

BAY AREA REPORTER

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A Carmen Miranda look-alike and her dog won the "Two Peas in a Pod" prize at the Bow-Wow Beauty Pageant, held at the Castro Theatre Aug. 28. For more about the pageant, see Mary Richards' story on page 5.

(Photo: PhotoGraphics/Darlene)

State High Court Quashes Unwed Couple's Rights Suit

Unmarried Couples Not Entitled to Protection; Justices' Ruling Leaves Gay Couples in Limbo

by Ray O'Loughlin

The California Supreme Court dealt a blow to unmarried couples' rights when it ruled Aug. 18 that unmarried couples are not entitled to the same consideration by the courts that married couples automatically receive. The court ruled six-to-one that a man who survived an auto crash in which his female lover died could not sue the driver of the other car for emotional distress and loss of consortium.

In the majority opinion for the court, Justice Stanley Mosk held that because the state had an interest in maintaining marriage, allowing unmarried couples certain rights would undermine marriage as an institution. "The state has a strong interest in the marriage relationship," wrote Mosk. "To the extent unmarried cohabitants are granted the same rights as married persons, the state's interest in promoting marriage is inhibited."

Marriage, according to Mosk, is a contract between two individuals and the state. He recognized, nonetheless, that "the last two decades have seen a dramatic increase in the number of couples who live together without formal marriage." Many of these couples "are bound by emotional ties as strong as those that bind formally married partners," he stated.

But to allow unmarried couples the right to sue for damages "would impose a difficult burden on the courts," wrote Mosk. "It would require a court to inquire into the relationship of the partners to determine whether the emotional attachment of the fam-



Attorney Matt Coles.

ily relationship existed between the parties and whether the relationship was stable and significant."

Mosk termed that court inquiry "a massive intrusion into the private life of the partners."

Finally, said Mosk, the courts have to draw "a bright line" somewhere on legal claims for emotional damages. To extend liability for negligent infliction of emotional distress beyond marriage and immediate family relationships would be "unreasonable" and "place an intolerable burden on society," wrote Mosk.

Nowhere in the majority opinion is there mention of the rights of gay or lesbian couples who cannot legally marry. Only in Justice Allen Broussard's dissenting opinion is that problem mentioned. "Clearly the state's interest in marriage is not advanced by precluding recovery to couples who could not in any case choose marriage. The categorical exclusion of same-sex couples particularly highlights the injustice of an approach that recognizes only those commitments ratified by the state," wrote Broussard.

Criticism from gay and lesbian attorneys was blunt. "What this means is that, by not being married, you will not get the opportunity to go into court and prove before a jury that your relation-

(Continued on page 17)

Report on Shanti: 'Inconsistent Management'

by Miranda Kolbe

After five months of investigation, the San Francisco's Human Rights Commission issued its report on the Shanti Project. Through its investigation, the HRC heard testimony of more than 50 people, including past and present board members, staff, and volunteers at the project regarding allegations of discrimination against women and minorities in areas of employment and client services; sexual harassment of women and men by Shanti's executive director Jim Geary; nepotism; and unfair personnel policies.

Much of the information garnered through HRC's investigation fell beyond its jurisdiction, according to Norm Nickens of the HRC, and will be dealt with internally by a Shanti Board of Directors Internal Review Committee over the next few months. Specifically, Nickens stated that charges of sexual harassment were not brought up in the orig-

inal complaint to the HRC and, therefore, were not addressed in its report. In addition, "Nepotism is not a violation of city policy," Nickens said, and consequently was does not fall under the jurisdiction of the HRC.

Finally, the report does not focus on any specific charges made against Geary. Nickens

(Continued on page 16)

Court Upholds Loitering Law

'Intent to Commit Lewd Acts' Sufficient Grounds for Arrest

by Dennis McMillan

In a 5-to-2 ruling, the state's anti-loitering law was upheld in the California Supreme Court Aug. 22. The law has been criticized as confusing and homophobic because it has been used to single out gay men as targets for the police.

