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BAY AREA REPORTER

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Britt Support Pours In; Poll Shows Race Tied

Coalition Support Materializing for Gay Candidate;
Campaign Called Battle Against 'Backroom Bosses'

by Allen White

The campaign to send Harry Britt to the United States Congress is now in full swing. A coalition ranging from leaders in the lesbian community, such as Pat Norman, Donna Yutzky and Laurie McBride, to many of the motorcycle clubs are bringing the gay community together in an intense effort to win on April 7.

Last Friday night hundreds of people gathered for a fundraiser at the San Francisco Eagle. Patrick Toner and Sup. John Molinari joined forces to present the event. Many leather title holders were represented and jackets from most of the motorcycle clubs were proudly displayed.

Britt's campaign released the findings Monday of a poll showing a very tight race. The poll showed Democratic fundraiser Nancy Pelosi first with 24.5 percent, Britt second with 22.9 percent, Bill Maher third with 17.6 percent, Sup. Doris Ward fourth with 6.9 percent, and Sup. Carol Ruth Silver fifth with 6.1 percent.

The difference between Pelosi and Britt is less than the poll's margin of error, indicating that the race is essentially tied.

"This confirms what we have believed," said Dick Pabich, Britt's campaign manager. "This is a three-way race between Britt, Pelosi and Maher. None of the other candidates have any

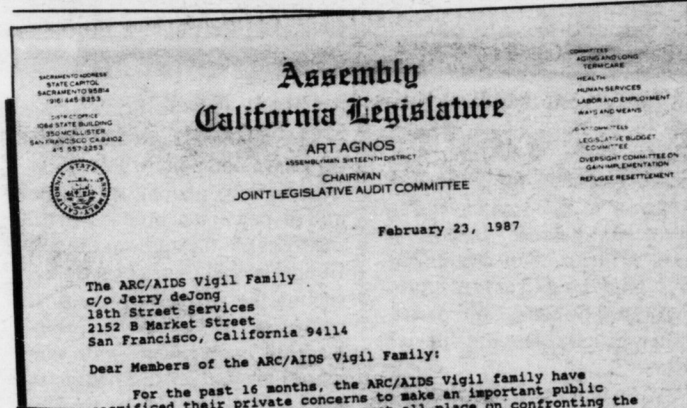
real chance of winning.

"The closeness of the race at this point indicates that the winning candidate will be the one whose campaign can best motivate and organize their supporters to vote by mail or at the polls. I'm confident that we can do that."

(Continued on page 2)



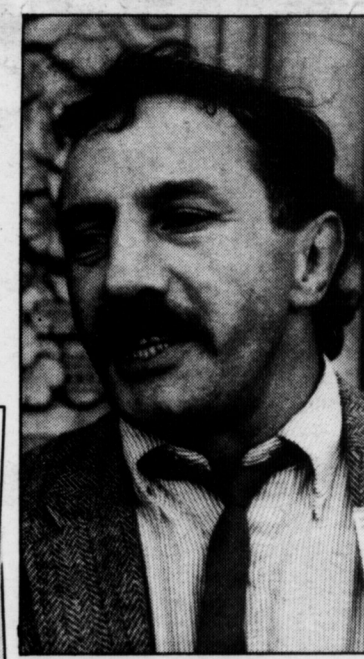
Sups. Harry Britt and John Molinari share a light moment at a benefit for Britt's campaign for Congress at the S.F. Eagle. (Photo: R. Pruzan)



"If you will accept me as your advocate on these three issues and I am able to bring you a satisfactory resolution, I would like to additionally suggest that I ask U.S. Surgeon General Koop to visit the ARC/AIDS Vigil to meet you and for you to together acknowledge that the Vigil has accomplished its purpose, and for you to be able to see that these last appeals are met."

—Art Agnos
in letter to ARC/AIDS Vigil Family

PROGRAM -- The ARC/AIDS Vigil Family... during the same budget year... anticipation for the coming federal budget year... begin October 1, is that nearly \$970 million will be appropriated for AIDS efforts. This will not come from social budgets, but from further cuts in the Defense proposals.



"We must repudiate this kind of sleaze."
—Bill Paul
(B.A.R. Photo)

Agnos Rapped For Vigil Plan

by Allen White

Assemblyman Art Agnos (D-S.F.) was censured Monday night (Mar. 2) by the Stonewall Gay Democratic Club for what Vigil supporters called his attempt to close down the 16-month old ARC/AIDS Vigil. Vigil members expressed outrage over a letter detailing how Agnos would deliver U.S. Surgeon General C. Everett Koop to them — if they would close down the Vigil.

The letter from Agnos was delivered to the Vigil site last Saturday (Feb. 28). In the letter Agnos asks to be the "advocate" for the Vigil, states he will invite Koop to the site, and asks that those at the Vigil "be able to move at once" to continue at another site.

Bill Paul, a member of the Vigil, called the move "a blatant attempt to take the Vigil and make it his political ornament." He added, "We must repudiate this kind of sleaze."

Gerry Parker, a person with AIDS and a former president of the Stonewall Club, said, "We are being bought off by Agnos. I am outraged that this is happening."

Parker proposed the resolution to the Stonewall Club. It reads, "We oppose the action proposed in a letter sent to the ARC/AIDS Vigil by Assemblyman Art Agnos concerning closing down the Vigil." The measure was passed by the meeting with only one dissenting vote.

Vigil members bristled at the (Continued on page 2)

Court Strikes Down Bias Based On Fear Of Disease

Ruling Hailed Though Non-AIDS Case;
Rejects Justice Dept. Rationale

by Will Snyder

The United States Supreme Court, in a surprising 7-2 decision, ruled Tuesday, Mar. 3, that a federal law which prohibits discrimination against handicapped people, also protected workers with contagious diseases from on-the-job bias. Although the initial reaction of the Court was that the law was not applicable to people with AIDS, gay rights advocates were, nevertheless, confident that the Court's decision will work in favor of people with ARC and AIDS in the future.

"We conclude that the fact that a person with a record of physical impairment is also contagious does not suffice to remove that person from coverage," under the act, according to Justice William Brennan, who wrote the majority opinion. Brennan also added that AIDS was not applicable in this particular decision.

Brennan was joined in the majority by Justices Thurgood Marshall, Harry Blackmun, Lewis Powell, John Paul Stevens, and surprisingly, conservatives Byron White and Sandra Day O'Connor. Chief Justice William Rehnquist and Justice Antonin Scalia, both recent appointments of Pres. Ronald Reagan, dissented.

Benjamin Schatz, director of the National Gay Rights Advocates AIDS Civil Rights Project, said he was not dismayed by Brennan's comments about AIDS. "Justice Brennan's footnote doesn't decide the issue of (Continued on page 2)



Benjamin Schatz
(B.A.R. Photo)

AIDS discrimination cases," said Schatz. "I think that the Court has made a very broad and clear (Continued on page 2)

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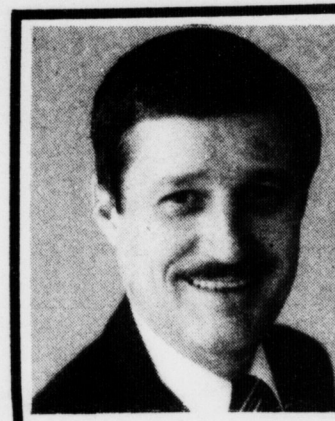
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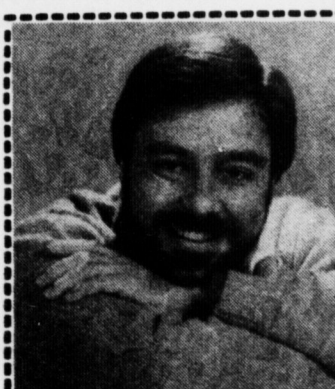
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Harry Britt

(Continued from previous page)

Molinari told the Eagle crowd about his working with Britt when the two went to Washington to lobby for AIDS funding last year. He also said that he has received calls from all over the country from people who are closely watching this race.

An indication of the momentum which is building was evident in the sale of "Britt for Congress" buttons. Hundreds were sold, totally exhausting the supply.

Attending the event also was Sup. Tom Hsieh and his wife. Surrounded by men in leather, Hsieh was strong in his support of Britt. He said he has been active in raising money for Britt in the Asian community. Julie Tang, another member of that community, has also been out working for Britt.

Saturday night, Britt was given a rousing ovation as he appeared at the Cable Car Awards. Following his presentation of an award to Wayne Shannon, he was off to make an appearance at the Barbary Coasters award program.

Monday night Britt received the endorsement from the Stonewall Gay Democratic Club. The endorsement means he has now received the endorsements from all three lesbian and gay Democratic clubs in the city.

Friday morning, State Sen. Quentin Kopp praised the Alice B. Toklas Club for their ability to unite effectively behind Harry Britt's campaign for United States Congress.

This week, people all over the United States received a letter from the Washington, D.C. based Human Rights Campaign Fund. The letter conveys the excitement at the Britt campaign headquarters.

"At this moment political analysts agree that Harry has an excellent chance to win a special election April 7 to fill the seat vacated by Rep. Sala Burton's untimely death," says the letter.

It notes that "backroom bosses and the old-boy network are pumping \$1 million into the campaign war chest of Harry's principal rival just to ensure that you and I never realize our dream," the HRCF mailer continues.

Bias

(Continued from page 1)

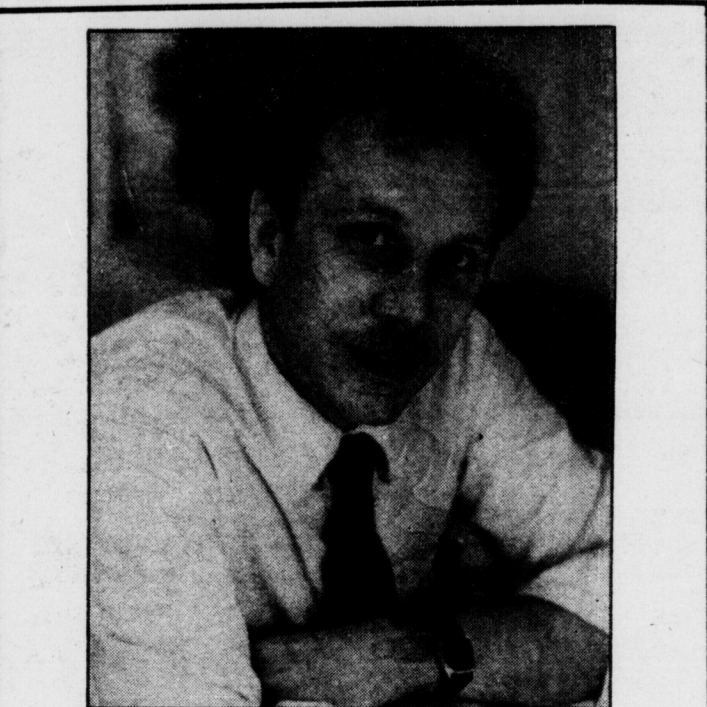
decision about discrimination and I have no doubt that it could be applied to future cases."

The Supreme Court decision was the end result of a case in Florida involving an elementary school teacher who was fired because she had tuberculosis. Gene Arline, the teacher, contended that tuberculosis was a handicap under federal discrimination laws. She sued her former employer, the school board of Nassau County, which contended

Integrity Celebrates First Anniversary

Integrity/San Francisco Bay Area, local chapter of the national organization for lesbian and gay Episcopalians and their friends, celebrates the first anniversary of its Bay Area rebirth on Saturday evening, March 7. The celebration marks the completion of the first year of renewed activities, and honors the original chartering of the chapter 11 years ago.

The celebration begins at 7:30 p.m. Saturday evening, Mar. 7, in the Episcopal Church of St.



'If Harry (Britt) wins, he'll be much more than just the Congressman from San Francisco. He'll be a symbolic spokesperson for gay and lesbian people everywhere.'

—Vic Basile, HRCF executive director

Vic Basile then says, "That's why, as executive director of the Human Rights Campaign Fund, I am proud to announce we have pitched our full weight behind this historic effort—and have already contributed the maximum allowed by law to Harry's campaign."

Basile continues, "After all, if Harry wins, he'll be much more than just the Congressman from San Francisco. He'll be a symbolic spokesperson for gay and lesbian people everywhere. And a powerful moral booster at a time when our community has our back to the wall because of AIDS."

Locally, many people are working to raise money for Britt. Sunday, Mar. 8, attorney Paul Wotman joins Mark Leno, Dennis Collins, Duke Armstrong and Russell Kassman for a musical reception at Kassman's Hayes Street piano store. L'Etoile's Peter Mintun, San Francisco Boys Chorus Director Louis Magor and Cabaret Gold Award winner Bill DeLisle are special guests.

Scott Beach, Sharon McNight and Sup. Molinari are presenting

a fundraiser on Mar. 9 at Sutter's Mill. Backers for the event range from comic Danny Williams to Republican attorney Duke Armstrong. Bay Area Career Women officer Donna Yutzky is also on the committee for the event.

The Galleon will be the site Mar. 18 for a fundraiser to include several local columnists including B.A.R.'s Mike Hippler, Coming Up's Randy Johnson, and David Lowe from the Sentinel.

The 25 Van Ness Britt Campaign headquarters is in a bevy of activity. The two level offices are staffed with dozens of volunteers. One contains a sign-up sheet for every day until the April 7 election. So many have signed up for some days that extra sheets have been added.

The volunteers are the people who have been out at street corners signing people up to vote and dispensing campaign literature. People throughout the 5th Congressional District have been seeing the grassroots political campaign in operation. Volunteers are visiting homes with window signs and asking people to work to help elect Harry Britt to Congress.

that tuberculosis could not be considered a handicap. According to Schatz, the Nassau County school board relied on U.S. Justice Dept. rulings that communicable diseases were not handicaps to fight against Arline. "With the decision, the Supreme Court has rejected the Justice Dept.'s attempt to use fear of contagious diseases as a means to discriminate," said Schatz.

Schatz added that he was surprised by the votes of Justices White and O'Connor. "You must remember," said Schatz, "that White was the one who wrote the

John the Evangelist, 1661 15th Street, between Mission and Valencia, San Francisco. St. John's is accessible from 16th Street BART and the 14 Mission, 22 Fillmore, 33 Ashbury, and 47 Van Ness MUNI buses.

From March 6-8, 1987, the Integrity Western Regional Conference will be held in San Francisco. Saturday afternoon, Mar. 7, from 1-4 p.m., there will be an open session on AIDS, women's ministries, and the issues of blessing gay and lesbian relationships and ordaining openly lesbian and gay clergy. The discussion on the blessing of relationships will focus on the new

**Lesbian Sues Firm,
Cites Discrimination**

Told To Be 'More Tolerant'

by Charles Linebarger

A San Francisco lesbian charged that she was forced out of her job two years ago because of her sexual orientation. Marty Springer alleged that she was harassed by co-workers at a financial district insurance firm who called her "vermin and scum." When she couldn't stand it any longer, she left her job. Today, she is suing Everett W. Stark and Co. in San Francisco Superior Court for back wages and more.

Springer was hired by Everett W. Stark and Co. in the summer of 1983 as a word processor. Things went well until her co-workers learned that she was lesbian. Then, according to her attorney Ann Menasche, the harassment began.

"They told queer-baiting jokes, complained to her supervisor that she had propositioned them, needed her about her sex life and then accused her of being a racist and supporting the Ku Klux Klan," said Menasche.

Springer complained to her supervisor, Gabriel Simpson, and later to the company's president and co-owner, Jim Stark. They reportedly told Springer she had to learn to be more tolerant of her co-workers' attitudes. "They put her off basically," explained Menasche.

Stark held a mediation meeting with Springer and her co-workers. "One of the three women that had been harassing her said that Marty's use of the word 'butch' in conversation offended her heterosexuality," said Menasche. "That employee's name was Loritha Griffin."

"Griffin tried to walk out of the meeting," continued Menasche, "until Jim (Stark) asked her to sit down, but Loritha said, 'No, I will not accept Marty's homosexuality.' It was at this meeting that one of the other co-workers called Springer 'scum and vermin,'" noted Menasche.

After the mediation meeting, Springer's troubles got worse. One of her co-workers sent a memo around the office which accused Springer of racism and stating that the only discrimination going on in the office was coming from Springer and was directed at the company's black workers.

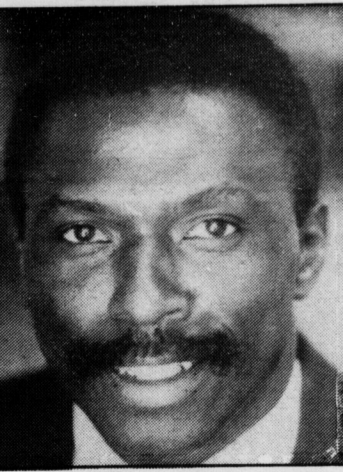
"It was totally flimsy and without basis," said Menasche.

When Springer tried to talk to her supervisor and Stark about the circulating memo "she was put off," according to Menasche. This led to her quitting her job with the company on June 3, 1985.

One year later, Springer filed a complaint with the city's Human Rights Commission, which promised to investigate and mediate Springer's problems with Stark. That was on March 3, 1986. According to Menasche, the commission has yet to make a determination in Springer's case. Calls by Bay Area Reporter to Jackie Winnow of the commission went unreturned.

In April of 1986, Springer contacted Menasche and asked her to bring suit against her former employer. "We're going after damages," said Menasche. "She was basically forced out of her job just as much as if she had been forced to leave by sexual harassment. And she was put through hell for months."

Springer's suit is being brought under both the city's gay rights law and the California



Brandy Moore (Photo: Rink)

Brandy Moore Named To Advisory Cmte.

Assembly Speaker Willie L. Brown, Jr. has appointed William J. (Brandy) Moore to the AIDS Advisory Committee.

Moore, 41, of San Francisco is a former administrative/legislative assistant to Sup. Doris Ward. He is a member of the steering committee of the San Francisco Black AIDS Task Force and the Alice B. Toklas Lesbian and Gay Democratic Club.

The AIDS Advisory Committee provides for AIDS research, education and grants for workshops.

People who fight fire with fire usually end up with ashes.

—Abigail Van Buren, 1974

KQED Head Lauds MonitoRadio While Stalemate Continues

'Next Meeting Will Be The Last': Pacurar

by Charles Linebarger

Rick Pacurar of the Harvey Milk Lesbian and Gay Democratic Club says that the next meeting with KQED over the elimination of MonitoRadio will be the last. Meanwhile, the chairman of the board of KQED, Marshall Turner, says that he has "the highest regard for MonitoRadio" and backs station officials Tony Tiano and Nathan Katzman, who want to keep the news service which will not use openly gay and lesbian employees.

"Probably as far as I'm concerned this next meeting with KQED will be the last one that I'm going to go to," said a clearly disillusioned Pacurar. He told Bay Area Reporter he would give the public broadcast station one final chance to end its association with the anti-gay news show, MonitoRadio.

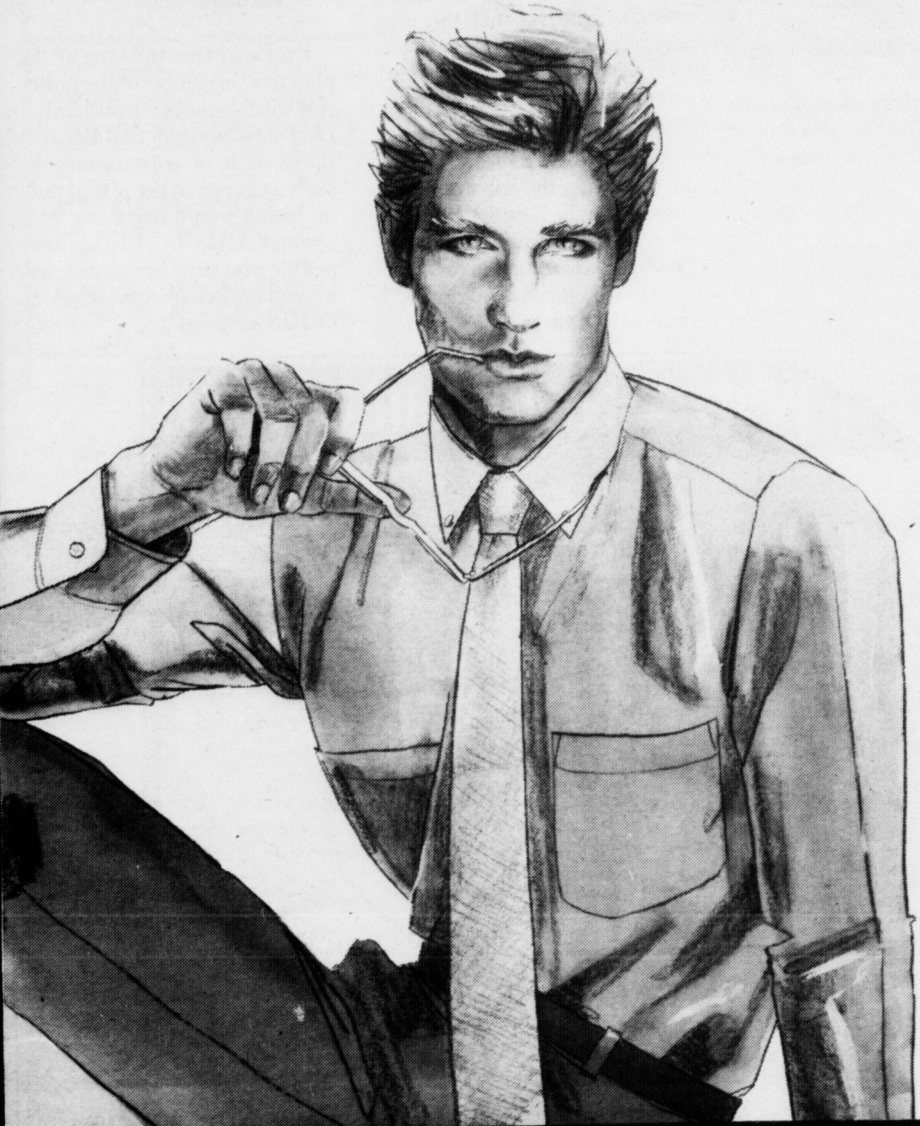
Pacurar said he saw little chance of further movement from the station on the points that have divided it all along from the gay community: the airing of

MonitoRadio, the lack of gay programming, the absence of local gay comics on *Comedy Tonight*, and the failure to offer more than token gay representation on the station's board of directors and community advisory panel.

"Calling public hearings seems to be the next good logical step," if the stalemate on the major issues continued, said Pacurar. "This is the first of a series of steps we will need to take."

(Continued on page 12)

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CDC Retreats On Testing But Battle Not Over

The federal Centers For Disease Control (CDC) retreated last week from a proposal for mandatory AIDS testing. The CDC proposal called for testing of all patients entering hospitals and for all persons applying for a marriage license. Last week the plan was assailed by virtually every recognized AIDS expert in the United States. It was also condemned by a coalition of 22 gay and AIDS groups.

The CDC held a hearing on the proposal Feb. 24-25 in Atlanta. They had expected 250 participants but 900 showed up plus 100 news reporters, underscoring the national controversy which has been ignited by the recommendations.

Some gay political activists claimed victory but their optimism may be premature. AIDS legal experts cautioned that the federal government still seems determined to promote widespread testing.

Federal authorities will promote the plan as "routine" testing rather than "mandatory" testing, said one AIDS legal expert.

"I worry that we may get routine testing down the line and it may be the same in many cases as mandatory testing," said Katherine Franke, of the Employment Law Center. "Semantics is everything—because some court will decide what 'routine' testing means."

Routine testing may be offered to everyone entering a hospital, for example, but those who didn't want the test could refuse it.

"Routine testing can be coercive," said Franke, who handles the issue of AIDS discrimination. "It puts the burden on the person to say they don't want the test. For many people, refusing would be awkward and difficult."

A coalition of 22 gay and AIDS groups issued a detailed statement which condemned mandatory testing. The Coalition argued that forced testing would hurt the fight against AIDS by driving people away from health care.

The federal testing guidelines will be released in about six weeks. They are expected to be reviewed at the cabinet level. The plan will be a recommendation only, but it is expected to have great influence on local and state health authorities.

B. Jones

Figures Don't Support Test Says Texas Health Official

Widespread AIDS testing would be a waste of money that should be used for education, says Houston Health Director, Dr. James Haughton. "If we truly believe education is the most important tool we have against this disease, then instead of spending millions testing to find the positives, we would be better off spending a fraction of that to prevent those from becoming positive," he said.

To support his argument, Haughton cited statistics that show 32 percent of people screened at a clinic that treats sexually transmitted diseases have been exposed to the AIDS virus. Fewer than 1 percent of people taking the same test at Houston blood donation centers show exposure.

Only 0.8 percent of the 296,023 units of blood collected in Houston since June 1985 have been found to contain the AIDS

virus.

All but 500 of the 3,264 people tested at the Montrose clinic identified themselves as members of a high-risk group, officials said. Of the 2,764 high risk group members tested last year, 878 tested positive. Only 22 people of the 500 not in a high risk group tested positive.

Haughton says this shows com-

(Continued on page 22)



Prof. Bill Paul addressed 100 protesters at a rally against the quarantine proposal on Tuesday, Feb. 24, at the State Building. (B.A.R. Photo)

Health Officials Back Off On Quarantine Plan

Protest Overwhelms Health Officers Meeting; Proposal Sent Back to be Redrafted

by Brian Jones

The California Conference of Local Health Officers (CCLHO) last week recalled its state AIDS quarantine proposal for redrafting. The group retreated following a storm of protest from gay groups and from many AIDS medical experts.

The proposal urged quarantine of persons "suspected to be willingly spreading" AIDS. The target group included healthy persons who are antibody positive for the AIDS virus.

The plan recommended that the state immediately begin planning a "strict isolation facility." The plan outlined ways for local health officers to circumvent the state AIDS confidentiality law.

Those provisions were assailed by gay activists and medical experts at a meeting of the CCLHO on Feb. 25 in South San Francisco.

Gerry Parker, long-time gay activist and a person with AIDS, told the CCLHO that the proposal "will drive people suspected of having AIDS underground—and it will not solve the problem."

Agreed Dr. Tom Peters, associate director of the San Francisco Dept. of Public Health, "this will be counter-productive to the message that we want to put out" by driving at-risk people away from health care.

Said Prof. Bill Paul, the sociologist who spearheaded gay opposition to the plan, "Your physician passes from being your prosecutor—and that has profound ethical consequences."

Paul said that the tone of the plan was "a merger of the police role with the public health role." Dr. Peters told the CCLHO that the breach of trust caused by such a change in the role of public health would harm the fight against AIDS by driving away people who need health care but who fear being registered as "AIDS suspects."

"We need patients to come closer to the public health system and not be driven away from it," Peters told the CCLHO. Peters was representing the official view of the S.F. Health Dept.

San Francisco Health Director Dr. David Werdegar promised last week to oppose the plan. The statewide proposal is not binding on local health officials. However, the proposal is likely to be influential, as it will represent the consensus of most of the state's county health officers.

Even if the plan passes, Werdegar said, San Francisco will spurn efforts to quarantine people with AIDS or ARC or who are AIDS-antibody positive.

Keith Griffith, of Citizens for Medical Justice—the group which last year staged a successful sit-in at Gov. George Deukmejian's office—threatened that there would be organized resistance to any attempt to quarantine people.

"We will organize massive resistance," said Griffith. He was joined by a dozen people wearing triangles of pink ribbons—symbols of the badges gay prisoners wore in Nazi concentration camps.

The group of local health officers appeared stunned at the depth and emotion of the criticism.

"The reaction took us by surprise," said Dr. Carl Smith, who drafted the proposal. Dr. Smith is health officer for Alameda County.

"The anxiety and concern is there, and it is real. Obviously we didn't take it into account. We're going to have to do the whole thing completely differently," Smith said.

Smith is revising the proposal and it will be reconsidered at a meeting of the CCLHO on March 18.

Pope Dumps Trip To Hospice For 'Lack Of Time'

But Local Officials Fear Security

by Charles Lineberger

Surprise changes in Pope John Paul II's San Francisco itinerary on Sept. 17-18 have been blamed on "lack of time," but local church officials have indicated that the real reason is more because of a fear over security for the pontiff. The pope will still bless the Golden Gate Bridge during rush hour, but fears of gay protesters and a papal look-a-like drag queen have forced cancellation of a papal visit to Coming Home Hospice.

Church officials said "lack of time" led to the cancellation of a papal motorcade down Market Street. The pope also decided to spend his night here secluded somewhere in, under or around the vicinity of St. Mary's Cathedral rather than Archbishop John Quinn's Richmond District residence.

Wahl's comments were printed in both San Francisco dailies. Within a day, Riley announced that the pope's visit to the hospice had been cancelled.

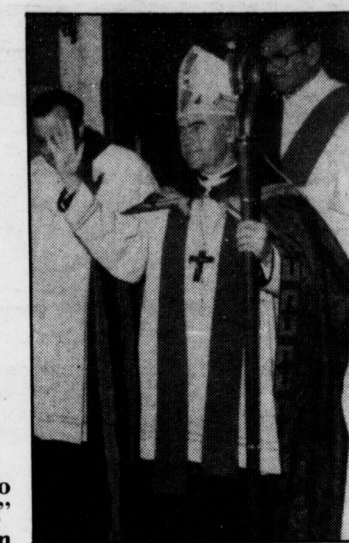
"Lack of time" was listed as the culprit in the cancellation of the trip to Coming Home Hospice. According to Charlotte Pace, a church spokesperson, "The problem is that going to the AIDS hospice is not something that can happen in just a few minutes. It can't be just 'Hi, I'm the pope.'"

The whole subject of a papal visit to Coming Home Hospice came up when Miles Riley, a spokesperson for the Archdiocese, told Bay Area Reporter last week that church officials were considering the hospice as a stop on the pope's San Francisco tour. John Wahl, coordinator of the Papal Visit Task Force, said his group was opposed to "the use of people suffering from AIDS as a public relations stunt by the Catholic church."

Wahl's comments were printed in both San Francisco dailies. Within a day, Riley announced that the pope's visit to the hospice had been cancelled.

"Lack of time" was not the reason for the addition of Detroit as the final stop on the pope's American tour. According to United Press International, unnamed Vatican sources have admitted that the Detroit stop was added partly because of fears that San Francisco demonstrations would "end the trip on a sour note."

"I think everyone is worried about security in San Francisco," said Pace. "This is the city which has had a more negative reaction to the papal visit than any other city. There has been a lightning



Archbishop John Quinn (Photo: Rink)

rod of criticism about the pope's visit."

Pace said that the Vatican was flying the pope's bullet-proof automobile to San Francisco. She said that not only was the church worried about gay protests while the pope was in town, but it was also worried about the reaction of many local Catholic sisters. "They may demonstrate against the pope," Pace said, "but they'll do it quietly." Pace added that many "sisters groups see him as trying to force them back into a traditional role."

The pope's tour starts in Miami on Sept. 10. He will leave Detroit for home on Sept. 19. While in San Francisco, the pope plans to address nuns and priests and then laity at the cathedral, say mass at Candlestick Park for a crowd of 70,000 paying \$15 a ticket, drop in at Mission Dolores and finally sprinkle holy water on the Golden Gate Bridge.

Mayor Dianne Feinstein is expected to be on hand to greet the Holy Father when he lands in San Francisco.

Two Men Sought In Bashing Spree

by Gregory Douthwaite

Two men yelling "faggots" stormed into Orphan Andy's restaurant one night last week, bashed the owner's head with a toothpick dispenser, and kicked in the windows of the popular Castro diner. Minutes later, gay bashers attacked another man on the street a few blocks away, hitting him in the head with a brick.

The victims shared an ambulance to the hospital, where doctors stitched up their heads. Both are recovering.

Police believe the same men are responsible for both attacks, according to Randy Schell, a counselor at Community United Against Violence. No arrests have been made, and police have not assigned an investigator. Witnesses should call CUAV, he said.

Orphan Andy's was filled to capacity at 2:10 a.m., Feb. 26, when two men entered, yelling, "Faggots, who wants to suck my dick?"

Owner Dennis Ziebell described the men as "a couple of mean-looking Mexicans," both about 5'10". One was stocky with a black mustache; the other was clean-shaven with an acne pock-marked face, he said.

Ziebell, 37, was standing by the front door, trying to keep the men out. He had just returned from the Badlands bar, and had heard the men following him on Castro Street. Frightened, he had ducked into his restaurant for safety.

But the men got by him. One punched him in the face, picked up a metal toothpick holder and slammed it into his ear, and then

pulled out a screwdriver and stabbed him twice in the arm.

Two or three customers got up to try and restrain the attacker, but with little success. The men fled on foot down 17th Street, after kicking in the front door and window.

Ziebell was placed into an ambulance with a deep gash in his temple. His ear was cut in half, and he was having seizures and convulsions. When the medics rolled up his sleeve to insert an IV, they discovered the holes left by the screwdriver.

The ambulance driver got another call on his radio. Craig Shaw, 26, also needed a ride to the emergency room.

Shaw had been walking past Collingwood Park with his roommate, showing the "sights" of the Castro to a visitor from Texas they had met that night while bar-hopping.

Shaw said they were approached by two Latinos, ages 16 to 19, heights under 5'3". The men asked for a cigarette, and Shaw's roommate gave them one. Then one man asked, sarcastically, "Do you want to go in the bushes and suck my dick?"

(Continued on page 19)



It's time for a strong gay voice in Congress.

Ten years ago the gay/lesbian community of San Francisco made history by helping to elect one of our own, Harvey Milk, to the Board of Supervisors. The thrill of our victory gave hope and inspiration to our brothers and sisters throughout the nation.

Today we can send the same wave of pride across America by helping to elect the first openly gay non-incumbent candidate to Congress. We may not have this opportunity again for decades.

The AIDS crisis threatens our lives and civil liberties and underscores the urgency of electing a powerful gay spokesperson to Congress.

Supervisor Harry Britt has a solid record of leadership and accomplishment at City Hall. His hard work has inspired a powerful grassroots movement of gay and non-gay volunteers, like the one that swept Harvey Milk into office, to unite in the Britt for Congress campaign.

