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KQED's Tiano Wants Meeting With Gays

by Charles Linebarger

Bay Area Reporter has learned that Anthony Tiano, general manager of KQED, has requested a new meeting with gay leaders in an attempt to stave off the hearings slated for the Board of Supervisors. At the same time the Bay Guardian reported this week that the revived San Francisco magazine is thinking about bringing suit against the public broadcaster. The suit would involve San Francisco Focus, the former program guide for KQED that has become a commercial city magazine.

Board of Supervisors Pres., John Molinari, said that Tiano began new communicative efforts. "After our last meeting broke up, he (Tiano) approached me through a mutual friend and asked for another meeting. I met with him and we discussed a lot of the matters that have been brought to my attention. We both agreed that a meeting between himself and representatives of the gay community that have been involved in this matter would be beneficial.

"I agreed," continued Molinari, "to postpone the hearings temporarily until a meeting could be held in the early part of January. I've been waiting until after the holidays to convene the meeting."

One reason Tiano may be seeking a compromise is that the station may have learned the three

supervisors on the Board of Supervisors' Human Services Committee are receptive to the gay and lesbian community on the issue of anti-gay discrimination.

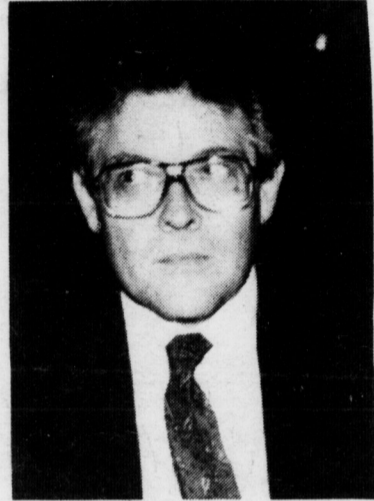
While Sup. Willie Kennedy wanted more time to consider the issue, Sup. Bill Maher said, "My sense is that, in view of the concerns of the public, we're not going to fund them in future years. There is a First Amendment issue in government funding of reporting agencies. Government funding and a free press don't go together.

"And as for church and state," Maher said, referring to Monitorradio, "the more separate they are, the better off we are."

Maher added that even if KQED and the gay community reach an accommodation, he has problems with the city's funding of the station. "We ought to just say, we shouldn't be funding you," he said. "This is probably not a wise expenditure of public funds. It raises a lot of issues: free press, discrimination, etc., especially when a significant section of our community feels it's inappropriate."

Sup. James Gonzales, the third supervisor on the committee, told B.A.R. that he sees this situation as being akin to one several years ago when the Board of Supervisors intervened in an employment matter at KGOTV. News anchor Valerie Coleman had begun to wear her hair in corn braids and the stations management had threatened to discipline

(Continued on page 2)



'There are no changes (planned) as far as Monitorradio, according to Tiano (above), who added that Christine Madsen, the lesbian fired from The Christian Science Monitor because of her sexual orientation, had filed a civil suit against the Monitor.'

(Photo: Rink)

'After our last meeting broke up, he (Tiano) approached me through a mutual friend and asked for another meeting. I met with him and we discussed a lot of matters . . . We both agreed that a meeting between himself and representatives of the gay community that have been involved in this matter would be beneficial.'

—Sup. John Molinari

(Photo: S. Martin)

7 Days In June

Anger Dominates Parade Week; Victory In November

Second of Two Parts

by Brian Jones

Gay Freedom Day, Sunday, June 29, dawned clear and cool. Yet the spirits of gay people were clouded. The blackest shadow was cast by state Proposition 64, formally titled the "AIDS Initiative." Gay men thought of it as the quarantine initiative.

Prop. 64—signed by 690,000 Californians—would call for quarantine of people with AIDS or the AIDS antibody; would force mass testing; would throw gay people out of jobs, and school kids out of school.

JUNE: POLITICS, NOT LAW

The initiative had qualified for the ballot in May. By mid-June,

the consequences of the passage of Prop. 64 were becoming clear to most of us. We felt afraid and vulnerable. Some of us pressed

(Continued on page 16)



Christmas Day, 1986: the San Francisco Lesbian/Gay Freedom Day Marching Band goes to 50 1/2 U.N. Plaza to play music for members of the ARC/AIDS Vigil. (Photo: Savage Photography)

Jose Rises Above SF In 'Final Farewell'

Hot Air Carries Away Empress I

by Allen White

Entertainer, gay rights activist and "Mother of the gay community," Jose Sarria, Empress I of San Francisco, will make a dramatic farewell to San Francisco Saturday, Jan. 3, by hot air balloon from the steps of City Hall. The event is titled "High Hopes, the Widow Norton's Bon Voyage" and is planned for noon at the Polk Street entrance to City Hall.

(Continued on page 2)

Today

Goodbye to All That: Monica Palacios bid farewell to the Bay Area to head for the Big Apple and the bright lights. Bob Woolhouse has the story, page 26.

Marching Again: The National March for Lesbian and Gay Rights is set for October and the Northern California organizing effort is underway. George Mendenhall reports, page 14.

Ring in the New Year: Allen White provides a handy guide to the array of festivities for all tastes this New Year's Eve and beyond, page 3.

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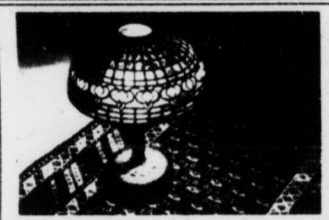
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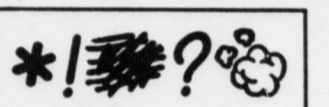
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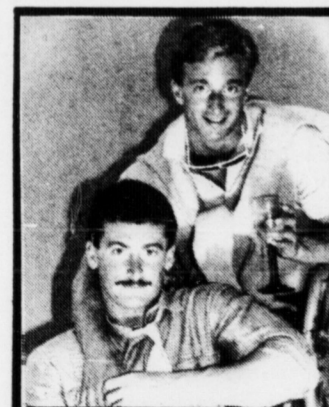


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Photos by Richard Law

A San Francisco AIDS Foundation ad appearing in the Dec. 18th issue of the B.A.R. acknowledging donors of the third annual Thanksgiving Day Dinner incorrectly stated Pepsi Cola as one of the donors, while Coca Cola was the donor. The Foundation Regrets the error.

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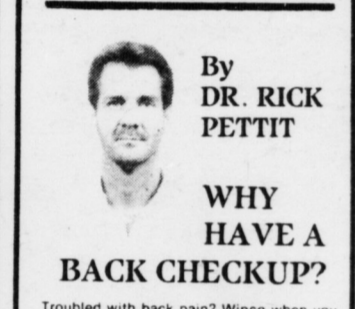
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KQED
(Continued from page one)

her. The Board of Supervisors passed a resolution in support of Coleman at the urging of the minority community.

Said Gonzalez, "I think that as a board we can use our influence on KQED to persuade them to take corrective action. We have a lot of ordinances in this city where we as a city agree not to do business with organizations that discriminate. But we do give them a chance to change their course of action."

Tiano returned calls from B.A.R. this week, but from his comments it was not clear whether the station was prepared to change its course of action. When asked whether KQED would be taking Monitoradio off the air in response to requests from the community, Tiano said, "There are no changes (planned) as far as Monitoradio."

He added that he had heard that Christine Madsen, the lesbian friend from the Christian Science Monitor because of her sexual orientation, had filed a civil suit against the Monitor.

When asked about the possibility of more gay programming on KQED-FM, and Channels 9 and 32, Tiano responded, "no comment." When he was asked



'We ought to just say, 'We shouldn't be funding you.'

—Sup. Bill Maher
(Photo: Rink)

whether the station would be looking for gays or lesbians to fill seats on its board of directors, Tiano said, "There have been ongoing interviews for board seats that will be available in Jan. 1988, and gay-identified people have been interviewed."

STATION UNDER SIEGE

Several sources in the community and in city government speculated that KQED is literally under siege as the new year begins. Not only are city hearings threatening to deprive the station of \$150,000, but KQED is still waiting to hear the decision of an administrative law judge in Washington, D.C. on charges that the station fraudulently kept Channel 32 off the air back in the mid-1970's. At stake there is the control of Channel 32. A group from the black community, Minority Broadcasters, has a very good chance, according to FCC attorneys contacted by B.A.R., of winning control of Channel 32.

In addition, the Bay Guardian broke the story this week that the revived San Francisco magazine may be about to bring suit against KQED. According to the Guardian, the suit would be aimed at KQED's Focus magazine. San Francisco magazine's former publisher, Ron Hagen, is quoted in the Guardian as saying that KQED has used its status as a non-profit corporation to create an unfair competitive advantage in the city magazine market. As a non-profit organization, KQED is exempt from federal and state income taxes and can take advantage of reduced postal rates in mailing the magazine to subscribers.

Jose
(Continued from page one)

Plans include participation by the San Francisco Gay Freedom Day Marching Band & Twirling Corps and an assortment of members from San Francisco's Imperial and Royal court systems. There will also be music by City Swing, Gail Wilson and Jeannie Tracy is to sing "Over the Rainbow."

The activities will be a meshing of the legends of Emperor Joshua Norton and the world of the Wizard of Oz. Bob Ross and Bob Cramer, both Emperors after Norton, will be hosts for the day. Ross will be paired with City Attorney Louise Renne and Cramer will be with Lesbian Princess Hydie Downard.

Auntie Em will be portrayed by Tina Tanner. Devita will be Dorothy and Empress Ginger is to be Glenda, the Good Witch. Emperor Matthew Brown will be the Cowardly Lion, Michael Russon, the Tin Man, and Grand Duke Mike D'Dyke will be Scarecrow.

The Evil Witch will be Desiree with an entourage. Rick Manning will be the Wizard and Sharon Jackson will be Evileene. The Alameda County Imperial Empire will become the Munchkin People.

San Francisco Supervisor Board President John Molinari is scheduled to make an official presentation on behalf of the people of the City and County of San Francisco.

The climax of these activities will see Jose Sarria enter the gondola of a hot air balloon. The balloon from the Napa Valley Balloon Company is then scheduled to depart San Francisco.

As the event has been prepared by Janet Cory and Russ Alley, it has been stated with firmness that this will be the final farewell event for Jose. Yielding to requests to raise money and emotions, Sarria has, on occasion, chosen to use his name for various "farewell" events.

Jose Sarria is one of San Francisco's most celebrated gay personalities. For many years during



What are we gonna do without Jose? (Photo: R. Pruzan)

the 1950s he entertained at the Black Cat. Known then as the Nightingale of Montgomery Street, the entertainer was noted for Sunday afternoon presentations of operas which were viewed by many as the personification of high camp.

Because of legal problems that beset the bar, Jose became one of the city's first gay activists. In one of the first showings of gay political strength, he ran for San Francisco Supervisor, garnering a very respectable number of votes.

Sarria also became the first Empress of San Francisco. This

title became a vehicle for drag as an organizational device in the gay community. It sprang from the real life character known as Emperor Joshua Norton, an eccentric of the late 19th century in San Francisco.

As the Widow Norton, Sarria presided over many official and not so official gay functions and served as mother to the many Emperors and Emperors that followed.

Jose Sarria is now moving to Phoenix, Arizona. There he plans to write his memoirs and enjoy a degree of retirement.

Ringin' in '87

Dance Out Old Year; Sing in The New

by Allen White

The new year 1987 will enter with parties, spectacle, falling balloons and the sounds of corks popping on champagne bottles. All over San Francisco preparations are underway for the gay community to celebrate New Year's Eve.

Trocadero Transfer is planning a special evening with the music of d.j. Robbie Leslie from The Saint in New York City. Tickets are \$20 and are available at Headlines.

Shawn Benson will join a group of male strippers for The Endup's New Year's Eve Party. It starts at 8 p.m. and the cost is \$7. The High Chaparral party begins at the "Cathedral of Country Western Music" at 9 p.m.

Sanford Kellman, along with Bradley Wise and Randy Schiller, is planning a spectacular party for the Giftcenter Pavilion. Kellman said, "Midnight is going to be my fantasy come true." Reluctant to give too many details, he would only say there will be a massive set constructed on the stage.

The theme for the Giftcenter is "Trojan Men." At the stroke of midnight there is to be an audiovisual extravaganza. "We have everything timed down to the second," he said.

Later in the evening Polydor recording artist Gwen Guthrie will perform. Tickets are priced at \$30 and are at Headlines. A limited amount may be sold, if available, at the door for \$35.

Sharon McNight appears in two shows at the City Cabaret. The first show at 8 p.m. has a \$15 cover. The 10:30 p.m. show with champagne costs \$75. Tix are available at STBS and Gramophone.

First Night is one of the more creative New Year's Eve activities planned. There will be more than one hundred performances of music, dance and theatre throughout the evening. The sponsors note that there will be no alcohol served. The price is a one-time charge of \$5 for admission to all the events. Tix are on sale at BASS outlets. Information can be had by calling 928-6066.

Some of the First Night events include City Swing performing at 10 p.m. at Pier Two at Fort Mason. Mona Rogers appears at 8:30 at Building D at the Life on the Water Theatre. The Barbary Coast Cloggers appear at Mission High School at 7:15 p.m.

Bonnie Hayes appears at the Women's Building at 7 and at the Cathedral Hill Hotel at 10 p.m. Mothertongue is at the Women's Building at 8:15, the Dance Brigade performs at 9:15 and Robin Flower and the Bleachers are on at 10:30 p.m. This is but a sampling of the many First Night events around the city.

A New Year's Eve Cruise on the Bay leaves the Ferry Building at 8:30 and returns at 1 a.m. The cost is \$55 per person or \$100 per couple with tix at Headlines.

Those who received VCR machines for Christmas or those who want to stay at home might try tuning in the New Year's Eve Joan Rivers Show on Channel 2 at 11 p.m. Guest for the night will be Sylvester.

The Bay Area Career Women present their After New Year's Gala at the Giftcenter on Jan. 10. It is black tie optional and the cost is \$12 for BACW members and \$22 for non-members. Call 593-5393 for more information.



The menorah goes up at Union Square to tell all that Hanukkah has begun. Shalom, brothers and sisters. (Photo: Savage Photography)

Nutrition Seminar

On Jan. 8, a seminar entitled, The Candida Albicans/AIDS Connection will be conducted in San Francisco. This seminar will focus on building the immune system with nutrition, as well as avoidance of practices which suppress immunity. The seminar will be held at the Hyatt Regency San Francisco, 5 Embarcadero Center, from 7:30 p.m. to 10 p.m.

The featured speaker will be Jeffrey Katke, a renowned nutritionist and researcher. Katke will discuss pre-publication research regarding the role of candida albicans in immune suppression, as well as the relationship of candida albicans to AIDS.

Nutritional assessment techniques will be discussed, as well as various nutrients that can be used to maximize one's resistance to infection.

This three hour seminar will highlight the latest scientific research that relates to this issue and will outline a comprehensive nutrition program for the reduction of risk to AIDS.

The public is invited and the registration fee is \$6 per person if you register at the door.



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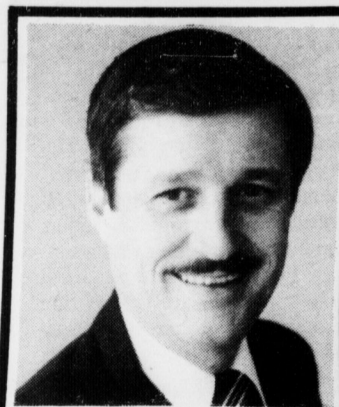
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City Must Reach Out To Minorities, Women, Says Health Report

by George Mendenhall

New satellite programs, additional housing, a re-definition of AIDS, help from private hospitals and a call for more personnel are among the proposals for 1987-1988 announced by the director of the AIDS office in the city's Department of Public Health (DPH). Jeffrey Amory presented his 118-page evaluation of the city's current AIDS/ARC program and projected the future course for the department.

The Status Report and Preliminary Plan for 1987-1988 was given to the Health Commission Dec. 16. A crowded auditorium of 150 heard gay Commissioner Jim Foster praise Amory for his comprehensive review. Foster said, however, that some of the proposals were contingent on additional state and federal funding. Foster specifically attacked Gov. George Deukmejian and Pres. Ronald Reagan for their negligence in developing and funding comprehensive AIDS/ARC programs.

The Amory document is the most complete analysis of the AIDS/ARC crisis ever presented in a U.S. city. It reviews surveillance, research, education, medical care and mental health services, with special commentaries on the needs of people of color, substance abusers, women, and youth. The "flexible working document" reviews the situation and projects what areas should be improved. Dollar amounts are not discussed.

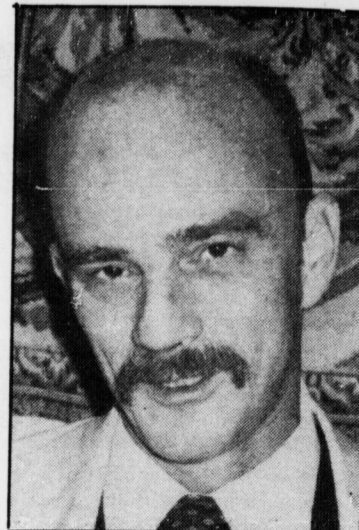
NEW PROPOSALS

San Francisco is recognized as having the most comprehensive

program in relating to the AIDS/ARC crisis. However, projections are that the number of AIDS and ARC cases will continue to multiply. Recognizing this, Amory evaluated the immediate future needs based on health department analysis. He calls for a number of improvements.

EDUCATION: While the successful "safe sex" education in the gay community will continue, the city-financed AIDS Foundation will begin to spend 40 percent of its advertising budget reaching people of color, women, and needle users. The DPH will increase its education of prisoners, youth, heterosexuals with multiple sex partners, bisexual men, and hemophiliacs.

ARC: It is proposed that while the federal Centers for Disease Control begins its plan to expand the definition of AIDS, the DPH may begin reporting some severe ARC conditions as AIDS. This would allow more people diagnosed as having ARC to become eligible for state MediCal and disability funds. This would be done "without compromising the rights or interests of those involved."



Jim Foster (Photo: Rink)

FACILITIES: The remodeling of General Hospital to accommodate outpatient treatment is sought. The expansion of clinical health centers is also recommended along with the financing of satellite facilities. Clinic expansion would include mental health services. The private sector is to be encouraged to further help screen and care for patients with possible changes in insurance, MediCal, and Medicare regulations to allow for reimbursement.

HOUSING: Additional long-term housing should be provided in a joint agency effort for people who do not need continual nursing care and for those who have special drug abuse or behavioral problems. Housing for pregnant women and adults with dependent children is also recommended.

LANGUAGE: An assessment will be made on how the city might better serve those who do not speak English.

(Continued on page 22)

Boycott Empire, Pickets Urge

Group Protests Ban on Community Information

by Charles Lineberger

Citizens For Medical Justice, the group that sat-in at Gov. George Deukmejian's office several months ago, took local action Monday morning, Dec. 29. The group began to picket the Castro Street location of Empire Savings and Loan. They are complaining about a lack of community access at the S & L.

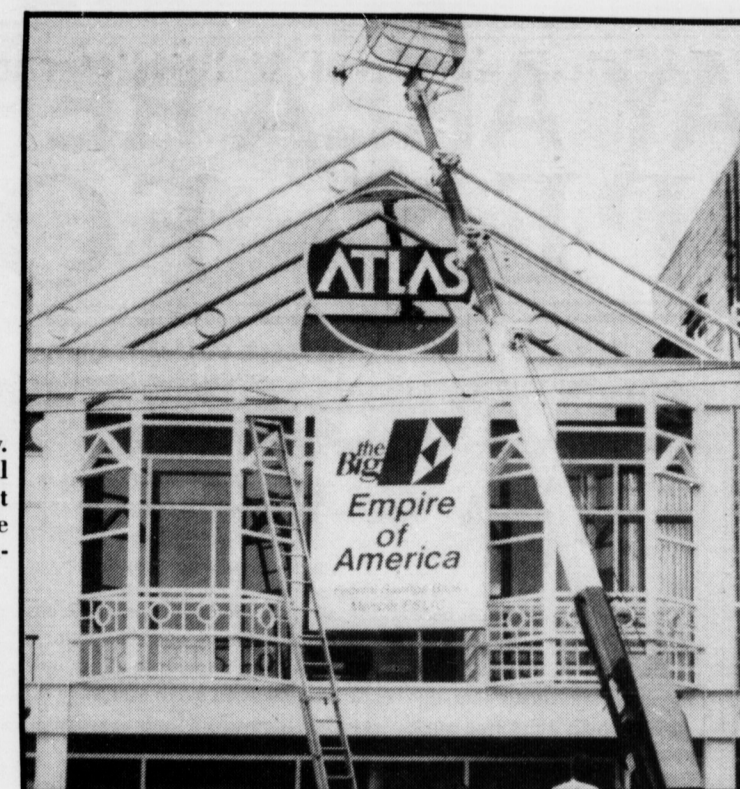
Jean-Jacques Zenger told the Bay Area Reporter that the Citizens For Medical Justice became aware that Empire Savings and Loan was no longer allowing community literature and AIDS information to be distributed in its lobby. "They said they didn't want anything except literature associated with banking there," said Zenger.

"I felt something more should be done about it besides just writing letters," he said. "I felt that something stronger should be done — like a boycott."

Zenger said that the group

voted on Thursday, Dec. 11, to call for a boycott of Empire. "It was unanimous," said Zenger. He added that the group will be out in force in front of Empire's office on Castro this week. "We're going to be there all day on Monday, from 10 a.m. till 6 p.m., from when they open till they close."

Zenger said that his group had checked the policies on community access at the three other banks and savings in the Castro. "We went to Hibernia Bank, Eureka Federal Savings, and Bank of America to see what kind of community publications they had in their lobbies. We found a



From Atlas to Empire: how times have changed for the lesbian/gay community. That's what pickets from Citizens For Medical Justice are saying. (Photo: Rink)

poster for a Trocadero party at the Eureka, nothing gay at Hibernia, but at Bank of America they had a collection box for the AIDS Food Bank." Zenger added that, "Eureka was interested in having gay literature in their lobby."

Keith Griffith, also with Citizens For Medical Justice, explained why the group was targeting Empire alone of the Castro's financial institutions. "The only financial institution in the Castro that would allow commu-

nity access, like we're talking about it, is Eureka. Empire Savings & Loan was an institution which had encouraged community access, and what we're concerned about is that this move of theirs could be symbolic of a change at Empire to treat itself as just another S & L.

"The people in Los Angeles who have acquired Atlas have to realize that Empire has acquired not just another savings and loan, but a symbol of gay pride," continued Griffith.

Griffith said that the gay group plans to have pickets in front of Empire "throughout their business hours" during the first week of picketing, "and after that at least once a day."

Griffith cautioned that the issue was not one of homophobia. "Because it's obvious when you go in, with all their gay employees, and rainbow flags, that they're not homophobic. It's a neighborhood issue. This is not just another savings and loan, it's representative of gay pride."

Zenger requested that letters protesting the new policy on community literature in Empire's lobby be sent to: Jeff Reinhardt, Marketing Director, Empire Savings of California, 21945 Erwin Street, Woodland Hills, CA 91367.

Lesbian Pride

1986 Marked New Gains In Lesbian Visibility, Clout

by Rachel Ginsburg

(Reprinted with permission from the Bay Area Career Women Newsletter)

"A few years ago, whenever I met women I wrote their phone numbers on my hand with a ballpoint pen. Now when I meet them, they hand me their business cards."

Such was the response when Bay Area Career Women recently asked a long-time lesbian activist to comment on what is new in the lesbian community. We wanted to know: what changes can be noted that made 1986 different for lesbians from years past? What can we be proud of? Which of the changes happening around us affect us most?

To gather a variety of viewpoints, BACW asked lesbian leaders throughout the community to reflect on current events. Their responses ranged from the personal to the political.

DOWN TO BUSINESS

Alice Molloy, founder of Mama Bears, a women's bookstore and coffee house in the East Bay, notes the general demise of leftist politics among women and a shift toward spirituality. "No longer do we hear about 'criticism/self-criticism' or the 'correctness' of ideas. Lesbians today seem to be focusing on healing themselves, especially by supporting each other in recovery from substance abuse," says Alice.

Another shift happening around us is one which puts lesbians on the receiving end of extremist hostilities. "We dare not ignore the impact of the reactionary right," says Sally Gearhart, educator and author of *The Wanderground* and *A Feminist Tarot*. She sees many lesbians going back into the closet—putting on business suits, being a lot quieter than they were in the mid-seventies.

"The fact that the reactionary right is spending such energy, time, money and prayer on the suppression of lesbians is directly due to the successfulness of our openly radical work in the seventies," Sally concludes.

"We are still huge and powerful in their minds. But in our own, we are finding many different ways of being lesbian, and we don't dance naked on the hiltops any more," she says.

To Roberta Achtenberg, director of the Lesbian Rights Project, the most notable change to be seen today is the change in how we perceive the significant relationships in our lives. "Lesbians are creating, protecting and gaining recognition for our families of choice. Especially those who choose children are showing a new willingness to be connected to other generations and to fight for acknowledgement."

An unprecedented number of births and adoptions by lesbians has shown parenting to be a new priority.

NEW VISIBILITY

Nineteen eighty-six brought



Lesbian athletes at Gay Games II. (Photo: Rink)



Lesbians in the workforce: another source of pride. (Photo: Rink)

new visibility for lesbians in the mass media. Prime-time television's "Movie of the Week" recently featured *My Two Loves*, a post-divorce affair soap opera. Co-written by Rita Mae Brown, it made some effort to call attention to the problems of social stigma faced by lesbians. *Desert Hearts*, a lesbian-produced love story, is drawing record crowds to theaters across the country.

Part of this new visibility is the result of media portrayal of lesbians as people who are separate and distinct from gay men. *The Wall Street Journal*, in an article on gay business networking, gave recognition to women's networks. And columnist Bill Mandel has spoken out against the double

burden of discrimination faced by "women who are gay."

Yet it is still our relative invisibility that leaves us without political clout, believes Del Martin, co-author of *Lesbian Woman* and founder of Daughters of Bilitis. She is alarmed at the rise of censorship and fears that our publications will be the first to go. "San Francisco has not always been Mecca," she cautions. "A lot of hard work went into educating, organizing and demonstrating the numbers of the gay vote. We must do the same for the lesbian vote, because our issues are different."

It is undeniable that many gains have been made by lesbians and gay men working together.

Earlier this year, the New York City Council passed a gay civil rights law; the Bay Area chapter of the Sierra Club endorsed the formation of Gay and Lesbian Sierrans. These achievements were possible through the combined efforts and voting strengths of both women and men.

PRIORITIES

But the stereotypes remain. According to the *Wall Street Journal*, when President and Mrs. Reagan invited a same-sex couple to stay overnight at the White House, it was their "decorator and his companion" that they chose.

"We are still invisible compared to gay men," says Del. "We always join together in a crisis, but the vast majority of gay men have not learned from feminism. They give priority to their own issues. So must we."

She sees particular need for lesbians who are out to serve as appointees, commissioners and candidates in the political process.

JOIN THE CELEBRATION

Putting the pieces together, we find a new wave of lesbians entering the mainstream. We're in business, starting families, protecting our rights and becoming a household word. At the same time, we're preserving our own identity and choosing new ways to express it. As we survey the work remaining, we can pause to celebrate proudly.

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EDITORIAL & OPINION

A New Year

A new year is almost here and we start off 1987 with one of the best pieces of news for the gay community that we could hope for in these chilly days. We are soon to see a monument to gay people. To be built in Amsterdam, one of the few places on earth that truly can claim to be in the "free world," the Dutch government is even underwriting much of the cost.

Amsterdam is one of my favorite cities. It may be the most civilized city on earth with its long history of cosmopolitan tolerance. Now, a new chapter opens in that history. For the first time anywhere, gay people's struggle for survival and respect is to be added to the vast collection of public monuments that fill European cities.

Scheduled to be completed this coming spring, the memorial to all victims of homophobia will be a centering place for a far-flung, often conflicted movement made up of local communities. It gives us a time and a place to reflect on who we are, where we've been, and where we're headed. The memorial will be a rallying point for the international gay and lesbian movement.

We need this place for grounding ourselves in the struggles ahead. The new year looms with a number of simmering issues on the burner.

Will this be the year that our poorly led federal government finally sees the gravity of the health crisis around it? We will have to keep pushing until the federal administration takes its people's health more seriously than Star Wars boondoggles and corrupt military adventures around the globe.

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It is time to stop fooling around on sex and health education because a minority of bozos don't like seeing what they call "dirty words" used.

Our social health may depend on our learning to love pornography. At least, drop the silly pretense that sex education is possible without sex.

This coming year also promises more battles on health and life insurance. The real issue here, after all, is not the protection of corporate profits, which are fat enough, but the question of who is to pay for the medical services required by people with AIDS and other problems. Why is a disease that primarily strikes gays and drug users and is now moving into other minority communities singled out for exclusion? Other more expensive medical problems are not trumpeted by the insurance industry for draining their profit margins.

We will not allow some hysterical bleating about threats to public health play havoc with our civil rights. Those most loudly beating that drum are the ones least concerned about the public's health. The health of our civil liberties and our basic right to protection under law is as necessary to defend as is the health of our bodies.

In this city, we have a mayoral election to look forward to. The next mayor of San Francisco will very likely be better connected to and more solidly supportive of the gay and lesbian community than has any previous occupant of Room 200 City Hall.

And with Sup. Nancy Walker at the helm of the Board of Supervisors, look for the re-establishment of district elections to become a popular issue again. With the gay community firmly integrated into the power structure of this city, our political future here looks bright.

Finally, 1987 is the year the pope wants to visit Frisco. Let him go somewhere else. He is not admired in this town and not wanted as a guest. And who is to pay for his wasted extravaganza? How many homeless people will go without shelter and how many more people with AIDS will be turned away from needed care so that the city can provide military-level security for this pretender?

We have work ahead in the new year. But probably we will be able to say at its end—as we can say now at the end of 1986—we are a stronger people, more determined than ever to see justice prevail. And we will even have a public monument to our struggle.

Ray O'Loughlin

OPINION

New Law May Ease Insurance Problems

by John W. Atteridge
Fellow of the Society of Actuaries

One problem many persons with AIDS have is paying medical bills that can easily exceed \$50,000. Insurance can help with the cost, but often the insurance was terminated when the person lost his or her job, or with a new health insurance policy refuses to cover AIDS because it was a "pre-existing condition."

Here is where a new federal law, called COBRA, will help. The law applies to anyone who loses their employer-provided group medical or dental insurance coverage. You must be allowed to continue as part of the group, and your coverage will be exactly the same. However, you will have to pay the entire premium, including what had been the company's portion.

The law covers most employers, and takes effect during 1986 or 1987 depending on your health plan. It was primarily designed to protect wives (occasionally husbands) and children after a death or divorce, and incidentally to protect employees who leave their job.

This is how it works: After you terminate employment, your employer or "plan administrator" is required to notify you that the continuation coverage is available. You have 60 days to respond that you want this continuation coverage. The existing health care will continue during this time, at the employer's expense. Then you have another 45 days to start paying for the coverage. The employer has to allow you to pay your premium monthly—they can't require a big up-front payment.

Granted, the continuation coverage can be expensive—they can charge you what it costs them, plus 2 percent for "administration." This can easily run \$100 to \$150 per month or more. (Can you believe your employer is already paying that much for your health plan?)

No wonder benefits are called "the hidden paycheck."

Once you elect the continuation coverage, you are covered with the exact same benefits as before. This will continue until 18 months are up, or you stop paying, or the employer terminates the plan for active employees (they can't terminate your benefits alone), or you are covered under another plan, such as a new employer.

Even after the benefits stop, you will still have the option to convert to an individual policy if the employer's plan was with an insurer. Many larger employers no longer use insurance companies for their health benefits, if it's cheaper to pay the benefits themselves. If your employer "self-insures," they still have to let you take the continuation coverage, but there would be no individual conversion available at the end.

Why is this such a boon to the gay community, especially persons with AIDS? Because the coverage cannot exclude AIDS, even if that was the reason you left your job. The only exception is if the original coverage excluded AIDS.

The insurer or your employer cannot require evidence of insurability or good health—they have to accept you as you are.

The coverage must be offered, no matter why you left employment. The only exception is firing for "gross misconduct," which isn't defined but should be extremely rare. You must be offered the coverage if you quit, are let go for incompetence, are laid off, have AIDS or ARC and can't work, or go to part time.

When the law goes into effect is more complicated to answer. Start with July 1, 1986. Then look at your health plan's first "plan year" beginning on or after July 1. That's when it becomes effective. So it will hit your plan sometime in late 1986 or early 1987; Jan. 1, for the many calendar year plans. The dates are slightly later for a union plan. Your "plan year" is clearly stated in your health plan booklet.

Unfortunately, the law is so new that many employers don't know what to do or how to do it. The solution is to ask for it yourself. You can't afford not to.

LETTERS

GCN Is Awful

★ As an again/off again viewer of the Gay Cable Network for a year now, I read with interest in the gay press of the Gay Cable group who broke away to form their own production unit, Electric City.

I watched both shows last week, and now I see why the breakup took place.

I remember when the featured performers on Gay Cable were Doris Fish & Tippi, Dr. Farkle, and David-Alex Nahmod. Between the four of them, we had a drag act, a very funny lesbian comic, and a guy interviewing local celebrities. Nice and interesting diversification. But now they're all gone, and Gay Cable has become nothing but the cold, abrasive Joseph Durant arrogantly tooting his own horn week after week. Rather annoying, if you ask me.

I saw the first Electric City show, starring Dr. Farkle (yay!), and while the new show needs a lot of work, at least their hearts are in the right place. I'm sure they will improve, because they don't have the absurd air of self-importance that Gay Cable now reeks of.

Who do John Canaly and Joseph Durant think they're kidding?

Paul Sanchez
San Francisco

Warren Was Unprofessional

★ Electric City thanks all of the merchants who generously donated the gifts which were seen on our program "A Politically Correct Xmas." We apologize that time restrictions prevented us from listing each merchant in the credits. Without their support that portion of the program would not have been possible. We were all touched by their willingness to help brighten the holidays for our hospitalized brothers and sisters.

