of George Miller, regional director of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, that the Vigil be closed down. In a letter this week to Mayor Dianne Feinstein, Miller called the site a "blight" and a "health hazard."

At the Vigil site in United Nations Plaza, several people denounced the man who has been one of their targets for over a year. But Steven Russell, one of the founders of the Vigil, told the Bay Area Reporter, "All good things must come to an end and the Vigil should now be shut down." Frank Bert, another Vigil founder, said, "The goals we set when we were chained to the building have been met and the Vigil has served its purpose."

Last Monday Miller expressed concern over "the deteriorating situation in United Nations Plaza." He charged that area businesses and law enforcement personnel are concerned about increased panhandling, homeless persons and unsanitary conditions in the area. Miller contended that "the Vigil's original leaders are long gone and the encampment has become a blight in the area. The mounting filth is also becoming a serious hazard to the health and safety of our community."

Harvey Maurer, a person supportive of the Vigil from the beginning, said, "The ARC/AIDS Vigil did not create homeless people or IV drug users. But such people also contract AIDS and deserve to receive information about AIDS prevention. In point of fact, we have enjoyed excellent relations with the police and have been a moderating force in the plaza."

Evan Durant, a person with ARC, said, "It's an eyesore be-

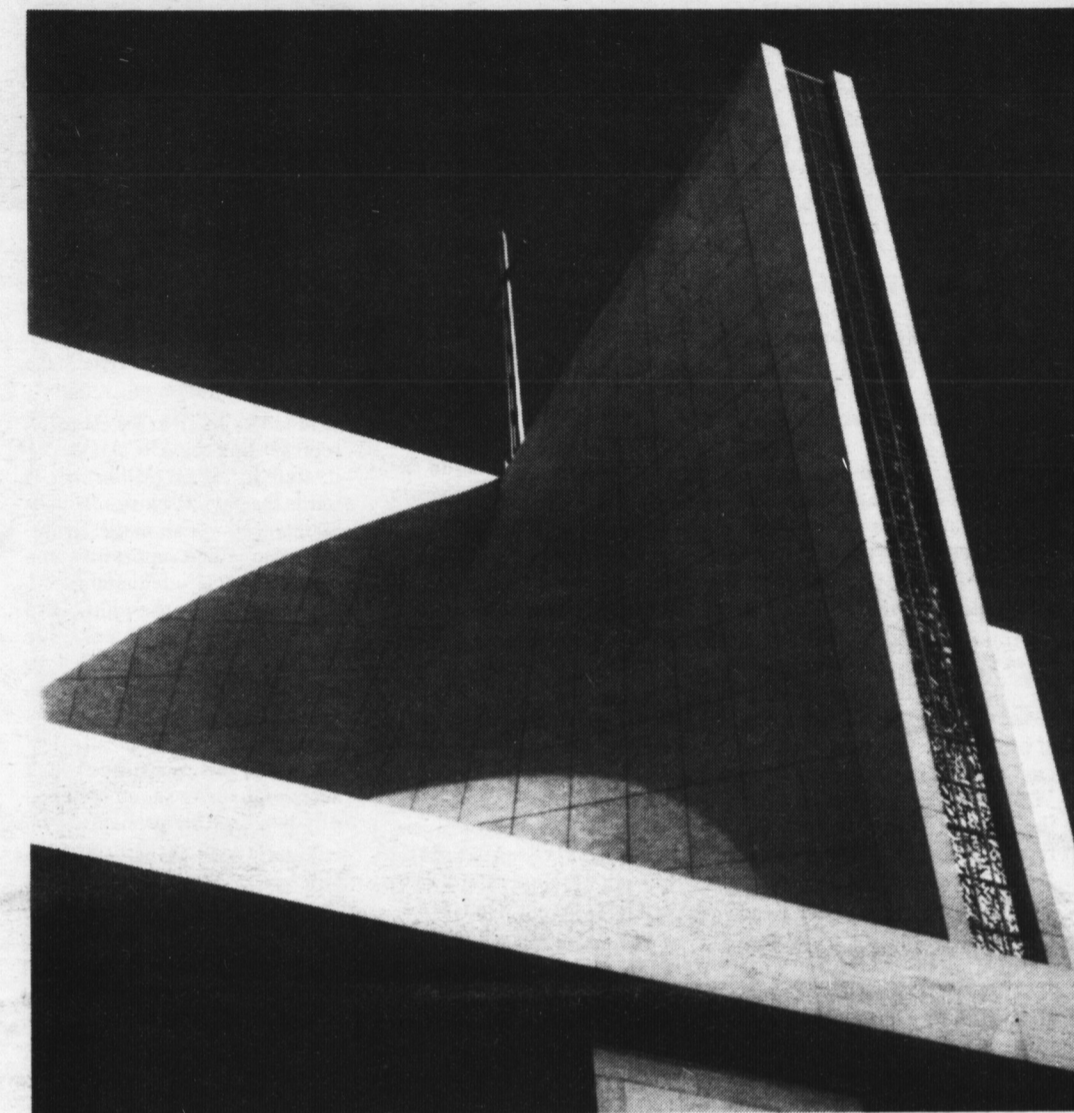
cause George Miller and the federal government he represents aren't doing their job. That's why we have to go to such extreme measures as chaining ourselves to the door."