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With less than a month to go, Harry needs your money NOW! Your contribution will help write history.

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EDITORIAL & OPINION

The Facts, Ma'am, Just The Facts!

Let's all hear it for Little Nancy Sunshine from Golden Heights. She woke up one morning and decided to come out of her fur-lined closet.

Little Nancy had been a good "Party Girl" and it was time for the party powers to reward her. After all, she was the only lily-white person they could come up with to run against all those, ugh, other types running for their very own throne. Let's rush her off to the capital so she can get appointed by the dying queen, bring her back, wind her up and off we go.

Put a former Representative in charge who looks at the gay community with deep disdain, and hire a homophobic campaign group, quite a team. But look out, there is trouble ahead. The district has a lot of those, ugh, kind of people living in it. What to do, why confuse those people with half-truths and misleading facts? Split them apart so that they won't be able to elect one of their kind.

How else to help out Little Nancy? Why, pick a few male-hating women (fortunately very few) and try to split the gay community. These same women have been heard in the past and are recognized for what they are — spoilers.

Little Nancy states that she was State Chair of the Democratic Party, true. However, when the Democratic leadership decided to dump all its fringe caucuses, did she fight for them all, NO. She never said a word about dropping the gays, Asians and labor from the party's caucus procedures. It seems strange then to read that she helped to found the party's gay and lesbian caucus. When it became expedient, she dumped it like a hot "13 pieces of silver."

We also read about how she will speak out on issues of concern to this community. She is about the only candidate running who *has* not spoken at length about our concerns. Why hasn't she done so before? We have heard no issues — as printed on her literature — discussed at length by this candidate.

We are also told how much money she has raised for certain members of Congress and that they will reward her with her requests. Let's translate this properly, she would go to Congress with pre-set and pre-conceived ideas, bought and paid for by special interest groups.

Little Nancy has been a very good "Party Girl," she should remain that and stick to her Golden Heights tea parties.

Bob Ross

OPINION

Gay-Asian Coalition Can Elect Britt

by Sup. Tom Hsieh

San Francisco has a population today that is unique in the country. This city is 20 percent gay and lesbian and 30 percent Asian. The numbers of these two communities are ever increasing. In recent years, both communities have been rising rapidly in the city's political activities. Candidates from the two communities have been cross endorsed mostly along local issues. Some political clubs traded endorsements with their candidates. In 1986, the "No on 64" campaign was widely supported by Asians, as well as was the recent fundraising for Coming Home Hospice project.

Looking closely, the organized gay and Asian groups are just as strong politically as other constituent groups. This is particularly evident through advocacy on issues such as AIDS and hospice care, job opportunities and immigration. Even though these issues are very different in nature, they do address the primary needs of the gay and Asian communities and the accomplishments have been the result of hard work by the respective constituencies.

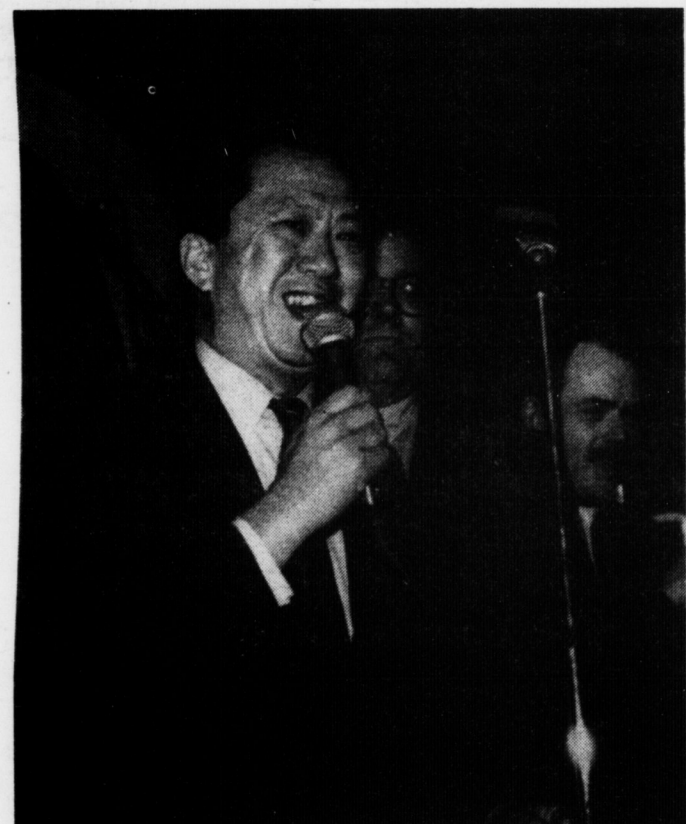
As the special election to fill the 5th Congressional District seat draws near, a question comes to my mind. Is it possible for the gay and Asian communities to develop a coalition to support a single candidate, such as has been done with single issues? I believe the joint efforts by these two communities during the successful defeat of Prop. 64 demonstrated the conviction of human rights, justice and individual equality that gay and Asian groups share. With this, I know that coalition action in support of a single candidate who would represent the convictions of these two communities would once again prove to serve our mutual interests well.

Supervisor Harry Britt is the candidate whom I consider to be the one to provide the kind of representation that the gay and Asian communities, whether they are conservative, moderate or progressive, will expect and need in Congress.

For years, both communities have been victimized by the hostilities of prejudice and discrimination. While violence against Asians as well as gays and lesbians is frequent, society has scarcely paid serious attention. When the Democratic National Committee decided to drop the Gay/Lesbian Caucus and the Asian Pacific Caucus in 1985, few utterings of support were heard from leaders of other political groups.

In 1987, I want to change this unfairness in San Francisco by working together to elect Harry Britt to the U.S. Congress.

Harry must not be labeled as a progressive or otherwise, but looked upon as a symbolic freedom fighter. No one understands better and fights harder than Harry in the face of prejudice and discrimination. Without justice and equality, it is meaningless for any individual to be concerned with issues such as rent control, immigration and such.



Sup. Tom Hsieh. (Photo: R. Pruzan)

On the Board of Supervisors, Harry and I sometimes disagree on issues. However, Harry and I will always have a common objective in protecting individual rights and equality for all people. San Francisco has the highest density of Asians and gays and must lead and set a role model in the country. Conservative, moderate and progressive politics become a non-issue in the face of struggle against prejudice and discrimination.

Since 1979, Sup. Britt has not only been sensitive to listening and advocating for the rights of gays and minorities, he has also been working for the rights of seniors, women, working people and the disabled. Furthermore, he has the experience necessary for dealing with a broad range of complex issues throughout the city. He has an impressive record of legislative accomplishments. Harry has proven himself as an effective and courageous leader with selfless dedication and endless energy.

As a Congressman, I expect Harry Britt to commit even more time and energy in working for a larger group of constituents on broader issues. I am proud to endorse Harry Britt and urge all people, not only Asians, to elect him as the next Congressman from District 5 on April 7.

By working together, we may yet unfold a new page in the political future in San Francisco.

LETTERS

Ignore 'The Party Line'

I strongly urge every voter, regardless of party, to vote for and elect Harry Britt to Congress. I have been a registered Republican in California for 33 years. I've been gay even longer and I'm darned proud of it!

Britt is the only candidate with the personal knowledge and expertise to deal with AIDS. We need someone in Washington who is attuned to the big problems which face us today, whether they are legal, financial, medical, moral, physical or discriminatory. I believe that a gay man can speak with greater conviction and involvement than any political dilettante or woefully inadequate novice political adventurist!

It is not the time to just follow the party line. It is an antiquated philosophy that should have been laid to rest long ago. Machine politics cannot guarantee the immediate help that we need.

Louis McNabney
San Francisco

Harry Britt Is Family

I was at a dinner the other night and met some rather prominent gay friends who had just returned from a fundraiser for Nancy Pelosi.

That disturbed me. We discussed the pros and cons of Harry Britt for some time. My friends' bottom line was: Our community needs to put our best foot forward and that would be Nancy Pelosi. They feel Ms. Pelosi would best address and fight for our needs on the national level. I've had several opportunities to listen to and work with Nancy Pelosi over the years. She is outstanding. I would have no reservations whatsoever supporting her, if it were not for the fact we have "family" running.

Harry Britt is "family." Like any family there are members who have strengths, weaknesses and problems. I personally don't think Harry is necessarily the best our family has to offer. He is, however, a brother in our gay family. And by the way, Harry has done a pretty damn good job in a no-win San Francisco as a politician. To not support Harry Britt is to not support our family. Come special election day, I'm standing squarely with the lesbian and gay community and placing my support with my brother, Harry.

Harry is our family's best foot forward and we need to support him. Anything less is unconscionable. I'll owe you one next time Nancy!

J. Davis Mannino
San Francisco

Put KQED On Hold While We Elect Harry

In regard to suggestions that we conduct demonstrations during the KQED Pledge Drive, I have discussed the idea with a number of community leaders. Our strong consensus is that the best use of our energy over the next six weeks should be to work for the election of Harry Britt to the U.S. Congress.

After the election, there are several effective actions we can take in making Tony Tiano personally accountable for the virtual exclusion of gay and lesbian programming from KQED.

Until then, we can all get together on Saturday mornings at Harry's campaign headquarters: 25 Van Ness Avenue (phone 864-6410).

Thanks for your commitment on the KQED issue.

Bill Paul
San Francisco

History Will Pass Them By

I nearly puked when I read Zohn Artman's and Jo Daly's criticisms of Harry Britt in Bill Mandel's Sunday Examiner column, along with their lame rationales for why they are supporting Nancy Pelosi.

Once again the same crowd that tried to defeat Harvey Milk a decade ago is trying to tell us that we will be a more powerful community if we let our straight friends speak for us.

Do they really think that history will take seriously the petty grievances that motivate their efforts to stop the first openly gay person from winning the election to Congress? Does the world care why they tried to stop Harvey Milk?

Harry Britt has proven himself to be one of the most creative, productive and effective members of our Board of Supervisors. He brings a passion and commitment to our issues that we never could expect of a non-gay "friend." His presence on the Board serves notice that every policy or proposal advanced from any source in City Hall, or in the private sector that deals with City Hall, is automatically scrutinized for its effects on the lesbians and gay men of San Francisco.

That's the presence we need in Congress right now, not decades in the future, when with luck we might have another chance to send one of us to Washington.

Jim Rivaldo
San Francisco

What's Love Got To Do With It

When I vote on April 7 to send Harry Britt to Washington, I will be casting my first vote for the supervisor who, with the possible exception of Wendy Neider, has been my least favorite member of the Board.

I have long regarded Britt as a one-issue (i.e. rent control) supe who sits too far left of center for me. I'm not wild about Harry, and yet...

Imagine the significance of sending one of our own to Capitol Hill!

Harry Britt is an exceptionally articulate, forceful speaker with legislative experience.

I believe Britt's leftward-looking, somewhat ruffled presence would provide a welcome contrast to all the manicured "neo-these" and "pragmatic those" on the Hill. His different voice would be a bit of balance to an America that harbors a frighteningly reactionary federal bench, the likes of a Pat Robertson and a thirst for an AIDS witch hunt.

As John van Heusden states in his Feb. 26 letter to B.A.R., "Harry's principal opponent has no known views on any subject short of how to raise lots of money."

Harry Britt may be our best bet to represent the Fifth District in Congress. It's nothing new in politics. You don't have to love the candidate to vote for him.

Joel Laski
San Francisco

Phillipson Was Inaccurate

In regard to Brian Jones' article in last week's edition, we would like you to know that Alice Phillipson's comments concerning the District Attorney's involvement in the case she discussed are inaccurate and incomplete.

The District Attorney's Office — at no point — refused to prosecute. Because of the unusual set of circumstances which led up to the alleged disclosure in this case and because of the importance, not only to Ms. Phillipson's client, and the statewide impact of a whole new body of the law, the District Attorney's Office gave the information (while protecting the patient's confidentiality) to the Attorney General's Office for an opinion as to the extent, applicability and meaning of the statute.

Last week, we received notification that the Attorney General's Office declined to issue an opinion because Ms. Phillipson's civil suit will result in a court decided opinion on the merits of her claim.

Hugh Donohoe
Assistant District Attorney
District Attorney's Office
San Francisco

Let Boston Decide

It is disheartening to see in the February 12th Bay Area Reporter that some gay leaders in San Francisco are still pressing a denial of free speech rights to the program administrators of KQED and of religious freedom rights to The First Church of Christ, Scientist, Boston.

San Francisco Bay Area should allow this question to be settled in Boston.

James F. Gibbons
San Leandro

GAY MEN'S THERAPY CENTER

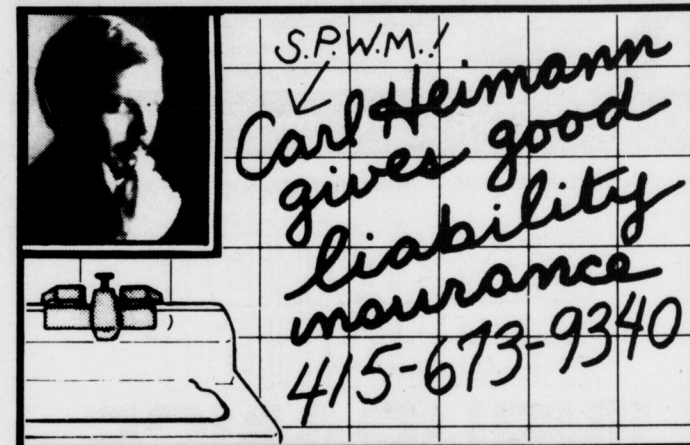
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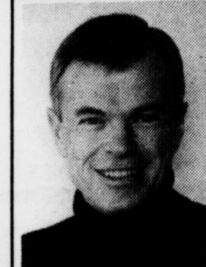
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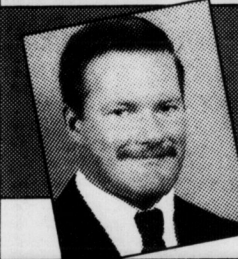


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LETTERS

Trust Your Inner Strength

★ An open letter to those who at times might hope:
Dear Mike Hippler:

I read with interest your letter to Mom & Michael (Dec. 18, B.A.R.). Michael was my brother and any time I have been made aware of something about him, I hunger to learn. Michael passed over on Dec. 1, in a hospital here in New York. The decision to have Michael come home was made quickly, and not a moment too soon.

Having been a part of Michael's support system, I was fortunate enough to be made acutely aware of the warmth and compassion given without hesitation to people with AIDS in the San Francisco area. New York is trailing way behind, but Michael was fortunate in that we were able to find a hospital that provided excellent care. Michael had seven sisters and brothers who ached to help care for him. Our mom's pain was eased because Michael came home to her.

I learned so much from Michael. He denied death for so long. Finally—there was loss of fear for him and he "let it go." His body had entertained some nine major diseases, and he was able to battle on and play out his role in spite of them.

I wish to thank all of his friends and well-wishers for loving my brother and for making his final journey an easy one. To any persons with AIDS: hold on to your family and friends. Trust your inner strength. So often in illness, the mind rules the body. Be good to yourself and laugh when you can or cry when you need to. Don't lose hope. Continued good health in this and all new years. Peace—

Veronica Rogers
New York

Pope Makes My Blood Boil

★ The suggestion that the Pope visit dying homosexual AIDS victims belies the stated Hospice philosophy of "letting them die with dignity, in a homelike setting, and with as little pain as possible." If I were in need of the services of Coming Home, I would commit suicide rather than allow myself to be exploited in such a hideous manner.

That the archdiocese of San Francisco could be so insensitive and stupid as to think that a homophile man dying of AIDS would willingly participate in a publicity stunt to shore up the image of this pope that had pronounced him intrinsically evil and disordered and even urged compassion and understanding for those that would assault and murder his kind makes my blood boil.

Given the pronouncements of this pope concerning homosexuals, homosexuality and AIDS, I shudder to think what the effect on worldwide opinion of such a spectacle would be. Perhaps the real purpose of this proposed charade is indicated in Riley's choice of metaphors: "throw a bone to the Gays" indeed!

J. Craig Canada
San Francisco

Chronicle Errors

★ The following letter was sent to the San Francisco Chronicle:

The article which ran in your paper March 2, "How San Francisco Lost \$3 Million in AIDS Funds," was very useful in pointing out the need for additional funding, and especially funding for education directed at ethnic minority and hard-to-reach populations.

Two items need clarification. First, the San Francisco AIDS Foundation was not awarded \$35,000 to conduct AIDS testing in minority communities. The AIDS Foundation's responsibility was to provide education in the ethnic minority communities via advertisement placement, a Spanish language video tape, and educational forums for health-care providers servicing the ethnic communities. The work was part of an ongoing program by the AIDS Foundation which has been very successful.

The article alleges poor performance by the AIDS Foundation, resulting in withdrawal of the funds. In fact, the Department of Public Health has never made such a statement. These antibody testing education funds were withdrawn from the AIDS Foundation in order to directly fund minority AIDS education agencies. Ironically, the Department of Public Health has not yet awarded these funds to a minority educator.

In regards to the \$50,000 to conduct public opinion research about AIDS in minority communities, it should be made clear that this money was not "lost." After consulting with ethnic community leaders, the AIDS Foundation determined that \$50,000 was an inadequate amount of money to conduct valid research studies in the Latino and Black communities. Additionally, the research should be conducted by ethnic minority research experts.

The AIDS Foundation recommended that the Department of Public Health augment the inadequate State of California funding with local monies

and award the research contract directly to agencies within the ethnic communities of San Francisco. The Department of Public Health accepted our recommendations and on Feb. 2, 1987 awarded two grants totalling \$125,000 for completion of these research studies by July 6, 1987.

Finally, the San Francisco AIDS Foundation is committed to AIDS education for all San Francisco communities, including ethnic minorities, women, IV drug users, and those sexually at risk for AIDS. This can only be accomplished with increased resource allocation and cooperative education efforts. Resources must be increased for all aspects of AIDS education before we pay the higher price of countless deaths.

Timothy R. Wolfred
Executive Director
San Francisco AIDS Foundation

Your Place Or Mine?

★ Your place or mine?

Check out who you're going home with tonight. It's worth your life . . .

A dead serious message from CUAV and the Tavern Guild.

With this message, Community United Against Violence and the Tavern Guild begin a campaign to educate the lesbian/gay community about ways of avoiding the possible dangers of going home with a stranger.

How dangerous? Seventeen gay men were murdered in San Francisco last year. The majority of them were victims at the hands of strangers they met at a bar or other public location and went home with. Many, many more were fortunate enough to escape with their lives, but lost cash, credit cards, and valuable personal belongings.

Some of the suspects have been apprehended. Others are still at large. What do they look like? Ordinary people. Assassins and thieves come in all sizes, races, builds. Some are very, very attractive and rarely are they "dumb" or "sleazy."

What to do? Fundamentally, we want people who socialize in bars and for whom pick-ups are a natural part of their lives to at least think of the potential dangers involved in taking a stranger home. We encourage those of you who work in the bars to help your patrons think of their own safety by reminding them at last call announcements (or sooner) in whatever is your own inimitable and creative style to check out who you're going with. Remind your patrons that if they're going home with a stranger, they should let someone know—preferably in the individual's presence—who they're going home with.

CUAV and the Tavern Guild are in the process of developing posters, flyers and matchbooks with our *Your Place or Mine?* campaign theme. We are investigating potential funding sources to underwrite the cost of the campaign and welcome your ideas for fundraising events, large or small. In the meantime, CUAV will graciously accept any monetary contributions for the campaign. It doesn't have to be a lot. For example, \$25 from each Tavern Guild member would be enough to pay for six months of flyers and matchbook distribution.

We encourage your active participation as volunteers in the campaign and most of all, we thank you in advance for helping to get our *Check him out* message across. Bars are for fun. Let's keep them that way.

Contributions, questions, etc. should be directed to: Community United Against Violence, 514 Castro, San Francisco 94114.

Carmen Vasquez
Community United Against Violence
San Francisco

The Church's Current Stalinism

★ E. S. Alderette, in his Feb. 12 letter, has fouled-up priorities. He is right to show honor, love, and respect for those dedicated Roman Catholics who work unselfishly for the common good. He is not loyal to the church itself when he sanctions genuflections to a group which hinders and often frustrates the work of those communicants. Loyalty would be better served by refusing to honor or even recognize the leadership which currently exercises Gestapo-type control over the church organization.

Thousands of Roman Catholics are dedicated Christians, something one finds hard to say about much of the hierarchy. Christian Catholics should show publicly their disrespect and rejection of the Polish drag queen who dishonors a church which, since the Council of Trent, has tried, admittedly with setbacks, to earn a restoration of lost loyalties.

Christian Catholics should do everything within their power, openly and publicly, to convince the visiting papal contingent that they reject this particular leader.

The whole Christian world will applaud that effort and pray for its success.
Fred R. Methered
Honolulu, HI

LETTERS

A Serious Disservice

★ The following letter was sent to each board member of the State Board of Education:

Dear Board Member:

I read with surprise and disappointment that the State Board of Education has not approved a section of the new Family Life Guidelines which deals with homosexuality. The guidelines, as originally proposed, called for an open and frank discussion of homosexuality. Teachers would have been asked to teach students respect and tolerance for all individuals, no matter what their sexual orientation. I feel strongly that any attempt to weaken this section of the guidelines would be doing a serious disservice to the students, parents, teachers, and the general public of California.

For too long, factual and accurate information about gays and lesbians has been omitted from the State's curriculum, resulting in ignorance and fear of homosexuality.

Statistics show that six to ten percent of the state's students are gay or lesbian, and yet these students are given no information about who they are or what contributions their community has made to American society. The result is a higher dropout, suicide, and drug abuse rate among gay and lesbian students than among their peers. I feel that the State Board of Education has a moral obligation to address the needs of the gay and lesbian students in this charge. The Board has an opportunity to help these students develop self-esteem by adopting the Family Life Guidelines as originally written.

Statistics also show that violence against gays and lesbians is on the increase across the state. These attacks are usually carried out by young men who have not been taught respect and tolerance for their fellow citizens. The ability to respect and tolerate others' beliefs, even when these beliefs differ from one's own, is essential in a pluralistic society.

If students are not given accurate information about homosexuality, they will continue to rely on prevalent myths and stereotypes. As students move into the work force, they will confront openly gay and lesbian people as customers, fellow workers, and employers. If students rely on stereotypes and myths to understand their gay and lesbian community members, the result will be misunderstanding, fear, and conflict.

The State Board of Education has the opportunity and responsibility to give students, both gay and straight, the chance for a more informed and harmonious future. I hope the Board takes this responsibility to heart by allowing teachers to openly and honestly discuss both homosexuality and heterosexuality with their students.

Robert James Birkle, Chairperson
Bay Area Network of
Gay and Lesbian Educators
San Francisco

Don't Sacrifice The Flock

★ It is disheartening to see that for the second time in recent weeks, the Vatican has seen fit to turn human tragedy to its own shortsighted purposes. The Church states that promoting the use of condoms to control the spread of AIDS is absurd, and that the only way to control the disease is to eliminate homosexuality. This is like saying that the only way to control famine and overpopulation is to eliminate people. Homosexuals have been around a lot longer than the Catholic church, and no intelligent person believes that their elimination can or should be effected. The only purpose in stating such a facile goal is to incite fear and reaction among those who depend on faith for guidance in practical matters.

This narrow, dangerous doctrine can only be invoked for the short period remaining in which gay men are the primary victims of this disease. For the Vatican to equate homosexuality with the spread of AIDS is irresponsible, and if present directives are followed, thousands, possibly hundreds of thousands of lives will be sacrificed in order to inflame public opinion against homosexuality and to force adherence to medieval dogma.

Sexual practices condoned by the Church are known to be unsafe—the issue of homosexuality aside, heterosexual adultery, which spreads disease quite effectively, will not cease. No prayers, no piety, nothing but practical prevention will slow the spread of this disease. The Vatican is conscious of this, and it is aware that homosexuals are the victims, not the culprits in this terrible scenario.

It is likely that if the HIV virus had not entered the gay community when it did, at the cathartic peak of a historically unprecedented period of widespread sexual expression for that group, AIDS would never have been identified with homosexuals, as it has not been in Africa. There, the facts seem to indicate that AIDS is spread fairly easily through routine sexual contact. The key is timing—AIDS has simply been around longer in Africa, and has moved through the population naturally, undisturbed by social phenomena. Those who believe that there is another, more occult reason for this plague are condemned

to allow it to continue.

The incubation period of AIDS is so great that even though safe sex guidelines were implemented by the majority of the gay community as soon as they were known, people will die for years as a result of unsafe sex engaged in when no one knew any different. Voluntary rejection of such vital information can easily be fatal, and lest we forget, suicide also closes the gates of heaven. Those already infected have had no chance to save themselves, but there is no excuse for anyone to contract this disease today. The work of the church must not be to sacrifice its flock in order to preserve its doctrine.

David W. Linger
San Francisco

ED. NOTE: The Vatican has said nothing about condoms. A number of American bishops, acting on their own, have opposed advertising and use of condoms. You are absolutely right that sex practices condoned by the churches will spread AIDS.

Ray O'Loughlin

Rise To The Challenge

★ This letter was sent to Sen. Bill Greene (D-Los Angeles), The Senate, Sacramento:

Dear Senator Greene:

I have just read a quote attributed to you in the San Francisco Chronicle in response to a remark made by Sen. Gary Hart that AIDS was spreading rapidly among heterosexuals in Africa. You are quoted as being infuriated and saying "When you see as many black sissies as white sissies, you come and see me. I admit that we have too many drug users."

I find this view to be disgusting from a man who supposedly is intelligent enough to serve in the California Senate. Black homophobia will kill more blacks with AIDS due to your ignorance. What kind of mind can you have to brag that blacks have too many drug users, rather than admit the existence of black homosexuals. And I suppose you consider yourself a good Christian too.

I pray that, when AIDS hits your family, as it has mine, you will have the courage and compassion to face it and stop this policy of homophobia which is costing lives in the black community as well. Will you have the guts to cope? I doubt it, based on your asinine remarks.

You would better serve your constituency in Los Angeles and California if you took your ignorance into an AIDS ward, either here in San Francisco or in Los Angeles where thousands of people, gay and straight, black or otherwise, have died or are dying of this disease. You might learn something.

You might also save lives. Or does protecting the sexual reputation of the black race against the "scourge" of homosexuality come first?

If you do nothing, you will be a disgrace to your race, your state, your nation—to humanity itself. Can you rise to the challenge?

Timothy T. Shields
San Francisco

Where Have You Been?

★ This letter was sent to Pres. Ronald Reagan:

Dear President Reagan:

I have enclosed an article entitled "White House Memo On the AIDS War," which appeared in the Feb. 26 San Francisco Chronicle.

I am shocked that it has taken you over five years to finally decide to support a federal campaign to educate the public about the dangers of AIDS.

Where have you been?

For your information, AIDS has been an epidemic in America for over five years, has been the number one health problem, has killed thousands of Americans, and according to the latest statistics, will claim the lives of tens of thousands of Americans within the next ten years.

Now, you want to start to educate. The article specifically states the limiting of education to "those within marriage" and "to children." Are these the high risk groups most susceptible to contracting the AIDS virus? No! Please read your local paper or listen to the 6 p.m. news on your television. The high risk groups are single adults.

Please, for once get your nose out of the Bible, and enter reality. If you and your administration do not give AIDS the priority it deserves, there will be no need for a President, as there will be no Americans alive. Please, let your memory return, and give AIDS all the proper attention it deserves.

Would you act differently if you were told your son, Ron, was HIV positive?

Dennis H. Sheffler
San Francisco

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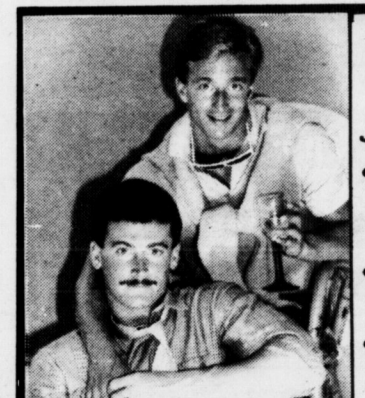
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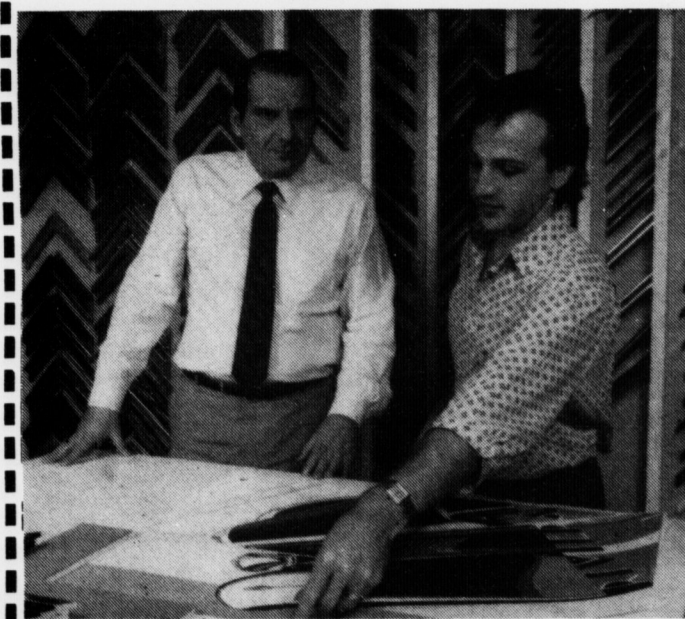


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Wayne Friday

Pelosi Seen Out to Lunch

After reading in an Examiner column Sunday that a group of "affluent gay men" were observed at Sutter's Mill last week having lunch with congressional candidate, Nancy Pelosi, an apolitical friend of mine wondered aloud why these "affluent" gays were not supporting the only gay Democrat in the race, Harry Britt.

While not presuming to explain why a handful of gays and lesbians are not supporting Britt, I strongly suspect that one of the reasons might very well be that during his eight years on the board of supervisors, Harry has not necessarily done a good job of stroking some elements of the gay community, and if there is one thing that "affluent" gays enjoy, it is being told how important they are.

And I would be less than candid if I didn't point out as well that some of the well-known lesbians backing the Pelosi effort have seemingly always had trouble voting for a gay man. I can remember only too well when Harvey Milk successfully ran for supervisor back in 1977, that some of these same people were supporting his opponent, a straight woman named Rita George.

When Britt himself first ran for election after having been appointed by the Mayor, these same people dutifully lined up behind yet another straight woman, Kay Pachter, so it should come as no surprise that though gay themselves, supporting Harry Britt would almost certainly be out of the question.

As one who has at times disagreed with Harry Britt, I am not suggesting that one should automatically support him because he is gay, but I suspect that there are those gay men who somehow find it "fashionable" or "uptown" to endorse a socialite woman from Pacific Heights over a gay man from the Castro.

It is refreshing though to find that Nancy Pelosi has discovered a good gay restaurant. Dianne Feinstein, Jack Molinari, Arlo Smith, Nancy Walker, Dick Hongisto and even Wendy Nelder have been seen lunching at Sutter's Mill from time to time, but even long-time patrons of the popular restaurant couldn't recall ever having seen Ms. Pelosi there before. But, what the hell, there is an election coming soon, right?

Since Ms. Pelosi has so far failed to do so, perhaps some of her "affluent gay" friends can get her to explain why she helped Democratic national chairperson Paul Kirk abolish, among with other minority caucuses, the important gay and lesbian caucus of the national Democratic party.

The argument is also being made, by Pelosi's "affluent" gay supporters and others that she "has the contacts" to get us immediate AIDS money (\$3 billion is the figure they are now promising). "Nancy can go right to House Speaker Jim Wright and tell him what we need," argues one gay supporter.

I have no doubt the lady has powerful Washington friends—anyone who can take a red-eye flight to D.C. to pick up a quick 60 grand for her campaign certainly impresses me. My question is, however, since she has this un-



Sharon McNight.

usual instant political pull, why is she waiting until the June run-off before exerting some of it? This AIDS money that is apparently hers for the asking is sorely needed now.

Maybe some of Nancy Pelosi's "affluent gay" friends can put a little pressure on their candidate to get on the phone to Jim Wright today and we'll let the election take care of itself.

The Mormons, oh, the Mormons... in Salt Lake City, the Mormon Church-owned Deseret News (Salt Lake's biggest daily) has pulled this week's Doonesbury comic strip, which deals with AIDS and safe sex. The News editor says they will resume publishing Garry Trudeau's strip next week if the subject is deemed "more appropriate." Meanwhile, also in Salt Lake City, Mormon Church president Ezra Taft Benson, in a television broadcast, said this week that mothers should stay home, since their "Divine" role is "to conceive, to bear, to nourish, to love and to train."

Yes, that was Speaker Willie Brown having breakfast at a downtown hotel last Saturday with former Assemblyman Bruce E. Young, recently convicted of mail fraud involving convicted political corrupter W. Patrick Moriarty. Brown, incidentally, has denounced a report by KRON-TV that he knowingly received \$16,000 from Moriarty.

That's how the entire campaign went. If you call (202) 333-4951 in Washington you will find that the Mondale-Ferraro Campaign still has a capital office. The number is still answered with a recording that says: "This is the Mondale-Ferraro Committee. We are unable to answer the phone."

In North Dakota, gays are setting up a state network for the very first time. Gays had their first meeting Saturday in Bismarck with the emphasis on helping those with AIDS and other issues of gay life.

Due in large part to the work of Mobilization Against AIDS, the Los Angeles City Council this week unanimously passed legislation urging local TV stations to accept condom advertising in an effort to combat AIDS. L.A., with the second largest medial market in the country, joins San Francisco in passing the legislation and Mobilization is currently working with city officials in Seattle, New York, Atlanta and Boston to get similar legislation passed.

Lyndon LaRouche raises his

ugly head again, arguing for compulsive AIDS virus testing, the eccentric right-winger told reporters last week that "members of the counterclimate have no right to carry a species-killer variety of contagious infection, any more than they have the right to fire a machine gun indiscriminately in a public place." LaRouche favors quarantining all who have the virus.

