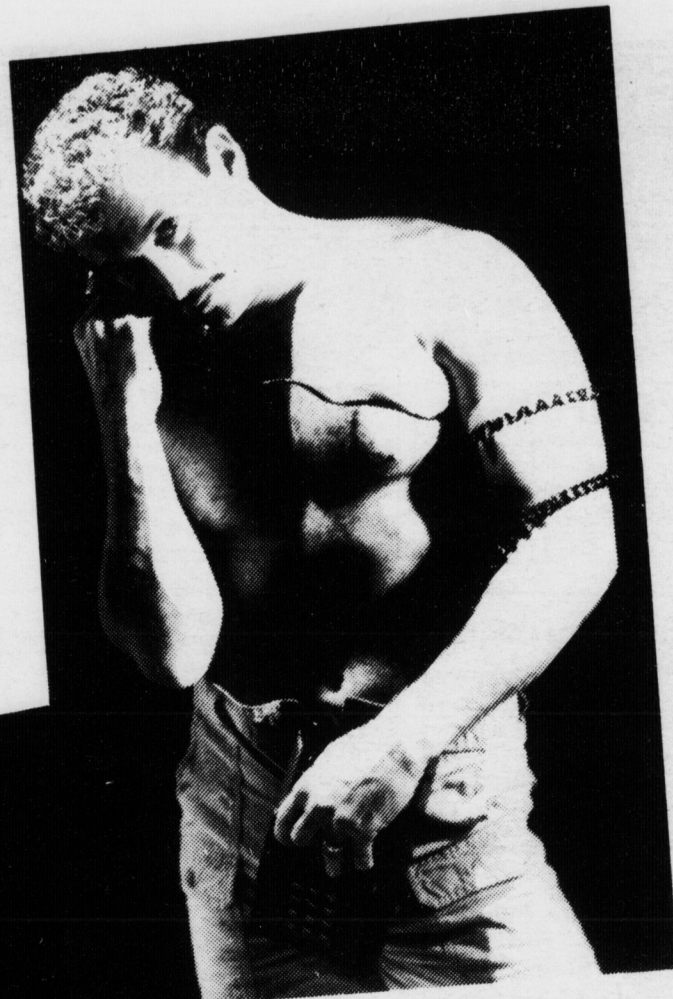


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BAY AREA REPORTER

VOL. XVII NO. 4 JANUARY 22, 1987

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Blue Cross Pays Up On New Therapy

Insurer Says Case Not Precedent; May Help Experimental Treatments

by Ray O'Loughlin

In what may be a breakthrough on the medical costs of treatment for AIDS and AIDS Related Conditions (ARC), Blue Cross of California has decided to re-imburse Bruce Silva, who has ARC, for treatments he received but are not approved by the federal Food and Drug Administration (FDA).

After lengthy negotiations from August to December 1986, Blue Cross told Silva that they will pay for his transfer factor treatments, an intravenous treatment that boosts the immune system.

Silva was delighted over the Blue Cross ruling. "It's been an uphill battle to get therapy," he said. "There is just no way I could get this treatment without the insurance."

Silva said that the treatment, which costs \$170 each time, has improved his energy level enabling him to continue working.

But according to Blue Cross, Silva's troubles are not over with the health insurance giant.

"We are making payments to him and have authorized payment for all bills to date," Kathleen Hawes of Blue Cross' customer service department told Bay Area Reporter, "but we will not be paying for future services of this sort." She said the action represented no change in their policy of paying only for treatments recognized as standard practice.

Blue Cross, said Hawes, had paid for Silva's treatments "in error" and had decided not to try to recover the money from him. "This is not to be considered a precedent-setting ruling," emphasized Hawes.

Silva's attorney, Katherine M. Franke of the Legal Aid Society's AIDS and Employment Project, called the move precedent setting nonetheless.

"Blue Cross saying that this is not precedent setting means nothing," said Franke. "This will make it easier for the next person even if their policy says only FDA approved treatments are covered."

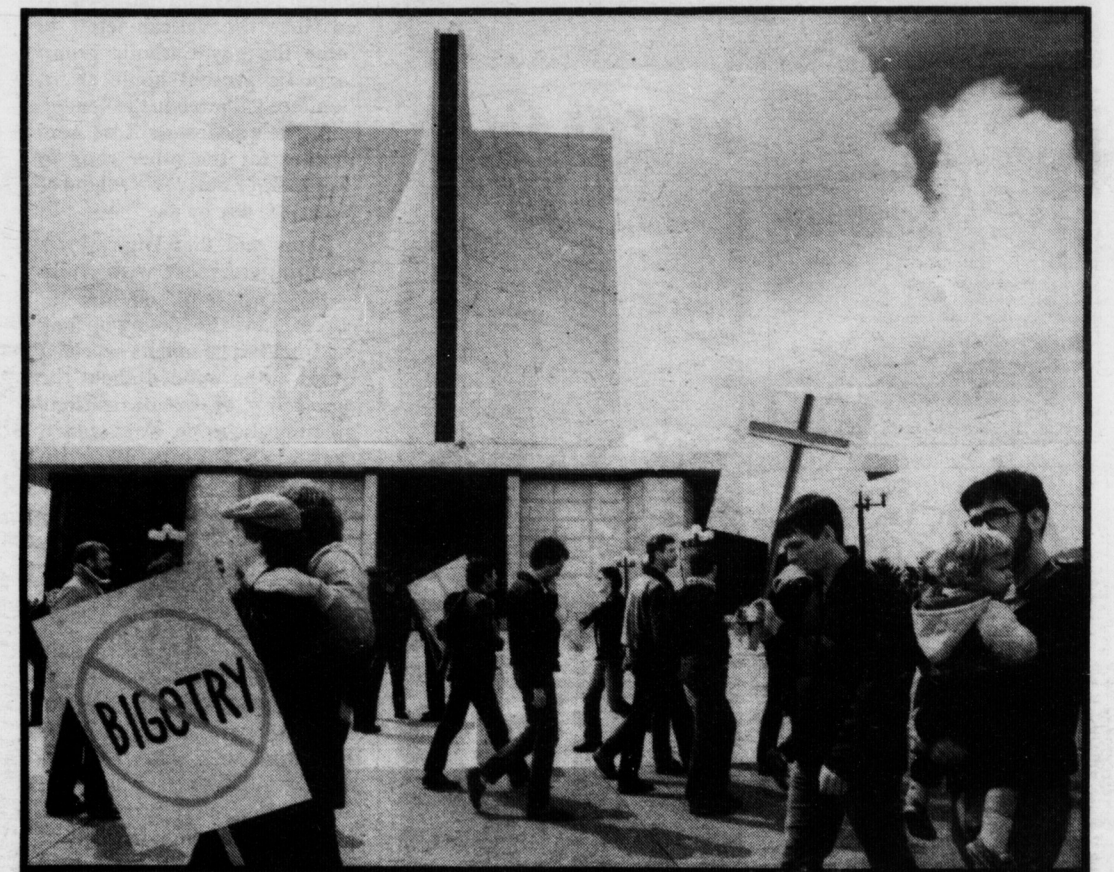
Franke cited a 1983 U.S. district court ruling that upheld a person's right to have the cost of laetrile treatments picked up by insurance even though the cancer therapy was not FDA approved and regarded as experimental. The court ruled, said Franke, that the term "experimental" was too broad to use in denying coverage.

"This settlement represents a major victory for all people with AIDS and ARC, most of whom have experienced some degree of resistance from insurance companies in covering their AIDS and ARC related expenses," said Franke.

"Since at this time there is no cure for AIDS, in the eyes of insurance companies, virtually all AIDS/ARC treatments are experimental," she added.

According to a medical social worker at a Bay Area hospital, the problem that Silva faces is "very common."

(Continued on page 2)



The protests could continue at St. Mary's Cathedral (Photo: Rink)

'No John Paul II,' Say Politicians

Wahl Threatens Lawsuit

by Charles Lineberger

Recent Vatican pronouncements on homosexuality have led to increasing fears that Pope John Paul II's trip to San Francisco this fall will lead to an angry confrontation. From gay Catholics to gay political leaders, the city and the gay community are gearing up for such a confrontation.

"There's an assurance that there will be demonstrations if he comes to town," said Rick Pacurar, the president of the Harvey Milk Democratic Club.

"There's absolutely no way we can allow him to come to our city after the way he has made more miserable the lives of millions of gay people around the world."

Pacurar added, "this Pope has been more obsessed with this subject than any of his predecessors and he has shown very little compassion, especially on the AIDS crisis."

(Continued on page 2)



'The city's gay rights ordinance forbids the city from contracting with organizations that discriminate on the basis of sexual orientation.' —John Wahl (Photo: Rink)

Today

Heavy Breathing II: Looking for the right aerobics class? There are plenty to choose from, page 18.

The Nominees Are: The Golden Dildeaux are set to recognize Best Performance in a 3-Way and other accomplishments. Mr. Marcus has the details, page 32.

Science Reveals How Virus Blocked

Targets For Therapy Now Possible; Vaccine Trials In Near Future

by Brian Jones

NEWPORT BEACH, CA—Researchers last week reported major medical advances in fighting AIDS. Experts from a dozen nations gathered here at an international conference to report on their progress. They announced advances at every level of AIDS prevention and treatment.

• U.S. officials said they probably will have an experimental AIDS vaccine within a year. This news was important to people at risk for AIDS, who have not yet been infected.

• Scientists demonstrated how a drug called AZT interferes with the action of the AIDS virus. AZT appears to prevent the virus from taking over immune-system "helper" cells which it has in-

"Our basic molecular research has defined a number of targets for therapeutic intervention..."

—Dr. William Haseltine

vaded.

AZT cannot reverse the immune system damage already caused by the virus. However, the drug seems to halt the virus from further eroding the human immune system. This news was important to people with full-blown AIDS, or those with high-level AIDS-Related Conditions (ARC).

• A California drug maker reported details on the effects of a medicine called ribavirin. Ribavirin appears to restore the immune system by increasing the number of immune system cells. However, so far it is unclear how ribavirin works.

Ribavirin has demonstrated the greatest effect among people with low-level ARC, and among those who are positive for the virus but who are mostly healthy.

When will these advances reach the people who need them? There was progress here too.

In Washington, the federal Food and Drug Administration (FDA) gave initial approval to AZT. An FDA panel of scientists urged licensure for the drug. Licensure is now expected within weeks.

Use of ribavirin would be (Continued on page 16)

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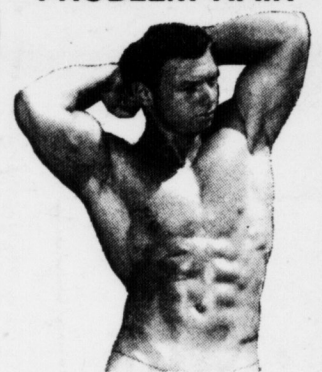
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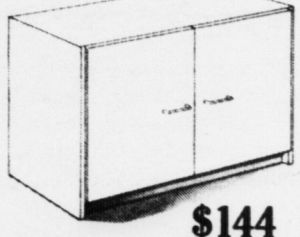
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Pope

(Continued from page 1)

The ire of the gay community was particularly raised by the Vatican guidelines on homosexuality, issued last October by the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith and approved by the pope. The guidelines called homosexuality "an intrinsic moral evil" and an objective disorder.

Tom Kaun, a member of Dignity's board of directors, said he thought it was ironic that Archbishop John Quinn had not moved since the Vatican letter to force the gay Catholic group form its present home at St. Boniface's Church in the Tenderloin. "It's almost as if we were waiting for the other shoe to drop," said Kaun. "We're kind of playing it day by day."

Kaun said that Dignity was planning to meet with Archbishop Quinn to tell him its concerns over the pope's upcoming trip. And he said he expected Quinn to be worried about the possibility of demonstrations greeting the pope. Kaun added that when Dignity met with Quinn last September the archbishop had told the gay group he wanted them to keep a "low profile." But that was before the recent Vatican letter on homosexuality.

Dignity will be meeting with other Bay Area groups, both gay and non-gay, on Wednesday, Jan. 21, to prepare strategy for the papal visit. John Wahl, the secretary for the Council on Religion and the Homosexual, is organizing that meeting. He talked about his group's plans for the papal visit.

Wahl said the council was contemplating bringing suit against the city to prevent the pope's



The Pup-al Decree Is In: No John Paul II in San Francisco. (Photo: Rink)

planned mass at Candlestick Park. "The city's gay rights ordinance forbids the city from contracting with organizations that discriminate on the basis of sexual orientation," said Wahl.

"We're also planning a commission on church-sponsored oppression to take evidence—sworn testimony—from people who have suffered oppression from the churches, and not just from the Catholic Church, but also Falwell's, Swaggart's, Roberts', and Khomeini's. The commission will write and publicize a report."

Blue Cross

(Continued from page 1)

"Virtually every person with AIDS or ARC is affected by this," she said. "There are very few drugs out there that are FDA approved and effective. We're looking more and more at experimental drugs and as time goes by, that may be all we'll be looking at."

She said that some insurance companies pay for some drugs but not others. Sympathetic doctors have also helped patients get medicines they need. "A lot has to do with physicians in talking to insurance companies. The physician can write out an order for an accepted drug or treatment along with a non-approved drug and slip it through billing."

Insurance companies, she said, "don't want to be guinea

Wahl said that Quinn's house in the Richmond will be the scene of a 24-hour prayer vigil "to show our opposition to his (the pope's) oppressive letter on homosexual persons." And if the pope is allowed to use Candlestick Park for his public mass, Wahl said that an alternative prayer service will be held at the Civic Auditorium.

Wahl said that a demonstration is planned to co-incide with the pope's address at St. Mary's Cathedral. "We're expecting a turnout of 100,000 people," said Wahl.

pigs" in testing the usefulness of new treatments.

Silva was diagnosed with ARC in April 1986. He began the transfer factor treatments in May. Twice a month his doctor extracts T4 suppressor cells from his blood system, then transfers them back to him in concentrated form. The treatment is designed to boost the immune system's ability to fight off the AIDS virus. Lab tests, he says, verify that his immune system has improved with the treatments.

The procedure is painful, said Silva, but it seems to "give me more energy."

Silva's troubles with Blue Cross began in August. From May until then, he says, they paid his claims without question. He said that he had even called Blue Cross to verify that his policy covered the treatments. Then, in August, Blue Cross cut him off

without notice.

"They paid one or two more claims but in irregular amounts," said Silva. "In October, after a medical review, they said it was an experimental treatment and wouldn't pay for it." That was when he went to his attorney.

He said that if Blue Cross did not pay for further treatments he may take legal action.

"The tragic thing is," said Silva, "we (people with ARC or AIDS) don't need this added pressure. Everything has been such a hassle."

Attorney Franke saw this case as only the beginning of a new area of insurance law. "When a large insurer like Blue Cross agrees, as they should, to make payments for (these) treatments, all other people with AIDS/ARC should know about it, and pressure their insurer to cover similar expenses."

Alameda Secretly Tested For AIDS

by Brian Jones

An Alameda County official acknowledged Wednesday that he secretly tested more than 2,000 people for the AIDS antibody. Dr. Robert Benjamin, chief of the communicable disease bureau of the Alameda County Health Department, confirmed the secret testing program to the San Jose Mercury News.

Benjamin insisted that the confidentiality of those tested was maintained, and that no laws were broken. Benjamin said the tests were done on "blind samples"—blood samples with no markings to identify the individuals from whom the blood was drawn.

Mike Housch, legislative aide to Assemblymember Art Agnos, told Bay Area Reporter that such "blind testing" did not appear to violate the law. Agnos (D-S.F.) authored the 1985 AIDS confidentiality law.

Benjamin's study produced some surprising results.

The six-month study included about 2,000 people, including women whose blood was routinely drawn in order to obtain a marriage license.

Among the female marriage-license group, one-half of 1 percent showed antibodies to the AIDS virus.

The Mercury News, in its report on Wednesday, quoted Benjamin as saying that his study results show that AIDS is far more widespread than popularly believed.

Others tested without their knowledge included patients at the county's venereal disease clinic. In this group, which included women and men, 2.5 percent showed antibodies to the AIDS virus.

Benjamin also tested blood samples secretly collected from young people incarcerated at Juvenile Hall. None of the young people showed AIDS antibodies.

Britt Raises Benefits Issue Despite Certain Mayoral Veto

No Plans To Introduce Legislation Soon; Criticized For Poor Strategy 'Doomed To Failure'

by Charles Linebarger

In 1983 domestic partnership—extending certain job benefits to the partners of unmarried employees—rocked San Francisco. The proposal was voted for by a majority of the city's Board of Supervisors but vetoed by Mayor Dianne Feinstein. The issue even contributed to an unsuccessful recall campaign against the mayor. Now, after a hiatus of three years, Sup. Harry Britt is once again talking about domestic partner legislation.

"Last Monday (Jan. 12) at the board I stood up and announced to my colleagues that I was raising the issue again," Britt told the Bay Area Reporter in a recent interview. "I did not re-introduce legislation, but I have a drawer full of legislation I could use."

"I have started a process of meetings to try to put together a package that will make sense economically and politically," said Britt. "My hope is that we will find people in the insurance industry who will go to the mayor with us and tell her this will work."

But Feinstein has already said she will veto any new proposal. Britt admitted that it would be difficult in 1987 to find the eight votes he needs to over-ride another Feinstein veto, saying, "Both of the new members (James Gonzalez and Tom Hsieh) support it, but it's difficult to ask either to over-ride the mayor at this point since she just appointed each of them."

Britt acknowledged that anyone likely to replace Feinstein as mayor will be more likely to sign domestic partnership legislation. But the supervisor insisted that he hoped something would be introduced this year before Feinstein leaves office.

Tom Brougham, president of the East Bay Lesbian and Gay Democratic Club and the originator of the country's first successful domestic partnership ordinance—in Berkeley—had problems with Britt's strategy. "I think that his approach to it is doomed to failure. His approach is entirely wrong. He's emphasizing the wrong aspect."

Brougham said that he felt Britt was tending to look at domestic partnership as a sort of gay marriage rather than an economic arrangement. "He's approaching it from the most difficult, the most inflammatory direction. He should approach it as a pay equity issue. Equal people doing equal work should get equal benefits."

Brougham was alluding to the text of the vetoed domestic partnership ordinance of 1983 that called for an official registry of domestic partners to be put on file at City Hall for both public and private employers in the city.

The East Bay club president was equally unhappy with the manner in which Britt had announced his intention to revive the issue. "First of all, he's announcing all this in the straight press. Our first job should be to unite the lesbian and gay community. We have to discuss the issue as a community and formulate some general principles before we take it outside."

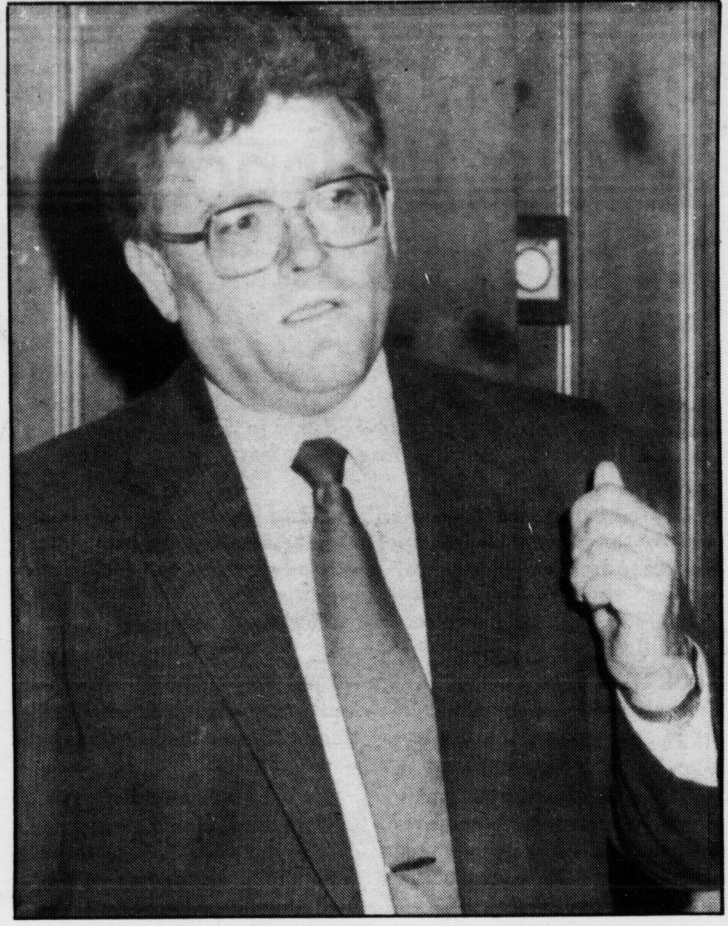
Pat Norman, who ran for a seat on the board of supervisors last November, said that the issue of domestic partners needs to be looked at "in an atmosphere of

cooperation so that people understand the reason we need it."

"We should not put ourselves in the position of it being vetoed," said Norman.

Britt said he would be meeting with Matt Coles, the attorney who drafted the first domestic partnership ordinance in 1983, to draft a new statute. He said he would also be meeting with insurance people.

He was moving publicly on the issue, Britt said, "to get the attention of the people whose support we need."



Sup. Harry Britt is again talking about domestic partner legislation. (Photo: Rink)

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5-Point Plan To Cut Violence

Bars Join Effort To Protect Patrons

by Allen White

Sixteen gay-related murders in 1986 and a 35 percent overall increase in homicides in San Francisco caused Police Chief Frank Jordan and Sup. John Molinari to call for several actions last Tuesday at a meeting of the San Francisco Tavern Guild.

Police Chief Frank Jordan, making his first appearance before the Tavern Guild, spelled out his concerns about the increase in homicides. "We want to help you to help yourselves," the chief said. "Homicides are up 35 percent in 1986 over 1985. In San Francisco, there were 117 murders," he reported.

"Sixteen of those cases were gay-related," he elaborated.

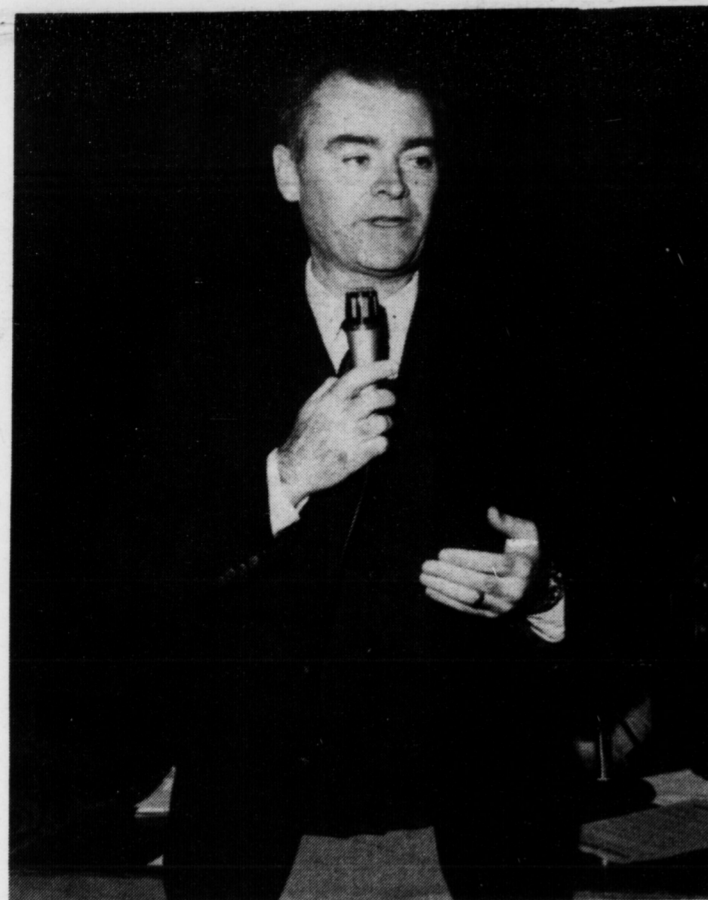
The high rate of gay murders caused Sup. John Molinari to hold a meeting earlier this month in his office with representatives of Community United Against Violence and the San Francisco Tavern Guild.

"It was from that meeting," Molinari said, "that we determined we had to take action that would raise the community's consciousness. We knew we did not want to frighten people or scare

people, but we wanted them to know they should be made to think twice about who they take home," he said.

Molinari asked Jordan to attend the Tavern Guild meeting to outline the seriousness of the situation. He also asked Community United Against Violence to draw up a plan of action for presentation at the meeting.

Carmen Vasquez, from CUAV, outlined their plan to be implemented by the Tavern Guild. The plan is a five point program



Police Chief Frank Jordan.

(Photo: Rink)

which will also be made available to non-Tavern Guild bars.

The first point will be an effort to encourage bartenders and disc

jockeys to make an announcement at "last call" and possibly other times in the evening to their patrons. They will be asked to tell their patrons to "be

careful" and to "think safety." With that announcement will be the advice that people should take a cab home if they are too drunk to drive.

CUAV's second point will be to prepare matchbooks, flyers and posters telling patrons of the risks of taking home strangers.

Thirdly, the Tavern Guild and CUAV will be meeting to develop copy for the printed materials. The fourth point will be a determination regarding the best methods for distributing the material.

Finally, CUAV will begin encouraging Tavern Guild bars to cooperate in a training program for employees of bars. The program will be a safety awareness program. The plan is for it to be an ongoing program.

Bar employees would be trained to spot potential problems facing patrons and how to assist in a sensitive and compassionate way.

Molinari also told the group that he and Sup. Harry Britt had been successful in their request to the mayor for a \$10,000 reward in the two most recent murders.

The \$10,000 reward now is in effect for information leading to the capture of the killers of David Rung and Gary Smith. Rung was killed on New Year's Day and Smith's body was discovered on Dec. 27. People with any information should call 553-1145.

CUAV's Randy Schell noted that their records show that many of the murders are solved, although it can take months. Chief Jordan commented that of the one murder in 1987 and the 16 gay murders in 1986, ten have now been solved.

Capt. Mike Lennon of Mission Station said, "Those that will kill in the gay community must hear from the gay community that it will no longer be tolerated."

Jordan added, however, "Though we have solved ten of the seventeen homicides, it doesn't help the victims."

Under 21

The Sexual Minority Youth Program at the Center for Special Problems announces a new therapy group for lesbians and gays under 21: Jackson Street.

Jackson Street meets weekly on Tuesday afternoons from 3-5 p.m. at 1700 Jackson Street, at the Center for Special Problems. Facilitated by Ron Henderson and Ruth Hughes, the group is working on issues of coming out, sexual identity, survival, relationships, AIDS anxiety, and other health issues. Jackson Street was formed to provide a place for young people to talk, share, find support, and to feel comfortable about exploring their sexuality.

Safer Sex At Parsonage

On Saturday, Jan. 31, Richard Locke will make his presentation, "In the Heat of Passion, Do It Sensibly." The presentation is sponsored by The Parsonage and Locke, star of many sexual entertainment films. The presentation will take place from 3 until 6 p.m. The Parsonage is located next to Headlines at 555-A Castro Street, near 18th. The program will take place in the basement.

The event is free and all are invited to attend. For more information call The Parsonage at 552-2909.

SEX, DRUGS & ROCK 'N ROLL

Ask yourself:

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| Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> | 1. Do I need to get high on alcohol or drugs to cruise and have sex, because I'm shy and have a hard time meeting people when I'm sober? | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> | 4. Do I crave sex so much that I use crystal or cocaine and stay out all night looking for and having sex? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> | 2. Do I sometimes have unsafe sex when I've been drinking or drugging, even though I know the danger and would like to stay safe? | <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> | 5. Do I shoot up drugs with sex partners, sometimes sharing needles even though I know I could get AIDS? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> | 3. Do I try to control my drinking, but go out to the bars to cruise and lose control and get too drunk? | <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> | 6. Do I need to use drugs to party when I go out dancing, and usually end up staying out all night at the bar? |

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

For many of us, drinking and drugging are tied in with sex and partying. We come to depend on the use of alcohol or drugs to loosen us up so we can have a good time and hopefully meet someone. The problem is that often we get carried away, and the social drinking or drug use turns into a substance abuse problem.

Some gay men can not imagine having sex without drinking or drugging first. When the urge to cruise hits, they are compelled to get high. But the drugs can interfere with sexual enjoyment, so it becomes an endless, unfulfilling search.

Because of AIDS, sex can become a dangerous thing when combined with excess alcohol or drugs. Our judgment can be affected so that we engage

in unsafe sex or share needles, even if we did not intend to.

As hard as it may be to imagine, sex and rock 'n roll can be just as fun without drinking or drugging. But it does take help. You can't do it alone. If you have a substance abuse problem that is tied to sex and partying, we urge you to get help for it. To ignore the problem could be deadly.

18th Street Services provides outpatient counseling and referrals to gay men with substance abuse problems. Our staff is gay. We understand your lifestyle and concerns.

There has never been a better time than now to be clean and sober. Sex and Rock 'n Roll can become fun for you again. Without the drugs.

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EXECUTIVE & EDITORIAL OFFICES:
1528 15th Street
San Francisco, CA 94103

TELEPHONES:
(415) 861-5019/861-7230

PUBLISHER:

Bob Ross

NEWS EDITOR:

Ray O'Loughlin

ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR:

Dianne Gregory

ASSOCIATE EDITOR:

Will Snyder

CONTRIBUTING EDITOR:

Brian Jones

FINE ARTS EDITOR:

George Heymont

POLITICAL EDITOR:

Wayne Friday

OFFICE MANAGER:

Michael Snyder

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING:

Ann S. West

CAMERA:

Michael Jay Goldberg

LAYOUT:

Richard Burt

TYPESETTING:

Tony Lindsey, Austin Snow

CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHERS:

Mick Hicks, Scott Martin,

Scott McLennan,

Photo Graphics/Darlene,

Robert Pruzan, Rink,

Savage Photography

CARTOONIST:

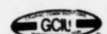
David Brady

AUDITOR/ACCOUNTANT:

Robert J. Dern, C.P.A.