We would also like to thank the B.A.R. for their support in helping to publicize our company and our Christmas special. However, Steve Warren's review of our show contained a statement which alluded that we did not really deliver packages to Ward 5A. His statement not only breached journalistic ethics, it was unprofessional. A call to the hospital, Rita Rockett or Richard Locke would have verified that over 40 packages were delivered on Dec. 6. We request a formal apology not only to Electric City, but also to the many merchants who gave with love in the true spirit of Christmas.

Sande Mack
Philip Tuggle
Mark Wang
San Francisco

ED NOTE: The disputed sentence reads: "With Richard Locke and Rita Rockett, (Dr. Farkle) brings Christmas presents to AIDS patients at San Francisco General — at least we see them going in with gifts and coming out without them." That sentence in no way implies the presents were not actually given to the patients, but only that the presentations were not shown on the video. The criticism was pointed toward the incompleteness of the video, not the intentions of the gift givers. We stand by that criticism.

Dianne Gregory

We Need Help

★ Many of us in the San Francisco native plant community, both gay and straight, have lost loved ones to the AIDS epidemic, and share the goals of the Poppy Project in spirit.

In detail, however, I would like to point out to the community that many of our hills in San Francisco — Twin Peaks, Corona Heights, Mt. Davidson, Bernal Hill, Glen Park Canyon, Bay View Park and Bilygoat Hill — are natural areas of critical concern which support many rare and endangered species of wildflowers, native grasses, butterflies, reptiles and other critters.

Several professionally-advised volunteer groups have mushroomed in the past few months for the expressed purpose of increasing the population sizes of these endangered species.

We know where most of the rare plants are. We know how to make multitudes of babies from the few surviving adult individuals. We actively seek the help of volunteers interested in effecting the state-of-the-art restorations we envision for these sites.

While I feel the Poppy Project is valuable for vacant lots, backyards and park plantings in areas which are not critical habitat, the planting of poppies from commercial sources (which may be from the desert, Southern California, the central valley and thus not the local strains of the species) onto these natural areas would confound the efforts of scientists — both gay and straight — who are working to restore these areas to their original pristine splendor.

Through an irony of botanical history, the rare populations on the above-mentioned sites have survived in the city because they have been protected

(though not by design) from grazing by sheep and cattle. Outside of the city, most similar areas have long since lost their native vegetation through overgrazing.

These rare plants have much in common with our community. Like us, they are oppressed living things whose very survival is currently threatened. They look down upon us from their sentinels on Twin Peaks and Corona Heights with desperate and pleading eyes.

I ask the gay community to assimilate the current scientific consensus with regard to these natural areas. That consensus is that seeds planted on these areas should be limited to those collected from the specific site. For instance, in the ongoing restoration of Bernal Hill, all seeds and plantlets returned to that site came from that site.

Planting poppy seeds from unknown sources would confound the efforts now underway to return this site to its original state.

Where natural areas are not involved, the choice of the California poppy to plant in remembrance of our lost loved ones is a good one. Truth is, snails and slugs don't like poppy seedlings, though they eat most seedlings of most other wildflowers. So the poppy is the one which will survive and flower, pretty much wherever it is planted in the city.

As a gay man involved in the attempt to restore and protect these areas, I would say that the local conservation community is very open to gay people, and any members of the community who would like to help are welcome to give me a call (647-4145) if further information is desired.

The science is essentially finished, but the politics has really only begun. Most of the people involved are horticultural or scientific types, and more of these are needed. But the movement also needs political and legalese types who would enjoy the political work which will be necessary if these sites are to become dedicated state nature preserves, for the solace and harmony of all San Franciscans, both human and nonhuman.

Rick Clinebell
San Francisco

Making A Strong Witness

★ I can certainly understand Brian Jones' recent "sitting on a Rita" article (B.A.R., Dec. 18) and the frustration and anger which is behind it, and seeps through it. I too am frustrated and angry with the Roman Catholic Church, just as I am frustrated and angry with my own denomination, the Episcopal Church. It seems for every Terry Waite, there are 500 powerful Rectors and Bishops undoing what needs to be done. So, I begin to see that gay clergy need to speak out. (Yes, Virginia. . .)

When Pope John Paul II comes (and I expect that he will, and that the invitation will be extended) what will be our response as a gay community? It would be easy to be obnoxious. It would even feel good to be obnoxious, but would it make the statement which I believe needs to be made?

The pink triangle is a powerful symbol for me, one which I can only imagine would not be lost on the Pontiff. Two or three hundred thousand gay/lesbian persons and their friends wearing pink triangles and demonstrating peacefully at the Pope's rally site, or at an alternative site, would make a strong witness and would go a lot further in and out of the Church than "mooning" him, or shouting obscenities at the poor fellow. The world at large will be watching, and they expect us to react in anger and in an ugly way. After all, we've just been denounced by the Pontiff and the vast organization he represents.

However, with his visit we have an opportunity to come out in a better light than he — in the world's eyes. Here is a chance to get good media coverage showing the incredible outpouring of humanity (I would be tempted to say Christ-like humanity) which the gay community has given to the sick and suffering; we could out-do the Roman Pontiff on his own turf. What would the world see? Who would come out the best: the man in the white dress, or the men in blue jeans?

The Rev. Jerry Brown
Vicar, Episcopal Church
of the Good Shepherd
Berkeley

Cheap, Snide Comment

★ I enjoy reading the B.A.R. every week and look forward to its publication. Sometimes I agree with the articles and editorials. Sometimes I don't.

With regard to the Neiman-Marcus/AIDS bias controversy, I know nothing other than that which I have read in your newspaper. I know none of the people involved.

Your editorial note following Walt Dennis' letter ("I hope you get the raise.") was both unfair and unprofessional. It appeared to me to be a cheap, snide comment that one would expect to see in a high school paper, not the B.A.R. It's my opinion you owe him an apology.

Michael Bruno
San Francisco



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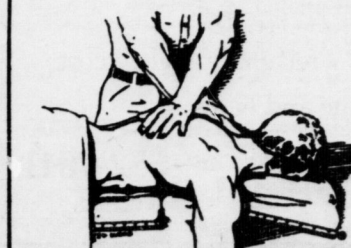
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A HAPPY AND HEALTHY NEW YEAR.
FROM ALL OF US AT B.A.R.

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Warren Was Unprofessional

★ Electric City thanks all of the merchants who generously donated the gifts which were seen on our program "A Politically Correct Xmas." We apologize that time restrictions prevented us from listing each merchant in the credits. Without their support that portion of the program would not have been possible. We were all touched by their willingness to help brighten the holidays for our hospitalized brothers and sisters.

We would also like to thank the B.A.R. for their support in helping to publicize our company and our Christmas special. However, Steve Warren's review of our show contained a statement which alluded that we did not really deliver packages to Ward 5A. His statement not only breached journalistic ethics, it was unprofessional. A call to the hospital, Rita Rockett or Richard Locke would have verified that over 40 packages were delivered on Dec. 6. We request a formal apology not only to Electric City, but also to the many merchants who gave with love in the true spirit of Christmas.

Sande Mack
Philip Tuggle
Mark Wang
San Francisco

ED. NOTE: The disputed sentence reads: "With Richard Locke and Rita Rockett, (Dr. Farkle) brings Christmas presents to AIDS patients at San Francisco General — at least we see them going in with gifts and coming out without them." That sentence in no way implies the presents were not actually given to the patients, but only that the presentations were not shown on the video. The criticism was pointed toward the incompleteness of the video, not the intentions of the gift givers. We stand by that criticism.

Dianne Gregory

We Need Help

★ Many of us in the San Francisco native plant community, both gay and straight, have lost loved ones to the AIDS epidemic, and share the goals of the Poppy Project in spirit.

In detail, however, I would like to point out to the community that many of our hills in San Francisco — Twin Peaks, Corona Heights, Mt. Davidson, Bernal Hill, Glen Park Canyon, Bay View Park and Bilsygoat Hill — are natural areas of critical concern which support many rare and endangered species of wildflowers, native grasses, butterflies, reptiles and other critters.

Several professionally-advised volunteer groups have mushroomed in the past few months for the expressed purpose of increasing the population sizes of these endangered species.

We know where most of the rare plants are. We know how to make multitudes of babies from the few surviving adult individuals. We actively seek the help of volunteers interested in effecting the state-of-the-art restorations we envision for these sites.

While I feel the Poppy Project is valuable for vacant lots, backyards and park plantings in areas which are not critical habitat, the planting of poppies from commercial sources (which may be from the desert, Southern California, the central valley and thus not the local strains of the species) onto these natural areas would confound the efforts of scientists — both gay and straight — who are working to restore these areas to their original pristine splendor.

Through an irony of botanical history, the rare populations of the above-mentioned sites have survived in the city because they have been protected

(though not by design) from grazing by sheep and cattle. Outside of the city, most similar areas have long since lost their native vegetation through overgrazing.

These rare plants have much in common with our community. Like us, they are oppressed living things whose very survival is currently threatened. They look down upon us from their sentinels on Twin Peaks and Corona Heights with desperate and pleading eyes.

I ask the gay community to assimilate the current scientific consensus with regard to these natural areas. That consensus is that seeds planted on these areas should be limited to those collected from the specific site. For instance, in the ongoing restoration of Bernal Hill, all seeds and plantlets returned to that site came from that site.

Planting poppy seeds from unknown sources would confound the efforts now underway to return this site to its original state.

Where natural areas are not involved, the choice of the California poppy to plant in remembrance of our lost loved ones is a good one. Truth is, snails and slugs don't like poppy seedlings, though they eat most seedlings of most other wildflowers. So the poppy is the one which will survive and flower, pretty much wherever it is planted in the city.

As a gay man involved in the attempt to restore and protect these areas, I would say that the local conservation community is very open to gay people, and any members of the community who would like to help are welcome to give me a call (647-4145) if further information is desired.

The science is essentially finished, but the politics has really only begun. Most of the people involved are horticultural or scientific types, and more of these are needed. But the movement also needs political and legalese types who would enjoy the political work which will be necessary if these sites are to become dedicated state nature preserves, for the solace and harmony of all San Franciscans, both human and nonhuman.

Rick Clinebell
San Francisco

Making A Strong Witness

★ I can certainly understand Brian Jones' recent "sitting on a Ritz" article (B.A.R., Dec. 18) and the frustration and anger which is behind it, and seeps through it. I too am frustrated and angry with the Roman Catholic Church, just as I am frustrated and angry with my own denomination, the Episcopal Church. It seems for every Terry Waite, there are 500 powerful Rectors and Bishops undoing what needs to be done. So, I begin to see that gay clergy need to speak out. (Yes, Virginia...)

When Pope John Paul II comes (and I expect that he will, and that the invitation will be extended) what will be our response as a gay community? It would be easy to be obnoxious. It would even feel good to be obnoxious, but would it make the statement which I believe needs to be made?

The pink triangle is a powerful symbol for me, one which I can only imagine would not be lost on the Pontiff. Two or three hundred thousand gay/lesbian persons and their friends wearing pink triangles and demonstrating peacefully at the Pope's rally site, or at an alternative site, would make a strong witness and would go a lot further in and out of the Church than "mooning" him, or shouting obscenities at the poor fellow. The world at large will be watching, and they expect us to react in anger and in an ugly way. After all, we've just been denounced by the Pontiff and the vast organization he represents.

However, with his visit we have an opportunity to come out in a better light than he — in the world's eyes. Here is a chance to get good media coverage showing the incredible outpouring of humanity (I would be tempted to say Christ-like humanity) which the gay community has given to the sick and suffering; we could out-do the Roman Pontiff on his own turf. What would the world see? Who would come out the best: the man in the white dress, or the men in blue jeans?

The Rev. Jerry Brown
Vicar, Episcopal Church
of the Good Shepherd
Berkeley

Cheap, Snide Comment

★ I enjoy reading the B.A.R. every week and look forward to its publication. Sometimes I agree with the articles and editorials. Sometimes I don't.

With regard to the Neiman-Marcus AIDS bias controversy, I know nothing other than that which I have read in your newspaper. I know none of the people involved.

Your editorial note following Walt Dennis' letter ("I hope you get the raise.") was both unfair and unprofessional. It appeared to me to be a cheap, snide comment that one would expect to see in a high school paper, not the B.A.R. It's my opinion you owe him an apology.

Michael Bruno
San Francisco



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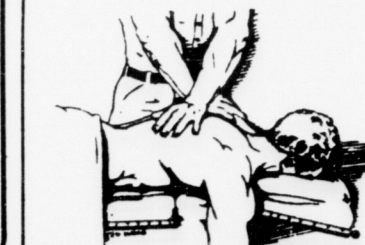
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LETTERS

A Distorted Picture

★ Frank J. Howell's review of Robert Bauman's "breast beating" book *The Gentleman From Maryland* (B.A.R., 12/18) bothers me because I think Howell presents a somewhat distorted picture of Bauman's book, which I found repellent and wanted to review for B.A.R.

Both Bauman and Howell refer to Congressman Gary Studds when it should be Gerry, a minor point if Howell had been clear about the very different dilemmas. Studds, caught with a teenager, immediately announced his sexual preference. Bauman, caught hustling "the meat market" (Bauman's term), waffled for months, eventually acknowledging only "homosexual tendencies." He lost his reelection by a very small percentage, and then came out of the closet. So the question, I think, isn't one Howell asks — "Are liberals more generous and forgiving than conservatives?" — but, "Is a sexual hypocrite, regardless of his ideology, politically useful?" (Remember Walter Jenkins?)

Bauman was also a political hypocrite, a fact Howell ignores. While borrowing money over a long period of time in order to maintain a high standard of living for himself, his deceived wife and children, Bauman regularly voted against social programs and castigated "welfare cheats." Feeling guilty about this (and full of self-hatred in general) Bauman then sought out the Catholic Church's "forgiveness" which makes him a religious hypocrite as well: He was not a "good" Catholic until he was exposed.

Bauman lards his book with "cultural" references, dropping names and quotes with pretentious aplomb in an apparent attempt to give himself an aura of humanistic imagination he doesn't possess.

In short, Bauman was a sexual and political hypocrite, and became a religious and cultural hypocrite.

I'm glad Bauman's book was reviewed, and I know Howell had limited space but I don't understand why he's so easy on a hypocrite when it's the hypocrites who are (also) doing us great damage.

Finally, Howell wishes "Bob the best and hope(s) he can represent the gay viewpoint in a stirring and effective manner among uptight Republicans." Well all right. But when Bauman, after losing his reelection, went courting gay Republican "leaders," he was scorned, and furthermore is baffled and disagreeable about it, which tells me that the gentleman from Maryland still hasn't taken responsibility for the life he led.

John D. Dolan
San Francisco

A Light From The East

★ The following is not entirely factual, but it's very close to the story of my lover and myself.

We had just arrived in San Francisco during the week of Dec. 21. We were cold, tired and without funds. We tried missions, hotels and homeless sanctuaries without success.

We came from a place where we could not love openly. We hid our love. We hid our feelings from our families, childhood friends and church. We loved each other. We just wanted a place to live, love and start our careers. We didn't beg for charity — just love, peace and understanding.

We sold our Pinto when we arrived. The money didn't last but a few days.

We were cold, tired and without food. Then as we were walking down Golden Gate Ave., a light appeared from the East. It was the doorway of St. Anthony's. We entered, were fed and rejoiced among many men like us. We held hands and kissed. Spiritually, we were home.

Thank you, San Francisco.
Jose y Mario

Bill Grov
San Francisco

Ragging at the Rag

★ This letter was sent to the *San Francisco Chronicle*:

I read, with curiosity, your recently announced official editorial policy of excluding the names of anyone who is not a spouse or blood (or adoptive?) relative from the obituaries of gay men who die of AIDS.

First, I'll assume that your editorial policy is based on ignorance rather than cowardly literary gashing.

Let me describe to you why your editorial policy is both outrageous and immoral. A very common occurrence with many (if not most) homosexual persons is that their legally recognized "families" (blood and adoptive relatives) abandon them once they find out that they are homosexual — even though the most cursory study of current knowledge on the subject would have taught these "families" that their homosexual relatives never chose their condition. Honesty and straightforwardness, shown out of love and respect, is responded to with blind hatred, cowardice, paranoia, dishonesty and evasiveness.

Then, once these "families" find out that their homosexual relative is stricken with a fatal disease like AIDS, they start smelling whatever material wealth is accumulated by their homosexual relative. That's when they start showing up at the door of their dying relative. They conveniently forgive their homosexual relative for his previous sick "lifestyle" and make a public display of caring during his final short period of life.

Of course, they also plan strategy so that they can best freeze out the gay lover and gay "family" so that they can get as much of their gay relative's property and money as they can rationalize their consciences into attaining. After all, they deserve it because they are blood (or adoptive) relatives, right?

That's when they start edging the lover and gay "family" out of the life of their gay relative. It can be as blatant as locking the doors, or as subtle as using undue influence on a suffering, scared, captive audience to turn him against the lover and gay "family" who were loyal and devoted to him during that long, cold winter of abandonment by his blood (or adoptive) family. Maybe they can even convince him (and themselves) that his lover and gay "family" — rather than themselves — are the cause of his present unhappiness and isolation.

Do you still wonder why so many gays are angered and dismayed by your obituary policy?

Let me spell it out for you. You are denying and making a mockery of everything that these people have stood for with their lives and you are rewarding the very worst of human instincts, including greed, cowardice and dishonesty.

Now that you understand why your policy of excluding lovers and gay "family" from your obituary columns is wrong, the only reason why you would continue with such a policy is because you have chosen to follow a deliberate course of willful ignorance, homophobia or cowardice in the face of popular fascist scapegoating.

As a large San Francisco gay community, we would then have no choice but to put your rag out of business. Do you really want to risk that? It's an evil editorial policy and is not worth defending.

Stuart A. McDonald, Esq.
San Francisco

Adding Insult To Injury

★ I've never even shopped at Neiman-Marcus, nor have I ever made the acquaintance of Walt Dennis, but I believe he has the right to express his opinions and point out facts without being ridiculed by a tacky, irresponsible Editor's Note.

By inferring that he wrote his letter to the B.A.R. merely to get a raise, you trivialize his honest concerns, while undermining your own credibility as a professional journalist. Such a sarcastic snipe also tends to negate the gravity of the issue at hand here. I am once again disheartened by a shameful misuse of editorial power in the form of an off-handed comment to a sincere letter-writer.

While it is important to watch the AIDS/firing policies of businesses closely, it is also necessary (especially for the media) to maintain an unbiased outlook on the situation as well. As Peggy Mendelson's letter, in the same issue, points out: Neiman-Marcus has termination and sick-leave policies that don't change with the particular type of illness involved. You may not agree with this, but that gives you no right to insult people who do.

Thomas Smith
San Francisco

Just 4 You: Oh, Wayne!

★ This letter was sent to Mr. Wayne Shannon, *KRON-TV*, 1001 Van Ness Avenue, San Francisco, CA 94102:

Dear Mr. Shannon:

Your recent piece on the Mona Lisa being a self-portrait of Leonardo da Vinci was its usual roly-poly, good-natured commentary on one of those little bizarre bits that make life human. You wondered if perhaps the Mona Lisa was Leonardo in drag. In conclusion you suggested that your mind had been blown by the fact that Leonardo was gay.

Maybe he was; maybe he wasn't. There could be worse things: he could have been a practicing Catholic and believed the world was flat.

History is written by the majority. So your history books didn't say that Michelangelo was gay. Or Tchaikovsky. Or Plato. Or Alexander. Or any number of other greats. If we went by the book, so to speak, Oscar Wilde was the only gay man in all recorded history.

We are everywhere. Sometimes quietly, sometimes

Chron' Is Condescending

★ This letter was sent to the *San Francisco Chronicle*:

I can't help but wonder how strictly enforced is your obituary policy. I have noticed that such "immediate blood relatives" as great-grandchildren have been listed as survivors. Should you have received information that a survivor was adopted or a step-child, would they too be omitted as not meeting the criterion of "blood relatives"? If not, I would suggest that your policy has only been selectively enforced.

Even should your policy state only "relatives" as meriting notice, David Linger surely falls into this category. My copy of Webster's Seventh New Collegiate Dictionary defines a "relative" as: "3a: a person connected with another by blood or affinity" (emphasis mine). I would offer that a person who quits their job and ministers round-the-clock care could be said to have "affinity," wouldn't you?

Though I take exception with your policy, I find your condescending responses to queries concerning your policy on who merits proper "survivor" status insulting, to say the least.

To smugly respond that only "immediate blood relatives" are acknowledged as survivors is to negate and belittle a loving, caring relationship between two people.

As for your retort that "legal spouses are, of course, ordinarily also published." Well, the tone is so condescending, one can only consider it was meant to be bitchy and argumentative. As if two gay people even had a choice to be or not to be legal spouses to each other.

I find your attitude very insulting and I only wish I had a subscription to cancel. As it is, I will have to settle with no longer purchasing *The Chronicle* every morning as I go to work. I will not resume such purchases until an apology to the community is rendered and your policy publicly changed. In all conscience, I cannot financially support an institution that belittles my relationships and then insults my intelligence with smug responses when exceptions are taken to such treatment.

Vern E. Nunez, Jr.
San Francisco

Dis-Invite The Pope

★ I'd like to suggest your participation in a grassroots statement to The Vatican and Pope John Paul II in response to his Letter on the Doctrine of the Faith condemning homosexuality.

What I'd like to suggest to you do is send a postcard to Pope John Paul II dis-inviting him from his American tour in 1987.

If you recall his statements here during his last visit, when women in the Church asked him to address the lack of women priests, you'll remember that he told women there was no place for them in the priesthood of the Roman Catholic Church, nor would there ever be.

If you recall his statements during his visit to Nicaragua, he condemned the government that was acting as his host and openly called on the people and the Church in Nicaragua to rebel. He admonished the Roman Catholic priest that was working within the government, telling him he had no place in politics. That's not a rule that John Paul II himself follows, he is much more at home in politics than in bringing comfort to the poor and needy.

If the Pope is allowed this visit, homosexuals will unquestionably be the target. He has been gearing up for this battle with his perception of the enemy of the Church. Remember that he sent the infamous 11-page letter of condemnation just before the 1986 elections, when California voters were faced with the LaRouche Initiative and, in some cities, attempts to overturn gay rights protections.

Send a postcard to the Pope telling him to stay home. Writing to the Pope is easy, the official address is: The Pope, John Paul II, Vatican City, Italy.

An airmail postcard costs 33 cents (if you write a letter, it's 44 cents for each half-ounce). Write to your local gay and non-gay publications suggesting the same tactics. Xerox this letter (remove my name and put your name at the end) and send copies to your friends. Who knows, we might even put the fear of God into the Pope!

John W. Rowberry
San Francisco

The First Amendment: How Far Do We Go?

★ The Dec. 18 issue of B.A.R. had an interesting item about the Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund, a gay legal rights organization in Wisconsin which has filed suit against the Green Bay Press-Gazette because the paper refused to run an advertisement with the words "lesbian" and "gay" in it. Sadly, this is an example of some gay people taking a very perverse view of freedom of speech and the U.S. Constitution. An attempt is being made to

have the state impose an Orwellian form of censorship: instead of making it a crime to print something, it is now to be a crime not to print something, in this case an advertisement for a gay organization.

The founders of this country must be spinning in their graves over the idea of a "right" to force the press to print something. The First Amendment was clearly intended to prohibit government interference with the press. Newspapers were to be free to publish or not to publish whatever they wanted. The writers of the Constitution understood that an absolutely free press was absolutely essential in a free country. Government control of the press means government control of the individual and the triumph of collectivism.

This defense of freedom of the press is in no way a defense of the policies of the Green Bay Press-Gazette. Although the paper should not be subject to any legal action, voluntary economic sanctions may be in order. May I suggest that all gay people in Green Bay cancel their subscriptions to the Press-Gazette until the paper accepts gay advertisements? The loss of income may cause the paper to see things in a new way.

Using economic clout is a useful tool for gay people. Subverting the Constitution and using the coercive power of the state is dangerous and can only lead to less individual freedom for gay people and everyone else.

Mark D. Fulwiler
San Francisco

The Man At 18th & Castro, Revisited

★ I, too, saw the man at 18th and Castro begging for money with a sign reading, "Please help me, I have AIDS." I deliberately did not give to him. Here's why:

- I have no way of determining what this man's needs are. Shanti can.
- While such appeals tug at the heart, this is not the most cost-effective way of helping. A gift to Shanti is.
- Is this man availing himself of the wide range of services Shanti can provide for him and others? Only he and Shanti know.
- The few dollars I could give him would ease his pain only slightly, for only a short time. Those same dollars, if given to Shanti, would be multiplied a thousand times over in support counseling, direction, life-networking. He would be put in touch with others. An individual gift can't do that.
- The ultimate solution to the AIDS crisis must lie in vastly increased governmental funding — the figures are just too astronomical to be met by compassion alone. We all need to support efforts to make our governmental bodies sit up and take notice. I believe an effective working organization like Shanti focuses positive attention by serving as an example of how we must work together, through bona fide organizations, to defeat AIDS.

It is Christmas eve. I am sending my check for \$100 to Shanti tonight.

C. David Martenson
San Jose

Pretty As A Picture

★ History is known to repeat itself and with regards to the Leonardo da Vinci vs. Mona Lisa controversy proves no exception. Many men (particularly in this city) dress up in drag on Halloween, insist on having their pictures taken and then insist on displaying their states to those unfortunate many who did not witness them. Imagine if you will a scene some 400 years ago: "Lenny, you look good... you look pretty as a picture!"

And he carried this picture with him to his grave! His secret too, methinks.

Richard Wellner
San Francisco

Parlez Vous Français?

★ I would like to inform people who speak French of a wonderful opportunity. Each month a group of Francophones meets informally for French conversation, hors d'oeuvres, and beverages.

La prochaine réunion sera vendredi, le 2 janvier, à 8 heures du soir, chez moi. On demande que chaque invité(e) apporte un boisson ou de la nourriture. Pour l'adresse, il ne faut que m'appeler: 863.13.56.

We look forward to meeting you and talking with you.

Ron Hirsch
San Francisco

LETTERS

not. As a commentator in San Francisco it should hardly shock you to find out that someone you thought was just a plain old hero was really a hero who happened to be gay.

Cordially,
Chuck Forester
San Francisco

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- Is this man availing himself of the wide range of services Shanti can provide for him and others? Only he and Shanti know.
- The few dollars I could give him would ease his pain only slightly, for only a short time. Those same dollars, if given to Shanti, would be multiplied a thousand times over in support counseling, direction, life-networking. He would be put in touch with others. An individual gift can't do that.
- The ultimate solution to the AIDS crisis must lie in vastly increased governmental funding — the figures are just too astronomical to be met by compassion alone. We all need to support efforts to make our governmental bodies sit up and take notice. I believe an effective working organization like Shanti focuses positive attention by serving as an example of how we must work together, through bona fide organizations, to defeat AIDS.

It is Christmas eve. I am sending my check for \$100 to Shanti tonight.

C. David Martenson
San Jose

Pretty As A Picture

★ History is known to repeat itself and with regards to the Leonardo da Vinci vs. Mona Lisa controversy proves no exception. Many men (particularly in this city) dress up in drag on Halloween, insist on having their pictures taken and then insist on displaying their states to those unfortunate many who did not witness them. Imagine if you will a scene some 400 years ago: "Lenny, you look good... you look pretty as a picture!"

And he carried this picture with him to his grave! His secret too, methinks.

Richard Wellner
San Francisco

Parlez Vous Français?

★ I would like to inform people who speak French of a wonderful opportunity. Each month a group of Francophones meets informally for French conversation, hors d'oeuvres, and beverages.

La prochaine réunion sera vendredi, le 2 janvier, à 8 heures du soir, chez moi. On demande que chaque invité(e) apporte un boisson ou de la nourriture. Pour l'adresse, il ne faut que m'appeler: 863.13.56.

We look forward to meeting you and talking with you.

Ron Hirsch
San Francisco

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Ray O'Loughlin

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Christ, I think you might recall from your seminary training (I assume you attended one) is Numero Uno, not the cardinal of New York City or the bishop of Rome.

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More recently, the Salvation Army led the fight against civil rights for gay citizens in New Zealand. In spite of the Army's involvement, New Zealand passed equal rights for gay people.

During this holiday season, the gay community is reeling from the devastation of AIDS. Death and mourning surround us. Now that our community is weakened, forces on the political right (LaRouche, the Christian fundamentalists, and even the courts) are moving rapidly to block the gay civil rights movement. What our community needs is support. KRON-TV's alliance with the Salvation Army speaks for itself. Ms. Kwon, I ask that you reconsider this alliance.

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Raymond Tobler
San Francisco

It's Time For 'Pope For A Day'

I hear the Vatican is coming to town.

What pure unmitigated papal bullshit gall that this vulgarly dressed high priest and anti-Christ should choose to purvey his wares in my Church!

But hey — being the laid-back German WASP that I am, I always take these things "tongue-in-cheek." Like I took my first blow job from the local Methodist preacher's kid, that swarthy Croatian stud with the patch over his left eye. While in the background Tom Lehrer stereophonically pontificated from "That Was the Year That Was."

"Get down on your knees!"

"Shake those rosaries!"

"Genuflect! Genuflect!"

Anything to hide an act of genocide!

Gosh, even Tom Lehrer would be proud of Pope John Paul's most recent version of the "Vatican Rag."

First a decree. Then a visit.

Great timing, John! How's your backhand?

On second thought, skip it. We're not bending over this time.

I like your shoes though.

Loyal to my Protestantly pagan roots, we must seize the moment, if not the Pope.

Let's reign on his Parade!

Better yet, we must expose the Pope!

Yes! We must expose the Pope!

Expose the Pope and bring him to his knees!

Genuflect! Genuflect!

How about a week's worth of peaceful demonstrations and irreverent festivities/activities to coincide precisely with the Pope's Sept. visit here?

How about a well orchestrated midnight mass procession across the Emperor Norton Bridge (complete with pomp and circumstance)?

How about a city-wide Pope look alike contest with a coronation at the Last Supper the night of the Pope's arrival in S.F.?

Just think. You could be Pope-for-a-Day. The Coronation/Last Supper would be a black-tie affair. Or you could come dressed as your favorite biblical character.

Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence — resurrect yourselves! There is work to be done and fun to be had!

Pagans! Faeries! Warlocks! Witches! High Priestesses! Members of "the flock"! And especially you leather brothers! Write me with your ideas and suggestions. Send me a SASE along with your name, address, and phone number. I'll send you information on the date, time, and place of our first organizational meeting.

Send inquiries to: On Your Knees! Papal Tour '87, 160 Fillmore St., S.F., CA 94117.

Do it now!

'Cause even cowgirls get the blues.

Religiously yours, Mike Ward, M.A., D.C.
San Francisco

Wayne Friday

Molinari Takes On The Chron

Board of Supervisors president John Molinari fired off a blistering letter to the Chronicle protesting their stated policy of omitting the names of lovers when reporting the obituaries of gay people. Molinari complained that "it is hard to believe that a newspaper of your caliber has such an antiquated policy. It seems inhumane to ignore those who play a major role in the life of another in summing up that person's life."

The Molinari letter concluded that "it is the duty of a major daily to acknowledge the existence of alternative lifestyles in death as well as in life. Anything less appears to be both callous and judgemental."

Catholics will be Catholics. The Catholic Diocese of Buffalo, N.Y. has banned special masses for gays and has evicted a gay group that meets at a local church. Bishop Edward Head said gays are welcome to attend church as individuals but he will not let Dignity hold masses "specifically and exclusively for homosexuals."

The decision outraged Buffalo Dignity leader Cynthia Ciupak. "Dignity is alive and well in Buffalo and is not going away."

San Jose Assemblyman John Vasconcellos, beginning his 21st year in the Assembly, telling friends he is looking at the 1990 governor's race. Vasco says, "I hope that the Democrats (in 1990) nominate somebody who's got vision, who's got a program, who's got inspiration, who's able to touch and move people. I believe I've got a broad program with lots of substance, lots of vision and lots of effectiveness."

Cable Car Awards producer and former Toklas president Bob Cramer's 50th birthday was celebrated by a huge crowd Sunday night at the Galleon. The event was a fundraiser for S.F. AIDS Emergency Fund.

Among new state laws taking

effect in California Jan. 1 is one that will allow parents to donate blood specifically for their own children. This law is intended to allay fears that AIDS can be transmitted by blood transfusions.

Another new state law mandates that couples applying for marriage licenses will be given a brochure on AIDS, sexually transmitted diseases and genetic disorders.

How do they vote? A California Journal survey of voting records reveals that during the two-year session just completed, Sen. Milton Marks, a Republican who turned Democrat this past year, voted "liberal" 97 percent of the time while recently retired Sen. John Foran, a life-long Democrat voted "liberal" only 70 percent of the time.

And don't count Lou Papan out of that cushy Board of Equalization job just yet. Sacramento gossipers are saying that Big Lou, who lost a "sure safe" seat in the 8th senatorial district to Independent Quentin Kopp, is still pushing for the high-paying job now held by long-time civil servant Douglas Bell.

Papan, unaffectionately known as "The Enforcer" while he was chair of the powerful Assembly Rules Committee, reportedly has lined up the votes of incoming members Gray Davis and Paul Carpenter and a necessary third vote is expected from either incumbent Republican Ernie Dronenburg or Democrat Conway Collis. Collis was reportedly talking at Papan's bold move to take over the job as executive director but is said to be succumbing to the squeeze of potential political contributors.

California's outgoing Supreme Court Chief Justice Rose Bird will spend the next four or five months writing a book about "my experiences of

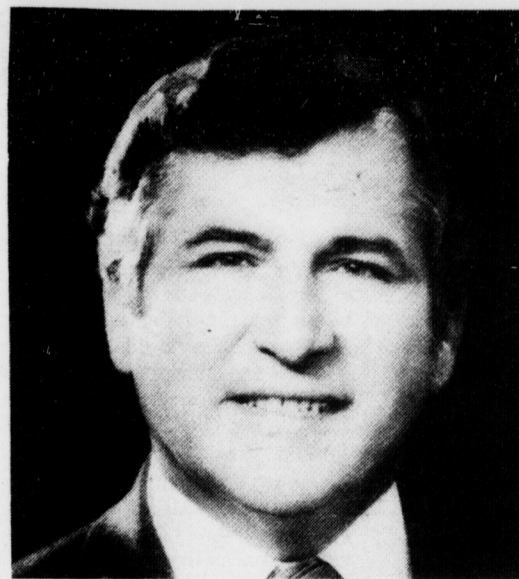
Officers and directors will be installed on Thursday, Dec. 18 from 6-9 p.m. at the Comstock Club, 1409 Sutter (near Franklin). A cover charge of \$5 is requested to cover hors d'oeuvres. Installing officer will be Superior Court Justice Ina Geyman the senior ranking Republican office-holder of San Francisco.