Meanwhile, California Sen. Pete Wilson this week announced legislation to form a national advisory panel that would become a "medical war cabinet" on AIDS to oversee and coordinate all activities nationwide concerning the deadly disease. Sen. Alan Cranston is among the co-sponsors of the bi-partisan group of senators supporting the Wilson plan.

One of my favorite politicians, attorney Neil Eisenberg, formerly general counsel of the Democratic party in Northern California, was appointed General Counsel of the state Democratic party last week, replacing attorney Bob McCarthy.

State Controller Gray Davis in deep conversation with Herb Caen and Rev. Cecil Williams at the crowded John Molinari for Mayor party Thursday night at the St. Francis.

Paul Wotman, Mark Leno, Russell Kassman, Dennis Collins and Duke Armstrong invite you to a Sunday Afternoon Musical Reception benefiting the Britt for Congress committee this Sunday, Mar. 8, 4-6 p.m. at Kassman Piano, 425 Hayes Street. Guest pianists Louis Magor, Bill Delisle, and Peter Mintun will entertain; tickets are \$35 (864-6410 for info).

If you would like to make a bigger donation to the Britt campaign, Sup. Walker, Molinari, Hongisto, Hsieh and District Attorney Arlo Smith are among the committee members who are holding a reception for Harry, Mar. 11, at the Hyatt Regency from 5:30-7:30 (cocktails, hors d'oeuvres, \$150 donation; 777-2340 for info).

And San Francisco's favorite cabaret singer, Sharon McNight presents an evening of entertainment for candidate Britt, called "We're Just Wild About Harry, Monday, Mar. 9, at Sutter's Mill during cocktail hour (5:30-7:30). Actor Scott Beach serves as emcee and they're only asking a \$25 donation. It should be a good show for a good cause, and I'll see you there.

Mike Hippler

A Virginal View of Puerto Vallarta

For years I've listened to friends rave about Puerto Vallarta. I thought I was the only faggot in North America who'd never been. Consequently, when I toured the Yucatan for a week recently, I arranged to stop over in PV. on the way home just to see what all the fuss was about. I figured that if it was good enough for Liz and Dick (who put the place on the map when they made *Night of the Iguana*), it was good enough for me.

Liz and Dick were right. Puerto Vallarta isn't exactly Guerneville (my usual vacation destination), but it'll do.

I arrived in town after dark, when PV. is its least impressive. A friend of mine from San Francisco, Christian, who makes regular visits to Vallarta, had told me to look him up, but at his hotel he was nowhere to be found. Consequently, I headed for Los Balcones, one of the town's two gay bars, where, sure enough, I ran into my friend. He was not surprised that I found him.

"Where else is a gay person going to go after dark in this town?" he asked rhetorically.

Los Balcones was actually a nice place, filled with Americans and Canadians modeling the latest fashions from ACA Joe and working hard at being friendly with one another—for a change. Since they were on vacation, the men I met were more interested in having fun than in flinging attitude at one another. Not many were very attentive to the few Mexicans present, however, perhaps because the natives have yet to learn the meaning of "butch" or even "quasi-butch."

"You want the macho ones?" asked Christian. "Go to the Piano Bar, which is too sleazy for words. There you'll find a few—but only for a price."

So we went to the Piano Bar, where I was propositioned not by a Mexican (drat!) but by an American. The man noticed my crutches (hard to miss) and said, "Are you sure you can get home all right? I'd be happy to come with you."

I expressed my regrets but made a mental note: crutches are a great way to meet people. You want a vacation tip? Take a pair along the next time you go anywhere. You can always say you were bit by a shark at Garrafon Reef.

The next day Christian introduced me to the beach routine. Loaded with blankets, suntan oils, sunglasses, paperbacks, and the like, we planted ourselves

under his palapa (rented for the season) in front of the El Dorado Hotel ("where everyone who is anyone makes an appearance at least once a day," according to Christian).

The El Dorado is at the center of Playa de los Muertos (Beach of the Dead), which I found a rather disconcerting name for a gay beach, especially in the 1980s.

After Christian introduced me to the four devastatingly handsome Mexican youths in front of us. They offered me a drink (Kahlua, Coke, and lime) as well as a place beside them on the beach.

My favorite of the four (and the reason I introduced myself) was Nacho, a 26-year old bullfighter (I swear it's true) who is also an artist and a musician. Talk about a find! Alas, I soon learned that Nacho is a confirmed heterosexual with a wife and kids—which doesn't mean that he could not have been had, of course, but that's not my style. Besides, how could I fall in love with a man who complains because his American wife cooks only hamburgers and hot dogs instead of tortillas and beans?

Christian and I spent the afternoon playing tourists on the beach, buying everything in sight, including blankets, woodcarvings, and assorted trinkets. We even posed with iguanas. Later in the day I toured other parts of Puerto Vallarta, an odd melange of spectacular luxury homes cascading down jungle-covered mountains; dusty, centuries-old farmhouses hidden behind crumbling brick walls; and red-tiled boutiques crowded next to over-sized hotels on countless narrow streets.

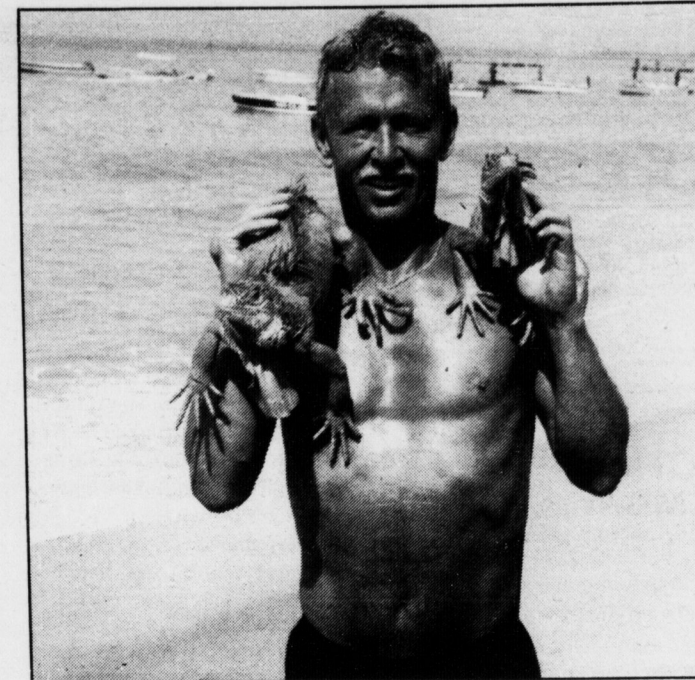
The other days in Puerto Vallarta were much like the first—the beach, dinner, and the bar. At one of the restaurants, when I got to the bottom of my clay bean bowl I discovered the inscription, "Restaurant Cabana de Liz y Dick, Pto. Vallarta, Jal."

"I've gotta have this," I told the waitress. "Cuanto cuesta?"

The waitress explained that the bowl was from the restaurant next door, so she couldn't sell it to us. But she'd be happy to give us a similar bowl from the restaurant we were in, Restaurant Cabana de Pancho Villa.

"Fuck Pancho Villa," I politely exclaimed. "I want Liz y Dick!"

A most accommodating woman, the waitress suggested we



Christian Haren and friends at Puerto Vallarta.

swipe the bowl we wanted when she wasn't looking. We took her advice, and now I am the proud owner of not one, but two matching bowls, which still smell like beans. God knows why I wanted them so badly. If I can get rid of the smell, perhaps I can use them as official *Night of the Iguana* candy dishes.

It was at the Restaurant Pancho Villa that I felt most welcome in Puerto Vallarta, I think. Per-

haps it was because of the message at the bottom of the menu (I'm a sucker for fortune cookies and menu messages): "Muchas gracias por su preferencia. Nunca olvide esta dia." Although it sounds better in Spanish, translated this means, "Thank you for your visit. Never forget this day."

I won't, I promised. After all, I have Liz and Dick to help me remember.

Benefit Sale For AIDS Foundation

On Mar. 6, 7, and 8 at the San Francisco Concourse, The North Face, largest Bay Area manufacturer and retailer of outdoor apparel and equipment, is having a giant \$3 million warehouse sale to benefit the San Francisco AIDS Foundation.

The North Face, a Berkeley-based corporation, has guaranteed the San Francisco AIDS Foundation at least \$25,000 from this event, and more if the proceeds go over the mark. In addition, The North Face has just recently donated three of their geodesic dome tents (\$5,500 value) to the San Francisco AIDS Vigil at the United Nations Plaza Federal Building.

This giant warehouse sale and benefit, the first of its kind anywhere, will have super bargains and fabulous values up to 80 percent off on tents, sleeping bags, sportswear, sweaters, rain gear, jackets, skiwear, packs and more.

The North Face benefit warehouse sale will be held on Mar. 6, 7, and 8 at the San Francisco Concourse at 7th & Brannan from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Friday and Saturday, and from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Sunday.

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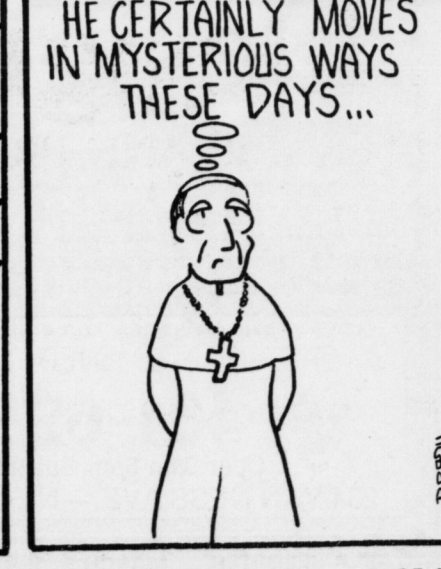
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HEALTH

So Your Lover Has A Problem

by Frank Davis,
18th Street Services

What do you do if your lover, roommate, or best friend has a serious drug or alcohol problem? How do you help them? Can you help them? Do you talk to them about it in a kind way? Do you nag, or beg, or give them an ultimatum? Do you ignore the problem and hope it will go away?

Many gays and lesbians face this issue every day, because substance abuse is a fact of life in our community. For every alcoholic or addict among us, there are usually several others close to them affected by their problem. For these loved ones, the agony may be as bad or even worse than the emotional distress faced by the chemical abuser. This article will try to give some answers to the person trying to deal with a loved one who has a drug or alcohol problem.

First of all, you can help the person you love face up to a substance abuse problem and get help, but it is important to know how to go about it. It is probably best to start by telling you what not to do.

Don't nag, preach, lecture or take the "if you loved me" approach. Alcoholism and addiction are diseases, and since they involve compulsions that cannot be controlled by willpower, these approaches only result in lies, promises that cannot be kept, and guilt.

Don't make any threat or ultimatum unless you think it through and definitely intend to carry it out. Idle threats only make the substance abuser feel you don't mean what you say. Also, don't try hiding or disposing of liquor or drugs. Your lover will simply find new ways of getting more.

Most importantly, don't do for the alcoholic or addict what he or she can do for themselves —

make them take responsibility for their actions. Many people in relationships with substance abusers, by trying to be "helpful," assist them in avoiding the unpleasant consequences of their drinking or drugging, and thus unintentionally help them continue their self-destructive living. The lover becomes an "enabler," and the intended help turns out to be a dangerous kindness.

For example, a gay alcoholic might go on a weekend binge and have a terrible Monday hangover. His lover calls in to the alcoholic's employer and lies for him, saying he is very sick with the flu. While in the short run this might seem like a good thing to do because it saves the lover his job, in the long run it is harmful to him because it lets him avoid the bad consequences of his drinking and lets him continue his self-destructive behavior.

In virtually all instances, there is nothing that you can do to change the alcoholic or addict. All that you can do is stop your own kind of behavior that prevents them from feeling the impact of destructive drinking or drugging soon enough to save themselves. Remember, you are responsible only for your own behavior — not your lover's. This may not be easy. In fact, it may be very hard to stand back and let your loved one fall on their face and lose a job, or spend time in jail, or whatever. But going through that crisis might be just the thing that they need to force them into realizing their problem, getting help, and ending their destructive behavior.

The most important thing you can give the alcoholic and addict is not your "help," but your love and support. Talk to him or her frankly and lovingly about your concerns, but realize that ultimately it is up to them (and not you) to do something about their problem.

This does not mean, however, that all you can do is merely tell your lover you think they have a problem, then ignore it and do nothing further until they screw up enough to do something themselves. You can help them along.

There is something called "intervention" where the alcoholic or addict is confronted with their condition by their loved ones and forced to get help. But this process requires specialized, professional help. It is not a "do-it-yourself" procedure. If you want to use intervention to force your loved one into treatment, call a substance abuse treatment center that specializes in interventions and get their assistance. Often this help is free, but of course their goal is to get your loved one into their treatment program.

My best advice to you is first take care of yourself. I recommend that you attend some Al-Anon or Nar-Anon meetings, which are programs specifically for the loved ones of alcoholics or addicts. These meetings are free, and there are many gay meetings in the city. You will meet others who share your problem, and you will get help for yourself in coping with your loved one's problem. Call 18th Street Services at 861-4898 for a free listing of gay meetings.

There is also affordable counseling available especially for the lovers ("co-dependents") of substance abusers. This counseling will help you deal with your problems and feelings around the issue of your loved one's abuse of alcohol or drugs, and it will also teach you how to deal with him or her in a manner that will hopefully lead them to get help for themselves.

For counseling or referral for co-dependency issues, lesbians may call the Iris Project, 864-2364, and gay men may call Operation Recovery, 626-7000, or 18th Street Services, 861-4898.

this," Boneberg stressed.

Laurie McBride of the Community Partnership On AIDS, joined the growing chorus when she said after admitting there had been some movement in the talks on lesser points, "what you're hearing from everyone else is that we all want to negotiate in good faith but we want to place a time limit on it. Probably the next meeting will be crucial. And after two more meetings we'll have to look at other alternatives. I think that's fair — we have been negotiating for a year."



Ralph Payne (B.A.R. Photo) needs to marshal its resources in the same way we did last year on the 64 Campaign," Payne said. "We need to put in place plans for escalation. We need to begin meeting the representatives of other communities as well as the major donors of KQED."

Paul Boneberg, the director of Mobilization Against AIDS, told B.A.R. that last Friday's meeting between the gays, KQED and Sups. Harry Britt and John Molinari was the "most intense yet." He said he expected future meetings to be even more intense because "we've eliminated the lesser points and the major points are harder to agree on."

Boneberg joined the other gays meeting with KQED in saying that the talks may collapse if the station doesn't begin giving on some of the major issues that have been raised. "The community needs to think how much movement it wants from KQED. We at Mobilization need to know the sense of the community on

KQED

(Continued from page 3)

Turner told B.A.R. he thought the gay issue was important to the station's future. "I've taken time to get a feel for the issue," he explained.

When asked why there were no gays on the station's 27-member board of directors, and hadn't been for several years, he said, "At times there have been no Asians, and at times no blacks, or business people," Asians, Hispanics, and blacks are currently represented on KQED's board. Most of the members are businessmen.

Marshall said he backed Tiano and Katzman totally in their stand against gay-oriented programming or exiting MonitoRadio from KQED. "I have the highest regard for MonitoRadio," he added.

Ralph Payne, representing the Alice B. Toklas Club, agreed with Pacurar that time was running out on the negotiating process. "Frankly, I don't think that much more time is necessary for KQED to respond in one way or another on these points. And I'm getting the sense that on these major points KQED is not going to give us the answer we have been hoping for for over a year."

Payne was also thinking in terms of what will come next when and if the meetings collapse. "I think the community

NATIONAL & WORLD NEWS

Arizona Gov. Blasts Gays

PHOENIX — Arizona Gov. Evan Mecham, a conservative Republican, recently blasted gay men and lesbians as living an "unacceptable lifestyle."

Mecham made the pronouncement during his second statewide radio broadcast. During the broadcast, a caller (Mecham answers questions from callers every time he is on the radio.) asked Mecham about his stand on homosexuality. The caller claimed to be both gay and Mormon.

Mecham, who is also a Mormon, said, "If you are a member of the same church I am, you have evidently changed your lifestyle, because the church I belong to does not allow homosexuals to participate under any circumstances."

Mecham added that homosexuality is "not, as you would suggest, an alternate lifestyle. It is not an acceptable lifestyle." The Arizona gov-

ernor also disputed the caller's contention that there are 200,000 homosexuals in Arizona. He invited the caller to gather all 200,000 for a meeting with him as proof.

"You go ahead and extend your information, and I tell you what, anytime you can assemble 200,000, I'd like to talk to all of you at once," he said.

The reaction from Arizona's gay and lesbian communities was immediate. B.J. Budd, a member of Tucson's Gay and Lesbian Task Force, said, "I haven't faced this kind of bigotry since Anita Bryant in 1978."

Because of other policies, Mecham — who was elected to replace Democratic Presidential aspirant Bruce Babbitt, might face a recall attempt very soon.

—The Arizona Republic of Tucson

Pope Names Quinn To Panel Study Of Seattle's Hunthausen

SEATTLE — San Francisco Archbishop John R. Quinn was one of three American priests of the Roman Catholic Church asked by Pope John Paul II to study the removal of Seattle Archbishop Raymond C. Hunthausen. Others on the commission included Cardinals Joseph L. Bernardin of Chicago and John O'Connor of New York.

The move is thought to be a step toward the reinstatement of Hunthausen. Quinn and Bernardin are thought to be empathetic toward Hunthausen, who is considered one of the most liberal Catholic leaders in the United States.

—The Philadelphia Gay News

Anti-Gay Ridicule Loses In Michigan

FERRYSBURG, MI — Residents in this sleepy little Western Michigan town have decided against changing its name to West Springs Lake. Anti-gay ridicule had brought the subject before the town council. But residents of Ferrysburg, founded in 1857, nixed the name change.

The whole West Michigan area, located between Grand Rapids and Muskegon, has been subject to a certain degree of anti-gay ridicule with another nearby town named Fruitport.

—Cruise

Whatever Happened To Separation Of Church And State?

KANSAS CITY — It's obvious everything is not up to date in Kansas City.

A Jackson County judge ruled recently that a divorced lesbian could have children from an overnight visit only if the lesbian's lover was not present. Noting that gay sex is a crime in Missouri, the judge said that "the children would be exposed to and subjected to a lifestyle which is in conflict with the values they are being taught in school and in church."

—The Advocate

Argentina Promises Voting Rights

BUENOS AIRES — Argentina has promised not to cry any longer for gay men and lesbians. It has promised to support their rights instead.

Gov. Alejandro Armendariz

said he will ask the Argentine legislature to strike down a 1946 law which forbids gay men and lesbians from voting in Argentina. "What was relevant in 1946 doesn't have the same relevancy now," said Armendariz.

The law drew much heat from Argentina's gay and lesbian activists after it was published in an official bulletin as a prelude to the legislative activities for next November.

—The Gay Community News of Boston

Koop Tells It To Rev. Jerry

LYNCHBURG, VA — Rev. Jerry Falwell was caught off guard recently by U.S. Surgeon General C. Everett Koop. The latter was the guest speaker at Falwell's Liberty University.

With Falwell by his side, Koop told the college students that they too could contact AIDS. Falwell, who earlier had said that gays "who choose to violate God's law bring retribution on themselves," appeared to back down from the statement. He urged his student robots to show "concern about the welfare of all."

Who wants to take bets that Koop doesn't get invited back to speak at Liberty University again?

—The Philadelphia Gay News



Bette Midler (Photo: R. Pruzan)

Bette Raises \$10K For APLA

LOS ANGELES — They don't call her the Divine Miss M for nothing. Bette Midler has a lot of class. Midler took a print of her new smash hit movie, *Outrageous Fortune* to a benefit for AIDS Project Los Angeles. The result was \$10,000 raised for APLA.

"I can't think of a worthier cause in the country or the world than this cause," said Midler. As a token of APLA's appreciation, Midler was awarded a keychain condom holder which she called, "Soooooo tasteful."

—The Weekly News of Miami

Patti LaBelle Raises \$40K For AmFAR

PHILADELPHIA — Bette Midler wasn't the only big-name entertainer fighting against AIDS. Singer Patti LaBelle held a benefit on Feb. 20 and raised an estimated \$40,000 for the American Foundation for AIDS Research (AmFAR).

The \$40,000 figure was 80 percent of the take from the Philadelphia concert. Another \$10,000 from the take went to Big Brothers and Big Sisters of Philadelphia.

LaBelle said she got the idea for the benefit concert after a chat with actress Elizabeth Tay-

lor. Taylor is national co-chair of AmFAR.

LaBelle was asked if she was worried about being connected with such a controversial disease. "I'm controversial," said LaBelle. "For all I know, I might have it (AIDS) some day. The disease can affect anyone. There are a lot of sick people in the world, and it's not the ones with AIDS."

—The Philadelphia Gay News and Au Courant of Philadelphia

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(TDD: 621-5106)

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Funding for this message provided by the San Francisco Department of Public Health.

Cable Car Awards Packs The House

Gay Community Honors Its Best

by Jay Newquist

The Giftcenter Pavilion was packed Saturday night as the gay and lesbian community turned out to honor its best at the 13th Annual Cable Car Awards. Recognized for their "Outstanding" contributions to the community were entertainers, businesses, athletes, journalists, and activists of all persuasions.

The black-tie crowd gave two standing ovations to award winners. Dr. Tom Waddell received an ovation when he and the Board of Directors of Gay Games II were awarded the Harvey Milk Community Service Award. Gay Games II also received awards for Best Poster Design, Best Marching Unit in the Freedom Day Parade, and Outstanding Event by the Women's Community.

The crowd also rose to its feet when a Cable Car Board of Directors Award was given to the 1986 AIDS Bike-a-Thon, sponsored by Different Spokes, the gay cycling club. The group raised \$226,000 last year for distribution to eight AIDS assistance organizations. Organizers took the opportunity to announce that the 1987 Bike-a-Thon expects to field 1,000 riders on May 9 and aims to raise \$500,000 for 11 AIDS groups.

Bay Area Reporter staff walked off with three major awards in the journalism categories. Ray O'Loughlin, news editor, was among the winners chosen from the gay and straight press as Outstanding Journalist.

Mike Hippler won Outstanding Columnist for his humorous and self-effacing character sketches of urban gay life. Hippler won last year in the Outstanding Journalist category.

Robert Pruzan was also selected for the second year in a row for Outstanding Photo Journalism.

To no one's surprise, the 13th edition of the Cable Car Awards lasted three-and-a-half hours. The upbeat gala was unrestrained in its pride.

Other major awards went to the S.F. AIDS Emergency Fund for Outstanding Contribution to Community Well-Being. Ruth Brinker received The Dorothy Langston Human Rights Award from Sup. John Molinari. He announced that the city would present a van to Brinker for use in her food service work.

Awards also went to the non-gay media. Outstanding Journalists cited were editor Larry Kramer and columnists Rob Morse and Bill Mandell, all of the S.F. Examiner, and Edward Guthmann of the S.F. Chronicle. Sentinel editor David Lowe was also recognized.

The Outstanding Broadcast Journalism Award went to Wayne Shannon of KRON-TV, whose nightly commentaries prompted Sup. Harry Britt to call Shannon a valued friend and ally of the gay and lesbian community.

A series of other Cable Car Board of Directors Awards were bestowed to Jay Wilson (Service to the Hearing Impaired); Chuck Shepard (East Bay Activist); Jeff Zimman (Stanford AIDS Education Project); Coming Home Hospice Bingo; Tenderloin Tessie's Memorial Holiday Dinners Program; and the Male Entertain-



Cable Cars For Groups

It was a great night for two prominent groups at the Cable Car Awards. Above, members of the Bike-A-Thon accept their award and announce plans for this year's Bike-A-Thon. Below, Jerry Berg leads the applause for San Francisco Arts & Athletics for a successful Gay Games II. (Photos: R. Pruzan)



ment Network (M.E.N.) Video Project.

Another Board of Directors Award was presented to the students of University High School. They raised money for the AIDS Emergency Fund when they staged a Sing Along Messiah.

The evening's interludes of top flight entertainment were headed by Gail Wilson and the dance band City Swing, and joined by the San Francisco Tap Troupe.

Shawn Benson sang "Seclusion" and later won an award for Outstanding Club Recording. Teresa Trull, who performed "Rosalie," tied for Outstanding Recording Artist with Romanovsky & Phillips (who also won for Outstanding Cabaret Performance).

Other acts on the bill included The Blazing Redheads, Menage

and Leola Jiles. Jeanie Tracy, who sizzled with "Don't Leave Me This Way," detonated the audience into dancing.

In the lively arts category, the play *Life of the Party* by Doug Holsclaw won The Critic's Award for Outstanding Achievement in Theater. Playwright Holsclaw thanked all the "queers" who had given him inspiration.

The prize for Outstanding Concert was a tie between The Inaugural Concert: Gay Games II (Procession of Arts) and With the Greatest of Ease (Robert Michaels Productions).

Outstanding Entertainer of the Year—and clearly the most ecstatic recipient of the evening—was gay comic Danny Williams.

In other awards, the Outstanding



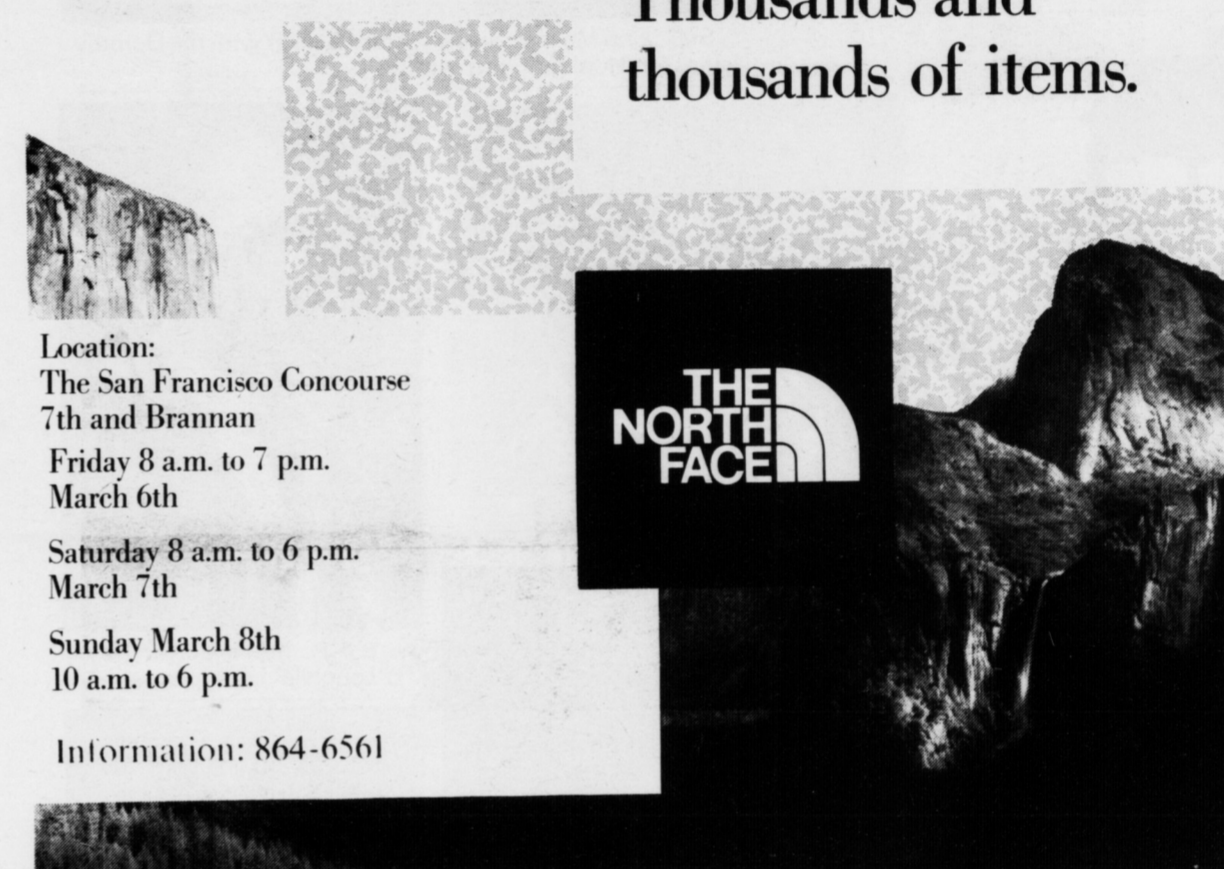
Leola Giles sang for the Cable Car Awards. (Photo: R. Pruzan)

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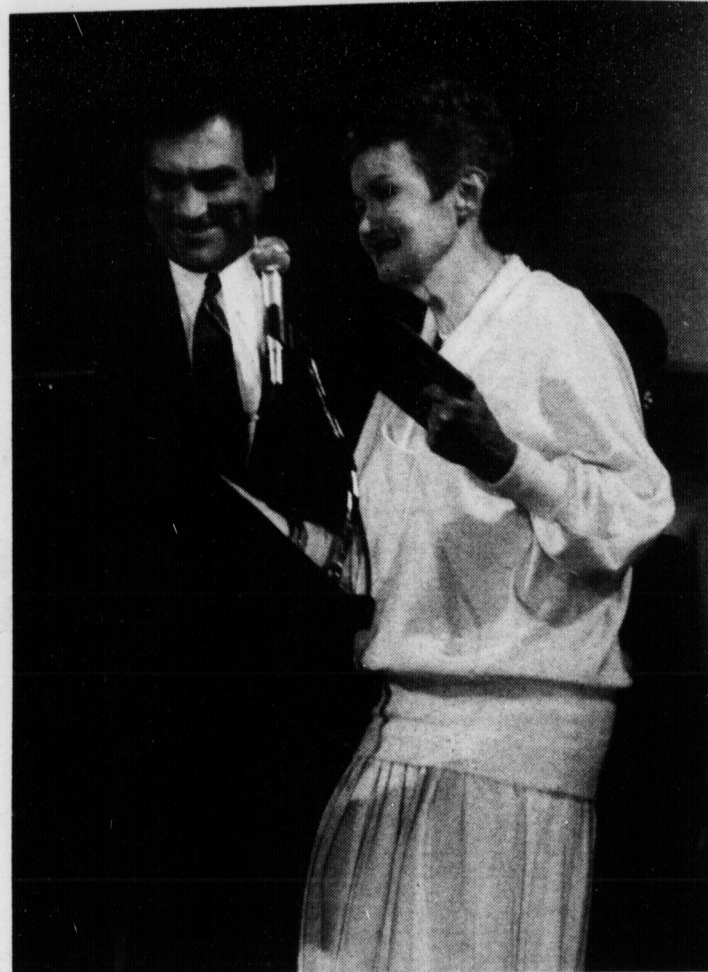
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Outstanding



Danny Williams is overwhelmed with his award as Sylvester and Tom Horn listen to his acceptance speech.



Sup. John Molinari presents Ruth Brinker with the Dorothy Langston Human Rights Award.

Awards

(Continued from page 14)

ing Competition Event was the Switch Hitters Ball (Gay Softball League); and the Outstanding Community Event was Thanksgiving Dinner for people with AIDS and ARC at Holy Redeemer, Patty Rose/S.F. AIDS Foundation.

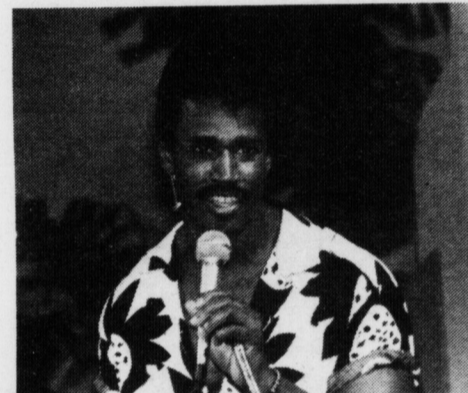
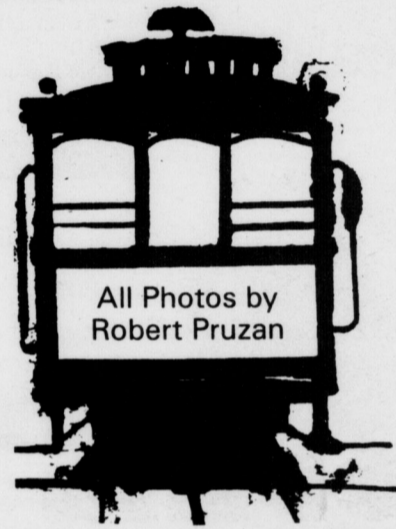
You and the Night and the Music (San Francisco Band Foundation) was selected Outstanding Fundraiser; and the Outstanding AIDS Fundraiser was Men Behind Bars III (MBB Productions).

The evening's Masters and Mistresses of Ceremonies were shared by Bob Ross, Rikki Streicher, Rick Brattin and Hyde Downard. Award presenters included Sup. Wendy Nelder, Bill Maher and Richard Hongisto, with assists from Sen. Milton Marks and Louise Molinari.

Other local politicos present included City Attorney Louise Renne, Assemblyman Art Agnos and Sup. Doris Ward.

A capsule of other winners includes:

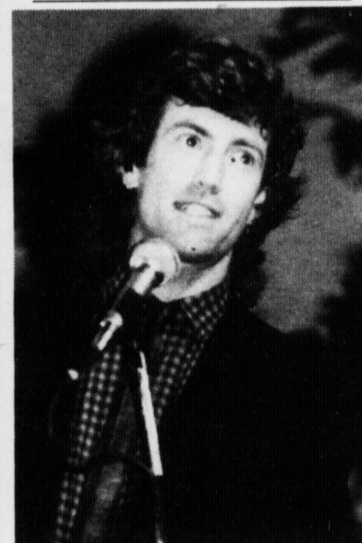
- Outstanding Contribution from the Women's Community—Leather & Blue Motorcycle Club
- Outstanding Contribution from the Men's Community—George Burgess (AIDS Emergency Fund)
- Outstanding Contribution to Athletics (Men)—Hal Herkenhoff (Gay Games)
- Outstanding Contribution to Athletics (Women)—Velda Gooden (Bowling)
- Outstanding Contribution by a Business—I. Magnin and Rawhide II
- Outstanding Theme Promotion—The Twelve Days of Christmas, The Galleon
- Outstanding Theme Event—Dance Along Nutcracker, San Francisco Band Foundation
- Outstanding Poster Design—Gay Games II (San Francisco Arts & Athletics)
- Outstanding Event by the Men's Community—Rita Rocket's Fifth Annual Family Reunion & Christmas Party
- Outstanding Event by the Women's Community—Hot Time, Summer in the City (Bay Area Career Women) and Reception for Gay Games II Athletes (Women's Outreach, Gay Games II).