The case heard last week stems from a group of men charged several years ago with various loitering violations under Penal Code Section 647(d). They had consolidated their cases and appealed last December.

(Continued on page 19)



(Photo: Rink)

This Paper in Two Sections

Positive Action
HealthCare, Inc.
415/788-7545

If you have tested HIV positive but have not yet developed AIDS or ARC... there is something you can do.

Why is it important to seek treatment now?

Current evidence suggests that when left untreated, 70% of those infected with the HIV virus will eventually develop AIDS or ARC. The HIV virus attacks the immune system T-4 Helper Cells and as the number of T-4 cells decreases, the way is opened for the infections symptomatic of AIDS and ARC. Normal immune systems have between 500-1400 T-4 cells, but in most AIDS patients this level has dropped below 100.

Many physicians who have worked with the HIV virus think that early treatment to prevent deterioration of the immune system (T-4 cells) is the best course of action to slow or stop the progression to AIDS.

What is Positive Action treatment?

Positive Action HealthCare is an outpatient program of preventive medicine attempting to maintain the health of your immune system (T-4 cells) at a level sufficient to ward off the onset of infections associated with AIDS.

This treatment is not a cure for AIDS and is not intended for those whose immune systems have deteriorated to the point of AIDS or ARC infections. Those requiring such treatment are referred to physicians providing this type of care.

What does the Positive Action treatment consist of?

The specific treatment is developed between you and the Positive Action HealthCare physician based on the results of your initial physical examination. While each program is individualized, they all involve a combination of anti-viral medications to combat the HIV virus directly and immune boosters intended to strengthen your system.

Positive Action personnel closely monitor potential new therapies. As the therapies show evidence of effectiveness, they will be added to the treatment, depending on patient needs.

How effective is this treatment?

Based upon the experience with Positive Action HealthCare patients (dating to 1984), results have been encouraging. Monitoring of T-4 helper cells indicates that this treatment offers promise in slowing or stopping the deterioration of the immune system. The summary of results of treatment with the Positive Action protocol are available to patients on a monthly basis. However, there is no guarantee of the treatment and it is too early to project long term results.

What risks are entailed in the treatment?

Every medical treatment has its risks. Some of the risks of the medications used in the treatment protocols are known; others are not yet so clearly defined. The physician treating you will carefully explain the known risks, before you decide to enter treatment, and will tell you of other potential dangers of the treatment that concern careful medical practitioners in the field of immunology.

The Positive Action HealthCare Staff:

The Positive Action HealthCare medical group is headed by Alan S. Levin, M.D., assisted by a staff of scientists and physicians who are specialists in the treatment of problems of the immune system and have published numerous medical and scientific documents in this field. Dr. Levin has served as Adjunct Associate Professor of Immunology at the University of California, San Francisco Medical Center. In private practice in San Francisco since 1981, he established Positive Action HealthCare in 1987 to deal specifically with immune disorders related to the HIV virus.

For more information or an appointment, contact Positive Action HealthCare.

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Extension Urged For Federal AZT Funds

Program Due to Expire Soon; States Can't Pick Up Tab

by Jay Newquist

A \$30 million federal grant to provide funds for AZT to state agencies expires this month. That could leave 6,000 people with AIDS and ARC across the country without access to the life-prolonging drug. California has 689 people in AZT programs and funds aren't expected to run out until April 1989. At that time a stopgap \$2.8 million appropriation for AZT may come into effect if AB 4437 is passed by the state Assembly.

Thelma Frazier, chief of the Office for AIDS for the California Health Department, said the state's \$7.6 million share of federal money would last longer than other states.

She estimated that California would have a total of 800 to 1,000 people receiving AZT money when enrollment ends at the end of September.