Ecumenical AIDS Healing Service

The InterFaith Network, in cooperation with Albany United Methodist Church, the Episcopal Diocese of California and Grace Cathedral, announces the twenty-second in a series of Ecumenical healing services to be held at Grace Cathedral on Monday, Jan. 5, at 6:30 p.m.

The Rev. Virginia Hilton and the Rev. Dr. Bruce Hilton will preside at the eucharist at which the Rev. Virginia Hilton, pastor of the Albany United Methodist Church will preach.

As part of the ongoing ministry and mission of the AIDS InterFaith Network these services are planned for the first Monday of every month. The next service will be Monday, Feb. 2. For further information please contact the AIDS InterFaith Network at 928-HOPE.



Lou Papan



Sharon McNight

being a woman in a male-dominated institution?" then take a job with a Los Angeles law firm.

In Washington, our own Sen. Pete Wilson won the best-attendance award, earning a 100 percent voting-participation award based on 354 roll-call votes. San Francisco's Sala Burton won the worst-attendance award in the 99th Congress, but it should be noted that Burton missed six weeks while recuperating from surgery.

Actress Elizabeth Taylor, the chairperson of the American Foundation for AIDS Research (AmFAR) told reporters in Hollywood this week that her New Year's resolution is to "keep busy at doing fund-

raisers, doing commercials and convincing other stars to join the cause" in raising money and finding a cure for AIDS. Taylor, who has raised \$6 million to date, says, "I promise you I have committed my life to fight for the cure and I'll dedicate all my spare time to raising money for AIDS research until they finally find the cure."

One worthwhile fundraiser I won't miss is Gilmore's (Hyde & California) having a benefit-auction for their bartender Dick Petroff, who is recovering from a serious heart ailment this Sunday, Jan. 4 starting at 2 p.m. Dick has been a longtime supporter of community causes and now needs our help. See you there?

And one thing this column seldom does is plug club dates, but when it comes to Sharon McNight, I make an exception. Sharon, a Cabaret Gold Award winning singer who has appeared at dozens of fundraisers and raised countless bucks for our causes, is headlining the New Year's Eve show at the City Cabaret on Mason and it's sure to be a show you won't want to miss (441-7787 for reservations).

1987 is here. The one wish I have for the new year is that somehow, somewhere we miraculously find a cure and a prevention for AIDS. Suddenly everything else seems trivial.

My best to all of you for a happy, healthier New Year. ●

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- ★ "If you have always lusted after the perfect tan but have been holding back because of the technology, at Sun Days your time has come!" THE BUSINESS REVIEW
- ★ "Sun Days is aimed at luxurious tastes... a new approach to tanning." THE GEORGETOWNER—WASHINGTON, D.C.
- ★ "The Dermatologists we spoke with said this newer technology is safer than the older method." CBS—CHANNEL 2 NEWS, KWGN, DENVER, CO
- ★ "Every successful person gets up early in the morning and is always tanned." ARISTOTLE ANASSIS

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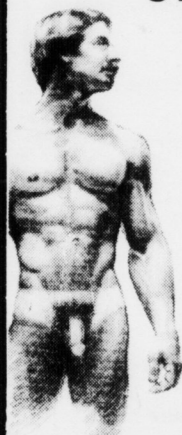
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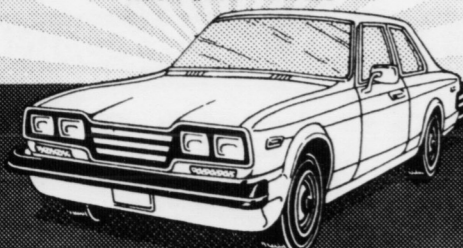
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"Genuflect! Genuflect!"

Anything to hide an act of genocide!

Gosh, even Tom Lehrer would be proud of Pope John Paul's most recent version of the "Vatican Rag."

First a decree. Then a visit.

Great timing, John! How's your backhand?

On second thought, skip it. We're not bending over this time.

I like your shoes though.

Loyal to my Protestantly pagan roots, we must seize the moment, if not the Pope.

Let's reign on his Parade!

Better yet, we must expose the Pope!

Yes! We must expose the Pope!

Expose the Pope and bring him to his knees!

Genuflect! Genuflect!

How about a week's worth of peaceful demonstrations and irreverent festivities/activities to coincide precisely with the Pope's Sept. visit here?

How about a well orchestrated midnight mass procession across the Emperor Norton Bridge (complete with pomp and circumstance)?

How about a city-wide Pope look alike contest with a coronation at the Last Supper the night of the Pope's arrival in S.F.?

Just think. You could be Pope-for-a-Day. The Coronation/Last Supper would be a black-tie affair. Or you could come dressed as your favorite biblical character.

Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence — resurrect yourselves! There is work to be done and fun to be had!

Pagans! Faeries! Warlocks! Witches! High Priests! Members of "the flock"! And especially you leather brothers! Write me with your ideas and suggestions. Send me a SASE along with your name, address, and phone number. I'll send you information on the date, time, and place of our first organizational meeting.

Send inquiries to: On Your Knees! Papal Tour '87, 160 Fillmore St., S.F., CA 94117.

Do it now!

*Cause even cowgirls get the blues.

Religiously yours,
Mike Ward, M.A., D.C.
San Francisco

Wayne Friday

Molinari Takes On The Chron

Board of Supervisors president John Molinari fired off a blistering letter to the Chronicle protesting their stated policy of omitting the names of lovers when reporting the obituaries of gay people. Molinari complained that "it is hard to believe that a newspaper of your caliber has such an antiquated policy. It seems inhumane to ignore those who play a major role in the life of another in summing up that person's life."

The Molinari letter concluded that "it is the duty of a major daily to acknowledge the existence of alternative lifestyles in death as well as in life. Anything less appears to be both callous and judgemental."

Catholics will be Catholics. The Catholic Diocese of Buffalo, N.Y. has banned special masses for gays and has evicted a gay group that meets at a local church. Bishop Edward Head said gays are welcome to attend church as individuals but he will not let Dignity hold masses "specifically and exclusively for homosexuals."

The decision outraged Buffalo Dignity leader Cynthia Ciupak, "Dignity is alive and well in Buffalo and is not going away."

San Jose Assemblyman John Vasconcellos, beginning his 21st year in the Assembly, telling friends he is looking at the 1990 governor's race. Vasco says, "I hope that the Democrats (in 1990) nominate somebody who's got vision, who's got a program, who's got inspiration, who's able to touch and move people. I believe I've got a broad program with lots of substance, lots of vision and lots of effectiveness."

Cable Car Awards producer and former Toklas president Bob Cramer's 50th birthday was celebrated by a huge crowd Sunday night at the Galette. The event was a fundraiser for S.F. AIDS Emergency Fund.

Among new state laws taking

effect in California Jan. 1 is one that will allow parents to donate blood specifically for their own children. This law is intended to allay fears that AIDS can be transmitted by blood transfusions.

Another new state law mandates that couples applying for marriage licenses will be given a brochure on AIDS, sexually transmitted diseases and genetic disorders.

How do they vote? A California Journal survey of voting records reveals that during the two-year session just completed, Sen. Milton Marks, a Republican who turned Democrat this past year, voted "liberal" 97 percent of the time while recently retired Sen. John Foran, a life-long Democrat voted "liberal" only 70 percent of the time.

And don't count Lou Papan out of that cushy Board of Equalization job just yet. Sacramento gossipers are saying that Big Lou, who lost a "sure safe" seat in the 8th senatorial district to Independent Quentin Kopp, is still pushing for the high-paying job now held by long-time civil servant Douglas Bell.

Papan, unaffectionately known as "The Enforcer" while he was chair of the powerful Assembly Rules Committee, reportedly has lined up the votes of incoming members Gray Davis and Paul Carpenter and a necessary third vote is expected from either incumbent Republican Ernie Drenenburg or Democrat Conway Collis. Collis was reportedly balking at Papan's bold move to take over the job as executive director but is said to be succumbing to the squeeze of potential political contributors.

California's outgoing Supreme Court Chief Justice Rose Bird will spend the next four or five months writing a book about "my experiences of

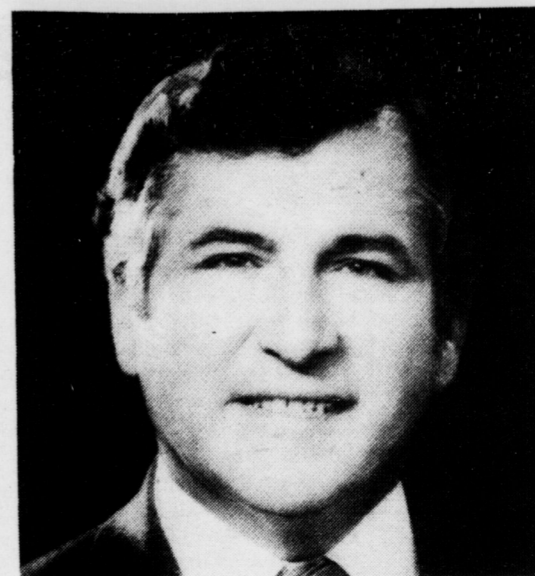
Officers and directors will be installed on Thursday, Dec. 18 from 6-9 p.m. at the Comstock Club, 1409 Sutter (near Franklin). A cover charge of \$5 is requested to cover hors d'oeuvres. Installing officer will be Superior Court Justice Ina Geyman the senior ranking Republican office-holder of San Francisco.

Ecumenical AIDS Healing Service

The InterFaith Network, in cooperation with Albany United Methodist Church, the Episcopal Diocese of California and Grace Cathedral, announces the twenty-second in a series of Ecumenical healing services to be held at Grace Cathedral on Monday, Jan. 5, at 6:30 p.m.

The Rev. Virginia Hilton and the Rev. Dr. Bruce Hilton will preside at the eucharist at which the Rev. Virginia Hilton, pastor of the Albany United Methodist Church will preach.

As part of the ongoing ministry and mission of the AIDS InterFaith Network these services are planned for the first Monday of every month. The next service will be Monday, Feb. 2. For further information please contact the AIDS InterFaith Network at 928-HOPE.



Lou Papan



Sharon McNight

being a woman in a male-dominated institution" then take a job with a Los Angeles law firm.

In Washington, our own Sen. Pete Wilson won the best-attendance award, earning a 100 percent voting-participation award based on 354 roll-call votes. San Francisco's Sala Burton won the worst-attendance award in the 99th Congress, but it should be noted that Burton missed six weeks while recuperating from surgery.

Actress Elizabeth Taylor, the chairperson of the American Foundation for AIDS Research (AmFAR) told reporters in Hollywood this week that her New Year's resolution is to "keep busy at doing fund-

raisers, doing commercials and convincing other stars to join the cause" in raising money and finding a cure for AIDS. Taylor, who has raised \$6 million to date, says, "I promise you I have committed my life to fight for the cure and I'll dedicate all my spare time to raising money for AIDS research until they finally find the cure."

One worthwhile fundraiser I won't miss is Gilmore's (Hyde & California) having a benefit-auction for their bartender Dick Petroff, who is recovering from a serious heart ailment this Sunday, Jan. 4 starting at 2 p.m. Dick has been a longtime supporter of community causes and now needs our help. See you there?

And one thing this column seldom does is plug club dates, but when it comes to Sharon McNight, I make an exception. Sharon, a Cabaret Gold Award winning singer who has appeared at dozens of fundraisers and raised countless bucks for our causes, is headlining the New Year's Eve show at the City Cabaret on Mason and it's sure to be a show you won't want to miss (441-7787 for reservations).

1987 is here. The one wish I have for the new year is that somehow, somewhere we miraculously find a cure and a prevention for AIDS. Suddenly everything else seems trivial.

My best to all of you for a happy, healthier New Year.

SUN DAYS TANNING CENTERS GUARANTEE A TAN, FIRST VISIT!

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- ★ "If you have always lusted after the perfect tan but have been holding back because of the technology, at Sun Days your time has come." THE BUSINESS REVIEW
- ★ "Sun Days is aimed at luxurious tastes...a new approach to tanning." THE GEORGETOWNER - WASHINGTON, D.C.
- ★ "The Dermatologists we spoke with said this newer technology is safer than the older method." CBS-CHANNEL 2 NEWS, KWGN, DENVER, CO
- ★ "Every successful person gets up early in the morning and is always tanned." ARISTOTLE ONASSIS

DRAMATIC NEW DISCOUNTS
\$49* PER MONTH
UNLIMITED VISITS

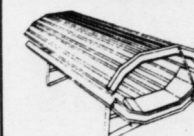
* Nominal additional maintenance



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largest tanning - a great
gift idea

Mike Hippler

New Year's Parties Aren't That Hot

At the risk of sounding a little like Ebenezer Scrooge, I have never cared much for New Year's. I've never understood the logic, really, of people who view the holiday as a time for resolutions, for new beginnings, and who then proceed to drink themselves into an alcoholic stupor. It seems the surest way to me to guarantee that these resolutions will fail, that the new beginning will be a shaky one.

It is understandable that most people want to celebrate. Furthermore, it is inevitable that most will choose to celebrate by partying. Yet there are parties and there are parties. While I well know what it's like to screw my brains out on LSD at 6 a.m., I also know what it's like to spend the day hiking at Point Reyes. Over the years, I have come to believe that the latter is an infinitely nicer alternative.

Anyway, all this puts me in mind of other parties throughout the year, and I can't help pausing this New Year's to remember a few of the best, to wit:

THE LESBIAN/GAY FREEDOM DAY PARADE

You'd think after all these years that I'd be sick of 'em by now, but you just can't get enough of a good thing, I guess. If you'll remember, the parade took place on a gorgeous day in June. (God must be queer, my friends and I decided.) Consequently, I didn't mind waiting for the Dykes on Bikes to appear, as the parade got its usual late start.

Stunning as always, the Dykes were only the first of 153 announced contingents. My favorite groups were the ones with a sense of humor—Troop 69 of the Freedom Scouts, for instance, which continually paused for "Photo Formation." Great Outdoors, with its walking tent vaguely reminiscent of R2-D2, was another. So were the gay swimmers, who did a synchronized butterfly, back, breast, and free as their leader shouted, "Stroke, stroke, stroke!"

I also liked the groups with the humorous names—the Stanislaus Owl Empire, the Gwen Miller Band, the Healing Order of K'thar Sissies, the Balloon Girls, and Girlene-O-Rama. But the best was the ugly drag queen with long, hennaed hair dressed entirely in black and carrying a feathered parasol. God only knows what drugs she was doing, but she was definitely into it, dancing and stumbling down the middle of the street the wrong way, occasionally stopping to lie down on the pavement and point one leg to heaven. Too, too wild. Where is the video camera when you need it?

As always, I could not stay long, for I had to work, but I stayed long enough to become frustrated by all the stunning men. "Where are all these people the rest of the year, and why don't I ever meet any of them?" I wondered. Yet it was just as well. What would I have done if I had met one?

UP YOUR ALLEY, THE RINGOLG ALLEY FAIR

Ringold Alley ain't for everyone. It can be a little much at times. Some

of the food and fundraising booths at the fair were tame enough, such as Dunk-a-Hunk/Drown-a-Drag, hosted by Rita Rockett; the Supreme Court Dart Throw, hosted by Leather Daddy Tom Rodgers; and the Dildeaux Toss, hosted by drag queens Dolly Parton and Ms. Peckerhead, who warbled, "Throw a dildo through one of the biggest holes in San Francisco. We have a veritable smorgasbord of dildeaux."

But there were also dozens of bare asses, pierced tits, shaved heads, bulging jockstraps, and full body tattoos. Then there was the controversial work of "performance art." At one end of the alley, a man wrapped another in winding sheets from head to toe like a mummy. Then he encircled him with barbed wire and padlocked him to a chain-link fence, where he hung like Christ, pierced by iron thorns. From his neck hung a sign, "Quarantine."

Like I said, a little much...

THE GAY GAMES

As I have written about the Games extensively before, I won't repeat myself here. This was the event of the year, however, and if you miss Vancouver four years hence, you will have only yourself to blame.

THE FOLSOM STREET FAIR

The Folsom Street Fair was, as always, a veritable cornucopia of personalities and possibilities. On stage New Wave bands and body-builders mingled with

(Continued on page 14)



Psychologist Martin Stow. (Photo: Savage Photography)

Brian Jones

Proud To Be a Sissie

I am proud to be a Sissie! I do not appreciate remarks such as those attributed to gay psychologist Martin Stow: "The use of the word 'sissie' immediately connotes a socially unacceptable condition."

Well! When you were a boy, did you:

- Hate phys. ed?
- Prefer music to cars?
- Play house?
- Disappear for uncoupled hours with other boys?

I have followed 44,000 sissies in the past 15 years so you would think they would have asked me. In fact, some days all I do is follow sissies. This is to keep me from falling out of practice.

So I do believe a court of law would qualify me as an expert witness in regards to sissies. But did anybody ask me what I thought? No.

Well if someone asked me, I would have responded:

All sissie boys grow up gay, and most gay men—like me—are sissies. Well perhaps they aren't sissies just like me, I do practice a lot, but you get the picture. (Yes, we see.)

Now here is the sissie checklist from the 15-year sissie study and you see if you can score a perfect "10," as I have.

When you were a boy, did you:

- Hate phys. ed?
- Prefer music to cars?
- Play house?
- Disappear for uncoupled hours with other boys?

I have followed 44,000 sissies in the past 15 years so you would think they would have asked me. In fact, some days all I do is follow sissies. This is to keep me from falling out of practice.

—Brian Jones

The gay psycho crowd seems determined to convince everyone that gays are just like straights.

I cannot possibly imagine anything worse than being just like straight, except being straight. I would rather suck mustard gas through a straw.

The sissie boy study is fine. It is interesting, it is useful, and it seems valid. The folks who will be offended by being described as sissies are those who believe that being a sissie is bad.

Being a sissie is good. In any case, a sissie is what I am, and I need no more justification to be a sissie than a butterfly needs to flit about spring's bright blossoms.

Let's get over it. Let's all get over it together. We can share the experience.

NATIONAL/WORLD NEWS

Sodomy: One Win, One Loss

This week we are sending cheers to Minnesota and jeers to Georgia. Decisions on sodomy in these two states are clear indications that the U.S. Supreme Court's ruling against sodomy can be defeated if people see the hidden message and elect people who will stand up for gay and lesbian rights.

In Minnesota, Judge Pamela Alexander of Hennepin County struck down the state's sodomy statutes. The Georgia Supreme Court, however, upheld that state's infamous sodomy law.

In the Minnesota ruling, Richard Gray, Jr. went to bed with a young man who said he was 18 years of age. As it turned out, the young man was actually 16. Alexander noted that not only did the youth lie about his age, he also initiated a meeting with Gray and voluntarily took part in sexual activity.

When she wrote a memorandum on sodomy, Alexander acknowledged the U.S. Supreme Court's ruling upholding a Georgia statute "similar to Minnesota's sodomy statute" as constitutional, but she also noted that the high court "specifically left open the right of state courts to invalidate such laws on state constitutional grounds."

"The whole issue before this court," she added, "is whether the statute is unconstitutional on its face as could be applied to the defendant as to his right to be free from governmental intrusion concerning his private sexual decisions."

Alexander said that once a right to privacy in sexual matters has been established, the right of an individual to choose the activity should not be taken away as long as it is between consenting adults.

Down in Georgia, that state's supreme court voted 6-1 to uphold its sodomy law in a case involving a heterosexual man. James Stover had been acquitted of a rape charge but found guilty of sodomy by an Atlanta trial court in December of 1985.

Stover was given a five-year sentence which was suspended to probation. In a three-page decision, the Georgia Supreme Court upheld the sodomy conviction because it took place in public and therefore had no standing upon which to challenge the state or federal constitutions.

—The Washington Blade

New Antibody Test Law Helps Gays

WASHINGTON—It was a very quiet victory for gay men and lesbians, but Pres. Ronald Reagan, of all people, signed a bill in mid-November which banned the use of HIV antibody tests results against people in the Armed Forces.

When Reagan signed a defense budget bill on Nov. 14, the bill stated that "information obtained by the Department of Defense during or as a result of an interview with an antibody positive member of the Armed Forces may not be used to support any adverse personnel action against the member."

The measure was introduced by Rep. Les Aspin, D-WI the chairman of the House Committee on Armed Services. Aspin received support from Rep. Henry Waxman, D-CA, and Rep. Gerry Studds, D-MA. Waxman aide Tim Westmoreland said the legislation is necessary to protect the privacy of military personnel who reveal during post-test interviews that they might have come into contact with the virus as a result of homosexual activity or IV-drug use.

Abby Rubinfeld, managing attorney of the Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund, applauded the legislation, saying it would help prevent the military from using its antibody-testing program to persecute gays in the

AIDS Researcher Says '3 Of 4' Cases Unreported

NEW YORK—A prominent AIDS researcher and former member of the AIDS team at the National Cancer Institute (NCI) said recently that three out of every four AIDS cases go unreported. Dr. Mark Kaplan told the Philadelphia Gay News that most of the unreported AIDS cases are heterosexual.


"We are seeing so many cases of AIDS—early and advanced—that we can almost trace the progress of the disease in society through the cross section of patients we see here," said Kaplan. "Yet most of these cases remain unreportable. The CDC (Centers for Disease Control) doesn't seem to recognize anything but late stage cases of early AIDS, and primarily in non-gay persons."

Kaplan refuted the CDC statistics on people with AIDS by citing the statistics among his own patients. He claimed that there were "more and more women with AIDS."

—The Philadelphia Gay News

LIFE AT THE CLOSET DOOR





IVY'S

Clam & Saffron Soup with Rouille
Mixed Green Salad With Pecans, Cherry Tomatoes
Tossed with Mustard Tarragon Vinaigrette

APPETIZERS

Three Cheese Polenta with Wild Mushrooms,
Eggplant & Duck Sausage
Baked Oysters with Tasso & Tomato Mousse
Chilled 3 Salmon Plate with
Green Peppercorn Mustard
Angel Hair Pasta with Crab, Cream & Caviar
Warm Marinated Lamb with Medallions
with Goat Cheese & Lentils
Chilled New Zealand Greenlip Mussels
with Sweet Pepper Vinaigrette

ENTREES


Smoked Duck Breast with Blue Corn Cakes
Grilled Swordfish with Tomato
Vinaigrette & Herb Aioli
Gumbo with Prawns, Scallops, Crab & Andouille
Roast Stuffed Squab with Wild Rice,
Pine Nuts & Dates
Grilled San Pedro Spiny Lobster
with Herb Drawn Butter
Grilled Marinated Pork Tenderloin with Black Beans,
Tomatillo Salsa & Pickled Onions
Grilled Blackened Prime Rib with Corn & Tomato Relish

626-3930

Redwood & Bay
198 Hayes
San Francisco

New Years Resolutions:

- ① Relationships
- ② Quit smoking...
- ③ Become active in community
- ④ Stop feeling guilty
- ⑤ Volunteer for Shanti now



SHANTI PROJECT
558-9644

PRACTICAL SUPPORT TRAINING
January 16, 17, 18
EMOTIONAL SUPPORT TRAINING
February 13, 14, 15 & 20, 21, 22
To volunteer, call now!

D.C. March Meeting Planned For Jan. 6

Full Civil Rights, AIDS Funding On Agenda

by George Mendenhall

Public, regional meetings to formulate plans for the March on Washington for Lesbian and Gay Rights are being held across the country this month. The Northern California planning meeting will feature three local members of the national steering committee: health advocate Pat Norman, labor activist Howard Wallace, and political activist Cleve Jones.

A group of 200 delegates at a Nov. 14-16 national conference in New York City decided to have such a march directed at obtaining full civil rights for gay and lesbian people, full funding for AIDS research, education and services and an end to anti-gay violence. There will be a full week of events associated with the march, including a national conference, capital mall rally, visits to congressional offices, and a day of civil disobedience on Columbus Day, Oct. 12.

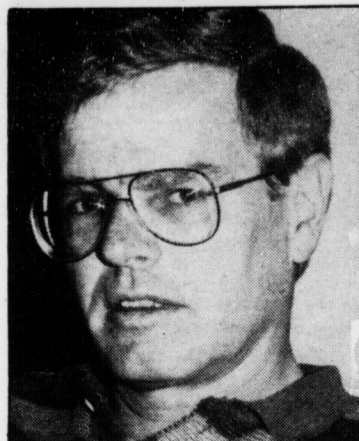
The first local meeting, open to the public, will be on Jan. 6 at 7:30 p.m. at the Women's Building, 3543 18th Street.

This is a tentative list of demands made at the New York City session:

FEDERAL ISSUES

The federal government will be asked to move with greater speed on the AIDSARC crisis with full federal funding for all health and social services for all people with AIDSARC, the underwriting of all research for a cure and a vaccine and a massive education and prevention program "that is explicit, culturally sensitive, lesbian/gay affirming and sex positive." Funding would come from military cuts and "not from existing social service budget appropriations."

If demands were met, HIV testing of federal employees or federal contractors would be banned. Funding of entities that practice discrimination would be



Howard Wallace
(Photo: Rink)

end to all AIDSARC discrimination, specifying particular areas of concern: people of color, prisoners, drug users, health care, insurance, social services, housing, employment, public accommodations, and education. They asked for an end to the "criminalization" of persons with AIDSARC. The demands also ask for compassionate, comprehensive health services, with a special concern for low income people and people of color.

ADDITIONAL CONCERNS

AIDSARC concerns and the long-standing discrimination against lesbians and gay men are the organizers major thrust but there were additional demands:

There will be a call for lesbian and gay partners to be given all benefits that flow from legal marriages, that youth be given adequate sex education—including anti-homophobia materials—and that openly gay students be permitted to fully participate in school activities.

Support was given to the end of oppression of all people of color, the Equal Rights Amendment, the right to free abortions, and the free distribution of contraceptives. There were also demands that the public be educated about anti-gay violence and that gay people be included in the National Holocaust Com-

mission. The organizers also vote strong support for the "freedom struggle" in South Africa and opposed apartheid.

ORGANIZING

The 64-person steering committee has diversity as it includes people with AIDSARC, youth, elders, transsexuals, veterans, S/M groups, parents, and the physically challenged. It is divided into 11 regions with gender and people of color required considerations in the selection of leaders.

The week's events associated with the march will include cross country train rides, a National Congress of Gays and Lesbians, a veterans ceremony at Arlington National Cemetery, gay and lesbian bands performing, and a major rally in the capital mall.

The Washington, D.C. office of the march may open as early as January. Paid staff positions will be filled as they are needed. Resumes from applicants are now being accepted by March on Washington Committee, Box 1876, Old Chelsea Station, New York, N.Y. 10011 (212) 431-5999.



Hippler

(Continued from page 12)

Ronald Reagan impersonators and lesbian comics. Down below, gay wrestlers grappled, leather bottoms polished motorcycle boots, and drag queens dressed in Grecian robes and pearls posed like Aphrodite against a giant scallop shell. Amidst this madness, afternoon revellers lined up to get their ears pierced, volunteered to be hypnotized, and spent their money on T-shirts, pottery, and Polish sausages. To the few tourists present, it must have appeared a typical day in San Francisco.

My favorite group this time was the Balloon Girls, whose motto is "Wear a Dress or Get Out of Town." Perched on the back of a shiny convertible, they sold Official Party Crasher Cards, allowing the fortunate to crash "any party in town, especially ones you haven't been invited to." And my favorite sign: "Semi-painless Iron-on Tattoos. Optional: Pain on Demand."

HALLOWEEN

Finally, there were the megaparties at the GiftCenter and Trocadero. Again, I have said all I can on the Subject, except for this: for the first time since the Games, the city seemed to be coming alive again. Perhaps we're learning how to breathe once more.

Now if we can just carry that spirit through the New Year...



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. . . right now.



"Is this your first call?"

"You bet."

"Uh . . . yeah."

"Can we . . ."

"You've got a great voice. Very sexy. And maybe a bit . . ."

"No . . ."

"S . . ."

"Le . . . but . . ."

"Hey, great. Really! Talking about it on the first call makes me nervous. Thanks."

what

Same here. And then if things work out, maybe we can talk about . . ."

"Sure! In person I'm fine."

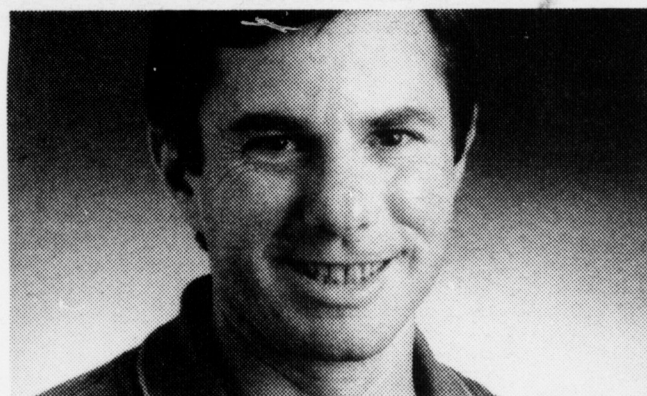
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(408) 976-7400

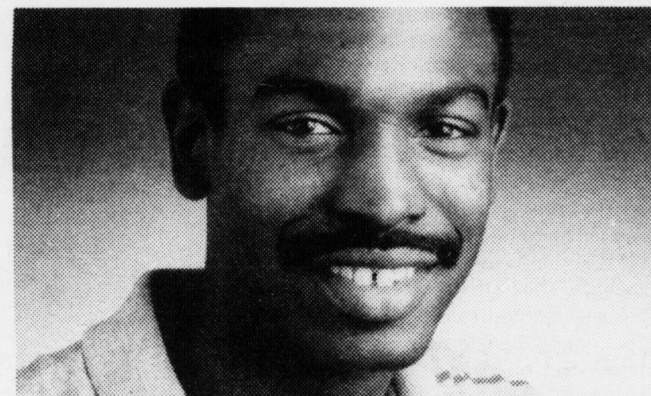
PHONEMALE (415) 976-7400

(\$.20 per call + applicable toll, if any.)

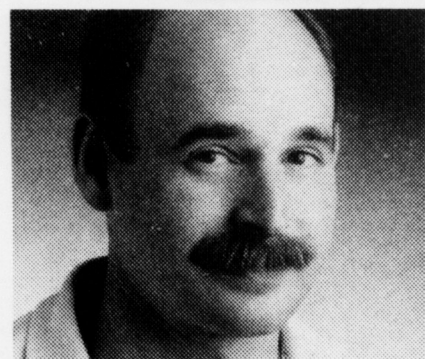
These men want to help you



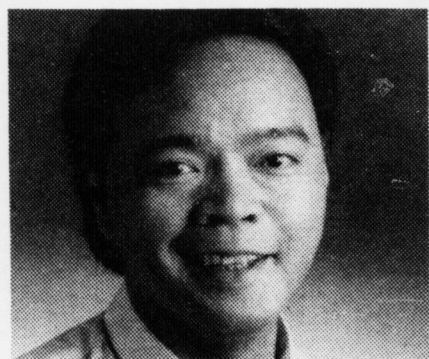
18th Street Services—861-4898



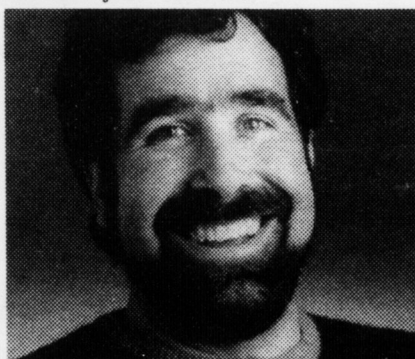
Stop AIDS Project—621-7177



The Buddy Connection—863-AIDS



AIDS Health Project—626-6637



Operation Concern—626-7000

have safe sex.

You don't have to cope with adjusting to the AIDS epidemic all by yourself. These men—and others like them—want to help.

They work for organizations that provide support to men who want to make safe and healthy adjustments to life during the AIDS epidemic. Whether the issue is alcohol or drugs, support for change, learn-

ing to make Safe Sex hot, or just talking it over with other men, help is available. Call the AIDS Hotline and find out.



Call 863-AIDS

San Francisco AIDS Foundation
333 Valencia Street, 4th Floor
San Francisco, CA 94103
Toll-Free Northern California
Hotline 800-FOR-AIDS
TDD 415-864-6606

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

Review

(Continued from page 1)

our rage into the No On 64 campaign; others among us stepped away, numbed at the possibilities of Prop. 64.

Then, during the week of the big parade, the nation unleashed more institutional anti-gay oppression than at any other time in history. Tuesday, June 24 to Monday, June 30 was the worst week ever for the Gay Liberation Movement.

It begins Tuesday. When the U.S. Justice Department releases an opinion saying that it is legal for employers to discriminate against people with AIDS—or even those perceived to have AIDS. The opinion stuns the legal community as well as the gay community.

Just three weeks earlier a draft of the Justice Department opinion had leaked out, and at that time, Justice was arguing to protect people with AIDS.

The federal Rehabilitation Act prohibits discrimination against employees based on physical handicap. Was AIDS a handicap? The early draft says yes.

Attorney General Edwin Meese says no. On June 24 Justice reverses its opinion: "We have concluded that an individual's (real or perceived) ability to transmit the disease to others is not a handicap."

Justice argues that fear of AIDS is a legally valid reason to fire an employee. Legal scholars are astonished. The opinion adds to the AIDS hysteria being whipped up in California by the LaRouche campaign.

The case proves that the government's lawyers can produce an opinion either way—and that it is politics, not the law, which dictates what they will say.