Singer Shawn Benson.



B.A.R. news editor Ray O'Loughlin



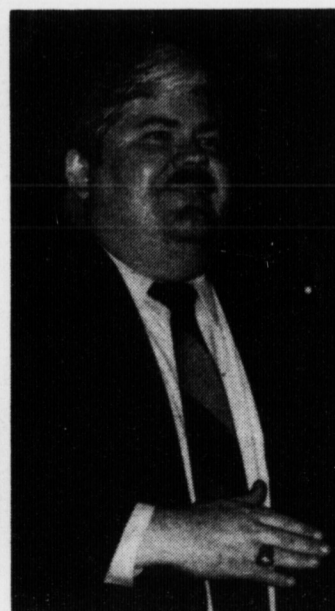
B.A.R. columnist Mike Hippler



Cable Car Award creator Bob Cramer looks on as Louise Molinari models for I. Magnin fashions. She presented an award to Magnin's.



Richard Wright of M.E.N. Video accepts his organization's award while his camera focuses on the audience.

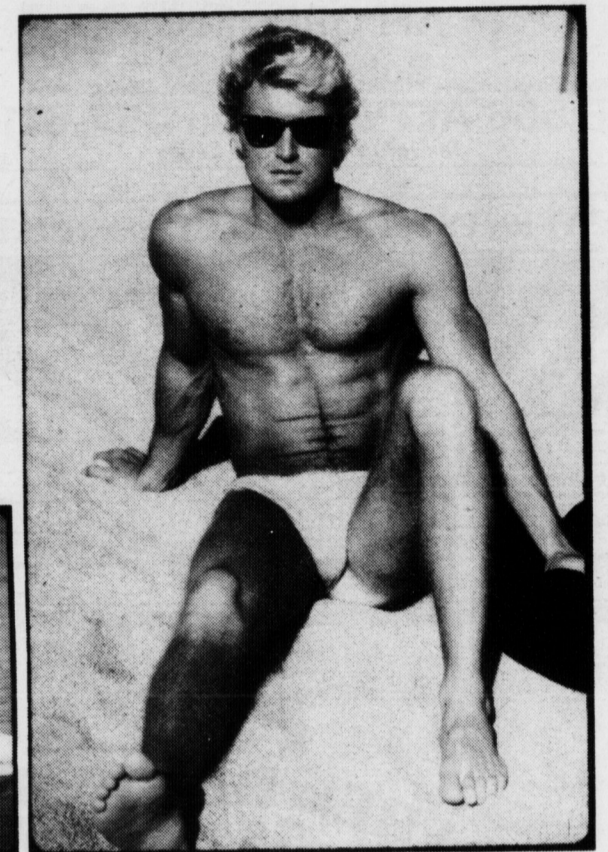


KRON commentator Wayne Shannon



Examiner columnist Rob Morse

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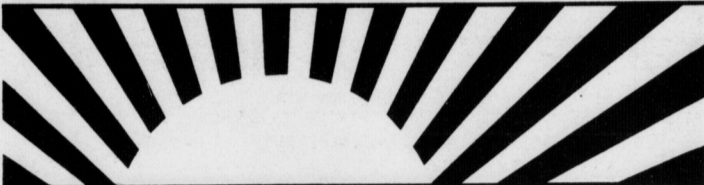
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Foggy Morning Coming to a boil: Bridge parties, Pope blessings and road closings are heating up the waters under the Golden Gate Bridge. (Photo: R. Pruzan)

Singing in the Snow
Women's Music Festival Left Out In the Cold by City Park Dept.

by Joy Schulenburg

If the San Francisco Recreation and Park Department has its way, the 8th Annual West Coast Women's Music Festival will face the Sierra snows. Festival participants will also have to contend with a battery of restrictions that include opening the festival to men. These conditions were proposed by the Parks Commission last week in an ostensible effort to head off a \$10 million lawsuit initiated by organizers of the annual women's event.

A hearing on the issue took place at McLaren Lodge, Thursday, Feb. 19. It was an attempt by Festival sponsors to reach an agreement about the use of city-owned Camp Mather as a festival site. An array of community leaders, including former Police Commissioner Jo Daly, activist Del Martin and MS Magazine co-founder Margaret Sloan-Hunter, were on hand to support the Festival's bid.

Initially supporters were optimistic about the possibility of reaching an agreement. However, after hearing the terms offered by the Commission, the women left the meeting "angry, frustrated" and "feeling patronized."

The lesbian-oriented Music Festival was held at Camp Mather in 1980 and 1981. The following year, producer Robin Tyler was told that her 3,500-person event had outgrown Mather's facilities. For the next several years, festivals were held at a variety of campgrounds throughout the state. None of these had the quality of space or facilities as Camp Mather.

Tyler decided to file suit in 1986 after learning that Mather continues to be used for a "family-oriented" bluegrass festival with an attendance of 6,000.

Spokeswoman Ginny Foat of Advocates for Women addressed the Commission on behalf of Tyler. Foat charged that the availability of Camp Mather for use by such a large group had not been published in any of the women's or gay papers. Park Department rules, however, require outreach to women and minority groups.

Additionally, despite having held a five-year option on the camp, Tyler had never been notified of any change in policy that would allow her to make a new bid on Camp Mather. Although

clearly supporting the department's offer, Commission attorney Myra Rosales admitted that failure to notify Tyler was "the missing link in this" and that, by placing notices in general circulation papers only, the department had fulfilled the letter of its own regulations but not the intent.

The settlement offer was developed in a closed, executive session of the Commission. It would allow the Festival to use Camp Mather on the third weekend after Labor Day — Sept. 26. It also includes provisions that could open the way for attendance by men. Currently, male attendance is limited to boys under age 12.

"Our intention is not to be exclusionary," stated one festival organizer. "We just want to create a safe environment for women to be together."

They liken their choice to that of the Radical Faeries who have elected to keep their spiritually focused gatherings all male. It is, organizers point out, not an antagonistic position.

"It's an outrageous offer," Tyler stated. "Last year it snowed in Yosemite on Sept. 22. You're suggesting that women, children, people in wheelchairs, should camp in the snow!"

Chairing the meeting, Parks Commissioner Eugene Friend responded that this was a risk the women would have to assume. "Besides," he commented, "it's snow season up there right now and it's beautiful!"

He further suggested that, by rejecting the offer, the women were wasting the Commission's "valuable time" and that they were "looking for a platform."

"We are looking for a campground!" Tyler replied. "These are professional women who have taken time from their jobs to be

here. You are wasting our time with this offer."

Of additional concern was the Commission's refusal to give Tyler an option to lease the campground in future years. Observing that women's music festivals have been "nomads" searching for a site where they would not be discriminated against, Festival attorney Kay Sennen emphasized the importance of having a long-term agreement.

The Commission was equally adamant in its refusal to give Tyler such an option. Their position was that Tyler will have to prove herself first.

Friend cited past complaints about nudity, traffic flow and improper posting of signs as the cause for denying the Festival a long-term lease.

Producers indicated that any problems have been minimal and are not unique to their festival. "The Strawberry (bluegrass) Festival has 6,000 people coming and going on one-day passes," Tyler asserted. "Are you trying to tell me that 6,000 heterosexual cars create less traffic than 3,500 homosexual ones?"

She also pointed out that the signage problems consisted of a disabled access sign posted without permission and that the bluegrass festival attendees also enjoy some nudity.

Tyler has successfully produced ten similar festivals.

Because of the risks and prohibitions contained in the Park Commission's offer, this year's festival will be held at Camp Towanga. Towanga is a smaller camp six miles from Mather at Yosemite and was the sight of the 1986 Festival.

Despite skyrocketing fees and limited facilities, its owners have cooperated in making it available to the women. Festival organizers expressed regret over increased costs inherent in this decision. They have not raised the prices of passes in three years and had hoped to avoid even a slight increase in 1987.

Although she has rejected the city's offer, Tyler has not dropped (Continued on page 22)

Agnos/Vigil

(Continued from page 1)
 suggestion that Agnos become their advocate. They said Agnos had never been to the site. Checking their records, they said no one remembers ever seeing him or meeting him at the Vigil site. "How can he be our advocate if he doesn't even know us?" one Vigil member asked.

Larry Bush, aide to Agnos, disagreed with the contention that Agnos is a stranger to the Vigil. "Art was there the first night of the Vigil and he spoke out against George Miller's (regional director of the federal Health and Human Services Dept.) attempt to oust the Vigil," Bush told the Bay Area Reporter.

"I've been there on numerous occasions and I was there the day they were to be evicted to prevent their eviction," said Bush.

In his letter, Agnos said that housing for people with AIDS is a specific goal of the Vigil. He stated one demand of the group was, "Housing for those homeless persons with AIDS that will enable them to receive both shelter and the services that the city should be providing."

Gary Harman, a person with AIDS and a member of the Vigil, said, "All people participating in the Vigil have homes off site. Housing has never been an issue of the Vigil." Others point out that the Vigil is a protest against the federal government, not the city, where housing would be dealt with.

Agnos states in his letter, "I would propose, therefore, that at the time of Dr. Koop's possible visit to the Vigil, that we be prepared to provide the housing you have requested at once, and that the homeless members of the ARC/AIDS Vigil be able to move at once."

Bill Paul contends, "This is a way Agnos can close down the Vigil and tie up the moderate and conservative vote. He then can do a grandstand play in front of the cameras with (Surgeon General) Koop." Another Vigil member, John Belskus said, "I think it's a cheap publicity shot."

Bush said that the housing issue came from present Vigil members who had outlined their concerns to Agnos. He said that Agnos' letter to the Vigil was asking their permission to be their advocate.

According to Bush, there was no agreement or intention to end the Vigil. "The Vigil would end only if they felt their points were met," said Bush.

Bush too had charges of politicking to make. "I'm sorry that some people are trying to introduce politics into this," he said. He accused some supporters of Sup. John Molinari of trying to make the Vigil a mayoral campaign issue. "We're not going to play politics" with the Vigil, said Bush, "and we're not going to



'I would propose, therefore, that at the time of Dr. Koop's possible visit to the Vigil, that we be prepared to provide the housing you have requested at once, and that the homeless members of the ARC/AIDS Vigil be able to move at once. The Vigil would then continue its presence and witness through its informational table at its current location.'

—Art Agnos
 in letter to ARC/AIDS Vigil Family

'I would like to know if this proposal interests you, and so I am asking for a formal response from you so that I may indicate to others that I have your complete authorization to proceed as your advocate.'

—Art Agnos
 in letter to ARC/AIDS Vigil Family

stop helping people in need in this epidemic."

Many Vigil members believed the letter could prove embarrassing to Dr. Koop. The Surgeon General is in San Francisco and Sacramento his week for meetings and speaking engagements, including an address before a joint session of the California Legislature today (Mar. 5).

The Vigil family at their meeting last Saturday voted to keep the contents of the letter confidential. The lid stayed on the letter until the Monday night Stonewall meeting. John Belskus read the entire letter to Stonewall members because, he said, they had a right to know the contents of the letter. Many attending the meeting shook their head in disbelief as the letter was read.

"I think it is more than coincidental that Agnos has his Agnos for Mayor buttons the same

week as he delivered this letter," said Bill Paul. "All of us at the Vigil have always said we want it kept out of electoral politics."

Paul continued, "The sense I have is that he is offering us some spare change and saying, what's your price?"

At the Vigil site, members appeared united in their opposition to the tone of Agnos letter. They said the Vigil will stay and that they plan to see Dr. Koop, in spite of Art Agnos, at a Friday morning breakfast meeting.

Those at the site said that they will resist any efforts to move them through non-violent action, which they understand could lead to their arrest.

The Vigil first began on October 27, 1985 as a protest to inaction by the federal government on the AIDS crisis.

in the forehead. A two-inch gash opened up.

Shaw's roommate screamed. Shaw fell to the ground, and the assailant jumped on top of him, striking him in the shoulder with the screwdriver. Shaw's roommate fought him off.

None of the men in the park offered assistance. Shaw's roommate flagged a couple of cars, but none stopped. Finally, the men staggered into the Badlands, where a friendly bartender let them in and held a towel to Shaw's bloody head while they waited for an ambulance.

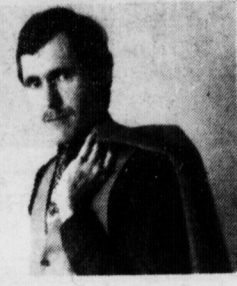
Shaw, a computer operator, is now back at work. He still has 10 stitches in his head, and when he

tries to sleep, he has nightmares about the attack. But he tries to laugh a little about the hole in his shoulder.

"All night long I had been drinking screwdrivers," he said. "I got my final screwdriver, but not the way I like it."

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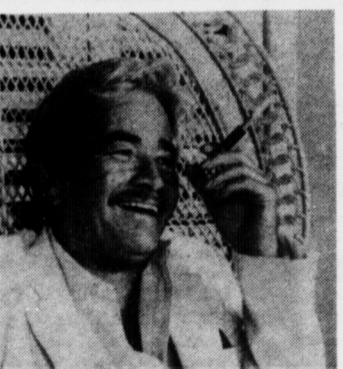
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DEATHS

Robert Ostrick

(Bob Diva)
12/21/46 - 2/9/87

Robert suffered a fatal heart attack the evening of Feb. 9. Although he most recently lived in Los Angeles, many San Franciscans remember Robert as the eccentric at Discount Records. His annual opera walls are legendary both in and outside the opera community, as well as his persistent habit of hiding "jokes" within the record stock itself. Some may recall his occasional record reviews for Opera News magazine. Castro residents will remember him as host of the short-lived Castro Records in 1977.

Robert became Diva in Seattle when a member of another legend, the Whiz Kids, a performance group similar to the Cockettes.

In Los Angeles, he explored video and produced the 1985 Los Angeles Lesbian and Gay Film Festival's "Best Documentary" award winner, "15:16," a Diva view of sex in cinema. This video was also a part of the SF Lesbian and Gay Film Festival's midlight videofest at the Roxie Theater that summer, and subsequently aired nationally.

Left unfinished was an irreverent video look at Pippi Longstocking, starring Robert (of course) as Pippi.

There are many people left stunned by his sudden death. In Ft. Lauderdale, his parents Al and Evelyn; in Los Angeles his sister Judith and friends John, Chuck and Joe, Tommy, Marge, Evelyn and the staff at Gene's and Video Gems. In Seattle, Michael, Patrick and Louise. In New York, Branda. In San Francisco and environs are Douglas, Diana, Pat, Dennis and David. He loved every one of us and those I forgot to mention.

I miss you. Say hello to Bernard for me.

Thomas K. McCardle

Tom Khamba McCardle, 38, of San Francisco, formerly of Philadelphia, died on Jan 24 at Mount Zion Hospital. He was a 1970 graduate of St. Joseph's University, spent a year at the Paulist Fathers' Seminary, and moved to San Francisco in 1972.

Tom was former manager of Cafe Flore and supervisor at Burt Children's Center working with autistic and emotionally disturbed children. He was also a dedicated astrologer with an enthusiastic following. But, first and foremost, he was a singersongwriter who left a legacy of 160 songs of great beauty, perspicacity and humor.

The loss is incalculable to everyone who knew him as he was an instrument of change and growth for us all.

There will be a party in Tom's memory on Saturday, March 7, at 8 p.m. at Olive Oil's Bar & Grill, Pier 50, San Francisco. Please come.

Larry L. Lagasse

(AKA Lawrence Pierre Lagasse)
2/3/53 - 2/25/87

Lawrence kept a sense of humor throughout his illness. He developed an ability to love others unconditionally and to give freely and lovingly of his self. He died peacefully of complications due to AIDS. He said he was at peace and that dying did not bother him so much as the way in which he had to die. In his happy and humorous way, he teased that when he transcends this physical world, he would "return to pull pranks" on those he loved. He promised that he would be with us always.

There will be a memorial potluck gathering at the Metropolitan Community Church at 150 Eureka on Sunday, March 15, from 1-5 p.m. At 2:30 we will form a sharing circle with Lawrence's spirit. Please bring photographs, articles designed by Lawrence and other memorabilia to share.

A full kitchen is available, and also a piano if someone wishes to play.

Let us gather to laugh and cry together at the passing of a wonderful soul. For information please call Maurice at (916) 722-4931.

Jay Brewster

Jay Brewster was born Sept. 2, 1945 and died peacefully on Jan. 28 at his mother's home in St. Petersburg, FL, after a two-month battle with pneumocystis pneumonia, having been diagnosed with Kaposi's sarcoma in November of 1984.

He is survived by his parents, Betty and Guy; his son, Bryan; his twin sister, Jan Lavin; his brother, Gary; several nephews, and many friends.

After receiving his Masters in Clinical Social Work from Tulane University, New Orleans, Jay spent four years as a Captain in the U.S. Air Force and was discharged with honors in 1973.

Jay moved to Long Beach, CA in 1974, where he continued doing clinical social work at Long Beach V.A. Hospital, until 1980, when he moved to San Francisco, the place he would always call home. Jay's ashes were returned to San Francisco on Feb. 8 by his mother and his lover, Renaldo Sebanz, to be scattered into the bay.

For those of us who knew and loved Jay, he will always hold a special place in our hearts and minds. For it was Jay's love for life, witty charm and positive energy that touched so many of us; and we will always remember.

Robert Mettler

6/27/41 - 2/13/87

Bob Mettler died Feb. 13 at Laguna Honda Hospital where he had worked to establish a plant and animal therapy program for the patients. He had been active in recent years in providing support to persons with AIDS, fundraising and obtaining donated equipment for Coming Home Hospice, participating in night ministry, and working with various programs for the homeless.

Bob was always ready to go out of his way to help anyone in need. He was always ready to listen, always ready with a joke or wisecrack to cheer up those around him. He is deeply missed by his lover, his family, and all his friends, both gay and straight.

A memorial service will be held Saturday, Mar. 7, at 1 p.m. at Most Holy Redeemer Church, 100 Diamond St.

Donations in his memory may be sent to Coming Home Hospice.

Joe Everds

Joe passed away on Feb. 22, shortly after his 48th birthday. He died peacefully in his sleep of an AIDS-related disease.

Joe is survived by his brother, David, and many loving friends. He treasured his independence and combined his wonderfully outspoken views with a warmth and intelligence that endeared him to all who knew him.

To celebrate Joe's life, his friends are invited to gather for a farewell toast at Lenny's Chez Mollet on Monday, March 9, at 7 p.m.

Gordon J. Utter

Gordon James Utter, a native of Michigan, was a riverman, an outdoorsman, a man of many tastes, and a man of openness whose innocence was enshrined with worldliness.

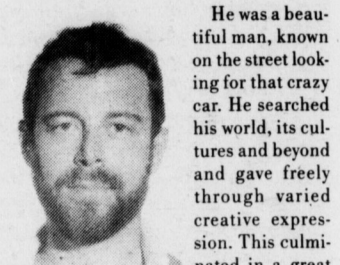
Jim possessed the rare ability to bring all types of people together joyously.

He was "Trash," and we loved him for it! From society women to South of the Slot enthusiasts, he bequeathed an indelible impression on all those whose path he crossed.

Jim died peacefully on Feb. 26 of AIDS and he is survived by legions of friends and his family in Michigan.

Alan Falconer

His life of searching through art and design saw my brother in many vistas. A sculptor in light, an architectural child, environmental illusionist, and graphic statesman of fun and things bizarre. He was shy, sincere, lonely and outrageous.



He was a beautiful man, known on the street looking for that crazy car. He searched his world, its cultures and beyond and gave freely through varied creative expression. This culminated in a great collage of the buildings of this world in a perpetual garden, completed just in time to surround him in the last days of a precious life.

San Francisco, the place of Alan's awakening 23 years ago, was also his point of departure. He loved this place, a love that remains with his gratitude and mine. We wish to thank the community of caring people who worked with him on the Shanti Project, Hospice of San Francisco, San Francisco General Hospital staff, healers and close friends through months of illness with AIDS.

On Monday, Feb. 23, Alan slipped from my arms in peace to take up a grand commission in the Celestial City.

James Richard Cavanagh

Jim Cavanagh died peacefully in his sleep on the morning of March 1 after a 16-month struggle with AIDS. He was 25 years old.

Jim came to San Francisco after receiving his Master's degree from the American Graduate School of International Management. He was employed as senior accountant by Pearl Crozes of Scandinavia. He also held an undergraduate degree from Emory University in Atlanta.

Jim is survived by his loving friend, David Atkinson of San Francisco; his parents, Dr. and Mrs. Richard Cavanagh of Boynton Beach, FL; a sister, Margaret, and brother, Michael also of Florida. Jim's youthful idealism, humor, and strength will be fondly remembered by those who knew him.

A memorial service will be held in San Francisco Thursday, March 4, from 7-9 p.m. at Jim's home. For more information contact David at 861-0397 or 863-9154.

Richard G. Schlie

1956 - 1987

Most recently of San Francisco, Rick passed away at University Hospital in Cincinnati, Ohio, on Feb. 24, of pneumocystis pneumonia.

Friends from San Francisco and family members were with him throughout his ordeal. Rick was a warm, friendly, and loving man. His great loves were people and music. Those piercing dark eyes, his sharp wit, and that wide, beautiful smile will never be forgotten by his many friends. We'll love you always, Rick.

Donations by Rick's request can be made to the Stop AIDS Project and for further info call Jack at 567-4606.

Anthony Zinzer

Tony Zinzer, after a three-year battle with AIDS, departed this life on Feb. 16. Tony was born on July 18, 1942 and grew up in a small town in Ohio. Before his illness, Tony worked as a personnel officer for Fromm and Sichel in San Francisco. He developed a close circle of friends in the city who helped him through the final months of his ordeal.

Tony is survived by his sister Sheila and her friend Larry who provided so much loving care to him, and by his parents and two nephews who stayed in constant contact with him. In addition to his friends and family in Ohio, Tony will be deeply missed by his local friends, Jeff, Ed and Nell, and Gene. His love and gentle humor have sustained us.

Vote Gay.
Vote Britt.
Vote April 7.

BAY AREA REPORTER GREATER BAY NEWS

U.S. Inches Out Competition In Stanford Condom Rating

by Gerard Koskovich

American condoms inched out the Japanese competition in close voting at Stanford's Great Condom Rating Contest, according to tallies released last Thursday. Response to the prophylactic give-away was so enthusiastic that organizers have promised to make the event an annual tradition.

Stanford University students narrowly selected the Gold Circle condom, manufactured by Circle Rubber Corp. of Newark, New Jersey, as "overall best" of the brands offered for rating, said Ken Ruebush, coordinator of the Stanford AIDS Education Project (AEP).

AEP volunteers distributed packets containing over 6,300 condoms in two hours on Feb. 17 and 18. Each packet contained seven brands of condoms, brightly colored instruction sheets and an "Absolutely Official Ballot" for rating the rubbers in several categories.

"I thought more people would be embarrassed," said AEP member Daniel Bao. "The response was really overwhelming. We gave away all the packets we had in one hour the first day, so we had to spend most of the night putting together 400 more for the next day."

Contest organizers set a three-day deadline for return of the condom-rating ballots. "It wasn't much time to test all seven," Ruebush admitted. "But knowing Stanford students, we figured they'd wait 'til the last minute and end up pulling an all-nighter anyway."

A retired university administrator echoed Ruebush's sentiments in a letter to the Stanford Daily published Monday.

"I have learned to admire the physical vigor, stamina, and energy level of Stanford students, (but) I believe we jeopardize the health of students when we expect them to test and rate seven condoms in a period of 72 hours," wrote Emeritus Director of Counseling J.D. Black.

"Even a clearly inferior alternative method of testing would require a level of autoerotic behavior substantially exceeding the norm among college males," he continued.

Black closed his tongue-in-cheek protest by asking that "the authorities reconsider this hasty action and, in the future, mercifully extend the deadline — at least through a weekend!"

According to Ruebush, condoms from the Japanese firm Fuji Latex took most of the honors in the voting, although they lost "overall best" to the New Jersey entry, Fuji's Yamabuki No. 1 swept the "best feel."

ELLIPSE Hospice Completed

by Marv. Shaw

With the last steps in the building completion and the hiring of staff, the ELLIPSE AIDS Hospice on Woodside Rd. in Redwood City will be ready to receive patients before April 1, organizer Richard Gordon announced Feb. 23.

Three building upgrades — painting, wallpapering, and new linoleum — will be finished in the next three weeks.

"best taste and smell" and "best looking" categories. The firm's Blacky condom won the "most versatile — formal wear to swim wear" laurel.

In other categories, Rough Rider, a textured condom took "biggest turn-on to partner" honors; Ramses was named "best lubricated," and the multi-colored Tahiti was voted "best fit." Prime, a condom lubricated with the viricidal agent nonoxynol 9, was judged "strongest."

A number of students added comments to the condom-rating ballots, Ruebush said. Several wrote to complain about the pronounced smell and taste of the non-oxynol 9 lubricant. One quib, signed, "The Ladies In Engineering," suggested that condom manufacturers stop touting thinness and start promoting "steel-belted radial construction."

ZIMMAN GETS AWARD

In related news, the founder of the Stanford AIDS Education Project, Jeff Zimman, received a special Board of Directors citation for his work with AEP at the Cable Car Awards annual gala, held Feb. 28 at the Giftcenter in San Francisco.

In presenting the award, California state Assembly member Art Agnos (D-S.F.) praised Zimman as a "hero in a time when the gay community needs heroes."

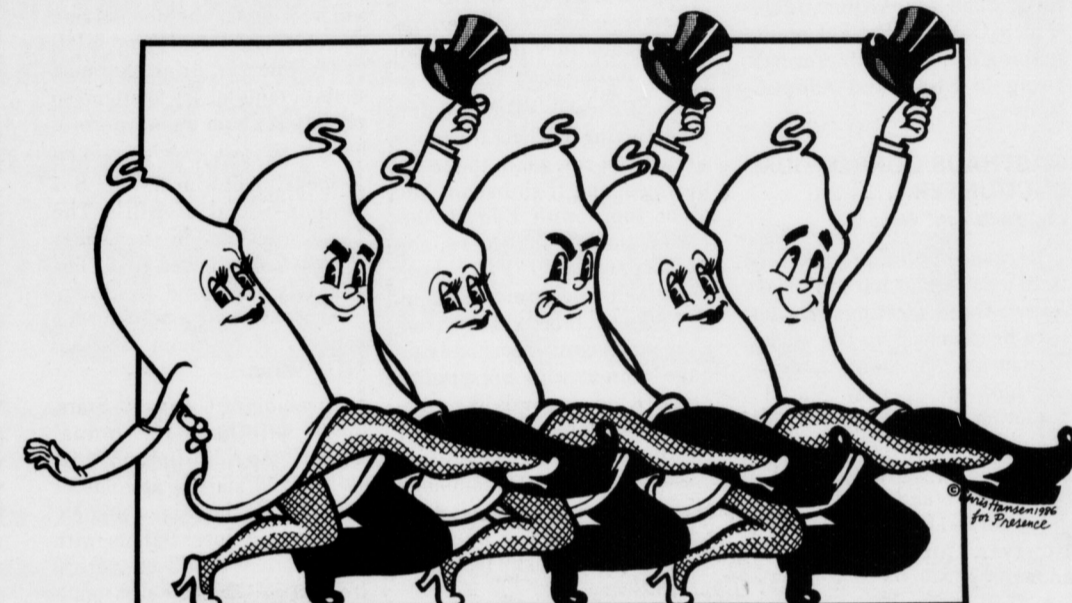
Glenn McIlhenney of the Cable Car Awards Board added that AEP had "set a model" of safer-sex organizing for other communities across the nation.

Zimman, a 1986 graduate of the Stanford Law and Business Schools, now practices law in San Francisco. He founded AEP while a student at Stanford in 1985. The organization has received wide coverage in the straight and gay media for its innovative, sex-positive public health efforts.

'It wasn't much time to test all seven. But knowing Stanford students, we figured they'd wait 'til the last minute and end up pulling an all-nighter anyway.'

—Ken Ruebush,
coordinator

Stanford AIDS Education Project



The kids at Stanford in a chorus line? No, but undoubtedly some of the students on The Farm are wearing T-shirts with this logo. It's from a design by Valerie Randall for Presence, a Bay Area company which produced the project for the San Francisco AIDS Foundation. Safe Sex is Great Sex, as Presence would say. Right, Stanford? For more info, call 928-8676 or write to 1850 Union St., #114, San Francisco, CA 94123.

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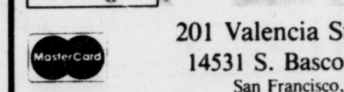
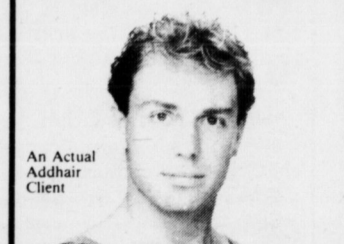
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The Black and the Green

DIATRIBES IN EBONY II (An I'll Be There Nose)

Rehearsals have been held semiweekly for the past few weeks for the entertainers in Bitches in Black. The preparations have been under the direction of Bobbie Ray and company, and took place at the Paradise.

Out-of-town entertainment will be provided by Maxine Walters, from Los Angeles, and Sable Clown, from San Francisco. There will be a Bushel of Booze drawing, with tickets on sale now and at the show.

Emperor VIII David presents this second extravaganza this Saturday, Mar. 7, with doors opening at 7 p.m. It will be at Bjornson Hall (Sons of Norway Hall), 2258 MacArthur Boulevard, in Oakland. Price of admission is a mere \$6, with proceeds going to EBAF and Adopt-A-House.

GASTHAUS CONSORTIUM ENCOUNTER (A "Shillelagh" Nose?)

Because of no representation from a particular bar at the last Tavern Guild meeting, all sites have been moved up two weeks. That means that Town & Country will host the Tuesday, Mar. 17 gathering. The meeting will start at 1 p.m. Sam will be serving the "traditional" St. Patrick's Day buffet—cake and cock! Oops, I mean corned beef and cabbage. However, for dessert, who knows???

INDULGED JACKANAPES (A Reporting Nose)

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And, according to the newsletter, they serve the best and only name brand well liquor in Hayward. You can get that same well, along with domestic beer and wine for only \$1, Mondays through Friday, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

This Friday, Mar. 6, the Brat is having a broiled lobster tail feed, from 7 to 9 p.m. The offering is a whole broiled "cold water" lobster tail, drawn butter, scalloped potatoes, and clam chowder for only \$10. The supply is limited so advance purchase of tickets is recommended. Perhaps next month they'll offer "hot water" lobster tails!

On St. Patrick's Day, the Brat will be giving free hats and favors so that you can get in the mood to sing-a-long Irish ballads and other songs with Eddy ("the-most-popular-Piano-entertainer-from-Palm-Springs"). Gould will be at the piano from 5 to 9 p.m. At 7:30 p.m., there will be a complementary corned beef and cabbage dinner, with horseradish gravy. (Kind of sounds like a new punk rock group, doesn't it? "Ladies and Gentlemen, we now present, just back from command performances in the capitals of Europe, The Corned Beef and Cabbage, with backup by Horseradish Gravy")

OLLA-PODRIDA (An "Olio" Nose)



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Speaking about St. Patrick's Day, Dean Snow will present a "Pre-Patty Party" at Revol, Sunday, Mar. 15. The outstanding entertainment will be Bravo! band at 4 p.m., with—you guessed it—corned beef and cabbage buffet at 6 p.m.

Speaking about "Pre-Patty," the Paradise celebrates its third anniversary on Sunday, Mar. 15. There will be a buffet at 6 p.m., with a show at 8 p.m. I haven't heard if there will be any corned beef and cabbage!

Speaking about corned beef (as in pickled), the next ACIE General Assembly meeting will be at Bill's The Eagle at 7:30 p.m. Rev. Jodi Safier, MCC Hayward will be the guest speaker. After the meeting there will be a contest between Mama Chuckles and David (Emp. VIII) to see who can drink the most shots of tequila! Try to attend so you can see who the winner will be.

Speaking of winners, the Box Supper Social at Bill's The Eagle, sponsored by the Galaxy of Stars Court, raised \$596! The proceeds were used for Valentines cookies and goodies for the patients of Fairmont Hospital AIDS Ward.

Speaking of Galaxy of Stars, Revol will have its annual Academy Awards Affair on Monday, Mar. 30, starting at whatever time the TV show does, and ending when it does! Ballots, with only 12 out of the 23 categories, are available from the bartenders. "Unusual" prizes will be awarded. Winners must be present to claim prizes.

Speaking of affairs, my spouse and I were lunching with Patrick—well, actually he was cooking our pizza—on Lake Shore—well, actually a pizza parlor on that street—when none other than Jim Sanchez and "friend" popped in to say hello. Seems as though the "friend" is making Jim do some bit of walking for exercise—and it's looking good!

And, speaking of Lake Shore, if you don't care where you are, you ain't lost! I'm smiling! Love,

SEIU Local Endorses Britt

The Service Employees International Union, Local 87, AFL-CIO, (Janitors Union), "the union of many nationalities but all of one heart," representing some 4,000 San Francisco janitors, today announced their support for the candidacy of Sup. Harry Britt to be the next U.S. Congressman from San Francisco.

The union stated that Sup. Harry Britt has always stood shoulder to shoulder with the janitors in their efforts to secure and maintain decent working conditions. "We need Harry Britt in the halls of Congress. What we don't need is a Volvo-driving, quiche-eating, pseudo-liberal party hack representing working people in the U.S. Congress."