CONTRIBUTORS:

Kim Anno, Les Balmain, Ken Bergeson, Philip Campbell, Mark I. Chester, Jerry R. De Young, Gregory Douthwaite, Wayne Friday, Mark Friese, George Heymont, Michael Hippler, Frank J. Howell, Dot James, John Karr, Larry Kim, Gerard Koskovich, Charles Lineberger, Mister Marcus, George Mendenhall, David-Alex Nahmod, Jay Newquist, Sharon Page, Nez Pas, Adele Prandini, Paul Reed, Joy Schulenburg, Marv Shaw, Rodger Soto, Rick Thoman, Paul Trefzger, Tom Vindeed, Dick Walters, Lauren Ward, Steve Warren, Allen White, Keith White, Bob Woolhouse



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EDITORIAL & OPINION

The Theocratic Thirty-Two

Something continues to be rotten in Sacramento. Not only do we have to put up with four more years of the hate and venom of Gov. George Deukmejian, but now lesbians and gay men have to fight again to defeat the lie that 32 legislators are trying to force on the people of California.

Last week, the lawmakers, mostly Republicans and including four from the Bay Area, sent a letter to Supt. of Public Instruction Bill Honig. They demanded that California students not be taught about homosexuality in a neutral manner, as Honig has proposed.

"From the traditional Christian-Judaic perspective, we, and the majority of our constituents do not think this sort of neutrality is appropriate," the legislators said in the letter. "In this country, the homosexual lifestyle has traditionally been considered a moral issue and should be taught as one. Even aside from the morality aspect, how can homosexuality be taught in a neutral fashion when we have seen how such a lifestyle, voluntarily entered into, can pose such grave danger to our people's health?" (Sic)

One of the legislators, Bev Hansen of Santa Rosa, told Charles Lineberger last week that the current law "says we have to teach Judeo-Christian ethics."

Hansen's statement shows the scatter-brained mentality of these frauds who refer to themselves as legislators. First off, she shows her own ignorance of the law (Section 44806 of the State Education Code) which says that teachers should "impress upon the minds of pupils the principles of morality." There isn't any mention of "Judeo-Christian ethics" at all. Hansen's statement, instead, seems to reflect the mentality of 20th Century Puritans who would just love to establish a theocracy.

One of the undercurrents of this issue is something which has sadly mirrored a similar mood of repression from the 1950s. During the McCarthy era, people and ideas abhorrent to the philosophies of Conservative America were squashed with the same lack of tolerance for differing ideas that conservatives blamed on Communists.

This decade has produced the New McCarthy Era. Only this time, the conservatives have learned their lesson. Joe McCarthy was a rude, obnoxious man who offended even the most genteel Republicans. The current Joe McCarthy is Ronald Reagan, "a nice guy who really means well," we are always told by the flaks. So, while Reagan is glad-handing the American public, supporting players such as Ed Meese, Pat Buchanan and George Deukmejian are working overtime, doing Reagan's dirty work.

One of the principles of democracy is the idea of the free flow of ideas. This is one of the principles of democracy we brag about every day on Radio Free Europe to the unfortunates behind the Iron Curtain.

But our national hypocrisy is showing. It especially shows in the ideal education system some of our legislators want for this state. There was a time in this country when classrooms were meant as forums for learning and discussion. But people such as Bev Hansen, Bill Duplissea, Bill Baker and Charles Quackenbush want classrooms to be cubicles for brainwashing.

The Theocratic Thirty-Two would have us brainwash our children. They assume gay people 'volunteer' for their sexual preference. Thus, they revive the scenario of every Dirty Old Man and Woman sitting in the schoolyard with sexual Walnettos just waiting for the unsuspecting kiddies.

Honig's approach to sex education is entirely the proper one. He doesn't want classrooms used to promote gay life, nor does he want the classrooms used to denounce it either. What Honig is saying is something that is taught in every Teacher Ed. class. Just present ideas to the students, why people believe them or don't believe them, and let the students think for themselves.

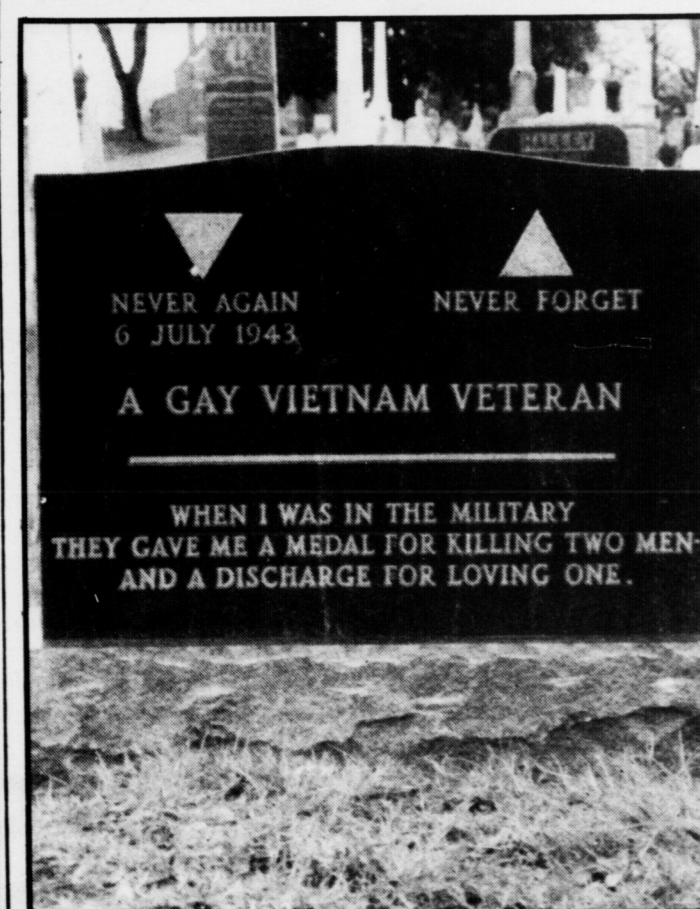
The Theocratic Thirty-Two would have us brainwash our children, however. They assume that gay people "volunteer" for their sexual preference. Thus, they revive the scenario of every Dirty Old Man and Woman sitting in the schoolyard with sexual Walnettos just waiting for the unsuspecting kiddies.

The Theocratic Thirty-Two also do the entire state a disservice with their comment about how homosexuals "can pose such grave danger to our people's health," an obvious reference to AIDS. By this statement, they are assuming AIDS comes just from the gay community. They are ignoring what thousands of people know now to be a misstatement.

AIDS education needs to be calm. It needs to reflect the facts, not the hateful hysteria of these legislators.

The Theocratic Thirty-Two should hang their heads in shame. They have displayed behavior usually attributed to jackbooted dictatorships. —Will Snyder

OPINION



Never Forget

A black granite burial stone bearing the words "A Gay Vietnam Veteran" was recently placed on a prominent plot in Congressional Cemetery near Capitol Hill in Washington, D.C. Inscribed below the veteran's birthdate and blank space for date of death is: "When I was in the military they gave me a medal for killing two men and a discharge for loving one."

Cemetery officials would not reveal the identity of the owner of the plot, but, according to the Washington Blade, the man, who is still alive, wants the headstone to serve as a symbol of a group of Americans who have participated in the nation's history but who are ignored. Two pink triangles of granite are inlaid at the top of the stone.

Jim Crutchfield, of the Washington chapter of the Federation of Gay and Lesbian Veterans, told the Blade that his organization was unaware of who placed the stone.

"This will remind people walking through the cemetery that you may be viewing the resting place of gays who had a role in our history," said Crutchfield.

The headstone is only a few yards away from the graves of former FBI director J. Edgar Hoover and his long-time personal friend Clyde Tolson.

Cemetery officials said they had no problems approving the gay veteran's headstone.

LETTERS

Determined Destruction

I attended a meeting held by Park Rec for the purpose of obtaining community input on the Master Plan for Buena Vista Park. One of the participants asked about the results of a questionnaire filled out by participants in the previous meeting. The Park Rec spokesman said he did not have that information.

After a slick presentation filled with such arcane facts as "The average user of the park comes from a household of 2.3 persons and earns an income of \$19,400" to bring the discussion around to the reality of what is currently happening in the park I asked why the area of the park facing Frederick Street had been clear-cut in the previous week, leaving a wasteland of debris and raw dirt. I was told that the area was cleared because "street people were sleeping there." This area suffered massive erosion during the recent rains.

Park Rec has been destroying vast areas of vegetation in the last two years, leaving piles of dead branches and bare earth. Erosion is not the problem. You don't clear cut growth to prevent erosion. As the fencing proposal shows, the problem is that, in the words of one Park Rec spokesman, some areas of the park are "the established territory of a special user group," i.e., gays. Park Rec is determined to destroy the park rather than let us continue to have a place of our own. The destruction must be stopped, or the park, and our freedoms, will suffer even further ravages in the future. I urge you to visit the park, witness the destruction, and call a halt to this attempt to drive gays from the park. Park Rec could never get away with driving Hispanics from Dolores Park; they must not be allowed to drive gays from Buena Vista.

Wendell Thompson
San Francisco

Send Me The Forms

In what I consider my own private protest to Pope John Paul II's visit to San Francisco this coming September, I have written the following letter and sent a copy of it to His (Ass)holiness in Rome.

Dear Pope,

I have wanted to ask a favor of you for years but have not done so until your proposed visit to San Francisco was announced.

Please send me all forms, if any, which are necessary to receive an official excommunication from your Holy Roman Catholic Church.

I beg of you to excommunicate me for the following reasons:

- I hate Catholicism;
- I do not believe in God;
- I have not attended Mass for 16 years nor do I ever intend to again;
- I believe in birth control and a woman's right to abortion;
- I am a practicing homosexual and love every minute of it.

Very sincerely,
Your little lost sheep,
Joey Sughrue
San Francisco

Socially Damaging Images

On the evening of Jan. 9, I was in my room at the Hyatt Regency in Dallas beginning to watch a major network's local affiliate's news program. One of the opening headlines listed as "California Pope Protest" piqued my interest as I assumed it concerned the planned papal visit to San Francisco.

When this specific story aired it consisted of about 20 seconds of reporting coupled with film coverage of what was a gay protest march of sorts here. As to the newscaster's verbiage, I found it factual, unemotional, without slant or bias, and generally indicative of routine news reporting.

However, the film being shown while the story was presented consisted entirely of scenes of the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence or some clone derivative thereof prancing down the street in their purposefully provocative nun drag. The last line of the news story stated, rather superfluously given nun's clothing, "Some of the protesters appeared wearing nun's clothing." Obviously, here's a clear example of the television media searching for and presenting gratuitous sensationalism to its audience; a disgusting but hardly surprising revelation.

No, what angers and disturbs me in this case is that given today's volatile political environment, there still continues to exist members of our community who compel themselves to perpetuate childish, egotistical behavior whose ultimate effect is to misrepresent, embarrass, and foster socially damaging images for the vast majority of us in this community.

Basically I have no quarrel with anyone in drag, be it nun's or something else, at say the Pride Parade or the street fairs or other public social events. But when these same people seek to make public politi-

cal statements via protest marches being fully cognizant that the media will search out and dramatize their visual impact and what it purports to represent to what, I believe to be, the severe detriment of our group cause and our efforts to improve the public's perception of the community, then I become sickened and outraged at their manifestation of gross immaturity and scornful disregard for the effect of their actions.

I feel certain that our gay brothers and sisters in Texas currently facing more hostile and vicious forces than we fortunate to live here would have some rather pithy comments as to the "value" of our "nuns'" protest march. How much longer do we have to wait for these fools to grow up!

Burney Allgood
San Francisco

A Suggestion

This letter was sent to Peter Kelly, Casework Director, A.S.A.P. (Arizona Stop AIDS Project), 736 East Flynn Lane, Phoenix, AZ 85014.

Dear Peter:

As owner of Accounting Plus, I wanted to contribute my services to assist individuals with AIDS or ARC in the Greater Phoenix area. The average tax preparation charge last year for Federal and Arizona came to \$110. I'm sure someone with AIDS or ARC is not in a position to pay this expense when they have day to day survival to contend with. I have over 20 years experience in accounting and I feel my best contribution would be to offer FREE income tax preparation to these clients. This service will be provided free of charge for anyone with AIDS or ARC. I ask that your office will verify the client or refer the client to me.

We must get the word out, and hopefully more gay and lesbian owned businesses will offer their services to these individuals who so desperately need them.

Thank you for your assistance in this project. I'm sure it will be a great success.

Joe Marino, President
Accounting Plus
Phoenix, AZ

Pick Up The Phone

We want our readers to be aware that Channel 10 in Walnut Creek (a Christian Broadcasting station) is steadily attacking the gay community via their discussions of the AIDS crisis.

Last night Dr. Paul Cameron appeared and informed thousands of viewers that:

- Some gays are deliberately infecting straight people;
- AIDS is casually transmitted;
- Five percent of all health workers are infecting the public;
- One gay restaurant worker bragged that he ejaculated into the salad dressing where he worked in order to infect the public.

The phone number for Channel 10 is 800-332-4242. We hope gays will telephone and challenge the lies and distortions of Dr. Cameron.

I telephoned and informed the station that Cameron is considered an immoral quack by his fellow psychologists in the American Psychological Association.

Pick up the phone and fight back!

Frank Howell
John Wise
Hayward

Gonzalez Says No To Olympics

This letter was sent to Mr. Terry Anderson.

Dear Mr. Anderson:

I have read your letter of Dec. 27, regarding the proposal to host the 1996 Olympics in San Francisco.

Thank you for sharing your comments regarding the United States Olympic Committee's continuing suit to prohibit the use of the title "Olympics" by the Gay Games. Your concerns are most reasonable specifically, the fact that many other organizations have been allowed to use the title freely without USOC prohibition.

Please be assured I will not support the expenditure of city funds to attract the 1996 Olympics to San Francisco until the USOC permits the term Olympics to be used in the Gay Games III.

Jim Gonzalez
Supervisor
San Francisco

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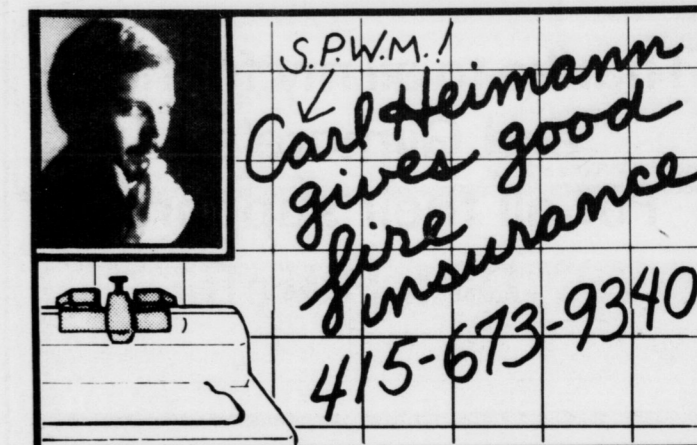
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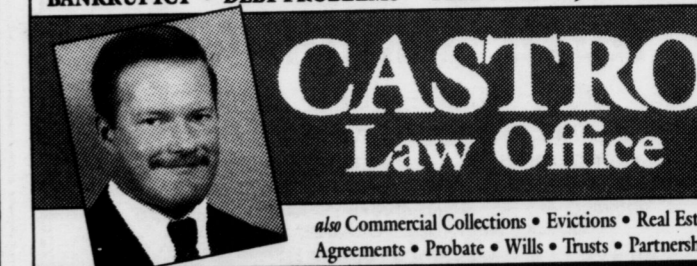
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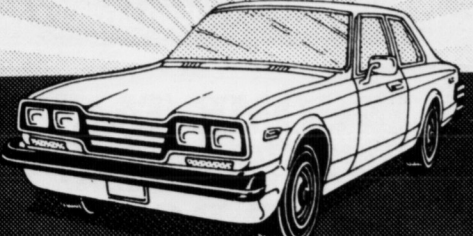
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LETTERS

In Memory of Karl Stewart

★ I and the family of Karl would like to extend our appreciation and thanks to all who have supported us in our time of grief in so many ways.

We especially want to thank the Shanti Project for supplying two superior counselors — Kirk Thomas who was so helpful for Karl and Doug Frazer who is continuing to support me. They both are to be commended.

I would also like to share with you a letter I received last week which made me feel so proud of my lover and the efforts he has put into the gay community. It is as follows:

Dear Mr. Hough:
 This is to inform you that, upon motion made by Sup. John L. Molinari, the Board of Supervisors adjourned its regular meeting of January 12, 1987 out of respect to the late Karl Stewart.

The members of the Board, with a profound sense of civic and personal loss, are conscious of the many fine qualities of heart and mind which distinguished and brought justifiable appreciation to Mr. Stewart in the community.

The Supervisors realize that mere words can mean so little to you at a time such as this, but they do want you and the members of your family to know of their deep sympathy and heartfelt condolence.

Sincerely,
 John L. Taylor
 Clerk of the Board
 San Francisco

Again, thanks for everything you have done for us. Someday soon, we hope and pray, this terrible AIDS disaster will be a thing of the past and we won't have to lose our friends, family and lovers.

Larry Hough
 Devoted lover of Karl Stewart
 San Francisco

Assume Responsibility

★ I have been diagnosed with AIDS by the medical doctors. I would like to give a history of how this came about.

About one year ago, I started to have what was diagnosed as psoriasis which I have been told is hereditary. I have had psoriasis from time to time throughout my life, but this was much more serious. After about six weeks of these symptoms, I thought I might have V.D. Thereupon, I went to the San Francisco V.D. clinic and was told I had syphilis second stage. They treated me by giving me 1.2 million units of penicillin.

After about ten days there had been no change in my condition. So again, they treated me with another 1.2 million units of penicillin. Six weeks later, the symptoms were still there so this time I went to a private doctor and was tested for a number of diseases, AIDS, "T" cells, hepatitis, syphilis, etc. All the tests came back negative except syphilis. So again, my medical doctor, who, by the way, is a Harvard graduate, said he wanted to give me three shots of more penicillin over a three-week period of 2.4 million units each week.

After the three weeks, I still had syphilis. Again, he said another three more weeks of 2.4 million units of penicillin. This meant that over 14 weeks, my body was given 16.6 million units of penicillin. Beginning with the last three weeks of shots, more symptoms started to appear. Now I was diagnosed with pneumonia and again was given more antibiotics, sulphadiazine and again was given more antibiotics, sulphadiazine this time. When I first started down this medical road, I was going to a gym, my health was the best it had ever been. My weight was 195 and now it is at 164. My blood pressure which had been 110 over 80 was now 70 over 30 and my pulse rate now 120 from 68. My doctor after consulting with other doctors said I had the worst case of syphilis he had ever seen and that if I had the money, he would have put me in the hospital and given me 90 million units of penicillin over a one-month period through IVs.

Now, here I was, with my skin shedding like a snake, shingles, pneumonia, weight loss and now the kicker, as there was now purple spots spreading over my body. Yes sir, now I had K.S., Kaposi's sarcoma. And thereupon I was diagnosed with AIDS. Why didn't the "T" cell test come up positive? The doctor's answer was that I had syphilis so bad that it clouded the test.

Throughout these many weeks I kept saying to my doctor that maybe AIDS was a mutation of syphilis and all these antibiotics were a causal factor to the breakdown of the immune system. He said that it could very likely well be. But with the power of the medical and drug industry will they expose the fraud they are about? You see, by their own terms, like diagnosis, which means in Latin "to guess" and the word dis-ease means not feeling good and not some bacteria or germ which causes illness. From my experience, I do believe AIDS is the 1980's fraud of the medical fraternity.

Now in my condemnation of medicine I also have to take responsibility for my health.

For the last 13 years I have been sexually active. I also have experience taking drugs (I include booze and cigarettes) which has contributed to my state of dis-health.

I believe that the great power of the human body has the intelligence to overcome this malady — if all those who come from the holistic healthcare fields. Food, herbal therapy, chiropractic, acupuncture, acupressure, metaphysical mind science, Christian Science, and so on, we can overcome this illness.

Now is the time for me to stand up and assume the responsibility for my state of being. I call on those who believe as I do to come and participate in this enlightenment.

Let us show that human-kind is good and not born in sin, but that love, peace and freedom are the nature of life eternal.

Glenn Bernd
 San Francisco

A Disservice

★ This letter was sent to Tom Brokaw, NBC, 30 Rockefeller Plaza, New York, NY 10021.

Dear Mr. Brokaw:
 Your program, "Men, Women, Sex and AIDS," which I saw last night, seemed a disservice.

Early in the show a woman protested that she did not deserve AIDS. Neither does anyone else. Diseases are not transmitted because we deserve them but because an organism has found a new host. Yet the whole thrust of your show obscured that basic and humane touch by treating AIDS more like a moral problem than a medical one.

Your sexologist defined safe sex as celibacy, masturbation or monogamy with a trusted partner. That's not safe sex; that's prudery. That same expert found condoms ineffective because two women who used them contracted AIDS anyway. What about all the people who have caught AIDS from trusted and supposedly monogamous partners? In this crisis trust is a poor substitute for a condom.

Then we saw a priest who objected to condoms because they make chastity unnecessary. AIDS is a fatal disease and chastity is a frail reed. Condoms do fail, but people who resolve to be more chaste probably fail more often.

Several times we saw bumps and grinds on the dance floor as symbols of ignoring the restraints necessary in an age of AIDS. Actually the restraints you seemed to encourage offered more Victorian propriety than medical wisdom, and the abandoned lust we saw among those dancers was not only deliciously sexy but absolutely, 100 percent safe.

You should have listed systematically those practices which are safe, probably safe and unsafe. Overthrowing the sexual revolution won't stop AIDS. The only way to do that is to develop medical measures to block transmission or to effect a cure. Meanwhile those who conduct their sex lives by calculated judgments of what's safe and what isn't are going to suffer less than those who rely on trust or morbid austerities.

William T. Ingersoll
 Burlingame

Double Speak

★ This letter was sent to the San Francisco Chronicle:

Gay-baiter Wayne H. Alba has done it once again ("letters" dated 12/25/86 and 1/15/87). First, he compared U.S. Supreme Court Justice Harry Blackmun to a Nazi because the Justice believes that gays are entitled to the same basic rights of privacy as all other U.S. citizens. With the magic of pure double-speak, Alba blamed an innocent and relatively powerless minority group for the immoral persecution and bigotry — based ultimately on greed — it suffers at the hands of a corrupt, fascist society.

Now, Alba once again makes use of the same double-speak and blames innocent gay victims for the abusive acts of their powerful oppressors. He magically transforms gays into "bigots" because they criticize a Catholic Pope who uses his powerful position to preach lies and hate propaganda against them and urges world-wide intolerance, discrimination and violence against them.

Alba, these are lies and you know it. While countless innocent gay people suffer and die because of this Pope's immoral actions, you glibly sit back and play cynical word games. But the worst lie of all is your ludicrous claim that you and your fellow fascists have made any effort to ensure the civil rights of homosexuals.

Jesus was no liar and you have nothing to do with him. Neither does the Pope.

Stuart A. McDonald
 San Francisco

LETTERS

Rest In Peace, Wayne

★ The Christmas Day death of Wayne W. Whitcomb (B.A.R., Jan. 8) saddens the lives of all the Ambush faithful.

His happy presence there was a stable fixture of that South-of-the-Slot institution.

I told him once that his face was a very map of a Boston Irishman, a description which seemed to have delighted his soul.

His presence simply transported South Boston, Charlestown, and other Boston neighborhoods, including my own Roslindale, to the Ambush.

May he now join all those lovely sons and daughters of St. Patrick (real and imagined) who forever enrich eternity by their presence — as I light a candle in his memory among the glorious Huneke-stained glass windows at St. Leander's Church in San Leandro.

Requiescat in pace, Wayne.
James Francis Gibbons
 San Leandro

'Behind Each Face...'

★ This is an open letter to the men of my community:

What follows is not directed towards any one person or any several people. It is, in fact, not an indictment at all. Rather, I wish to touch on one facet of the dynamic power and image which dehumanizes and oppresses us through a complex array of preconceptions, experiences, expectations, and attitudes.

It is difficult for me to approach this subject because it requires a certain amount of candor about myself. Ever since I entered the good/bad world of gay bars, I have been (sometimes more, sometimes less) treated as an object, and this is because of an image: I am young-looking and stereotypically attractive. From this it would seem I enjoy a position of relative power, that is, people will and do hold that I am not oppressed but am instead an oppressor.

Yet it is not I who am empowered, but an image. And this image casts a controlling shadow over me as well as others. Further, despite the youth orientation of our community, young gay men carry a vicious burden. We are not respected, and often not legally entitled to protection, as adults. Because many of us are in the bars under false pretenses, a complaint to a bartender or bouncer about harassment or abuse is unlikely (to ask us to stay out of the bars is not only oppressive, but also absurd). Like our older gay brothers, we too go to bars for many reasons, most importantly for a friendly environment and protection/escape from straight society, but we end up having to build walls around our vulnerable selves.

As patterns of interaction flatten out and we respond more and more to surface attributes and arbitrary levels of maturity, depth of character vanishes and people become anonymous victims, parts interchangeable within their categories. Yet behind each face there is a person with a unique set of loves and hates, desires and fears, truths and lies, joys and sorrows, strengths and weaknesses.

While we confront the inequalities in our society and its laws, we must also confront the inequalities within and among ourselves. There are very real, very immediate needs to redistribute or, rather, relinquish — power in our world, our country, our community and our minds. From "attractive" to "unattractive," from men to women, from rich to poor, from white to black and brown and red and yellow, from straight to gay, from old to young and from young to old. It is for us to examine ourselves and to explore the varieties of history and potential within each other.

Scott Bravmann
 Berkeley

The Green Bay Situation

★ I was in the Bay Area visiting my family over the holidays. I am now living in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. I picked up a copy of the Jan. 1 edition of B.A.R. and read the letter to the editor from Mr. Mark Fulwiler.

There were some inaccuracies that should be clarified in Mr. Fulwiler's letter.

One, the Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund is not a Wisconsin organization. It offered to lend expertise and supply funds for the group Among Friends, a rural outreach program for gay men and lesbians.

Wisconsin is the first, and thus far the only state with a state law guaranteeing our civil rights with respect to employment, housing and "Public Accommodations." Access to newspaper advertising is considered to be a "Public Accommodation" as interpreted under earlier court and administrative challenges to this law.

Second, while I am not an authority on Constitutional law, it has been my understanding that authors of the Constitution had intended that the government

should not have authority to interfere with the press in respect to news items which might be embarrassing to it or its officials. In the light of our Equal Rights Law in Wisconsin and furthermore how our courts have interpreted and enforced it, it seems that the Green Bay Press Gazette has discriminated against one of the more isolated communities, that of rural gays and lesbians.

I don't feel the Constitution is being subverted by requiring that the newspaper provide equal access to "Public Accommodations" to all of the citizens of Wisconsin.

Green Bay, Wisconsin, is hardly a gay mecca. Assembling the handful of politically active gay men and lesbians in Green Bay who might be so inclined to attempt a boycott or picket would get snickers at best. As a gay man who came out in 1984, I find it amazing that confrontational tactics of 1972 are still used and advocated.

We have our Civil Rights Law. Wisconsin and California are the only two states which prohibit the use of the HIV antibody test for the purpose of determining insurability. We got that way by networking and quiet political pressure, not by boycott, picketing, and other activities which are draining of positive energy.

Craig Beeson
 Milwaukee, WI

ED. NOTE: Different strokes for different folks, Craig. However, you should get out your history book and take a look at the history of picketing and boycotts. When gay men and lesbians boycotted Florida Orange Juice, the citrus growers eventually canceled the contract of anti-gay spokeswoman Anita Bryant. Or, how about picketing over the Vietnam War at radical campuses such as the University of Wisconsin at Madison (among others, of course)? Nixon developed his "secret plan" to win the war once he saw that the message of the students was sinking through to Joe and Emily Blow of Cracked Wheat, Nebraska. Or, how about the boycott of the Montgomery, Alabama buses after a tired black woman named Rosa Parks was told she couldn't sit in the front of the bus because she was black? Think again, Craig. Successful picketing and boycotting are not only parts of American history, but they are also celebrations of democracy.

Will Snyder

Secure Our Future

★ Cutbacks in government spending for human services and the movement toward individual responsibility for one's health and welfare greatly account for the increase of self-interest groups. But one can see another growing trend: people are no longer coming together so much along family ties or religious beliefs; instead, it's more along the lines of mutual experience.

Over the next few weeks, through your employer, the Bay Area United Way will solicit you to donate some portion of your hard-earned dollars towards worthy causes. At that time you may request a donor option card to select your own "designated charity." You should be aware of the primary three qualifications for this Donor Option program: a) Tax-Exempt status with an IRS 501 (c) (3) Classification, b) Located in California, c) A human service agency.

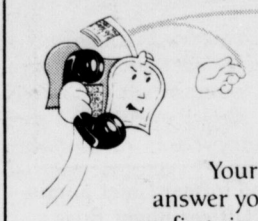
There are in excess of a hundred tax-exempt nonprofit charitable organizations serving the Bay Area. Only a small few of these are agencies with budgets in the six figure range, usually with numerous funding sources. This leaves us many groups which are founded on volunteer help meeting the specialized needs of our diverse community. Many of these groups spend tremendous amounts of time raising bar survival funds even though more often they are better experts in directly providing these specialized services. Without funding help, an incredible percentage of the effective groups have collapsed within the last five years.

In response, our local community may support the following foundations — Golden Gate Choral Foundation, Bay Area Physicians for Human Rights Foundation, or the GGBA Foundation.

However, since 1978 the number of gay organizations has tripled in the Bay Area. So there are probably many groups you're not familiar with. Here are some you may not know: AIDS Emergency Fund, Community Women's Center, Delta City Family, Gay Fathers-SFBA, Gay Youth Community Coalition, Girth and Mirth Club of SF, Galaxy, Marin AIDS Support Network, San Francisco Sex Information, Touch Circle... All of these are qualified but for a complete, updated list of community organizations consult the following gay publications: Gay Book, Coming Up! resource guide, "We Are Here" community guide, San Francisco Lesbian Resource Directory, or call your favorite gay organization or switchboard for assistance.

Michael Nulty
 San Francisco

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Photos by Richard Law

Wayne Friday

Lining Up

With Rep. Sala Burton gravely ill in a Washington hospital, suffering from what her associates call "deteriorating" complications after colon surgery, the political players in San Francisco were moving quickly to line up behind prospective candidates for Burton's congressional seat.

Many expect the ailing congresswoman to resign her 5th district seat within weeks and the political posturing has been hot and heavy. Among the recent names of potential candidates is former district attorney Joseph Freitas. Also mentioned is former state Democratic chairperson Nancy Pelosi, who is apparently the chosen candidate of many connected to the Burton family and is reportedly being promoted by the Brown-Agnos-McCarthy wing of the party as well.

Already expressing interest in the congressional seat, should a vacancy occur, are Sups. Harry Britt, Bill Maher, and Carol Ruth

Silver and former Chief Administrative Officer Roger Boas.