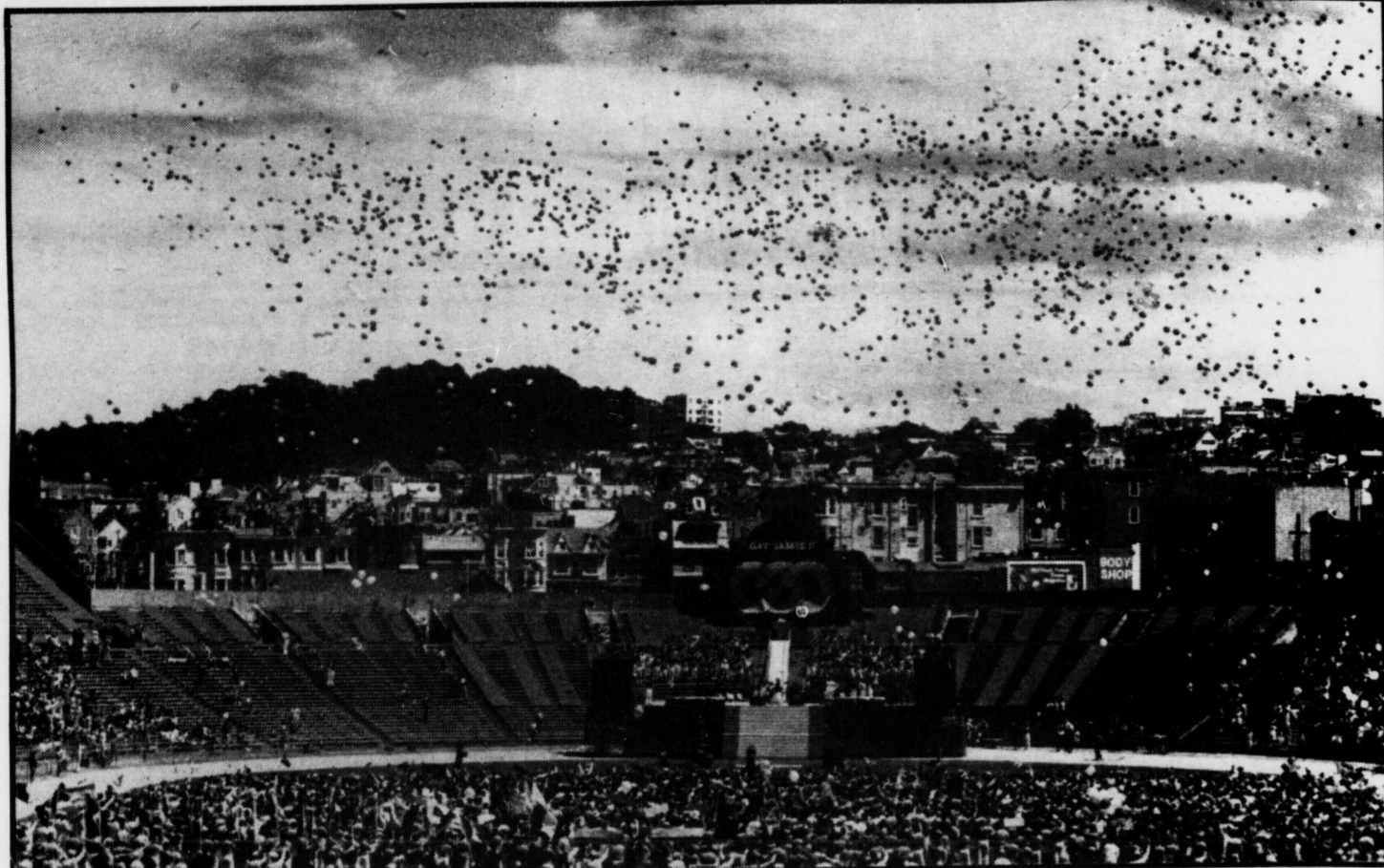
★ ★ ★

On Friday the second blow comes from Sacramento. Gov. George Deukmejian vetoes \$20 million from the state AIDS budget. The governor vetoes 40 cents out of every dollar passed by the Legislature.

And still the governor is silent on Prop. 64.

★ ★ ★

The Gay Freedom Day Parade draws 250,000 to Market Street. The mood is angry and political. Political placards and banners



Balloons fill the air at Kezar Stadium in celebration of Gay Games II.

(Photo: R. Pruzan)



Gay Games II: a time for joy.

(Photo: M. Hicks)

opposing Prop. 64 dominate the parade, and the rally which follows.

There is a sad note here, even as the community reels from its

setbacks during the week. The Parade Committee forbids any speaker from People With AIDS, calling such an appearance "separatist." The crowd on Market Street responds by en-

thusiastically cheering the People With AIDS contingent.

It is likely this angry mood was being watched from Washington, D.C. where the nation's highest court had already decided the most basic rights of gay people. But while the case had been decided, it had not yet been announced; did the Court fear releasing such a ruling earlier in June, before gay pride marches all across the nation?

★ ★ ★

And so on Monday, June 30, the Supreme Court of the United States declares that states have the right to outlaw all homosexual conduct—even that which takes place in the privacy of one's own home, between consenting adults.

It is the gay rights case of the century and it has gone against us. In a 5-4 vote the Court declares, "The Constitution does not confer a fundamental right upon homosexuals to engage in sodomy... The fact that homosexual conduct occurs in the home does not affect the result."

The case is *Hardwick v. Bowers*. Michael Hardwick had been charged with sodomy following a sex act in his own bedroom. An Atlanta deputy, serving a warrant later found to be invalid, had entered Hardwick's home while Hardwick was having sex with another man.

The deputy saw the sex act and busted Hardwick.

Outgoing Chief Justice Warren Burger files a gratuitous concurring opinion in the case. It is a sloppy brief which underscores why the legal community is relieved to see Burger leaving the court.

Quoting King Henry VIII, Burger says prohibitions against sodomy have "ancient roots." He does not point out that we had a revolution and a new constitution since then.

Justice Harry Blackmun writes the dissent, and is joined by Brennan, Marshall and Stevens. Writes Blackmun, "This case is not about a fundamental right to engage in sodomy... this case is about the most comprehensive of rights and the right most valued by civilized men, namely, the right to be let alone."

"I believe that it is revolting to have no better reason for a rule of law than that it was so laid down in the time of (King) Henry... It is still more revolting if the grounds upon which it was laid down have vanished long since, and the rule simply persists from blind imitation of the past," wrote Blackmun.

Within months Burger is off the court. He is named to head the 200th birthday of the U.S. Constitution.

★ ★ ★

Two hundred protestors gather at 17th and Castro to protest the court ruling. The temper of the crowd reflects a growing radicalization of the gay community. When Board of Supervisors Pres. John Molinari tells the crowd "the system works," he is booed for the first time ever at a gay event.

JULY: NO JOKE

Atlas shrugs. The gay S&L, linked by its former straight president to a scandal in Sonoma County, hemorrhages red ink. On July 13, federal bank regulators pull the plug on Atlas and hand over the keys to a New York company, Empire Bank. Depositors lose nothing. Atlas stockholders lose it all.

★ ★ ★

Putting its muscle where its mouth is, the Justice Department's bureau of prisons fires a man with AIDS. The Concord man is fired from his job as a guard at the Pleasanton prison

(Continued on next page)

Review

(Continued from previous page)

after refusing a transfer to a job he says is "degrading."

★ ★ ★

Hello This Is Bob Hope And I Gotta Tell Ya. Maybe you don't gotta tell us, Bob. In New York, Hope shares the following joke: "The Statue of Liberty has contracted AIDS. They don't know if she caught it from the mouth of the Hudson River, or from a Staten Island Ferry." Nobody laughs.

★ ★ ★

An uncensored version of the Diary of Anne Frank reveals that Anne had adolescent lesbian feelings. Writing about a friend, Anne Frank says, "I had a terrible urge to kiss Jacqueline and did so. I become ecstatic every time I see a naked figure of a woman, such as Venus, in an art history book."

★ ★ ★

Several thousand protestors march on the San Francisco Hilton for a speech by Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor. Riot-equipped police and gays confront each other tensely for two hours.

Says lesbian attorney Mary Dunlap, "If Sandra Day O'Connor has not committed sodomy, what a pity. And if she has committed sodomy, what a hypocrite! Sandra is not using all her parts—she's not using her brain."

★ ★ ★

A ballot initiative in Washington state, which would repeal gay rights ordinances, fails to gather enough signatures. Only two-thirds of the required 150,000 signatures are gathered by the deadline.

★ ★ ★

The Supreme Court July 24 refuses to hear a case involving the Texas sodomy law. Thus, the Texas law remains in effect and gay Texans are outlaws in their own beds.

★ ★ ★

Gov. George Deukmejian vetoes a bill which would have prohibited discrimination based on AIDS. "The governor now stands with Lyndon LaRouche followers, who are inciting panic over this crisis," says Assembly Member Art Agnos, D-S.F., author of the vetoed bill.

★ ★ ★

Thank God for New Zealand: some good news at last. This island nation of 3 million people legalizes sodomy and enacts equal rights for gay citizens. The vote in Parliament is 49-44 following a bitter two-year campaign.

AUGUST: TORCH IS LIT

Gay Games II opens Aug. 9 in San Francisco. The camaraderie and energy of the 3,482 athletes brings a much-needed uplift to the besieged gay community. Castro Street is awash with snappy team jackets from 38 states and 16 nations.

The sportsters play seriously all day and play frivolously all evening in the Castro. For a week, everyone puts their worries on hold and exults in the joy of sharing gay brotherhood and lesbian sisterhood among a crowd that shows we are the world.

★ ★ ★

Congressman Ed Zschau, Republican candidate for U.S. Senate, visits a gay political function. Beaming like the boy who brought home the bacon, Zschau



Lesbians, gay men and their friends march against LaRouche at the Gay Freedom Day Parade.

(Photo: M. Hicks)

announces, "Last week in Congress we passed \$350 million for AIDS—an increase of substantial amount."

What Zschau does not say is that he has voted against every AIDS funding increase to come before Congress during his two terms in the House of Representatives.

★ ★ ★

Delta Airlines refuses to fly Mark Sigers, a man with AIDS, on one of its flights. Delta staff

humiliate Sigers by removing him from the plane in front of the other passengers while the flight is delayed.

Sigers sues Delta, but he dies two months later, before the case is resolved.

★ ★ ★

Gay men in San Francisco plan civil disobedience in case Prop. 64 passes. Meetings in the Castro instruct citizens in non-violent resistance such as sit-ins. Hundreds sign a Non-Compliance

Pledge, promising to break the law if Prop. 64 wins in November. It is another example of the growing radicalization of the community.

★ ★ ★

Jim St. George of Minneapolis falls off his bike in Napa County. St. George and 18 other cyclists have just finished 3,900 miles of pedaling across America to raise money—and consciousness—in the fight against AIDS.

"Our plan was to not talk

about AIDS outside of the big cities," said St. George. "But when people asked me why we were cycling, I couldn't not tell them. And we received almost universal support, from some of the smallest towns you can imagine. We were all surprised."

★ ★ ★

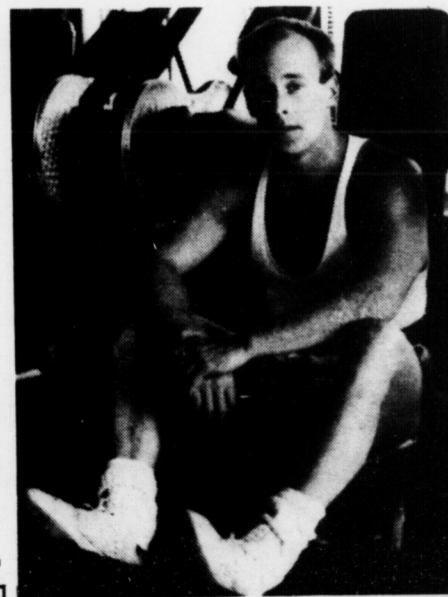
Missouri becomes the first state to cite the U.S. Supreme Court's sodomy ruling. Missouri

(Continued on next page)

"Remember the wild and woolly days?"

I still have a satisfying, rewarding lifestyle... only now I'm not careless about it. But it took some listening — and talking — to get there. That's what I got from just four hours at a Stop AIDS meeting."

— Allan Davis



To attend a Stop AIDS meeting, call 621-7177

STOP AIDS PROJECT

It's about change. And isn't it about time?

Photo: Tony Hewitt

The Stop AIDS Project is funded in part by the San Francisco Dept. of Public Health and the California Dept. of Health Services.

Design: Ken Henderson

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RIGHT STEP

A chemical dependency treatment center for the gay and lesbian community

Review

(Continued from previous page)

ri's highest court rules that a gay man can be prosecuted for sodomy after being charged with touching the crotch of an undercover cop.

The University of California-Berkeley says that if Prop. 64 passes, it will cost California \$8 billion, even if no one is quarantined. The expense would come from mandatory blood tests for nearly all the state's 24 million citizens.

Bob Hope apologizes for his "Statue of Liberty has AIDS" joke. In a personal letter to B.A.R. political editor Wayne Friday, Hope says, "The joke was uncaring and unnecessary. I told it and I apologize for it."

The Chicago City Council defeats a gay rights ordinance by a vote of 30-18. The debate gets windy. One City Council member calls gay people "social scum." Another council member calls an anti-gay preacher "a sanctimonious bigot."

The menu at the Supreme Court: One Burger to go. The outgoing Chief Justice, Warren Burger, is confronted by 40 protesters, who crash a New York dinner for the American Bar Association. Worse, gay sympathizers in the kitchen won't send out Burger's steak.

Leslie Feinberg, one of the demonstrators, says, "I want you to know that one woman at the head table said 'Yay!'"

It's a fashion attack in Colorado Springs. A drag queen ar-



The Election Night celebration of the defeat of Prop. 64. (Photo: Savage Photography)

rested for burglary escapes from a police squad car by kicking out the window with his high heels.

Reader's Digest reports that Lyndon LaRouche, in 1977, advocated the assassination of Pres. Jimmy Carter. The inside poop on LaRouche comes from a former bodyguard.

A bar in Redwood City kicks out gay dancers and finds itself in court. The dancers sue for \$20,000 worth of civil rights violations.

The bar defends itself, stating in court that barring gays "constituted a good and social practice." Peninsula newspapers report that the bar's two owners are gay.

Gay comedian Tom Ammiano

is featured in a British special on the English language to be aired on PBS. Ammiano's angle is the rich vocabulary of gay life. But here in the States, PBS eliminates Ammiano from a commercial promoting the special. The network calls Ammiano "too controversial."

Ammiano responds, "Maybe they could treat me like Elvis Presley when he first came out on TV. They blacked out his offending parts—his hips. Maybe they could black out my offending parts—my wrists."

SEPTEMBER: WEIRD LIFESTYLES

A federal court orders the Justice Department to allow the Metropolitan Community Church into national prisons. Judge Charles A. Legge calls MCC "a bona fide church."

videotape and won the bet.

Proving himself to be a cheat as well as a liar, Falwell refused to pay up. A court orders him to do so—with interest.

The Democratic Party's national policy commission issues a report strongly endorsing the "traditional family" and deleting any mention of lesbians and gay men. One party official says the Democrats want to change their identification with "weird lifestyles." In 1984, the party platform had called for equal rights for lesbians and gay men.

The report opposes extensive spending for domestic needs and favors the military. It is all part of a plan to take the White House away from the Republicans in 1988—by acting just like Republicans.

Republican U.S. Senate Candidate Ed Zschau firmly backs his openly gay campaign manager, Ron Smith. Smith is well known in San Francisco as a founder of the gay Concerned Republicans for Individual Rights, and as campaign manager to Mayor Feinstein.

Right-wingers demand that Smith be fired. Gary Jarmin of the state lobby Christian Voice says that Smith's hiring is "a slap in the face of conservative evangelicals." He does not turn the other cheek.

A hospital in Orlando, Florida fires a gay man for testing positive for the AIDS antibody. The man's private doctor violated the man's confidentiality, and reported the test result to the hospital.

OCTOBER: VERY SAME REASON

War is peace, love is hate, less is more and George Deukmejian is Governor of California. For the second time in two months, Deukmejian vetoes an effort to prevent discrimination against people based on AIDS. Deukmejian says AIDS is covered by current state law.

Just a month earlier, the state Department of Fair Employment and Housing had said that AIDS was not covered under current law.

Eight protestors, several of them people with AIDS, block the door to Deukmejian's office for two hours. "It took an incredibly long time to arrest us," says protestor Jean-Jacques Zinger. "They were just as scared of us as we were of them." What was the hold-up? Police had to find rubber gloves before apprehending the eight activists.

Mayor Dianne Feinstein says the Gay Freedom Day Parade promotes AIDS. Her remark is published in an interview with San Francisco Focus magazine.

The mayor is asked why she has never attended the annual gay parade. She responds, "I feel the symbolism that dominates the parade very often is, in a sense, the very lifestyle that brought about AIDS."

The interviewer points out that Feinstein refused to attend the parade before there was AIDS.

"No, I never did then, either, for the very same reason," Feinstein says. (Webster's New Collegiate Dictionary defines "non-sequitur" as "A response that does not follow logically from anything previously said.")

(Continued on next page)

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Review

Although the subject has not been raised, Feinstein steams at the baths. "I took an early position in opposition to the continuation of the operation of the bathhouses," Feinstein says.

Five gay men are murdered in less than two months in similar "pick-up" slayings. Four of the murders are in San Francisco; a fifth is in San Mateo.

S.F. District Attorney's Office investigator Ron Huberman suggests that closing the bathhouses may have contributed to the killings by forcing some men to bring home people they didn't know.

Congress passes, and President Reagan signs, a budget for 1987 which includes \$411 million to fight AIDS. The budget is almost double what Reagan had proposed—and is 75 percent more than the year before.

Federal AIDS spending by year was:
 • 1982—\$6 million.
 • 1983—\$29 million.
 • 1984—\$61 million.
 • 1985—\$109 million.
 • 1986—\$235 million.

U.S. Sen. Pete Wilson, (R-CA) surprises the audience at a gay political breakfast by saying he will support the federal gay rights bill. The bill would extend the federal Civil Rights Act to protect gay and lesbian citizens from discrimination based on sexual orientation.

The U.S. Surgeon General, C. Everett Koop, tries to stem AIDS hysteria. Koop says he is opposed to mandatory blood testing, as proposed in Prop. 64. Koop says, "Casual social contact between children and persons infected with the AIDS virus is not dangerous."

Meanwhile, at the White House, the President's drug adviser ("take a valium, Ronnie") says that smoking marijuana may lead to homosexuality, which can cause AIDS.

NOVEMBER: VICTORY

By a stunning 4 to 1 margin, voters reject Prop. 64—the LaRouche Initiative—in the Nov. 6 election.

Sen. Alan Cranston is helped over the top in his narrow win—51 percent to 49 percent—over Republican challenger Ed Zschau. Gay precincts are a key element of Cranston's win. Heavily gay precincts in San Francisco go 90 percent for Cranston. Gay turnout in San Francisco is stronger than any other voter group.

Full circle in Atlanta: The Atlanta City Council votes 13-3 for a gay rights ordinance. It was in Atlanta that the *Hardwick vs. Bowers* case began—ending in the U.S. Supreme Court's sodomy ruling.

The Roman Catholic Church condemns gay people. The church issues a statement which calls being gay "an intrinsic moral evil." The statement says that violence against gay people is a natural response to the push for gay rights.

The statement opposes equal rights for gays and tells local



The vigil is not George Miller's cup of tea. (Photo: Rink)

churches to withdraw all support for groups of Catholic gay people.

A judge in Lexington strikes against Kentucky's sodomy law. The judge rules that the sodomy law violates the Kentucky Constitution's express right to privacy. (The U.S. Constitution has no such clause; the California Constitution does.)

In the denouement of the LaRouche campaign, state

authorities raid the group's offices in California. They execute search warrants for evidence of election law violations. The LaRouche group is accused of falsifying information on the petitions which qualified Prop. 64 for the ballot.

Meanwhile, in Boston, a massive fraud indictment against the LaRouche group is handed up. Investigators allege that the LaRouchites have falsified credit card charges, to illegally raise money for political campaigns—possibly including Prop. 64

DECEMBER: HAZARDS

California's top federal health official calls the AIDS/ARC vigil a "blight" and a "health hazard." Regional Director of Health and Human Services George Miller asks Mayor Dianne Feinstein to evict the year-old-plus vigil from Civic Center Plaza. Undeterred, the vigil continues their encampment as 1986 draws to a close.

The city Recreation and Park Department proposes to block popular gay cruising areas of Buena Vista Park with chain-link fences.

AIDS researchers at the University of California-San Francisco say that a person's own immune system can fight off the disease.

Led by Dr. Jay Levy, the researchers find that one component of the immune system—suppressor T-cells—can control the virus in some patients.

"This is the first indication that individuals have in themselves a means of controlling the virus," says Levy.

Another researcher, Dr. Christopher M. Walker, says that the UCSF study "shows that if you are infected with the virus

you don't necessarily have to get the disease—your immune system can fight it off."

Meanwhile, the AIDS lab at UCSF is in danger of closing for lack of federal funds. Researchers applied for a \$150,000 grant during the summer—but the grant won't be considered until March, 1987.

Grief Support Group

AIDS Home Care and Hospice Program of San Francisco offers support groups for those who have experienced the loss of a loved one to AIDS.

The goal of these groups is to provide a context where the complex emotions associated with grieving can be shared openly and honestly with people in similar situations. Within an atmosphere of acceptance and support, these emotions can be transformed into a force for creating meaningful life changes. By honoring our own and each other's process, both healing and self-discovery can take place one day at a time.

For further information, contact: Stanley Siegel, Bereavement Coordinator, 285-5619, Ext. 217.

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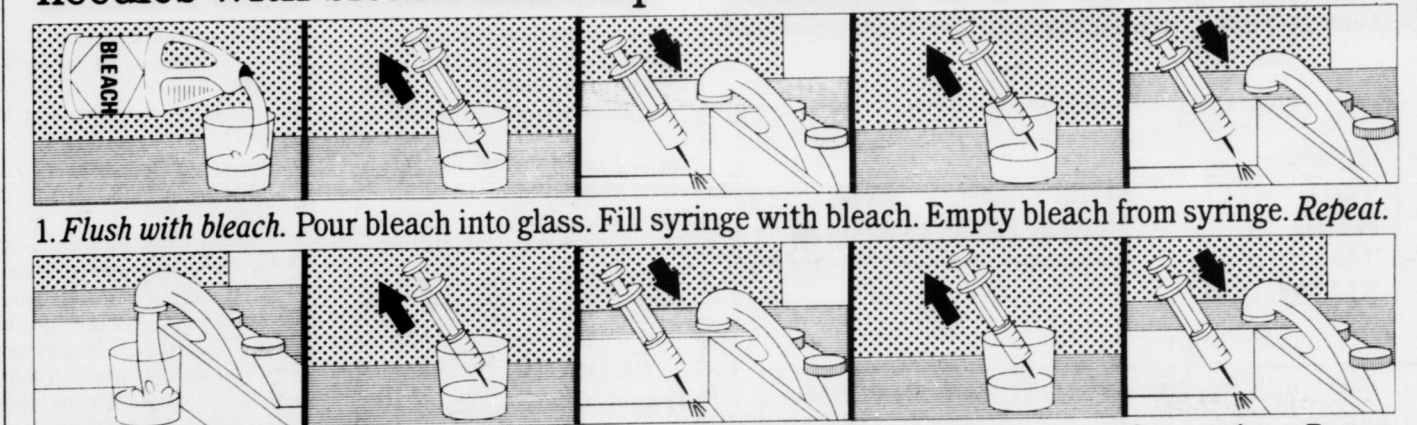
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DEATHS

Ricardo Anthony Souza
Dec. 30, 1946 - Dec. 11, 1986

Ricardo never did anything rapidly in his life, including dying of AIDS. His first bout with PCP was in June, 1985. After a leisurely convalescence, he succumbed to a second bout and died peacefully on Dec. 11.

Ricardo was born in Boston, attended Columbia University, then served two years in the Peace Corps in South America during the Vietnam War. Afterwards, he came to San Francisco, determined to create a life as an openly gay man.

In 1974 he caught the love of his life, David Salisbury, and spent the next 12 years domesticating him. Nurturing each other, they forged a relationship that withstood the chaotic forces of gay life in San Francisco in the late '70s.

In 1984 he quit his job of 12 years with the State, went to computer school, and immediately got a programming job, which he greatly enjoyed and was quite proud of.

His last 18 months were times of tremendous personal growth, humor and dignity, as he coped with AIDS with zest and determination. He chose to survive. He loved his house, his garden, his VCR, and David.

He is deeply mourned by his parents, Ruth and Anthony Souza of Medfield, Mass., his brother, Robert Souza, of New York City, and his sisters, Betty Yokell, of Fall River, Mass., and Eleanor Rich, of Hyannis, Mass.

Harold Dillehunt

Harold Q. Dillehunt, Ph.D., of San Francisco died on Dec. 20. Dr. Dillehunt was a private practice psychologist in San Francisco. Survived by his mother and sister and many loving friends. Private services were held. For information contact Tom Simpson Funeral Counselor at 626-3340.

Jay Nova

It is with a great sense of loss and love that we announce the death of our dear friend and companion. Jay will always be remembered for his fighting spirit in his relentless quest for the fullness of life.

He died Dec. 18, in the arms of his devoted companion of 24 years, Chris Christensen, and surrounded by close friends.

Jay worked in the steamship industry and more recently was a "star" in the production of *Showboat* which ran a one-year European tour. An avid photographer, he has photographed the S.F. Gay Parade since its inception.

He was a native of Brooklyn, New York, and was born Feb. 26, 1939.

Please make contributions to the AIDS Foundation or Shanti.

Frank R. Selsby

Frank R. Selsby, 42, died Dec. 16 at Franklin Hospital of AIDS-related complications following emergency surgery for a non-AIDS-related condition. Frank had been diagnosed with PCP 2½ years ago and through an aggressive approach to treatment, he luckily was able to lead virtually a normal life for all except the last few days.

He vowed he could beat this plague, and was one of the first American patients to be treated with HPA 23 at the Pasteur Institute in Paris. He was re-treated with HPA when it was experimentally released in this country. He had just started AZT therapy prior to his surgery.

Frank moved to his favorite city, San Francisco, from his birthplace in London, England in 1977 with his lover, John. He worked as a travel agent for a period of years. Travel was his passion, and since his diagnosis he was able to travel all over the world, visiting the few places he had "missed."

Frank is survived by his lover and companion of the last ten years, John; by his great friend Dutch; his parents of Columbus, Ohio; and many friends from all over the world. We will sorely miss him.

James W. Graves

James W. Graves, nationally known fund raising management consultant, died in San Francisco after a brief illness on Dec. 12. The cause of death was pneumocystis.

Jim was born in 1946 in Brooklyn. He was graduated from St. Francis of Assisi Elementary School and Coberly High School in Brooklyn, where he was salutatorian. Jim was a student at New York University before joining the U.S. Marine Corps in 1966. His service extended to 1970 and included two tours in Vietnam. He was assigned to an admiral on the U.S.S. St. Paul before leaving the service and moving to Houston. A graduate of the University of Houston with a degree in political science, Jim taught for several years in the San Antonio public schools.

Jim began his fundraising career in Houston and moved to the Bay Area in 1978. He established his own firm, Fitzgerald, Graves & Company, and proceeded to create a national reputation for his innovative and creative management consulting practice.

Jim was president and CEO of Fitzgerald, Graves & Company and a member of the board of directors of the American Association of Fund Raising Counsel, Inc. He was a past director of the Golden Gate Chapter of the National Society of Fund Raising Executives, the Archives for the Performing Arts, and a member of the Olympic Club of San Francisco.

He is survived by his friend and partner Mark Selfridge of San Francisco, his mother Grace Quirk of Thousand Oaks, CA, his sisters Joanne Hagler of Camarillo, CA, and Linda and Debbie Lieberman of Canoga Park, and his aunts Regina Carroll of Texas and Mae Donegan of New Jersey.

Gifts in Jim's honor should be made to the Jay Levy Laboratory of the University of California, San Francisco.

John St. Denis

In loving remembrance of our brother who bravely fought a long and difficult battle with AIDS. John passed away from us on Dec. 14 at the age of 28.

We cherish the memory of his free spirit, his boyish smile and the pleasures that were dear to him: bicycles, photography, San Francisco, root beer, and chocolate.

Alert and clear, he guided his friends and family toward the peaceful "white light" that shines and protects us all. His soul is free now and his body lies at rest beside his father's.

Special thanks to the staffs and volunteers of Shanti and Hospice to

which donations in John's memory can be made.

A celebration of his life will be held on Jan. 4 from 2-5 p.m.. Information is available from his partner-in-life, Allan Isaacson, at 626-5108.

Michael O'Connor

Michael died on Dec. 1 in a Long Island hospital surrounded by his family and the thoughts of his friends here in California, in New York, and Key West.

Most of the time during his long illness, Michael denied this was ever going to happen. As frustrating as that may have been for his friends, it might be what kept him alive for over two years.

Michael was outrageous, opinionated, often hysterically funny. In a tacky dress he'd have us crying with laughter. At other times he'd make some pronouncement upon our lives that was based on his unique sense of reality and we'd want to strangle him; or we'd want to strangle him because he was exactly right.

For this bitchiness, for his craziness, Michael will always be remembered. For his humor, for the stories he told on himself, for his playfulness, for his love, Michael will be missed.

Eugene R. Smith

7/23/51 - 12/4/86
My best friend died recently, and I want the whole world to know.

Eugene was diagnosed with AIDS in early November and was hospitalized in Atlanta with pneumocystis shortly thereafter. Upon being released and after Thanksgiving he came to San Francisco for a visit. The day after he arrived I took him to Mt. Zion Hospital with a serious relapse of the PCP. He died in my arms Thursday, Dec. 4, at 9:35 p.m.

Eugene lived a full and varied life. A trained hairdresser, he was in his sophomore year at Georgia State U. working toward a degree in Business Administration. He lived in Atlanta for five years.

His survivors include his parents, Charles and Mary of Peoria, IL, brothers David and Jerald, favorite sister-in-law Barb, and friends Stephen and Joe in San Francisco, Brian and little Brian in Atlanta, Mary in Florida, Mary Lou in Texas, David, Barry, Ken and Grant in Los Angeles, and Bruce in San Diego.

He was cremated, and the ashes will be scattered in Palm Springs in the spring.

For information, please contact Stephen Sims at (415) 621-7211.
Rest in peace, Eugene.

Clifford Lee Benedetti

Clifford Lee Benedetti, 25, passed away on Nov. 18 after a long battle with AIDS. He was predeceased by his lover, Patrick Simmerer, on June 4 of this year.

Cliff's ashes were spread in the same area as Patrick's, near Muir Woods. May both their spirits find peace in their travels. They will not be forgotten by those who loved them. They will remain in our hearts always.

**BAY AREA REPORTER
GREATER BAY NEWS**



**County Chief Urges
No New AIDS Funds
Wants To Wait For Status Report**

by Charles Linebarger

J.C. Keller and Jack Hanna remained chained to the entrance of the Alameda County Administrative Building in the last week of 1986. A Christmas tree now decorates the small vigil encampment as the two men settle in for what may become a long stay if the Alameda County supervisors continue to refuse to approve a \$50,000 AIDS allocation that community groups have requested. Meanwhile, the Bay Area Reporter has received a copy of an internal memo from Mel Hing, the Alameda county administrator, to the county supervisors advising them not to approve the AIDS allocation.

"In my letter dated Dec. 16 on Supplemental Health Care Funding," writes Hing in the secret memorandum, "I pointed out that your Board has approved approximately \$500,000 in expenditures for the AIDS programs this fiscal year and asked that you defer any further requests to fund AIDS services. A comprehensive status report on the county's AIDS program, including a review of our roles, responsibilities, and success in meeting them, will be provided to your Board on Jan. 26."

Hanna at the vigil responded to Hing's statement in the memo by saying, "it appears like an attempt to describe programs that have received lots of money, when in fact there are not large amounts in comparison to the epidemic we face."

"I can't visualize this county not wanting to spend money on programs that will inevitably save it much more (money). It is actions like these (the county's failure to approve the AIDS appropriation) that is costing the taxpayers money."

Alameda County Supervisor, John George, told the B.A.R. last week that he believed the AIDS appropriation could be brought up for another vote by the board



You'll never walk alone. Supporters serenaded the AIDS Vigil at the Alameda County Administration Building on Monday, Dec. 22. (Photo: Savage Photography)

during the first week in January. But the two men at the vigil are wary that Hing's internal memo will lead the Board of Supervisors to delay action on the funding request until Jan. 26.

Keller described Christmas Day for the vigilers as they camped in their tent in the center of Oakland. "Friends brought us Christmas dinner. We had prime rib, creamed spinach, a cheese cake, and fudge." The pair also received Christmas presents in the form of new mittens, pull-overs, and a bottle of wine-flavored chocolate from France.

The vigil's Christmas tree was put up at a Christmas party on Dec. 22. The East Bay AIDS Resource Organization (EBARO) and Local 616 of the United Service Employee Union sponsored the gathering. Contributions were collected for the East Bay AIDS Project in the form of check and cash ornaments for the tree, the "Christmas Love Tree," as Keller and Hanna referred to it. Close to \$400 has been collected for the AIDS Project.

The tent the men sleep in was donated by "supporters and friends from the Paradise Bar and Grill," across the street from the vigil site. And lunch and dinner is still supplied by the Paradise Bar and Grill during the week. "On weekends, one of us goes to the stores," said Keller. The tent should come in handy as winter temperatures begin dipping. The men also worry

about being flooded out if rains last long enough to collect on the sloping pavement in front of the county building. They are hoping to get some wooden pallets to put their tent on before the rains begin.

Both men were wearing sprays of green ribbon with small bits of chain attached, the symbol of the AIDSARC vigil in San Francisco. Keller explained the symbolism. "Green symbolizes funding for AIDS from all levels of government, and the chain symbolizes people chained to the doors of government buildings. It also symbolizes discrimination."

Hanna added, "We're family members of the San Francisco vigil." Both men have in fact put in long months with the older vigil across the bay. But the Oakland vigilers hope Alameda County will allow them to go home soon.



It's a cold night, but their hearts are warm. Gary Harmon and Jack Hanna make a statement at the Oakland AIDS Vigil on Dec. 22. (Photo: Savage Photography)

BART Director Proposes Bias Legislation

Arlo Hale Smith, newly elected BART director, has introduced legislation to require persons and companies dealing with BART as contractors or subcontractors to refrain from engaging in discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation.