Huey Lewis and the News Donates \$225K To PATC

Band Vows To Fight Against AIDS

A first-of-its-kind AIDS training program will begin at San Francisco General Hospital and UC-San Francisco thanks to a donation of \$225,000 by Huey Lewis and the News. The program will be named the HLN Physicians AIDS Training Center (PATC).

"We are delighted to have the band's generous donation and its valuable support in the effort to combat AIDS," said Paul Volberding, MD, UC-San Francisco associate professor of medicine and Director of AIDS Activities at SFGH. "This will be the world's first dedicated program to train community physicians specifically in the care of AIDS patients, and there is a clear-cut need for it."

— The Shanti Project, The Hospice Program of San Francisco, the Coming Home Hospice, and the San Francisco AIDS Foundation.

Many physicians completed their medical training before the AIDS epidemic began and do not have the time in their busy schedules to learn about the disease, he said. "We have been bombarded with requests from physicians all over the world to spend one week to three months here studying how we deal with our AIDS patients. It is impossible to handle the demand on an ad hoc basis. The best way to serve the need is with a full-fledged training program. As the virus continues its spread, physicians must feel able to deal with all aspects of the AIDS epidemic, including the disease appearing in heterosexuals, intravenous drug users, women and children," Volberding said.

Lake County Bar Burns, Arson Suspected

The Cabaret, a popular bar in Glenhaven for the past five years, burned to the ground on Tuesday, Mar. 3. The Lake County Sheriff's arson squad is investigating the possibility of arson being involved in the fire. The fire was first noticed in the patio area against a wall at 9:30 p.m. The blaze spread quickly but no patrons were injured.

The Cabaret was the only gay bar in Lake County. There were recent protests against the bar when it became public that it was planning to move to a new location.

Festival

(Continued from page 18)

the Camp Mather issue or her lawsuit against the city of San Francisco.

"I intend to pursue this case diligently," she affirmed. "Not just for one festival, but to make it easier in the future for lesbians to rent property and to congregate. We are going to fight until it becomes a right!"

She has also decided to expand the 1987 Festival to five days over Labor Day weekend, Sept. 3-7. Additional political and legal workshops will supplement existing programs and workshops which cover a wide variety of topics.

Those who would like information regarding registration should send an SASE to: WCWMCF, 13514 Hart St., Van Nuys, CA 91405.

Texas

(Continued from page 4)

communitywide exposure to AIDS is limited and effort should be directed at educating high risk groups.

The city's health director said he opposes the Centers for Disease Control proposal to impose mandatory testing on hospital patients and people applying for marriage licenses.

"We're not going to accomplish anything by testing that we couldn't do better by a more aggressive and better funded education program," Haughton said.

Houston ranks fourth in the nation in the number of AIDS cases. So far 989 cases have been identified and of those 625 have died. Homosexual and bisexual men account for 94 percent of the city's cases.

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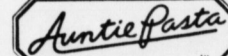
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FRIDAY 6

• **Rate It X:** film, Roxie Cinema, 3117 16th St., S.F., 8, and 10 PM, cover. The Northern California premiere of a documentary exploring sexism in America. Discussion to follow 8 PM screening. Call 863-1087 for more information.

• **San Francisco Lesbian Chorus:** music, Mama Bear's, 6536 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 8 PM, \$4-6 sliding scale. The chorus celebrates International Women's Day, with SDiane Bogus, author of *Sapphire's Sampler*.

• **Maureen Brownsey and Sandy Van:** comedy cabaret, Baybrick Inn, 1190 Folsom St., S.F., 8-10 PM, free.

• **Ann Reed:** music, Artemis Cafe, 1199 Valencia St., S.F., 8 PM, \$5.

• **Ladies Against Women:** comedy, UCSF, Millbury Union Gym, Parnassus Ave., S.F., 8 PM, \$5. With Marga Gomez and Dominique DiPrima.

• **Black Lesbian Erotica:** and soft poetry, 437 Webster St., S.F., 8-10 PM. Women only. Call Midgett at 864-0876 for more information.

• **Womanpeace:** goddess slide show and peace meditation ritual. The Women's Building, 3543 18th St., S.F., 7:30 PM, \$5-\$25. With Hallie Austen Iglehart, author of *Womanspirit*. Call 826-2109 or 654-9210 for more information.

• **Traffic Jam:** radio, KPFA, 94.1 FM, 4:30 PM. With David Lambie.

• **S/M Support Group:** for lesbians of color, new group meets at 7:30 PM. Call 681-0430 for more information.

• **Fraternal Order of Gays:** game fest, FOG House, 304 Gold Mine Dr., S.F., 8 PM. Call 641-0999 for more information.

• **French:** conversation evening, 8 PM in San Francisco. Call 863-1356 for more information.

• **The Bohemian Grove:** stage performance, New Performance Gallery, 3153 17th St., S.F., 8:30 PM, \$8. With Gary Aylesworth and Peter Newton back by popular demand. Tickets available at STBS and BASS. Call 863-9834 for reservations and more information.

• **Church of the Secret Gospel:** service, 746 Clementia St., No. 2, S.F., 8 PM, \$2. Carnal communion to 10:30 PM, refreshments, males 18+ welcome. Call 621-1887 for more information.

• **Frank Banks:** sing-a-long piano, Belden 22, 22 Belden Place, S.F., 5:45-8 PM.

SATURDAY 7

• **Spookhouse:** stage performance, Theatre Rhinoceros, 2926 16th St., S.F., 8 PM, \$9-\$12. Harvey Fierstein's latest effort.

• **Teresa Trull and Bonnie Hayes:** music, San Jose State Music Hall, 7th St. at San Carlos, San Jose, doors open 7 PM, show begins 8 PM, \$10 general admission. Tickets at BASS or Sisterspirit Bookstore.

• **Melanie Monsur:** music, Artemis Cafe, 1199 Valencia St., S.F., 8 PM, \$4-6 sliding scale.

• **Addie:** music, El Rio, 3158 Mission St., S.F., 10 PM to 1 AM, \$3. Rock and blues.

• **Rate It X:** film (see Friday listing for details).

• **EastBay FrontRunners:** Lafayette Reservoir run. Take Hwy 24 to Mt. Diablo Blvd., exit. Bear left on Mt. Diablo to entrance road to park, first right. Free parking in dirt lot on left opposite turnoff, free parking in park. Three-mile loop, mostly flat to slight and moderate incline. Call 526-7592 or 261-3246 for more information.

• **Women's Voices for Peace and Justice:** International Women's Day conference, The Women's Building, 3543 18th St., S.F., registration 9-10 AM, conference 10 AM to 5 PM, \$7-\$10 sliding scale, includes childcare. Workshops on US Militarism and the Global Awareness Line, Women, National Liberation and Peace, Women's Fightback Against Reaganism, panel on Forward Looking Strategies: Women's Activism for Peace and Justice, photo exhibits, videos, special cultural presentation by Lichi Fuentes. Co-sponsored by the Alliance Against Women's Oppression and Casa Puerto Rico. Call 621-3870 for more information.

• **Integrity:** birthday bash, St. John's Church, 1661 15th St., S.F., 7:30 PM. Music by members of the SF Gay Men's Chorus, Linda Breitbarth, and Brooks Liston, reception following. Call 431-5859 for more information.

• **Fraternal Order of Gays:** game fest, FOG House, 304 Gold Mine Dr., S.F., 8 PM. Call 641-0999 for more information.

• **Integrity Western Regional Conference:** open session, Trinity Episcopal Church, 1668 Bush St., S.F., 1-4 PM. Discussions focusing on AIDS, women's ministries, blessing lesbian and gay relationships, ordaining openly lesbian and gay clergy. Call 431-5859 for more information.

• **Code Blue:** new women's bar open Saturdays only at 9:30 PM. Taylor and Lombard. Check it out!

• **The Bohemian Grove:** stage performance (see Friday listing for details).

• **Sweet Inspiration:** music, Sweet Inspiration, 2239 Market St., S.F., all afternoon, free. Call 621-8664 for more information. Sunday also.

• **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 or 337-8704 for more information.

SUNDAY 8

• **Kats and Kitten:** music, Baybrick Inn, 1190 Folsom St., S.F., 5:30-8:30 PM, \$5. Starring Miss Kitty Boudoin.

• **Grupo Sinigal:** music, El Rio, 3158 Mission St., S.F., 4-8 PM, \$5. Salsa.

• **Portraits by William G. Samios:** reception for the artist, Walt Whitman Bookshop, 2319 Market St., S.F., 3-5 PM.

• **Spookhouse:** stage performance (see Saturday listing for details).

• **Chrysanthemum Ragtime Band:** music, Intersection for the Arts, 766 Valencia St., S.F., 2-4 PM, \$5.

• **Rate It X:** film (see Friday listing for details).

• **Gay and Lesbian Outreach to Elders:** men's brunch and games, Francis of Assisi Community Center, 145 Guerrero St., S.F., noon to 3 PM. For older men (60+) and friends. Bring food to share. Call 626-7000 for more information.

• **Gay/Lesbian PC User Group:** meeting, MCC San Francisco, 150 Eureka St., S.F., 3-5 PM. Call 334-9761 for more information.

• **Slightly Older Lesbians:** meeting, potluck 5 PM, support/discussion group 6 PM. Call 647-0413 for more information.

• **High Tech Gays:** meeting, 1040 Park Ave., San Jose, potluck 6 PM, meeting 7:30 PM.

• **Radical Women:** meeting, Valencia Hall, 523A Valencia St., S.F., 4 PM, \$2. An International Women's Day panel will discuss Our Bodies, Our Lives: Fighting for Feminism in the '80s. Our Lives: Fighting for Feminism in the '80s. Our Lives: Fighting for Feminism in the '80s. Our Lives: Fighting for Feminism in the '80s. Call 864-1278 for more information.

• **Integrity:** no Sunday Eucharist this week. See Saturday listing for birthday bash.

• **New Life MCC:** worship and communion service, 1823 9th St., Berkeley, 5 PM. Call 843-9355 for more information.

• **Calvary MCC:** worship service, 5 PM. Call 368-0188 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.

• **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.

• **Church of the Secret Gospel:** 11 AM (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.

• **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.

• **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 9

• **The Politics of AIDS Treatment:** community forum on Ribavirin and AZT, their effectiveness in the treatment of AIDS, ARC, and HIV infection, and the need for FDA licensing. The Women's Building, 3543 18th St., S.F., 8 PM. Sponsored by the Alice B. Toklas Lesbian and Gay Democratic Club. Call 626-9396 for more information.

• **Rate It X:** film (see Friday listing for details).

• **Buddy Connection:** safe sex workshop, MCC San Francisco, 150 Eureka St., S.F., 7-10 PM. Sponsored by the SF AIDS Foundation. Call 863-AIDS for more information.

• **How Then Shall We Live?:** broadcast over KCSM (Channel 60), 7 PM. Stephen Levine in Opening to Grief: The Threshold Task and Purification by Fire: The Passage Through Pain.

• **Spirituality for Recovering Women:** support group, 3017 Geary Blvd., S.F., 7-8:30 PM, sliding scale. Call 239-4985 for more information.

THIS WEEK

• **Stress Reduction Workshop:** support group. Call 558-8454 for more information.

• **Emotional Support Group:** for people who have lost their lovers due to AIDS/ARC. 7:30 PM. Call Sean Martinfeld at 626-4329 for more information.

TUESDAY 10

• **Rate It X:** film (see Friday listing for details).

• **Drag Queen Social Group:** support group, 8 PM. Call 776-4027 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.

• **Healing Institute:** meeting/workshop, MCC San Francisco, room 21, 150 Eureka St., S.F., 7:30-10 PM. Call 861-0702 for more information.

• **ISA Men's Group:** SF Men's Tuesday Night Incest Survivors Anonymous 12-step program, SF Home Health Services, 225 30th St., room 206, S.F., 7:30-9 PM. Closed meeting for survivors and pro-survivors. Non-smoking, wheelchair accessible, free parking. Call 474-2872 for more information.

• **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.

• **Meditation and Healing Circle:** meeting, Haight-Ashbury Community Center, Park Branch Library, 1833 Page St., S.F., 7:30 PM. Call 864-5483 for details.

• **Gay International Folk Dancing:** for lesbians and gay men, Eureka Valley Recreation Center, Collingwood Park, S.F., teaching 7:30-8 PM, request dancing 8-9:30 PM, \$2.50. Call 585-9784 or 285-5634 for details.

• **Gay-Nite:** 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.

• **Drop-in Bereavement Support Group:** for friends and lovers of people who have died of AIDS/ARC, 100 Diamond St., S.F., 7-9 PM. Call 864-7400 for more information.

• **People With AIDS Support Group:** meeting (see Friday for details).

• **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 11

• **Buddy Systems:** dance/performance, Theatre Artaud, 450 Florida St., S.F., 8:30 PM, \$7. American Inroads presents the Bay Area debut of Tim Miller's autobiographical exploration of the pleasures and strains of a long-term relationship, tracing Miller's amorous journey from early gay encounters in Hollywood to the rigors of monogamy in New York City. Call 621-7797 for more information.

• **Until December:** music, Sproul Plaza, UC Berkeley, noon.

• **Spookhouse:** stage performance (see Saturday listing for details).

• **Lesbian/Gay Open Reading:** first-time or experienced readers and listeners welcome, Modern Times Bookstore, 968 Valencia St., S.F., 7:30 PM.

• **Rate It X:** film (see Friday listing for details).

• **Federal Lesbians and Gays:** meeting, Rooney's, 22 9th St., S.F., 6 PM, \$2. Speaker from Men Overcoming Violence, no-host bar, free buffet. Bring a magazine for people with AIDS. Call 695-9174 for more information.

• **Mass Murder of Lesbians and Gay Men:** protest at Columbian Consulate, Flood Building, Powell and Market, S.F., 4:30 PM. Called by Lesbians and Gays Against Intervention in Latin America. Call 647-0353 for more information.

• **Disabled Lesbians:** support group, Operation Concern, 1853 Market St., S.F., 6:45-8:15 PM. Call 626-7000 for more information.

• **New Life MCC and Good Shepherd Episcopal Church:** joint service of worship and healing, 1823 9th St., Berkeley, 7 PM.

• **How Then Shall We Live?:** see Monday listing 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.

• **Beginning Yoga Classes:** 6:30-8 PM. Located near 16th and Valencia. Free for PWA. Call 864-1141 for details.

• **Western Star Dancers:** square dance for experienced mainstream level dancers, Central YMCA, 220 Golden Gate Ave., 2nd floor theater. Both males and females welcome. Every Wednesday. Call 621-5631 or 621-3990 for details.

• **Men's Wart Clinic:** removal of penile and external and internal anal venereal warts, Oakland Feminist Women's Health Center, Oakland, sliding scale. Staff physician is Dr. Fred Strauss of the Gay Men's Health Collective. Call 444-5676 for more information.

• **Womanspirit:** MCC San Francisco, 150 Eureka St., 7:30 PM.

• **People With AIDS Support Group:** meeting (see Friday for details).

• **Friends, Family, and Lovers of People With AIDS:** support group. Call the Shanti Project at 558-9644 for more information.

THURSDAY 12

• **Ladies Against Women:** comedy, Campus Center, De Anza College, Cupertino, 11:30 AM, free.

• **Buddy Systems:** dance/performance, \$10 (see Wednesday listing for details).

• **Spookhouse:** stage performance (see Saturday listing for details).

• **Rate It X:** film (see Friday listing for details).

• **Disabled Gay Men:** support group, Operation Concern, 1853 Market St., S.F., 6:30-7 PM. Call 626-7000 for more information.

• **Calvary MCC:** meets at 5 PM. Call 368-0188 for more information.

• **Bonnie Hayes:** music, Baybrick Inn, 1190 Folsom St., S.F., 7 PM. Solo on piano.

• **Pat Wilder's R&B Jam:** music, Baybrick Inn, 1190 Folsom St., S.F., 10 PM, \$2. All musicians welcome.

• **AIDS Interfaith Network of Contra Costa County:** meets at Diablo Valley Metropolitan Community Church, 2253 Concord Blvd., Concord, 7:30 PM. Call 827-2960 for more information.

• **Men's Support Group:** Billy DeFrank Lesbian and Gay Community Center, 1040 Park Ave., San Jose, 7 PM. Call 293-AGAY for more information.

• **Bi Men's Support Group:** for bisexual men and married gay men. Meets 6:30-8:30 PM in Noe Valley. Call 821-4788 for more information.

• **Center for Attitudinal Healing:** AIDS/ARC support group, 19 Main St., Tiburon, 4-6 PM, free. Direct access via ferry. Call 435-5022 for more information.

• **Secret Gospel Church:** meeting, 2 PM, 746 Clementia No. 2, S.F. Refreshments and rap to 4 PM, \$2. Males 18+ welcome. Call 621-1887 for more information.

• **Antibody Positive Drop-In Group:** 1853 Market St. (at Guerrero), 6 PM. This weekly group is to assist individuals in exploring concerns around positive test results while supporting development of coping skills. Cosponsored by UCSF AIDS Health Project and Operation Concern. Call 626-6637 for details.

• **AIDS/ARC Self-Healing and Support Group:** weekly meeting, Campus Ministry Building, USF, Golden Gate Ave. (near Parker), 7 PM, free. Call 567-7126 or 339-1134.

• **Coming Home Hospice Bingo:** Most Holy Redeemer Church, 100 Diamond St., S.F., 6:30 PM, \$10 minimum buy-in. Come on over and join the fun... even if you've never played bingo before. An alcohol-free space. Snacks and non-alcoholic beverages sold. Smoking and non-smoking areas. Early Bird specials. Door prizes and cash prizes for each game.

• **Men's Support Group:** meeting, Billy De Frank Lesbian & Gay Community Center, 86 Keyes St., San Jose, 7 PM.

• **Coping With the Loss of People With AIDS:** support group. Call the Shanti Project at 558-9644 for more information.

• **Friends, Family, and Lovers of People With AIDS:** support group. Call the Shanti Project at 558-9644 for more information.

• **People With AIDS Support Group:** meeting (see Friday for details).

• **Crystal Pistol:** country and western dance bar, dance lessons, 7:30 PM, 842 Valencia St., S.F. Call 695-7887 for more information.

• **The Bay Area Reporter welcomes organizations, businesses, and individuals to submit items for its weekly calendar. Placement in the calendar is free and the sole responsibility of the editors. Deadline: 5 PM on Thursdays.**

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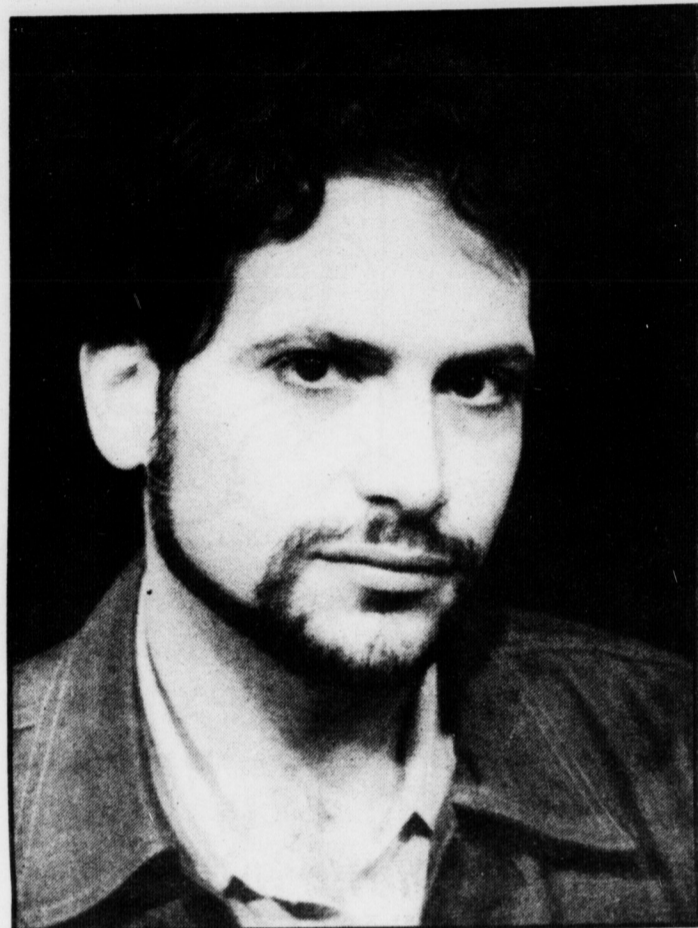
Fierstein on Spookhouse

The Author of *LaCage Aux Folles* and *Torch Song Trilogy* Talks About Life And His First Love

by Wendell Ricketts

When Harvey Fierstein talks, people listen. That's because with a clutch of hit plays, the book for *La Cage aux Folles*, two Tony awards, and a host of other honors behind him, he has earned the right to speak. But it is also because Fierstein's voice is as distinctive as the man. Over the years, interviewers have described that voice as a foghorn, a shower of gravel, a hoarse rasp. One wrote that Fierstein sounded as though he'd gargled with Drano. Fierstein himself joked that he could never take advantage of any of the phone-sex services because, in the middle of a hot scene, his partner might suddenly exclaim, "Wait! I know your voice. You're Harvey Fierstein! I saw you in *Carbo Talks*."

But for me, Fierstein's gentle rumble will always be the voice of Arnold Beckoff, the hero of *Torch Song Trilogy*, and the first gay dramatic character I ever saw who didn't hate himself, hide himself, or hang himself. His is the voice of the outspoken drag queen from Bensonhurst who said, "I want more out of life than meeting a pretty face and sitting down on it!" and who described his first postulate of cruising thus: "An ugly person who goes after a pretty person gets nothing but trouble. But a pretty person who goes after an ugly person gets at least cab fare." No matter what befell him, Arnold seemed always able to say,



Harvey Fierstein, 1983

(Photo: Rink)

"I'm just fine the way I am." And that's not a bad memory to take home from a play.

Perhaps it is not too much to say that Fierstein's is also one of the most influential gay voices in theater today. With tens of thousands of non-gay people flocked

to see *Torch Song Trilogy* and *La Cage aux Folles*, it was Fierstein's vision of the gay experience they took home with them. Like it or not, that is influence. With the filmed version of *Torch Song Trilogy* due to be released in

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A Night To Remember

Charles Pierce, Barbara Cook, and the Boys of the Chorus at Davies Hall, March 5

by Bob Woolhouse

"Every once in a while I think it's time to hang up the old boos. I've had four farewell performances already."

This from Charles Pierce—the legend, who in best Margo Channing tradition, "Whether she can walk, ride, roll or crawl, she plays"?

"Well, not this year," he muses. "There are a lot of bookings, including the Venetian Room in July. But maybe in 1988..." his voice trails off.

Meanwhile, tonight at 8 p.m., he'll chalk up farewell appearance number five at Louise M. Davies Symphony Hall. The show is called *A Night To Remember* and also features a special guest appearance by Barbara Cook and the S.F. Gay Men's Chorus in a benefit for the Golden Gate Performing Arts Association.

His ladies of the evening will include alter ego Miss Carlene Kindall, the blonde sex symbol

who will introduce Charles' Cast of Continuing Characters: the vintaged vamp Mae West and the less vintaged but more uproarious Bette Davis projecting *All About Eve* in every direction.

Demure as ever, Joan Collins will appear and announce that she is leaving the cast of *Dynasty*. Her next career enhancement move will be to million-dollar TV commercials hyping Mini Condos. The product, not sponsored by Grub & Ellis, will be new, improved condoms, hopefully having the Good Housekeeping Seal of Approval.

"Actually, there are three sizes, not just one," according to Pierce-Collins, "Oriental, Black, and You've Gotta Be Kidding." The theme of the commercials will be, "You have to be cock sure these days." So much for Joan Collins.

Concluding his part of the show, Pierce will oblige the local audience with the prerequisite

impersonation and sing-a-long: Miss Jeanette MacDonald warbling the city anthem. (Did she ever sing anything else?) Because of the structure of the Davies Hall stage area, however, the traditional swing may not be employed in the finale. One wrong move and Jeanette would be flying over Oakland without benefit of plane.

"Just this once," he wonders, "do you suppose it could be renamed Marion Davies Hall for old times sake?" Sure Charles, just like MacDonald could do *New York, New York* instead of you know what.

When we discussed the forthcoming show and the possibility of his retirement, he was at home in Los Angeles where he had been doing chores like taking a gown out for zipper repair and carting wigs to the hairdresser for re-styling. After that came the slow process of packing the ex-

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A Matter of Context

Humorous Documentary on Sexist Attitudes Called *Rate It X*

by Steve Warren

"People will say, 'They're lesbians. Of course they hate men,'" says Paula de Koenigsberg. "But they'll say, 'They're feminists. Of course they hate men' anyway," adds Lucy Winer. "What they really mean is, 'They're women. Of course they hate men.'"

If these two lesbian feminists hate men, they hide it well while promoting their documentary, *Rate It X*. This often humorous study of America's sexist attitudes has subjected them to all kinds of accusations.

"It's not a matter of being anti-sexual," de Koenigsberg defends. "It's a matter of wanting more humanity."

The depth of their feeling is revealed in Winer's response to the question of reverse sexism, the Chippendales syndrome in which women exploit men as sex objects. After de Koenigsberg dismisses the phenomenon as "such a novelty, it has a different flavor" and too isolated to be

dangerous, her partner projects, "It would be such an ironic nightmare to see women become as objectifying of men as men are of women and each other. It would be the end of the species, the death of intimacy."

Rate It X is not gay-specific like two of the women's best-known films, *Greetings from Washington, D.C.* and *Silent Pioneers*. The former is a record of the first National March for Lesbian and Gay Rights, in 1979. The women don't plan to cover this year's march. Winer jokes of leaving the field open to "some younger filmmakers," while de Koenigsberg comments, "It'll be nice to see some other cameras there."

Silent Pioneers told stories of lesbian and gay seniors who survived the days before the movement. It was made about the same time as *Before Stonewall*, but Winer says they "weren't concerned about duplication. They were concerned about the

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Buddy Systems

An Act of Faith from Performance Artist Tim Miller

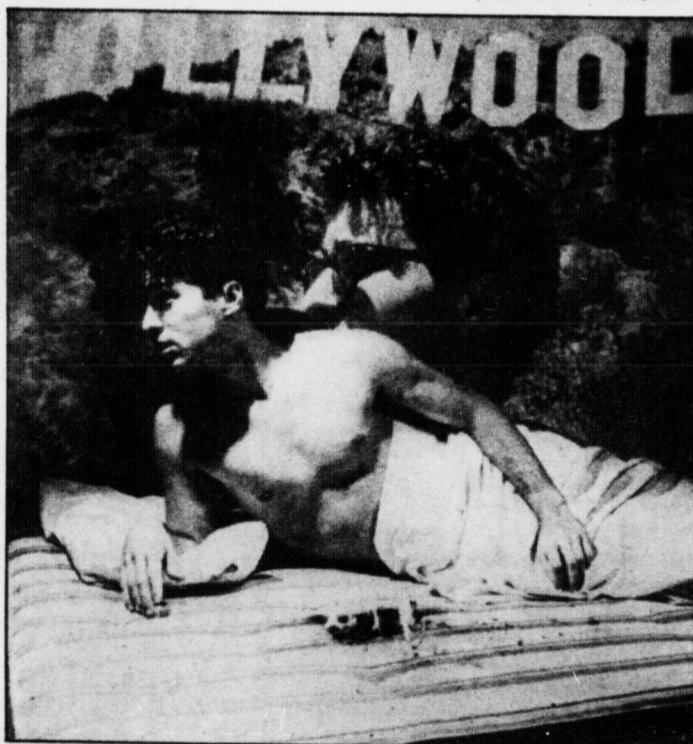
by Mark I. Chester

Sometimes these days, when the sky is obscured by black clouds, I look up to discover that the sun is shining and the black clouds I see come from within me. In dark storms a friend and I unwittingly tear at each other. Excess. Recess. I have sex with myself as if it were incest.

And then comes work. I am to interview New York performance artist Tim Miller, a gay man,

whose new multi-media performance piece, *Buddy Systems*, will echo through Theater Artaud, Wednesday, March 11, through Sunday, March 15. I am not amused to discover that I have to interview Miller by telephone from Los Angeles. It is just one more cloud.

But in watching a videotape of *Buddy Systems*, something happens. (Continued on next page)



Tim Miller out-Hollywoods 'Hollywood' (Photo: Dance Umbrella)

Tim Miller

(Continued from previous page)

pens. A knot is untied. A river of pain flows out of me and disappears. I am touched, deep within; not by grand spectacle, but by a personal, captivating theatrical exploration by Miller and his boyfriend Doug Sadowick about sex, love, friendship, and being gay. I want to know more. So we talk by telephone.

"I am a gay person, not a Gay Artist," says Miller. "My work comes from personal experience: love, sex, politics, and war. About one-half of my work has dealt with gay issues, but all of my work is informed by my identity as a gay man." At 28, Miller has created and performed six major performance pieces in the past eight years. He was last seen in San Francisco in *Democracy in America* in November of 1984.

Personal, revelatory insights and commentary, the stock-in-trade of the songwriter-singers of the late 1960s and early '70s, have been increasingly adapted and incorporated into theatrical forms and classified as performance and performance art. Possibly the most rapidly expanding artistic venue, unbound by strict conventions and formal rules, performance art can result in artistic worlds in collision, combining elements of dance, music, visual projections, and theater. Miller's autobiographically influenced work, in both content and style, fits well within these artistic investigations.

Inspired by the work of such varied artists as Robert Wilson, Jerzy Grotowski, Allan Ginsberg, John Cage, Merce Cunningham, and Spaulding Gray, Miller's performances grew from raw, immediate, experimental solo/duo pieces into more formally structured pieces with large casts of performers (such as *Democracy in America*, "my least successful although most ambitious large-scale piece") with Broadway values of "let's do everything!"

Realizing that the work was not leading him in a promising direction, Miller terminated any further avant-garde multi-media spectacles. With *Buddy Systems*, Miller knows he is back on his own track with an intimate, small-scale, personal performance.

"In comparison, *Buddy Systems* is modest, almost homespun, and very manageable," he admits.

Miller created *Buddy Systems* with a gay audience specifically in mind, including "people who have never seen performance art." Although it is technically rich, it is also accessible; neither intentionally mysterious nor oblique. *Buddy Systems* is about "the challenge that gets thrown at you for being different," Miller informs me. "It is focused on my discovery of the world of sex, my journey from the ideal to the real, and making peace with those changes."

Amidst pulsating, rhythmic, electronic, and computer synthesized soundtracks (by Miller and Sadowick), a smoothly energized and highly kinetic dance style, a text filled with wit, pointed irony, and laughter, and visuals that bind everything together, Miller confronts issues of gay sex and gay sexuality.

"What Hollywood meant to me was sex," Miller deadpans against a projected background that reads "boy madness." On this hejira Miller recreates vocally his first orgasm on Hollywood Blvd., an encounter with a small-dicked macho trick who calls Miller names and growls "Take my big dick," his ultimate disap-

pointment and disillusionment, and his ultimate relationship with Sadowick.

Miller remembers that as a child he received a dog he desperately wanted. The dog was eventually put to sleep when he lost interest in it and ignored his commitment to it. Miller uses this "dead dog story," emblazoned in shame on his memory, to motivate his staying power and commitment to his boyfriend Sadowick and their new dog Buddy. At one point, after a bitter fight with Sadowick, Miller realizes that their relationship is at a crossroads. "A gesture, an offering needed to be made, an act of faith. Or do this. Pack it (the relationship) up very small and throw it away," Miller confides to the audience.

Miller reaches out, puts himself at risk, and makes that act of faith. It hits me like a ton of bricks. Whether we are dealing with a lover, friend, or stranger, unconsciously we build walls instead of bridges by ignoring or losing interest in our commitments to ourselves and others, ready to drift from one contact to the next. The statement is simple, gentle, and understated, but it reverberates like a skipping stone. Miller neither urges lover rela-

tionships as a panacea nor the maintenance of relationships at any cost. He urges conscious living in the face of adversity, and the challenges of the times we are living in. His own personal response to the challenges of these times is his four-year, "if not tranquil, ongoing," relationship with Sadowick.

Miller asks me to talk to Sadowick, a major influence on Miller's work and a major contributor to this piece. Miller does not know what he is doing. Sadowick gets on the phone and tells Miller to move farther away so that he will feel comfortable talking about him. We talk across the telephone lines, Jewish boy to Jewish boy, writer to writer. He adds the spice Miller said he would.

Sadowick acts as Miller's counterbalance in *Buddy Systems*. When Miller gets lost in his own emotionally escalating reverie, it is Sadowick who brings him back to earth. In real life, though, they stabilize each other when needed. Sadowick's connection through writing to a rich language contrasts with Miller's uniquely styled movement. When combined, their work is clear and forthright. They put it on the line with more direct text and less theatrical artifice.

Sadowick, at 27, describes himself and Miller as "avowedly gay, very sexualized, and as boy-crazed as anyone. We have found within our being gay a way to be together. We're at home with being gay. It's important for our creation of art. We're making a spiritual, sexual statement. Being public is all mixed up with being creative. We think it's political, and hopefully, despite our problems, it's a good thing."

"It's not an ideal relationship," Sadowick freely acknowledges. "It is full of pain and the feeling that it's not worth it. It's not idyllic." At the same time, Sadowick views himself and Miller as "unique individual characters with a refreshing way about being gay, young, and hot for each other." It is not surprising that despite the importance of the performance work they are afraid of making their private relationship too public. "How do you maintain something that hot on stage viably while still maintaining your privacy?" queries Sadowick.