Meanwhile, little information is being given out on Burton's health status, except that she is said to be "resting" in D.C., and reportedly "fighting" her sickness very hard. The mystery surrounding the congresswoman's health has been compounded by the refusal of her staff or Burton herself to give out any substantial information, with some political reporters saying that the congresswoman's staff is "once again handling the situation very poorly," much like last year after the representative's closely guarded surgery.

Those who know Burton well, though, are saying privately that she is expected to step down from her seat soon.

Rev. Jesse Jackson, speaking at Stanford last week and sounding something like a candidate, says only that he "is assessing a second bid for the Democratic presidential nomina-



Sup. Richard Hongisto.

tion on the basis of his family's views, his ability to raise money and the level of grassroots support he could expect." Translated, of course, that means he will announce his candidacy before the end of the year.

Roger Boas crying to the press last week of the many companies that have left the city and the jobs lost — one might ask where he was and what he was doing during his past ten years as Chief Administrative Officer.

Nancy Pelosi might be the hand-picked candidate of the Brown-Agnos-McCarthy wing of

the party for Sala Burton's seat, should the congresswoman quit, but one long-time local Democratic bigwig who does not favor her was heard to remark this week, "Just what San Francisco doesn't need — to be represented in Washington by a Pacific Heights socialite."

Yes, Gov. George Deukmejian is in Japan and, yes, we do have a Democratic (acting) governor — Leo McCarthy.

Only days after Oakland Mayor Lionel Wilson was making excuses for that city's high homicide rate ("Well, if you discount

the drug-related ones, and maybe the family-related murders"), three men were murdered in separate incidents last Sunday alone, bringing the number of homicides in Oakland to eight so far this year. And what does the incompetent Mayor Wilson have to say about his city fast becoming the murder capital of the West? Stay tuned!

Friends of Richard Hongisto will celebrate the supervisor's 50th birthday by holding a \$150 reception for him at the Hyatt Regency on Feb. 4, (5:30-7:30, 777-2340 for info).

Some Sacramento political writers see the current highly-publicized battle between George Deukmejian and state schools chief Bill Honig as a possible preview of a political battle. Some say that Honig is aching to run for governor in 1990, hoping that Deukmejian would be his GOP opponent.

Meanwhile, former Gov. Jerry Brown is temporarily living in Japan about 25 miles from Tokyo where he is finishing a book and doing some legal work for Japanese and Chinese clients of a Los Angeles law firm.

According to political writers from the Southland, some campaign staffers and friends of Tom Bradley are looking to "get even" with Dianne Feinstein, claiming that our mayor didn't "do enough to help" Bradley in his recent disastrous campaign. These Bradley loyalists say that Feinstein "deliberately ducked a public appearance with Bradley in San Francisco" and the animosity is said to be running high.

Anybody who is anybody in San Francisco politics showed up at Quentin Kopp's dinner last week held to pay off his campaign debt. The dinner co-chairs were Mayor Feinstein, former Mayor Joe Alioto and Thelma Shelley, the wife of the late Mayor George Shelley and the dinner committee consisted of everyone from John Molinari to Harry Britt and included the likes of Terry Francois, Dorothy von Beroldingen and Nancy Walker. Sen. Kopp didn't know he had so many "friends."

Gov. Deukmejian proclaimed this Civil Rights Week in California in honor of slain civil rights leader Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Famed television evangelist Billy Graham telling CNN viewers Sunday that homosexuals are "made in the image of God, but if they take a vow for good and ask his help he can help them (from their lifestyle)."

The 100th Congress sworn in earlier this month has two female senators and 23 women House members. There are 23 black House members and 14 Hispanic representatives, but no blacks or Hispanics in the Senate. Claude Pepper (D-FL) is the oldest congressional member at age 86, while John Rowland (R-NY) is the youngest member at 29. Sixty-two percent of the Senate and 44 percent of the House are attorneys; more members of both the Senate and the House are Catholics than any other religious denomination. The newest woman senator, Maryland's Barbara Mikulski, is the shortest member of Congress at 4'11".

If you ever want to reach your senator or congressperson, you can do so by calling them through the Capitol switchboard at (202) 224-3121 or write them at the House Office Building or the Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510.

Quote of the week — from the Rev. Robert W. Cromey, rector of

(Continued on next page)

Mike Hippler

I Didn't Write This Headline

I'm not much good with titles — what we in the business call "heads." Never have been and probably never will be. This has caused me no end of difficulty, especially when readers assume that I am responsible for heads which I consider an embarrassment.

I don't know what gets into editors sometimes. Perhaps, like writers, they get bored. Perhaps, like writers, they try too hard to be cute or clever. Or perhaps, with writers they have a score to settle. Who knows? But nothing short of intense and prolonged drug use can explain some of the heads they've given me over the years.

One of the first was for an article, notorious to this day, about my rather interesting medical problems over the years. They titled it, "Don't Fuck With Me, Mary." Later, for an article about Sam Steward, an author I respect a great deal, my editors chose the following head: "Fascinating Fairy, You've Got Me on the Go."

I mean, really. But it gets worse. Still later, a piece about homeless gay people which I considered a sincere and moving tour de force was entitled "Helter Skelter For Shelter: Transient Parade of Homes." And just recently, a satirical piece about gay blue collar fantasies was given the excruciating misnomer, "Construction Workers: Ugh, Ugh, Ugh!"

Nevertheless, the assistance of editors in this regard is sometimes invaluable. Such was the case a few years ago when I was asked to choose a permanent head for this column. I racked my brain for an appropriate response and, finding nothing there, resorted to a file box of quotes I keep for just such an occasion. After thumbing through a set of neglected 3 x 5 cards, I came up with a horde of possibilities, some of which may be familiar:

The Pull of Gravity: "He had to or he would die. It was all happening in a great swooping free fall, irreversibly free of decision, in the full pull of gravity toward whatever was to be," from Laura Z. Hobson, *Consenting Adult*.

A Broken Dam: "The dam was indeed broken, and I started pouring myself out with increasing frequency and ease to virtually all of my good friends," from John Reid, *The Best Little Boy in the World*.

A Little Mad: "Perhaps he was a bit different from other people, but what really sympathetic person is not a little mad?" from Isadora Duncan, *My Life*.

Extreme Familiarity: "His advice to avoid the extreme familiarity of my Superior by exercising considerable reserve was a good one to follow, and I resolved to do so," from Denis Diderot, *The Nun*.

Some Fashionable Vice: "Funny thing, you know, it didn't feel at all like going straight. More like trying to cultivate some fashionable vice that never quite becomes a habit," from Mary Renault, *The Charioteer*.

Exalted Pagan: "You know, he said, even the most exalted paganism is paganism none the less," from Mary Renault, ditto.

"I don't know what gets into editors sometimes. Perhaps, like writers, they get bored. Perhaps, like writers, they try too hard to be cute or clever."

I also considered Good Sometimes Queen (Shakespeare) but decided that it was both silly and inappropriate. Rambling On (my own invention) was appropriate but corny. It's Greek To Me was simply dumb. Finally, above the entrance to the Hall of Justice I saw the words Of Whatever State of Persuasion (meaning that justice would be guaranteed to people of whatever . . . etc.). But it was too long a title to fit above my name.

In desperation I turned to my editor, who took five seconds to choose *On the Off Beat*. I liked it immediately for lots of reasons. First of all, it was fitting. I covered stories not covered on any other newspaper beat — the off beat. Secondly, my stories were often odd enough that they certainly qualified as "off beat."

Then I liked the word play, the juxtaposition of the opposites "on" and "off." Finally, slut that I am, I liked the subliminal image that the last two words brought to mind, at least in reverse. So, I humbly expressed my thanks to my editor and used his idea.

The column head didn't last very long. Along with Politics and Poker, Even in Babylon, Tales of Tessi Tura, and others, *On the Off Beat* fell victim to a design change this summer. Now we are simply Wayne Friday, John Karr, George Heymont, and Mike Hippler. We are also faceless once

again, our pictures having disappeared along with our heads — which is certainly for the best.

But I do miss *On the Off Beat* — possibly because it represents one of the few times I have taken an editor's advice willingly and gratefully.

Of course, there is always the possibility that it could happen again — that one of my editors will title a piece something I'll be proud to claim as my own. "Bop 'Til You Drop" was a great one, for instance. But I ain't holding my breath — and God only knows what they'll come up with for this article. Whatever it is, though, it's bound to be better than the one I chose.

Well, hell, I ain't losing any sleep over it. Face it — it's hard to give good head(s).

Ramsey Lewis Performs For AIDS Benefit

The Design and Interior Furnishings Foundation for AIDS (DIFFA) will be the recipient of proceeds from a benefit gala to be sponsored by the Western Merchandise Mart on Tuesday, Jan. 27, from 6:30 p.m.

The gala, which will feature a live performance by America's favorite jazz group, The Ramsey Lewis Trio, and dancing to the city's famed *Pride & Joy*, will top off CALICON 4—the Mart's annual California Contract Show—which is an educational forum targeted to architects, space planners, interior designers, facilities managers, developers, contract dealers and other industry professionals throughout the western region.

The Ramsey Lewis Trio performance will be held in the Mart Exchange on the 9th floor of Mart 1, beginning at 7 p.m. The gala party will take place in the lobby of the building from 8:15 p.m. Requested donation is \$40.

DIFFA is committed to raising

funds for local social services programs and AIDS education. The organization started in New York two years ago by a number of industry professionals who were concerned about the growing loss of their peers and friends.

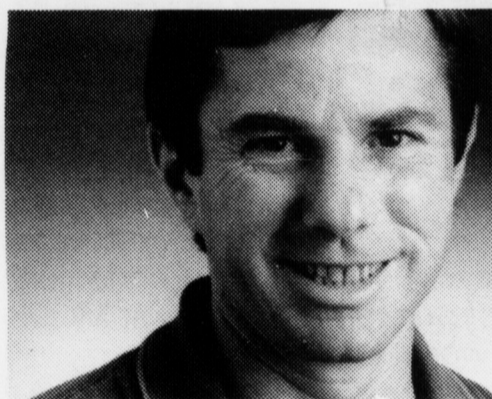
For tickets write to the Western Merchandise Mart, 1355 Market Street, Suite 355, San Francisco, CA 94103, or call 552-2311, ext. 35.

Friday

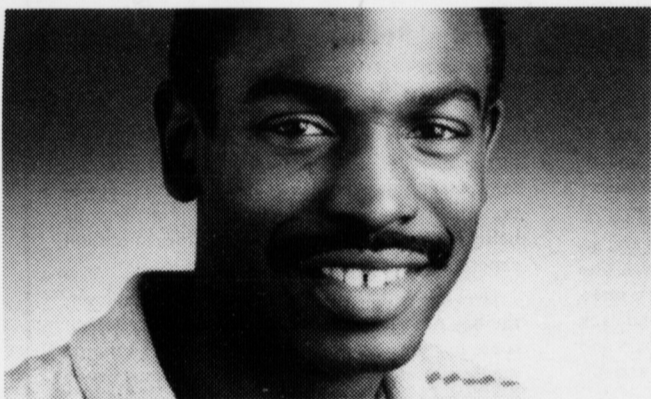
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Trinity Episcopal Church, regarding the upcoming visit by Pope John Paul II: "The Roman Catholic Church is a magnificent faith, but it is terribly hung up about sex — homosexuality, birth control, abortion, the celibacy of clergy. On these issues it is hopelessly tight. The Pope doesn't have dialogue. He makes pronouncements. He would have us believe that gays are perverted animals, not valuable human beings. Let's talk about that and not sweep it under the rug."

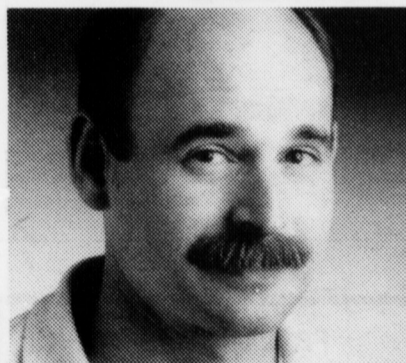
These men want to help you



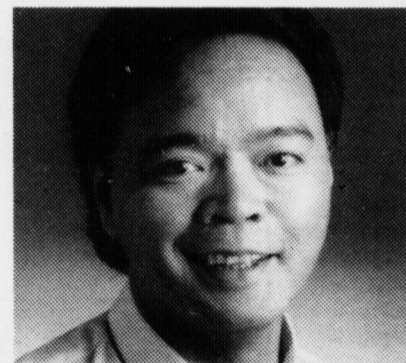
18th Street Services—861-4898



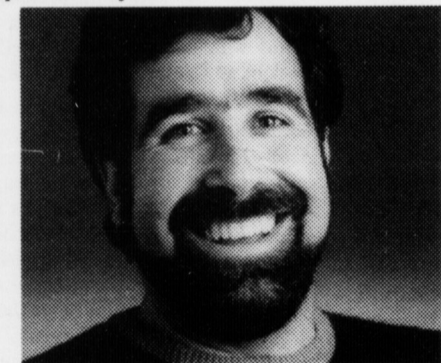
Stop AIDS Project—621-7177



The Buddy Connection—863-AIDS



AIDS Health Project—626-6637



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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-

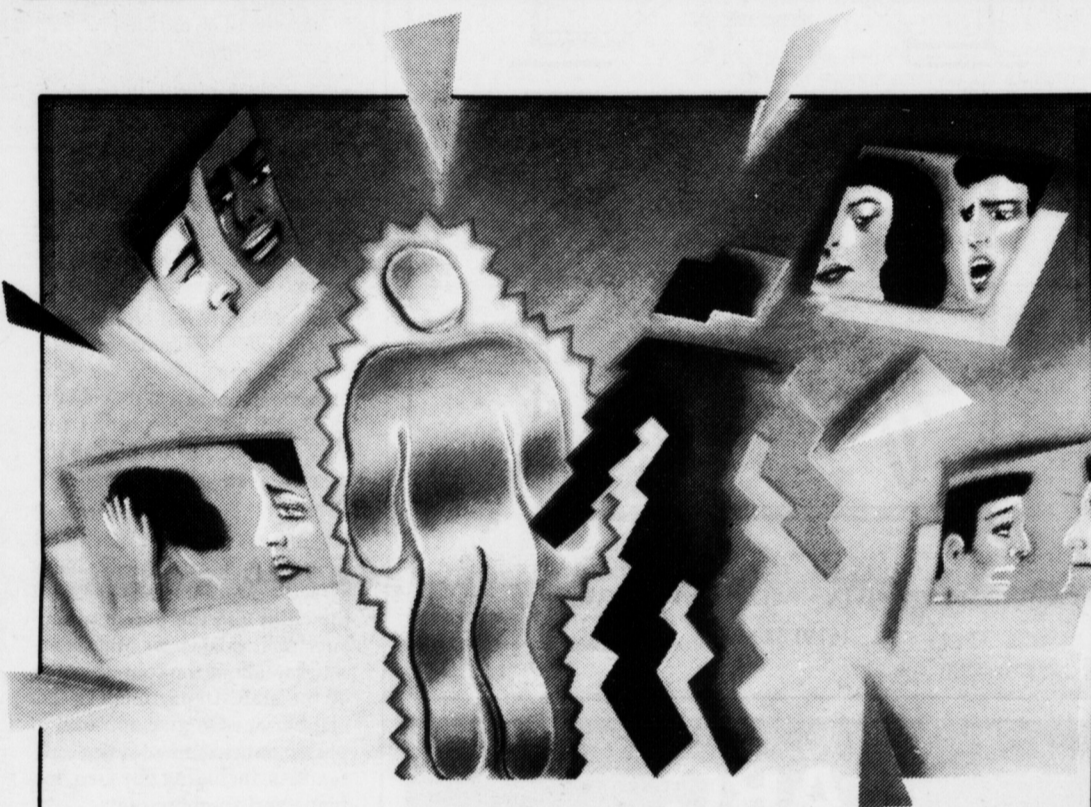
ing to make Safe Sex hot, or just talking it over with other men, help is available. Call the AIDS Hotline and find out.



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



Gay and lesbian relationships get crazy around drugs and alcohol

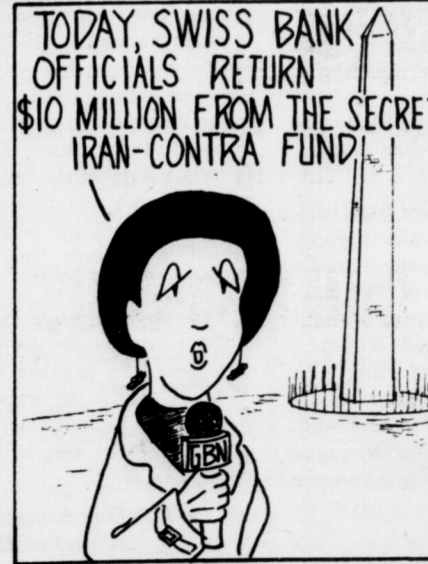
and taking the right step to recovery could make the difference. Right Step Recovery™ Program offers you the help to change chemically-dependent relationships into rewarding ones.

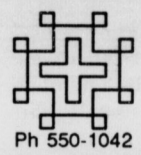
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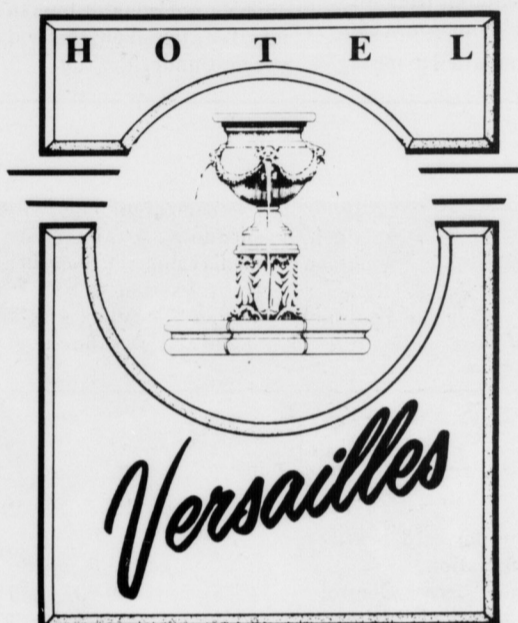
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All inquiries will be kept in absolutely the strictest confidence.

At present, *Cellular Immunogenic Treatment* is only available in West Germany.

NATIONAL & WORLD NEWS

Colorado Braces For Quarantine

DENVER — The archconservatives just won't give up. No more than two months after California voters soundly defeated a potential AIDS quarantine initiative, the word quarantine is back in the news. This time, the Q Word apparently is ready to go up for consideration by legislators in Colorado. Lesbian and gay leaders are not too thrilled about the prospect of defeating this measure. According to the Advocate, Colorado lawmakers appear poised to quickly approve a measure that would grant state and local health authorities new sweeping powers to test, trace and quarantine individuals suspected of being infected with HIV, the virus believed to cause AIDS.

The sponsor of the measure, HB 1290, is powerful Denver Republican Dottie Wham. Among other things, the bill would define AIDS as a communicable disease and would establish

wide parameters for controlling the spread of the virus. Stiff reporting of the disease would become a requirement. HB 1290 would give state and local authorities unchecked power to isolate, detain and/or quarantine anyone suspected of posing a hazard to the public health.

Tom Witte, a Colorado gay activist, cited some problems with the bill which many people might overlook. "The problem we face is that to the average citizen this does not look like a dangerous piece of legislation," said Witte. "Another problem is that the state health department, which wrote the bill, is very strong. Worse, there are about a half dozen mostly closeted gay and lesbian employees in the health department who support the bill. They are leading the department astray on this issue."

—The Advocate

Mass. Commission Wants Change In Foster Parent Policy

BOSTON — The vote was in and it was embarrassingly one-sided against Massachusetts Gov. Michael Dukakis' policy against gay and lesbian foster parents. A state-supported commission voted by a 13-2 margin to recommend that Dukakis adopt new foster care rules which would allow gay men and lesbians to become foster parents.

The commission emphasized in its Dec. 17 report that the prime purpose of foster care placement must be to provide the child with a "stable and nurturing environment" that is "in the best interests of the child."

The commission also stressed that placement decisions should be made on a case-by-case basis by social workers familiar with the child and the potential parents. As it exists now, Massachusetts law allows the commissioner of the state Department of Social Services to give approval to placements in "non-traditional" families, including gay men, lesbians and single parents.

A Dukakis spokesperson said the governor hasn't yet seen the report and will not say anything until he has talked with Human Services secretary Phillip Johnson.

Kevin Cathcart, executive director of Gay and Lesbian Advocates and Defenders (GLAD), a Boston gay rights group, said that "I believe this would be a dramatic change from Dukakis' policy, because we would be moving back to a best interests of the child" standard.

—The Advocate

Philly Cop Pays For Misbehavior

PHILADELPHIA — A gay man who was harassed by a police officer is \$3,500 richer today. Bruce M. Williams received a \$3,500 check from the City of Brotherly Love after a Philly city cop displayed less than brotherly love.

The case stemmed from Officer Matthew Robinson stopping Williams' car to issue a traffic citation in October of 1984. Robinson issued a citation without just cause, searched Williams' car, verbally abused him with anti-gay insults and made intimidating threats, Williams said, solely because he was driving in the neighborhood of Kensington and Allegheny Aves., a gay cruising spot.

Attorney David Webber said he was extremely pleased with the decision of District Court Judge William Ditter, Jr. "We wanted the city to be responsible for this type of situation when it arises because it seems to happen so frequently," said Webber. "We felt that for a long time this informal custom, this understanding in the Police Department that you can get away with anti-gay harassment was there. By bringing in the city as a responsible party, we wanted the city to address that informal custom (and) reform it."

—Au Courant of Philadelphia

These Students Not 'Born To Be Wilde'

VANCOUVER, B.C. — Apparently, the recent conservatism of college students from the United States has spread to Canada. Last month, the Sigma Chi fraternity at the University of British Columbia held a "Heterosexual Week" on the UBC campus. At first, many on the campus thought of the "Week" as a typical frat boy prank.

However, members of Gays and Lesbians of the University of British Columbia (GLUBC) were quick to point out that the Heterosexual Week created bad vibes between gay and straight students on campus. "Born to Breed" buttons were available for students. After a "Proud to be a Breeder" dance was held, the office of GLUBC was vandalized. A notice board was ripped from the door, all the information on the door was stolen and there appeared to be a very determined attempt to break into the office.

—Angles of Vancouver, B.C.

'Perverted Paper' Banned From Prison

RICHMOND, VA — Virginia's State Department of Corrections banned a Boston gay newspaper from being distributed in Virginia prisons. According to Virginia's Deputy Director of Adult Institutions, Edward Morris, a copy of the Gay Community News was reviewed by prison officials, but was determined to promote "perverted behavior."

The whole question came up when a prisoner in the facility continued to receive copies of GCN. Since the paper was banned, the prisoner has filed a grievance to be able to get his copy of GCN.

—The Gay Community News of Boston

Trio Assassinates Homophobic Cop

BOGOTA, Columbia — An anti-gay police official, allegedly responsible for the deaths of more than 300 gay people, was assassinated by unknown killers on a Bogota downtown street.

Col. Jose Agustin Ramos, the chief of police operations for Bogota, was approached by two men and a woman as he left his home for work. The trio shot him several times and then hurriedly left in a car waiting for them.

According to reports, Ramos and three other officers under his command tortured and assassinated 300 people, mostly gays, prostitutes, petty thieves and other members of the so-called "underworld."

—Update of Southern California

State Court Rules Against Elementary Teacher

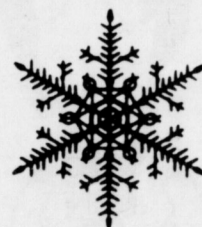
WHEELING, W.VA — The West Virginia Supreme Court backed a lower court ruling against a kindergarten teacher, who says she was forced to resign because she was perceived to be a lesbian.

Linda J. Conway, a teacher in Hampshire County, West Virginia, resigned from her job in 1983 after community pressure mounted against her. Before Conway resigned, the state's attorney general issued an opinion stating that the county school board could use the teacher's reputation in the community to establish her homosexuality and could dismiss a reputed "homosexual" teacher for "immorality."

A national gay leader denounced the state Supreme Court decision. Tom Stoddard, executive director of Lambda Legal Defense Fund, said that the courts "wouldn't allow discrimination of this kind to occur in the context of racial prejudice or gender prejudice."

"Sexual orientation should be treated the same way," said Stoddard, who called the attorney general's decision, "nothing short of appalling."

—The Washington Blade



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Some parents want to send these ads straight to Helms.

I Am Curious Kiddie

Parents Outraged As Children Dial 976; Helms Wants To Bar Sex Lines

by George Mendenhall

There is continued concern about curious children calling the "976" telephone pay lines that have explicit sexual messages. They get the numbers from friends and adult magazines. Parents continue to complain that they are being billed for unauthorized "976" calls. These can involve services that provide information about astrology, weather, movies or sex. Complaining parents are joined by conservative political and religious groups protesting the "976" lines.

The state Public Utilities Commission (PUC), Pacific Bell, Senator Jesse Helms (R-NC) and the Federal Communications Commission are all moving to limit or discontinue "976" sex calls, claiming that they are harmful.

The PUC has ruled that the pay lines "are in the public interest" and has extended for two years a provision that permits parents to receive a one-time only refund for their children's unauthorized calls.

Pacific Bell has mailed a notice to each home warning parents that the phone charges can range from 20 cents to \$2.00 a call plus applicable toll charges. It warned, "so enjoy the services but be sure to remind everyone in your home that lots of calls can add up quickly." Bell does not mention sex calls.

Current law says that such phone sex conversations cannot be made to a minor but it is virtually unenforceable as no known sex line operator deliberately directs calls to children. Helms wants to add a "rider" to unrelated national legislation

a special access code, stating the users age is above 18 that is requested when a call is made. However, a Bay Area Reporter advertiser said that there has been no pressure to enforce this provision on the gay lines—the assumption being that children would not learn the gay line numbers.

Publicly, the telephone company states it does not approve of the sex lines but it's protest has been mild. It receives 30-50 percent of the fees charged on the sex line calls. It is estimated that Pacific Bell's income in California from "976" lines is over \$1 million per week.

That would bar "indecent" telephone conversations—live or recorded—to adults as well as minors. In 1986, he unsuccessfully attempted to add it to budget and anti-drug legislation. "This attempt by Helms is not likely to be a high agenda item in the capitol this year," explained Atty. Barry Lynn, American Civil Liberties Union counsel in Washington, D.C. "While no one in the Senate is going to object to it in public, it is recognized by many that it would be a First Amendment violation. The ACLU is opposing it for this reason."

Lynn said Helms is trying to add the riders because he does not think he will fare well in public hearings. He added, "This issue took two weeks of my time last year. If it becomes an issue again, we will be asking the public to protest to their senators."

The FCC asked for public input earlier last year on what should be done about "dial a porn." In October, it ruled that anyone providing recorded sexually explicit "976" numbers must limit calls to those with access codes. Users were to write for

Forum Wednesday On Plan To Fence Buena Vista Park

A public hearing is set for next week on a plan which includes the fencing off of gay cruising areas in Buena Vista Park. The proposed Buena Vista Park Master Plan calls for fencing four areas of the park for up to three

years. The hearing is set for 7 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 28, at the Randall Junior Museum on Museum Way. Museum Way is located on the southern slope of Corona Heights above the Castro neighborhood. The museum is accessible from the 37 Corbett bus line, Museum Way stop; or by foot from the steps beginning on States Street.

Task Force Raps Reagan Budget

To Push For \$700 M

Pres. Ronald Reagan's proposed 1988 budget, released this week, calls for a \$118 million increase in AIDS funding over fiscal 1987. AIDS was one of the few non-defense programs slated for increase by the Reagan Administration. Under the proposed budget, AIDS research and prevention would be increased from \$436 million in the current fiscal year to \$534 million next year.

"In the current budget climate, the fact that the Administration requested an increase reflects a recognition—belated and inadequate as it may be—of the magnitude of the AIDS crisis," commented Jeff Levi, executive director of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force.

"However," Levi continued, "this request still falls dramatically short of the funds need, particularly in the area of prevention."

The Task Force has said it will lobby for funding levels near \$700 million for AIDS research and prevention in the next fiscal year.

Such a level, Levi explained, "would allow us to move in even increments to the \$2 billion a year figure that the National Academy of Sciences/Institute of

Medicine report recommended recently."

NGLTF said it found the most serious deficiency in the budget request to be in the area of prevention education. The Centers for Disease Control, the agency spearheading the prevention programs, is given only a \$23 million increase in a budget, which covers prevention, surveillance and epidemiology.

"Few would argue that we now have an adequate prevention program. Even if all \$23 million of the increase for CDC went to education, we would be no where near what is needed for an effective campaign. The British are spending \$30 million on a mass media campaign alone in a country a fraction the size of the United States and with a much smaller AIDS problem."

AIDS Funding: (in millions)

	1987	1988
Health Resources & Services Administration	\$ 1.9	\$ 6.6
Centers for Disease Control	89.007	112.5
Nat'l Institutes of Health	247.943	343.5
Alcohol, Drug Abuse & Mental Health Administration	47.553	54.5
Office of Asst. Secretary for Health	—	.8
General Department Management	16.0	—
Food & Drug Administration	14.3	15.7
TOTAL	\$416.703	\$533.6

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KRON To Air First Condom Ad

Local Station Beats Its Media In AIDS Prevention Strategy

by Allen White and Brian Jones

It's been a long time coming: Condom ads will soon be unsheathed on TV. KRON, channel 4 in the Bay Area, will become the first U.S. station to air condom advertising. The ads, from the makers of Trojans, are set to air during the first week of February.

"The comment I keep hearing from people is, 'It's about time,'" said Javier Valencia, KRON public affairs coordinator.

Don't expect to see hot rods from the dukes against hazard. The Trojan ads, currently under review by KRON, are discrete—even vague.

One ad depicts a healthy looking young man talking about leading an active life—but being scared "these days." The ad then cuts to the name of the sponsor, Trojans. AIDS is not mentioned.

But AIDS prevention is at the heart of the tradition-breaking policy at KRON. "AIDS is a serious health hazard of specific concern to this market. We believe it is the responsibility of the media to focus attention on this important issue," said James H. Smith, KRON general manager.

CATHOLIC OPPOSITION

Two other local stations don't agree with that philosophy. And the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of San Francisco is opposed to the condom ads.

KGO-TV, channel 7, will not accept condom advertising.