"After I was elected on Nov. 4, I had meetings with BART officials and went through all of the policies BART has governing contracts and contractors and found that, while companies

dealing with BART are required to pledge to refrain from discrimination on the basis of race, gender, and certain other classifications, they are free to discriminate against gays and lesbians. That a public entity would tolerate sexual orientation discrimination by those it deals with in this day of age is an outrage," Smith commented.

Smith noted that BART's lack of a policy prohibiting sexual ori-

**BAPHR Foundation
Announces Grants**

The BAPHR Foundation, an endowed foundation affiliated with the Bay Area Physicians for Human Rights in San Francisco, announced the awarding of its first annual grants to Bay Area organizations whose activities impact gay and lesbian health and wellness.

Recipients include: ARIS Project of Santa Clara County, East Bay AIDS Project, Coming Home Hospice, East Bay AIDS Fund, Diablo Valley Parents and Friends of Lesbians And Gays, Bay Area Physicians for Human Rights Symposium, 18th Street Services, Speaker's Workshop, S.F. (Women's Disability), Ellipse/Peninsula AIDS Service (San Mateo County), San Francisco AIDS Foundation (Spanish AIDS education), Sequoia YMCA, San Mateo County (Youth AIDS Education Project), Contra Costa County AIDS Task Force, Lyon-Martin Clinic, St. Paul's Hospice, Walnut Creek.

Awarded grants totalled \$19,000 and ranged from \$300 to \$2,500. They were derived from Foundation fundraisers and endowment income, BAPHR, and a donation from Caremark Home Health Care of America.

The Foundation does not fund operating budgets or research projects. While non-physicians are members of the Foundation board, the Foundation was established by physicians and affiliate members of BAPHR.

Get the facts.

AIDS is *not* spread by casual contact. AIDS is transmitted through intimate, unprotected sexual contact or through sharing IV needles when shooting drugs.

AIDS is *not* spread by sharing pencils, telephones, toilet seats, clothing, eating utensils, or by breathing the same air.

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CHRISTMAS COUTENANCE (A "Spirited" Nose)

Thanks to A.C.I.E., and its two Christmas Tree Decorating contests/bake sales — one at Turf Club on Sunday, Dec. 14, and the other at Revol on Sunday, Dec. 21 — plus all those who participated in the spirited auctions for the homemade baked goods, patients in Bay Area hospitals' AIDS/ARC wards had a merrier and brighter holiday.

Not only did all the decorated trees embellish the bedside tables, but also Christmas stockings had additional "stuffings" of cold, hard cash. Proceeds from the baked goods auctions surpassed anticipations. The excess was used in the stockings so that patients would have spending money for personal items.

Plaudits and kudoes to A.C.I.E. for this laudable effort.

Another meretricious gesture by A.C.I.E. must be given recognition. At each of its monthly Privy Council meetings, a guest speaker is invited to talk to the group about the speaker's organization and what A.C.I.E. can do for it. A \$100 donation is given to the organization represented (not to the speaker!).

So far, donations have been made to the East Bay Assistance Fund, Fairmont Hospital Canteen Fund, and Pacific Center. Commendations and approbations to a "working" Alameda County Imperial Empire!

INSEVERABLE ASSEVERATIONISTS (A "We're Behind You" Nose)

Jack Hanna and J.C. Keller are chained to the door of the Alameda County Building in protest of County Supervisors voting to postpone \$50,000 for AIDS services.

For those of you who have given support and have partaken in the vigil, have you wondered where the tent came from or where most of their meals are coming from? In case you haven't guessed, give credit where credit is due: patrons of the Paradise are responsible for the tent. And Fred Corella, Mama Chuckles, and Francis from the Paradise are responsible for most of the hot meals and beverages.

It wasn't done for the publicity, so remember this heartwarming demonstration of love when less friendly thoughts enter your mind.

And, in case you missed it in Charles Lineberger's story last week, here are the names and numbers of the five Alameda County Board of Supervisors: John George, 272-6695; Robert Know, 272-6694; Don Perata, 272-6693; chairman Charles Santana, 272-6692; Ed Campbell, 272-6691.

Call them and express your displeasure about their refusal to vote on the \$50,000. Emphasize that they can vote YES in their first meeting in January. Remind them that you are a registered voter, too. You are, aren't you???

NEEDLING AND CHAFING (A Duping Nose?)

What a way to end — and begin, of course! — the year! All these years "drag" has had a powerful hold on the public imagination! A strange pose, a hint of a smile (smirk?), a fanciful landscape — all have fascinated the world since 1504. Now, it is suggested that the Mona Lisa is actually Leonardo in drag! What a rascal! For 482 years, that which so many find offensive has been rubbed in their pious faces. Methinks someday of' Mona will laugh out loud.

OMNIUM-GATHERUM (An Alloying (annoying?) Nose!)

No, it wasn't an addition to Sam's collection of sex appurtenances! For those of you who were wondering just what that machine does, it's an electrified balloon blower-upper! Other suggestions did, however, put a glint in Sam's eyes!

Little Mother is at it again! This time it will be a dinner and raffle, to be held in July. Dinner tickets will go for \$50 apiece, and the raffle tickets (a huge chandelier and a bushel of booze) will be a buck, to go on sale soon. (Watch out, Paul, Mama wants you!)

What will be unusual about the dinner is: the cooks are, tentatively, Sam (T&C), Little Mother, and moi; the waiters are, tentatively, Marv (T&C), John (of Little Mother), and my spouse! Good golly, Miss Molly! Just how many cooks does it take to spoil the broth?

I was asked to announce — by Little Mother, of course! — that "The bill has been taken care of. I sold several things and made donations to charities, and now my older sister has a clean slate. Just tell them that Big C's younger sister took care of it, and she can appear in public, again! The reason she hasn't been seen lately is because I killed her!"

To begin 1987, Bench & Bar, Big Mama's, Bill's the Eagle, Cable's Reef, Driftwood, Fickle Fox, The Hub, Lake Lounge, Loretta's, Ollie's, Paradise, Revol, Spoiled Brat, Town & Country, Turf Club, and White Horse offer the following:

LIFE'S RECIPE

- 1 cup Good Thoughts
- 1 cup Kind Deeds
- 1 cup Consideration for Others
- 2 cups Sacrifice for Others
- 3 cups Forgiveness
- 2 cups Well-Beaten Faults

Mix these thoroughly and add tears of joy and sorrow and sympathy for others. Fold in four cups of prayer and faith to lighten other ingredients and raise texture to a great height. After pouring all this into your daily life, bake well with heat of human kindness. Serves a multitude.

Always serve with a smile. Love, Nez

CUAV Seeks Board Members

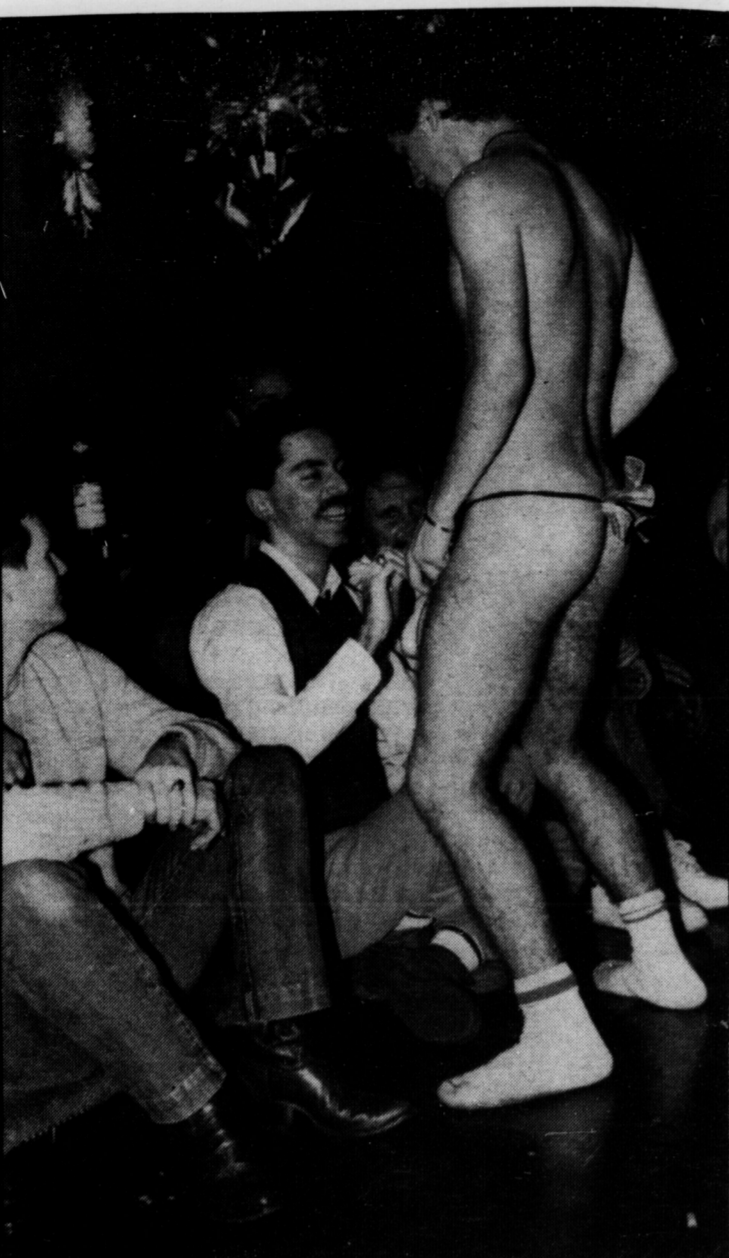
Community United Against Violence (CUAV), is seeking applications to fill vacancies on its board of directors. CUAV is an agency that exists to prevent violence directed at gay men and lesbians and to facilitate the provision of services to and empower those who have been victimized.

If you are interested in serving on the board, please send a resume or other information on your background to: Board, c/o CUAV, 514 Castro Street, San Francisco, CA 94114.

CUAV is committed to sexual and racial parity on its board as well as its staff. Should you have any questions or would like additional information please call Ken Alexander (346-9384), Paula Lichtenberg (77613769), or Glenn McElhinney (621-5810).

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Free Ride Home



Look what Santa has for you. A young man attempts to inspect the goods as Kurt Bateman dances away during a pre-Christmas celebration at Club Pegasus in Vallejo. (Photo: Savage Photography)

Report

(Continued from page 4)

DRUGS: The first goal will be to eliminate existing waiting lists for substance abuse help by expanding facilities. Methadone and other substitute drug use programs would be extended. Demonstrations and rap sessions would be added to the current education program, explaining the proper use of materials.

FINANCES: Amory urged that state and federal agencies give block grants to a city like San Francisco which has "a credible track record." He believes current competitiveness and limiting guidelines have impeded the use of funds. Amory also asks the state health department to streamline its contract procedures, giving the city more flexibility.

CURRENT PROGRAMS

The Amory proposals are in addition to numerous AIDS/ARC programs being coordinated and often financed by the city health department along with state and federal funds and individual contributions. Local programs include education, training and care and are reviewed in the report.

Amory states that there was a serious shortage of adequate mental health facilities in the city before the AIDS/ARC crisis. He calls attention to the current mental health needs of those diagnosed with AIDS or ARC, those who fear they might become infected, and people grieving over the death of a loved one.

Amory's report was bleak in regard to the statistical future. By Nov. 30, there had been 2,654 cases of AIDS reported with 1,477 deaths in San Francisco since 1981. This translates into

391 cases per 100,000 population. A high 99 percent of those reported have been adult or adolescent men, 84 percent of those were homosexual or bisexual.

A statistical evaluation of AIDS-related condition (ARC) cases is nearly impossible as such cases are often not reported to health authorities. But it is estimated that 8.6 cases of ARC occur for every one AIDS case.

If the narrow definition of AIDS is broadened to include severe ARC cases the number of AIDS cases would rise substantially. Under current definitions, it is projected that by June 30, 1987, San Francisco will have seen 3,297 cases, with 1,226 living AIDS cases in the city. ●

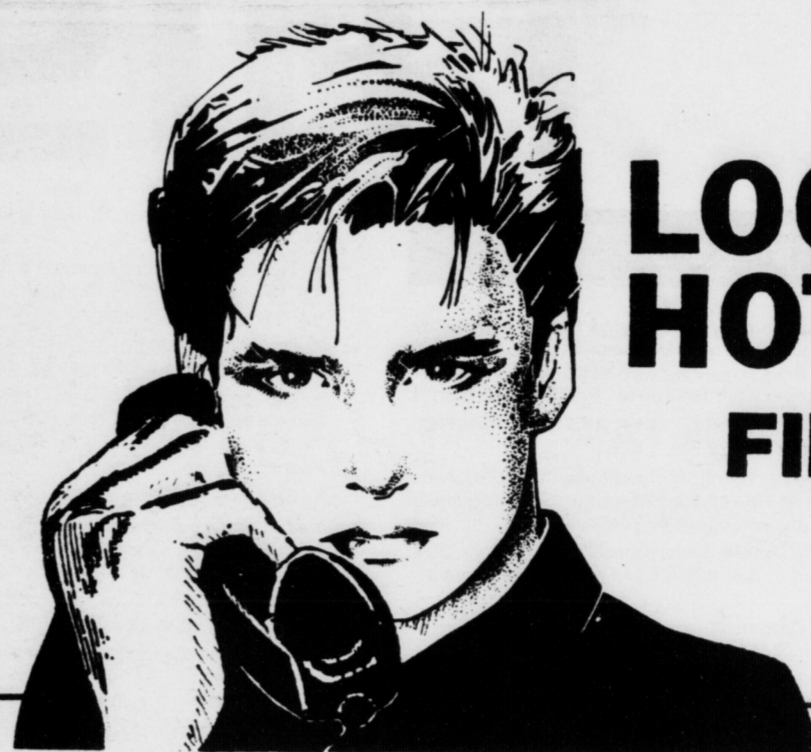


Smith

(Continued from previous page)

entation discrimination by contractors was inconsistent with the California Supreme Court's decision in *Gay Law Students v. Pacific Telephone*, which ruled that discrimination against gay and lesbian people by public entities violates that state constitution.

Smith said he expected his proposal to come before the BART Board at its Dec. 18 meeting. He urged members of the gay/lesbian community and other concerned citizens to write letters to the BART Board of Directors at 800 Madison Street, Oakland, CA. 94607 to urge adoption of the prohibition of sexual orientation discrimination by BART contractors. ●



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THIS WEEK

FRIDAY 2

- Red-Hot Comedy:** with Marga Gomez and Danny Williams, City Cabaret, 401 Mason St., S.F., 10 PM, \$5 with two-drink minimum. Call 441-RSVP for reservations. Witness a live false arrest. Try Spam. Be Merry!
- Big Bang Beat:** music, Great American Music Hall, 859 O'Farrell, S.F., 9 PM, \$10.
- Sisterspirit:** informal coffeehouse, 1040 Park Ave., San Jose, 8 PM, \$1-\$3. Bring your favorite games; refreshments and coffee will be available.
- Fraternal Order of Gays:** game fest, FOG House, 304 Gold Mine Dr., S.F., 8 PM. Call 541-0999 for more information.
- French Conversation:** evening, 8 PM in San Francisco. Call 863-1356 for more information.
- Growing American Youth Group:** for gays and lesbians 21 or younger, Diablo Valley Metropolitan Community Church, 2253 Concord Blvd., Concord. Call 372-9014 or 827-2960 for more information.
- Yoga Class for PWAs and PWARC:** taught by PWA, 4-5:30 in the Mission, \$5 if you can afford. Call 863-7212 for more information.
- AIDS Prayer Vigil:** Church of the Advent of Christ the King, 261 Fell St., S.F., noon to 3 PM. Call 431-0454 for more information.
- "I Had AIDS Workshop":** noon and 7 PM; videos at 9 PM. Call Richard Locke at 558-9650 for more information.
- Vision play:** circle of healing and renewal using visualization and deep trance work, Quan Yin Acupuncture Center, 513 Valencia St., S.F., 8 PM, \$5-\$15 sliding scale. Led by Van Ault, certified hypnotherapist. Call 864-1362 for more information.
- Church of the Secret Gospel:** service, 746 Clementina St., No. 2, S.F., 8 PM, \$2. Carnal communion to 10:30 PM, refreshments, males 18+ welcome. Call 621-1887 for more information.
- Spiritmenders:** giving and receiving kindred spirits, Spiritmenders Community Center, 2141 Mission St., #203 (between 17th and 18th Sts.), 5-7 PM. For mental health clients, previous or present. Call 552-4910 for details.
- Imperial AIDS Foundation:** rap group, Home Federal Savings meeting room, 480 S. Mathilda (corner of Olive and S. Mathilda), Sunnyvale, 7-10 PM. Call 968-8976 or 965-1199 for details.
- Women's Drop-In Space:** conversation and caring, 1615 Polk St., upstairs, S.F., 7-9 PM, every Friday.
- Frank Banks:** sing-a-long piano, Belden 22, 22 Belden Place, S.F., 5:45-8 PM.
- People With AIDS Support Group:** meeting. Call the Shanti Project at 558-9644 for more information.
- SF Macrobiotic Network:** community dinner, Zen Center Guest House, 273 Page St., S.F., 6:30 PM, \$8. Call 647-3347 to make a reservation. Free yengar-style Yoga class precedes the dinner at 5 PM.

SATURDAY 3

- Brasil Ja:** music, El Rio, 3158 Mission St., S.F., 10 PM to 1 AM, \$3.
- Big Bang Beat:** music (see Friday listing for details).
- Fraternal Order of Gays:** game fest, FOG House, 304 Gold Mine Dr., S.F., 8 PM. Call 641-0999 for more information.
- San Francisco Hiking Club:** day hike on Mt. Tam/Pan/ton to Stinson Beach via Steep Ravine. Meet at N.E. corner of Market and 7th St. to take Golden Gate Transit (10 AM bus) to Marin City (return by 5:10 PM bus; \$3.35 each way). Bring lunch and water and money for snack in Stinson Beach. Rain other than sprinkles cancels.
- East Bay FrontRunners:** Lafayette Reservoir run. Take Hwy 24 to Mt. Diablo Blvd. exit, bear left on Mt. Diablo to Entrance Rd. to park (first right). Free parking in dirt lot on left opposite turnout; fee parking in park. Three-mile loop, mostly flat to slight incline. Call 526-7592 or 261 3246 for more information.
- Kinship:** support group for lesbian and gay Seventh-day-Adventists Christmas dinner. Call 661-9912 or (408) 866-0159 TDD for more information.
- San Francisco FrontRunners:** Meet at Stow Lake Boathouse in Golden Gate Park, S.F., at 9 AM. No-host brunch follows; beginners welcome. Call 673-7303 for more information.

SUNDAY 4

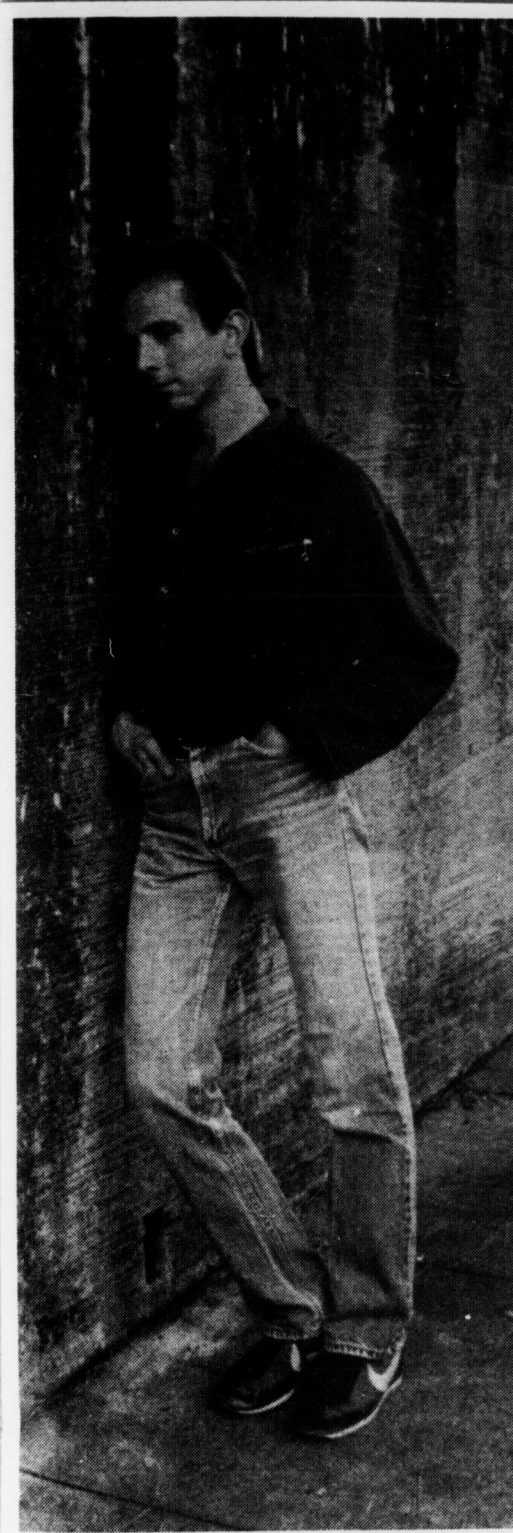
- Brasilian Beat:** music, El Rio, 3158 Mission St., S.F., 4-8 PM, \$3.
- San Francisco FrontRunners:** 13th Anniversary run, Dolores Park, meet at 20th and Church sts. at 10 AM, two to three miles, hilly. Potluck brunch and annual meeting follows. Call 673-7303 or 337-8704 for more information.
- G40+:** meeting, First Unitarian Church, 1187 Franklin St., S.F., 2 PM. Psychologist Martin Snow will speak on the Conflict between Gay and Straight Men, plus Romeo's Rightfully Renowned Raffles.

MONDAY 5

- Integrity:** Eucharist, St. John's Church, 1661 15th St., S.F., 5:30 PM.
- MCC San Francisco:** worship and communion service, 150 Eureka St., S.F., 10:30 AM. Call 863-4434 for more information. Childcare provided.
- Louise Hay Class:** 1155 Ellis St., S.F., 6 PM. Call 346-2981 for more information.
- Expect a Miracle:** wholistic healing and exercise class, Grace Cathedral gym, California St. between Taylor and Jones, S.F., 2-3 PM. Call 788-2480 for more information.
- Church of the Secret Gospel:** (see Friday for details).
- St. Mark's Lutheran Church:** services, 111 O'Farrell (at Gough), S.F., communion at 8:30 AM and 11 AM. Call 928-7770 for details.
- Diablo Valley MCC:** worship celebration, 2253 Concord Blvd., 10 AM. Call 827-2960 for details.
- Affirmation-Gay and Lesbian Mormons:** meeting and services. Call 641-4554 for recorded message which details the meetings and socials.
- LeJazz Hot:** cabaret, Black Rose, 335 Jones St., S.F., 9 PM, 11 PM, \$2.
- AIDS Self Healing and Support Groups:** support group, 2254 Van Ness (btwn. Broadway and Vallejo Sts.), 7:30 PM. Call 567-7126, 339-1134, or 775-0277 for details.
- Slightly Younger Lesbians & Gays:** support group, Billy de Frank Lesbian and Gay Community Center, 86 Keyes St., San Jose, 1-3 PM.
- Golden Gate MCC:** Sunday worship services, 48 Belcher St. (between 14th St. and Duboce), S.F., 12:30 PM, 7 PM. Call 474-4848 for details.
- Dignity:** Sunday Mass, St. Boniface Church, 133 Golden Gate (near Civic Center), 5:30 PM. Call 584-1714 for details.
- Men's Clinic:** free and confidential VD testing and treatment for gonorrhea, syphilis, NGU, scabies, lice, venereal warts, etc. Counseling and referrals for men with AIDS/ARC concerns, open to all Bay Area gay men, sponsored by the Gay Men's Health Collective, 2339 Durant Ave., Berkeley, 7-9 PM. Call 644-0425 for more information.
- Women's Radio Hour:** on KKUP (91.5) in San Jose, 11 AM-2 PM. Women's music, interviews, and community calendar.
- Holy Trinity Church:** meets at the Billy DeFrank Community Center, 1040 Park Ave., San Jose, 10 AM to noon.
- Eastern Orthodox:** Holy Ascension Mission, liturgy at 10 AM, 1671 Golden Gate #2, S.F. Call 563-8514 for more information.
- First Monday Musicals:** for women who practice alone. BYO instrument and perform any level of classical, piano, and refreshments provided, 7:30 PM, \$5. Call 621-7454 for more information.
- Emotional Support Group:** for people who have lost their lovers due to AIDS/ARC, 7:30 PM. Call Sean Martinfield at 626-4329 for more information.
- Support Groups for PWA and those concerned about AIDS:** ongoing meeting, Kaiser Foundation Hospital, 2425 Geary Blvd., 3:30-4:45 PM. The meetings will be held in Conference Room B on the fifth floor. Call 929-4186 for details.
- Support Group for Bisexual and Married Gay Men:** meets from 7 to 9 PM in the Castro, led by Scott Eaton, MA. Call 821-4788 for more information.

TUESDAY 6

- National March on Washington for Lesbian and Gay Rights:** Northern California planning meeting, Women's Building, 3543 18th St., S.F., 7:30 PM. Pat Norman, Howard Wallace, and Cleve Jones will speak. Call 431-1522 for more information.
- New Year's Resolutions Workshop:** Call 558-8454 for more information.
- Slightly Older Lesbians:** meeting, Billy DeFrank Lesbian and Gay Community Center, 1040 Park Ave., San Jose, 7 PM. Call (408) 293-4525 for more information.
- Tamasac Gay Men's Chorus:** rehearsal, Trinity Hall, 2320 Dana, Berkeley, 7:30 PM. Call 843-1439 for more information.
- AIDS Interfaith Network:** support group, Parsonage, 555-A Castro St., S.F., 7 PM, free. Call 864-7462 for more information.
- Healing Institute:** meeting/workshop, MCC San Francisco, room 21, 150 Eureka St., S.F., 7:30-10 PM. Call 861-0702 for more information.
- ISA Men's Group:** SF Men's Tuesday Night Incest Survivors Anonymous 12-step program, SF Home Health Services, 225 30th St., room 206, S.F., 7:30-9 PM. Closed meeting for survivors and pro-survivors. Non-smoking, wheelchair accessible, free parking. Call 474-2872 for more information.
- Pacific Center AIDS Project:** People with AIDS/ARC Support Group and Lovers, Friends and Family of People with AIDS/ARC, 6-8 PM. Call 420-8181 for details.



Aaron Mayer plays the Baybrick Jan. 7

- Meditation and Healing Circle:** meeting, Haight-Ashbury Community Center, Park Branch Library, 1833 Page St., S.F., 7:30 PM. Call 864-5483 for details.
- Gay International Folk Dancing:** for lesbians and gay men, Eureka Valley Recreation Center, Collingwood Park, S.F., teaching 7:30-8 PM, request dancing 8-9:30 PM, \$2.50. Call 585-9784 or 285-5634 for details.
- Gay-Nite:** Roller garden, 15721 East 14th St., San Leandro, 7:30 PM-Midnight.
- BurLEZk:** erotic dance show for women, Baybrick Inn, 1190 Folsom St., S.F., 9 PM, \$5.
- Drop-in Bereavement Support Group:** for friends and lovers of people who have died of AIDS/ARC, 100 Diamond St., S.F., 7-9 PM. Call 864-7400 for more information.
- People With AIDS Support Group:** meeting (see Friday for details).
- Health Celebration:** learn to achieve and maintain perfect health. Call 558-8454 for more information.
- San Francisco Gay Freedom Day Marching Band and Twirling Corps:** rehearsal, Jon Sims Center, 1519 Mission St., S.F., 7:30 PM. All band instrumentalists are needed. Call 621-5619 for more information. Every Tuesday.

WEDNESDAY 7

- Aldo Bell:** farewell show, Galleon, 718 14th St., S.F., 8 PM.
- Aaron Mayer:** music, Baybrick Inn, 1190 Folsom St., S.F., 10 PM, free. New folk/rock.
- San Francisco Hiking Club:** general meeting and potluck, Eureka Valley Recreation Center, Collingwood and 19th sts., S.F., 7:30 PM. Bring a dish to share; the club will provide utensils and liquid refreshments.

- David Belden:** author of *Children of Arable*, will speak on Sexual Politics in Science Fiction at Modern Times Bookstore, 968 Valencia St., S.F., 7:30 PM, free.
- Relationships - The Greatest Gift:** workshop, 8-9 PM. Call Adrian Bruce Tiller, M.S., at 861-2385 for location and free brochure. Introducing a new men's group on self-esteem and relationships.
- Pacific Center AIDS Project:** People with AIDS/ARC Support Group, Fairmont Hospital, San Leandro, 3-5 PM. Call 420-8181 for details.
- Diablo Valley MCC:** Bible Study and Prayer & Praise Worship, 2253 Concord Blvd., Concord. Bible Study at 7 PM, Prayer & Praise Worship at 8:15 PM. Call 827-2960 for details.
- Beginning Yoga Classes:** 6:30-8 PM. Located near 16th and Valencia. Free for PWA. Call 864-1141 for details.
- Western Star Dancers:** square dance for experienced mainstream level dancers, Central YMCA, 220 Golden Gate Ave., 2nd floor theater. Both males and females welcome. Every Wednesday. Call 621-5631 or 621-3990 for details.
- Men's Wart Clinic:** removal of penile and external and internal anal venereal warts, Oakland Feminist Women's Health Center, Oakland, sliding scale. Staff physician is Dr. Fred Strauss of the Gay Men's Health Collective. Call 444-5676 for more information.
- Cabaret Open Mike:** Belden 22, 22 Belden Pl., S.F., 5:30-8 PM. Hosted by Aldo Bell with John Trowbridge at the piano. Call 398-4877 for details.
- Womanspirit:** MCC San Francisco, 150 Eureka St., 7:30 PM.
- People With AIDS Support Group:** meeting (see Friday for details).
- Friends, Family, and Lovers of People With AIDS:** support group. Call the Shanti Project at 558-9644 for more information.

THURSDAY 8

- Charley Shively:** will read from Walt Whitman's previously unpublished letters in *Calamus Lovers: Walt Whitman's Working Class Camerados*, Walt Whitman Bookshop, 2319 Market St., S.F., 7-9 PM, \$3. Reservations advised.
- Chrysanthemum Ragtime Band:** music, Ashkenaz Music and Dance Cafe, 1317 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley, 4-6 PM, \$5.
- Men's Support Group:** Billy DeFrank Lesbian and Gay Community Center, 1040 Park Ave., San Jose, 7 PM. Call 293-AGAY for more information.
- Bi Men's Support Group:** for bisexual men and married gay men. Meets 6:30-8:30 PM in Noe Valley. Call 821-4788 for more information.
- Center for Attitudinal Healing:** AIDS/ARC support group, 19 Main St., Tiburon, 4-6 PM, free. Direct access via ferry. Call 435-5022 for more information.
- Secret Gospel Church:** meetings, 2 PM, 746 Clementina No. 2, S.F., 2 PM. Refreshments and rap to 4 PM, \$2. Males 18+ welcome. Call 621-1887 for more information.
- Antibody Positive Drop-In Group:** 1853 Market St. (at Guerrero), 6 PM. This weekly group is to assist individuals in exploring concerns around positive test results while supporting development of coping skills. Sponsored by UCSF AIDS Health Project and Operation Concern. Call 626-6637 for details.
- AIDS/ARC Self-Healing and Support Group:** weekly meeting, Campus Ministry Building, USF, Golden Gate Ave. (near Parker), 7 PM, free. Call 567-7126 or 339-1134.
- Coming Home Hospice Bingo:** Most Holy Redeemer Church, 100 Diamond St., S.F., 6:30 PM, \$10 minimum buy-in. Come on over and join the fun... even if you've never played bingo before. An alcohol-free space. Snacks and non-alcoholic beverages sold. Smoking and non-smoking areas. Early Bird specials. Door prizes and cash prizes for each game.
- Men's Support Group:** meeting, Billy De Frank Lesbian & Gay Community Center, 86 Keyes St., San Jose, 7 PM.
- Coping With the Loss of People With AIDS:** support group. Call the Shanti Project at 558-9644 for more information.
- Friends, Family, and Lovers of People With AIDS:** support group. Call the Shanti Project at 558-9644 for more information.
- People With AIDS Support Group:** meeting (see Friday for details).
- Stress Reduction Workshop:** call 558-8454 for more information.
- Crystal Pistol:** country and western dance bar, dance lessons, 7:30 PM, 842 Valencia St., S.F. Call 695-7887 for more information.

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BAY AREA REPORTER ENTERTAINMENT

★ Saying Goodbye To Monica ★



by Bob Woolhouse

Monica Palacios is going to take a bite out of the Big Apple. The stand-up comic and writer is leaving the Northern California lesbian and gay entertainment scene to take on the New York, New York challenge.

Born in San Jose, and with a B.A. in Film Production from S.F. State under her belt, she has been a continuing headliner as performer-writer at the Baybrick Inn, Amelia's, the Valencia Rose, and innumerable street fairs and gay benefit programs.

Leaving here in early December, she will enroll at New York University for a Masters Degree in Dramatic Writing, a two-year program covering television, films, and the theater.

At the same time she will be performing at such night spots as the Comedy U. in SoHo (South of Houston Street area) and the Comedy Cellar in Greenwich Village.

After that, it might be back to Northern California for Monica, or Southern California, or more of New York — wherever a career in the entertainment world leads. She'll miss her friends and audiences here, but feels it's time to move along to new opportunities. That's the essence of Show Biz.



(Photo: Rink)



The Many Faces
of Monica and Marga
(Oh yes, and
Danny too).