There is an answer. In contrast to Miller's frank sexual descriptions about his early sexual explorations, and his openness about being gay, Miller's private relationship with Sadowick

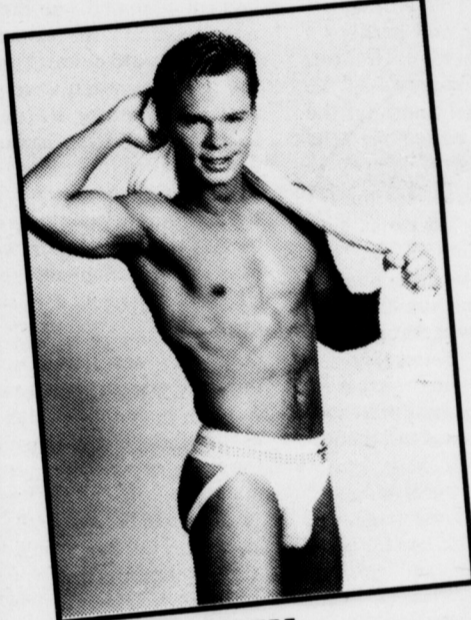
comes across intensely loving but at an arm's length. They are called boyfriends, not lovers (a New York trend, Miller told me); there is no mention of their sexual relationship and their stage contact lacks any tender touching or kissing. This unintentionally fits Sadowick's perception that their "friends deal with us as real good buddies," when what they actually have is a "real sharing marriage."

My annoyance at this desexualization was matched by my annoyance at Miller's refusal to mention AIDS by name in his theater piece. He insisted that the performance piece "intentionally doesn't mention AIDS. I didn't want to make *Buddy Systems* about AIDS." But acknowledging specifically the times we are living in doesn't make *Buddy Systems* into a piece "about" AIDS. On the other hand, the silence about it makes its lack of presence quite notable. To be fair, the videotape I viewed documented a performance over a year old. Both Miller and Sadowick admitted that while they did not wholly agree with me, that *Buddy Systems* has changed and now deals at least indirectly with these issues. But this is a minor discomfort compared to

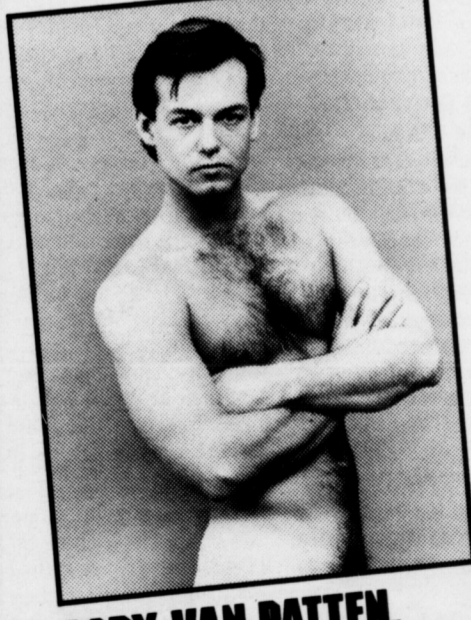
(Continued on page 30)

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Fierstein

(Continued from page 26)

1988, Fierstein's constituency may well climb into the millions.

Fierstein's depictions of gay life have run the gamut from anonymous sex in the backroom bars of Manhattan to the 20-year marriage of Albin and Georges in *La Cage aux Folles*. And there has been criticism of it all. There were those who considered Fierstein's brilliant mime of butt-fucking in *International Stud* too scandalous. (Indeed, Ellen Stewart was at first reluctant to stage the play at La Mama because, as Fierstein puts it, "She was very down on backrooms and the truckstops and all that. She didn't like the idea of La Mama people hanging out in those places.") Others accused Fierstein of feeding prejudice against gays by writing transvestites and sex clubs into his plays.

At the other extreme, meanwhile, Fierstein was attacked for what many considered a version of homosexuality that reeked of "middle-class" and "heterosexual" values like fidelity and commitment. As one San Francisco playwright remarked, "*Torch Song Trilogy* is about a fat drag queen, the butch man he marries, and the child they beget. It is not a gay play."

Such a statement of course, only begs the question. What constitutes a "truly gay" play is no clearer than what constitutes a "truly gay" person. New definitions, categories, and pillars come along constantly, but none of them survives, for long, the ever-swirling skirts of political and social fashion. Ultimately, Fierstein's detractors are left alone to peel their sour grapes. One can't, maddening as it may be, argue with success.

Still, there's no denying Fierstein is what many would call conservative, even old-fashioned. As he has Arnold remark about his mother in *Widows and Children First*, "What I want more than anything is to have exactly the life she had—with a few minor alterations." The family, to Fierstein, is "sacred." He doesn't mind saying things like "Gay liberation should not be a license to be a perpetual adolescent." And he has never been shy about criticizing the sexual excesses of his gay brethren.

True, those sentiments were once less popular than they are today, during a time when the community often appears to have no room for any man who doesn't want to be married, celibate, or spiritual. But Fierstein is no prude. Like many a gay man, he hasn't found it easy to get accustomed to safe sex, or to abandon a sexual past he describes as "very promiscuous." Part of his own adjustment to life in the '80s was writing *Safe Sex*, his newest group of plays. *Safe Sex* does not deal with people who have AIDS—Fierstein believes that no one who doesn't have AIDS can write meaningfully about the experience—but with those who are coping with changes in their lives, with what appear to be new rules and new problems in relationships, with loss. That is something Fierstein knows from personal experience. *Safe Sex*, he says, "is certainly not a lecture on how to do it, or even a lecture on 'you should do it.' It's an examination of how different people have been affected."

The four-week run at La Mama, part of Ellen Stewart's 25th anniversary celebration there, was a sold-out success. And, at least somewhat to Fierstein's surprise, *Safe Sex* moves to Broadway in April. "I thought we'd do it at La Mama and then I'd release it around the country to all the gay theaters. I don't know why, but I didn't really see it having a life here."

As always, though, Fierstein finds himself a warrior against the invisibility that many would impose—even benevolently—on gay men and lesbians. "After we knew that *Safe Sex* was moving to Broadway," he says, "a friend of a friend called me and said, 'I think *Safe Sex* is absolutely fabulous and hopefully it'll work on Broadway. I'm not sure, but if you really want it to work on Broadway, I'll tell you what to do. Instead of having two men in the first play, make it a man and a woman. Because the themes are so universal, everyone can relate to that play. But it would be so much easier if it were a man and a woman."

"And I said, 'I'm not angry that you said that. (laughs) And I really appreciate it. But you must understand that my entire life I have had to watch heterosexual television and relate it to two men, and watch heterosexual

movies and relate it to two men, and read heterosexual books and relate it to two men. You do a little work for now! It's about time you put in five minutes' work! You stretch your fucking imagination. I'm tired of it!"

Fierstein began his artistic career as a painting student at Brooklyn's Pratt Institute (where he went, he says, to please his parents). But by age 16, Fierstein had already been bitten by the "theater bug." One day, scanning the trade papers, Fierstein came upon an actors' call for Andy Warhol's *Pork*. "I was an art student," explains, "and I'd seen all the weird movies and all that crap. And, of course, to work for Andy Warhol...! So I went down to La Mama, that's where the audition was and, not knowing any better, got cast in it."

Fierstein's own plays, *Freaky Pussy*, *Flatbush Tosca*, *Cannibals Just Don't Know No Better*, and others, were not to come for a few more years. But when they did, they were adored, abhorred, vilified, and saluted—everything but ignored. "The style," Fierstein says, "was sort of what the performance artists are doing now. But it reeked so much more of the movies that we watched and of our television backgrounds—and of just trying to shock an audience. I mean, that's what we were into. And we did it! And we had a lot of fun doing it."

"My following," Fierstein says, "if I had a following, was with things like *After Dark* and *Soho News*, the more underground, arty papers."

As for the mainstream press, they considered Fierstein at least a trouble-maker and perhaps a genuine danger to theater. "When we did *Freaky Pussy*," he recalls, "Michael Smith (of the Village Voice) called me 'the devil come to earth.'"

Part of the animus toward Fierstein's early work may have been that he entered the New York theatrical world in none of the conventional ways. He was part of no theater movement, did time as no one's protegee, studied with none of the accepted masters. Instead, he simply presented his work and refused to acknowledge, although he heard many, the discouraging word. As he told a reporter from Time magazine, "No one opened doors for me. I banged on them, and got in." Even *Torch Song Trilogy*, which won two Tony awards in 1983, was thoroughly trounced by the New York critics when it opened.

In reflecting on that history, Fierstein says, "I never went to Yale Drama School or whatever, and that made a lot of people angry. At that point (when his early plays were being produced), and it was total pandemonium every show, then I was the 'upstart,' right? But now, when people look back they say, 'Oh, wasn't he the courageous' and 'Look how he paid his dues in those little theaters.' Well, to me, working in those little theaters is the same as working on Broadway. Because the work is the same. You do your fuckin' work. That's it. So now I think everybody sort of accepts that I went to the 'school of hard knocks' (laughs)—though that's the last way I'd ever describe it!"

Fierstein doesn't read reviews and he doesn't want people to tell him what they've thought—or heard—about his shows. "I'm the worst judge of my work," he says. "If I like it and I think it's honest and it's what I wanted, then I'm happy. If I think it didn't come out right, then I'm unhappy—whether somebody else likes it or not. You know, when I was at Pratt they had those gym shirts—you know, with the little school mottoes printed



Harvey Fierstein (l.) with Theater Rhino's Lanny Baugniet, Alan Estes, and J. Kevin Hanlon in 1981. (Photo: Rink)

on them? And there was one that said, 'Be true to your work and your work will be true to you.' Stupid as it sounds, I think it's true. Basically, you have to just please yourself."

For more than a few months this season, it was anyone's guess whether Theatre Rhinoceros would wind up with the rights to produce Harvey Fierstein's *Spookhouse*. The New York production, in April, 1984, had not gone well, and Fierstein wasn't certain his exhausting schedule would permit him to do the rewrites he felt were necessary. As Theatre Rhinoceros began to consider other plays that might fill in for a cancelled *Spookhouse*, Artistic Director Kris Gannon marshalled her hopes for the play. Ultimately, at nearly the last moment, the revised scripts arrived and casting began.

For those accustomed to thinking of Fierstein as a writer of comedy, *Spookhouse* may come as something of a surprise. Set in the ruins of what was once the grand Coney Island of Fierstein's youth, *Spookhouse* is the dark and rathering harrowing tale of a disintegrating family and an idealistic social worker who tries, in one afternoon, to repair the sadness of generations. *Spookhouse* receives its West Coast premiere at Theatre Rhinoceros March 7th.

The Janik family lives above the "Dreamland" midway, a reasonable facsimile of the Coney Island Fierstein remembers fondly from his childhood. "It was about a half-hour bike ride, or a 15-minute subway ride from my house. And when I was a kid, that was one of the places to go. You know, until I realized there was Manhattan... We could usually afford to go on one or two rides, play ski ball or that thing where you pick up toys with a crane, and maybe get a hot dog. And then we'd ride back on our bikes. We could never afford to go into the Aquarium or anything."

But over the years Fierstein has sadly watched the deterioration of Coney Island. "What's left today is a filthy, filthy beach and a big parking lot where they set up rides. You know, that's the Coney Island that everybody goes to, the rides. But they're all portable now. Nothing's built in any more. They used to have the four biggest roller coasters in the world. Now there's only one left. The Cyclone. The aquarium is still there and the Wonder Wheel and the old carousel. They made

the bumper rides into 'Disco Bumper.' You know, they put in black lights and play loud music. It's not even like bumper rides anymore. Most of the shooting galleries are gone. One is up for sale right now. If I had the room, I'd buy it. It's the last all-steel shooting gallery."

For Fierstein, the decaying Coney Island was the perfect physical metaphor for his tale of the fragmentation of a family. In *Spookhouse* the primary conflict occurs between Connie (Carla Beferra), the mother of the Janik family, and Sam (Steve Abel), the young, gay social worker. Their contest? Nothing less than the right to control the destiny of the Janik family. (Mario Mondelli and Elizabeth Evans are also featured.) Sam's presence is a threat to the integrity of the family, and it is as a threatened mother that Connie responds. Fierstein says, "Her rages are like if you approach an animal's den where there are babies inside. I think of it as a beautiful, protective kind of thing, an instinct of making sure her children survive."

At first glance, Sam's insistence on helping the Janiks seems altruistic, but Fierstein hints at other motives. A product of the same neighborhood and cultural past as the Janiks, Sam returns there as a professional helper—but with at least as much need to heal something within himself. Notes Fierstein, "Instead of going out and looking for the meaning of his own life, he looks for the meaning of life in other peoples' lives. I think people who want to help have no real idea what power they have over other human beings. But that's what Sam finds out, and he is haunted by it. I think he's somebody who doesn't like himself very much. He's not a gay man I would be friendly with—at least not until after the play!"

At Theatre Rhinoceros, emotional storms rage and subside as *Spookhouse's* grueling scenes are rehearsed, checked, and replayed. The tension on the set is palpable. At last a break is called and the mood shifts to the kind of giddy release that often follows fierce concentration. "This is too intense," jokes one of the actors. "Let's do some other play. How about *Medea*?" "Wait a minute!" shoots back Carla Beferra. "I thought this was *Medea*."

The picture Fierstein paints of the Janiks, that is perhaps to demonstrate, is not a blithe one. Americans are weaned on a myth

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John Karr

Swell Affairs

Way up there behind the railings on the second tier at the Cable Car Awards, I felt like my friends and I were doing our own production of *Men Behind Bars*. But what a new perspective one gets of the glitter and the glamor from high above: you suddenly realize the bald spots of the famous.

Watching the main floor's panorama from above gives a broadly thrilling perspective, which is just what the Cable Cars do for our community. I wouldn't miss a second, even though the din from people schmoozing at the bar competes with the speakers more and more as the lengthy evening progresses. Could we have an opening number less than 17 minutes long? Or should we have all the entertainment back-to-back for an hour, dismiss the crowd, and give everyone an award plaque as they file out the door? It would be orderly and brief, and it does seem as if everyone there wins something anyway.

There was a lotta whitebread in the entertainment. I almost forgot I was gay, watching how far we'd come. Is Shawn Benson's "Seclusion" really a hit? And "Menage." They looked so sincere and sang so dully. Yet another *42nd Street* medley. And "Moon River." Really. I liked that song when I heard it once at my dentist's. I was gassed at the time.

But Sylvester—bless his gay heart. A red-headed woman make a choo-choo jump it's track. Syl can always be counted on to be whole gay. Even though he's now on a mainstream record label. In an evening of safe, he wasn't.

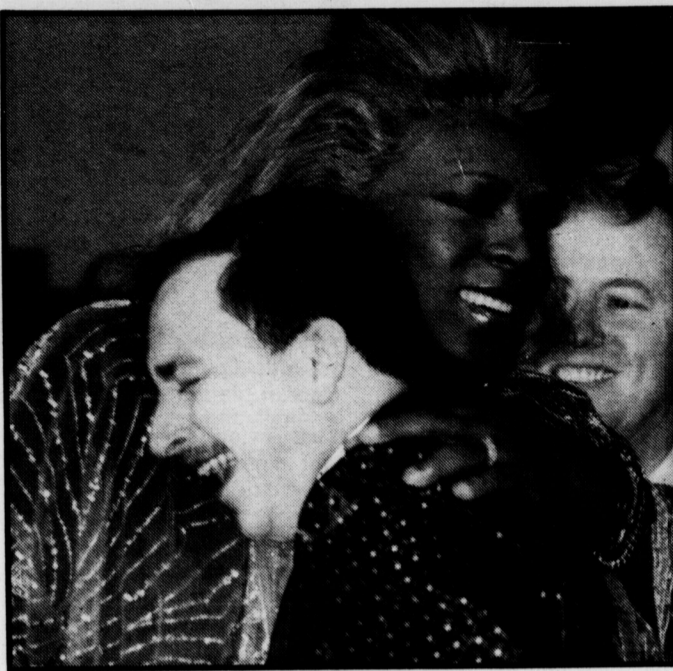
Nancy Pelosi played it safe. She wore a cute little plaid jumper. Maybe she didn't want to be mistaken for a queen. She's Harry Britt's competition for the Congressional seat. I'm gonna vote for Harry even though Nancy dresses better. So tasteful!

Nancy presented no competition for Mrs. Molinari, who was hot even if her dress should have been floor length. I mean, she may be this city's next First Lady. (And how come when a woman's in office we don't have a First Man?)

Well, you can see what an evening of wonder it was. Art Agnos actually said the G&L words, Wayne Shannon said everything but the G&L words, Jeanie Tracy did a dance she learned in the underwater brigade of the Esther Williams Aquacade, and Tom Waddell, who isn't a speechmaker, made the speech of the evening. "Saying I'm proud to be gay is like saying I'm proud to have two eyes," he proclaimed. Where our gatherings used to celebrate the safety of numbers, we now gather to celebrate the quality of those numbers. No pun. We can take pride in our achievements. There's a wonderful lot of them. Thanks, Cable Cars!

I'm sure it must have happened to me before, but I can't remember when I last came face to face with genius. And found it so entertaining!

That's Sammy Cahn, who's in town to tell stories about the song lyrics he's written and sing a whole lot of them with the help of spiffire singers Leola Jiles, Anne



Sylvester celebrates with a joyful Danny Williams at the Cable Car Awards (Photo: R. Pruzan)

Tofflemire, and Vince Pirillo. Cahn is kind of a Tin Pan Alley Scheherazade, spinning stories within stories. They all lead to a song. And why not? He's written so many standards his name is pervasive throughout pop history. Just look at the theme songs he's supplied: "Bei Mir Bist Du Schoen" (Andrews Sisters), "Be My Love" (Mario Lanza), "It's Magic" (Doris Day), "The Second Time Around" (Bing Crosby), and "Come Fly with Me," "High Hopes," and "My Kind of Town," among several dozen others, for Frank Sinatra. And that doesn't include "Teach Me Tonight," "Three Coins in the Fountain," and too many others to list.

It's no surprise that Sammy's finally done a show of his songs. He first started writing lyrics so he could perform them, and he's known in the industry as a lethal demonstrator. Clive Barnes called him "the world's best bad singer." Vaudeville may have been phasing out as Sammy grew up, but he's brought it back with this tunes 'n' tales evening.

It started as a lecture demonstration for the "Lyrics and Lyricsists" series presented at New York's 92nd Street "Y" in 1972. Sammy, unrehearsed, unscripted, spontaneously schmoozing, did a show so entertaining that a bootleg tape of it became the hottest item on the party circuit. People got together just to hear it. Producer Alexander Cohen heard it, and gave Sammy a Broadway run and an Original Cast album. And now the show is here.

About this genius stuff. Sammy's famous for the speed with which he writes songs. In the show it frequently sounds like it took a minute for him to write his biggest hits. Sammy modestly qualified that when we talked last week in his room at the Clift Hotel, where his portable typewriter, sitting on a folded white hotel towel, was still warm from the morning lyric. "It doesn't take a minute," he said, "it takes 30 minutes. But if you ever saw me write a lyric, you'd be as astonished as I am amused."

Sammy hardly takes credit for his work. Lyrics just seem to happen to him, pouring through his fingers as if his typewriter was an Ouija board for lyrics. "I just put my fingers on the typewriter and walk away. I'm not being face-

tionous, and I'm not oversimplifying," he said. "I'm privileged to be part of it."

He calls it "the miracle of once through the typewriter," but when he demonstrated his method to me, I could see the instantaneous logic that is the root of his genius. Many songwriters won't work unless they have the finish. But Sammy likes to work straight through. "I want to enjoy it like the rest of them," he said.

First, without an idea or title in his head, he listens to the melody. "I know immediately where the title falls. I hear it. It's all instantaneous." As soon as he has the title, he says, "the whole thing is written."

It's genius that those titles just jump to him. After that, it's logic, as he spins each line from that source, step by step. He won't take credit for it, calling finding each line "the miracle of the adventure." Here, for example, is how the adventure took him through "Teach Me Tonight!" It's about learning. That includes the ABCs of it, and culminates in graduation. The bridge? At school you have a blackboard. Finished. Makes it sound simple, no?

Sammy wrote most of his songs for movies, and they didn't have to be too specific. "It's easier," was his simple remark about the five Broadway shows he wrote, because they offered him more specific information to work with.

"But I had the worst disaster of my life with what promised to be the biggest hit," he told me. "Jule Styne and I did a musical of *Lillies of the Field*. It was supposed to have Sammy Davis. We thought we'd have to do it in stadiums." But Davis' lifestyle required an impossibly high salary, and the show opened without him. A disaster.

Cahn is now working with Charles Strouse and Martin Charnin on a show about Bill Robinson, *Bojangles*. It's been in the works for six years! "But Martin said *Annie* took seven," so he hasn't given up hope.

Even though he doesn't work much for movies anymore, and hasn't been on Broadway for awhile, people are hearing fresh versions of Cahn's lyrics. It was his "Guess I'll Hang My Tears Out to Dry" that Linda Ronstadt

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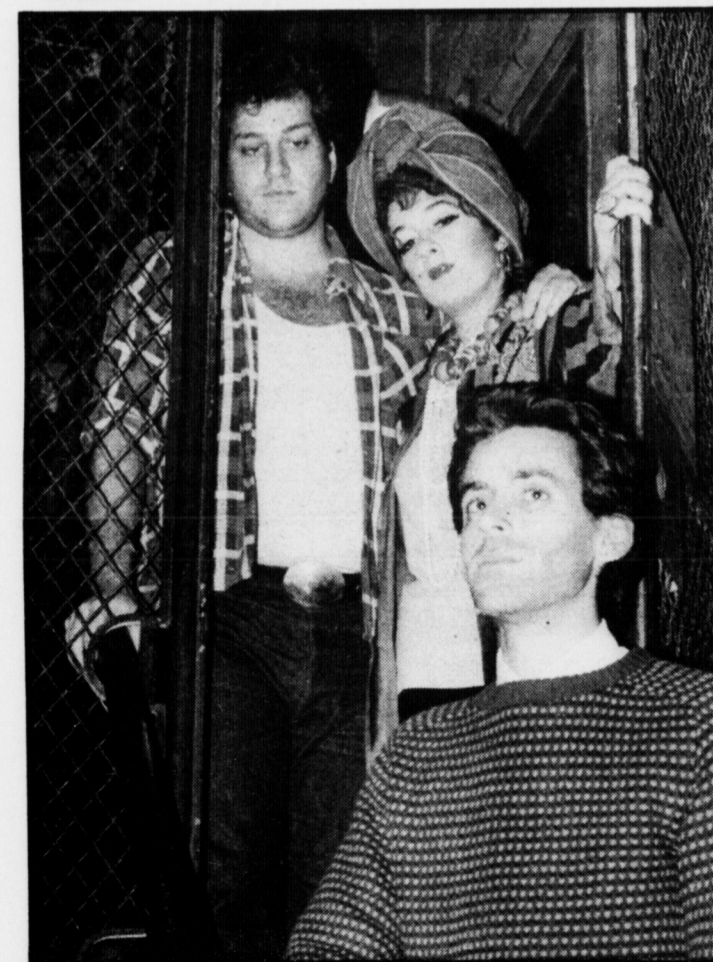
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BAY AREA REPORTER MARCH 5, 1987 PAGE 29



Mario Mondelli (l.), Carla Beferra, and Steve Abel in Harvey Fierstein's *Spookhouse* (Photo: S. Cohen)

George Heymont

Taking Care of Business

For the past several years I've been attending the annual Opera America conference because, in addition to affording me a chance to see lots of friends who work in regional opera companies, such conferences allow me to get a handle on problems facing the opera professionals who form both a national and global community.

Past conferences have raised such thorny issues as what to do about cancellations by major artists and burnout of administrative staff. Continuing challenges include providing adequate services to minority audiences and 504 (handicapped) constituents as well as finding new means by which general directors can transform ineffective members of their boards of directors into aggressive fundraisers — instilling an increased sense of ownership in the company seems to be the key to the solution.

Although the theme for this year's conference in Dallas was "Leadership and Visibility," San Francisco Opera's Terry McEwen — who is a vice-president of Opera America — did not attend. Sources later told me McEwen was vacationing in Hawaii.

As expected, part of the talk at January's conference centered around money matters. The need for financial guidance is quite real in light of the Reagan administration's new tax laws and the impact of such tax codes on income received by nonprofit

organizations as a result of donations by corporations, foundations, and individuals. One important area touched upon was the all-too-easily overlooked value of testamentary gifts. For those who have never thought of helping a nonprofit institution at the time of their demise, I'd like to suggest naming an AIDS-related service organization or arts institution as a beneficiary in your will so it can receive the cash value of any insurance policies and other assets left behind.

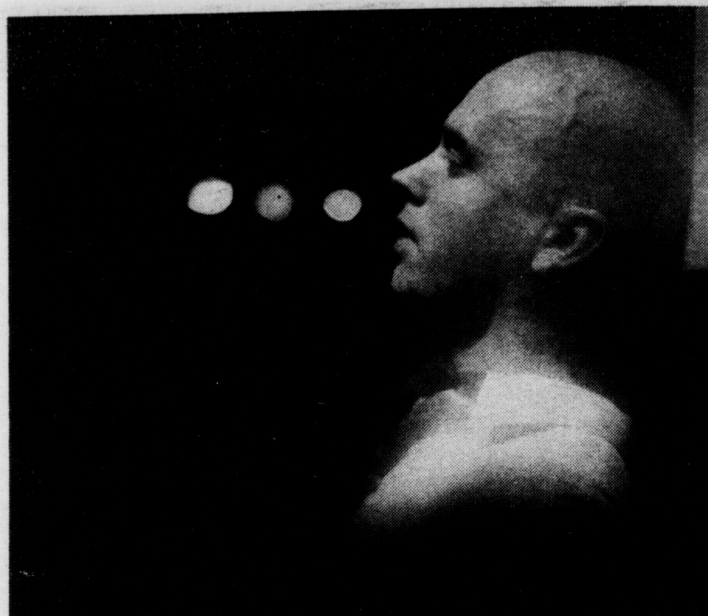
Educational matters dominated many discussions because, at present, the opera community is the only art form in America whose professionals have developed a full-scale educational program for introducing opera into the school curriculum. With an eye to the future, members of Opera America (which defines itself as the professional service organization for producing opera companies) have come to the realization that the time to start recruiting audiences is not when they are well-heeled yuppies with disposable incomes or young couples trying to raise a family, but rather when, as prepubescent children, they are most receptive to new ideas and experiences. It was agreed that, at this early stage in their lives, a continued exposure to opera might produce maximum long-term yield. One can only hope so because, without new audiences, the health and welfare of this 400-year-old art form would be in grave jeopardy, indeed.

REACH OUT AND TOUCH SOMEONE

In addition to trying to find new ways to attract the yuppie market, this year's Opera America conference addressed the need of its member companies to service the ethnic and minority groups in each of their respective communities. In recent years, demands voiced by the hearing-impaired and physically challenged have had a profound impact on physical access to auditoriums, the use of infrared listening devices, and special programming, such as operas performed with sign-language interpreters. One general director confessed that the handicapped had once threatened to close down his performances unless his opera company gave them a fair shake.

Such confrontations only prove that it is often quite necessary to bring political pressure upon those organizations which talk a lot about "giving back to the community" but merely give lip service to the idea. Several times, when discussions turned toward an opera company's responsibility to not just take from the community in which it performs, but to give back to the community as well, I reminded people at the conference that their talent as impresarios gives them the power to produce AIDS benefit concerts in cities across America.

Some reacted positively to the suggestion; others demonstrated marked caution and reluctance to explore such goals. Although



Rinde Eckert starred in *Slow Fire*, a controversial music theater piece by the Paul Dresner Ensemble

it was obvious directors did not want to rattle the beads of their conservative boards of directors, others are still fighting so hard for their own survival that they are as yet either unwilling or unable to share the proceeds from a gala fundraiser with another nonprofit organization.

If, therefore, I loudly voiced my feelings about AIDS and its impact on the operatic community each time a valid opportunity presented itself during the 1987 conference, I did so for one simple reason. Had I not raised the matter, it would have been all too easy for the people attending the Opera America conference to duck the AIDS issue by claiming that the topic never came up for discussion.

OPERATIC MTV

A new approach to the operatic art form was examined at this year's conference through excerpts of music theater works which had either been created for video or adapted to television from the stage. The most formalized of these was a documentary on the making of Philip Glass's *Akhmat*, which included scenes from the world premiere production in Stuttgart as well as slides from the Houston production which represented the opera's American premiere. Another documentary was devoted to a production of Philip Glass's *Einstein on the Beach*. Some of the pieces shown at the conference were extremely interesting; others a little too hard on the eyes. It was through the shorter works — such as *Slow Fire* and *The Doo-Wop Cinema* — that both the exciting potential and the disappointing limitations of video opera were made clearly visible.

A crucial point raised during the conference was that Opera America's membership needs to be a little more flexible when it

comes to acknowledging where the new frontiers of opera are really being tested. A report from the Level 4 companies urged the organization to reconsider the previously rejected applications of arts organizations which are producing and performing new opera/musical theater works even when such producing entities may not define themselves primarily as opera companies.

The hitch here is that, while many general directors are afraid to confront the risks involved in producing world premieres and/or experimental works, they don't really want to share their power with younger, less conservative impresarios who are doing the grunt work of creating new repertoires aimed at tomorrow's audiences. This unfortunate kind of elitism reminds me of the early days of the gay liberation movement, when conservative middle-class faggots would constantly protest the "embarrassing" presence of leathermen and drag queens at gay pride celebrations.

The hard and bitter truth is that, just as the gay community had to learn how to accept and celebrate its diversity, the only way this nation's professional opera community is going to survive is by acknowledging that we're all in this together. Fresh blood and new concepts are not only invaluable, they must be embraced if America's professional operatic community is honestly going to explore the realm of "Opera Into The Eighties And Beyond."

Therefore I'd suggest that Opera America's more conservative members bite the bullet and recognize that, with the number of opera companies in America having doubled over the past 20 years, they can no longer keep a tight hold on all the power within this extremely interesting industry. ●

Karr

(Continued from previous page)

fell in love with and decided to record. She asked Nelson Riddle to arrange it, and he said "But I don't do songs. I do albums." The resulting three albums have brought the era of pop standards to a new generation. "Noise diminishes," Cahn said about rock. "Music lingers. Our music shines more and more like a beacon."

It'll certainly shine up the intimate Marines Memorial. "No one sings my songs better than me," Cahn said, although I'm sure he'll get decent competition from Ms. Jiles. But it's an unchangeable fact that positively no one else can talk so fascinatingly about those songs as Sammy. His swell Cahn-coction of words and music will be at the Marines Memorial through March 15; 771-6900. ●

Steve Warren

La France Est Morte

Anybody can have a bad week. France, which placed four films on my Ten Best list for 1985, is having a bad week, with two big-star, big-budget big bombs that manage to mangle about six genres between them. In a word, merde.

THE RIGHT STUFF

Last week's column typed the date of the San Francisco International Film Festival screening of Rosa von Praunheim's *A Virus Respects No Morals*. The outrageous AIDS satire will be shown March 26 at 8 p.m. at the Palace of Fine Arts, with the filmmaker in person, as a benefit for Shanti Project. Call 221-FILM for ticket information.

Other gay-themed films in the festival are *Black and White* (French, S/M), *Man of Ashes* (Tunisian homophobia) and the closing night feature, *Prick Up Your Ears* (Stephen Frears' Joe Orton biography). We'll tell you more as the dates get closer, but if you tried late last year to get tickets for *My Beautiful Laundrette*, you may want to start earlier this time.

DR. RUTH'S MALPRACTICE

After plumbing the past so well in *The Return of Martin Guerre*, Daniel Vigne turns to a contemporary light comedy about those who dig up the more distant past in *One Woman or Two*.

Paleontologist Gerard Depardieu digs up the skeleton of the first Frenchwoman, about two million years old. He's trying for a grant from American philanthropist Dr. Ruth Westheimer(!), but advertising woman Sigourney Weaver assumes Dr. Ruth's identity to elude a sex maniac.

Siggy gets the idea to use Gerry's old bones in a perfume campaign, but passes up every opportunity to tell him about it. This is the comic equivalent of a horror movie where you want to shout advice to the blundering fools on the screen. Weaver is supposed to be spoiled, arrogant, wealthy, everything hostile French people perceive all Americans to be. Dr. Ruth fares as well as anyone, and proves there are no short actors, only short parts.

Such political issues as the color of our ancestors and the rights of farmers to keep their land from being dug up by archeologists are introduced in minor subplots but glossed over. Before Weaver and Depardieu inevitably fall in love, she gives him a sweatshirt with a gay cartoon on it for no apparent reason. Like the Americans he so obviously despises, Vigne is willing to disregard anything to get what he's after. Unfortunately, the end result isn't worth it. (Four Star)

GARÇON OF THE CRIME

If Wil Wheaton was your favorite boy in *Stand by me*, you'll want to see Nicolas Giraudi in André Téchiné's *Scene of the Crime*. He's not quite as delicate as Wil, but far too sensitive and innocent for the nihilistic, foul-mouthed compulsive liar he's supposed to be. The opening scene is a NAMBLA fantasy in which, while picking flowers, Nicolas stumbles on the hideout of two escaped prisoners, one of whom threatens him and orders him to come back with money.

Wadeck Stanczak, who could pass for yet another son of Mar-

tin Sheen, plays the sexy, dangerous "older" (by about ten years) man who menaces Nicolas. This "child in jeopardy" thriller segues into a family drama when the boy returns to his one big, unhappy family which includes estranged parents Catherine Deneuve and Victor Lanoux and grandmama Danielle Darrieux. Deneuve is relatively deglamorized in this role, which is akin to a relatively hairy Telly Savalas.

As she becomes involved with Stanczak through one of the film's multiple coincidences, *Scene of the Crime* runs through a few additional genres, becoming a film noir and a tale of the blossoming of a middle-aged woman. It's the rare viewer who will sit patiently through all these changes, unless you're hooked on Deneuve or the kid. (Lumiere)

TENDER VARSITIES

Hoosiers applies the *Rocky* formula to high school basketball, but wraps it around a strong character study. "It's gotta work out this time, or that's it — for good!" Gene Hackman admits as he takes over coaching the team in Hickory, Indiana in 1951. He's the irresistible force that brings new ideas to an immutable town that hasn't changed in the 60 years since basketball was invented.

The town and its attitude toward Hackman are represented by fellow teacher Barbara Hershey. Everything works against him at first, from his own secret past and the chip it's all left on his shoulder, to the Hershey-encouraged reluctance of his star player to play on the underdog team, to the drunkenness of assistant coach Dennis Hopper. Although Hopper was better in *Blue Velvet*, the combination should win him the Oscar. He's fine here and comes through in the clutch when faced with the dilemma of what to do when five sweaty, heavy-breathing young men are counting on what he has to give them. I should have such problems.