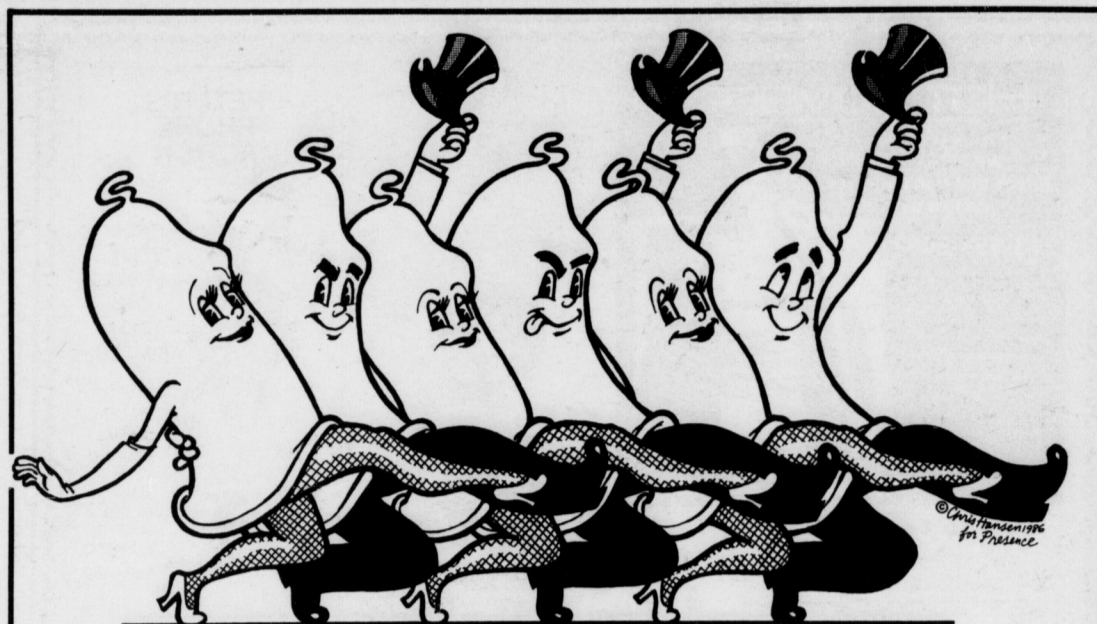
A spokesperson for KTVU, channel 2, said the station has no policy on the subject and had received no requests from condom-makers to buy ads. But a source inside KTVU said the station's general manager had told staff members that the station would not air condom ads.

KPIX, channel 5, does plan to promote condom use, but won't accept condom ads, said spokeswoman Carolyn Wean. "We will produce specific spots—appropriate spots which will educate the public about the use of condoms."

Wean said that condom ads may promote a product but fall short of educating viewers about how to prevent AIDS.

Dr. William Warner, president of Bay Area Physicians for Human Rights, said condom ads are "a good thing—as long as they stress the importance of condoms in AIDS prevention."

The Catholic Church opposes condom advertising, whether by paid ads or in public service



Using condoms will help stop AIDS. Get the facts. Call 800-FOR-AIDS.

SAFE SEX IS GREAT SEX

Chris Hansen's drawing of condoms may not make it on TV, but ads for rubbers may become the in thing on the boob tube.

spots. Church spokeswoman Charlotte Pace said the archdiocese was "saddened" by the decision to air spots about condoms. However, she said "the church will not protest" the airing of the spots.

However, a source inside KRON said an official of the archdiocese did contact the station last week, after KRON first announced it would accept condom ads. The unnamed church official urged the station not to air the ads, the source said.

POLITICAL SUPPORT

There was political support for TV stations to air condom ads. On Tuesday, Supervisors Harry Britt and John Molinari introduced a city resolution urging TV stations to broadcast the ads, as an AIDS prevention strategy.

"It is important that education be done outside the federal system . . . because the Reagan Administration has shown formidable opposition to honest efforts at AIDS prevention education," Britt said.

The White House has blocked much of \$20 million in federal AIDS prevention education, because of complaints that the education is too specific about sex. One particular point of controversy has been promotion of condoms.

Many fundamentalist Christians—notably the Revs. Jerry Falwell and Pat Robertson—oppose the government offering information about condom use. Such an effort promotes sin, say

the evangelists.

In contrast, condom ads regularly appear on television in England, France, and even Hong Kong—which so far has fewer than 100 AIDS cases.

But U.S. television stations, fearing the sensibilities of viewers, refused condom ads—until KRON broke the ice. Said Paul Boneberg, director of the lobbying group Mobilization Against AIDS, "For TV stations to refuse to air condom ads during a sexually transmissible epidemic is like farmers refusing to grow food during a famine."

Boneberg said Mobilization will use its network of affiliates in 80 U.S. cities to pressure local TV stations to follow the lead of KRON.

KRON will not profit from the condom ads. The station promised to donate its proceeds from the ads to AIDS organizations, and to require the condom-makers to donate a matching amount.

LA Parade Gives Away \$26K

Christopher Street West/Los Angeles has announced that \$26,600 was given to community organizations, since August, 1985, in "targeted" grants.

\$22,000 went to the No On LaRouche Initiative Committee; \$1,000 each to the Gay Men's Chorus of Los Angeles, The Lobby for Individual Freedom and Equality (LIFE) and The Gay & Lesbian Community Services Center of Los Angeles; \$500 each to Los Angeles Women's Community Chorus, the University of Southern California Lambda Alumni Association and the Alliance for Gay & Lesbian Artists in the Entertainment Industry (AGLA); and \$100 to the Valley Business Alliance Pioneer Days. All of the grants were "targeted" for the use of each group for specific purposes, by the CSW Board of Directors.

More than \$52,000 has been made available to the community by the producers of the Los Angeles Gay Pride Celebration, through grants, community support and other programs, during the '86-'87 fiscal year.

"Proud, Strong, United" is this year's International Gay Pride theme, and Christopher Street West is already making plans for Los Angeles' 1987 Gay Pride Celebration. The 1987 Parade and Festival will be unlike any in recent history.

The West Hollywood Pacific Design Center will not be able to play host to the Gay Pride Festival, as in years past. Due to the long planned expansion of the Pacific Design Center, the parking lot will be under construction by June.

A thorough search is currently underway for another festival site and an announcement is expected soon.

This year's celebration is scheduled for Saturday and Sunday, June 27 and 28, 1987. Anyone wishing to participate in the Parade or Festival may write to Christopher Street West, 7985 Santa Monica Blvd., Suite 109, West Hollywood, CA 90046. ●



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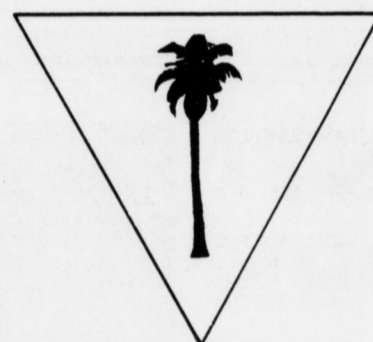


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VACCINE:
Would Prevent Infection
For Those At Risk

**Trials Within 1 Year;
But Political Bottleneck?**

by Brian Jones

Human tests of a vaccine to prevent AIDS will probably begin in the United States within a year, AIDS experts said last week. Already, human vaccine trials are underway in central Africa. French researchers are in the lead, as has been the case throughout the epidemic.

Said Dr. Anthony Fauci, "It will be small numbers at first, in the hundreds. Then after a period of three to nine months, it would move into the thousands." Fauci is director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases. He made his prediction Jan. 15 at a U.S. Senate hearing.

The next day, in Newport Beach, California, Dr. Flossie Wong-Staal of the National Cancer Institute reported more details on the prospective AIDS vaccine. Her report came during an international AIDS conference of researchers from more than a dozen nations.

Wong-Staal said that researchers have decoded the genetic composition of the protein "envelope" which surrounds the AIDS virus. "This raises the immediate possibility of the development of a cross-reactive vaccine," Wong-Staal said.

She said that three key findings provide "positive indicators for vaccine development."

PROTECTIVE ANTIBODY

First, the body produces an antibody—actually, a closely related group of antibodies—which is effective in identifying the AIDS virus.

Conference

(Continued from page 1) restricted to people with AIDS and high-level ARC. Already, 3,000 such people in the United States are using AZT on an experimental basis.

Further research results on ribavirin are to be reported early in February. This will set the stage for FDA licensure within about three months.

Ribavirin would be licensed for use by low-level ARC patients and antibody-positive people. Many thousands of Americans are currently using ribavirin purchased in Mexico, where it is legal.

MYSTERY UNRAVELS

The international AIDS conference focused on molecular biology: how the virus invades, takes over, and kills immune-system cells. As some of the world's top disease detectives reported on their work, it became clear that science is unraveling the mystery of HIV—a virus discovered just three years ago.

"Our basic molecular research has defined a number of targets for therapeutic intervention," said Dr. William Haseltine of the Harvard Medical School. "We can now say that finding therapies to block the virus is not an insurmountable task—but it will require a great deal more effort."

Haseltine presented a highly detailed description of how the AIDS virus acts in the human body. Understanding the chemical reaction between the virus and its target cell is crucial to

such that reinfection is not possible."

A third key finding helps to confirm the theory of a protective antibody. Wong-Staal said that babies of mothers with AIDS were found to have the antibodies—but the babies had no active AIDS virus.

HOW IT WORKS

The AIDS virus, as it invades the body, can be viewed as a "letter" which is addressed to a specific place in the human immune system. The "address" is the T4 cell—the "helper" cell—which is a crucial component for the body to fight off most types of diseases.

Like all "letters," the virus is surrounded by an envelope. The address is on the outside of the envelope.

"The envelope is a key component in the infectivity" of the AIDS virus, Wong-Staal said. "It is crucial for identifying the target cell and for binding to the target cell."

"The strategy is to mutate the envelope," Wong-Staal said.

The envelope is composed of a glycoprotein—a sugary protein molecule. Researchers have named this glycoprotein GP-120 and have described its precise chemical makeup. Many specific functions of various segments of the GP-120 string have been determined as well.

The strategy is to prove which segment of GP-120 "programs" the virus to invade the cell wall of the T4 cells. Through genetic engineering, researchers have removed this segment and replaced it with a harmless link.

Such a strategy produces a viral envelope which appears, to the body, to be identical to the AIDS virus envelope. But this bogus envelope does not appear to have the ability to invade the T4 cells.

The bogus glycoprotein envelope (Continued on page 19)

finding a treatment.

The goal is to find drugs which will prevent the virus from reacting with the target cell. This may take place at several steps in the process of viral invasion.

Once in the body, the virus seeks out immune-system cells called T4 or "helper" cells. It now appears that the virus escapes detection at this early stage of infection because it is literally sugar-coated.

The virus is surrounded by a sugary "envelope" which seems to fool the body into recognizing the virus as a harmless sugar molecule. Thus, the body's immune system does not react at first to the virus.

The first strategy toward fighting the virus is to "teach" the body, in advance, to be more alert for the unique chemical composition of the AIDS virus envelope.

Dr. Flossie Wong-Staal of the National Cancer Institute said researchers now know the exact makeup of the viral envelope.

"This raises the immediate possibility of the development of a cross-reactive vaccine," Wong-Staal said. The vaccine would be a chemical containing most, but not all, of the molecules in the virus envelope.

The false envelope would teach the body to recognize the real AIDS virus as an invader—before the real virus ever entered the body.

The body would produce antibodies against the virus before the actual virus ever appeared. Wong-Staal said such natural an-

tibodies have demonstrated effectiveness in killing the virus.

This tactic—advance vaccination—would be important to those who are at risk for AIDS, but who are not yet infected.

INSIDE THE T-CELL

Once the virus invades the helper T-cell, its genetic code reprograms the genetic string in the nucleus of the infected cell.

It is here that AZT has shown an effect in blocking the virus. AZT is a molecule which replaces part of the AIDS virus in the nucleus of the helper T-cell. Once AZT binds to the genetic code of the virus, the virus can no longer take over the target cell.

Thus, AZT prevents the last—and most devastating—stage of AIDS infection. Unchecked, the infected T-cell becomes a "factory" which rapidly produces up to 500 new strings of the AIDS virus.

Then the infected T-cell attracts clusters of healthy helper cells. The healthy T4 cells surround the infected cell. The infected cell disintegrates—and strings of the virus invade dozens of the surrounding, healthy T-cells.

AZT seems to prevent the reprogramming of the infected cell. Thus the infection is stopped at an early stage of development.

AZT does not, however, help cells which are already infected. Thus, AZT cannot reverse the damage to the immune system which already has been done by the virus.

AZT:

**Significant Benefit For
People With AIDS, ARC**

**But Serious Side Effects
Will Limit Its Distribution**

by Brian Jones

In 1964, as the U.S. war against cancer got into full swing, chemists created a compound called azidothymidine, or AZT. Like dozens of other false hopes, the drug proved of no benefit in fighting cancer.

"It was put on the shelf for 20 years," said Dr. Caroline Kennedy of the University of California-San Diego.

AZT was pulled off the shelf in 1984 by its developer, the Burroughs Wellcome Co. AZT was one of more than 250 drugs screened in a desperate attempt to find something, anything, which would block the new and devastating AIDS virus.

Alone among the 250 drugs, AZT appeared to help.

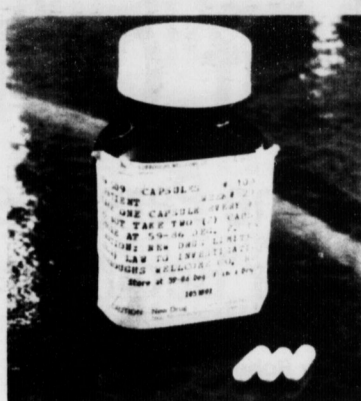
In an initial trial during 1985, AZT showed great promise in blocking further progress of the disease. Fifteen of the 19 subjects in the study demonstrated increases in numbers of T4 or "helper" immune-system cells.

The positive results prompted a more wide-scale study in 1986 — 282 people with AIDS and AIDS-Related Conditions (ARC). This time, the study was the classic double-blind, placebo-controlled study.

DRAMATIC RESULTS

The study began in February 1986 and was to continue through December. But by September, results among those taking the real AZT were so dramatic that researchers halted the trial.

They offered AZT to all the subjects, including the people who had been taking the placebo. The researchers acted out of an ethical concern that they must



AZT. (Photo: Rink)

WHO BENEFITS

Since then, more than 3,000 people with AIDS and high-level ARC have entered the experimental program of AZT therapy. Burroughs Wellcome and independent researchers are tracking the responses of the subjects to the drug. Already, one striking characteristic has emerged.

Those with most of their immune system intact before beginning AZT therapy do better than those more seriously affected. The key measurement is the initial count of T4 helper cells at the time AZT therapy begins.

"Most deaths were at the level of less than a 100 T4 cell count at entry into the study," said Dr. Kennedy. A normal T4 helper cell count is about 350. "The probability of death correlated with the initial level of T4 cells."

This finding underscored the belief that AZT can halt the progress of AIDS — but cannot restore the damage already done.

"It is quite clear that AZT does not cure AIDS. It merely improves the survivability of patients and reduces the incidence of opportunistic infections," Kennedy said. Agreed Dr. David Berry, vice-president for research at Burroughs Wellcome Co., "We would be the first to agree that AZT does not stop death in all patients."

The current focus of research therapy, then, is to administer

AZT while also experimenting with other drugs to prevent opportunistic infections.

One particularly promising drug is acyclovir, a treatment for herpes. Kennedy reported last week that acyclovir has shown a "synergistic effect" with AZT — boosting the action of AZT and allowing the use of lower doses of AZT.

Many drugs used to treat or prevent opportunistic infections may not be available for use with AZT, however. AZT shows an adverse reaction to some drugs. Researchers currently are seeking to determine which drugs react badly to AZT.

Even alone, AZT has demonstrated severe side effects in some people. Severe anemia seems to be the greatest hazard. Many subjects have shown a marked decrease in red and white blood cell counts while undergoing AZT therapy.

Lower doses of AZT, in conjunction with acyclovir, may lessen such side effects — while maintaining the benefits of AZT.

The hazards of AZT present a dilemma to doctors, and to the drug-maker. Because of its toxicity, AZT should only be used by those who are seriously ill — lest the side effects harm patients more than help them.

But at the same time, AZT is most effective in patients whose immune systems are in an earlier stage of AIDS infection. The goal is to find the "golden mean" at which therapy with AZT is most helpful, and least hazardous.

HOW IT WORKS

The AIDS virus, once it enters the body, targets the T4 helper cell. The helper cell is a crucial component of the immune system. It acts as a messenger to alert the rest of the immune system when a disease has entered the body.

By invading and destroying T4 helper cells, the AIDS virus prevents the body from recognizing

diseases. Thus the body is defenseless against a wide range of otherwise harmless infections.

AZT is a chemical which binds to the AIDS virus and blocks its ability to reprogram the T4 helper cell. AZT replaces that part of the AIDS virus string which mutates the genetic code in the nucleus of the T4 cell.

The AZT-mutated virus still can invade the T4 cells. But the action of the virus is blocked once the virus is within the cell.

"AZT acts as a chain-terminator of the virus," said Dr. Kennedy. "In effect, the virus is fooled into accepting a false nucleotide and so yields an ineffective virus."

Last week, a panel of the federal Food and Drug Administration reviewed the latest findings on AZT. The panel of scientists voted 10-1 to urge the FDA to quickly license AZT for more widespread use.

The scientist who opposed FDA licensing is Dr. Itzhak Brook. Dr. Brook said licensing AZT at this time would be "releasing the genie out of the bottle," by encouraging too many people to use a drug with severe side effects.

Brook said that AZT could be misprescribed by doctors for people with only mild AIDS infections, or no symptoms at all — creating more danger than the AIDS infection itself.

It seemed certain that the FDA would license use of the drug for people with AIDS, and high-level ARC, within weeks.

Dr. Barry of the Burroughs Wellcome Co. predicted that at least 15,000 people with AIDS and ARC would be eligible for the drug. Barry said AZT would be allocated only through pharmacies and doctors approved by Burroughs Wellcome — to make sure the drug is only used by appropriate patients.

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Fit Or Fad II

One Person's Guide To Aerobics For Beginners Or Seasoned Veterans

by Robert J. Stone

Part II

One aerobics instructor I know refers to his occupation as "jumping up and down for a living." This is an accurate, but somewhat oversimplistic explanation of the profession. There is actually a great deal of theory behind the concept of aerobics, but most students could care less. Besides, the most important thing to ask yourself when you're deciding on a class is, "Do I enjoy these routines and this instructor?" If the answer is "no," then keep looking.

Listen to your body. If you're a little sore the next day, that's great. You probably got a good workout. If you're in pain, you probably did something wrong. The class should be both mentally and physically invigorating and you should always leave feeling better than you did when you walked in. This is what keeps you coming back.

FINDING THE RIGHT CLASS

What follows is my impression of seven programs I am familiar with. There are many other programs available and this in no way represents a thorough market survey. This is only one consumer's report, not Consumer Reports. If you think I'm dead wrong about a particular program, I hope you march straight to class, buy ten extra tickets, and bring all your friends to show them how great it is. If you're bored with your current program, try a new class but don't stop exercising. The road to good health is rarely discovered at the bottom of a martini glass.

Body Rhythms: This program no longer exists. But it provides a great lesson in what not to do when picking a class. This was a one-man aerobics program that met in an elementary school at Sanchez and 14th until last September. At that time the owner/instructor decided, with no advance notice, to take a year off and travel. He closed up shop, left town, and his students who had purchased class cards never received classes they had already paid for.

Regardless of the quality of the instruction, getting involved in a one-man operation is a risk. You're risking your money on the continued health, integrity, and commitment of the instructor. A larger organization with several instructors is a safer bet.

Dancergetics: 2358 Pine St. (plus nine locations throughout the city) 563-0634 \$5/class, \$35/eight classes. No showers. If the recent exodus of students and instructors is any indication, Dancergetics has fallen on hard times. Many alternative class locations have closed in the last year and most of the instructors who remain look like they'd rather be doing anything except teaching a Dancergetics class. The studio on Pine St. has water stains on the walls from a leaking roof and the carpeting could have come over on the Mayflower.

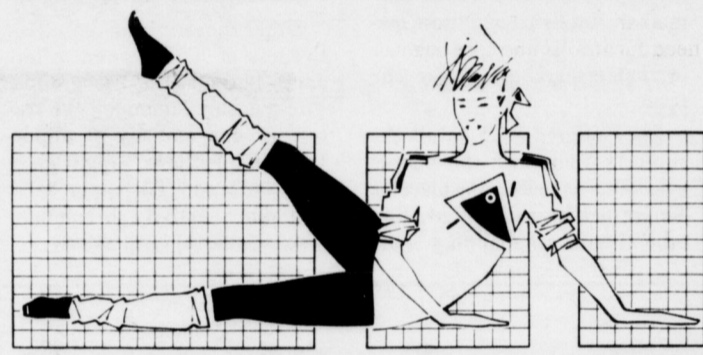
But more importantly, the program itself has gotten stale. I don't see anything new or innovative going on here. The studio offers two basic classes several times each day with additional low impact classes on Tuesdays and Thursdays. None of the choreography is difficult and Dancergetics could still be a good place for beginners.

The routines attempt no dangerous moves and a newcomer could assimilate into the program with ease. But an intermediate or advanced student would be best to look elsewhere. On one recent visit, the instructor went to the phonograph and put on a two-year-old record. Before the routine began, she deadpanned with true sincerity, "And now our wonderful Madonna."

Need I say more?
The 25th Street Workout: 1500 Castro St. 647-1224, \$5.50/class, \$80/20 classes. Locker rooms and showers. This

or worrying about injury, but you might be so bored you'd never come back.

Most classes are held in the little theatre on the fifth floor which looks like it came straight out of *Carrie*. I expect Sissy Spacek to walk out any minute and levitate the place. But there's a good hardwood floor and plenty of room. I'd personally prefer an hour on an exercise cycle to a YMCA aerobics class, but you might want to check it out. If you plan to combine Nautilus, free-weights, and aerobics, a membership at the Y would accom-



studio is a real find. Located in the heart of Noe Valley, it offers an incredibly wide range of classes at all times of day. These include special pre/post-natal classes, classes for seniors, low impact, beginning, intermediate, and advanced aerobics.

All the instructors I have taken classes from were thoroughly professional and knew what they were doing. They gave frequent reminders about proper form and seemed genuinely concerned with their students.

The small studio has a good hardwood floor, is nicely decorated, and has an atmosphere as relaxed and informal as the neighborhood. It's residential location keeps class size manageable and you can have a good workout without catching an elbow in the ribs. If you live in Noe Valley, you'd be crazy to go anywhere else.

YMCA: 220 Golden Gate 885-0460, \$10 day fee, \$325 annual membership, classes free with day fee or to members. Showers, locker rooms, sauna, pool. Although their daily aerobics classes are plentiful and include low impact, the YMCA instructors must have been lobotomized before they were hired. Nothing short of this could account for their incredibly monotonous and simplistic routines. You could start aerobics here without being self-conscious

modate all your needs for one price.

Symmetry: One Market Plaza (entrance at 52 Steuart) 495-3434, \$6/class, \$90/20 classes. Locker rooms and showers. This studio is a real class act. Nice facility, good hardwood floor, and many levels of classes every day except Sunday. If you can't find something you like here, then aerobics probably isn't for you. There's a remarkable consistency among the instructors in both professionalism and energy level.

They've recently started a special "muscleaerobics" class. This involves arm and stomach work using adjustable pulleys called "ultra-shapers." It's fun, challenging, and typical of the kind of innovative thinking Symmetry brings to its program. The only disadvantage here is Symmetry's Embarcadero location. Unless you work in the vicinity, you're not likely to battle the commuters to get to the studio.

Rhythm and Motion: 1133 Mission (plus 12 locations throughout the city) 621-0643, \$4.50/class, \$46/16 classes. Showers. On R&M flyers, just beneath the company name, the owners have printed "SF's Best Workout." I'd like to see that replaced with "Unsafe at any Speed." The choreographers must have been trained at Ausch-

(Continued on next page)

Vaccine

(Continued from page 17)

ope—without the enclosed "letter," or virus—would be the vaccine. The false version of GP-120 would be injected into the human bloodstream. The body would then develop protective antibodies that would recognize and destroy GP-120.

Thus, if a vaccinated person were later to be infected with the AIDS virus, he would already be immune. The protective antibodies, already in place, would recognize the protein envelope of the AIDS virus. Then the antibodies would prevent the virus from invading the T-4 cells.

HOW SOON?

While basic research surges ahead, issues of safety and politics are likely to delay a vaccine until the early 1990s. Said Dr. Fauci of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, "Even if we do have a vaccine, we do not expect it to be available for widespread use until well into the 1990s."

Already, French researchers in Zaire—the former Belgian Congo—have begun human trials of an AIDS vaccine. The trials began in December, putting the French one to one-and-a-half years ahead of their American counterparts.

Aerobics

(Continued from previous page)

witz. R&M offers one basic program at all locations and the pace is fast. At least you'll know what to expect. The instructors badger their students to scream and shout with the music, which I steadfastly refuse to do. Since aerobics falls short of an orgasmic experience, I see no need for it to sound like one.

In addition to routines that are awkward and intense, the instructors give infrequent reminders about breathing and form. But nothing speaks as loudly as success. R&M is a thriving program. If you move well and already understand the basics of aerobics, these classes can be a good time. Beginners beware.

In Shape 2328 Fillmore 346-5660 and 3214 Fillmore 922-3700 \$6.50/class, \$90/20 classes. Showers only at Marina location. With five different levels of instruction and 69 classes a week in Pacific Heights alone, In Shape offers a very well thought out program. The teachers know what they're doing and classes move at a brisk pace that keeps you challenged. The Marina location offers 45 classes a week and is the only one with a hardwood floor (Pacific Heights is carpeted).

If either location is convenient for you, this is a program to try. One instructor there speeds up the music so fast that every song sounds like it was recorded by Alvin and the Chipmunks. But her classes are great. By the time you leave, your rear end is firm. I can't wait to go back.

Entertainers Wanted

Christopher Street West/Los Angeles is seeking individuals and groups wishing to provide entertainment at the 1987 Gay Pride Celebration. Varied forms of entertainment are being sought from country western to blues, from dancers to rock n' roll bands. Entertainers should submit audition tapes (cassette or VCR) to CSW Entertainment Committee, 7985 Santa Monica Blvd., Suite 109, West Hollywood, CA 90046.

Even if the vaccine proves safe, the stigma and the politics of AIDS could hinder action in the United States. At last week's Senate hearing on AIDS, Sen. Edward Kennedy (D-Mass.), asked, "How many people who are not infected with the AIDS virus would line up for this vaccine?"

David Martin, Jr., president of Genentec Inc., the Bay Area genetic engineering firm which is working on a vaccine, told Kennedy that vaccination should be compulsory. "The risk of getting AIDS from the vaccine would not exist," Martin said.

"Vaccination of the general population at the earliest possible date is essential to prevent anything remotely similar to the widespread heterosexual epidemic now in progress in several African nations," Martin told the Senate committee.

Will America accept compulsory vaccination against AIDS? Given the swine flu vaccination of 1975—in which 65 people were killed and several hundreds more were stricken with an unexpected reaction—the outlook for compulsory vaccination appeared cloudy, at best.

Thus, once again, science raced ahead against AIDS—while the body politic worried whether the eventual solution would play in Peoria.

Gay Inmates Get The OK To Smooch But Oregon Holds Kissing, Hugging Limits To 2 Each

by George Mendenhall

It began on Nov. 20 in Salem, Oregon when a man serving 10 years for sodomy kissed the hand of a male visitor. Wesley Johnson, 23, was disciplined for his act by a guard. Angered over the punishment, Johnson filed a complaint with the state Corrections Division and received help from the American Civil Liberties Union.

The complaint got a surprisingly quick reaction. A "rule clarification" was issued by state prison official Richard Peterson within two weeks. It permits "kissing, embracing and hand-holding between homosexual inmates and visitors" in the Salem facility. Two kisses and two hugs are allowed.

Atty. Ed Reeves, representing Johnson, said that his client had been penalized after the kissing incident. He was required to see his visitors for the next 15 days only in a special room with a transparent plastic divider to keep them apart.

Kissing and sex acts are not permitted between prisoners or employees on the job in the San Francisco jail facilities. There appears to be no regulation prohibiting a prisoner from kissing a visitor. Embracing and holding hands is not restricted.

"The rule concerning contact visit rights does not refer to sex or sexual orientation of inmates or their visitors," emphasized Reeves, "but the corrections division apparently had a longstanding practice of ordering gay and lesbian prisoners to have no more contact than a brief hug with visitors of the same sex." The

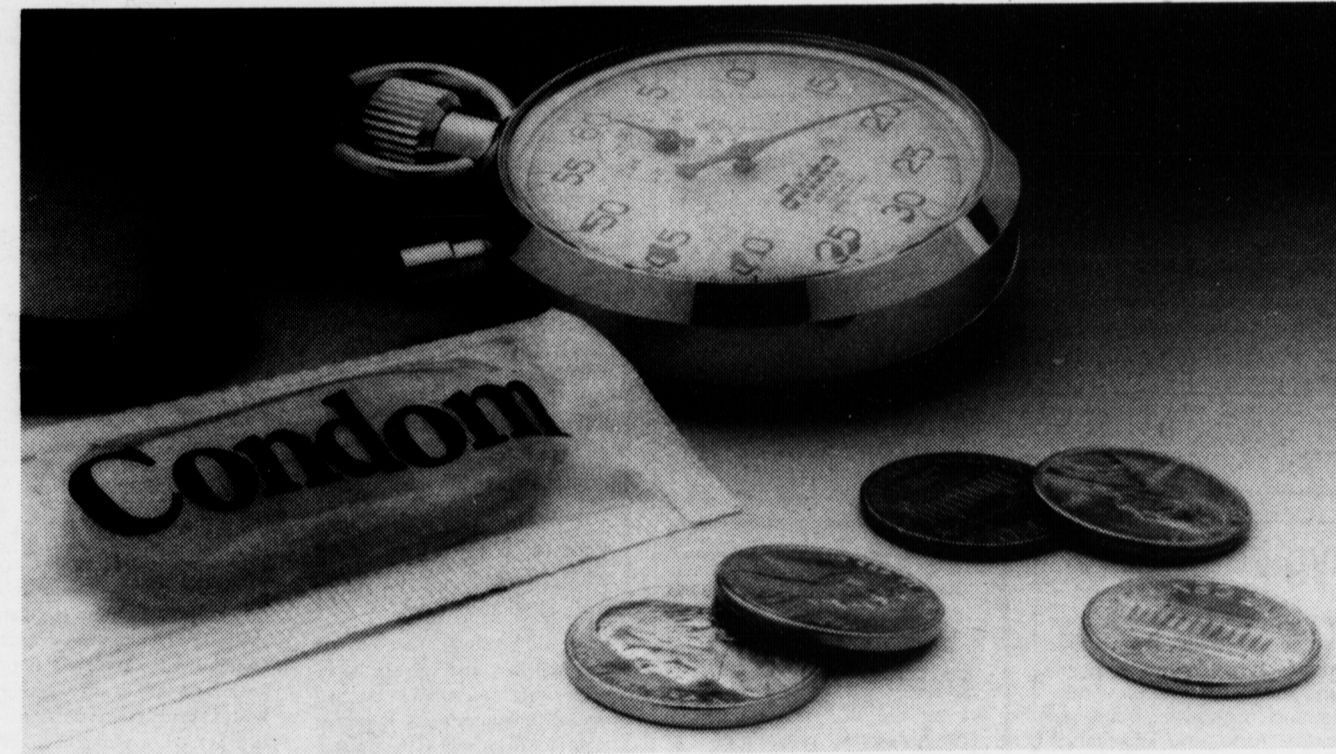


rule will now be enforced without regard to sexual orientation, he said.