(Photo: Photo Graphics/Darlene)



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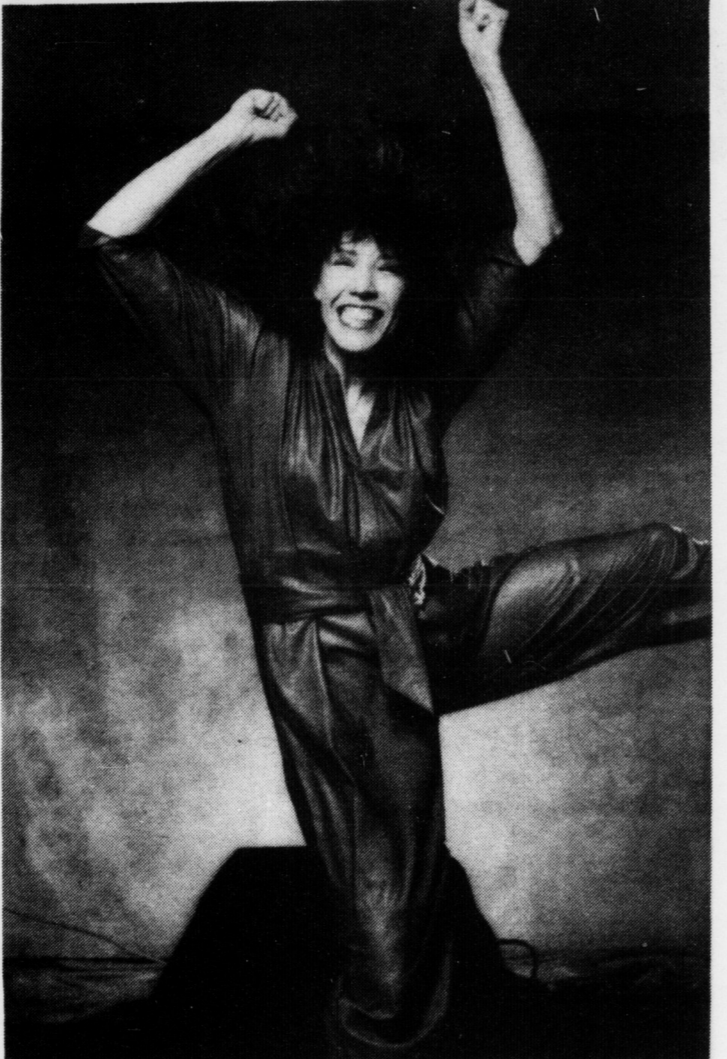
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STAGE

Awe Shucks!

Lily Tomlin Transcends Superstardom In Los Angeles

by Steve Warren



The Search for Signs of Intelligent Life in the Universe is an act in two shows. The first is simply (?) a slick packaging of the Lily Tomlin we know and love. Acting like a pinball — and lighted accordingly — she caroms around the stage changing characters each time she bounces off a fresh surface. There are eight of them, including Lily herself, a prostitute, a bored society matron, a nihilistic teenager and her grandparents, and especially Trudy, the crazy bag lady who acts as a tour-guide for visiting aliens. All spout trenchant one-liners about typical Tomlin concerns, such as "the Nobel sperm bank . . . the world's greatest geniuses sitting around reading Hustler and jerking off."

The play was written and directed by Tomlin's (insert your favorite euphemism) Jane Wagner who, after 15 years, knows the star better than anyone and has refined her own skills to the point where the pooling of their talents represents the sort of "peak experience" Trudy treats the aliens to as they look for intelligence on Earth.

Trudy, whose disordered mind beams in "scenes from other people's lives," met the aliens when they happened to be tuned to the same psychic channel.

(Continued on page 31)

Will Lily Tomlin bring her one-woman show to San Francisco? Maybe, but probably not. It's currently booked in Hollywood through Jan. 18, and likely to be extended.

MUSIC

Choruses Serve Up Holiday Banquet

by Philip Campbell

Like all good holiday banquets, this year's Christmas love feast with the San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus was high in caloric and sugar content, but totally delectable anyway.

With each passing season the show has grown and developed into a real yuletide extravaganza, worthy of comparison with many a professional pageant. The sags and seams that marred previous concerts have been repaired with an impressive choreographic flow that built on opening night to an overwhelmingly sentimental and heartwarming finale.

Stage movement, sets, lights, and coordinated costuming all added to the thoroughgoing attention to detail, while none of the joy or spontaneity of previous offerings was lost amid the glitter.

Conductor Gregg Tallman deserves the enthusiastic response he wins from audience and choristers alike. His bouncy, earnest approach is confident of strengths and careful to mask weaknesses. The serious pieces are presented without apology and, with only minor reservations, they work because his chorus does. Of course, the lighter repertoire shines brightest and Tallman was wise to offer his fans a heaping portion.

The evident program strategy emerging through trial and error weights the opening segments with solid conventional fare, while post-intermission numbers get loose and highlight the humor and flair that has become a trademark with the Chorus. It's an irresistible formula that

pleases purists and pop enthusiasts equally.

Director Ted Printz and the Chamber Singers made the first half their own with a delightful collection of early Christmas music, exquisitely accompanied by Harry Bower on recorder, cellist Dennis Drew, and Scott Foglesong at the harpsichord. Foglesong reappeared throughout the evening, lending subtle support with his clear and sympathetic piano playing.

The Singers have been heard to greater advantage, but their ambitious selection and graceful demeanor, along with a handsome solo contribution by baritone Jim Murnan, made their set an intimate island of charm in a big busy production.

Part Two opened with musical firebrand Rodger D. Pettyjohn leading the Lesbian/Gay Chorus in a hearty mixture of folk music, classics, and good-natured silliness. Shining faces singing purely and with a strength that belies their relatively small number, they looked like a cheery box of musical Christmas ornaments in their bright, primary-colored costumes. With each successive appearance the Lesbian/Gay Chorus makes good on their stated aims and promise. Their unity and power is particularly appropriate to the season of love and understanding.

An institution in their own right, The Men About Town stopped the show in its tracks, as everyone knew they would, with an utterly hilarious salute to Summer in December. They are never less than amusing, but this year they were frankly inspired. Opening with the "Honolulu Chorus" borrowed from Mr.

Handel, they quickly shed their winter green robes to reveal a beachwear collection that would make Rodney Dangerfield look stylish. A visit from Chiquita Banana rendered me helpless—I've heard of cabbage roses, but cabbage strawberries? Ms. Banana took no program credit, but believe me, a star was born. The Men gave her all the support an ingenue could hope for. "Practice Makes Perfect Nonsense" with the Men About Town and along with great timing, they have a gift for knowing just when to get off, pun intended.

The longest and most deeply satisfying portion of the show starred the Gay Men's Chorus, naturally, and they ran through the extended finale with a zestful precision, giving us an exhilarating "Sleigh Ride" and singing a clever series of variations on "Santa Claus is Coming to Town" as Debussy, Beethoven, Rossini, and Handel might have desired.

Santa himself appeared in a snow mobile to tell us a la Gilbert and Sullivan who's been naughty, not nice. His "little list" injected the only whiff of politics to the evening, but it was good natured and knowing satire.

A beautifully blended "White Christmas" led into an audience sing-along. By now, the hardest hearts were softened and we probably would have joined uninvited. Encores and echoing cheers sent a mellow crowd back into the realities of the night, but no one could have felt less than strengthened.

I don't know how they can top the Christmas of 1986, but I wouldn't be surprised if next year's show were done on ice. ●

John Karr

Family Affairs

Who can keep tabs on their entire family? Seeing that it had been several years since we'd visited, I decided to renew acquaintance with the showy side of my family when they announced a wacky holiday get-together.

Here's the genealogy. The family of Band Foundation performing groups had extended an invitation to a decidedly extended family, which gathered at the Giftcenter last week for the group's annual Christmas Gala and Dance Along Nutcracker. The house was full, festive relatives sparkling like Christmas ornaments bobbing along the sides of the hall's triple tiers and presaging an event as gala as promised. As a long-lost relative, I was treated royally, seated down front right next to the Royal Court table. What a thrill! I was happier than a commoner visiting Randy Andy.

"I don't care whose father she is, she looks like a pizza waitress to me," the peon behind me sneered about a member of the peerage. But I found the Queens splendiferous.

And the Kings: in a transvestial triumph, this year's Grand Duke is a woman. The natty Mike D'Dyke wore a false mustache of stately grey, setting off His regal cheekbones and matching His handsome, slicked-back and silvery locks. Although imposing in presence, His Dukeship was dwarfed by the 6'13" Tatiana, who made the most of his best feature by wearing high heels.

This girl's so tall I thought someone else must be wearing him as a hat, but he's one person all the way to the ground. But, oh goddess! It was yet another Dame Royale who took the cake. And probably ate it, too.

This was none other than Lola Lust. Officially the Grand Duchess, in appearance she's the Flagship of the Royal Court. Full-blown and bountiful, she's a commanding diva in every way. And she could be the sister (or sister city) to another diva, for Lola is the perfect look-alike for Montserrat Caballe. Like the opera star, Lola is Beautiful and Big, wears black bouffant above and below, and proudly bears plenty mammella. Like Caballe, too, she must bring her own refreshments. In a hall where no food was available, Ms. Lust munched daintily and continually throughout the evening on some little nonesuch or sweetmeat. And that's how Her Royalty maintains her breathtaking profile.

Not quite holding its own, on the other hand, was a large portion of the evening's billed entertainment. Like some gay Ed Sullivan Show, the acts careened wildly from high art to high camp, a straight-faced "Ave Maria" following a drag reincarnation of the Lennon Sisters. Such quick switches keep a fellow on his toes, and are rather festive at that, but their variable quality made me remember that the Band Foundation's performances aren't as slick as we like to think, and frequently need to be taken as . . . yes, a family affair. Thus appraised, I had a swell time.

For the record: Terry Han-shaw's choreography to "Sleigh Ride" cleverly used the percussion's whip-snaps as a hook for the dancer's mock slap fest; Don Johnson was a droll hit as a

matronly Lennon Sister; Dell Madill is certainly the handsomest cherub of a classical singer around; and the Vocal Minority is pert as ever. On the other hand: the Tap Troupe seemed not much more than a persevering group (can't something be done about those frozen smiles?); the Flag Corps shouldn't waggle attenuated schmattes in small places; and Band conductor Jay Kast wins the Joan Sutherland Placid Talent Award. His arrangements are fine, but he'd better hit the espresso before hitting the stage — the Band needs some oomph. And Danny Williams' emceeing was a chore, his funniest moment a wrong word, and his weak attempt at impersonation causing a proposed Lawrence Welk show recreation to flounder leaderlessly.

But what the hell. It was family, and soon the entire audience got into the act for the miraculous Dance Along Nutcracker. With tutus on sale at the door, would-be Sugar Plums and Waltzing Flowers took over the stage as the Band played with spirit for a Planet Mary event I sure won't miss next year. Perhaps Lola Lust will be my Sugar Plum Partner then, and we'll never need the SF Ballet again!

Another revelation at the concert was City Swing, the fabulous dance band led by Wayne Love and featuring Gail Wilson as vocalist. Remember close-dancing, jitterbugging, romancin' while dancin', and hot and torchy girl singers? That's City Swing, a swinging band whose delight is not just for our extended gay "family." This solidly pro group will be discovered and adored by far more people than our community.

I awakened and renewed by the Band Foundation's Christmas gala, particularly by the mix of boys and girls together which so fulfills a family picture, it was strengthened by my acquaintance with two men. Jim Wigler and the single-named Christopher are basically disparate, yet both are talented photographers and both have been touched by AIDS.

Jim Wigler is a well-known photographer who contributed many covers to Drummer magazine, and did the Endup's Buns Calendar ("Believe it or not," he said with his usual wild enthusiasm, "it's almost art!"), before branching out into fashion and corporate photography outside the gay community. But he hasn't forgotten his family, and has undertaken a project to spread a sympathetic understanding of AIDS and the men who have it. He's doing it, naturally, with photographs.

"The whole process of working on a project about AIDS is so emotional," Wigler told me. "There's so much to say, and I can't think of a better way to say it than with pictures of people."

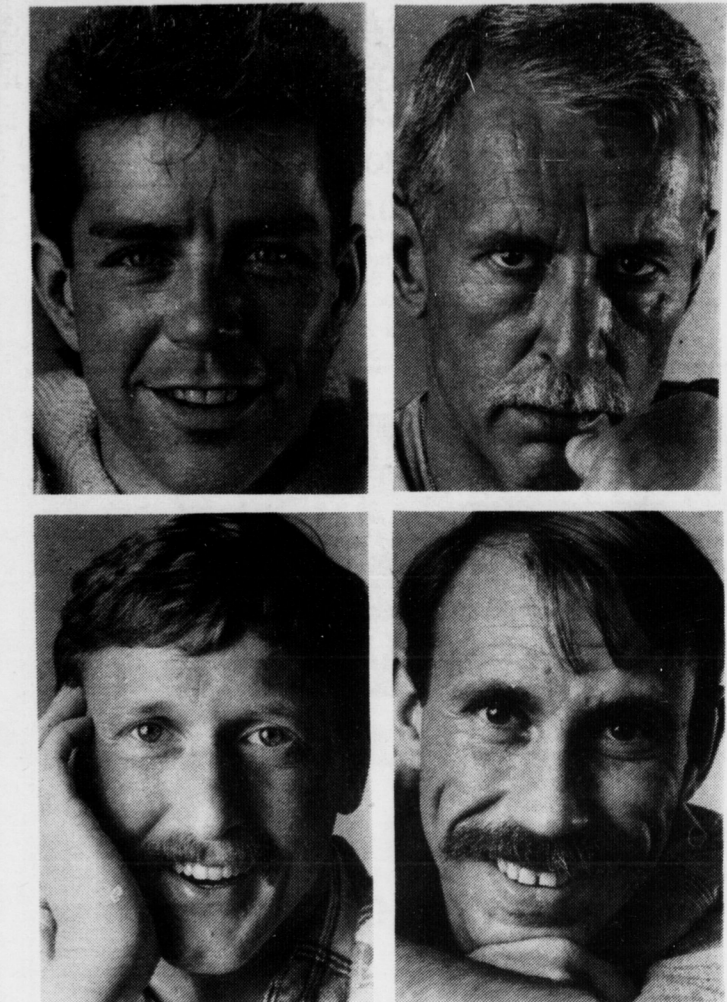
Wigler's idea was to exhibit huge 16x20 blow-up portraits of people with AIDS in public places where straight people could see them. "I wanted to do the portraits so that people who don't come in contact with PWA's would realize it's a human disease, caused by a virus and not the product of a lifestyle."

Wigler has already taken a few of the portraits, and his use of every shade of grey in between black and white fills them with light, making them open and accessible, alive. "It's a challenge, but I'm doing it," Wigler said. "Can you imagine walking into a room filled with these photos? The impact will be immense."

"I want America to see the courage and strength and, most of all, the beauty of the gay community. And that can be done with these huge photos that anybody can relate to."

The County of San Mateo agreed, and is relating directly to the project by sponsoring the first exhibition of the portraits. It will open in Redwood City Hall in early April, and will thereafter move to the airport, banks, and "anywhere people who don't know gays can see it," Wigler said. His project was introduced to the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors by the Board's President, Tom Nolan, one of the highest elected open gays in the country, and a preliminary showing was seen by Congressman Gerry Studds, who expressed interest in taking the show to Washington, D.C. Patrick Batt has been wonderfully supportive, Wigler said, and Billy Bragman of the Billy Blue clothing store may donate frames. Other sponsorship and donations are needed.

But first, Wigler needs models. There's no salary (Wigler is receiving money for expenses only), but subjects will receive portraits and will be interviewed for a biographical statement to



Some of the portraits of people with AIDS which will appear at an exhibit in San Mateo County (Photos: J. Wigler)

accompany their portrait on exhibition. Interested persons with AIDS should call Wigler at 673-1284, and let their beautiful faces be seen.

may look sick, for dark lesions spread across his cheek. But in many ways, he's healthier than a lot of us. I met him on Castro Street where he was selling a greeting card he'd produced. "Help me heal myself," he said, "by helping me be self-supportive."

Christopher had a rough year following his diagnosis, losing friends and income. He was alienated, lonely and fearful. "But I've always been real spirited," he told me, and he bucked up. He doesn't believe he has to

(Continued on page 31)

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George Heymont

The Empress's New Clothes

There's an old saying that you can fool some of the people all of the time and you can fool all of the people some of the time. But you can't fool all of the people all of the time. While much has been written about the recent demise of the San Francisco Opera's summer seasons, some important points still need to be made. The hard truth is that, having been burned too many times, a very loyal opera public is no longer in any great rush to buy Terry McEwen's product. And, as opera companies in Dallas, Detroit, Houston, Chicago, Washington, and Toronto continue to expand their seasons, I can think of no American opera company which has suffered such a consistent lack of leadership, been so flagrantly mismanaged, or demonstrated as much contempt for its audience as the San Francisco Opera has during the past five years.



Shirley Verrett's portrayal of Lady Macbeth was one of the highlights of the San Francisco Opera's 1986 fall season.

Terry McEwen's theories that the San Francisco Opera "might have been presenting too much opera" or that "previous summer seasons might have hurt ticket sales for the fall" strike me as the biggest bunch of bullshit I've heard in a long time. No, there hasn't been too much opera in San Francisco during Terry McEwen's administration. There has simply been too much shitty opera produced by shitty management.

Not only has the San Francisco Opera grown top-heavy with executive staff during McEwen's regime, the revolving door in its marketing function seems to have accelerated its speed. If company morale reached an all-time low during last summer's abominable season, it was hardly helped when McEwen (who heads a corporation with an annual budget of \$23 million) did not think enough of his senior staff to inform them of the cancellation of future summer seasons before they could read about it in local newspapers.

In the past year I have heard repeated complaints about McEwen's "absentee landlord" style of management from staff members who are appalled by his ability to alienate donors and his failure to attend rehearsals on a regular basis. As things stand now, the company seems to be headed by a general director who lacks credibility with his audience, lacks the confidence of much of his staff, is not very highly regarded by the press or professional opera community and — as a result of being forced by his executive committee to cancel his forthcoming summer seasons — would also seem to lack the confidence of his board of directors.

WHO'S MINDING THE STORE?

Has anyone tried to identify the mysterious force which has transformed the San Francisco Opera's once avid and loyal audience into such reluctant arts consumers? It's not the "inconsistency" politely cited by the San Francisco Chronicle's music critic, Robert Commanday. Instead, it's the growing rage over having been repeatedly ripped off by intolerably poor productions (*La Forza Del Destino*, *Lucia Di Lammermoor*, *La Grande Duchesse De Gerolstein*, *Ernani*, *The Medium*, *Il Trova-*

tor, and *Il Turco In Italia* quickly come to mind). Furthermore, although McEwen's administration seems to have attached varying levels of importance to the company's Spring Showcase, Summer Opera, and International Fall seasons, the public, quite rightly, has perceived any and all performances presented by the San Francisco Opera as coming from the same producer. After stomaching a string of artistic bombs while listening to a nauseating amount of hype, donors and audiences have simply lost faith in the San Francisco Opera's ability to give them their money's worth.

Certainly, in the beginning of his tenure as general director, McEwen promised audiences they would get all the operatic superstars they wanted. And, to prove his point, he plastered Luciano Pavarotti's face all over town in order to stimulate ticket sales. Unfortunately, when Pavarotti, Domingo, Caballe, and even the eternally reliable Joan Sutherland were forced to cancel major appearances, McEwen was left with egg on his face.

Meanwhile, Terry's tireless and tiresome efforts to turn the San Francisco Opera into a rest home for aging and over-the-hill sopranos didn't get the public very enthused about the artistry of his two pet divas, Pilar Lorengar and Regine Crespin. Nor could his blind devotion to personal friends convince audiences that Andrew Meltzer was a major conducting talent or that Sir John Pritchard was the cure-all for the San Francisco Opera's artistic woes.

McEwen's repeated failure to develop the funding necessary for continued live broadcasts of the San Francisco Opera has also caused the loss of a major source of civic pride for residents of the Bay Area. Although Americans can hear the Metropolitan Opera, the Lyric Opera of Chicago and the Canadian Opera Company's live broadcasts on the radio these days, they can no longer hear performances by the San Francisco Opera.

AN EYE TO THE FUTURE

To be sure, there have been some artistic successes. But, with the 1985 Ring cycle behind us, the local audience's growing lack of faith in Terry McEwen be-

comes particularly alarming when one realizes how much the situation resembles the tale about the little boy who cried "Wolf!" Now that the San Francisco Opera is finally starting to produce some decent evenings of music theater — this fall's *Le Nozze Di Figaro*, *Jenufa*, *Macbeth*, and *Eugene Onegin* were superbly crafted productions — the public doesn't seem to be too enthused about buying tickets. The ill-fated 1987 summer season (which was to have included Puccini's *La Fanciulla Del West*, Strauss's *Die Frau Ohne Schatten*, and Tippett's *The Midsummer Marriage*) had strong enough musical potential to attract Central Opera Service's annual conference to San Francisco. There can be little doubt that ticket orders from the conference's attendees would have helped to boost box office sales.

Minus the summer "festival," what does the future hold in store? At present, the 1987 fall season is scheduled to open Sept. 11 with Gwyneth Jones as Salome. Other German operas include Beethoven's *Fidelio* (featuring Thomas Stewart and Jeanine Altmeyer), and a sorely-needed new production of Mozart's *The Magic Flute*. A new production of Offenbach's *The Tales of Hoffmann* will star Alfredo Kraus opposite Susan Quittmeyer's Nicklausse (Placido Domingo will only sing in one performance) while a new production of Coundod's *Romeo Et Juliette* will be headed up by Luis Lima and Ruth Ann Swenson.

Verdi will be represented by revivals of *La Traviata* (starring Nelly Miricioiu and Alberto Cupido) and *Nabucco* (with Piero Cappucilli and Ghena Dimitrova). Rossini's *Il Barbiere Di Siviglia* stars Leo Nucci as Figaro; Tchaikovsky's *Pique Dame* features Wieslaw Ochman and the omnipresent Regine Crespin. Puccini's *Manon Lescaut* stars the inevitable Pilar Lorengar.

One of my more astute friends recently pointed out that, like Ronald Reagan, Terry McEwen has the uncanny ability — on a repeat basis — to dive into a pile of shit and come out smelling like a rose. Whether or not McEwen will do so again in 1987 has yet to be seen. But one thing is for certain. The coming year will be a critical one for the San Francisco Opera.

VIDEO

Look Again: Films We Should Not Forget

by David-Alex Nahmod

COMING OF AGE (1986)
 Directed by Marc Huestis

Huestis' *Coming of Age* has managed to overshadow most other documentaries that have been made about our community. *Coming of Age*, produced on video, consists of footage of last spring's 40th birthday celebration for one of our community's most respected artists, the late actor/director Chuck Solomon. Chuck died of AIDS only a few weeks ago, following his lover and a number of their close friends. His final years were covered by a cloud of tragedy, yet he refused

to allow his spirit to be broken by all that had happened to him. Chuck continued working and enjoying life as best he could until the very end.

Interspersed with the party footage are a series of interviews with Chuck's friends and co-workers in San Francisco's theater community. And Chuck talks, about his life and work, his family, his lover and brother and the disease that claimed them, and his philosophies. He also speaks of preparing for his own end, and of the love and support he has received from the community.

Coming of Age is the ultimate tribute to a fine human being,



Chuck Solomon with his mom in *Coming of Age* (Photo: M. Rheiner)

dience, *The Wicker Man* can at last be seen on home video (and occasional screenings at the Strand). Produced in Scotland in 1973, it is a strange and haunting film.

Upon its initial release, *The Wicker Man* was a bomb. Released as a horror film, which it is not, despite the presence of horror stars Christopher Lee and Ingrid Pitt in small roles, it confused critics and audiences alike. *The Wicker Man* is a mystery, an art film, a masterpiece.

Edward Woodward plays an uptight police sergeant who goes to an isolated, fog-bound island in Cornwall in search of a missing child. There he encounters a strange community which practices an ancient form of religion from the pre-Christian period. Their beliefs entail pagan sacrifice and nude dancing in the street. Gradually, the policeman uncovers an evil plot that brings the film to a shocking (and mildly amusing) conclusion.

'Coming of Age is the ultimate tribute to a fine human being.'

The Wicker Man is a slow but beautifully photographed and poetic film that will hold your attention as long as you accept it for what it is. (Do not expect a Christopher Lee Dracula movie.) It also boasts a lovely music score. Several songs written for the movie by Paul Giovanni are in the style of classical Scottish folk songs. "Gently, Johnny," as sung by Giovanni and danced by a nude Britt Eckland, is perhaps the most erotic musical number ever placed on film.

Coming of Age and *Shoah* are at Captain Video. *The Wicker Man* is at Superstar Video (18th and Noe), among other outlets.

Karr

(Continued from page 29)

die of AIDS, and is pursuing psychoimmunity, taking a course in miracles, and removing negative aspects of his life. It's paid off. He not only dreams of himself as healthy now, but is gaining strength, feels less pain, and is sure his lesions are diminishing in size.

"One of the things that's important in healing myself is becoming self-supportive. My goal is to get off disability payments, and produce four new cards in January. But I need support and help and love from the community."

Christopher first sold his card to people waiting in line at movies or walking through downtown. But they turned away, unable to face him. "I sat down and cried in Union Square," he said, "and then I came home to the Castro."

"Going to the people is a part of my healing. People look at me and I see their souls. Earlier, I had such fear. Now I am a mirror

of fear. Seventy percent of people ignore me because of fear, but the ones who stop put me in such a good mood. They're giving me acceptance. I'm finding a lot of love out there and I'm trying to radiate love."

Christopher's card radiates warmth with its festive photo. In it, the night lights of San Francisco glitter and the Golden Gate Bridge tower rises with dark strength while a prankish group of men and women in bathing suits surges up a Marin headland hill. Double-exposed, their shadowy arms ripple and wave and their multiple smiles wiggle. "I wanted jubilation and life," Christopher said of the photo, "and also to show some skin!"

Increased sales can pay back the costs of producing the card, and further sales can realize his goal. If you don't see him on Castro Street, you can buy the card at the Colorbox Gallery, 541 Hayes (11-6, Tuesday-Sat.), or by mail (PO Box 4049, SF 94101). They're \$1 each, come with a bright red envelope, and carry Christopher's love with them.

Lily Tomlin

(Continued from page 28)

That doesn't matter. Reality, as Trudy says, is "a collective hunch." Four more characters are introduced in the second half, where the themes and people weave together, as in the best mystery stories, proving the aliens' contention that "Everything's everything."

It's very '60s — oneness with the universe and all that — but much of Wagner/Tomlin's work deals with the giant spiritual evolutionary leap humankind took in the '60s and how individuals have progressed — or not — since.

That's illustrated in the major set piece of the second act, about three feminists who were "sisters" in the early '70s and where they've gone. Edie, the lesbian, ends up happiest, with a long-term relationship and a musicaly gifted "turkey baster child." Marge goes through alcoholism to a suicide that leaves you laughing and crying hysterically and leads to the evening's most surprising transformation. Lynn, after one lesbian affair, goes the suburban route, marrying a would-be "holistic capitalist" and having hyperactive twin boys, but ultimately pondering the dilemma, "It's hard to be politically conscious and upwardly mobile at the same time."

The individual characters may not be as sharply defined as when Tomlin is able to play one at a

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Tops and Bottoms of 1986

It wasn't a good year for great movies, but 1986 was a great year for good ones. Looking back over the viewing experiences that made my work a pleasure I found, beyond the clear top choice, the runners-up flowed freely. After filling a first and second ten I could easily have done a third and fourth without straining.

TOP TEN

- A Room with a View* (others alphabetical)
- Aliens*
- Blue Velvet*
- The Color of Money*
- Hannah and Her Sisters*
- Marlene*
- Mona Lisa*
- Parting Glances*
- Sid and Nancy*
- Stand by Me*

HONORABLE MENTION

- (alphabetical)
- An American Tail*
- Back to School*
- Ginger and Fred*
- A Great Wall*
- Letter to Brezhnev*
- Mother Teresa*
- My Beautiful Laundrette*
- Ruthless People*
- She's Got to Have It*
- Vagabond*

At the other end of the spectrum were plenty of 80- to 120-minute ordeals that made those commercials for schools of bartending and computers look more tempting. The Bottom Ten were sheer agony, while the runners-down had some redeeming characteristics — e.g., Grace Jones, a good musical score, gymnastics footage, an early enough release that I've forgotten how bad they were.

BOTTOM TEN

- (others alphabetical)
- The Boy in Blue*
- A Fine Mess*
- Hail, Mary*
- Haunted Honeycomb*

Highlander
Jake Speed
Nutcracker
Quicksilver
Solarbabies

DISHONORABLE MENTION

- (alphabetical)
- American Anthem*
- Big Trouble in Little China*
- La Cage aux Folles III*
- The Wedding*
- Firewalker*
- Legend*
- Link*
- 'night, Mother*
- Tai-Pan*
- Top Gun*
- Vamp*

BEST DIRECTOR

David Lynch, *Blue Velvet*

BEST ACTOR

Paul Newman, *The Color of Money*, followed by Gary Oldman, *Sid and Nancy*

BEST ACTRESS

Sigourney Weaver, *Aliens*, followed by Martha Henry, *Dancing in the Dark*

BEST SUPPORTING PERFORMANCES

(alphabetical)

Male: Steve Buscemi, *Parting Glances*; Dennis Hopper, *Blue Velvet*; Daniel Day Lewis, *My Beautiful Laundrette* and *A Room with a View*; Ray Liotta, *Something Wild*

Female: Tess Harper, *Crimes of the Heart*; Christine Lahti, *Just Between Friends*; Mary Elizabeth Mastrantonio, *The Color of Money*; Dianne Wiest, *Hannah and Her Sisters*

I usually don't explain my choices, but of the two films with significant gay content I want to tell you why I rated *Parting Glances* higher than *My Beautiful Laundrette*. I feel it's better to shoot for the moon and reach it than to aim for Venus and only get 90 percent of the way. *Glances* director Bill Sherwood was aware

of his limitations and worked within them, while Stephen Frears (*Laundrette*) was more ambitious, achieving more but also allowing more flaws to slip through. Both were proud additions to the body of gay lives on film.

Now back to our regular column.

DIVINE WHO?

Most of us have heard of "The Divine Sarah" Bernhardt but few of us have seen her. Pacific Film Archive gives you a chance to rectify that with a rare screening of her 1911 *La Dame aux camelias*. It's one of five short films made between 1903 and 1911 being shown Sunday, Jan. 4, at 7:30 p.m. to kick off PFA's 50th anniversary Homage to the Cinematheque Française.

Another PFA series, Recent Films from West Germany, features several that sound interesting from a gay perspective. Next Wednesday, Jan. 7, they'll show *The Desert of Love* by Lothar Lambert, whose *Paso Doble* was in our 1985 gay festival. Fassbinder associate Dieter Schidor has the gay role in this assemblage, which was thrown together after half of Lambert's original film was destroyed in the lab. Lambert turns up as a transvestite in the co-feature, Dagmar Beiersdorf's *The Wolf Girl*.

WINTER AT THE CASTRO

The only way to recognize seasons in San Francisco is by the Castro Theatre schedules. Winter '87 is underway, so it must be winter. Don't miss the Michael Powell tribute next Monday, Jan. 5. When I reviewed *Black Narcissus* at the last Mill Valley festival I said this vivid Technicolor epic about horny nuns who want to put the lay in Himalayas just had to be seen at the Castro. *Jungle Boy* Sabu becomes a man at the hands of superbly sluttish Jean Simmons as the drums drive everyone to a pre-disco frenzy.

BEDSIDE MANNA

If movies can't unite the people of the world, nothing can. Hot on the bicultural heels of *A Great Wall*, *Letter to Brezhnev*, and especially *My Beautiful Laundrette*, comes *Foreign Body*, a pleasant light comedy about an Indian (Victor Banerjee) who finds success in London by impersonating a doctor. He specializes in the imaginary ailments of wealthy women, and the money comes rolling in. He's not motivated by greed, however, but by a nobler, more spiritual calling — the desire to get laid.

It's refreshing to see an Indian actor in a role that would surely have gone to Peter Sellers in his lifetime. Banerjee is capable, though of course not Sellers' equal. The supporting cast ranges from excellent (Trevor Howard, Warren Mitchell, Eve Ferret, Denis Quilley) to extraordinary (Geraldine McEwan).

THE KING IS DEAD

The critic is back from seeing *King Kong Lives*, and he is not happy. With *Tai-Pan* and now this, Dino De Laurentiis serves notice on young upstarts Golan and Globus that no one can beat him when it comes to making big, awful movies.

There's a certain camp appeal in this sequel to the remake of ten years ago, and even a low-grade entertainment value, as when some later *Planet of the Apes* movies turned into sitcoms.

Great white hunter Brian Kerwin finds Lady Kong in Borneo just as Dr. Linda Hamilton needs blood to give the magically revived King along with an artificial heart. From then on we have parallel love stories, with the apes facing more problems than the humans, thanks to the U.S. Army trying to kill or separate them.

Kerwin is attractive but fails to live up to the acting promise he showed in *Murphy's Romance*. He may be the new Andrew Prine. (All together now: Andrew who?) Hamilton continues to have leading-lady potential which needs to be tested in a more demanding role. The rest are right out of Central Casting, in-

cluding the apes.

Okay, I'm such a sucker for romance I have to admit I found a couple of scenes touching; but objectively it's still a lousy movie. (area theaters)

AFRIKAAN YOU TOP THIS?

Place of Weeping is a crude, gritty look at life in South Africa. An exploited farm laborer asks for more food and is sent away with none, then beaten to death when he tries to steal a chicken to feed his family.

"Journalists aren't welcome here. They just cause trouble," the wimpy local priest tells story-seeking James Whyte, who looks something like Don Johnson but is less heroic. Cooperating with him is Winnie Mandela-like Gini Mhlope, who has been trying to get the widow to press charges against the farmer who killed her husband. Meanwhile a militant guerrilla faction prepares to administer its own justice.

By American production standards *Place of Weeping* is low-grade melodrama, but the timeliness and urgency of the situation gives it a powerful edge. (Kabuki 8)

WELL-DESERVED EXILE

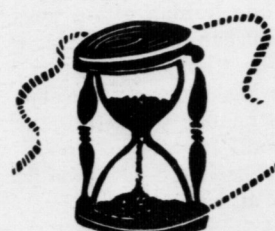
Tangos — The Exile of Gardel is worth watching for the dances and the Parisian scenery, but the remainder is heavy going. A group of Argentine exiles are trying to mount a show, a "tanguedia" ("tango-dy"), in Paris. There are countless, endless scenes where they talk about the old country and their loneliness and isolation. The audience is made to watch but not share their self-pity.

The music sounds sometimes like Kurt Weill's collaborations with Bertolt Brecht, other times like Michel Legrand circa *The Umbrellas of Cherbourg*. Three campy actresses have their all-too-brief moments: Marina Vlady, Ana Maria Picchio, and Marie Laforet as the Argentine mother, catching her 20-year-old daughter in the act, explodes. "Fucking at home! That's Europe for you!"