There's no time for romance in Angelo Pizzo's script although Hackman and Hershey move slowly in that direction, unless you count the coach telling the team, "I love you guys." Everybody gains some self-respect in the regional finals, the first of two climactic games, except editor C. Timothy O'Meara, who forgot to keep an eye on the scoreboard. Debuting feature director David Anspaugh has taken care of everything else. *Hoosiers* feels right and looks right — not in golden nostalgia hues but the solid oak browns of an Indiana winter.

In my high school it was said, "It's not whether you win or lose, but who wins the fight after the game that counts." *Hoosiers* wins the fight. (Vogue, Serramonte)

RELATIVELY SCARY

Frontally nude, blood-smeared, Mansonesque-looking Terry O'Quinn inspects himself in the bathroom mirror, alters his appearance, and walks out past the bodies of his wife and children, burning his bloody bridges behind him.

A year later he's got a new family — Shelley Hack and her daughter, Jill Schoelen, to whom he is — (music stab) — *The Stepfather*.

It's inevitable that history will repeat itself and O'Quinn will at least try to murder this new family. The question is how director Joseph Rubens and screenwriter Donald Westlake will get us from Point A to Point B, and as "B" thrillers go, *The Stepfather* is at the head of its class.

It may seem strange that only we and the girl ever notice O'Quinn's dark side, but he's evenly matched in a battle of wits against the rest of the world.

O'Quinn, who played Debra Winger's supportive boss in *Black Widow*, makes a chilling villain, his hangup being an attachment to traditional family values as represented by '50s sitcoms. In that sense *The Stepfather* is a delicious satire on Reaganism as well as a nail-biter par excellence. (Kabuki, Serramonte)

MONDO SEXISM

The world is full of lonely exhibitionists who would love to be exploited. I would walk naked down Castro Street if I weren't afraid no one would notice.

Feminists who exploit the exploitation issue tend to forget that liberation should allow women the option of choosing not to be liberated. At least Lucy Winer and Paula de Koenigsberg have a sense of humor about their obsession and have made an amusing documentary, *Rate It X*, about it.



Dr. Ruth Westheimer poses with a model of a Frenchwoman of two million years ago in *One Woman or Two*

This exploration of sexism in America begins with Ugly George, a New York cable TV figure who accosts women in public places and asks them to strip for his camera. He clearly shows himself to be a sexist bigot when he's interviewed, but other subjects are less clear-cut. The editor-in-chief of *Play* maga-

zine sees centerfold models as a necessary evil in a magazine designed to foster pride in upscale black men.

"God instilled in a woman a submissive heart," preaches a minister. The cartoonist who created "Chester the Molester" for *Hustler* defends his work. (Continued on page 35)

LOOK WHO'S CRUISING!

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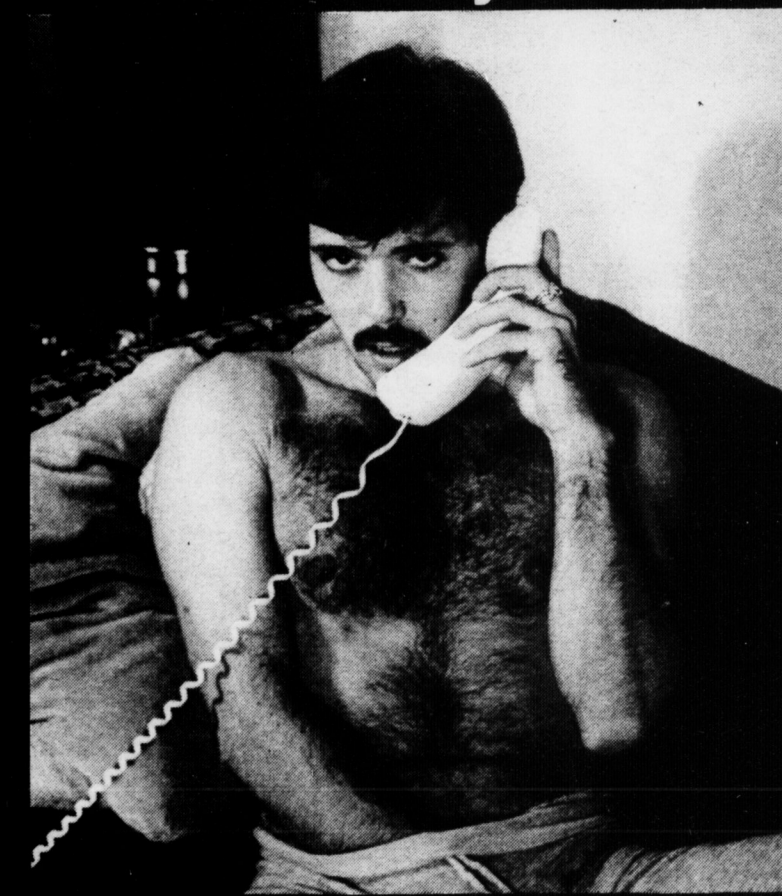
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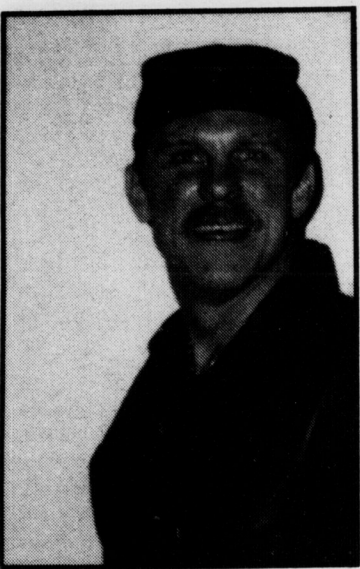
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Mr. Marcus

Warren Cave, Dr. Tom Waddell Men of The Year

With two awards ceremonies running simultaneously in two different locations last Saturday night, Warren Cave was voted Man of the Year at the Barbary Coasters M/C Motorcycle Awards and Dr. Tom Waddell, founder and mentor of the Gay Games, was the recipient of the Harvey Milk Community Service Award at the Cable Car Awards. It was a hectic evening for nominees at both awards ceremonies; limousines with two-way radios kept various personalities informed of the progress at each location so they could be there when their category came onstage. Hopefully, this will never happen again.



Warren Cave, Barbary Coasters' M/C Awards Man of the Year (Photo: Marcus)

At the Giftcenter Pavilion, the crowd overflowed into SRO proportions. With City Swing providing the musical background, the 13th Annual Cable Car Awards & Show exceeded its 12-year history as the premier awards show in the gay community with a glittering array of sports, leather, musical, political, theatrical, and entertainment stars. Congressional candidates were all over the place and politicians who owe their election to the gay community were there to reciprocate by lending their prestigious presence to the affair.

Men Behind Bars, the annual bartender show that zoomed into brilliance just three short years ago, copped the Outstanding Fundraiser award for the third year in a row and will be enshrined in the Hall of Honor along with such other perennial winners as Minsky's, the CMC Carnival, Tricycle Race, and Columnist of the Year. Sara Lewinstein also won for the third time for her outstanding contribution to athletics and also goes to the Hall of Honor.

The entertainment was superb; everything worked like magic, and there were many surprises in the public voting. Congratulations to my colleague, Mike Hippler, for bringing the Columnist of the Year award to the B.A.R. Robert Pruzan, for the second year, proved his mastery of photography by winning the Photojournalism Award. Our editor, Ray O'Loughlin, was honored along with such luminaries as Bill Mandel, Ed Guthmann, Rob Morse, and David Lowe (Sentinel). Channel 4's Wayne Shannon was both gracious, insightful, and humorous in accepting his award for broadcast journalism.

It was a grand night all right. Hopefully, the motorcycle awards and the Cable Car Awards will be on different dates next year. While neither event suffered any attendance problems, the attendees as well as the nominees are the ones who suffer by having to buy tickets to both events on the same night; and being onstage when needed at either or both ceremonies is indeed a burden no one should have to endure.

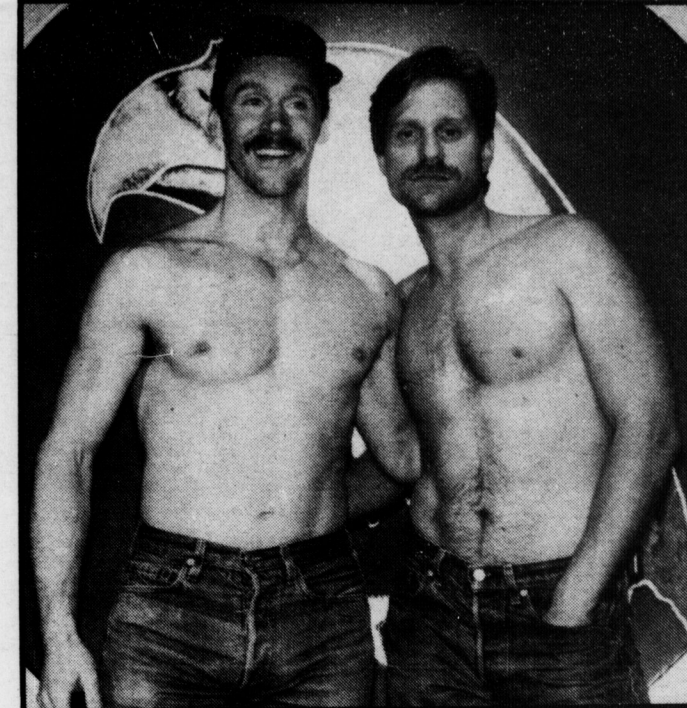
wearer comfortable while admitting fresh air. Ideal for Texans, Floridians, and desert foxes who can only wear their leather in cooler months. In addition, Mercury just introduced those favored 3, 4, 5 & 7 Gates of Hell with rubber cock rings! Hey, have you gotten your catalog yet? Call 621-1188 to get on the mailing list. Mercury, ever innovative, always offers great breakthroughs for the esoteric buyer and of course, you just have to be the first one in your crowd to have it!

Meddlers in the state legislature who just can't rest without intruding upon your personal lifestyle are at it again! This time it's California Assembly Bill 36. Introduced by Assemblyman Dick Floyd (Hawthorne/So. California), AB 36 is a mandatory helmet law. While I myself always wear a helmet when buddy-riding, heretofore it has been a decision that most bikers in California can make for themselves. Floyd's bill would impose a mandatory requirement that all bikers wear a helmet. Not only that, Floyd has openly boasted that he can shove this law down the throats of California bikers! If you're of the "no-helmet" persuasion, get busy and start writing, wiring, or calling your representative(s) in Sacramento. The Assembly Transportation Committee seems to be headed for an affirmative vote on this bill. You can reach any member of the California State Assembly by calling (916) 322-9900. The committee members are Richard Katz, Chairman; Bill Duplissea, Vice-Chair; and Delaine Eastin; Bev Hansen; Richard Polanco; Rusty Areias; Steve Clute; Jerry Eaves; Gil Ferguson; Robert Frazee; Elihu Harris; Lucy Killea; Bill Lancaster; and Phillip Wyman. Get busy!

In addition (and finally!), leather gear for those in climes that prohibit year-round leather wear can relax. Mercury will soon be out with tropical leather, designed by the unbelievable Red Bentzinger. For lack of an as-yet-unnamed trade name, this new leather is perforated for air intake and the casual observer can hardly tell it is dotted with fine mesh-like holes which make the



Tom Waddell and other members of the Gay Games II Board of Directors at the Cable Car Awards. (Photo: Photo Graphics/Darlene)



Ray Nickerson (r.), Mr. March on the Eagle's Bare Chest calendar, with the first runner-up in last week's contest (Photo: R. Pruzan)

Marcus

(Continued from previous page)

ning at 2200. Miss Upstate New York Maria Iacovino blew into town last weekend and will be among the judges tonight. The winner gets Cash prizes as do the runners-up. Be there if you want to see an extravagant array of the best buns in the west. Only one MC for this show; the Jock Strap contest only takes one MC as well. All the QBBS (Queenie Bitchy Bull Shit) about two MCs to replace the former MC is just that, QBBS! Harrummph. What goes 'round comes 'round certainly applies to those who use that expression the most, don't you agree?

If you missed the Cable Car Awards live, they'll be broadcast on Viacom Six on Monday, April 6, the handiwork of MEN (Male Entertainment Network) beginning at 2030 Hrs. The two-hour show will include almost all the recipients as well as certain highlights. Here's your chance to tape it free before the actual video cassette goes on sale. And congrats to Chuck Cyberski and Richard Wright of MEN for receiving a special Board of Direc-



The ever-so-tasteful Mike Hippler at the Cable Car Awards (Photo: Photo Graphics/Darlene)

Chicago takes place April 8. Get your leather gear ready for the competition. Latest word on the Powerhouse is that they will select a representative to send to Chicago without any competition heats on the premises. It is also rumored that the Detour will send a contestant, and Lonnie Lee will make a try once more, sponsored by the Locker Room. It looks like a wide-open field this year. Will SF bring back the title in 1987? Time will tell!

Don't forget the big AIDS benefit at the Santa Rosa Inn this Sunday, March 8. Lots of great prizes and items for auction. The

SF AIDS Emergency Fund will be in attendance to help out with prize donations and auctioneering as well, so if you're in the vicinity, be sure to drop in!

Last Thursday, the wall-to-wall spectators had a ball at the Mr. February '88 Bare Chest contest. Some half-dozen dudes bared their chests for the judges, who all had a ball. In the end, 32-year-old Raymond Joseph Nickerson won out over the others. Joe, a telephone lineman at 5'9" with dazzling blue eyes and wavy brown hair, won out over the others for reasons known only to the judges. His victory was very

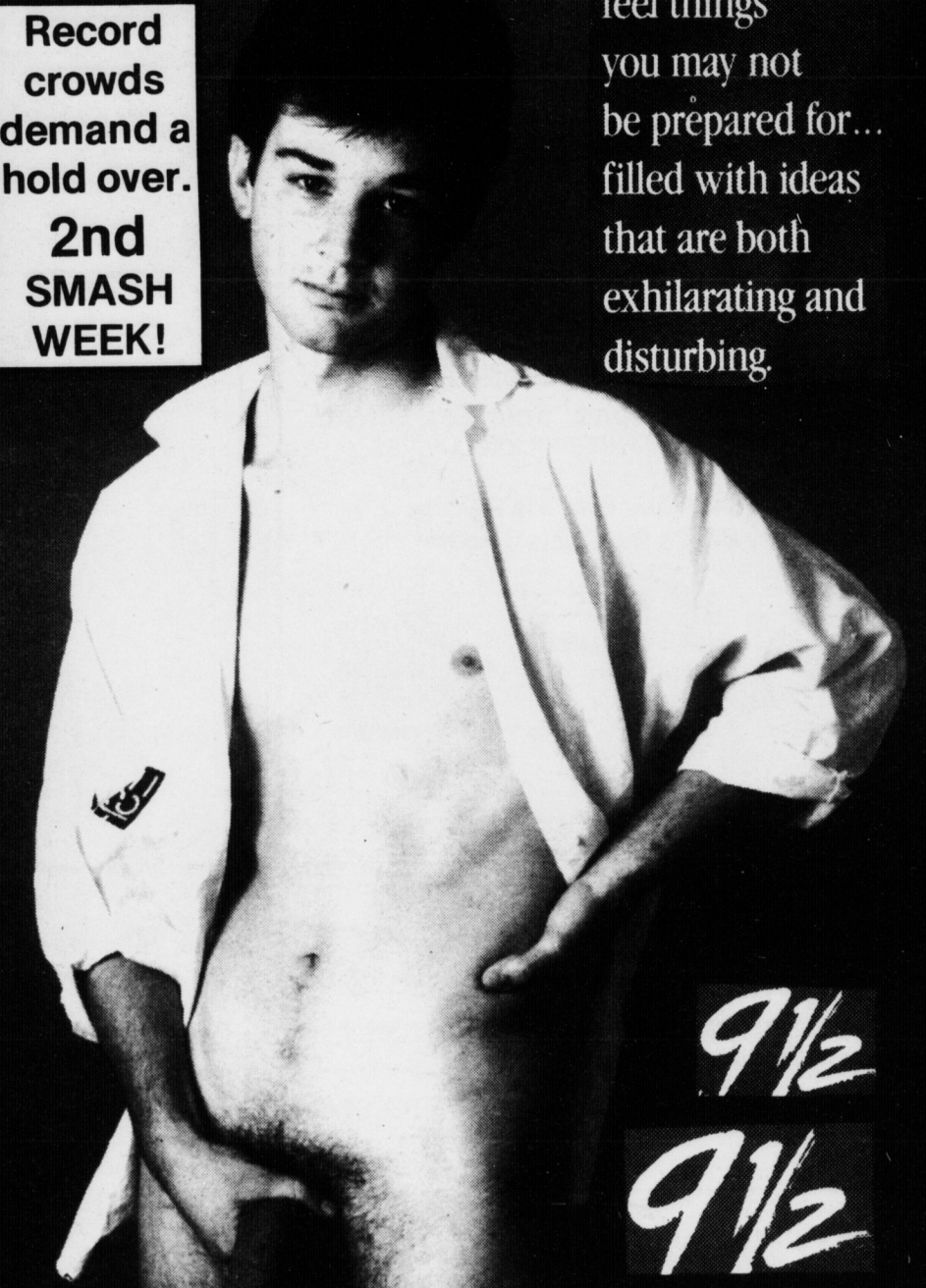
well received by the audience, and next up is Mr. March 1988. Stay tuned for the date.

Don't forget what I told you about Sunday, June 14. It's Brown Bag Day with a benefit virtually everyone can afford taking place in six bars all over town! Stay tuned for more details as the date draws near.

THE REVENGE OF THE DISH QUEEN

This portion is dedicated to that queen who wrote a local rag that she abhorred newspapers with bar queen dish! Just writing (Continued on next page)

Record crowds demand a hold over. 2nd SMASH WEEK!



feel things you may not be prepared for... filled with ideas that are both exhilarating and disturbing.

9 1/2
9 1/2

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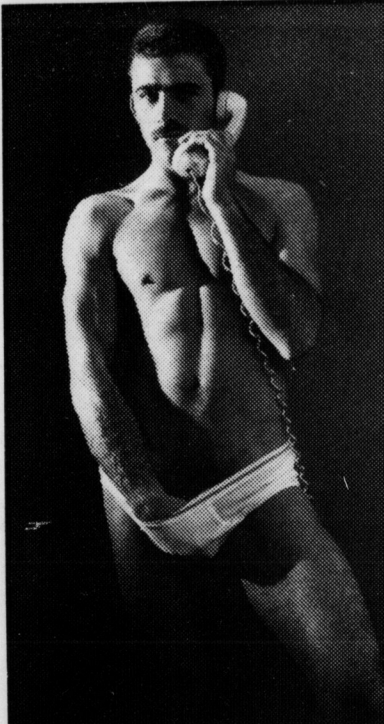
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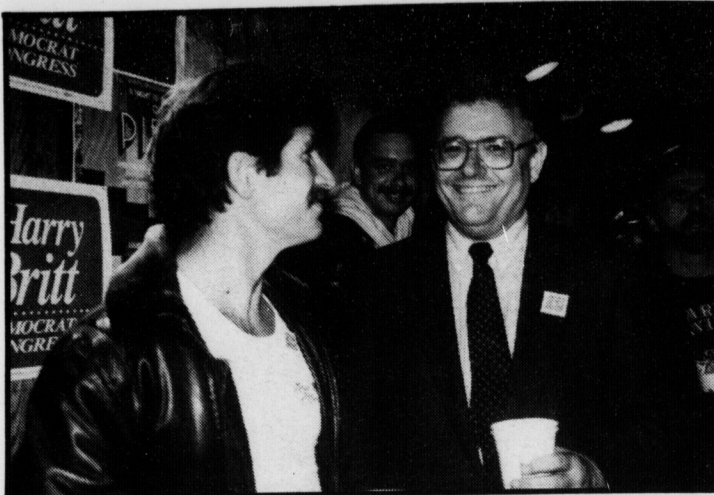
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Marcus

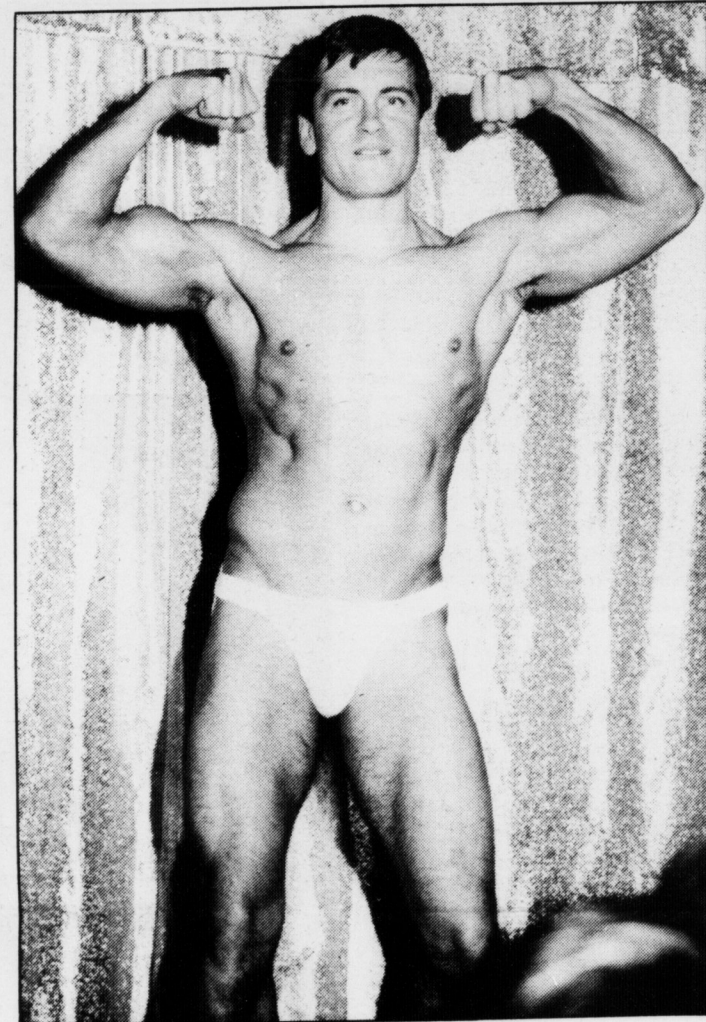
(Continued from previous page)

such a letter to the editor is dish in itself, honey.

Everyone was dressed to the nines at both awards shows last Saturday. The biker crowd was in starches, uniforms, shiny boots, and leather galore. Virtually every style was in abundance at the Cable Car-ettes with drag, tuxes, punk, nouvelle California, and just plain casual attire. Glen Terrio, a former leather title holder, was there with one nine-inch fingernail on his pinky in jet-black with a red streak. These must be the colors of the soon-to-be-announced candidate for



Harry Britt met with his South-of-Market constituents at the Eagle Feb. 27 (Photo: R. Pruzan)



The winners met the winners at the six-month point in the Endup Buns Calendar contest. (Photo: J. Dusch)

bed. Great shows. They all ended up where lifestyles cross paths with nary a thought, all except Jim Flint of Chicago who was winging his way home after flying in to present an award. Congratulations to all the nominees for being among the prestigious realm. Your work and efforts did not go unrecognized at all. The winners and most of the nominees do their good works without wondering what awards they may win. Just continue as you always have. It's part of what being outstanding is all about.

Zippering it up for this week, boys and girls. Have fun but remember your obligations to this wonderful community. Take care of yourselves, keep your legs crossed, and remember: One should not love a place less for having suffered in it.

Karl's Calendar

FRIDAY 2/6

Coits Skidazzle '87, weekend to Reno, \$115 per person, for info call Stan Boyd, 626-4726.

Warlocks M/C Open Meeting, Powerhouse, 8:30 p.m.

Natasha Birthday Party, Kokpit, 10 p.m.

SATURDAY 2/7

Cheaters Cherry Blossom Festival Beer Bust, Transfer, 3-6 p.m., \$7.

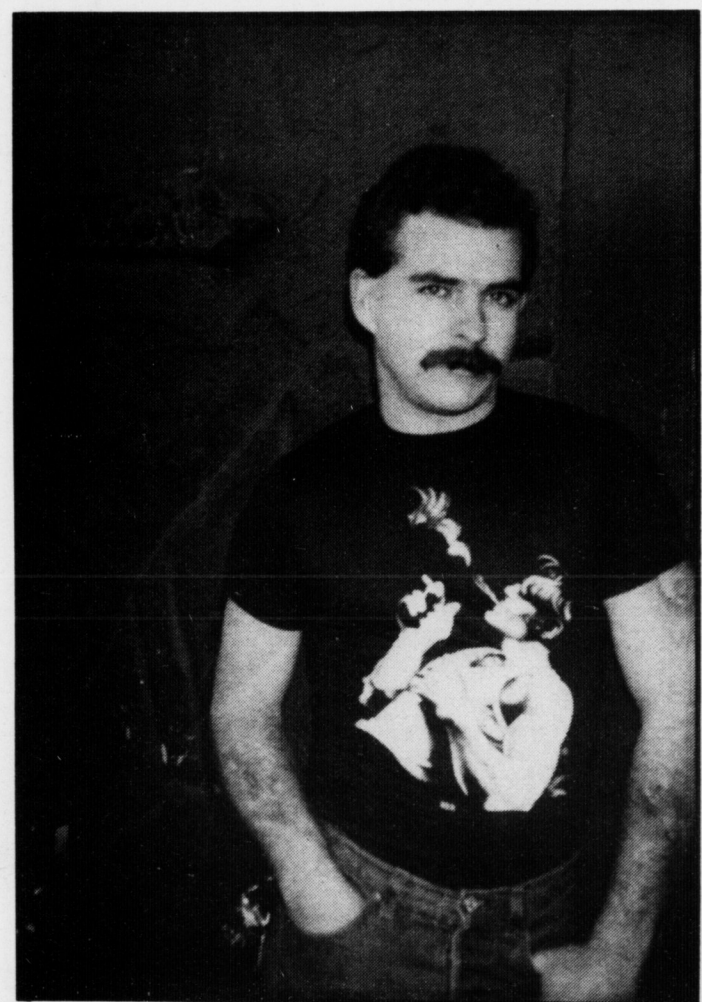
SUNDAY 2/8

Ms. Leather Beer Bust, S.F. Eagle, 3-6 p.m., \$7.

Compiled by Diedre

empress '88 Mark Austin (also known as Austin-etta). Hank Cook, chair of the AIDS Emergency Fund, was spiffy with his handsome table of directors and guests. Congressional candidate Nancy Pelosi swooped in with a bevy of handsome escorts in an understated but chic black gown and a simple strand of pearls (real ones, Dennis!). The BACW (Bay Area Career Women) table abounded in beautifully gowned and coiffed professional women, and most of the lesbian women eschewed tuxedos and wafted around the room in gorgeous gowns. Most noticeable was Hydrie Downard, who co-MC'd the second half with Rick Brattin. Hydrie wrecked everyone with her Linda Evans appearance, while Susan Fahey of Maud's and Amelia's wore an electric blue shimmering top with a long skirt she borrowed from Gilbert Baker. Louise Molinari again absolutely stole the show with her casual demeanor, laughing, joking, and Pied-Piper-ing everyone right to the polls to not only make her husband the next mayor, but to become the First Lady in a town that loves women with spunk! For once, the women had on more sequins and rhinestones than the men! For his third appearance in as many weeks, Sup. Harry Britt was on hand at a South of Market function and while he was warmly received by the audience, I noticed no more applause for him than any of the other politicians on hand (and there were plenty of them there!). Winners and losers (except the sour grapes) all seemed to converge at

the SF-Eagle, where the mixture was an absolute pastiche of leather and non-leather men and women all celebrating the winners and consoling the losers. The Eagle was absolutely mob-



Sonny Cline models the new t-shirts by Rex, one of ten designs available (Photo: Marcus)



Charles Pierce

A Night

(Continued from page 26)

tensive wardrobe and accessories in four oversized pieces of luggage before hauling them off to the airport for shipment up here.

The talk of retirement comes after 33 years on the road starting out in places like the Gilded Cage in the '50s and climbing to the Venetian Room and Davies Hall in the '80s. "And all those years without a vacation," he adds. "People seem to expect that I sail to Europe on the QE II once every season, but that's not the way it was."

He has just taken off three months from performing, but spent the time around home writing new dialogue, trying new jokes on his tape recorder, restructuring parts of the act, and assembling new wardrobes for his gallery of grand old broads.

"It's been that way since leaving Watertown, N.Y., and schlepping those trunks from New York to L.A., back to Chicago, and out to San Francisco, with an occasional stopover in Dallas or parts of Florida." His next farewell appearance will be an AIDS benefit in San Diego on March 13 and

Fierstein

(Continued from page 28)

that we can all grow up to be or to have anything we want, and we'd often rather just go on believing that. The despair, destitution, and plain cruel fortune that trap many individuals in lives of meager choice, then, may be difficult to accept. Sam refuses to accept it and, indeed, Fierstein's worry is that San Francisco audiences may not accept it either. He says, "I don't know if you have that kind of poverty. I don't know if you've got that kind of mentality, where there's something like Connie's real situation of being lost in a big city. But I grew up with people like her. Even in New York the comment I would hear—via somebody or other—was 'White people don't do that.' Charles Fuller, the guy who wrote *A Soldier's Tale*, told me, 'If you cast it with all blacks, they would buy it.' Nobody wants to think that white people, let alone a Jewish woman, would act this way or would end up in this sort of situation. To me, that's so horrible. It goes beyond prejudice."

Of all of his plays, Fierstein loves *Spookhouse* the best. That is because, he says, "there are no lies in it. I think everybody is in-

credibly sincere in what they're doing. There isn't a fuckin' line in that play that ain't got something to say about a lot of things." For all the potential "bad guys" in *Spookhouse*, however, Fierstein insists, "I throw people together in plays to examine the different, valid ways they are dealing with their lives. There's no right or wrong in my plays."

When Fierstein is not in New York, he spends a great deal of time living and writing in his two-story cottage in Connecticut. The concerns of his life there are, at least occasionally, rather countrified and domestic. At the end of our telephone interview, Fierstein said, he was going out to pot geraniums. "I just went into the garage for something," he explained, "and all these geraniums that I'd dragged in and left there to die over the winter were in full bloom! So I've got to re-pot them and stuff like that. I haven't watered them since October! The gods of the garage have been taking care of them, I guess." The garage gods, and maybe something of Fierstein's own indomitable spirit? "Yeah," he chuckles a trifle wistfully, "so maybe *Spookhouse* will survive like a geranium!"

Warren

(Continued from page 31)

group of elderly American Legionnaires prove less than totally predictable in their comments about women's roles. One offers the insight that while men never wanted their boys to be sissies, "if a girl was a tomboy it made her father proud."

Such obvious targets as advertising men are less interesting than some of the nit-picking cases Winer and de Koenigsberg bring out, exposing attitudes many of us have grown up with and never questioned. Each viewer will have a different breaking point, but most will ultimately decide they've gone too far, that the world they would like to see would be a drab, colorless, sexless place indeed. (Roxie)

14.

At this time he has no intention of veering off in a different career direction. He's not interested in doing the Channing part in the drag version of *Legends* or taking *Torch Song Trilogy* or *La Cage* on the road.

Why should he? Don't mess around when you've already got the magic show business formula.

While Charles was packing in L.A., Barbara Cook was packing in New York. For her it was a sudden, unexpected trip to Las Vegas before heading up to San Francisco for the Night To Remember show. In her special guest appearance tonight, she will make a return engagement, not just to

S.F., but to Davies Hall. She was the first pop star to appear there shortly after it opened.

Next she will go to London to record the Rogers and Hammerstein Classic, *Carousel*. Then in mid-April she opens on Broadway, just she and her accompanist Wally Harper, doing a show to be called *Theatre Concert*.

'While Charles was packing in L.A., Barbara Cook was packing in New York.'

And what is her favorite show of the many successes she has

starred in? Musicals like *Plain and Fancy*, *Candide*, and of course *The Music Man*? Productions like *Little Murders* and *Any Wednesday*? Or the recent concert version of *Follies* which won a Grammy Award?

Surprisingly, it wasn't *The Music Man*, in which she received the Tony Award for originating the part of Marion, the Librarian. "Well, one show I particularly enjoyed," she replied, "was a revival of *The King and I* some years ago with Farley Granger."

As for tonight's show, it will be something old and something new and a couple of surprises, one with Charles Pierce and one with the Gay Men's Chorus. No further details available. Go see for yourself.

"The sleazier the better."



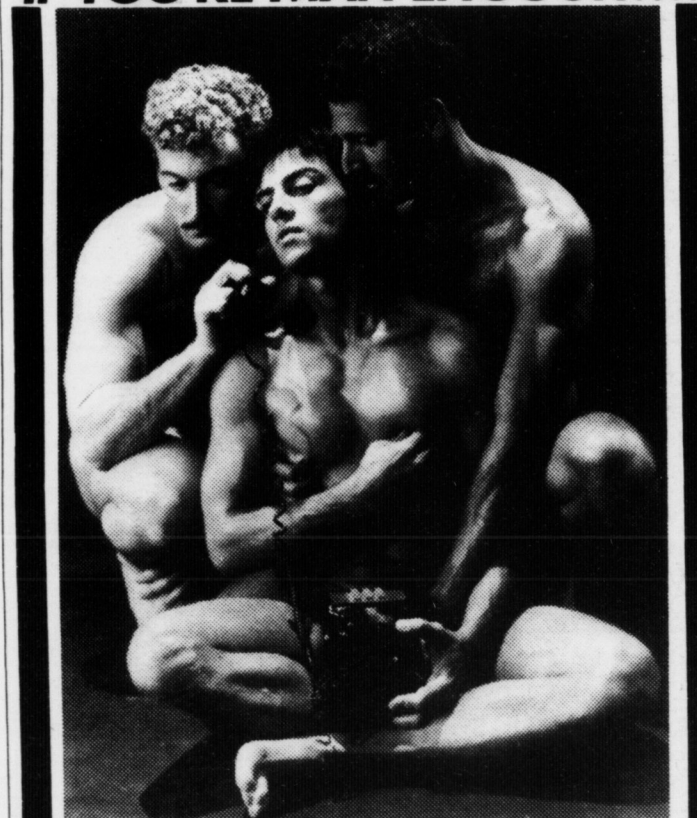
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—Erica Jong, 1973

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And The Winners Are . . .