Prison officials will still "encourage" homosexual inmates not to kiss, embrace, or hold hands with visitors of the same sex, said the corrections division's legal adviser, but officials will no longer punish or report inmates for such acts.

Reeves charged that the previous application of the physical contact rule amounted to a "special rule for gay people," and was "clearly discriminatory." He added: "The corrections authorities now seem to understand that under their own rules they must allow gays the same privileges as heterosexual inmates." But "they still don't seem to fully understand that contact visits are as positive for gay inmates as for heterosexual prisoners."

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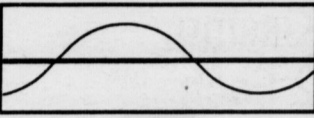


Call 863-AIDS

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Doctors never question people about their hygienic understanding even though such personal attributes are the prime cause of their diseases and the diseases they spread around them.
Steve Perkins believes that sexually transmitted bacteria are also spread by hygienic neglect and misunderstanding. For his published research, *Enemas: Gay Hygiene Daily* (and color photos) send \$10 to Steve Perkins, 1226 Haight Street, San Francisco, CA 94117. Phone Consultations \$30 (1 hr.) call (415) 864-8597.

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DEATHS

Dennis K. Ickes
1947 - 1987
Dennis was born in Ohio on July 25, 1947 and died peacefully at his home in San Francisco on Saturday, Jan. 3, 16 months after being diagnosed with AIDS.
Dennis moved to San Francisco shortly after being discharged from the Army in 1968. He was employed by the Hotel Beresford for the past 16 years, but reluctantly quit in July due to fatigue. Dennis was a responsible person who took great pride in his work as well as his home and yard to which he devoted considerable time.

He is survived by his mother Pearl Lynn of Palm Springs, brothers Don and Keith and sister Karen, all of Ohio. He will be greatly missed by all of his many friends over the years. Those of us who knew Dennis well will certainly remember all of the fun times together and also that we could always count on Dennis for help when we needed it. He was a nice and thoughtful man.
Graveside services were held in Ohio and his ashes were buried with his father.
A special thank-you to the San Francisco AIDS Hospice for all their help and support. Anyone wishing to make a donation in his memory may do so to San Francisco AIDS Hospice. A gathering of friends to celebrate his life will be held at the First Unitarian Church. For information call Gary Linders at 864-2839.

Peter Charles Nelson
Peter Charles Nelson died early Wednesday, Jan. 14, at the age of 48, after a long battle with AIDS-related illnesses.
Son of Margit and the late John V. Nelson, Peter was born Sept. 12, 1938 in Worcester, Massachusetts. He attended college in Los Angeles where he received a B.A. in English and Philosophy.
In the 1970s, Peter managed a department at the Liberty House department store in San Francisco. He was a member of the Episcopal Society of Saint Francis from 1980 through 1982. Thereafter, he worked for the Volt Temporary Employment Agency on long-term assignment to Pacific Gas & Electric Company in San Francisco, until illness necessitated his leaving work.
Peter was for many years a member of the Episcopal Church of St. John the Evangelist in the Mission District. There he also served as Vestry member, Junior and Senior Warden of the parish.
Peter will be much missed by his loving mother, and by his many friends at St. John's and in the San Francisco community. A Requiem Eucharist will be held at the Episcopal Church of St. John the Evangelist, 1661 15th St., San Francisco, at 11 a.m. on Saturday, Jan. 24.

Paul Freytag
Paul Freytag, 36, died peacefully at home on Jan. 6 surrounded by his family and friends. He had been ill for about a year. Paul was born in the East Bay and Colorado. He was a graduate of the University of Northern Colorado and had taught school in Colorado, Finland, and California. In 1977 he moved back to San Francisco and opened a very successful interior designer business. Paul is survived by his mother, Lillian, step-father Myron Anderson, brothers Peter, Rene, Keith and sister Lisa, all from the Denver area. A Mass of Christian Burial was held at St. John's Cathedral in Denver on Jan. 15. Paul will always be remembered by his friends for his finely-honed wit and extraordinary sense of style. If there is a heaven, Paul undoubtedly showed up in a Ferrari. A group of his friends will gather to celebrate his life this Saturday, Jan. 24, at 7 p.m. For more information please call Bob at 431-2165 or Will at 621-7660. The family requests that donations in Paul's name may be made to the S.F. AIDS Foundation.

Stephen Underwood
In loving memory of our dear friend and brother Stephen, who passed on Dec. 28. A memorial service was held Dec. 31 at Stephen's favorite spot on Mt. Tamalpais.
He is survived by his parents, Norfleet and Elizabeth; his sister, Cheryl; and a large and loving family of friends.
Stephen was always a "giver" and we acknowledge and thank him for that. There are many of us who have learned so much from you, Stephen. You will be missed.

Don Meyer
"Antique buffs, frequenters of flea markets and 'Mary's' may wonder where 'Shirlee' is."
Don ("Shirlee") Meyer, age 41, died at R.K. Davies Hospital on Dec. 9, after a five-month illness.
The Bay Area had been his home since 1969.
He is survived by his companion for eleven years, Brian Carr, close friends in Port Costa, the City, Russian River, and relatives in Lancaster, CA.
His dry humor and shy warmth are missed.

Frank Castillo
Frank Castillo passed out of this world on Dec. 16. Frank fought against the AIDS virus for eight months after being diagnosed and rarely complained.
Frank spent his life making friends, traveling worldwide, and enjoying all the best of anything he could find. He always found a way to make the smallest event, thing or place something special to be cherished. Frank had recently changed careers to be a baker. Financially it

Peter A. Zimmerman
Nov. 22, 1951 - Dec. 21, 1986
On Dec. 21 at 6 p.m., Peter Zimmerman, with his companion at his side, entered the joy he longed for.
As part of the UCSF Cochlear Implant Project, Peter made an invaluable contribution by inventing the iridium treatment for electrodes used in cochlear implants which restores hearing to deaf individuals.
He was an indefatigable worker for Shanti Project, serving as support volunteer and member of the speakers' bureau. Peter also was the subject of numerous media stories regarding AIDS, including articles in Newsweek and a television documentary.
Peter will be remembered most of all for the unflinching virtue, courage, dignity and genuine selflessness with which he bore his long, painful battle with AIDS. He lives on now in the lives of his friends, where his example resides as lesson and legacy.
Peter is survived by his partner, Krandall Kraus; his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Chester Zimmerman; two sisters, Heide and Evelyn, and a brother, Rainer.
A memorial service will be held Sunday, Jan. 25, at 7:30 p.m. at Shanti Project, 890 Hayes Street. A light supper will be served following the service at the home of Jerry Goldstein and Tom Taylor, 3650 21st Street.

Ralph Bremner
After a two-year bout with AIDS, Ralph Bremner died on Dec. 24 in Presbyterian Hospital of San Francisco. A native of Canada, Ralph was born Oct. 24, 1947.
Ralph was a lover of classic movies, having collected tapes of and books on many of the great films of the 1930s and 1940s.
He was also an ardent bowler, very active in gay bowling leagues. He won awards in the Gay Games in 1982 and had received many Cable Car Awards over the years.
Ralph is survived by his son Kent of Spokane, WA, his parents Alex and Doreen of Arizona, and his aunt, Mary Minton, of British Columbia. He will be missed by his many friends in the bowling league and at Hospice.
A memorial service is being planned. For details, call Mike Reedy at 641-0252. Donations in Ralph's name can be sent to AIDS Hospice, 225 30th St., San Francisco 94131.

Ronald L. Anstadt
Ronald L. Anstadt, 42, passed away at his home on Tuesday, Jan. 13. Mr. Anstadt was a pianist and organist in the San Francisco Bay Area. He grew up in Glyndon, MN. His music education was at Concordia College in Moorhead, MN, Manhattan School of Music and Columbia University in New York City.
He had taught in the New York and Los Angeles areas before coming to the San Francisco-Oakland area. He is survived by two sisters, Irene Leach, Moorhead, MN, and lone Langseth, Fargo, ND; two brothers, Maurice, Glyndon, MN, and Albin, Spokane, WA, and 14 nieces and nephews. One nephew, Michael, resides in San Francisco. Donations to Shanti Project, Hospice or SF AIDS Foundation. For additional information contact Tom Simpson Funeral Counselor at 626-3340.

Eugene Earle Ewins
Dec. 1, 1956 - Jan. 13, 1987
Gene Ewins died of ARC complications with friends by his side. Beloved son of Charlene and Earl Ewins and brother of Debbie and Earlene and a sensitive, humane friend to many. A religious, compassionate and feeling person, he will be missed by many. A strong bond of love and respect existed between Gene and his family.
He fought for the human side to ARC and AIDS issues. He provided strength and direction to the ARCAIDS Vigil. He had compassion and a hug for anyone.
He will be remembered with eternal love by the many lives he touched.

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**BAY AREA REPORTER
GREATER BAY NEWS**

CDC Official Says Feds Ignore STDs

by Gerard Koskovich

A top official from the Centers for Disease Control criticized the federal budget last week for failing to adequately address "the most important health issue of our day"—sexually-transmitted diseases (STDs).

"It appears that we're going the wrong direction" by decreasing federal grants to the states for sexually-transmitted disease programs, according to Dr. Willard Cates, Director of the STD Division at the U.S. government Centers for Disease Control (CDC) in Atlanta, Ga.

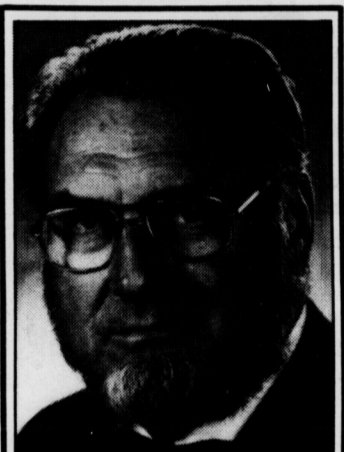
"As the (STD) syndromes are expanding, the dollars are contracting and becoming diluted (into numerous competing programs)," Cates explained. CDC analyses show that federal grants to the states are down from \$127 million (in 1986-adjusted dollars) in 1947 for syphilis alone to \$45 million in 1986 for the more than 20 STD's presently known.

The long-term budget decline "has to affect our ability to detect, trace, and treat individuals with sexually-transmitted diseases," Cates said. "Effective intervention is directly related to resources."

Cates made his remarks as part of a wide-ranging lecture on "STD's: The National View" before 150 people at the Stanford Medical School near Palo Alto on Jan. 15. Cates also spoke with 25 Stanford undergraduates in a seminar following his formal presentation.

During the seminar talk, Cates brought the coursework at American medical schools under fire for contributing to the problem of STD control.

"I wonder if anyone in your medical school class will have any hands-on experience with STD's by the time they graduate," Cates asked. "My



"I did not see eye-to-eye with Dr. (C. Everett) Koop (above) when he was appointed... I've come to feel that he is the most heroic surgeon general since the one who launched the anti-smoking campaign."
—Dr. Willard Cates

guess is they won't. They'll end up not having seen things that will, in fact, consume a lot of their time in practice."

According to Cates, this lack of medical school experience in STD treatment has created serious problems. "At some of the STD public health clinics, you see people who are really borderline licensed, who don't care about the patients they're seeing," he said.

Among federal officials, Cates singled out Surgeon General C. Everett Koop, a Reagan appointee, as deserving high praise for his recently released report on AIDS.

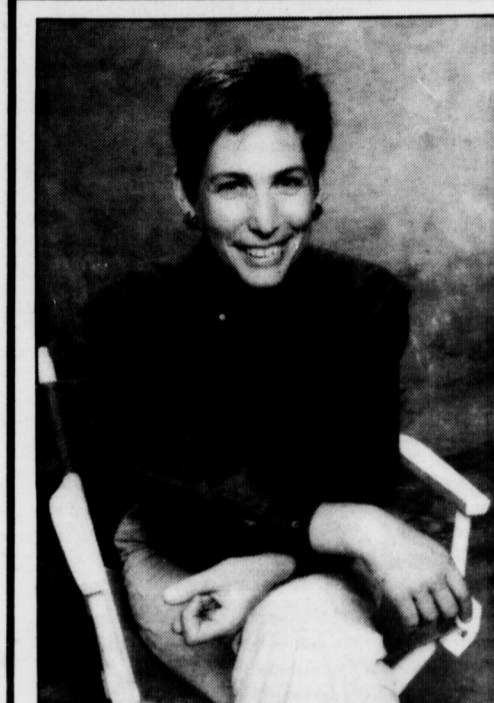
"I did not see eye-to-eye with Dr. Koop when he was appointed," Cates recalled. "He was placed in office because he was a member of the New Right and a prominent supporter of anti-abortion causes.

"Now to find him advancing the very reasonable policies on HIV education that he's announced, it's astonishing," Cates continued. "I've come to feel that he is the most heroic surgeon general since the one who launched the anti-smoking campaign."

Like Koop, Cates said he opposes mandatory HIV-antibody testing and quarantine as reactions to AIDS. After his public lecture, Cates defended this stand in response to critical questioning by Stanford graduate student Kirk Cameron, son of famed homophobe Dr. Paul Cameron.

"I would only consider forced testing or quarantine after we've offered people carrots, rather than sticks," Cates said. "When you start using sticks, you discourage the very people out there who need to be tested from coming in voluntarily."

(Continued on next page)



Nancy Stoller Shaw, left, is a faculty member at UC-Santa Cruz. Shaw, a politically active sociologist and a lesbian, has won a legal settlement from the university which entitles her to a new decision on tenure. She was recommended for tenure in 1981 and was subsequently denied.

Shaw Wins New U.C. Tenure Review

The University of California Board of Regents agreed Jan. 16 to a legal settlement with Professor Nancy Stoller Shaw, a faculty member from its Santa Cruz campus who was denied tenure in 1982 amid charges of political bias and sex discrimination.

The settlement mandates a new tenure decision, to be made by a three-person committee of senior academics who have been jointly selected by Shaw and the university. The committee's review is expected to take two months. Its decision will be binding on all parties.
At the conclusion of the review, Shaw will also receive a substantial financial settlement, to compensate her for legal fees, loss of pay, and emotional and other damages. In return, she will withdraw her sex discrimination suit against the university, which is currently pending in Alameda County Superior Court.

The settlement is the result of seven months of discussions following a ruling by Judge Henry Ramsey on May 1, 1986 that the procedure used for Shaw's tenure denial was illegal and that the university was obligated to provide Shaw with a new, unbiased decision.
Shaw, a politically active sociologist, who is a lesbian, has specialized in research on women and health. She was originally recommended for tenure in 1981 by her department (Community Studies Board), by numerous scholars and by all of the appropriate university review committees. Their recommendations were subsequently overruled by Chancellor Robert Sinsheimer of the Santa Cruz campus in 1982.

In a subsequent grievance hearing in 1983, the UC Santa Cruz Committee on Privilege

and Tenure ruled unanimously in Shaw's favor, finding that the chancellor had improperly discounted favorable letters from scholars whom he charged had acted only out of political conviction. They found procedural errors in the review.
During that same year, the federal Equal Employment Opportunity Commission also ruled against UC, finding that Shaw's termination had resulted at least partly from sex discrimination. Shortly thereafter, Shaw filed her suit.
The tenure denial sparked widespread protests, including marches, teach-ins, petitions, and a three-day sit-in. The American Sociological Association took the highly unusual step of censuring the UCSC administration for its action. National support also came from the American Association of University Women Legal Advocacy Fund, the National Women's Studies Association, and Sociologists for Women in Society, all of which contributed funds to Shaw's suit.

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Nez Pas

Super Bowl Madness Sweeps East Bay

BRODDINGANAGIAN RUM-MER TUMULTUOUSNESS
(A "Go Broncos!" Nose)

Super Bowl madness is sweeping the nation, and the East Bay is no exception.

Down Hayward way, the Turf Club's big screen will be ablaze, and hot dogs will be on the menu. At The Spoiled Brat, all TVs will be tuned, and they are offering free hot dogs.

Big Mama's will have a big party and buffet, with the John Gallager Band entertaining after the game.

Bill's The Eagle will lay out a huge feast, at no charge, for its patrons to munch to the crunch on the screen.

Town & Country will have raffles to augment the pigskin pothole.

Lake Lounge will view the game with Bill B, giving the play-by-play explanations.

Revol will feature a special pre-game champagne brunch from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Four choices of entrees will include hot cakes, potatoes, fresh fruit, toast, and a glass of champagne. Orca's "Pasta Feed" will be served at 7 p.m. (probably before the game has ended).

The Paradise is having a big pot-luck buffet (furnished by the customers) along with balloons, noisemakers, and other big party accoutrement.

PUGINESS OR PROVIDENCE?

(An "Extra Helping" Nose?)

All that rooting for your favorite team this Sunday may cause you to "over indulge" in the food department — nervousness and anxiety make the appetite grow... and grow... and grow! With that in mind, take heed from the

following Super Bowl Weightscope for that day:

Aries: You rams (not L.A.) must watch the sweets. Mars will bring a big gooey cake over to your seventh house, and there is still all that leftover whipped cream from your last conjunction with Mercury! Or was it a Ford? It's difficult to tell these days.

Taurus: Those zodiac fatsos, Jupiter and Saturn, are both on a cusp for you bulls. That means, stay away from big globs of dumplings and mashed potatoes. Avoid anything ring-shaped, like onion-and-cock. And eat only the holes of the doughnuts.

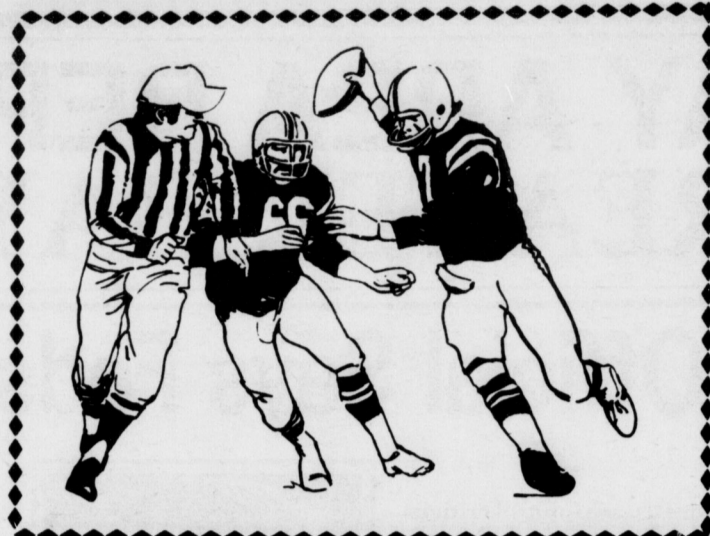
Gemini: You always eat enough for two or more! Now the twins must be "doubly" careful because your refrigerator sign Pluto (not Perry) dominates the day. Put the TV in front of the frig and just nibble on each other — if that's possible, I want to watch!

Cancer: Bad news, crabby! Your favorite soft-shelled crustaceans are in season! The sun had a big helping before going into Aquarius to wash up and had to let out extra notches in the Asteroid Belt!

Leo: You always take the lion's share of whatever is put on the table. Sunday is the day of restraint. Venus is coming over from that new Italian place in Scorpio with about a ton of linguine!

Virgo: It's defile day for you virgins (?). You have a triple conjunction with sun, moon, and Mars. (Well, it has been a long time!) With all that grativity your weight is bound to shoot up. Layoff the sundaes, the moon pies, and the Mars bars. Maybe they can lay on you...

Libra: Don't break the scales on Sunday; pay attention to



what's going on in the skies, not on the TV screen. Every planet is coming to your fifth house, so dim sum is recommended.

Scorpio: It's not a good day, stingars, because all of your signs have changed aspect (and it's not tomato!). Mercury and Uranus are descending — on your house, and they're loaded with temptations. Watch out! (Well, maybe the cute blond with the nice body is OK.)

Sagittarius: Tough luck, straight arrows! All those bows and shafts point to missing your diet targets. Hunker down with a frig-full of salads until Jupiter rises at the end of the game and goes over to Aries for dessert.

Capricorn: You old goat! You're on the horns of a dilemma. Mercury, your ruling planet, is rising, signaling lots of yummy hot foods. But, the sun is in Taurus and that means no fats (or feds or weirdos!). Try a nice steamed chicken! (See Scorpio for valuable hint.)

Aquarius: This isn't your day, sorry to say. You water sporters are warned that the moon will dominate and continue to grow toward full during the whole day. That means only one thing — eat only the sauce and toppings and not the crust on that extra large pizza.

Pisces: You fish will find Sunday a bit tricky (?). Neptune is in the ascendant, but Mars and Jupiter join it in a trine while the

sun and moon remain on a cusp. This is baffling. Better stick to celery and carrot sticks instead of your favorite: anchovy gelatin.

GALLIMAUFREY
(A Ragout Nose)

But whatever you do on that Sunday, save enough room for Revol's Seventh Annual Chili Cook-Off, the very next evening. It is confirmed that the judges will be the Misses \$1.98 Marty, Tom, Jim, Greg, Mama Chuckles, Paul, and Ruth. Whether or not they will be in costume is wholly another matter! All chilis will be sold for a buck a bowl. However, there just may well be a raffle for the whole pot of the winner, or it just may well be sold for a buck a bite, or...

On Saturday, Jan. 31, at the Lake Lounge, most of the Miss \$1.98 winners (and runners-up), plus a throng of masochists will be on hand to witness the crowning of the 9th Bi-Annual winner. Joanna Caron will be M.C.

If it weren't for the "last minute," nothing would ever get done! I can smile at that! Love,

Nez •

Deaths

(Continued from page 20)

was a hardship, but he enjoyed his new work so much and his happiness became effervescent.

He is survived by his parents, three brothers and his beloved three nephews in the East Bay. Also by his lover Gary, sister-in-law Kathy, and a wealth of good friends too numerous to name. Those of us who were lucky enough to have known him will miss his physical presence but will remember his loving spirit which will live on.

To honor his memory, an open house will be held on Saturday, Jan. 24, from 3-7 p.m. at his and Gary's residence. Please, no flowers. Donations may be made to the San Francisco AIDS Foundation in Frank's name.

Dennis W. Deal

June 16, 1943 - Jan. 14, 1987

Dennis William Deal died peacefully of AIDS pneumonia at the Veterans Administration Hospital at Fort Miley in San Francisco on Jan. 14, surrounded by his family and friends. He was 43 years old.



He attended Iowa Wesleyan in Mt. Pleasant, and Lindenwood College in St. Charles, MO, before he enlisted in the Air Force in 1965. His rank was sergeant and he did active duty as a medic in Thailand and Turkey, winning five medals including the Bronze Service Star for outstanding heroism. He was honorably discharged in 1969 and served two more years in the Air Force Reserve.

He lived most of his adult life in San Francisco, working as a nursing assistant at the V.A. Hospital from 1970 to 1973, and thereafter as a caterer, housekeeper, floral arranger, and general helpmate in some of the finest homes in the Bay Area, including the Octagon House.

Dennis preceded in death by his father, Floyd Deal, in 1983; and is survived by his mother, Dorothy Deal of Marengo, Iowa; his grandmother, Mabel Wintermeyer; his sister Cherrill White and her husband Larry White; his nephews Mark and Scott White and his niece Carrie White of Winfield, Iowa; and by his beloved sister Delaine Deal of Denver, Colorado.

Memorial contributions in Dennis' honor can be made to the AIDS Foundation, 333 Valencia St., San Francisco 94103, or to the Hospice of San Francisco, 225 30th St., San Francisco 94131.

Have a nice journey, old friend. We know that you've already started arranging the party for when we get there, too.

For information contact Tom Simpson Funeral Counselor at 626-3340.

***** Student Conference**

Continued Struggles, Future Triumphs is the theme for the 5th Annual Western States Lesbian and Gay Students United Conference to be held at UC Santa Barbara, Feb. 13-16. Approximately 200 students from California and throughout the Western Region are expected to attend.

Applications are now available; deadline is Feb. 1. Registration fee is \$10. Contact the Gay and Lesbian Student Union, P.O. Box 15408, Santa Barbara, CA 93107; (805) 961-4578.

STDs

(Continued from previous page)

Cates proposed federal stipends for HIV-infected prostitutes in exchange for their giving up sexual activities as one possible "carrot" program. He similarly called for increased federal funding for methadone programs as a way of decreasing the spread of HIV infection among heroin addicts.

"We're on the cutting edge of civil liberties, assessing public good, and the philosophy of public health in dealing with STD's," Cates stressed. "These issues have no simple answers."

Cates spoke at Stanford as part of a new undergraduate course in the Human Biology entitled "Biosocial Aspects of Sexually Transmitted Diseases." Organized by Stanford medical student Sylvia Cerel Bowen, the course is the first of its kind in the nation, according to Stanford officials.

Lectures for the course, including Cates' talk, are sponsored by a number of Stanford departments and organizations, among them the Feminist Studies Program, the Stanford AIDS Education Project, and the Gay and Lesbian Alliance at Stanford.

Guest lectures for "Biosocial Aspects of Sexually Transmitted Diseases" are open to the public and will run through Feb. 24. For information, call the Human Biology Program office at (415) 723-3693.

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THEATRE RHINOCEROS

THIS WEEK

FRIDAY 23

- **Please Wait For the Beep:** stage performance. Theatre Rhinoceros, 2926 16th St., S.F., 8 PM, \$9-\$12. The comedy hit of last year's Studio season takes the mainstage; written by Margery Kreitman, directed by Patricia Keaney. Call 861-5079 for tickets.
- **Dinosaurs Surviving the Crunch:** stage performance. The Studio at Theatre Rhinoceros, 2926 16th St., S.F., 8:30 PM, \$7. Comedian Sandy Van conjures Carol Channing, Tallulah Bankhead, and Katherine Hepburn, delivering original monologues and fielding questions from the audience. Call 861-5079 for tickets.
- **Tom Ammlano:** comedy year in revue, City Cabaret, Mason and Geary, S.F., 10 PM, \$6. Call 441-RSVP for reservations.
- **Judy Fjell and the Unbeatable Hearts:** music, Artemis Cafe, 1199 Valencia St., S.F., 8 PM, \$6. Inciteful and humorous up-beat folk; electric by Nina Gerber and Carol Dix.
- **What To Do About AIDS: Physicians and Mental Health Professionals Discuss the Issues:** reception for editor Leon McKusick and book signing, Walt Whitman Bookshop, 2319 Market St., S.F., 7-9 PM.
- **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., S.F., 8 PM, \$2. 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 965-1189 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 lyengar-style Yoga class precedes the dinner at 5 PM.

SATURDAY 24

- **Blazing Redheads:** music, Sisterspirit Coffeehouse, 1040 Park Ave., San Jose, doors open 8 PM, music begins 9 PM, \$5-\$7 sliding scale.
- **Mary Gemini:** music, Artemis Cafe, 1199 Valencia St., S.F., 8 PM, \$4-\$6 sliding scale. Original New Wave music on a synthesizer.
- **Please Wait For the Beep:** stage performance (see Friday listing for details).
- **Dinosaurs Surviving the Crunch:** stage performance (see Friday for details).
- **Rich Montes:** music, El Rio, 3158 Mission St., S.F., 10 PM to 1 AM, free. Pop, jazz.
- **EastBay FrontRunners:** Berkeley Marina run. Take University Ave. west to Marina. Meet at the dirt parking lot on the left side of the road before the parking lot for the windsurfer's dock. Call 526-7592 or 261-3246 for more information.
- **Girth and Mirth Club:** monthly dinner meeting, Original Joe's, 144 Taylor St., S.F. Call 680-7612 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 25

- **Gay Cable Network:** first anniversary party, Club Nine, 9th and Harrison, S.F., 8 PM, \$7. With the Blazing Redheads, Tom Ammlano, Laurie Bushman, Mario Mondelli, Karen Ripley, and Danny Williams. Hosted by Miss X and Phillip R. Ford.
- **Super Bowl Sunday at the Campus:** members of the Varsity Strip Squad present their championship plays in their end formation, Campus Theatre, 220 Jones St., S.F., 9 PM, \$15. Complimentary refreshments. Call 673-3384 for more information.
- **Tropical Breeze:** music, El Rio, 31558 Mission St., S.F., 4-8 PM, \$3. Brazilian and pop.
- **San Francisco Hiking Club:** fourth annual tour of San Francisco's tallest hills and Glen Canyon. Meet at Harvey Milk Plaza, Castro and Market, S.F., at 9:45 AM. Initial ascent of 700 ft. with only mild elevation changes afterward; total distance of five miles. Adverse weather with intermittent rain cancels. Wear comfortable shoes with good-gripping soles (trails are steep in places); bring lunch. Hike concludes about 3 PM.
- **San Francisco FrontRunners:** Palace of Legion of Honor run. Meet at 34th Ave. and Clement (southeast corner of Lincoln Park) at 10 AM. Four to five miles, hilly. Call 388-2315 for more information.
- **MCC of the Redwoods:** worship and communion service, Olive and Throckmorton Sts., Mill Valley, 10:45 AM. Call 388-2315 for more information.
- **Latter-Day Saints:** sacrament meeting for lesbians and gays and their friends, Sacramento Lambda Community Center, 1931 L St., Sacramento, 1 PM. Conducted by the Sacramento Family of the Restoration Church of Jesus Christ. Call (916) 447-5755 for more information.
- **Integrity:** Eucharist, St. John's Church, 1661 15th St., S.F., 5:30 PM.
- **MCC San Francisco:** worship and communion services, 150 Eureka St., S.F., 10:30 AM and 7 PM. Call 863-4434 for more information. Childcare and signing provided at morning service.
- **Louise Hay Class:** 1155 Ellis St., S.F., 6 PM. Call 346-2981 for more information.
- **Expect a Miracle:** holistic 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.