Fernando E. Solanas has won some of the art crowd over with *Tangos*, but I think most average moviegoers will share my disappointment. (Lumiere) ●

Gay and Lesbian Literature

This term (Jan. 14 through May 20) the Gay and Lesbian Literature course held at Community College of San Francisco will focus on contemporary fiction. The class meets every Wednesday from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. at the Castro/Valencia Center (Everett Middle School) on Church Street between 16th and 17th streets. Tuition is \$15 for three semester units, which can be taken pass/fail. Students can register the first night. The focus will be on novels, short stories, and autobiography. The format will be discussions and guest speakers, films, and talks. ●



BAY AREA REPORTER B. A. R. BAZAAR

Mr. Marcus

Thanks For The Memories

In a matter of hours, it will be all over but the shouting. You'll be nursing hangovers and thankful all the hoopla of the last two weeks is over at last. What better way to end the year except by celebrating the past 12 months? On the whole, this community took care of itself. Your generous outpourings with love, volunteering, and donations of every description kept many comfortable, safe, and hopeful for a better future, and I think it's safe to say this wonderful gay community of San Francisco will continue in the same way it always has.

Everyone's talking about celebrating New Year's Eve at the Giftcenter Pavilion where those wizards of entertainment Sanford Kellman, Bradley Wise, and Randy Schiller will help you glide into 1987 with a fabulous "So Many Men" disco party. A dazzling light show, fabulous sound, and the Homeric odyssey of Trojan Men will be your earliest recollections of 1987 in its infancy. The tickets are now at \$30 in advance or \$35 at the door, so don't miss an opportunity to see Trojan Man Eric Sutter make his entrance; thrill to the vocal renderings of Polydor recording artist Gwen Guthrie performing her current hit, "Ain't Nothin' Goin' On But The Rent." Music spinning by Michael Garrett and the Saint's Michael Fierman.

Over at Trocadero Transfer, they'll be hosting their 14th New Year's Eve Madness; all around the town, bars and people-people will be celebrating the end of '86 and the beginning of '87 — don't stay home alone. If you can't be with the one you love, love the one you find, the one you meet, the one who turns you on. Life's too short to remain in a blue funk. And caution! Please take advantage of the free cab fare program if you find yourself too tipsy to control your vehicle or bike. Don't be one of the first casualties of the year and by all means,



Martin Burke, Mr. Leather of New York 1986-87, will visit San Francisco soon

put your kickstand up on that bike!

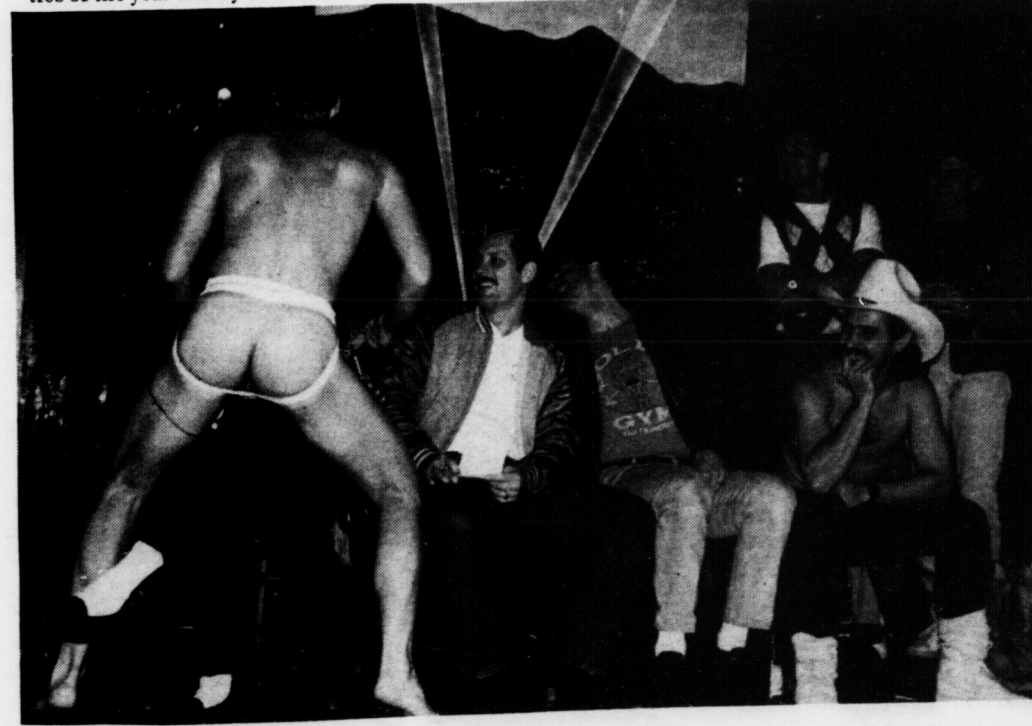
If disco partying is not your thing, the J/O Buddies party, "Black Tie, No Trou" starts at 2100 with the doors open until 2300. It's billed as an elegant, sleazy, p-pounding, cork popping celebration and it all takes place at 890 Folsom with a \$10 tariff and instructions on how to pound your way into the new year.

If you'd prefer a sensual tete-a-tete at home with your favorite dude, buy or rent LeSalon's latest release, *Man O Man*, a 90-minute romp in a gym with some of the hottest studs to play at playing

hard. From beginning to end, *Man O Man* is a non-stop pastiche of dudes doing their thang.

Next weekend should be subdued as you count up your credit card slips and figure out how the hell you're going to pay for all those gifts you bought. But leave time for socializing. January may be one of the dullest months of the year, but the ingenuity of entrepreneurs in this town won't let it happen. By the time you read this, you'll have only 24 hours left to place anyone you like into nomination at the SF-Eagle for the Golden Dildeaux Awards.

(Continued on next page)



An Endup Jock Strap contestant entertains the judges close up

(Photo: R. Pruzan)

STROKE IN THE NEW YEAR with Ernestine Tomlin at THE 1808 CLUB

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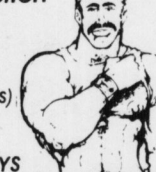
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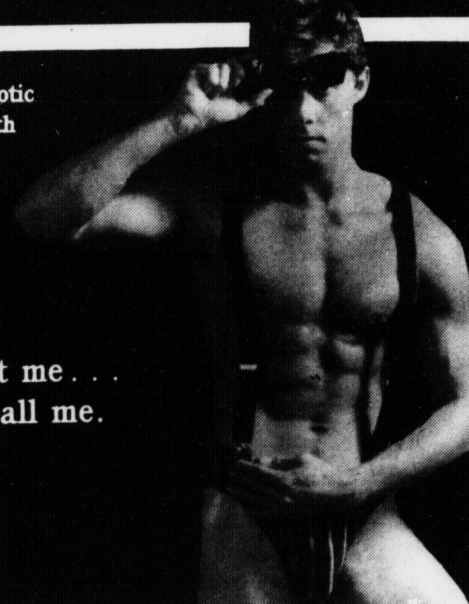


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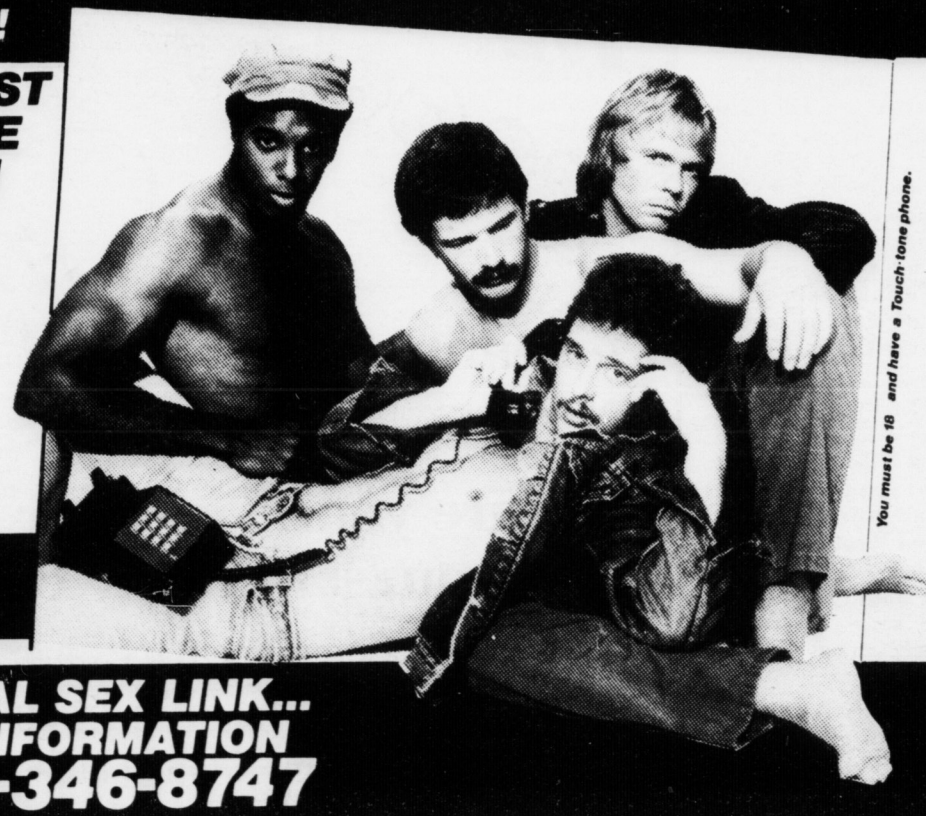
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MC Ginger St. John was lifted by last week's Endup Jock Strap contest winner while the two runners up undressed one another for the crowd. (Photo: R. Pruzan)

(Continued from previous page)

The event takes place Sunday, Jan. 25, at the SF-Eagle with Ms. Peckerhead and Leather Daddy '85 Tom Roller sharing the MC chores. The voting begins this weekend for \$1 a ballot — all proceeds to the SF AIDS Emergency Fund and the Hospice. Vote!

By the way, if you're home on New Year's watching the tube, check out our own Sylvester who will be a guest on Joan Rivers' show. Taped earlier that day, Syl will be in town New Year's Eve for all the festivities.

I'd like you all to meet the new Mr. Leather of New York in the first edition of B.A.R. for 1987. His name is Martin Burke and he won the title just a few short weeks ago in the Big Apple. The contest was a fundraiser for AIDS agencies in the Big Apple put on by Inter-chain.

Yes, Martin will be in San Francisco in 1987. Arrangements are being made at this very moment to bring him here for an AIDS benefit as well as a reception for him, so don't get nervous. Martin is 29, an Aries, and a native New Yorker. His interests include body building, classical and opera music, painting pictures, and trompe l'oeil. He has his own real estate business and he also does ornate carpentry. And guess what? He's single! Martin will be competing in Chicago in May for the Intl. Mr. Leather title, so you would-be aspirants should make a point of meeting the competition when he comes here. Being an Aries means Martin Burke is a free spirit and an innovator as well as a leader, so you'll have to go some to compete with the horns of a Ram. The entire leather community is looking forward to the West Coast debut of one of the Big Apple's outstanding exports. Hope you have a chance to see him and talk to him when he arrives — oh, don't worry, I'll let you know!

Speaking of leather, the Ms. International Leather contest will be held here at the Club DV8 in March, but before that, the Ms. Leather of San Francisco contest will take place on Saturday, Jan. 24, at the High Chaparral with the tickets going for \$7. The winner will represent our city in the Ms. Intl. Leather Contest later. Thursday, 15 Jan., they're having a talent show at the Endup to raise money for the event. At my deadline it was not yet confirmed whether Rita Rockett would co-MC with Christian Haren. These tickets are only \$3 at the door, so hope to see you there.

The Mr. May 1988 Buns con-

test will be on Thursday, 8 Jan., at the Endup too.

The Cycle Runners are having a Russian Christmas Beer Bust at the Transfer Sunday, 11 Jan., at the Transfer Bar, and the Cheaters M/C host the Presidents Convention Sat., Jan. 31, at the International Center (50 Oak St.) beginning at 2000 hours for \$8 in advance or \$10 at the door. There's more, but I'll save it for next week when you get your heads together after all the celebrating.

LAST DASH OF THE DISH

Was going to do New Year's resolutions of the great and near-great for 1987, but — b-o-o-o-r-i-n-g! Then I thought of predictions, but everybody does that, so why not stick with the dish? Yeah, I thought you'd agree!

Well, that certain "official" at CUAU still maintains I'm racist and after all, this is a free country, so let him live in the dark with his paranoia.

'Speaking of leather, the Ms. International Leather contest will be held here at the Club DV8 in March.'

If you're wondering whatever happened to Alan Lloyd, why he's simply living the life of a country gent in Austin, TX (Austin?) and hating every minute of it. Alan has, however, managed to turn on the Austin queens to Mercury Mail Order's huge array of dildoes and if I didn't know better, I'd call it Rubber City.

The would-be aspirants to the throne (emperor and empress) are getting active already. As a former emperor, I prefer to stay out of the race for emperor and I don't like being "told" to be at campaign strategy meetings and that one has already lost my vote. As for empress, it should be an interesting race between Tatiana and Tina Tanner. I don't know who else is running yet, but you know how those things go!

Herb Hebron's Xmas soiree last Sunday was well attended with a plethora of food and drink in his new digs. Herb's party was a combo house warming and Xmas celebration and not a plea for gifts as one wag miscalculated. Jerry Downing was there, moaning over the loss of a former lover who is content with his new squeeze. Jerry is too much!

My mother, the Widow Norton, is moving from the Valley of the Queens to the Valley of the

Sun (Phoenix) and will be sent off via balloon from the steps of City Hall next Saturday, Jan. 3, at noon. I'd love to know the story behind that!

Also, Janet Corey has not renewed her contract with the Galleon, and I wonder what they're going to do now without those two stars!

Former Leather Daddy's Boy Dean Gibson has deserted working the leather bars in L.A. and is now working both sides of the bar at the Spotlite. Tenderloin Queens know what the Spotlite in L.A. is like!

The Oedipus M/C of L.A. has elected Bent Rasmussen as its new Rex; coronation will be in that town sometime in Feb.

Butch Freeman is still living in L.A. — moving back someday soon — you know how L.A. is.

By the way, Suzy Parker is the only Empress in the US without an emperor! I think Bob Linsley of the Gauntlet II should have the title, but he's too busy running the hottest leather bar in town down there.

If you read Tables magazine, a culinary rag, you probably saw the big interview in its January '87 issue of Rita Rockett. God Bless our Rita — she deserves our admiration, respect, and support for her weekly brunches for the patients in AIDS wards. We love you, Rita! Thanks for a great year!

The GDI's, I think, have a new corresponding secretary who seems to be on the ball. Their new officers are: Prez Bill Ireton; VP Jim "Phyllis" Bleisner; Secretary Andy Black; Treasurer David Robinson; Road Captain John Valle (aka Empress Jonni). Congrats and best wishes for a successful year!

That's about it, boys and girls. Thanks for all your input, notes, press releases, bits o'dish, etc. It's been a great year, and I'm looking forward to more community spirit, generosity, support, and caring as you've done in the past. Be careful, but have fun New Year's and throughout 1987. And thanks. Thanks for all the memories. After all, this column is you — you're the stars!

And thanks for everything to Steve and David; Phil; James; George; Marvin; Tim; Terry; Stella; Matt; Danny; Richard; Ed; Sarah; Chuck; Nick; Jim Ed; Patrick; Christopher; you all know who you are.

And special thanks to Chuck and Richard of M.E.N. (Male Entertainment Network) for all those memorable moments in 1986 which you captured on video for all of us. Happy New Year!

Remy

Hauoli Makahiki Hou

Happy New Year! It seems just like yesterday that I was writing a column about the holiday season. How time flies when you're having fun or just busy and you let time pass by. Last year was filled both with joy and sadness. Many of us have been touched by the AIDS epidemic by having close friends or relations succumb to this evil disease. Primary among our victories was the defeat of the LaRouche-ites in their neo-Nazi referendum to place suspected people with AIDS and ARC in a "concentration camp" environment. Also, the 49ers are NFC West division champions and have a very good chance of going to the Super Bowl in Pasadena!

The holiday season always brings back memories of holidays past and great hopes of reliving or recreating those most dear to us. But what's always nice is that new memories can be made by creating happy atmospheres including new and old friends in our holiday celebrations. There are many of us who are extremely lonely at this time of year. Being away from home and family makes the holiday season the most difficult to get through for many. Some will try to drown their depression in overindulgence of alcohol/drugs or attempt suicide. I have to admit I yearn to be home in Hawaii and get depressed that I can't be there. But I have a family of friends who care for me and want to be sure I spend this holiday season with them. So, if you're contemplating a not-so-happy holiday season, think about the friends you have here and get in touch with them. Let them know how you feel and turn that not-so-happy feeling into one of joy.

We all have a lot to be thankful for during this time of year: our health, our lives and most of all, our friends. As you look back over this past year and reflect on the things you might have done differently, resolve to make sure you don't repeat them. This is when those New Year's resolutions come into play. When making those all-important resolutions, be realistic and make sure the goals are attainable. You're asking for failure by setting goals far beyond your capabilities. Don't get me wrong! Setting high ideals for goal attainment is great, but being overly optimistic can defeat the purpose you have set out to accomplish. Sometimes one must use a phased approach. Set benchmarks to segments of attainment towards your ultimate goal. Meeting those benchmarks might be more realistic and less complicated, not to mention less stressful on the psyche!

My wish for all of you is that your holiday season is enjoyable and that your new year brings you new friends and new hope. A special wish goes out to all of the members of the Warlocks, the gang at the Midnight Sun, and members of the Royal and Imperial Families, that whatever your wishes are for this season, may you all attain and exceed them.

IMPERIAL LINEUPS

In my last column, I discussed the upcoming races for Emperor and Empress and I had mentioned some of the potential candidates for both offices. I did indicate that there were others interested in running for these

offices and at that time did not know who the other contenders might be. Well, did I get an earful and some enlightenment. The other possible entrants for the race for Emperor are Michael Bowman, Patrick McGonigle, and Mark Friese, with Lily Street and Dixie going for the Empress' crown. Michael Bowman is a former Grand Duke of San Francisco and still is active in the community. Pat McGonigle has been active in the court system for numerous years and has served in various official capacities in political, social, and service organizations. Mark Friese is a fellow columnist (Friese Frame), a former Mr. Gay San Francisco, a former Tavern Guild officer and a member of the board of the Godfather Service Fund. Lily Street is extremely active in the S.F.G.D.I. Club, both Imperial and Royal courts, and a member of R&R Productions Board of Directors. Unfortunately, I personally do not know anything

about Dixie, but I'm sure this person has been involved with various community activities.

The tentative schedule for the application, review, introduction, and elections are: applications for office are available upon the payment of a \$100 fee. (Contact any member of the Board of Trustees for particulars.) The Public Review Board will be held Jan. 14 (where the public is allowed to "interview" potential candidates). The Introduction of Candidates will be held Jan. 17 and is the official "kick-off" for the campaign. The election is set for Feb. 14 at the San Franciscan Hotel (Carriage Entrance). The Coronation Ball will take place Feb. 21 at the Giftcenter. The exact times and places for the Review Board, Introduction of Candidates, and the election will be in a forthcoming column.

This should prove to be a most interesting campaign with the assortment of personalities in-

(Continued on page 39)



Sister Ed (l.), Ken McPherson, and 'Mona Rodgers' at Mobilization Against AIDS' Kiss '86 Goodbye party at the Endup (Photo: Rink)

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Remember to Love

I guess having to go through one's address book to put a year end column together is a pretty shabby excuse, but you will just have to either enjoy, suffer, or turn the page.

I am positive most of you have already made your plans for the Dec. 31 agenda, and some of your choices might include the Trocadero, with fab N.Y. DJ. Robbie Leslie playing "Midnight Madness" from 9 p.m. 'til dawn, with six going for \$15 advance or \$20 at the door. How about the S.K. production at the GiftCenter with "So Many Men" turning into Trojan Men while Gwen Guthrie goes off about "Ain't Nothin' Goin' On But The Rent" and the tickets for this one priced at \$30 advance or \$35 at the door?

What about your favorite neighborhood bar that will most likely be featuring a special celebration with party favors, flawless hats, champagne, and all the rest of the goodies for ending up the year? Of course the New Bell will be jumping with entertainment by David Kelsey and Kimos will be partying down, as will the rest of Polkstrasse.

Castro will of course be the usual mob scene, but what else is new. Don't let that keep you away from checking out your favorite Castro haunts. By all means check out the Elephant Walk for some exciting times, and while you are there you might just congratulate them on their donation of 100 percent of the receipts on Christmas day that totalled more than \$1,400 and was turned over to the S.F. AIDS Emergency Fund. You can also see if Piglet is at the Station, Boo Boo Kitty is at the Pendulum, or perhaps Bubbles is at the Special.

The Eagle, Powerhouse, Baybrick, and the Haight Street bars will all be geared up for a festive time, so you had better hurry for your barstool now, and while you are making your bar-

stool reservations you had better think about how you are going to get home once you have begun your libations. Remember that there are cabs in the city and also the fact that Mayor Dianne Feinstein has the Care Cab program that will get you a free ride home, within city limits, by calling them at 666-7404, from any bar or restaurant.

As I have never been the type to be a scolding mother, I will wish you all a safe and Happy New Year with the hopes that we will all usher in many more!

Here we go with the address book, which is starting at me from the desk, with the hopes you might enjoy some tea on a few. Boy Wonder and A. B. Tucker are now occupying a flawless Pacific Heights flat, and the biz is good with the kiddie shoes. Bette Bonko is still carrying a torch for Paul Ruehl, who by the way will be hosting an auction for Dick Petroff this Sunday at Gilmore's starting at 2 p.m. The Bumps family is still bumping along in their Lake Merced digs, and have yet to give me my date of arrival. Boo, Roy, Teddy, and Timmy are all doing well in their Church Street and Russian River homes, and Roy is recovering nicely after his recent heart surgery. A nice Christmas card from Lucy saying he is well and so is Portland. Empress Connie is still working in the East Bay, and still showing the girls how it's done! Jim Cvitanich is still saying there will be no "Men Behind Bars" this year, but was recently spotted at the Health Clinic discussing scenarios with Randy Johnson.

Bob Cramer celebrated his 50th birthday, and he doesn't look it, last Sunday at the Galleon with the proceeds going to the S.F. AIDS Emergency Fund, and the who's who of the city were in attendance. Carrot Top did not get attitude this year, but instead switched to Egg Nog instead of the Tavern Guild Russian River

vino. A Christmas card arrives from Diamond John wishing me the best, and even more, if I can find him a job. Wayne Friday's birthday party at the Comstock Club was indeed a big money maker for the Coming Home Hospice and the S.F. AIDS Emergency Fund, with an array of celebs to toast Wayne's 50th. Bob Golovich was in attendance at several Polk Street fundraisers and very generously upped the proceeds in the fight against LaRouche and many AIDS charities. Mr. Marcus is still turning out his stylish and witty column, and has also taken over the Buns contest at the Endup, where some of his contestants weren't so hot, but thought they were crossed.

La Kish is now an honest-to-goodness Grand Duchess, ala Sacramento, and will next tackle the world. Bob Lynch, former editor of the Voice, is now a married person out on the avenues with his charming other half. Mama Billy and Marty Moon are still roomies and Mama has been on a diet and looks stunning! John and Louise Molinari are constantly making the rounds, always with good receptions for their talented and caring endeavors. Camille has been out and about, always giving D. Warwicke a run for her money. Pauline has been performing at Teddy Bears and not at the newspaper stands. Parkay has been making the rounds with the lovely Larrise at his side. The Widow Norton will be hitting the road for Phoenix at the first of the year. Beau and Randy are doing swell, even though they lost Napoleon. There are quite a few new Balloon Girls joining the ranks. Allen White was seen Gliding through Thanksgiving and Christmas. Danny Williams is crazy; what else is new!

Another day, week, month, and year! What an accomplishment! Some of us made it, while some didn't. Give yourself a hug, remember the friends we have lost, and remember to love.



Ginger St. John remarks on this stocking stuffer in a spontaneous entertainment at the Endup last week (Photo: R. Pruzan)

Night of a Thousand Gowns

The Imperial Court System of North America will be honored at Night of a Thousand Gowns, 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 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 among 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 will serve 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 Gowns. To receive a formal invitation and necessary information on hotels, air fare, limosines, etc., please write to Night of a Thousand Gowns, 106 1/4 Lexington Ave., NY, NY 10016. Impersonators should make a note on their request to receive a special communication.

The preceding press release appeared in the Bay Area Reporter previously containing a typographical error which made it appear as if the title of the event was Night of a Thousand Clowns. B.A.R. regrets the error.

Patty Duke to Appear At AGLA Media Awards Show

Chris Uszler, executive director of the Alliance for Gay and Lesbian Artists in the Entertainment Industry, has announced that Screen Actors Guild President Patty Duke will be a presenter at the Sixth Annual Media Awards Show in March.

Duke addressed a general membership meeting of AGLA last January, marking the beginning of a relationship between SAC and AGLA focusing on discrimination based on sexual orientation and its effects on the hiring and firing of gay and lesbian actors.

The Sixth Annual AGLA Media Awards Show will be held March 21 at the Wilshire Ebell Theatre. Ticket prices will be \$100, \$75, \$50, and \$25. For ticket information call (213) 871-8088.

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Best Quips and Quotes of 1986

Best remark about role playing from William Hurt: "I don't see him as being a homosexual as much as about 10,000 other things higher up on the list, like a human being."

Best description of William Hurt from Sigourney Weaver: "He's an asshole, but a lovable one. Occasionally of his own free will he'll decide to be an asshole and then go ahead with it no holds barred."

Most Fran Liebowitz attitude on panhandling from Jon Carroll: "No one likes to be asked for money, particularly when the request comes from a stranger with, at best, only a fragmentary understanding of the works of T.S. Eliot."

Most outdated remark from Boyd McDonald: "I like love to last as long as it does in the movies, which is about 90 minutes, or two hours if you count the commercials."

Best midlife crisis approach from Carol Burnett: "Middle age is ten years older than I am."

Best buddy insight of the year from Kirk Douglas: "Burt Lancaster and I should have been married. When we're together, one and one make three."

Anti feminist attitude from Kellye Cash, Miss America: "I am a conservative Christian, have high moral standards, do not like controversy, and wish reporters would stop asking about such issues as the Equal Rights Amendment and abortion."

Best anonymous description of C.R.I.R. (Concerned Republicans for Individual Rights): "A hotbed of social rest."

Surprised journalist's comment from William L. Shirer: "I described one Nazi as a notorious homosexual and murderer, and he sued me because I called him a homosexual."

Best one-night-stand philosophy from Elaine Boosler: "Men don't eat candy in the morning like I do. They want things like buttered toast. I don't have recipes like that."

Worst propaganda about AIDS from Prava: "U.S. Government engineered by biological warfare and spread worldwide by servicemen who were guinea pigs."

Anti substance abuse remark of the year from Bette Midler: "I knew I had to get off drugs. I was beginning to understand what Charo was saying."

Political insight from Ron Reagan, Jr.: "He and Mom have friends who are gay. I mean, they're show people. They're always liked dance..."

Presidential insight from Ronald Reagan when asked about the place of gays in government: "Er, well, I guess they could work in the Dept. of Parks and Recreation."

Best Tallulah-in-church quote from female impersonator Sandy Van: "Father, I love your drag but I think your purse is on fire."

Best Katharine Hepburn quote, also from Sandy Van: "My career at I. Magnin's was as short as Bank of America's profit statement."

Most confused gay activist of the year: "Something should be done about Golden Gate Fields Racetrack. They had the nerve

to advertise something called Breeders' Day."

Most typical Gore Vidal remark: "The human brain is the only computer that can be manufactured cheaply by unskilled labor."

Best *Dynasty* attitude from the Chronicle's Pat Steger: "Blake has a lot more class than Alexis; he does not wear diamonds in the daytime. He also does not wear false eyelashes in the daytime as does Alexis and their sons. Sometimes I think that Alexis' eyelashes will clamp together like iron gates and she'll never see again."

Best response to the Pope's homophobia: "What a lot of bullshit from someone who runs around in outrageous gowns, calls himself Divine, and won't have anything to do with women."

Best memo on a radio station bulletin board: "When discussing Uranus on the air, be sure to put the accent on the first syllable, or it'll be your ass."

Mathematician of the year, Rita Rudner: "I'm not 30. I'm twenty-ten."

Best comment on the recently deceased Roy Cohn plus Senator Joe McCarthy and G. David Schine from Johnny Carson: "Those three had to be Bonnie, Bonnie, and Clyde. But I don't know which one was Clyde."

Headline and caption with picture of the year from the New York Post: "Madame Moammar Now A Drag Queen. Dressed in drag Kadafy would look like this."

California blues from columnist Alice Kahn: "People say it's OK to be old, fat, and ugly as long as you feel good about yourself. Feeling bad about yourself is a capital offense in California. Why can't I live someplace like New Jersey where you're not expected to have a good day?"

Gay sensibility of the year from Herb Caen by way of Tom Ammi-ano: "Gay activist Cleve Jones celebrates his birthday tonight at Cafe Flore on Market with all the homosexual relics — Armistead Maupin, Holly Near, Harry Britt, Sylvester... and other immortals. Cleve is 32 — in gay years, 107."

TV sitcom lines from *The Golden Girls* by Estelle Getty: "If one of my kids was gay, I wouldn't love her any less." And, "I'd rather live with a lesbian than a cat — unless the lesbian sheds."

Most quotable of the year — Lily Tomlin and Jane Wagner in the *Search for Signs of Intelligent Life in the Universe*: "Kissing called power the ultimate aphrodisiac — Vietnam showed what it took for him to get it up." And, "I always wanted to be somebody else, but I guess I should have been more specific." And, "Quality control — what does it mean? If you don't stop it, it will get out of hand?" And, "It's hard to be politically conscious and upwardly mobile at the same time." And, "Can you imagine a Nobel Spem Bank? I worry about all those intellectuals sitting around in a circle jerking off."

Anatomy lesson of the year from Joan Baez: "Yes, I've been with both men and women. There's no basic difference except for the plumbing. If you haven't tried it, don't knock it."

(Continued from page 35)

Remy

Involved! With such a variety of contenders, the races for both of these offices can only be exciting. In off-the-cuff discussions with some of the potential candidates, they have planned some innovative campaign strategies. It will be the candidate(s) who best achieves public exposure who will be successful at the polls. Results of the elections will again not be known until Coronation Night. So, we will have to wait to find out who really submits an application and is accepted. Then the battle lines can be drawn and it's

they were arriving all evening long to show support for this most-important charity event. My congratulations to M.A.A. for putting together another fun and successful event.

There are many community businesses that are donating a portion of their business receipts to various AIDS charities and should be thanked for their generosity and commitment to helping raise money to battle the AIDS epidemic.

I'm sure there have been many other holiday fundraisers, such as concerts, beer busts, dances, and parties. All of the organizers and supporters for these events are to be commended and congratulated

this a fun-filled evening, Warren Cave directed the show and as always he outdid himself and could very well be a rival to Beach Blanket Babylon's hat designer. The hats used for the finale were spectacular and could very well have been used in the most elaborate of Broadway productions.

Many of the show numbers were very innovative and some of them brought down the house! The support shown for this event was overwhelming, and we congratulate the organizers and participants for a job well done. I'm looking forward to next year's event.

DO DA DE

Belated congratulations to Bill Chapman who won the Mr. Liberty contest sponsored by the Presidents of the Forum Clubs. He was one of five candidates and having raised the most money (via raffle tickets), won this auspicious title.

Where, oh where, could our dear Jacqueline (aka Jungle Red) be? I've missed her so! Rumor has it she's on pins and needles until the Barbary Coasters Awards. By the way, the Barbary Coasters Awards are set for Feb. 28 at the Showfolks of America Hall. Tickets are \$10 in advance, \$12 at the door. Doors open at 6 p.m. with the awards ceremonies at 8 p.m.

The Cable Car Awards are also scheduled for Feb. 28 at the Gift-center. More information will be forthcoming.

My thanks to all of the committee members who trekked around town to judge Christmas decorations for the Cable Car Awards' Holiday Promotion category. All of the bar decorations were very imaginative. I have never seen such an overall good effort in my three years on the nominating committee.

That's it for now and have a very happy New Year (Hauloi Makahiki Hou)! May you be prosperous. Aloha!



The Homecoming Queen finale at the Folsom Follies. (Photo: Rink)

off to the races!

HOLIDAY FUNDRAISERS

The Mobilization Against AIDS' Kiss '86 Goodbye party at the Endup Dec. 17 was a huge success, according to Paul Boneberg. Leola Giles and Helen Schumacher were fantastic in the entertainment segment and rocked the rafters of the Endup as the crowd cheered on. Since many of the local luminaries had also committed themselves to be in attendance at other events,

ed for their untiring efforts. My hat is off to all of you! We all benefit from your efforts.

FOLSOM FOLLIES SUCCESS!

The Inter-Club Fund's Folsom Follies, held Dec. 13, was a huge success as approximately 300 attendees filled the California Club to capacity. All of the motorcycle clubs and independents that belong to the ICF lent their talents in various capacities to making

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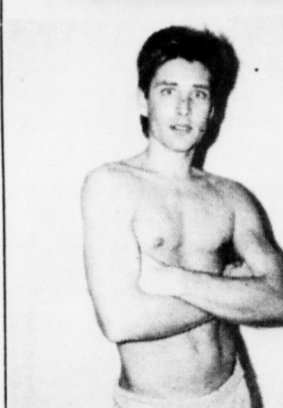
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Complete erotic & sensual
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Masseur, straight appearance. Professional,
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BAY AREA REPORTER SPORTS & FITNESS

Martin Orlando

White Wine, a Rose, And a Fighting Man

by Paul Trefzger

Martin Orlando is a familiar face around town to almost anyone involved in athletics. I first met him while covering wrestling for the first Gay Games. At that time he was also playing tennis regularly and was as usual a staple on one of the softball teams, be it the Gay Softball League, the Community Softball League, or both. He has played for the Tenderloin Tigers, two years for Gilmore's, two for Brand X, and now he's playing his third year for the Kokpit. In Gay Games I wrestling, he won the bronze medal. He took part in Gay Games II wrestling.