Last Saturday night, Feb. 28, the Barbary Coasters held their 21st Annual Motorcycle Awards at the Show-folks of America Hall. Prior to the Awards ceremony, the Warlocks M/C held their annual Pre-Awards Cocktail Party, where the new roster of officers was announced for 1987. The new officers are: President, Ray Rosborough; Vice-President, Bill Chapman; Road Captain, Geoff Mains; Secretary, Jim Haltom and Treasurer, Larry Kim.

Both the Pre-Awards Party and the Awards were well attended. There were, of course, many of us who were shuttling between the BC Awards and the Cable Car Awards, which were held on the same night (the Cable Car Awards being held at the Gift Center Pavilion). A short, but sweet trip down "memory lane"—1986 Run Season—occurred as each of the nominated out-of-town and in-town show numbers were performed. The following are the winners in each of the nominated categories:

Best Open Social Function: Barbary Coasters 20th Anniversary;

Best Campsite: 42nd Street Gang, Smuris, SFGDI Run;

Best Non-Bike Competitive Event: Ice Cream Social, Cycle Runners;

Best One-Day Run: Twelve Incher, Constantines M/C;

Best Overall M.C. Field Events in Town: Constantines;

Buddy M.C. Event of the Year: Warlocks, "Dress For The Ball";

Rider M.C. Event of the Year: Constantines, "Wish Upon a Star";

Best Overall Motorcycle Field Events: Constantines;

Best Food on a Weekend Run: Cycle Runners

Best Run Theme: Cheaters, "Voodoo Festival of the Drums";

Best Guest Night Performance: Darwin Silcock;

Best Individual Performance in a Run Show: Anthony Vega;

Best Group Performance in a Run Show: Jason Garrett and Warren Lafollette;

Best Show on a Weekend Run: Barbary Coasters;

Best Performance by an Individual In-Town: Bobby Wong;

Best Performance by a Group in an In-Town Show: SFGDI;

Buddy Rider of the Year: Jack Coates;

Rider of the Year: Jim "Jungle Red" Haltom;

Man of the Year: Warren Cave;

Best Weekend Run: Barbary Coasters.

Two Special awards were given out as well. The President's Trophy was presented to Don Penniman, an honorary member of the Warlocks M/C, for his tireless energy and dedication in seeing the Coming Home Hospice project go from dream to reality. The success of this project is largely due to Don's dedication and selflessness. The Vice-President's Trophy went to Allan Dale (another honorary Warlock). As we all well know, Allan has been a strong influence on the South of Market community for years. Bless the Barbary Coasters for recognizing both of these fine men publically!

Congratulations to all the winners and to the Barbary Coasters for, once again, hosting a fun and enjoyable event! Further thanks go to the SFGDIs for hosting their "Winner's Circle Party" immediately following the BC Awards. The Transfer was crammed with jubilant (if not tipsy!) award winners, and a good time was had by all!

OF IMPERIAL NIGHTS

Saturday, Feb. 21, Coronation 1987, "Legends, Myths and Magic," was held at the Gift Center Pavilion for Emperor XIV (AN) Matthew Brown and Empress XXI Sable Clown. The hall was beautifully decorated, the sets spectacular (as were Matthew's and Sable's costumes!), and the crowd was delightful. The entire evening was well orches-



Empress Tina Tanner and Emperor Patrick McGonigle at the Cable Car Awards (Photo: Photo Graphics/Darlene)

trated by the Co-Chairs of the Ball, Emperor XIII (AN) Ken Wright and Empress XX Sissy Spaceout, and members of the Board of Trustees. Thirty-two courts from out-of-town were represented. San Francisco came out in force! Empress II Bella celebrated her 20th anniversary as Empress and wowed the crowd with a spectacular presentation. As the Ball drew to a close, tension rose to fever pitch as the audience awaited the results of the election to be announced. Winning the coveted titles of Emperor and Empress were Patrick McGonigle and Tina Tanner. There were mixed emotions when the results were announced as portions of the crowd cheered and others booed! (As was the case when the Emperor and Empress were introduced at the Barbary Coasters Awards Ceremony!) This election was somewhat tainted by allegations of "Vote buying." The Board of Trustees and the respective councils will investigate these allegations and, if necessary, take actions to prevent this from happening again. Congratulations to the co-chairs, Emperor Matthew, Empress Sable, the Board of Trustees, the numerous individuals who helped put the ball together, and especially to the newly elected monarchs, Pat and Tina. I had a wonderful time (and yes, Vern, I will answer your letter personally!).

DO DA DE

Forthcoming events include many things. The social season is once again upon us so put on your "run smiles" and get out there!

The Warlocks M/C will host an open meeting at the Powerhouse Friday, March 6. Please attend and bring a can (or better yet, cans) of food. All donations of cans will go to the Food Bank. Every can donated will entitle the bearer to a raffle ticket which, in turn, might result in free admission to the Warlocks one-day Easter Run to be held Easter Sunday. Details on that function will follow in my next column. The Cheaters will host their annual Cherry Blossom Festival Sunday, March 8, from 3 to 6 p.m. at the Transfer. Admission is \$7 (Piggy, do clean up your act!). The Cycle Runners will again host their Toga Party March 14. I have no details at the present as to time and place, but will dutifully report them as soon as possible.

I'm off to Honolulu on business for a few days (boo hoo), so don't tear up the place or each other while I'm gone!



Diamond John (Jane?) C., made his first appearance in drag at Coronation '87 (Photo: R. Pruzan)

Pot Luck at Prometheus

Prometheus, a new social organization for gay men, will sponsor a pot luck Sunday, March 7, at 6 p.m. Prometheus is a social/support/friendship group oriented toward men with masculine self images who are goal-oriented in their lifestyles. We are interested in bringing together men whose orientation is toward physical fitness, natural masculinity, health safeguarding, monogamous relations, and traditional western morals and ethics.

The organization is not geared as a singles club, so singles as well as couples are encouraged to become involved. We hope to encourage new friendships, fun, and interchange. The Prometheus man has many interests and pursuits: we will plan theater nights, outdoor outings, attendance at sporting events, etc., in small or large groups. Prometheus is geared toward health-conscious men in their 20s to 40s. For further information, contact Jon at 621-7790.

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—Helen Gahagan Douglas, 1973

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—Sandy Boucher, 1975

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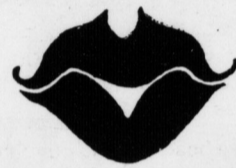
Sweet Lips

Out-of-Towners

DICK WALTERS



Three benefits at the Loading Zone raised more than \$5,000 for the Shanti Project (l. to r.) Dick, Flo, Jim, John, Dave, Bill, and Howard stand by while Bea Roman accepts a monetary prize.



Monday the 9th of March the Queen Mary's Pub will hold its closing party and also a birthday party for Allen, one of their bartenders, and then the place shall be completely remodeled and enlarged and have a new name and owner. It'll be hot according to what I have heard and seen, so watch for the Grand Opening of (?)

You can still get tickets at the Stallion on Polk and Ellis for the Once In A Lifetime Balloon Ride For Two for only 50 cents or three for \$1. It is to help support the Stallion Softball Team.

While I'm on softball, did you know that the Kokpit is having a Bon Voyage party for the one and only Cha Cha who is moving to Houston? One van for the furniture and one van for Cha Cha. Only kidding, honey, but this takes place Sunday the 15th from 4 p.m. on, so don't miss sending this one off in style.

Luigi's and my good friend from Portland is coming here on the 15th for the (50th) Golden Anniversary of graduation from St. Ignatius. That is the one-and-only Mr. William Joseph Patrick Mackey. Don't forget to drop by, Bill.

They recently had a Mr. Marcus Look-A-Like contest (Why?) in Biloxi, Mississippi and would you believe it was won by none other than Don Geist, formerly of FeBe's? It couldn't have happened to a nicer guy.

Doug Twist was in town recently from the Five Star Saloon in Reno and invites one and all to drop by for a drink in Reno. You look great, Doug.

Thank you, Talven, for the wonderful chocolates.

Congrats to Emperor Pat and Empress Tina and lots of luck on your reign.

There will be a tribute to one of the Great Ones, Mr. Lincoln of New Bell fame, formerly of the Trapp, on his (?) birthday, the real one Wednesday the 18th at the New Bell. The party starts at 6 a.m. (She is sober.) with food, fun and prizes by Boo, Roy, Teddy, John Darker, and the Col., so come and enjoy and show respect to one of our old sisters.

Incidentally, Seaman Russ is on the planks at the New Bell

Sunday and Monday days.

Danny Perez, formerly of La Rondalla, is now on nights on the planks at Ginger's Too, so drop by and have a cocktail before dinner with the Danny.

Wednesday the 25th the 1987 G.S.L. Season Opener Dance Party will be at the Endup at 6th and Harrison streets. This is a World Series benefit, so don't miss it.

Tonight, Thursday, there will be a benefit for the Golden Gate Performing Arts at Louise M. Davies Symphony Hall at 8 p.m. with Charles Pierce and the S.F. Gay Men's Chorus and a special appearance of Barbara Cook, so don't miss it as it should be a hot night.

... and on top of all this I have to be on the wagon for Lent, Oh well!

The Galleon now has Jerry Glenn on piano with Abe on the banjo on Saturdays and Sundays from 2:20 to 5:30. You all remember them from the old Googie's days. Lots of fun, so do drop by and listen and enjoy; right, Les Balmait?

Lots of out-of-towners arriving this week. Thursday, today, my good friends from Milwaukee, Rick and Chet, will arrive for a two-week stay, and they are a lot of fun and do love to drink; right, Ronnie Sue? And then on Saturday the 7th my good friend Dennis Gartner from Portland is coming for a short visit, and on top of all of this I have to be on the wagon for Lent. Oh well.

Don't forget all of the parties going on Tuesday the 17th for St. Patty's Day, and of course Ginger's at Eddy and Mason will be having their annual corned beef special, so don't miss it.

B.A.R. PEOPLE & PERSONALS

People

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Chad E10

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Call & talk E10

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enemas 595-2524 E10

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I am slave for sale \$5500. PO Box 2263, St. James Park Sta., San Jose, CA 95109 E10

Free head to hung guy to 45 San Mateo 341-3639 Jim E10

PWKS - 35, 6', 160 attractive, blonde, beard - seeks person in similar situation & of kindred spirit for fun, conversation, & a little lovin'. Alan, 2215-R Market #404, S.F., CA 94114 E10

Slave. Owner? Zolt 474-5576 E10

1ST ANNIVERSARY
Jim - we have spent this year learning to trust. To forgive the bad and to love the good. To my best friend, I pledge all my heart!
Love, Keith E10

Chad, I'll make you a deal. You enter your ass in the Buns Contest and I'll enter mine. See you at the Endup. Peter E10

Father - looking for son he never had. Why not you? To age 25. Room & board & for right person lots of extra benefits. Don't lose out on this excellent chance to better yourself. Bob-in-Concord, 689-0444 E10

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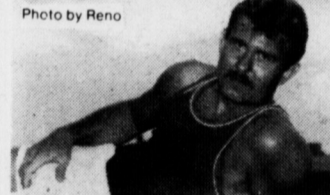
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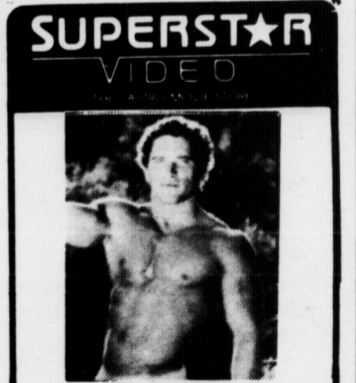
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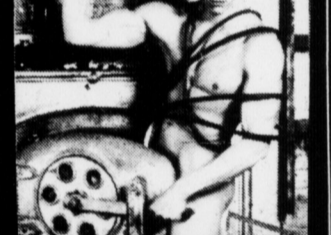
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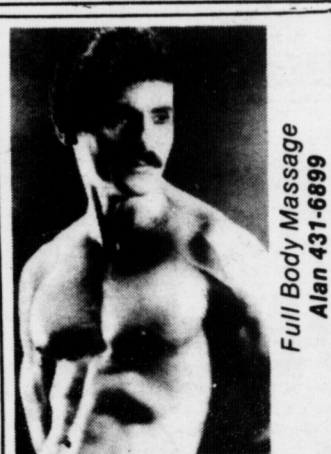
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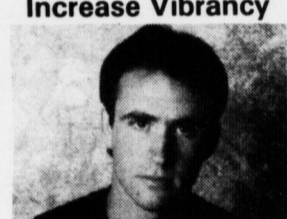
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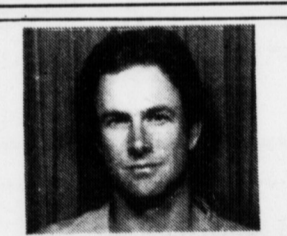


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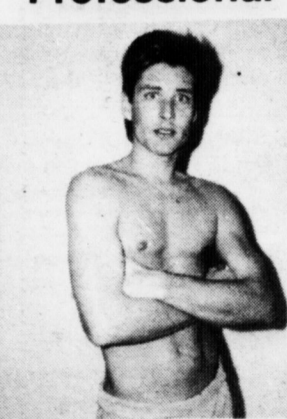


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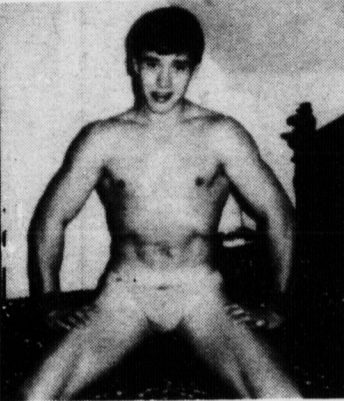
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BAY AREA REPORTER SPORTS & FITNESS

Gay Skiers Invade Aspen

by Herb Zeman

Jan. 24-31 40 members of SAGA North, San Francisco's club for skiers and gay athletes, joined other gay skiers from all over the country for the annual Gay Ski Week at Aspen, Colorado. Among the groups represented in addition to SAGA North were: SAGA San Diego, SAGA Los Angeles, The Arriba Ski Club from Los Angeles, the Sundance Outdoor Activities Club from New York, and the Front Runners Club from New York, along with smaller clubs and individuals from New Hampshire, Washington, DC, Texas, Vale, Colorado, and a large local gay contingent from Aspen itself.

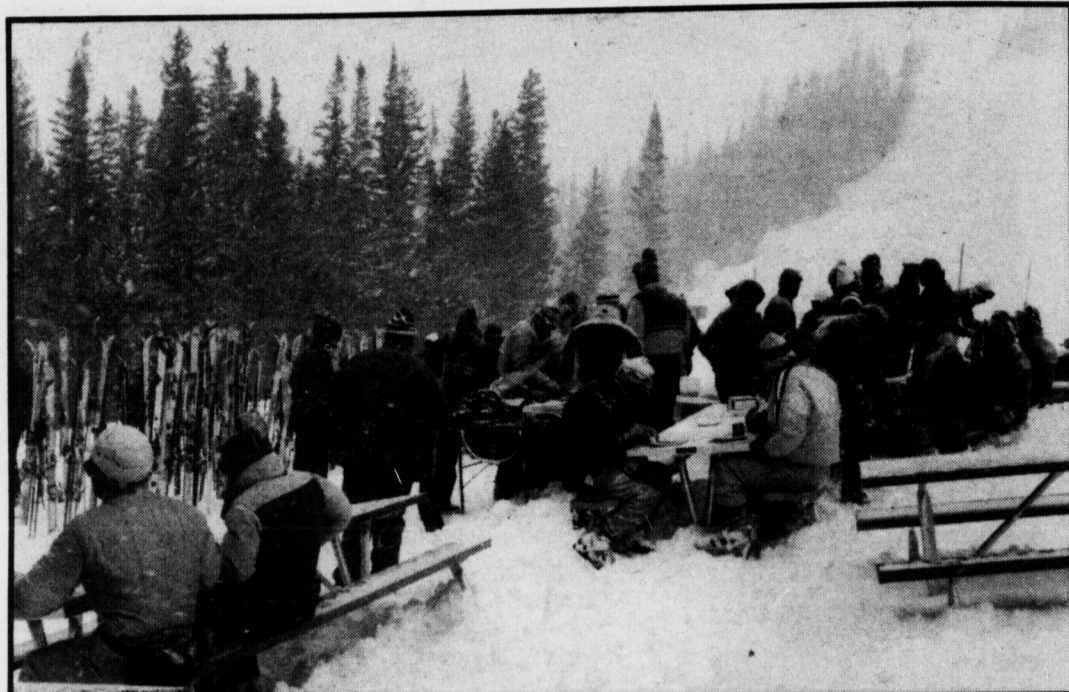
These diverse groups joined together for well-attended wild parties every night of the week's stay. The party hosted by SAGA North, for example, had to be split between two condos, because more than 200 gay skiers attended. Both condos were filled to capacity for the three to four hours. One evening the gay horde all invaded the local Aspen straight disco. For an hour or so there were more gays than straights on the dance floor. Aspen will never be the same.

The camaraderie of the evening spilled over onto the slopes during the day. Many different groups with many different ski-

ing abilities were formed from members of the various clubs to ski together. This was a week to get to know many different men from many different places, both on the slopes and off. There was even a barbecue in a blinding snow storm on the slopes at Aspen Mountain. As you can see from the photo, there was a good turnout even for that!

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Members of SAGA North are now looking forward to their second out-of-state trip, this time to Salt Lake City March 12-15. SAGA North will join SAGA San Diego for three days of world-



Even a picnic in a driving snow storm didn't deter the gay skiers (Photo: H. Zeman)

class powder skiing. Deluxe accommodations have been arranged at Cliff Lodge, Snowbird's finest. For the modest cost of \$360, SAGA members receive round-trip air transportation, ground transportation, accommodations, and three days' lift passes to all the major resorts.

Now that the Tahoe ski areas finally have abundant snow, SAGA North members eagerly await their planned trips to Kirkwood March 28-29 and to Alpine Meadows April 10-11. The

cost of these trips is \$130 and includes luxury accommodations, most meals, and two days' lift tickets.

Since its inception in 1982, SAGA North has grown from 12 to 125 members. The club is open to all gay skiers, and membership costs only \$40/year or \$20/trip. The only membership requirement is an interest in skiing or in learning to ski, and a willingness to help out with the inevitable chores associated with a purely volunteer organization.

In addition to this year's winter ski trips, SAGA North is also planning an ambitious summer schedule which will include sky diving, ballooning, back packing, and water skiing. Those interested in learning more about SAGA can attend the monthly meeting which takes place on the first Sunday of each month at 7 p.m. at Saint John's Church Hall located on the corner of Fifth Avenue and Irving Street. For membership information call Johnny Davis at 567-2952. ●

SOFTBALL

World Series XI!?

by Chuck Smith

"How come I didn't hear about the other ten? Where were they played? Who won last year?"

Because those are not unusual questions, a little background information is in order here. This event began back in 1977 with an innocuous challenge between San Francisco and New York, both cities to field their best gay softball team and then see who would walk away with the "bragging rights." Gay softball leagues had existed in both cities for some time but this was the first instance of inter-city gay tournament play. That first match-up was held here and was won by the home team. But more important, the enthusiasm generated by the players, the community, and the gay press demanded that it be repeated and expanded. And the name Gay World Series stuck.

The second year's play occurred in New York, with five cities represented, and the excitement was again memorable. Since then, the event has continued to travel around North America, having been hosted subsequently by Milwaukee, Los Angeles, Toronto, San Francisco again, Chicago, Houston, Milwaukee again, New York again, and finally this year by The City for the third time.

And the tournament continues to grow. From a two-city, fun-time game of softball, the Series has grown up to include 21 major cities, with possibly three more to be admitted soon. It also has a

women's division title up for grabs.

Now, this World Series doesn't simply move from city to city on a whim. It is overseen by an international, nonprofit sports organization: the North American Gay Amateur Athletic Alliance (NAGAAA), which coordinates present and future World Series play as well as encouraging formation of gay softball leagues and promoting sports awareness among gay people across the continent. Any city wishing to host the World Series must apply to the NAGAAA member cities for the right to have the Series on their home fields, and every year two or three cities seriously apply for the following year's tourney.

'As for who won the championship each year, that's really of little consequence . . .'

As for who won the championship each year, that's really of little consequence once you have enjoyed the sportsmanship and camaraderie of a World Series. It's truly an extra special experience. (But I will tell you that San Francisco has won twice!)

And now that I've told you something about the Gay World Series, keep watching this Sports Section for more articles about Series XI. ●

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POOL

Acknowledgement of Excellence

by Lauren Ward

The movers and shakers of S.F.'s lesbian and gay community gathered in the spacious deco splendor of the Giftcenter Pavilion Saturday night to recognize the outstanding achievers among us at the annual Cable Car Awards presentation.

The S.F. Pool Association's nominees for Sportsman and Sportsman of the Year, Lisa Duncan and Tim Chitwood, strode proudly to the stage, the first of the sports winners to be announced. The awards were then pronounced. The awards were then pronounced. The awards were then pronounced.

Lisa is a founding member of the DeLuxe Ducks, city champions for the last three seasons. She captained the team last season to the state championship at West Coast Challenge XIV where she was unanimously chosen MVP. She teamed up with Vince Galindo to win the Spring '86 Hi-Lo Tournament and was a league board member throughout last year. Lisa also was the captain of S.F.'s women's gold medal-winning 8-Ball team, going undefeated until her very last game; as well as a bronze medal-

ist in individual 9-Ball at Gay Games II. This was her second Cable Car Award, and she's currently leading the league with a perfect 8/0 record. In spite of her accomplishments on the table, she may be best known for her infectious good humor from which few care to escape.

Tim Chitwood was recently re-elected vice-president of the S.F.P.A. He served as co-chair for Billiards in Gay Games II and was the primary tournament director. He also claimed a bronze medal in individual 9-Ball competition. He captained his DeLuxe 'Too team to a third-place finish in the Fall '86 season and went on to serve as tournament director for West Coast Challenge XIV in Reno. He was a trophy winner in the Spring '86 Class "A" Tournament. Tim maintained contact with Gay Games pool players with a newsletter he distributed and is acting as a local liaison for a Memorial weekend tournament in Houston.

Congratulations, Tim and Lisa, your loving natures and dedication to pool reflect the highest ideals of the S.F.P.A.

Dial JOE:POOL for league news.

... considering how dangerous everything is nothing is really frightening.

—Gertrude Stein, 1937

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BOWLING

JAPANTOWN BOWL COMMUNITY LEAGUES BOWLING

Team Standings

Table with bowling team standings for SUNDAY RENO LEAGUE, HAWAII VACATION LEAGUE, MONDAY COMMUNITY LEAGUE, WEDNESDAY COMMUNITY LEAGUE, TUESDAY COMMUNITY LEAGUE, and THURSDAY COMMUNITY LEAGUE.

Compiled by Jerry R. De Young

Rate It X

(Continued from page 26)

organization of a movement while we were dealing with the people today. Among the many awards Pioneer garnered was one from the National Council on Family Planning, apparently for its portrayal of "alternative families."

Winer and de Koenigsberg met in the late '70s on a shoot in Brooklyn. They work together sometimes but not exclusively, are both in their mid-30s, and are not lovers. "We have lovers waiting for us back in New York," says de Koenigsberg, who has a sweet, "Sally Field" look, while Winer's more severe features are frequently offset by a broad smile. They don't advertise their lesbianism, nor do they go to extremes to hide it.

"I don't see that as an obstacle that stands in someone's way," Winer says. As for those in the industry who feel differently: "I think it's a cover for something else. As an artist you can't afford to think that way. It's worth the risk to be honest."

Honesty is one thing the men interviewed in Rate It X have in common, even if it reveals them to be scumbags. Most had already been the target of protest by a local or national women's group because of their advertising campaign, their magazine, or whatever.

"We said we were making a film about the way women are depicted in American business," de Koenigsberg says. "We told them we were looking for adult themes." Only a "very few" refused to be interviewed, among them Playboy magazine, which "didn't want to be included in a film about adult entertainment."

Winer denies they're trying to de-sex the world. "It's okay for beautiful women to sell things. It can be okay for a woman to be naked in an ad. It's not to say you can't lust after people and re-

spond to them on a purely sensual level. It's about possession." She's referring to a computer ad shown in the film in which a sexy model is draped over a Bentley and caressing the sponsor's product. "The picture represents quality products," boasts the advertising executive, affirming Winer's contention that owning a woman is put on a level with owning a car or a computer.

The president of the Lily of France lingerie company tells how rising feminism led to declining sales. He finally came up with a campaign to push frilly undergarments to the woman in the corporate world "who underneath it all, still needs to feel like a woman." His ads were "not overtly sexy or pornographic," de Koenigsberg says. "What was important was what they had to say about women."

Because so many of our traditional attitudes and ideas about gender roles are sexist, Winer says, "one of the really challenging things about sexism is that you can't talk about one sex without talking about the other."

Some of these attitudes are expressed by a group of elderly American Legionnaires who include, Winer points out, "the only man in the film who changed his mind on camera." They verbalize the double standard in talking about raising children, that they encouraged "masculine" behavior in their daughters but discouraged their sons from acting "feminine." As Winer puts it, "Little boys are very limited in their expression because personal expression is considered feminine, and therefore negative."

The accusation of taking the joy out of life reminds her of an incident when she was selling tickets on Christopher Street for the premiere of Greetings from Washington, D.C. and found many locals steering clear of her. "I couldn't believe the number of people who were obviously gay and acted like we were offering

tickets to a lifetime of leprosy. I wondered what the fuck was going on."

She finally stopped a 50-ish man in a business suit and asked him what his problem was. He replied, "You liberate gay people and you're going to take the fun out of being gay. Where's the spice, the intrigue, the danger?" "You see?" Winer asks. "For him it was hard to imagine passion and plain old fun without oppression. Our film deals with our inability to relate to each other because we're so frightened of one another."

Pornography ties in with this concept. When two people are making love, each fantasizing about someone else, they can hardly be said to be relating to each other. "Pornography is a kind of drug," Winer says. "Pornography is a kind of pretense," de Koenigsberg echoes.

You might think these women have some pretty clear-cut ideas about what constitutes sexism, exploitation, and pornography, but you'd be wrong. "The answer," Winer says, "is not to create rules. It's a question of context."

They don't say it, but the solution will involve generations of emotional evolution. All they hope to do with Rate It X is to stimulate the process by "encouraging people to examine themselves and talk with one another." As with so many things, awareness of the problem is the first step toward solving it.

"A simple matter of correcting what we can have very big ramifications," de Koenigsberg claims. Winer points out that some of the issues dealt with in the film had already been corrected as a result of organized protests — Lily of France had pulled their ad, the movie Blood Sucking Freaks was taken out of release, etc.

"When talking about sexism," she says, "it really begins with the individual."

BAY AREA REPORTER CLASSIFIEDS

Multiple classified ads including Rentals (Golden City Inn, Civic Center Residence Club, Civic Center Hotel), Roommates (GAY SHELTER, Hacienda Hotel, National Hotel), Recycle and Fight Aids, Hotel Leland, and various other services like Bunkhouse Apts. and Donnelly Hotel.

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Pelosi Hit for Role In Killing Demo Gay Caucus

Accused of Shunting Aside Gay Concerns;
Criticized for Helping Eliminate Gay Voice

by Allen White

Controversy erupted this past weekend in the 5th District Congressional race as charges and countercharges were levied concerning Nancy Pelosi's past actions on gay and lesbian issues. An unsigned pink sheet mysteriously appeared in the Castro area over the weekend stating that Pelosi favored the abolition of the Democratic Party's Gay and Lesbian Caucus, had removed references to the gay community from the 1984 Democratic Convention program guide, and has "consistently shunted aside our issues as politically damaging for the party."

Pelosi forces quickly retorted with a similar flyer disputing those charges with detailed explanations. Specifically, Pelosi claimed that she in fact worked to defeat the attempt to abolish the Gay and Lesbian Caucus in 1985.

But according to a Baltimore Sun article on the battle for Democratic Party leadership in 1985, Pelosi did not defend the gay caucus, but rather agreed with the abolition of the party's gay voice in an effort to move the Democrats closer to a centrist position.

"You can't go any faster than the American people want," Pelosi is quoted as saying.

A BRIEFER MESSAGE

In the Baltimore Sun interview Jan. 4, 1985, she said she would limit the number of official party caucuses to three (women, blacks, Hispanics) and give the party a "briefer message" based on consensus.

Pelosi told the Sun, "You don't have to address everything." Instead, she recommends, the party should concentrate on "the areas

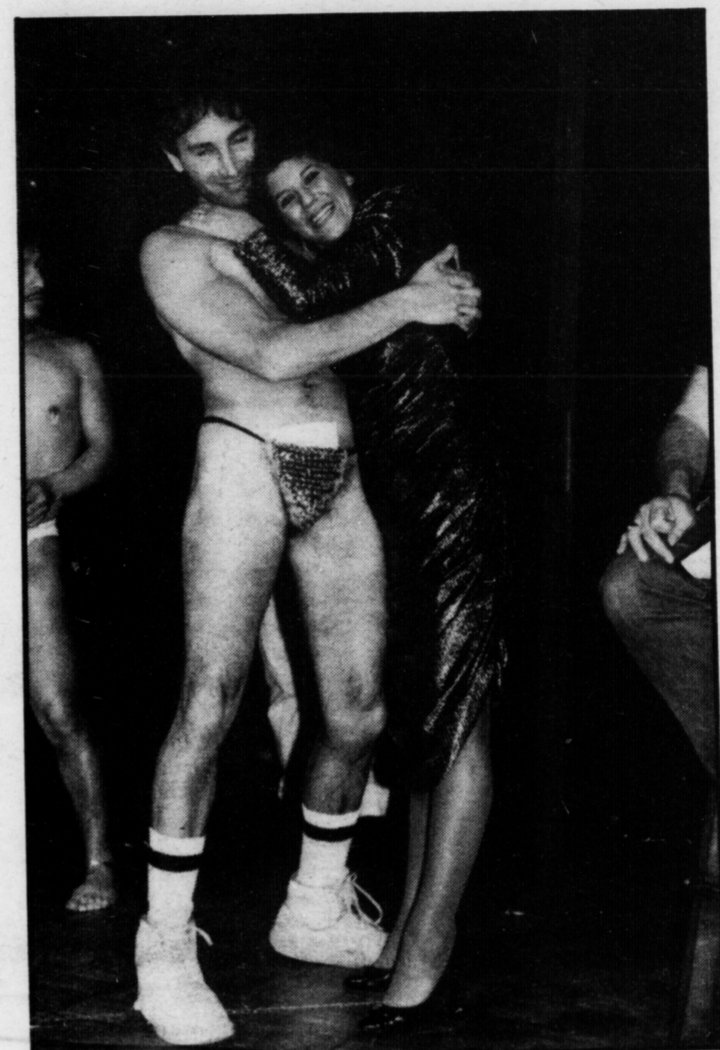
of consensus where we have common ground with the American people. You can't go any faster than the American people want!"

Another issue brought out by the flyer was Pelosi's actions during the Democratic convention.

In 1984, Scott Smith, a former lover of Harvey Milk, was removed as host to the Mississippi delegation at the Democratic Convention by Pelosi. "I was removed because I was too gay," charges Smith.

Pelosi headed the San Francis-

(Continued on next page)



'Double Lamé whammy.' Visiting Miss Upstate New York congratulates the latest winner of the Endup Buns contest. Both wore gold! (Photo: Robert Pruzan)

Chorus On Way To Pay Off Debt

Singing a New Tune
All the Way to the Bank

by Allen White

A moneymaking concert by the San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus and the success of a new fundraising organization are putting the group in their best financial condition in over five years. The final payment of a mortgage on a home loan that helped finance the chorus' 1981 national tour should be made in the next four months.

Last Thursday's sold out Davies Hall concert will yield, organizers say, a net profit of over \$35,000. This will be supplemented by a \$10,000 grant from their new fundraising arm, the San Francisco Choral Foundation.

Approximately \$40,000 of these funds will go toward paying off a \$60,000 mortgage payment on a member's home. The home is one of three that were mortgaged to finance the costs of the tour.

The tour is credited, by many, as stimulating the creation of dozens of gay performing arts groups across the country. The 125-member chorus was highly acclaimed as they performed in nine cities from coast to coast. On their return, Castro Street was closed to traffic to welcome the chorus members home.

(Continued on next page)



Dr. C. Everett Koop, right, and Dr. David Baltimore, flank San Francisco's director of Health, Dr. David Werdegar at the Coming Home Hospice. (Photo: Steve Savage)

Koop Renews Call For Early Sex Ed.

Researcher Tells Legislature:
'Compassion, Not Incarceration'

by Will Snyder

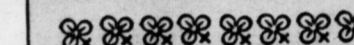
SACRAMENTO — The surgeon general of the United States and a prominent national researcher told a joint assembly of the California Legislature on Thursday, March 5, that education was the best weapon in the fight against AIDS. U.S. Surgeon General Dr. C. Everett Koop emphasized the need for sex education at the elementary school level. Dr. David Baltimore, director of the Whitehead Institute for Biomedical Research in Cambridge, Massachusetts, also spoke and focused on educational responsibilities of the media.

(Continued on page 23)

Two Doctors About AIDS:

'The best weapon against this disease (AIDS) is education... Some people have said AIDS education should begin no later than grade 7. I agree with them. I would like to see it in grades lower than that, at the fifth or sixth grade level...'

— Surgeon General
Dr. C. Everett Koop



'Mandatory testing and quarantining of individuals are counterproductive moves. These kind of actions are reminiscent of the days of the McCarthy Era or the internment of Japanese-Americans during World War II.'

— Dr. David Baltimore