Rich Montes plays El Rio Jan. 24

- **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.

MONDAY 26

- **The Art, Techniques, and Joys of Masturbation:** with the SF Jacks, 890 Folsom St., S.F., doors open from 7:30 to 8:30 PM, \$6. No one turned away for lack of funds.
- **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.

TUESDAY 27

- **Gay Cable Network:** television on cable channel 6, 9 PM. Pride and Progress spotlights Tighe Foley from the Shanti Project. Mystery guest host, interview with BAR columnist Mike Hippler, and special guests on The Right Stuff.
- **AIDS Survivors and Thrivers Part II:** presented by the Metaphysical Alliance, First Unitarian Church, 1187 Franklin St., S.F., 7 PM. Featuring Bobby Reynolds, Ron Carey, and Dan Turner, plus a Healing Circle of Love led by Irene Smith. Co-sponsored by the AIDS Interfaith Network. Signed for the hearing impaired. Call 431-8708 or 621-7187 for more information.
- **Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays:** meeting, Diablo Valley Metropolitan Community Church, 2253 Concord Blvd., Concord, 8 PM. Call 372-9014 or 827-2960 for more information.
- **People of Color:** support group, 513 Valencia St., 6-8 PM, free. Educational support group for minorities experiencing anxiety about their health, sex, and AIDS. Sponsored by the AIDS Health Project. Facilitated by Julius Johnson, PhD. Childcare available with 24-hour notice. Call 681-7887 for more information.
- **Temescal 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.
- **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.
- **AIDS Project of the East Bay:** People with AIDS/ARC Support Group and Lovers, Friends and Family of People with AIDS/ARC, 6-8 PM. Call 420-8181 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:** Rollergarden, 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.
- **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 28

- **National March on Washington:** Structure Committee meeting, 32 Hancock St., No. 2, S.F., 7 PM. This group will decide how to set up a steering committee to oversee local organizing efforts.
- **Please Wait For the Beep:** stage performance (see Friday for details).
- **Wednesday Matinee With GLOE:** sponsored by Gay and Lesbian Outreach to Elders and North of Market Senior Services, this weekly program will offer movies, games, and refreshments for gay men and lesbians over 60 at 333 Turk St., S.F., 2:15-4:30 PM. Call 626-7000 for more information.
- **AIDS Project of the East Bay:** People with AIDS/ARC Support Group, Fairmont Hospital, San Leandro, 3-5 PM. Call 420-8181 for details.
- **Men's Group:** relationship issues and improving self esteem in a long-term therapy group for gay men. Call Adrian Bruce Tiller at 861-2385 for more information.
- **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.
- **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.
- **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 29

- **Please Wait For the Beep:** stage performance (see Friday for details).
- **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.
- **Secret Gospel Church:** meeting, 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.
- **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.



Sandy Van does Kate, Tallulah, and Carol in *Dinosaurs Surviving the Crunch* opening at The Studio at Theatre Rhino Jan. 23

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BAY AREA REPORTER ENTERTAINMENT

Greed and Glamour: Trashy Novels and What They Mean

by Daniel Curzon

I want to discuss five of the best-selling trashy novelists of our time to see what they say about life and thus save my readers a great deal of time and money, for they won't have to read the books after perusing my digest. So let's digest them, okay?

Scruples by Judith Krantz is an orgy of materialism. The value of anything is predicated on its designer label, its brand name, its recognizability among the nouveau riche. You cannot just throw on a rag to go to a party in Krantz. It's got to be a name rag, an Oscars party, where you drink all your raspberry liqueurs out of stem glasses that have the embossed name of the glassblower on the bottom. Otherwise the person you're talking to won't know how expensive your glass is. Judith Krantz is for people without real class who want it desperately. I was reminded of Moliere's bourgeois gentleman, who is overwhelmed to discover he's actually been speaking prose all his life. Genuine prose! It's all in the name. Judith Krantz readers discover that they didn't just get poison oak; they got it on a movie set! Isn't that what glamour means?

Krantz is immensely readable and appealing because she lets you indulge in the most vulgar and unsubtle of worldly fantasies. All you fat girls vicariously get to grow up to be beauties — and not just beauties, but rich, fabulously rich, achingly rich, beauties. You are so rich you live in huge mansions above the smog in Bel Air. That's how rich you are! So thin you never even question the system that tells you to starve yourself to anorexia or be left behind in the beauty parade. But why should you question starvation diets when you don't ques-

tion anything else in a Judith Krantz world? It's all there, ripe and overpriced, waiting to be lusted after and wallowed in. No values are probed, only aspired to.

You get Rodeo Drive boutiques and French private school manners, and Boston blueblood snob appeal. You get to scatter the ashes of your wealthy, loving, much-older husband, whom you of course loved and served faithfully while he lived, his ashes scattered from your own private airplane with your own private pilot, whom you have sex with after the funeral, privately, and where do you scatter these ashes? On your own privately owned vineyard in Napa Valley, of course!

Judith Krantz will throw in a hot sex scene every 50 pages or so. Reasonably realistic, but always with sexy men, alluring men; a little kinky, from time to time, but nothing to really turn the readers off. Soft porn them to orgasm, if not to death.

You get to marry a movie producer, and not just any old exploitation hack, but a man who makes quality movies and never has to compromise his own integrity. Well, maybe he cheats a head of a studio, but the head of the studio is a bastard anyhow and deserves more than he gets from your strong, manly, loving, thoughtful producer-husband who's like Carlo Ponti, only better looking. Much better. You even get to work on a movie yourself! And your movie wins the Academy Award for Best Picture! Lucky you! You even get to have a baby when you're 35 and just a little bored with all your money and your fabulously successful boutique, called *Scruples*, although you will of course have a chain of boutiques in every American city where there's a leisure class — while you also

raise your baby. Lucky you, you're ready to settle down and have your fabulous baby and eat it too.

Of course, poor thing, you've had to put up with innumerable fags and lesbians in your climb to the top of the fashion industry. Those people, ugh! None of them are Jewish, of course. But all of them are either vicious, power-mad, or murderous. That is, when they aren't dismissible twits who, yes, chat with their women friends while the real men are off making money.

Sure, there was a nice lesbian once. She edited your husband's fabulous picture and didn't make any trouble. She deserves a paragraph. But really now, let's face it, those people aren't real, with real problems like yours and mine. If they are, I just don't have time to go into all that. I mean, it's so difficult finding a really good, smart, uncrowded designer restaurant with a vista for lunch in Santa Barbara — isn't it!

Ever hear of quiet elegance? *Scruples* is a monument to noisy elegance. The surprising thing about Krantz is that she writes well. The level of the prose is much higher than in Sidney Sheldon or Andrew M. Greeley, for instance. She takes time describing her characters fully, without too many numbing clichés. She makes you believe completely in her creations within their world.

Her appeal is quite simple. She keeps the reader in heat for sex, yes, but mostly for Greed and Glamour, Greed and Glamour. After all, you can never, ever get enough of vulgarity masquerading as taste, can you?

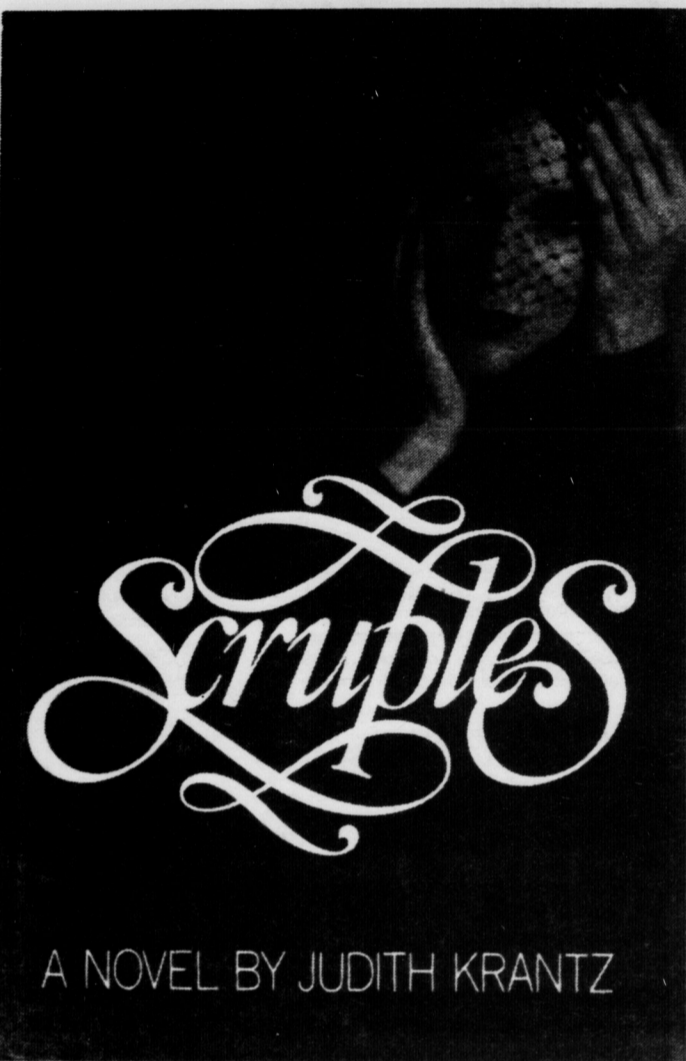
Andrew M. Greeley is a Catholic priest, who uses in his novels. Sex and religion — what a combo! He clucks his priestly tongue as his characters commit their sins right before your very eyes. You want to cover your eyes, but for other reasons.

In *Ascent into Hell* he deals with a moral and ethical dilemma for Catholics. If it were a radio soap opera — which it is — it would be called *Should a Priest Marry?*

The funny thing in a blockbuster like this is that you get no questioning of the ground-rules. Nobody says, what a crazy idea to ask any human being to give up his sex life! Instead, normal biological urges are called "temptations." Nobody gets to the heart of the real problem. Why live a life of sexual torment because some church decided, in its wisdom, to stop priests from marrying? To protect the church's property, which was being handed down to the children of the ecclesiastics.

Andrew M. Greeley's characters see the world in very simple-minded terms. You get the feeling Greeley may be as simplistic about the issues as his characters are. Jesus H. Christ, Andrew M. Greeley, you want to say, wake up! If you insist on a Catholic novelist, try Evelyn Waugh.

As for the writing itself, Greeley's descriptions of his charac-



ters are perfunctory — "He was a tall, handsome man with a strong jaw." That kind of thing — exactly what I tell my creative writing students not to write.

None of these trashy novelists have a style beyond the pedestrian. But then people don't read them for style, but for vicarious, escapist satisfactions — predictable goals that are striven for, and achieved through hard work and without compromising yourself — just the way it is in real life, right?

I managed to finish 200 pages of Andrew M. Greeley.

However, I managed to pull myself through only 96 pages of Sidney Sheldon. The part of *Master of the Game* I read is about a young Scottish man who goes to South Africa in the early part of this century to seek diamonds and become wealthy beyond avarice. Wealth beyond avarice is almost always a goal of these books — never questioned as the road to happiness. The biggest existential question: how many diamonds will I eventually get?

The only thing about *Master of the Game* is that it is vivid, has energy. But that's not enough. The non-stop action is like *The Perils of Pauline* or like a boys' book for hyperactives.

If it's not landmines keeping you from the diamonds, it's guards with dogs. But not to worry. Just when you need it, a convenient fog will roll in and hide you from the guards and dogs and allow you to crawl on your belly across the landmines with your noble black friend, Banta. Banta is there because the evil store owner who also owns the diamond field has not only kept him in slavery but raped Banta's 11-year-old sister. When

you have bad guys in Sidney Sheldon, they're really bad. In fact, everything is bad. You can't help wondering why the villain continues to run a crummy old general store when he's rich enough to buy Judith Krantz's characters lock, stock, and barrel. I guess he just enjoys being bad.

The excessive melodrama in Sidney Sheldon becomes ludicrous and artificial very quickly. My favorite sentence is this one: "At noon the sharks came." Not at 12:15, not at 1, but at noon. You can count on those sharks in Sidney Sheldon! I refrain from pointing out that Sidney Sheldon is also the creator of *I Dream of Jeannie*. It is not my intention to sneer, merely to illuminate.

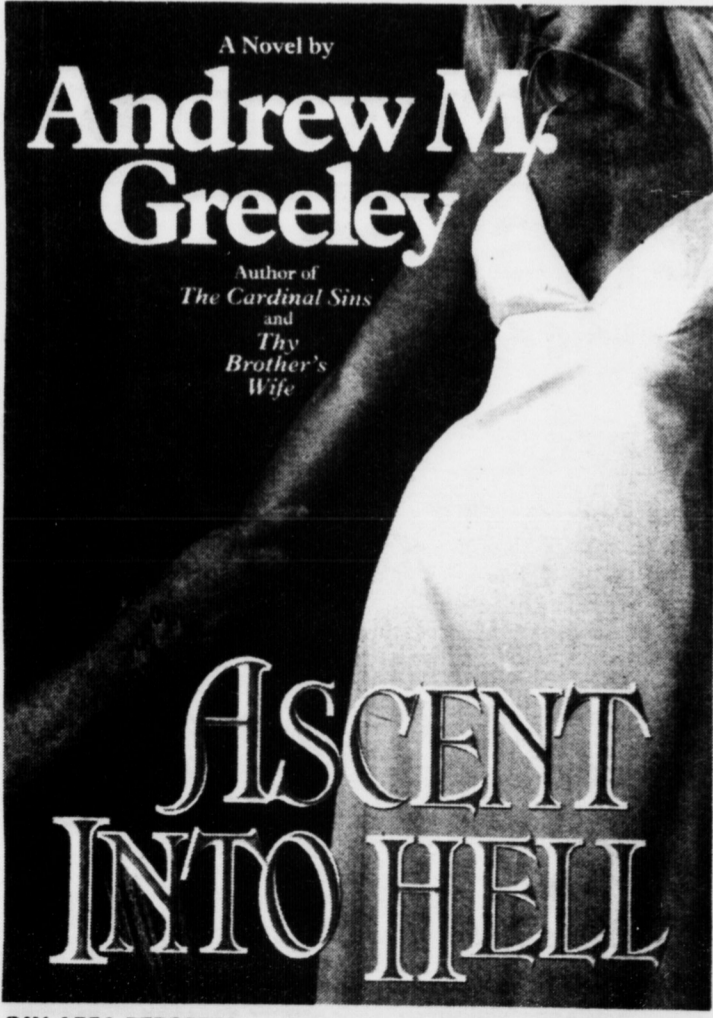
In Sidney Sheldon the descriptions are even more perfunctory and predictable than in Andrew M. Greeley. He must have really tried. The writing is full of non-stop clichés — howling winds, sweating brows, down the gullet and up the ying-yang. Maybe clichés are comforting to lots of readers?

Harold Robbins has often said in interviews that he is the world's greatest novelist since he sells more books than anybody else. "Billions and billions sold" — that's what makes McDonald's the world's greatest restaurants, too.

What surprised me about *Dreams Die First* is that Harold Robbins' prose is not all that bad — far better just as writing than either Andrew M. Greeley's or Sidney Sheldon's. I mean, you can read it and not feel embarrassed for the English language.

Harold Robbins is one tough guy, at least to judge from this book. People have black motivations — some kind of money-

(Continued on page 44)



STAGE

Great Play; Lousy Production

by Bernard Spunberg

Pathos remains elusive because comedy does not receive its due in Theatre Rhino's new production of Margery Kreitman's *Please Wait for the Beep*. The play's first fully staged production, mounted in The Studio at Theatre Rhino in September 1985, was directed by Patricia Keane, as is the current revival, which is being presented on Rhino's Main Stage. The first production was magical. It is also history. Kreitman's play is rich enough to be interpreted in ways varying from The Studio production, and the current cast, which retains only one member of The Studio cast, deserves to be judged on its own merits.

The current production certainly has integrity. It is an honest, sincere effort to shed new light on the script. Playwright Kreitman and director Keane might have taken the easy way out and aimed for a carbon copy of The Studio production. The attempt would have been cowardly and the result stale. Nevertheless, though the play is as won-

derful as ever, the production — which may improve substantially with time — restricts expressiveness by distorting style.

Please Wait for the Beep tells the story of the emotional awakening of Ronnie, a lesbian crippled by fear. That fear has made her relationships with her mother, lover, friends, and most of all, herself, shrivel almost to the point of meaninglessness. At the play's start, Ronnie has just acquired a telephone answering machine which, together with her television and her vibrator, form a defensive arsenal capable of keeping all her relationships at bay. And should any component of her arsenal fail, Ronnie falls back on her most effective weapon of all: humor. Playwright Kreitman has richly endowed her play with comedy that reveals Ronnie's pain while generating laughter. The comedy only works, however, when it is played as carefully as it is written. In the current production, comedy is present, but it is not honed to the fine edge that releases the laugh-



Frances Sholly and Andrea Pruseau in *Please Wait for the Beep* (Photo: S. Cohen)

ter from which characterization flows.

Just before her lover walks out, Ronnie launches into a brilliant speech parodying those old Veg-O-Matic commercials, but in-

stead of a vegetable slicer, Ronnie pretends to sell a vibrator. The vibrator, she claims in the tones of the fast-talking TV pitchman, can do anything — even whisper sweet nothings in your

ear. Delivered in the middle of a serious confrontation between the two lovers, the speech is Ronnie's way of avoiding dialogue while desperately clinging to her

(Continued on page 38)

A Different Perspective

by Joy Schulenburg

This weekend while watching Theatre Rhinoceros' latest offering, *Please Wait for the Beep*, I found myself staring straight into the bloody jaws of my most recent relationship. The play is billed as a "zany lesbian comedy." Now my affair may have been zany, but I never would have called it a comedy. Yet, watching the on-stage antics of the lesbian lovers who are the central characters, I found myself laughing uproariously. Obviously, distance does bring perspective. And, from my perspective, *Please Wait for the Beep* is a very funny play. It also touches on some very real feelings and issues that many of us would prefer to keep hidden in a closet somewhere.

The play utilizes technology without ever becoming high tech. Within the candy-colored walls of her messy apartment, protagonist Ronnie creates her own insulated world with two of modern technology's marvels—the battery-powered, hand-held vibrator and the telephone answering machine. Her lover, Cindy, cannot hope to compete with these two devoted servants which offer Ronnie instant gratification and the power to put the outside world on perpetual hold. The pieces of the world Ronnie allows to intrude (including Cindy) must fit neatly into her fantasies. When reality tries to ring her up, she refuses to return the call. ("Hi, this is Ronnie. Please do not call before five p.m. . . . or after five p.m.")

Cindy's presence in Ronnie's life is welcome only to the extent that she provides a foil for her lover's fantasy role-playing. No, not butch-femme—though there are elements of that here—but the enactment of little scenarios straight out of old television sitcoms. These scenarios fill up Ronnie's time, providing a buffer against reality. Ultimately, they drive Cindy out of the relationship. Before she goes, she makes one last effort to penetrate her lover's dream world. Ronnie's response to this confrontation is

(Continued on page 41)

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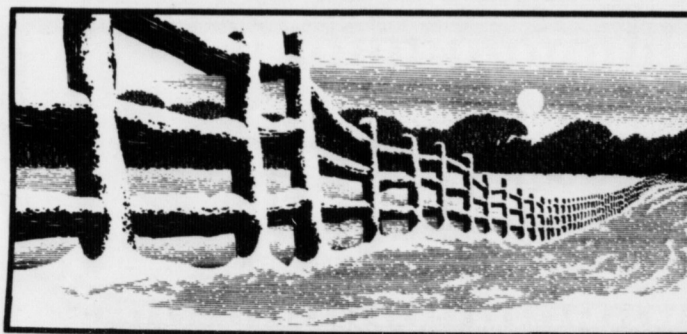
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Masks and Art: Part II

by Mark I. Chester

Essential questions and revelations about the nature of being human and rather disquieting reverberations are still stirred by the raw, emotional portraits photographed by Diane Arbus from 1962-1971. Some 15 years after her suicide, 14 photographs on display at Fraenkel Gallery, 55 Grant Ave., through Feb. 28, attest to the continuing power of Arbus' vision.

"I really believe there are things which nobody would see unless I photographed them," Arbus has said. And with that intuition, Arbus helped change our perceptions of the world around us. She seemed to understand that it is human nature to create a persona, a kind of invisible mask, that signals to the world who we claim to be. At the same time, there are things "you can't help people knowing about you" and ultimately the mask reveals exactly what it attempts to hide.

Photographers in the past like Ansel Adams and Edward Weston focused on the innate beauty of nature and the human form. Others, like French photographer Henri Cartier Bresson, documented people and street life with an eye on the strength of the human spirit or the natural composition of forms. These photographers used every technique available to them: powerful compositional shapes and lines, exquisite light, tactile full-ranged textures, sparkling black and white contrasts, and unusual perspectives or viewpoints.

Arbus stripped each of these techniques away until something of the bare essence of the people she photographed was revealed.

Arbus also kept a sharp narrow focus on her subjects, isolating them and disconnecting them from the rest of their environment. These are not "pretty" pictures, taken at the moment that the subjects looked their best.

Arbus' lack of flag-waving "artistic" conventions, combined with her seemingly off-handed composition and lighting, give these portraits the feel of snapshots. We are equally entranced and frightened by the open unmasked humanity and undisguised emotions on the face of some of her subjects. Others, in trying to maintain their superficial mask, reveal just as much, if not more. We see them as if for the first time.



Diane Arbus, Untitled, 1970-71, 16 x 20" gelatin-silver print copyright 1980 The Estate of Diane Arbus

Coming from a protected well-to-do childhood and the perfection of fashion photography, Arbus increasingly drifted further towards the unusual and the bizarre: hermaphrodites, drag queens, and freaks.

"They made me feel a mixture of shame and awe," she said. "There's a quality of legend about freaks. Like a person in a fairy tale who stops you and demands that you answer a riddle. Most people go through life dreading they'll have a traumatic experience. Freaks were born with their trauma. They've already passed their test in life. They're aristocrats." In exploring the particular, Arbus exposed their underlying common link to people in general.

The pictures exhibited at Fraenkel were taken during the last two years of Arbus' life, 1970-71, at a home for retarded adults. The adults, some of whom are clearly severely retarded, are captured outside the home, posing, playing, or totally oblivious to the camera's presence. Some wear their everyday clothes, others have party hats, some wear masks, and others are completely covered by a mask and a full costume.

While the show can be viewed fairly quickly, the impact of the photographs and the uneasy feelings they raise are longer lasting. At one time, simpletons and madmen were retained within the societal structure of the commu-

nity. But these days, most people who function on a sub-standard level are removed from the community. They become invisible. We act as if they don't exist. Arbus shocks us out of our denial and enlarges our world.

Our buttons are pushed as we are forced to confront the frailty of life. We are discomforted by expressions, clothing, and behavior that somehow don't quite fit or match. It is difficult to even look at some faces with their empty, vacant stares. We are caught in a contradictory bind because we see something that we have been taught to ignore.

In some ways it is easier to look at the retarded adults who are wearing masks. We are more disturbed by the leveling mask of severe retardation than the scariest face on a costume mask. And when they are completely masked and costumed, the photographs take on an eerie quality, like more recent work by Arthur Tress or Joel-Peter Witkin. One individual in death mask and white sheet against a distant open background is a frightening metaphor for the reality that exists under his mask.

Still, in some faces we perceive a simple humanity and tenderness that binds us all together as part of the family of man. There is a gentleness to these Arbus portraits, as if she was not trying to reveal what lays under the mask, because it was already laid open for her. It is a vision worth sharing.

WhoWhatWhenWhereWhyWhoWhatWhenW

Dancing Cheek to Cheek

Friday, Feb. 6, will showcase a new concept in tea dance entertainment when City Swing dance band, The San Francisco Tap Troupe, and The Ritz Dancers present Dancing Cheek to Cheek. Trocadero Transfer, named for the famed Hollywood ballroom of the 1930s and '40s, is the ideal location for this exciting evening of dancing and entertainment. Swing back the doors of time and join us at 5:30 p.m. for three hours of non-stop razzle-dazzle.

The past several years have seen the resurgence of social dance, as more and more people look for the opportunity to swing to the sounds of the big band era. City Swing recreates those sounds with a contemporary flair and feeling, as one of the Bay Area's few 18-piece dance bands in the Glenn Miller tradition.

Vocalist Gail Wilson, a noted cabaret singer, brings her own style and excitement to the period, complementing the band's unique sound. The San Francisco Tap Troupe, noted for its precision style and inventive production numbers, add that extra theatrical touch everyone loves. The Ritz Dancers, a wonderful ensemble that captures the spirit of the 1920s, '30s, and '40s, round out an evening of great musical entertainment and dancing.

Dust off those dancing shoes, polish up your jitterbug, waltz, samba, and foxtrot and join us for an evening with something for everyone. Hope to see you on the dance floor, Dancing Cheek to Cheek!

Tickets for Dancing Cheek to Cheek are \$6 and will be available at the door that evening.

Women's Production Company Launches First Project

Mouth of the Wolf is the Bay Area's newest all-women production company, put together by former Lilith Theater members Michele Linfante, Joan Mankin, Judith Ogus, and Louise Billotte. Their first play — the world premiere of *Beyond Detroit* — appears next month at Life on the Water theater.

Baybrick Inn hosts a benefit on their behalf on Thursday, Jan. 22, with musical entertainment by Bonnie Hayes, Ogie Yocha, and The Blazing Redheads.

Cover donation is \$5-\$25. The Baybrick is located at 1190 Folsom off Eighth Street in San Francisco.

John Karr

Topical Heat On Ice



Khetia Semia and Andrea Harrington restrain Byron Barbour in *Sinning In Sun City*

Little need be said about *Sinning In Sun City*, the new Julian Theatre production playing at the Buriel Clay Theatre through Feb. 14 (647-8098). This badly written agitprop play has some enlivening African music and dancing, and sophisticated use of song fragments for moments of emotional and personal revelation, but cannot survive its leaden script and sloppy direction. At best, the play's dialogue portions are unbelievable and dull, and at worst, particularly so in climactic moments, laughable.

When the play begins, off-stage voices intone a wordless African chorus and the lights reveal — a potted palm. Is it singing? Is this *The Little Rehearsal Room of Horrors*?

Yes, it turns out, in more ways than one. We're in the employees' lounge of Sun City, the political horror of a casino/resort maintained by the government of South Africa to appease the millions they've forced to live in "homelands" — ghettos disguised as countries. Most world-status performers are boycotting the high-paying showroom; to it, in this play, comes the naive black American singer Jeffrey Moses (Rouday Austin). His education — and ours — is the evening's objective.

This proceeds in as heavy-handed and predictable a fashion as the naming of the protagonist. In the promised land of Sun City, where he's to earn \$3 million, Jeffrey Moses finds out how morally slipshod that would be: the resort is the symbol of a people's enslavement. The casino manager (Hansford Prince) takes Moses to visit his parents' village, where amidst folk singing and dancing at an anniversary celebration Moses sheds his naivete and is enlisted in the cause of black rights by the casino manager's brother, a political activist (Byron Barbour). Moses agonizes for a long time over the correct course of action, but finally breaks his contract with Sun City to appear at a people's rally.

Both the Chronicle and the Examiner offered supportive reviews to *Sun City*, focusing on the play's political content and its admittedly entertaining music and dance. This was a disservice, however, for although the play in

its best moments is a miniature Ballet Folkloric de Africa, it stretches of palling tedium which make up the bulk of the evening. The script's simplistic black and white approach, its meager motivations and abrupt reversals of character, not to mention the unintentionally comic excesses of its melodramatic writing, undermine its admirable intentions. The authors were Selaelo Maredi and Ed Bullins.

Moments I liked best: when the near-victim of a "Necklace of Fire" immolation left the stage and took his tire with him; and when a blaze New York broad fended off a rapist with the stern instruction, "Don't take your dick out!" I greatly admired the music (composed by Maredi), Evelyn Thomas' choreography, and the cast's evocative dancing. Acting/singing standouts were Joyce Harrington as an opportunist back-up singer, Khetia Semia as the mother of feuding brothers, and the strong, confident presence of Byron Barbour.

I liked the song lyrics, particularly the new anthem of the oppressed: "You can be poor, you can be broke, with no place to live: But you can never be broken." And I identified strongly with the speech Jeffrey Moses delivers at the rally — America turns him out by calling him "Negro," or "minority," instead of African. But it's unlikely that non-black audiences will identify with much else in *Sun City*, and its preaching is laborious. More entertaining, and certainly less of a struggle to get through, is the four-minute song about Sun City you can hear on the radio. As political theater, *Sinning In Sun City* is castor oil: supposedly good for you, but no fun to take.

Maria Irene Fornes is the current Belle of Off-Broadway. She has so many Obies for her credit the Village Voice finally gave her a Sustained Achievement Award, and theaters scramble to present her latest work; both the Eureka and the Lorraine Hansberry have previously brought her scripts to San Francisco. And she's not undeserving of such attention, either, as can be seen in the script of her recent music drama, *Sarita*. Its 1984 New York produc-

tion won Obies for Playwrighting/Direction, Best Actress, and Best Lighting.

The Lorraine Hansberry Theatre version, playing at the Potrero Hill House through Feb. 22 (474-8800), unfortunately lacks the award-winning direction and actress that must have ignited this script in New York. And ignited is the correct term for *Sarita*: it is a steamy potboiler about the sexual addiction of a young woman (Velina Brown) and her good-for-nothing lover (Angelo Pagan). It's told in melodramatic 1940s Hollywood-movie terms, and on Hollywood sets: a bare light bulb starkly lights the dingy room where passion and crimes of passion unfold. A groaning score of Puerto Rican sambas and tangos adds more heat to the play's close quarters and confined lives, but there is no spontaneous combustion in this version.

Perhaps director Stanley E. Williams was attempting to mirror the unentertaining romance and direct, lean writing of Fornes with his muted and restrained approach. But he's halted the play's movement; his cast moves in a slow robotic trance which engenders impatience rather than a mounting sense of futility.