Gary Harmon, a person with AIDS and an original leader when the Vigil began, told B.A.R., "What does he expect, an eyesore or an attraction, a tent city or a condominium? We are doing the best we can to further educate the public. You would think he would thank us. We are open 24 hours a day providing condoms, bleach and life coping techniques."

Jack Hanna, a supporter of the Vigil for over a year, said, "Nobody has become ill other than because of the weather conditions," Joe Clady, a Vigil member since February, added, "This is not a sanctuary for the homeless." He said, "It's a terrible way to live but it is a safe and healthy living environment." Clady explained that the area is kept clean and safe.

In his letter, Miller also stated that though there are signs prohibiting loitering and sleeping, nothing is done about the encampment in enforcing the code. He labeled this "selective law enforcement." He added, "Many of the more perceptive homeless persons are beginning to congregate on the perimeter of the encampment since they have concluded this is a 'safety zone' where the law is not enforced."

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St. Mary's Cathedral, the outward symbol of the Roman Catholic Church in San Francisco. (Photo: S. Martin)

## Church Influence Weakened By Concern With Authority

### Trouncing Dissent May Backfire on Vatican

by George Mendenhall

The recent crackdown on liberal church figures is being seen as partly an attempt by the Vatican to give a clear message to the U.S. hierarchy to reject gay Catholics and not to take public stands in favor of gay civil rights. But in spite of reprisals and warnings, many in the church continue to defy the Vatican. At least half of the 106 chapters of Dignity, the gay Catholic organization, still have masses on church property.

Pope John Paul II moved in 1986 to quell dissent on sexual matters in the U.S. church. First there was the dismissal of Rev. Charles Curran, 52, from his teaching post at Catholic University of America, followed by the September removal of Archbishop Raymond Hunthausen from many of his duties as head of the Seattle church. Then came the homophobic Vatican position paper that repeated the church's view that homosexual acts are a sin to be confessed before receiving the sacraments. The letter also warned bishops not to allow gay Catholic groups to meet in church facilities.

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### Today

**Butter Up Your Honey:** Hottest item this Christmas looks like a gravy boat with a vibrator. Robert Stone explains, page 18.

**Jose Hits the Road:** Empress I is retiring to Arizona to write her memoirs, so, watch out, says Bob Woolhouse, page 26.

**Porn Wars:** A stricter anti-porn law may be in our future. George Mendenhall reports, page 4.

## Neiman-Marcus Charged With AIDS Job Bias

by Charles Linebarger

A former employee of Neiman-Marcus has filed a formal complaint against the store claiming that Neiman-Marcus has a policy of discriminating against employees who are diagnosed with AIDS. The allegations led to three informational pickets showing up at last Friday's dinner by the Human Rights Campaign Fund which was held at the store.

Bruce Kears, 32, worked at Neiman-Marcus in the men's clothing department until his firing on Oct. 7. He said he was fired less than two weeks after he was diagnosed with AIDS on Sept. 25.

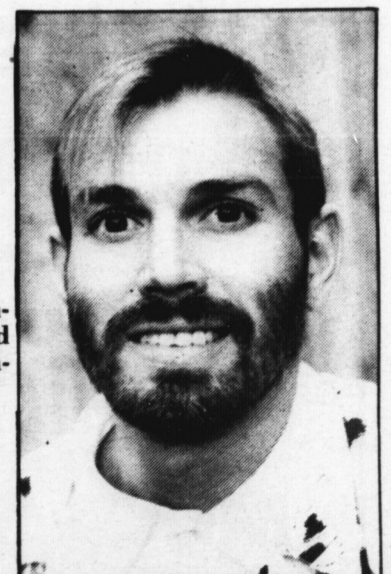
Kears first went to his doctor

on July 1 complaining of fatigue, nausea and fever. He had to stay away from work for three weeks because of his illness but the doctors couldn't determine the cause. They did not test him for the AIDS virus even though fatigue and fever are classic AIDS

symptoms.

"In September, I was feeling weak and my fevers were so high that they were going up to 106 degrees. I had chest pains and a dry cough," remembers Kears. "I went back to the doctors. They

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Bruce Kears. (Photo: Savage Photography)