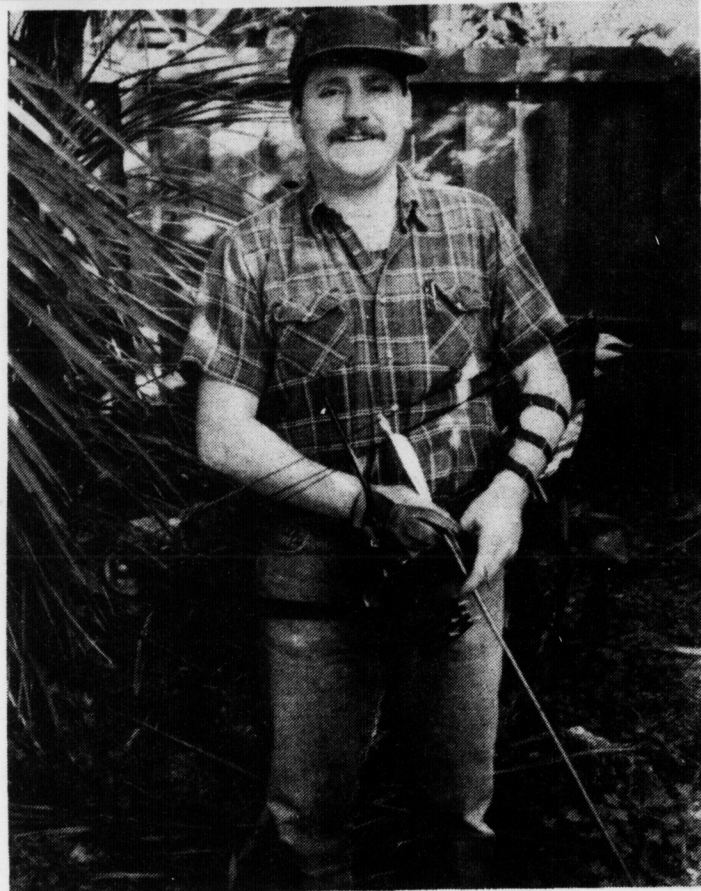
Currently, his passion is archery. It started with his reading on the subject a year and a half ago. Before long, he bought a bow.

"I felt like having a sport that involves accuracy, but also one that for me would be a release—a source for getting rid of tension," Orlando said. "It's better than biting somebody."

I asked him if he could remember having an early interest in the sport. He told me about a hunting trip when he was "17 or 18 and I went with my father, my uncle, and a couple of priests. And anyway, it interested me. But archery for relaxation is a real pleasant feeling. Shooting at the target is something like making decisions, business or otherwise, dur-

ing the day. You take each arrow—there are 14 to a mount, and you get seven tries—and it's like selecting a problem. If you concentrate you hit the bulls-eye. If you don't, you may overshoot the whole target." He also compared the concentration required with each arrow with the concentration a football or basketball player must use to overcome the person in front of him in the effort to win the game. "Hitting a bulls-eye at 50 yards," he said, "is a nice feeling."

Orlando was born 30 years ago in Alexandria, Italy.



Martin Orlando

(Photo: Rink)

"I was adopted" he said, "and raised in Newcastle, Pennsylvania, population 15,000." He played football in grammar, high school, and his first two years of college, which was at Youngstown State University. Lineman

Boy (Donofrio)," his Kokpit teammate.

Orlando got philosophical as to why he moved to the West Coast.

"Moving to San Francisco had nothing to do with the gay life," he said. "East Coast parents want their children to do what they want them to do, if it's to settle down and get a job in a steel mill or to raise eight or nine kids. Out here, you're encouraged to expand your mind, your interests, read, listen to music, explore your boundaries. You can tell a difference. I came to San Francisco in August of '73."

He's played softball in San Francisco for the last eight years, since the CSL "brought me out." He played three years for the CSL, three for the GSL, and two for both leagues. He describes his position as "multi." "Usually I play the field or designated hitter. Last year we made it to the playoffs, thanks to the Vagabond team for winning a crucial game over Hamburger Mary's. But then we lost to the Village in two close games."

People who don't recognize Orlando from sports may have seen him working either in Cliff's or Cole's Hardware stores. I asked if he likes anything besides sports. He smiled and said, "Yes. White wine, a rose, and a fighting man."

and runningback were his positions. He also played fast pitch hardball during the same years. He was a left fielder, catcher, and played third base. He told me he was good, but that, "I didn't have a good teacher like John

TRACK & FIELD

Runner's Weekend Scheduled

by Rick Thoman

The San Francisco Track & Field Club and the San Francisco FrontRunners are jointly producing an unequalled weekend of running in 1987 for the gay community.

The second weekend in July will be the date of the "running festival," as planners Bernard Turner and Bob Puerzer are referring to it. The SF Track Club will be holding its annual track meet on Saturday, July 11, and the FrontRunners will be presenting Gay Run '87 on Sunday the 12th.

According to Turner, the 1987 SF Track Festival will feature more relay events and less open or individual races. Although there will be a diversified program, the emphasis is on "team events" in hopes of rekindling the team spirit that made Gay Games track & field competition so memorable.

"In addition to the regular 4x100 and 4x400 relays, we plan to have the 4x1-mile event for the distance runners, a sprint medley (400 meters, 200m, and 800m) and a distance medley (400m, 800m, 1500m)," said Turner. "We found from Gay Games that the relays provide the most excitement and we want our 1987 meet to be the best it's ever been. We've had a lot of interest

from the teams that participated in the Games last year to continue competing between now and the Vancouver Games in 1990, so we hope that many of those teams, like New York, San Diego, and Los Angeles, will be back to run at this meet."

The Track Festival will once again take place at McAtear High School in the Twin Peaks area of San Francisco. In addition to the relays, hurdle races, sprints, and field events are also on the agenda. Competition will be run in age groups for both men and women, and awards will be presented to the top competitors.

The Gay Run '87 event, scheduled to take place at the Polo Fields in Golden Gate Park the day following the track meet, will be the culmination of a full month of Gay Run activities taking place during the month of June. For the first time ever, the San Francisco FrontRunners will be sponsoring a 30-day running program set up to benefit various AIDS agencies in the Bay Area. Similar in nature to the Different Spokes bicycle ride for AIDS, the FrontRunners' Gay Run program will collect pledges for every mile a participant runs, with the money going to the AIDS agency of the runner's choice.

As organizer Puerzer explained, each time a registered participant runs during the month of

June, the mileage is recorded in an official runner's log supplied by the FrontRunners. Total mileage for the month equates to an established amount of money based on the pledges per mile each runner has secured. The July 12 event will not only include the traditional 5-and-10-kilometer Gay Run races (back on its regular course after last year's "less than sensational" new version) but also a celebration for the June pledge runners. Certificates and medals will be presented to those participating based on the amount of money raised.

Both Puerzer and Turner hope the combined efforts of the running clubs will attract more attention and greater participation to the events.

"We're not only trying to raise more money for AIDS, but we're trying to get the gay community involved in a healthy, self-fulfilling past-time that will become part of their lifestyle for better living," said Turner. "If the response to the Gay Games was genuine, we should see a good turn-out for both events."

For more information regarding either event, contact 558-8282 or 673-7303, or write to FrontRunners, 1550 California St., Suite 6L200, San Francisco, CA 94109.

BOWLING

Lloyd Franklin: Bowling Personified

by Jerry R. De Young

Not long after he was born on Dec. 10, 1910, Lloyd began his long, affable affiliation with the exciting sport of bowling. He bowled solo on the Chicago lanes for 18 years. One fine day, he suddenly discovered, along with several other of life's more discreet pleasures, the joys of league participation.

Shortly thereafter, Lloyd found himself mesmerized by an overwhelming compulsion to respond to a demanding psychic impulse emanating from the legendary city of San Francisco. Within weeks, he had been irresistibly drawn to the city's bosom, where he promptly resumed his bowling activities at the Fillmore Dome, formerly located on the corner of Eddy and Fillmore streets. Lloyd also participated in organized bowling at the Old Chimes Bowl, once located in Oakland at 7th Street. Over the years, he has accumulated a record of achievements on the lanes that might elicit a gasp of astonishment even from a professional. For examples: five 279s (invariably 8 or 10-pin spoolers); two triplicates (222s and 168s); and other trophies/medals too numerous to recount here.

Since Park Bowl's opening in 1946, Lloyd has been a constant league bowler. Over the same time-span, he also served on the board of directors of the San Francisco Bowling Association, and later as an SFBA line officer. Finally, he topped off an already brilliant administrative career by accepting the SFBA presidency for the 64-65 season. Lloyd's tenure in this prestigious office was crowned by the presence of the first and only State Bowling Tournament to be held in San Francisco.

In addition to having the personal satisfaction of knowing he has served the San Francisco

bowling community over the years in an exemplary fashion, Lloyd also has been awarded the distinguished honor of lifetime membership in the ABC/SFBA organization.

'Lloyd continues to be a moving force in league bowling.'

During his numerous years of experience, both on the lanes and in the boardrooms, Lloyd has seen many changes in the organization and execution of the sport of bowling, and has even influenced the enactment of a few. He has seen the occasionally temperamental daredevils who set pins in order to pay their way through college replaced by cold, pragmatic automatons; he has witnessed the scorekeeping responsibilities evolve from rudimentary pencil and paper into computer controlled, multi-colored screens above the lanes; he has experienced the triumphs and failures of both sides of the manual/automatic spectrum; he is among the dwindling few who still know the worth of both systems.

Although his days as an active member of the SFBA have come to an end, Lloyd continues to be a moving force in league bowling. He presently is a Hunk on the TGWBL league and carries a very respectable high 140s average.

If, perchance, you should feel an impulse to say "hi" to a bowler's bowler, Lloyd is the Hunk with the indefatigable smile.

The Prostitutes' Struggle

COYOTE and the New College School of Law are co-sponsoring an evening with Margo St. James, Priscilla Alexander, Gloria Lockett, and Gail Pletcher titled 'The Prostitutes' Struggle: The United States and Europe Friday, Jan. 9, at 7:30 p.m. in Room 213, 50 Fell St.

Margo St. James, founder of COYOTE, is currently the president of the International Committee for Prostitutes Rights based in Amsterdam. Priscilla Alexander and Gloria Lockett are

co-directors of the San Francisco chapter of COYOTE. Gail Pletcher is a founding member of The Pink Thread, a feminist alliance group of prostitutes, ex-prostitutes, and non-prostitute allies, also based in Amsterdam.

Included in the discussion will be a report on the Second World Whores Congress, held in Brus-

sels last October, the increased harassment of prostitutes in San Francisco including a new entrapment law adopted unanimously by last year's California legislature, and an update on AIDS as it relates to prostitutes and heterosexual women.

Call 552-1849 for more information.

SOFTBALL

I Predict in 1987 . . .

by Tom Vindeed

Della will don her leather outfit and down a few cocktails while out and about in this fair city.

Francis will fall in love several times but never get married.

Cheryl Rosenthal and her magic camera will be offered a job by Francis Ford Coppola but will spurn the offer to work with Rink.

Commissioner Rick Brattin will date but will remain married at least until October.

Art Jackson will find a new sponsor at the Metro and become very fond of Chinese food.

Bill Pielock will receive a clean bill of health from his doctor. A nose doctor will not concur.

Randy Balch will show his true color - of hair.

Hector Romo will be convinced that his bar is not the Winchester Mystery House and will install a real floor in the upper deck.

John Molinari will be elected mayor in a landslide vote.

Allen White will have to pay to get into an event.

Bob Ross will be seen at an auction or as an MC at the Cable Car Awards.

Linda Pancost will marry Chuck Smith and their children will have red hair with bangs.

Jim Schneck will be seen closing the Pilsner Inn. He will leave alone.

Bob Smith will play for a team that promises him a trip to the Orient.

Bob Docca will plan a trip to

Manchester, West Germany, and New York.

Donna Jane Fonda will live with a gay man and wear his clothes.

Gay Softball League managers/coaches will keep their teams straight by having gay players only. So far this does not apply to the women.

'Donna Jane Fonda will live with a gay man and wear his clothes.'

Becky will date a man less than 50 years old.

Jerry Pepper will be the next GSL commissioner.

Art White and David will talk to each other while working at Twin Peaks.

Manny Simmons will say no to the Pendulum and become the opening act for Pia Zadora.

Tom Ammiano will be elected to the KQED board of directors. Nez Pas will tell us what his name means.

A benefit will be held for Jose as he returns from Arizona after six months.

Dianne Gregory will buy me a typewriter.

Finally, a healthy and happy New Year to all.

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FOOTBALL PLAYERS • TRUCK DRIVERS • FIREMEN • CONSTRUCTION MEN

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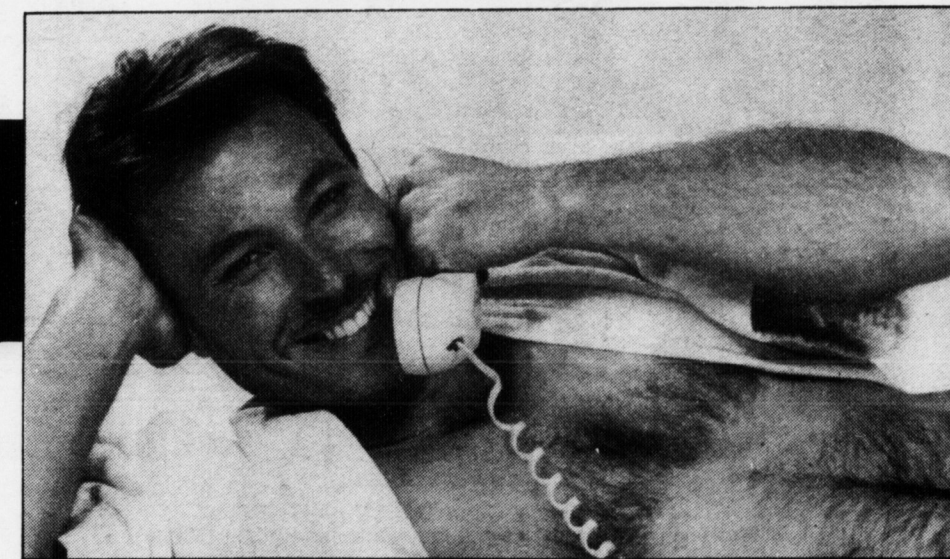
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To Russia With FOG

They'll Never Forget It, and They'll Never Return

Russia — a country in which what cannot possibly happen — happens.

—Peter the Great

by Bob Woolhouse

The first Russian men we met appeared to be gay. It was on board the Soviet cruise ship *Ilyich* sailing across the Baltic from Stockholm to Leningrad. The men were waiters who doubled as entertainers in the nightclub floor show.

There was energetic Sasha, the M.C., who resembled Joel Grey in *Cabaret*. There was fey Yevgeny, a lyric tenor fond of sentimental love ballads. And there was handsome, hunky Vasily, the best dancer in the line-up.

We spotted them immediately; whether they spotted us remained unknown, like so much in the Soviet Union. Not a word was spoken by the trio, not a glance directed our way. Gay shipboard romances apparently aren't a part of Russian nautical tradition. Out of the closet isn't either.

This scoreless first inning did not set the pattern for the rest of the game, however. Contact, communication, and conquest became easier as we saw how gay life operates in the U.S.S.R.

Our group consisted of 16 Bay Area men touring Scandinavia and the Soviet Union through the Fraternal Order of Gays. Our leader was the Russian-speaking Nick Sempeti, High Commisar of F.O.G. Possibly we were the first acknowledged, obviously gay group to enter the communist

world. The state-run travel bureau, Intourist, elected to designate us officially as "San Francisco Executives."

Arriving in Leningrad, we encountered very little communist hassle but lots of capitalistic hustle. Customs inspectors asked perfunctory questions and glanced through our reading material, allowing everything to pass, including the latest issue of the right-oriented *Time* magazine.

THE HUSTLE

Creeping capitalism, however, cropped up wherever we went. Outside of the Pulkovskaya, our Intourist hotel, or anywhere in the streets, men approached us wanting to change money at a rate three times better than the official one. In front of the Intourist guide-keeper, they wanted to sell Russian Army overcoats or communist red flags with the gold hammer and sickle emblem. A few other young men seemed interested in peddling more personal services.

Then there were the entrepreneurs who tried to buy the clothes off our backs. Once you saw the quality of virtually all Russian-made garments or products, you understood why. Our leader received offers for his ski parka, Levis, boots, and Russian-



The FOG Group with Intourist guide Svetlana

style mink hat, which he had just bought in Helsinki, all within five minutes standing by the hotel lobby. To his credit, Nicholai did manage to keep his clothes on this time. It was cold out there.

Currency in the Soviet Union is like sex throughout the world: everyone wants the hard stuff, nobody the soft. Hard currency includes that of the United States and Western Europe, among others. Soft money is that of the communist world and some underdeveloped nations. Actually, the Ruble is rubble.

Aside from being grounds for a trip to the slammer, black marketeering is not all that profitable to Americans. Hustlers pay only in Rubles, which foreigners have trouble spending. Intourist hotels, bars, restaurants, and

city, the country, and the Eastern world. This, the second most important political-military entity on earth, looked utterly spectacular.

Dominating the Square is St. Basil's Cathedral, something right out of Arabian Nights. It sprouts nine gigantic domed towers, each different from the other, in the forms of onions, bulbs, and pineapples painted in rainbow colors with serrated or twisted spirals.

Nearby is the incredible Lenin Mausoleum, a massive truncated pyramid of great blocks of red granite. After getting past Red Army guards with their clenched fists and bayoneted rifles, we proceeded down into a dark crypt. More guards, their eyes glaring in the gloom, prodded viewers into line, poked them to take their hands out of their pockets, and scrutinized them for any sign of cameras, weapons, or "dissident movements."

There, bathed in eerie pink light, lay the body of an Oriental-looking Vladimir Ilyich Lenin, father of the Bolshevik revolution, who died in 1924. Supposedly he is preserved by chemicals constantly pumped through the corpse from inside of the altar on which he lies. Both threatening and ludicrous, it made me think of a vignette from the wax works museum, surrounded by snarling tigers.

But it is the Kremlin, or fortress, that overpowers all else. Surrounded by brick walls of medieval design, with bell towers and turrets and bridges to the city beyond, it includes parks, esplanades, several historical churches, grandiose monuments, the Palace of the Congresses (magnificent new home of the Bolshoi), and graceful government buildings of Russian Renaissance design. Illuminated by night, the Kremlin is nothing short of dazzling and brilliant, rather than dark and foreboding, as long as you accept the scene at face value.

Nearby all the glittering facades is a massive, darkened building that does not appear on any maps. No innocuous, manipulated guided tours approach this unidentified structure. It is the headquarters of K.G.B., the Russian secret police.

We laughed about the super secret spy agency, especially since we had entered the country

(Continued on next page)

Russia

shortly after the Daniloff case. Would we be spooked? Our hotel rooms bugged? Our steps dogged when we wandered away from the prescribed routes? What about the *Culag Archipelago*? This kind of idle speculation is referred to by sardonic Russians as the Salt Mine Factor.

It was later apparent that some of the group members were bugged more by the Russian toilet paper than the Russian secret police. Meanwhile, our money changing, public cruising, and hotel room escapades went unnoticed, at least by the K.G.B. Still, it was acknowledged that all phone calls were monitored, all mail, including post cards, censored.

'Just beyond the Kremlin walls and not far from the KGB is Bolshoi Square, the premier gay cruising ground of the USSR.'

Just beyond the Kremlin walls and not far from the K.G.B. is Bolshoi Square, the premier gay cruising ground of the U.S.S.R. There, in full view of Moscow police, gay men ambled around, waited on park benches, and met fellow comrades and foreign tourists. Because there was no overt action, the discreet cruising could continue unabated. In Russia, if there is no scandal, it doesn't exist.

THE GAY CAFE

On the other hand, a Russian gay bar is almost a contradiction in terms. A comrade from the park took us to a cafe, where we waited outside in line (the Russian national pastime) until seating became available. Dreary and shabby, the room contained a service bar and a dozen tables grouped together in one area. The other part of the room remained vacant and unused as if reserved for disco dancing that would never take place.

There was no table hopping or standing at the bar, much less following someone to the men's room. It was a place for furtive glances and little else — not so much a gay bar as a closet that served drinks.

The next cafe, supposedly the big gay one in Moscow, was dark and empty. After we banged on the door several times, someone appeared and said the place would not open that night for lack of business. Meanwhile, potential customers piled up behind us, also hoping to get in, but it made no difference as the door banged shut and locked. Thus ended our festive tour of Moscow gay bars.

For Soviet gays, it is difficult to find a place to get together. Unmarried people, singly or in pairs, do not qualify for an apartment in this overcrowded capital of 8 million. They live with their parents until married (the final solution) unless they are part of the cultural elite. Sometimes the bushes of Gorki Park are the answer, at least for a start.

Meeting gay Westerners can be a grand escapade: a private hotel room, a few drinks of vodka, and perhaps a gift of clothing at the end of the brief encounter.

GETTING IN

At the entrance to Intourist hotels, doorman-bouncers scrutinized everyone. They barred unauthorized Russians and people who did not have room registration cards. These cards serve in place of passports, which are confiscated at check-in and given back only moments before departure.

It was easy to take in tricks simply by lending them the hotel cards and using our room keys as personal identification. Also, the more experienced boys had phony American Express cards, which fooled none of the doormen, but worked every time.

Most of the gays were well-meaning nonprofessionals, primarily interested in fun and games and Levis. They were no security problem except for hot, hot Igor, who had been passed from room to room after a farewell champagne party. He departed the last stop, ripping off clothes, jewelry, and cash. For the victim the resulting confrontation

with the Moscow police was a harrowing experience — all the bloody details explored, but eventually nothing came of the inquisition.

HOOKERS

It was interesting that when tourists were not in evidence doormen admitted glitzy ladies of the evening, who would hang out in the American dollar bars. "Are you American?" "Do you want to have fun?" they would ask, sounding like Slavic dance-hall hostesses doing the "Big Spender" number from *Sweet Charity*.

I wondered if these women, and the black marketeers in the streets, were not state controlled too, bringing in hard currency by whatever means possible. Perhaps so, since the black market, extensively patronized by foreigners and Russians alike, is estimated to be 10 percent of the Soviet gross national product. And that 10 percent must be vital in such a backward economy, where the abacus, rather than the computer, pocket calculator, or even the cash register is the method of daily computations.

The three American dollar bars in our hotel operated in typically Russian fashion. In the lower bar, when you put down \$2 for a \$1.50 drink, the bartender would give change in useless odd coins from almost any country. The next bar always kept the two dollars because, "Have no change." The last bar would give change in chewing gum at the rate of one pack equals 25 cents. When you tried to give the gum back in partial payment for the next drink, it would not be accepted. All of these gimmicks were used in the same Intourist hotel at the same time.

GETTING OUT

When it came time to leave Russia, we boarded the Moscow-Helsinki Express, appropriately on a dark and stormy night with snow covering the ground. After drinks in the dining car and a night's sleep in the four-man compartments, we stopped just inside the Soviet border for passport and customs inspection.

A uniformed storm trooper barged into our compartment and began interrogating us about



FOG leader Nick in front of Tchaikovsky's tomb

money, valuables, and gifts in our possession. His retorts were confined to "nyet," "very straaange," and "izz wrong."

I was the lucky one selected for full field inspection of luggage, pockets, and all body parts. When three separate assaults on my crotch provided no hidden money, he began working on my ass. I wondered about the necessity for state-sponsored fisting and whether he hoped to find a smuggled icon or silver samovar back there.

Detecting nothing and obviously frustrated, he stormed off to the next compartment muttering, "izz too laaate." Others of our group selected for his anatomical inspection had actively participated in the black market street games. I wondered if our Intourist guide, always efficient and observant, had not been an informer.

After a final search under our berths by Red Army guards looking for stowaways trying to escape Mother Russia, the train inched slowly toward the border. Like any other prison, the U.S.S.R. is much easier to get into than out of.

Soon afterwards we were relieved to see the blue and white flag of Finland waving over beau-

tiful little towns, well-kept houses, fertile fields, and even railroad stations with names actually on them — a whole other world of individualism, prosperity, and freedom — just one mile but a thousand years away from the Soviet Union.

A Russian joke, told by a vodka-inspired man in a Moscow cafe, came to mind. "You know what K.G.B. means, don't you? Kiss Good Bye."

'And kiss goodbye we did to the USSR, "a riddle wrapped in a mystery, inside an enigma."'

And kiss goodbye we did to the U.S.S.R., "a riddle, wrapped in a mystery, inside an enigma," as Churchill put it. Most of us agreed the trip through the Soviet Union had been entirely fascinating. We agreed we would never forget it. We also agreed we would never return.



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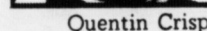
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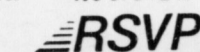
Quentin Crisp

Also featuring Jimmy Martin and Armistead Maupin (March)

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Soviet moneychanger (l.) in front of Catherine the Great's convent school in Leningrad

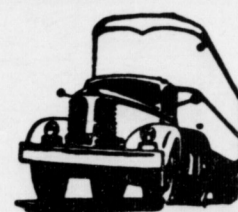
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BAY AREA REPORTER

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Rise in Homicides Alarms Police

Two Killings Mar Holidays; Victims Brought Their Killers Home

by Allen White

In the wake of the murders of two gay men and 117 other homicides in San Francisco in 1986, Community United Against Violence and the San Francisco Tavern Guild will meet tomorrow (Friday, Jan. 9) with Sup. John Molinari to plan a strategy for community action.

David Rung, a 40-year-old federal park ranger, became the city's first homicide for 1987. Police investigators said Rung was murdered soon after he returned to his Sunset District home from partying in the Castro District on New Year's Eve.

Police speculated that the killer may have come home with Rung from a bar. Rung's apartment on Moraga Street was ransacked and his car was stolen.

A 10-year veteran of the National Park Service, Rung was assigned to the Ocean Beach unit of the Golden Gate National Recreation Area. He had gained notice in November when he discovered that someone was prospecting for titanium on Ocean Beach without a permit. Rung's picture appeared in Time maga-

zine two weeks ago in a story on the subject.

Gary Smith, another gay man, was murdered during the final days of 1986. Smith, in his late thirties, was last seen on Dec. 21. His body was found in his Golden Gate Avenue apartment on Dec. 27. It is believed that he, like David Rung, picked up a person in a gay bar and took them home.

The year 1986 ended with a total of 117 homicides in San Francisco. This is the highest

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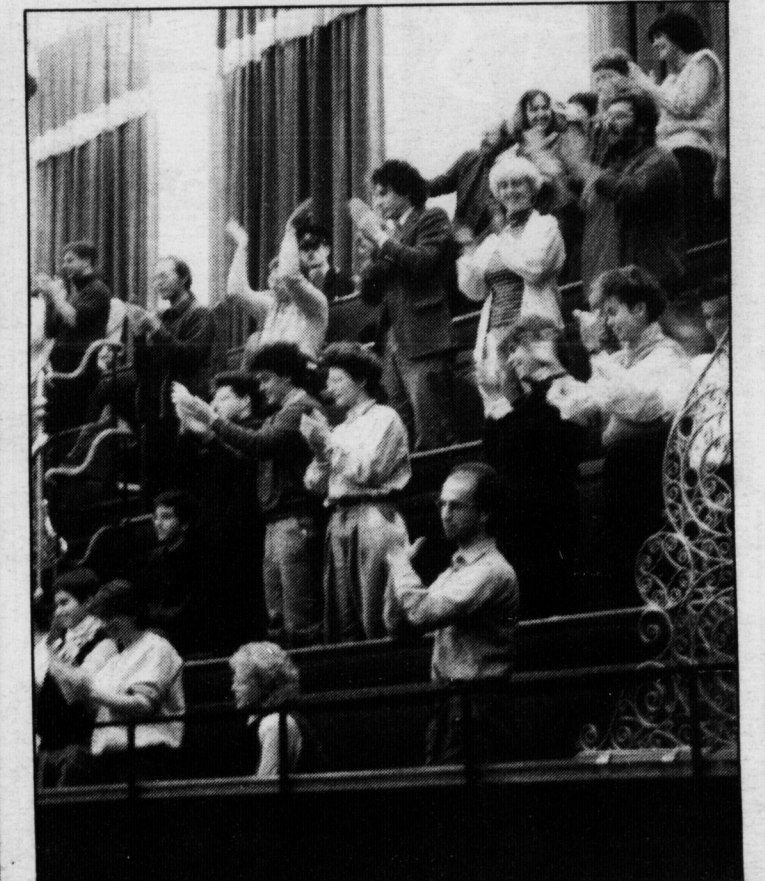
Today

Where's the Vigil? That was the question in Oakland this week as the ARC/AIDS Vigil there mysteriously disappeared. Charlie Linebarger reports, page 21.

Insanely eclectic, is how David Lambie characterizes Frances Fitzgerald's new book *Cities on a Hill* which gives a capsule history of the Castro. Lambie interviews Fitzgerald, page 26.

\$2.6 million is what the city lost, reports Marcy Rein, because AIDS service and education programs were low in minority involvement. See page 18.

Why does Steve Warren call Joan Rivers' Late Show a dog? See page 29.



Lesbians and gay men cheer when Ontario's legislature gives the okay to gay rights. (Photo: Ian King/The Body Politic)

Ontario Says Yes To Gay Rights

From The Body Politic

TORONTO—A historic victory for the gay movement in Canada was confirmed on Dec. 16, when the legislature of the province of Ontario gave final approval to a bill which adds sexual orientation to the province's human rights code. Lesbians and gay men will now be protected against discrimination in employment, accommodation and services.

Ontario, Canada's most populous province, now joins Quebec, which amended its human rights charter nine years ago to prohibit discrimination on the grounds of sexual orientation. The two provinces make up more than 60 percent of Canada's population. Similar moves are pending in the province of Manitoba and in the Yukon Territory. And earlier this year, the federal government announced its intention to legislate equal rights for gays in areas under its jurisdiction.

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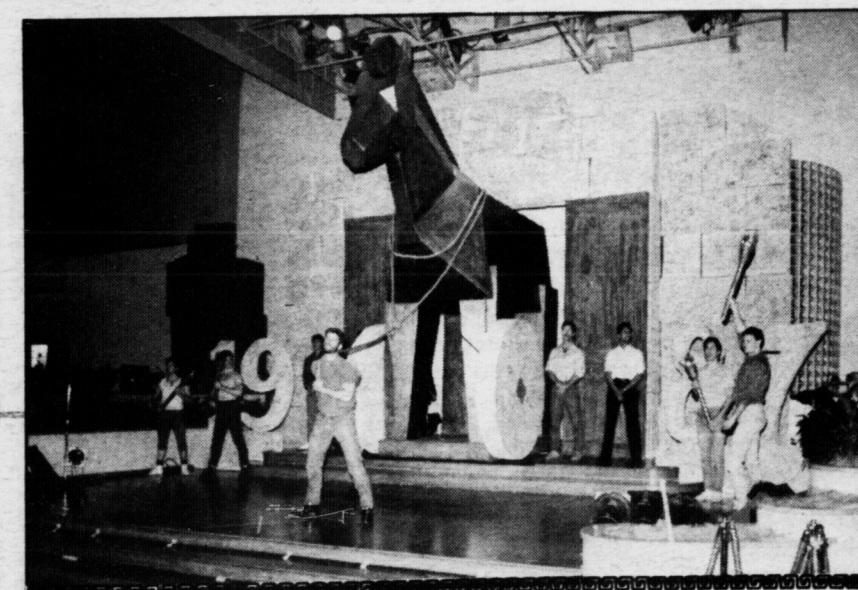
'No Gay Olympics, No '96 Olympics,' Says Britt

Sup. Harry Britt introduced legislation to the Board of Supervisors Jan. 5 proposing to remove the city from any efforts to bring the 1996 Olympics to San Francisco. Britt said that until the Olympics organizers allow the Gay Games use of the name Olympics and end their harassment of Games founder, Dr. Tom Waddell, "San Francisco should not be welcoming their bigotry to town."

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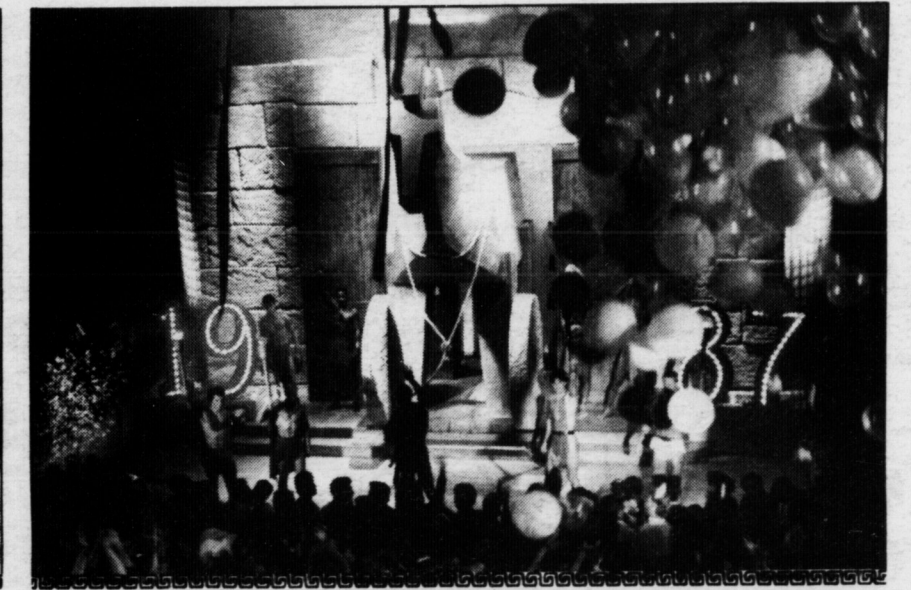


Sup. Harry Britt (Photo: Rink)



Practice Makes . . .

Check this stable out, boys. Performers at the Giftcenter put in a last-minute rehearsal for a New Year's Eve celebration with a modern Trojan horse. (Photo: Savage Photography)



. . . Perfect!!

At Midnight, the "mane"less attraction made an appearance as balloons fell on the crowd at the I-Beam's Giftcenter party. For more on the holiday parties, please turn to page 14. (Photo: R. Pruzan)