Perhaps, though, Williams was defeated by his *Sarita*, actress Velina Brown. Her vulnerability and sadness are tangible, but not her growth from child to woman, not her struggle to be independent, and, most of all, not her sexuality. This is a woman who should smoulder and burn, reach in desperation to be free, and be tragically defeated. In Brown — or as directed by Williams — we have moments of girlishness and a petite demise that can't even be read as submission. Beyond the idea that sexual freedom does not ensure general freedom, Fornes preaches the inevitability of woman's destruction, given societal values, but this version begins in defeat.

As a result, although I came to admire the accomplishment of Fornes and her composer, Leon Odenz, I found this production enervated. It gives little indication of the play's potential, and is worth a visit if only to meet the script. Reading *Sarita* will not provide a sense of its smooth flow (Continued on next page)

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George Heymont

Vehemently Venomous Verdi

One of the great joys of Verdi's writing is the sheer virility of his music — the raw power with which he captures the greed, hatred and desperation felt by many of his most famous characters. Whether it be Master Ford's all-consuming jealousy, Lady Macbeth's unbridled lust for power, or Princess Eboli's intense frustration over the problems in her love life, the composer usually manages to tap some primitive animal instinct within a singer's soul which enables his music to be used as a powerful expression of raw emotion.

Although many opera queens bemoan the lack of true Verdi stylists to be found in the current musical landscape, two of last fall's performances demonstrated that there is, indeed, a new school of American artists who are capable of carrying the torch once held high by such illustrious singers as Leonard Warren, Richard Tucker, and Leontyne Price. Two young American sopranos in particular — Aprile Millo and Susan Dunn — are currently being hailed as the great white hopes for the Verdi repertoire. As far as Dunn and Millo are concerned, time alone can decide their fates. But, with true operatic excitement on the list of artistically endangered species, their performances brought back memories of the good old days when Verdi's music seemed to be emanating from a soprano's viscera as well as from her vocal cords.

BILE ON THE NILE

The Met's Oct. 16 *Aida* proved to be a strangely invigorating performance. Much of the evening's excitement was due to conductor Nello Santi's vigorous tempos and the speculation surrounding Aprile Millo's house debut in the title role. In all honesty, I found Millo rather odd to watch onstage. A short and rather lumpy lady, her acting strikes me as being alternately forceful and then clumsy. Although her vocal energy seems focused, her dramatic energy is quite scattered. Hailed by many insiders as the woman who might well fill Renata Tebaldi's shoes by the end of the century, this young artist's voice — though powerful, warm, and well produced — sometimes lacks excitement. At crucial moments it can shine like a shooting star; at other moments the results are decidedly uneven.

If Millo stood head and shoulders above her colleagues, her triumph was sometimes by default. Tenor Bruno Sebastian — who was thrown onstage to make his house debut as a last-minute replacement for the ailing Giuseppe Giacomini — delivered an impressive "Celeste Aida." Sebastian, however, began to lose steam by the end of the Triumphal Scene and later got lost in the shuffle surrounding the Nile Scene. As Amonaso, a noticeably slimmed-down Cornell MacNeil was adequate although the baritone's usually stentorian voice sounded surprisingly thin on this occasion.

Unfortunately, Grace Bumbry's once splendid Amneris has now become a crude and bombastic portrayal which is almost laughable in its wretched excess. Although Bumbry sparked enough excitement to provoke Millo's Ethiopian princess into a



Grace Bumbry's overblown Amneris was a pivotal force in the Met's recent production of *AIDA*.

rather convincing bitch fight, the mezzo-soprano has added so much vocal and physical heft to her stage presence that several of my friends are now referring to her as "The Bovine Bumbarina." Although she attacked her music in the Judgment Scene with the vengeance of an enraged walrus, the results were often far from gratifying.

CURSES, BROILED AGAIN!

Down at the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts the Washington Opera gave Verdi's *Il Trovatore* its due in one of the finer performances of this opera to be heard in quite some time. I suppose I should confess that, for me, the most incredible part of the evening was watching tenor Franco Bonisolli behave himself for an entire performance. Instead of leaping around the stage like Errol Flynn, or reaching into his usually low and unprofessional bag of tricks, Bonisolli delivered a fine rendition of Manrico's music which was vocally secure and, simultaneously, the most dramatically restrained work I've seen from this tenor.

The reason, I'm told, is that the young Israeli conductor, Daniel Oren, reportedly read Bonisolli the riot act in Italy last summer, telling the tenor that under no circumstances whatsoever could Bonisolli indulge himself in his usual egotistical she-

Karr

(Continued from previous page)
 or the sound of its musical heat. In its exploration of sexuality, of women's place in society, and of the values of a New York/Puerto Rican heritage, *Sarita* is revealing. It dips deep and fascinatingly into our ingrained responses to sex and our sex partners. And Fornes' language is brilliant. It is as terse and repetitive as Gertrude Stein, more revealing and yet without the profanity of David Mamet. There is great joy to be heard in the recitation of these lines. This is beautiful, exciting writing.

The supporting cast excels. "Bobi" Cespedes runs deep as Sarita's mother, and is a magnificent singer. Carla Vaughn and

nigans while Maestro Oren was on the podium. Oren's conducting, by the way, was firm, vital, and most impressive. Nicola Benois' unit set — whose various repositionings throughout the evening reminded me of a giant Japanese puzzle — served Verdi's opera well and, under Wolf-Dieter Ludwig's stage direction, the cast went through its paces with a sense of surety and purpose. Special credit goes to Washington Opera's chorus, which was quite magnificent.

As Leonora, Susan Dunn was in exceptional voice, singing with the kind of creaminess and solid vocal reserves that can easily make one think of Leontyne Price. Dunn, who moves well on stage and manages to act convincingly, has the markings of a great Verdi soprano and I look forward to hearing her sing again soon. Replacing an indisposed Matteo Manuguerra, baritone Brent Ellis sang the role of Count di Luna with a fierce power. As Azucena, mezzo-soprano Stefania Toczyńska's vocally thrilling and dynamic gypsy hag was one of the evening's highlights.

What a joy it is to hear one of Verdi's most beautiful scores given such a fine performance! While some may wish to reserve judgment on Susan Dunn's voice, there can be no doubt that Brent Ellis, who has finally arrived at the very meat of his repertoire, is sounding magnificent.

J.J. Paladino are both bright and touching as Sarita's friends. And Angelo Pagan looks hot as Sarita's accused love-object. The play's graphic sexuality doesn't faze him, although he too seems fettered by the director's approach; he did more with fewer words as a stud in Berkeley Rep's *Night of The Iguana*.

Actors are sometimes lost to sight in some bad staging moments, on the front of the steeply raked and attractive set by Jeff Hunt. Lights by Larry Neff are in keeping with the film noir look, and the excellent costumes are by Gael Russell. This will do to make Sarita's acquaintance, but to comprehend the tragedy and share the theatrical experience that seem to lie in *Sarita*, another production is awaited.

Steve Warren

Movie Stew

There's something for every taste on the movie menu this week. (I didn't know I was capable of such drivel. I should be writing for television!) Fans of silent classics, Hitchcock ripoffs, macho action movies, and documentaries should welcome the new arrivals in their respective genres. Only beware a despicable documentary that shows what the Swedes have learned from watching CBS.

There's also a one-time tribute to Jamie Uys (pronounced Ace), who made *The Gods Must Be Crazy* and 22 other films (including *Hans en die Rooinek*, *Doodkry Is Min*, and *Dingaka*) almost singlehandedly. Despite being South African he insists he just wants to entertain and any social messages in his movies are strictly in the eye of the beholder. Uys will show scenes from the *Gods* sequel with other clips this Friday night, Jan. 23, at 8 at the Palace of Fine Arts. Call 864-3018 for info.

SMILE, BOZO, SMILE

The most fun you can have this weekend without a condom is the Castro's revival of Gloria Swanson as *Sadie Thompson*, the loose woman from San Francisco who's stuck on a tropical island with no amusement but a battalion of marines and a self-righteous reformer. Lionel Barrymore plays Davidson, the Fallwellian moralist whose hypocrisy comes out in the end but is subtly revealed to us throughout.

The adaptation and direction by Raoul Walsh, who also appears as the marine Sadie gets serious about, are lighthearted enough in the first half to keep the film from descending into total camp, although a few good audience responses could turn it into another *Rocky Horror*. Witness the opening title: "Pago Pago... in the sultry South Seas... where there is no need for bed clothes — yet the rain comes down in sheets."

The long-lost final reel of this 1928 silent film has been partially reconstructed using stills, bits of film, and even footage from the 1932 remake. That and the damage visible in earlier scenes are a sad testimony to the history that's been lost to us. Ted Turner's money would be better spent on restoration than colorization.

Sadie Thompson was remade with Joan Crawford and Rita Hayworth, but will not find its ultimate incarnation until Bette Midler stars in a musical version. Until then, enjoy this marvelous relic. (Castro, through 1/24)

COBRA-SETIC

In *Wanted Dead or Alive* modern bounty hunter Nick Randall is a former CIA agent who wants to be left alone to sail his boat — the *HMS Bounty* — in peace, but he brings in the occasional bad guy to pay for it. When Arab terrorist Gene Simmons commits the ultimate anti-American act — blowing up an L.A. movie theater while *Rambo*'s showing — Nick has a chance for a big score — a final score, unless business warrants a sequel.

The opening sequence is reminiscent of *Cobra*, but the mayhem that follows, while not for the squeamish, doesn't begin to approach that film's overkill. The only overkill in *Wanted* is the casting of talented actor Rutger

Hauer as the macho hero. It's one of many touches — excellent photography is another — that raise this picture above the crowd. It's probably the best "B" action flick since *The Terminator*.

In a few weeks you'll be guaranteed a laugh in redneck bars if you drop Hauer's exit line: "Fuck the bonus." (area theaters)

BEDROOM WITH DEJA VU

The Bedroom Window is the thriller *The Morning After* should have been. The plot's a little shaky and the pace a bit too slow, but when it's mysterious it's fun and when it's obvious it's more fun, like the Hitchcock films it emulates.

Steve Guttenberg isn't exactly Cary Grant, but part of the premise you have to buy is that women fall all over him. One of them is his boss's wife Isabelle Huppert. At their first tryst she witnesses Elizabeth McGovern being assaulted by a man who later commits murder. Because Huppert can't explain her presence there, Guttenberg gives her testimony to the police as his own.

From then on, every stupid thing that can happen, does, until it's up to Guttenberg and McGovern to catch the killer.

Writer-director Curtis Hanson got his start with campy little thrillers in the '70s and this is his shot at the big time. For Hitchcock fans half the fun is spotting references to his works (*Rear Window*, *The Man Who Knew Too Much*, *Vertigo*, *The Wrong Man*, etc.) as they roll by.

If you can manage the necessary suspension of disbelief, you'll enjoy the view from *The Bedroom Window*. (Alexandria, Century Plaza, Serramonte)

OVER THE EDGE

Ich no bin ein contra, but I was infuriated by the sloppy, irresponsible journalism of *On the Border*, a Swedish documentary about Central America that represents television reporting at its worst — motivating without informing, intruding on moments of private grief, and alternately confusing and oversimplifying complex issues.

The film cuts back and forth between the Nicaragua-Honduras border and a story — better told in the fictional *El Norte* — of Salvadorans trying to escape to the U.S.

Nicaragua's struggle is painted as a civil war, with the U.S. and the Catholic church backing the contras. When a nun is asked, "Is it possible to be socialist and Christian at the same time?" the subtitles don't translate her answer. When a contra is asked, "What do people say about the counter-revolution?" his response is cut off after "I've heard..." Other questions range from inane — to a wounded soldier, "Does it hurt?" — to offensive — "How does it feel to see your fallen friends like this?"

What we're doing in Central America makes me ashamed of my country. *On the Border* makes me ashamed to be a journalist. (York, through 1/24)

CONDITIONAL CRITICISM

Critical Condition puts Richard Pryor back in a hospital,

but it's nothing to do with his near-fatal fire. It's a formula comedy in which he poses as a doctor in a hospital experiencing a power blackout while a novice administrator is in charge. As seasoned doctors worry about malpractice suits, Pryor proves the wisdom of Solomon is more important than what's taught in med school.

The star looks thin enough to make the rumors he had AIDS understandable, but once the movie gathers momentum and he's doing things like piloting a helicopter in the hospital lobby, his comic form is good enough to take your mind off his physical appearance.

Creative casting is the most interesting thing about *Critical Condition*. Singer Ruben Blades has a comic role as an orderly. Sylvia Miles is the head nurse while her *Heat* co-star Joe Dallesandro has gained enough weight to play the heavy, a psychotic killer. *Saturday Night Live*'s Garrett Morris plays a junkie, and Randall "Tex" Cobb is a psycho who thinks he's black. Lovely Rachel Ticotin, in her first feature since *Fort Apache, the Bronx*, plays the administrative trainee. Despite this great racial mix, the real doctors (Bob Dishy, Bob Saget) and head administrator (Joe Mantegna) are all white.

There are strange jumps in continuity as if scenes were cut at the last minute to shorten the film, but basically director Mi-



'Smile, Bozo, smile, for no matter how tough it is today it's bound to be worse tomorrow,' is Sadie Thompson's (Gloria Swanson) philosophy. She's seen here on one of her better days, riding director and co-star Raoul Walsh.

chael Apted (*Coal Miner's Daughter*, *28 Up*) offers further proof of his versatility.

Critical Condition isn't Pryor's best, but it's good enough to please his fans. For others, seeing it should be a lower priority. (Regency II, Century Plaza, Geneva D-I)

KIM NOVAK AT WOMEN IN FILM

Pretty and pleasant, close to glamorous but far from exciting, a closely-guarded — in more ways than one — Kim Novak received an in-person tribute from Northern California Women in Film and Television at the Pagoda Palace. Lily Tomlin and Jane Wagner, subjects of a documen-

tary shown the following evening, wired congratulations: "We love you!" After several references to her beloved parents in Chicago, Novak revealed her father had died two days earlier. Bland questions yielded no startling revelations, except that work on *Falcon Crest* has pushed completion of her autobiography back to next year. At a party after the tribute Kim's entourage and two rent-a-thugs shielded her from the public. Lesbian and gay presence in the audience was minimal, in marked contrast to the Joan Collins tribute at the Castro last year. About the same age as Collins and with some better films to her credit, Novak takes herself a lot more seriously.

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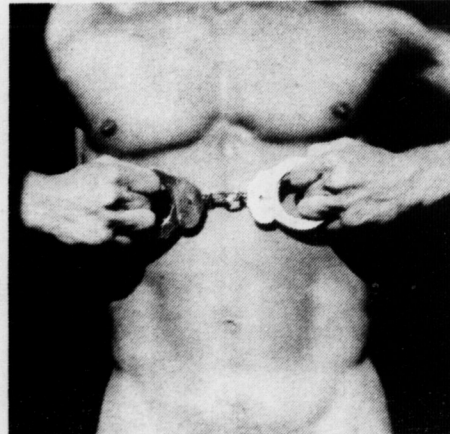
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The Golden Dildeaux Awards: The Nominees Are...

The world's only sex awards will unfold this Sunday, 25 Jan., at the SF-Eagle beer bust from 1500 to 1800. Since the 49ers will not be in the Super Bowl, who cares if Denver or the NY Giants pulverize each other? Miss Peckerhead and Tom Roller will take to the stage and introduce close to 50 presenters as some 22 categories in sexual pursuits will be laid before your very eyes. Everything from the Divine Miss M (Masochist) to Sliver Lips (glory holes) will be awarded to several active persons in the community. Since the nominations came in slow, but were full-blast in the closing days of the nomination period, you probably don't know if you were nominated or not. Herewith, the nominees:



Rachael in the talent show sponsored by Ms. International Leather (Photo: Photo Graphics/Darlene)

Best Performance in a 3-Way: Richard Rollins and Craig Amaral, John Jenesco and Stephen Keys, and Bill Barker and Jim Anderson (Walnut Creek).

Punchboard Award: Jeff Mitchellcraft, Sergio Cordova, Frank Harper, and Danny Lord (Badlands).

Tea Room Commando: Manuel Marin, Keith Reiter, Herbella Hebron, and Robbie Edwards.

Divine Miss M Award (Masochist): Matthew Newman, Skip Dessalt, Joe Anderson, and a certain columnist who shall remain anonymous until you get the actual ballot in hand.

Golden Bruiser (Sadist): Patrick Batt, Jim Ed Thompson, John Copus, and Richard Rollins.

Golden Arm Award (Fists): Richard Rollins, Tom Roller, Tom Rodgers (Leather Daddy), and Tom Walters (50-ft. Woman).

Best Male Performance by a Female Impersonator: Dorothy Duster, Phoebe Planters, Vinnie Russell, and Lady Tatiana.

Best Female Performance by a Male Impersonator: Mark Friese, Jim Baroni, Lady Blair, Sable Clown, and Sharon Viola.

Prince of the Yellow Stuff: Will Rutland, Jerry Downing, Jim Gilman, Sister Vicious Power-Hungry Bitch, Mike Polansky, Joe Rescignano, and David Dysart.

Sliver Lips Award (glory holes): Bill Walden, David Van Epps, Wayne Friday, and Norman Baisley.

Golden Globes (Buns): Craig Amaral, Mark Souza, Phillip Plumb, David Duran (Moby Dick), and Joe Cade.

Tools and Toys: Keith Reiter, Robert (Mister S), Fernando Batello, Alan Selby, and Bob Koelzow.

J/O Award: Skip Dessalt, Buzz Bense (J/O Buddies), John Karr (SF Jacks), Jimmy Miller (1808 Club), and Jerry Vallaire (Up Your Alley).

Paper Wedding Dress Award: Jeff Mitchellcraft, Bill Walden, Ed Siegel (Powerhouse), Gary Garrison, Law Wilson, and Ray Hermann.

Cob Web Award: Calvin Martin, Betty Bonko, Miss Pigg, John Bondi, Empress Remy, and Dennis Collins.

Magic Mouth Award: Rick Mills, Robby Edwards, Gene Dennis, Patterson Davis, and Jim Cvitanich. (Continued on page 34)



Francine's on the occasion of its first anniversary (Photo: Photo Graphics/Darlene)

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Beep

(Continued from page 27)

lover with humor. But rather than playing the scene with the comic mastery of a person with years of experience in hiding behind jokes, actor Andrea Pruseau allows Ronnie's desperation to push to the forefront. Of course Ronnie is desperate, but the audience needs to see her desperation dramatized, not announced. The emotional point of the scene is not the speech itself, but the moment when Ronnie realizes her lover has left. Suddenly, Ronnie's high-flying comic balloon is punctured by the knowledge that the best jokes in the world are no substitute for honest talk. And that's the moment — and not before — when Ronnie's desperation may begin to seep through the cracks.

Playwright Kreitman's opening sequence is yet another hilarious comic passage, depicting Ronnie's experimentation with various outgoing messages on her new answering machine. Pruseau's arm-waving, eyeball-rolling exhibitionism would be funnier if it were more sharply varied and refined, but the scene, and the whole production, is undercut by the lack of focus on the answering machine itself.

The machine is the plug in the last chink in the wall Ronnie has built between her and the world. In virtually every scene, the machine is used — it's even referred to in the play's title. And yet, in this production, it is completely out of the line of vision of everyone not sitting in the front row.

Fortunately, comedy and characterization do work together at certain moments of the performance. As Ronnie's lover, Frances Sholly plays Bud, Princess, Kit, and Mother in a hilariously fetishistic *Father Knows Best* game with a freedom that comes from disciplined yet imaginative decision-making during the rehearsal process. And when Sholly finally walks out, she evokes genuinely heartrending sadness precisely because her comic timing in the funny passages is as sharp as a razor.

Jaymie Litsey, the one cast member who was also in *The Studio* production, also succeeds by allowing the comedy to flow as written. Because Litsey is so natural in her characterization of the adolescent Ronnie, her performance looks thoughtless. But it's not. Litsey varies her whining, petulance, and defiance with subtlety that pinpoints the comic and emotional climaxes of her scenes.

Janette Roberts' character-

ization of Ronnie's childhood buddy works best when she is working opposite Litsey. In those passages, Roberts' free yet carefully tuned comedy allows both her friendship and conflict with Litsey to emerge naturally. In her scenes with the adult Ronnie, Roberts relies on heartless stereotype, though her characterization does recapture emotional focus in a beautiful speech vowing love for Ronnie, come what may. Patricia Silver relies on stereotype throughout her portrayal of Ronnie's mother — an appropriate response to the role as written. But though Silver deserves and wins laughter, her comically terrifying warning that masturbation can cause "permanent damage" is just thrown away. That line could well be accompanied by a roll of thunder.

Unfortunately, the setting is unattractive and clumsy, reserving almost half the stage for scenes that take up only about 15 percent of the play's length. Director Keaney's movement design within the ungainly space is cramped and fussy — obviously, this production has its problems. Most of them, however, are the kind that are ironed out soon after a jittery opening night. The insight, compassion, and humor of Kreitman's play are bound to prove indestructible.

Beep

(Continued from page 27)

proof of playwright Margery Kreitman's skill as her character gives voice to turmoil and doubts about her lesbianism. Her particular pain is shared by many, acknowledged by few, and will, no doubt, make some women in the audience extremely uncomfortable. This scene and one other, where Ronnie publicly pronounces her lesbian manifesto to a childhood friend, give *Please Wait for the Beep* a value that extends far beyond the play's comedic aspects.

The major weakness in *Please Wait for the Beep* is a tendency towards trite dialogue. There hasn't been an actor since Mickey Rooney who could say "oh gee" and make it stick. But what is being said here is more than adequate compensation for how it is expressed. With its forthright eroticism, crazy humor, and willingness to explore a touchy area of lesbian concern, *Please Wait for the Beep* emerges as another victory for Theater Rhinoceros in particular and lesbian/gay theater as a whole.

Please Wait for the Beep
Theater Rhinoceros
Through Feb. 21; 861-5079

Artist Olaf Odegaard in Town

by Mark I. Chester

Olaf Odegaard, erotic artist, writer, and until recently the manager of the International Gay and Lesbian Archives, is here in San Francisco for a week to sell some of his erotic drawings and make contacts for projects he is developing on the subject of gay men's art.

Although his fiction and non-fiction writing have appeared in *Drummer* and *The Advocate*, he is best known for his incredibly smooth-styled pencil drawings of gay male eroticism. Over the last 13 years, Odegaard has drawn everything from masculine portraits and leather-tinged sex to science fantasy gay male erotica. His photo-realistic style is tempered by a trend towards surrealism.

Odegaard creates almost a surreal smoothness to the texture of skin. Equally as important is the play of light that molds and envelops his tightly muscled subjects in a crisscrossing web of light and shadow. He carries this tactile quality into the brick, tile, and cement-filled backgrounds that compositionally set off his men in heat.

In one drawing, an attractive bearded man in leather sits astride a motorcycle composed of fluorescent and neon tubes that flow from the cycle, into the man, and back into the cycle. The cycle floats in air against a background of brick arches and the planets, and the man's rock-hard dick is pushed back through his legs and lays throbbing against the leather seat.

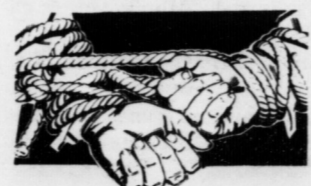
Odegaard admits the familiar-looking background structure is based on the brick warehouse located at 11th and Folsom that contains More Plastic Bags. "For years and years," he says, "everything I drew was a fantasy of what went on inside that building."

In his involvement with the archives, Odegaard created and organized the Naked Eyes festival of gay men's art in Los Angeles last February.

"I have always had a dream to see a very comprehensive show of all of the major gay male artists and photographers, starting with the early artists like Von Gloeden and including contemporary artists like Tom of Finland," he said. The show eventually exhibited more than 350 works by more than 100 artists.

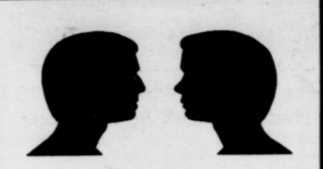
Odegaard is currently exploring whether there might be interest and support for relocating the archives to a permanent home in San Francisco. He is also currently negotiating with publishers for a book based on 20th century gay men's art and the possibility of organizing a second Naked Eyes festival.

Odegaard has for sale some 20 pencil drawings and one oil painting that range in price from \$50 to \$300. Those interested in his erotic art or other projects may leave a message for him at 552-3510. Mark I. Chester and Scott O'Hara are hosting an open house this Sunday, Jan. 25, from 3 to 6 p.m. for those interested in meeting the artist and seeing his erotic drawings. For information, call Mark at 621-6294.



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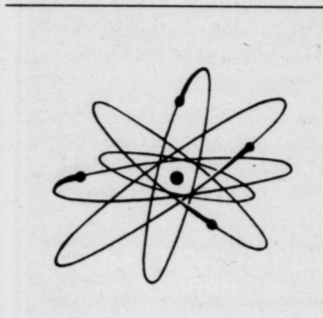
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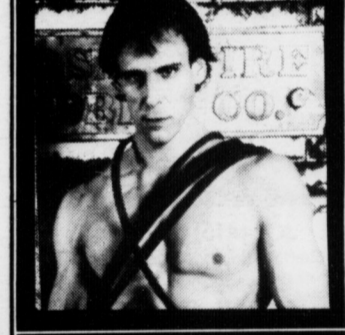
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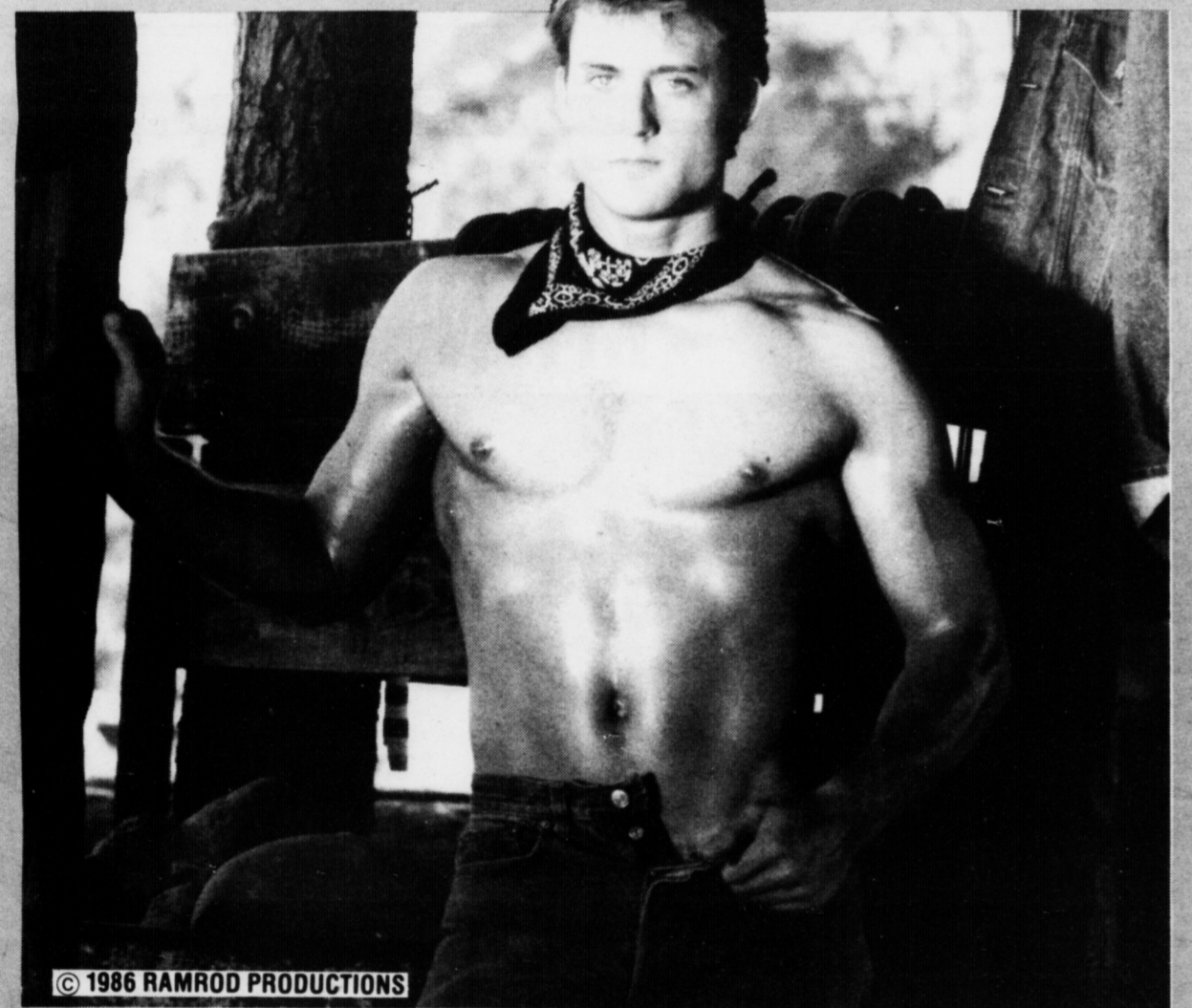
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BAY AREA REPORTER SPORTS & FITNESS

POOL

S.F. Sweeps West Coast Challenge XIV

by Lauren Ward

For the first time in five years S.F. representatives won both the team and individual championships at the seasonal tournament of city champions, the West Coast Challenge.

Played at the Five Star Saloon in Reno Jan. 9-11, the Challenge represents the ultimate goal of league pool players from San Diego, Los Angeles, Long Beach, and San Francisco.

'The crowd, vocally behind the Ducks all weekend, offered scattered calls of "on the snap!"'

Twice before the DeLuxe Ducks earned the privilege to be S.F.'s entry by winning the S.F.P.A. City Championship and twice before finished second to hot-shooting teams from San Diego. S.F. hadn't had an individual champion since Kitty Stevens won in 1982.

Friday night the Ducks huddled confidently before what was presumed to be no more than a warm-up match with Long Beach. The team's confidence was short-lived as its opponents broke out to a mid-match lead and were only a game away from victory at 8-6. E.Z.'s clutch win made it 8-7 and it was up to Ron Barulich, playing his first game of the match as a replacement, to tie it up and force the overtime race to three wins. Ron earned the nickname "Ice-man" as he methodically ran out the six remaining balls on the table to tie it up. The resurgence seemed brief as the Long Beach team broke out to a 2-0 lead. Wins by Rick Moore and Ron again tied it up and team Captain Lisa Duncan would play the deciding game. The final game evolved to a point where Duncan was faced with a difficult cut shot on her last ball. It was obvious to all that a miss on this one shot would cost us the match. When the ball dropped and the cue-ball rolled to perfect 8-ball shape. Long Beach demonstrated



WCC XIV champs DeLuxe Ducks (l. to r.) Rick Moore, Lauren Ward, E.Z., Lisa Duncan, Ray Bustillos, and Ron Barulich

perfect sportsmanship in the team's warm congratulations following the hard-fought match.

Saturday morning the Ducks faced their nemesis from San Diego and achieved the rare accomplishment of table runs by all four of the starters as the team defeated the San Diegos, 9-5.

Los Angeles, defeated by San Diego Friday night, subsequently eliminated Long Beach Saturday

morning. That earned L.A. a rematch with San Diego Saturday night with the winner to play the Ducks for the title Sunday.

San Diego, hungry for a rematch with the Ducks, eliminated the five-time L.A. City Champions from the Four Star, 9-5.

In the concurrent individual tournament all the San Franciscans had been eliminated by

their magic touch. The score was 8-2 when Rick Moore stepped to the table to break in the 11th game. The crowd, vocally behind the Ducks all weekend, offered scattered calls of "on the snap!" Rick obliged with an explosive break that sent the 8-ball to the corner pocket and a 9-2 S.F. rout.

Attention soon turned to the individuals as Colin Bradley had eliminated both Hennessey and



Mynor Alvarez, Colin Bradley, and Brad Hasper

Saturday night except for WCC I winner Colin Bradley. The final four also included last season's winner from L.A., Mynor Alvarez, as well as three-time champion Jim Hennessey from San Diego. Gay Games gold medalist Brad Hasper from San Diego was the only remaining undefeated individual.

Sunday's drizzly early snowfall did nothing to cool the San Diegan's shooting as the team barraged the Ducks 9-3 to force a second, final match.

The Ducks retreated to the Comstock to have lunch and regroup following the team's first defeat of the season. There was a strong feeling among its members that they could reach down deep for the winning spirit which would lead the Ducks to the victory that had twice eluded them.

The match began promptly at 1 p.m. and the Ducks soon built a commanding lead over the San Diegos, who'd seemed to lose

Alvarez and was facing Brad Hasper, the Southland's last hope for a WCC XIV Champion. Bradley was in classic form, mixing strategy with solid, accurate shooting to defeat Brad in the first match and force the race to four final. Colin proved unstoppable as he won the second match to allow S.F. the ultimate accomplishment of a Challenge sweep.

Prior to the brief awards ceremony the Ducks unanimously selected Lisa Duncan to receive the Jim Sell Memorial Award as WCC MVP.

The S.F.P.A. and all those who enjoyed this memorable weekend owe a debt of gratitude to the staff and management of the Five Star Saloon, 132 West St. in Reno, whose extraordinary hospitality helped make this event completely delightful.

Spring Season starts 2/10! Contact JOE-POOL immediately to be included.

SOFTBALL

Players Donate \$6,000 To World Series 1987

by Tom Vindeed

Realizing that these are tough times to raise money for private groups, the players of the Gay Softball League voted unanimously to donate \$20 each in support of the gay World Series. This amount will swell the coffers of the Series Eleven Committee by \$6,000, and they can use it.

This move should bode well for the GSL Board when setting sponsors fees for 1987. It's obvious that our sponsors will be able to recover any money put up this year as week-long parties will be planned during series week. I see no reason why sponsors would oppose an additional \$200 assessment for the '87 season.

Speaking of raising money, Becky has planned a progressive dinner for Saturday, Jan. 31. The \$10 donation gets you appetizers at The Cafe, salad at The Pendulum, roast beef, potato, and veggie at The Village, and where else for after-dinner drinks but the very popular Pilsner Inn? Sounds pretty good. Sign-up will be at The Cafe at 6:30 p.m. where Becky will be happy to take your money. Doesn't it figure he would

come up with a food fundraiser?

The team that signs up the most members will receive a \$50 cash bonus. If 100 of you attend, the prize will be increased to \$100. That's a nice incentive.

Emperor candidate Rick Manning will put on a Dragon Fantasy Jan. 23 at The Village at 9 p.m. Proceeds from a 50/50 raffle will go to the World Series fund. Our comely commissioner, the ravishing Rita, will be host, or hostess. Stop by The Village and say hello if you're in the vicinity, and I promise you haven't seen anything until you see Bob Wong, Sandy Sorreles, Tawny, and Desiree in Chinese drag.

Terry McCord is putting together an AIDS care type team in the GSL this year and needs lots of help and financial support. Raffle tickets will be sold at the next league meeting to kick off the new team's fundraising efforts.

Said meeting will be held Feb. 21 at Ginger's Too, 43 6th St., between Market and Mission. I'd like to say a special hello to Mark Warlick, Bob DeTulio, and Hayden Jackson.

BOWLING

JAPANTOWN BOWL COMMUNITY LEAGUES BOWLING

Team Standings

SUNDAY RENO LEAGUE (Week 14 of 30 - as of 1/11/87)		7. Pin Busters 30 26 1/2		8. Hammerjacks 30 26	
1. Mary's Boys 38 18	2. PG Gutter Girls 38 18	9. Deadbabies 29 27	10. Ball Busters 28 28	11. S'rly Girls From Hell 26 1/2 29 1/2	12. Guttertrash 26 1/2 29 1/2
3. Imposters 36 20	4. Spare Us 36 16	13. Lois Lanes 26 30	14. Cher M'let Bowl-ettes 26 30	15. GAG (Get A Grippers) 24 1/2 31 1/2	16. Easy Marks 24 32
5. Strange Interlude 35 21	6. Royalty 34 22	17. "Big Bang Theory" 23 33	18. Hopeful Five 23 33	19. Old Crows 20 1/2 35 1/2	20. Cheerleaders 17 1/2 38 1/2
7. Dude Theatre 33 23	8. Jerry's Kids 32 24	WEDNESDAY COMMUNITY LEAGUE (Week 11 of 30 - as of 1/7/87)			
9. Diner Dogs 30 26	10. Sassy 29 27	1. Not Always Smart 29 1/2 14 1/2	2. Ginger-Snaps 29 1/2 14 1/2	3. New Ballers 29 15	4. High Wired 28 1/2 15 1/2
11. Hodge-Podge 29 27	12. Eastbay Bobcats 29 23	5. Rolo's 28 16	6. Brand X 26 1/2 17 1/2	7. Hob Nob & Company 26 18	8. Play With It, Ltd. 24 20
13. Hot Slots 29 27	14. Strike Force 26 30	9. Giraffe 24 20	10. Epic Flyers 23 21	11. Ali Katz 23 21	12. Starlettes 23 17
15. Boobs And Buns 25 31	16. Pilsner 23 33	13. Lois Lanes 22 1/2 21 1/2	14. Male Image 22 1/2 21 1/2	15. Kokpit Dynasty 22 1/2 21 1/2	16. "Just Us Gurls" 21 23
17. Fishes and Crab 22 30	18. Hard Rock 22 30	17. My Guys 21 23	18. Pockettes 21 15	19. El Rio Tartarugas I 19 1/2 24 1/2	20. Gutter Girls 19 25
19. Tidy Bowlers 20 36	20. Alley Cats 18 38	21. Hob Nob 21 15	22. E Z Pick Up 19 21	23. Mix-Ups 19 21	24. E Z Pick Up 19 21
21. Beauties and Best 17 39	22. Crowd Pleasers 3 53	25. The Wrappers 15 29	26. Plus Five 14 1/2 29 1/2	27. Mother Nature 12 32	28. White Swallow 4 36

HAWAII VACATION LEAGUE (Week 31 of 40 - as of 1/9/87)

1. Wicked Wahines 29 11	2. Cookies N' Creme 23 17	3. Diamond Head 23 17	4. The Eruptions 19 21	5. Oahu Lei U 18 22	6. Lackanookie 16 16	7. Mane Islanders 12 20	8. Capricorn I 10 26
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MONDAY COMMUNITY LEAGUE (Week 14 of 30 - as of 1/12/87)

1. Play With It, Ltd. 44 12	2. Bow K 36 20	3. Liquid Experience 35 1/2 20 1/2	4. After Everyone! DJ 32 24	5. The Producers 32 24	6. Do We Care? 30 26	7. Alvin's 29 1/2 26 1/2	8. El Rio Tartarugas 29 27	9. Pacific Coast Glass 29 27	10. Damaged Goods Too 28 1/2 27 1/2	11. Rawhide 25 31	12. Ron's Hardwoods 24 32	13. Bowling Bags 24 32	14. Damaged Goods 23 33	15. CS Low Hangers 22 1/2 33 1/2	16. Foote Plumbing 21 35	17. Fore Strikes 19 37	18. Good Time Kegellers 17 39
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TUESDAY COMMUNITY LEAGUE (Week 14 of 30 - as of 1/13/87)

1. The 69 Club 35 1/2 20 1/2	2. Meatballs II 35 1/2 20 1/2	3. Split Sisters 35 21	4. Lucky Strikes 34 22	5. Kimo's Kows 33 23	6. Swaying Palms 33 23
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THURSDAY COMMUNITY LEAGUE (Week 11 of 30 - as of 12/11/86)

1. Pendulum 29 15	2. Stallion 27 1/2 16 1/2	3. Pndm Mon Night CL 27 17	4. Twin Peaks 26 18	5. Geri's Boys 26 18	6. Hunks 25 19	7. Tattoos Too 25 19	8. Geri's Girls 21 1/2 22 1/2	9. Hob Nob 21 23	10. Tartans 20 1/2 23 1/2	11. Old Rick's Gold Rm 20 24	12. Pendulum People 18 1/2 25 1/2	13. Pendulum #1 16 24	14. Sophie's Choice 16 28	15. Pilsner Penguins 13 31	16. Gallion 13 27
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Compiled by Jerry R. De Young

WhoWhatWhenWhereWhyWhoWhatWhenW

Physique '87

The first annual bodybuilding championship for women and men of all ages, called Physique '87: Springboard to Gay Games III, will be held June 27, the night before the Gay Freedom Day parade.

Sunday, Jan. 25, at 6:30 p.m. will be the first monthly training workshop at City Athletic Club at 2500 Market St. in San Francisco. There will be posing exhibitions by Gay Games competitors, instruction on the mandatory poses, and proper weight training techniques. A well-developed physique is not needed to attend the training workshop. You can be a beginner and your goal may be Physique '88 or Gay Games III in Vancouver in 1990. Everyone is welcome and we will be there to help you.

Physique '87 is not only for young women and men. Medals will be awarded to contestants in the older age brackets — from 40 to 50, 50 to 60, and 60 to 70.

For more information call George Birimisa at 431-6254.

Empress de Mission?

The Mission Coronation will be the first of its kind. It will take place at the Loading Zone bar at 26th and Valencia, Saturday, Jan. 24, at 6 p.m.

Some (lucky?) participants will reign, unofficially of course, as the Royal Family of the Mission for one entire year. You may cast as many votes as you wish at \$2 per vote. All donations will be received by the Shanti Project.

Voting will continue at the Loading Zone until the unofficial coronation on Saturday, Jan. 24. See you there!

Ms S.F. Leather

International Ms. Leather, Inc., will be sponsoring the 1987 Ms. San Francisco Leather contest, 8 p.m. on Saturday, Jan. 24, at the High Chapparral, 2140 Market Street, San Francisco. Admission for this event will be \$7 at the door.

Contestants may enter either as an individual, group, bar, club, etc. Contestants will be judged in four categories: leather image, physical appearance, attitude and personality, and stage presence.

The winner of the Ms. San Francisco Leather contest will represent San Francisco at the 1st Annual International Ms. Leather Contest.

Proceeds from the Ms. San Francisco Leather contest to benefit the 1st Annual International Ms. Leather contest which will benefit AIDS Emergency Fund, Coming Home Hospice, AWARE, AIDS Alternative Health Project, and the Women's AIDS Network.

Teen AIDS Prevention Play

The New Conservatory Children's Theatre Company and School will hold a special staged reading of its new play, *Other Worries*, Sunday, Jan. 25, at 3 p.m. at the Zephyr Theatre Complex, 25 Van Ness at Market.

Other Worries, by award-winning playwright Patricia Loughrey, emphasizes AIDS prevention for teens and families, and will be staged in its finished form in April. Admission to the reading is free, and an informal discussion session will follow.

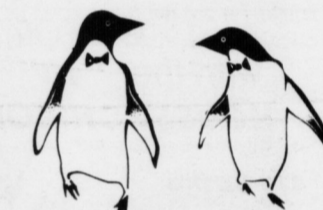
For information and reservations (seating is limited) call 861-4914. The New Conservatory is located at the Zephyr Theatre Complex, 25 Van Ness, Lower Level, San Francisco.

AIDS Survivors and Thrivers

In the second of a two-part series, several long-term AIDS survivors will share their personal experiences, relating what they have done to prolong and enhance their lives, at the next Metaphysical Alliance AIDS Healing Service. The speakers will include Bobby Reynolds, Ron Carey, and Dan Turner. Also, Irene Smith, a massage instructor from San Francisco Hospice, will lead a healing circle.

The service will be held at a new location, The First Unitarian Church (Franklin at Geary), Tuesday, Jan. 27, at 7 p.m. It is open to the public and free of charge. A collection will be taken.

For more information contact Michael Zonta at 431-8708 or Luther Balliew at 621-7187.



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Novelists

(Continued from page 26)

laundrying operation that allows the hero to become the publisher of a small erotic newspaper. And this is the Good Guy.

Robbins has lots of sex, almost all of it gratifying to male fantasies. That is, heavy-breasted women come on to men. At one point a 17-year-old nymphet wants the hero badly, but he's afraid of the law, so naturally she promises to come back on her 18th birthday. And does. In this book the hero even has a young man who wants to be his slave. Not your average sycophant either. This slave is rich, owns a Rolls-Royce, and gives blow jobs in the night without demanding anything in return. In other words, Harold Robbins manages to have a macho stud hero at the center of sexual desire almost without end, without upsetting any psychic apple carts in his readers.

But I stopped reading *Dreams Die First* when Harold Robbins introduced what I guess he thinks is typical gay life — bizarre mannish drag queens who wield ten-inch dildos and use them on the unwilling "Chicken of the Month." What he's doing is providing poorly informed readers with the thrill of sexual depravity without knowing what the hell he's talking about. You can take all the evil drag queen dildo-wielders of the entire world

and put them on the head of a pin. And that pinhead would be Harold Robbins'.

Jackie Collins is the sister of Joan Collins, did you know that? These two sisters have supplied more trash to the entertainment world than any family since the Gabor Sisters. And that's saying a lot.

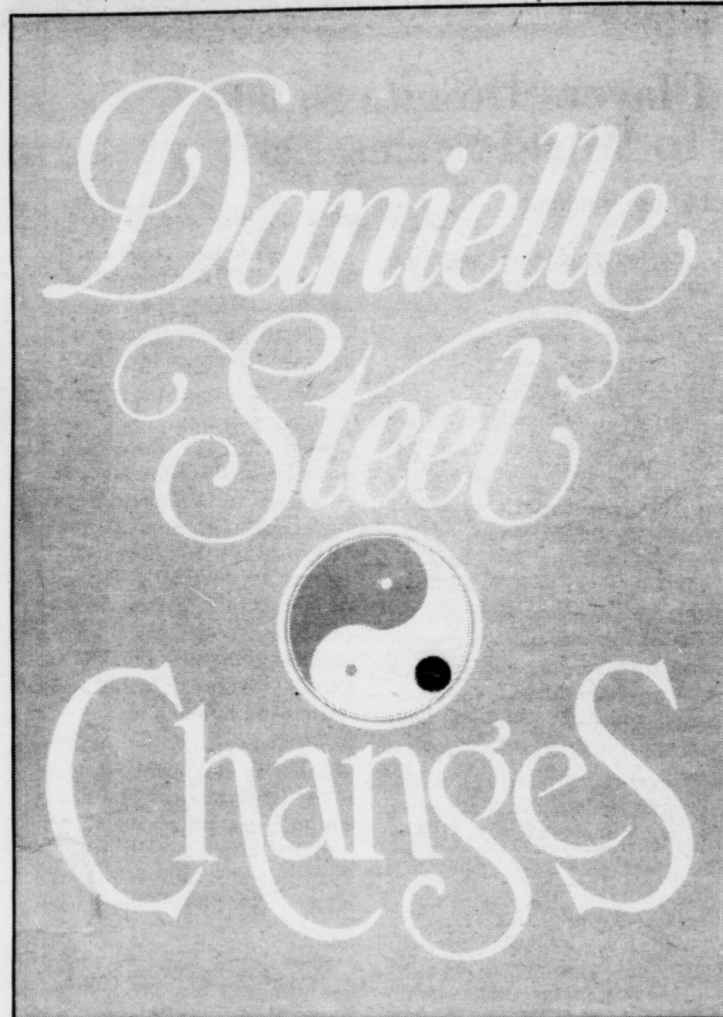
Jackie Collins' *Hollywood Wives* is that awful thing — a guilty pleasure. You know it's junk, but you can't put it down. Of all the writers discussed here, Jackie Collins and Judith Krantz are the most professional at what they do. They make you turn those pages even though your better judgment tells you to stop.

What Collins does is provide her readers with a reasonable facsimile of Hollywood celebrities. Of course it's the greed-and-glamour syndrome again: major stars and big directors and up-and-coming actors or machete-wielding murderers. Nobody small-time is permitted within two miles of Jackie Collins. She's streetwise and tough-minded, unlike Barbara Cartland, let's say, or Danielle Steel, whose characters tend to be goody-goodies. Jackie Collins gives us Hollywood dirt the way we like it — young studs hired by older women, and you know what for, luncheons at Ma Maison and The Bistro. She knows what Hollywood wives talk about and wear, and she doesn't hesitate to tell you every cheap, gossipy secret.

You love it and you know it!

What's hard to take in Jackie Collins is the way she does her gay characters. There are no ordinary homosexuals in her world. They are all obnoxious or extreme in some way. When I got to the scene where unwilling 14-year-old boys are abused and then murdered by party-throwing homos, I wanted to scream or laugh. Has she been reading Harold Robbins? Shame on her! Eventually she does show a "nice" gay couple. One is a screaming-queen hairdresser and the other is crippled. The only way Jackie Collins' readers apparently can relate to homosexuals is if they're attendants or incapacitated.

In fact, in none of these books is there a gay character who isn't awful or dismissible. One doesn't even ask for nobility — just some reality. Apparently to be a best-seller you have to be a handmaiden to mass-market values. By the way, black characters, Hispanic characters, Asian characters, and Jewish characters are not presented in unflattering ways. Indeed, the writers bend over backwards to make them acceptable. Gays, however, are still fair game for anything you want to lay on them. All these books came out in the last ten years, some only three years ago. It makes you wonder. It's hard not to have a chip on your shoulder when you are never given a moment's credit in these widely read books.



In a Danielle Steel novel, like *Changes*, what you get is the poetry of hard-core romance, of love overcoming a difficult situation for a beautiful young TV anchorwoman who lives in New York and a handsome, eligible widower who is also a heart transplant specialist in Los Angeles. I would guess women find her writing more appealing than men, just as Sidney Sheldon and Harold Robbins probably appeal to men more often.

You've got to hand it to Danielle Steel's people. They manage to overcome the immense hardships placed in their way by fate. I mean, after all, it is so difficult having the one you love on the other coast! Will love triumph? Oh, I hope so. Danielle Steel's readers apparently hope so too. And for a long moment their eyes met and held and Mel could feel cold chills run up her spine. (Beware of those hot chills, Mel.) There was something magical about this man. And he seemed to feel it too. If you think this is good prose, you really must get out more.

And guess what the readers get? Melanie Adams and her doctor marry by page 300; they still have some problems with their children of previous unions, alas. But then those are solved. Even

Melanie's male co-anchor on her new West Coast show decides to stop being a bastard. When? Right after he's been used as a villain long enough by the author. Problems have a way of just melting away in a Danielle Steel novel, when you make a million dollars a year and look like a million and a half. Melanie decides not to have that abortion after all and, by golly, if she doesn't have that child with the heart specialist, who wanted a boy or was it a girl? Not to fret. He gets twins, one of each, and the old reader gets a kick in the old heartstrings. People with weak hearts are cautioned to avoid reading Danielle Steel.

Steel seems to give women what they want: strong, masculine, handsome, but sensitive and extremely caring men. Sex is not very important to Danielle Steel's characters. There is a sentence or two here and there saying that sex took place, but it's something you have to do in order to have babies. Babies are what it's all about. Judith Krantz and Jackie Collins are much more interested in sex itself, although naturally they throw in a baby or two at the end. The population explosion be damned!

By way of farewell, let me leave you with another sample of Danielle Steel's prose: "She had never imagined him in a house furnished in elaborate French antiques. But indeed this was. Not in a vulgar, opulent way, but in an obviously expensive way..." I want all my readers out there to let that be their motto in life. Make sure your French antiques are not vulgar in an opulent way, but be sure they are obviously expensive. That's the blockbuster trash novel of our day — expensive and obvious.

I wrote this piece because people should know that they don't have to support the bestseller system. They really and truly don't have to read bad books. They honestly don't have to let all the bad writers get all the attention and all the money in the publishing industry. They need not contribute to the way things are going: the bad literally driving out the good. Soon there may be nothing but the bad published. Think about it.

Editor's Note: Daniel Curzon is the author of The World Can Break Your Heart, among other works.

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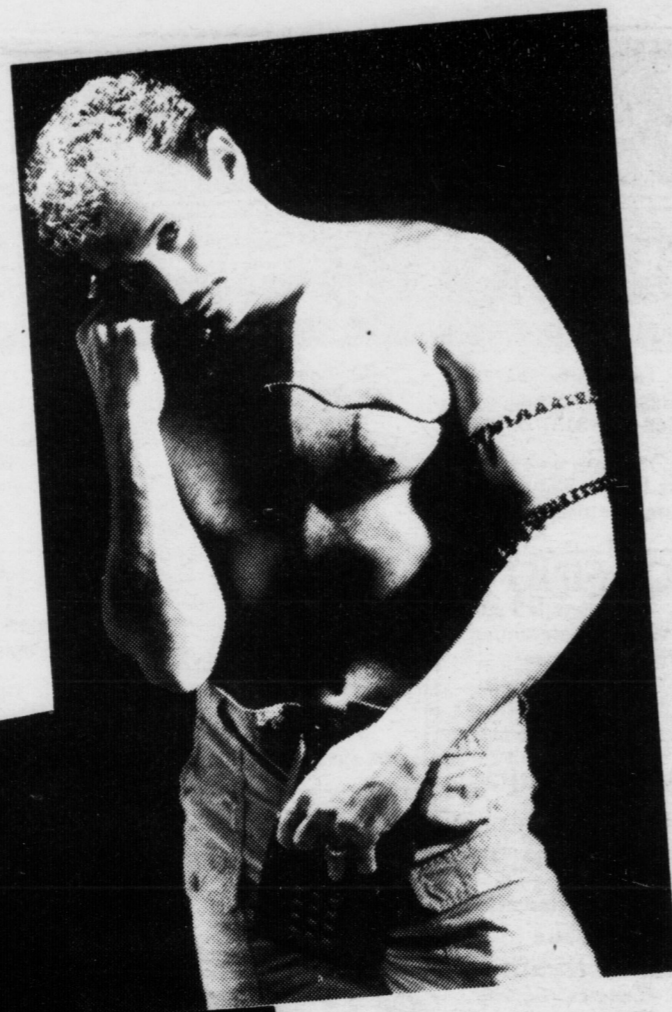
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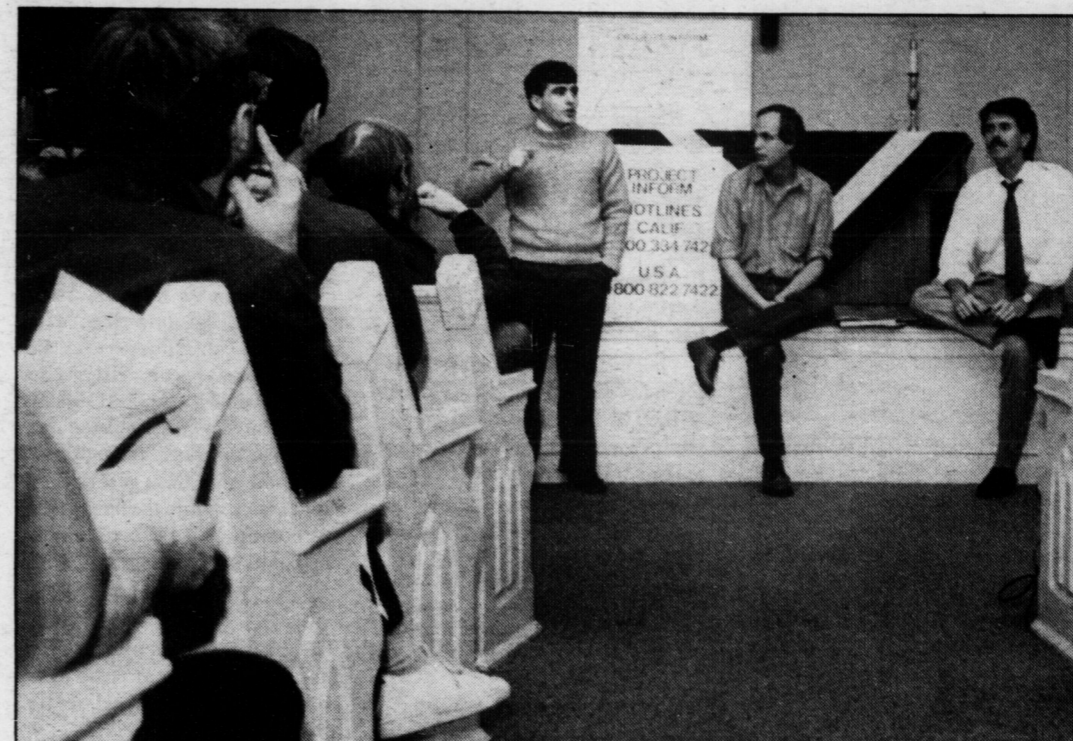
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Bill Woods, Martin Delaney speak at a local ribavirin forum. Will the drug become legal in the United States? Only time will tell. (Photo: Savage Photography)

Ribavirin

Price Soars in Mexico; U.S. Customs Clamps Down

Import Network for Anti-Viral Drug Collapses;
Border Agents Reverse Policy; Confiscate Pills

by Brian Jones

Hope turned into despair and confusion last week for those who use—or want to use—ribavirin. The U.S. Customs Service imposed stricter standards on importation of the drug. Customs agents from Tijuana to Brownsville, Texas confiscated ribavirin from many gay men last weekend. In some cases where people refused to surrender the drug, Customs agents denied them entry.

Many of those with ribavirin did get through—but most had 300 capsules or less and a prescription for the drug. (Continued on page 19)

Improve Programs Or Lose City Funds, Demand Gays

Ten Demands Presented to KQED;
Asked to Condemn Monitor's Bigotry

by Charles Linebarger

Ten demands were presented to KQED general manager Anthony Tiano and KQED television director Nathan Katzman by gay representatives at a Jan. 23 meeting convened by Sups. John Molinari and Harry Britt. The demands ranged from items as specific as condemning MonitorRadio, ending the station's boycott of gay comics on Comedy Tonight, and regularly scheduling gay programming on television and radio, to items such as that of presenting a positive image of gay people. The meeting participants called the gathering "polite" and "respectful." The station is due to respond in writing to the ten demands at a private meeting at KQED on Feb. 6.

Roberto Esteves, president of the Alice B. Toklas Democratic Club, drew up the list of demands. "I got the impression they were going to respond positively somehow," said Esteves. "It was a very respectful meeting. Positions from the gay community were expressed forthrightly and they can no longer deny hearing what we're saying."

On MonitorRadio, the issue which had led to Molinari's call for hearings at the end of last year, Esteves said, "We asked them to join us condemning the Christian Science MonitorRadio, and to join us in requiring the Christian Science Monitor to change their discriminatory policies. And pending that to withhold city funding."

Ralph Payne, vice-president of the Stonewall Democratic Club, had a slightly different perspective on the meeting. "It was very similar to the meetings we've had in the past twelve months. The only difference was that this was held for Supervisors Molinari and Britt. I was disappointed to learn that they were asking the same questions they were asking a year ago. They asked us what we found offensive about MonitorRadio."

Payne said he believed that if KQED meets all ten demands it would be as important for the gay and lesbian community as the gains made by the black community in the media in the 1960s.

Asked about the probable next (Continued on page 2)

Today

Tea Room Tango: For some, it's the only dance they've ever known. Peter Brown tours city tea rooms, page 16.

Going to the Chapel: But the chapel may be locked since Bishop William Swing officially ended all debate on church rites for gay and lesbian couples. See page 3.

Rapid Transit: BART Directors voted to ban discrimination against gays. Charlie Linebarger reports, page 21.

Ladies in Leather: One of the competitors (r.) in Saturday's Ms. Leather contest shows her tal-



ents. Mr. Marcus watched the show, page 32. (Photo: PhotoGraphics/Darlene)

Unhappiness Is A Warm Gun

Shoot the Queers Comment Haunts
Duke's DMV Appointee; Did He Say It?

by Brian Jones

In December 1983, staff members of the state Fair Employment and Housing Agency met in San Francisco to discuss AB-1—the "gay rights" bill. A.A. "Del" Pierce, then deputy director of the state Consumer Services Agency, walked into the room. He asked what was being discussed; he was told the topic was the gay-rights bill.

"Oh, I know how to handle that problem. Just give me a sub-machine gun," Pierce said. Or did he say it?

That question—and the three-year-old alleged statement—were very much current this week. Del Pierce was up for confirmation as director of the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV). Gov. George Deukmejian appointed Pierce to the cabinet-level post—and Senate confirmation hearings last week became a grave embarrassment to the Administration.

Pierce's appointment was expected to sail through the Senate Rules Committee with little fanfare last week. But all headlines broke loose when the smoking gun was pulled from Pierce's past.

The Deukmejian Administration was not about to give up without a fight. The Administration denied that Pierce made the statement, and leaned hard on



Sen. David Roberti

the Rules Committee to quickly confirm Pierce. Pierce has already been in the DMV job since his appointment 11 months ago.

But the "machine gun" remark wouldn't go away. Two people who were at the 1983 meeting made sworn written statements that Pierce did in fact say what they said he said. One of the accusers has publicly offered to take a lie detector test.

Only one thing is certain: Someone is lying.

(Continued on page 2)