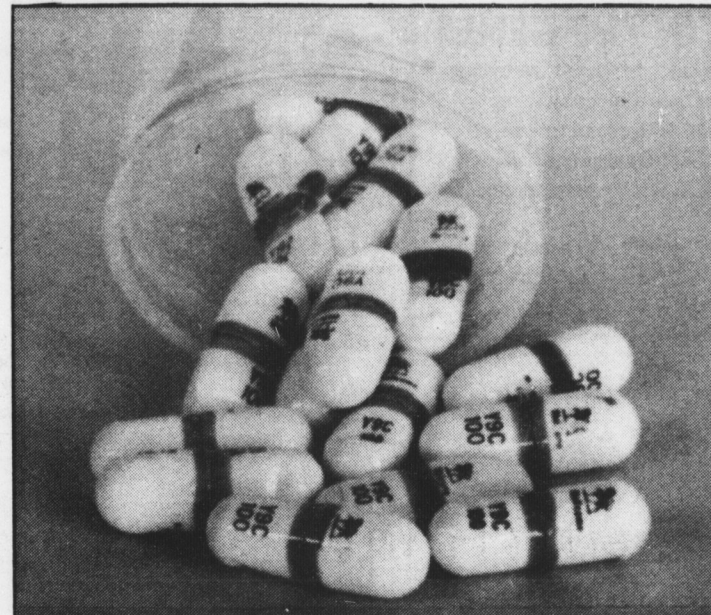
Frazier reported her office had received hundreds of calls and letters from anxious clients as the deadline looms for admis-

sion to the program.

"There is no additional money after that and there is no major answer on the horizon," she said. "People may have to pay out-of-pocket." AZT costs about \$8,000 a year.

The current state program is open to applicants whose gross yearly income is \$40,000 or less. AZT is still provided for those who qualify through MediCal.

More than 70,000 people in the U.S. have AIDS and half have



(Photo: Rink)

already died. The epidemic is expected to peak in 1993.

AB 4437, the AZT legislation, is sponsored by Assemblyman Burt Margolin (D-LA) and has passed the Senate Appropriations Committee to reach the Senate floor. The next step is Assembly concurrence.

A spokesman for Assemblyman Margolin said the two-thirds vote required in both chambers might be hard to get. He wouldn't predict the outcome when the

current legislative session ends this week.

"The Assemblyman feels there is a moral obligation to provide funds for AZT," he said.

The American Association of Physicians for Human Rights urged the federal government to continue to provide AZT for people receiving the drug through the Federal Supplemental Appropriations Act.

"The intent and the effect of the program has been clearly

humanitarian. That need is still present, and with the number of newly diagnosed people with AIDS greater this year than last, the need will be even greater," said AAPHR in a prepared statement.

"Unfortunately, the optimism from a year ago that a less expensive, less toxic, more effective drug than AZT would be available perhaps by the end of this fiscal year has faded. AZT prolongs life and helps many people with AIDS to feel better. Like chronic hemodialysis, AZT remains too expensive for many Americans to afford," said AAPHR.

AAPHR urged the federal government to continue to provide AZT to those already receiving it, and to provide additional funds for those newly diagnosed individuals who cannot otherwise obtain it, this next fiscal year, and as long as needed. "Any other course of action would be inhumane," said the medical group.

The federal AZT money was approved as a one time only appropriation and Congress promised not to extend it. Sen. Lowell Weicker (R-CT) has nonetheless urged Congressional committees and the states to act as quickly as possible to extend the program.

'Dancing With Dolphins' in '89

On Saturday, Aug. 19, 1989, Sterling Productions will present, "Dancing With The Dolphins" an evening of entertainment at Marine World/Africa USA. The proceeds from this event will benefit the direct service program of the Shanti Project, The AIDS Emergency Fund and Project Open Hand.

One ticket price brings all of Marine World's regular shows and an all-you-can-eat chicken, steak or rib dinner. After dark the park will be filled with music and laughter. Three bands—pop, rock and swing—will provide music for dancing. Some of San Francisco's best performers will appear in the comedy club and cabaret. The evening finale will feature a nighttime water ski and fireworks show.

Tickets for the event will be \$35 (or \$40 including bus transportation to and from Marine World). Sponsors for the event (\$500 per couple) will enjoy cruising from San Francisco to Vallejo with cocktails and entertainment on board. For information write Sterling Productions at 714 Guerrero Street, San Francisco, CA 94110.

Men of Color Hold Conference

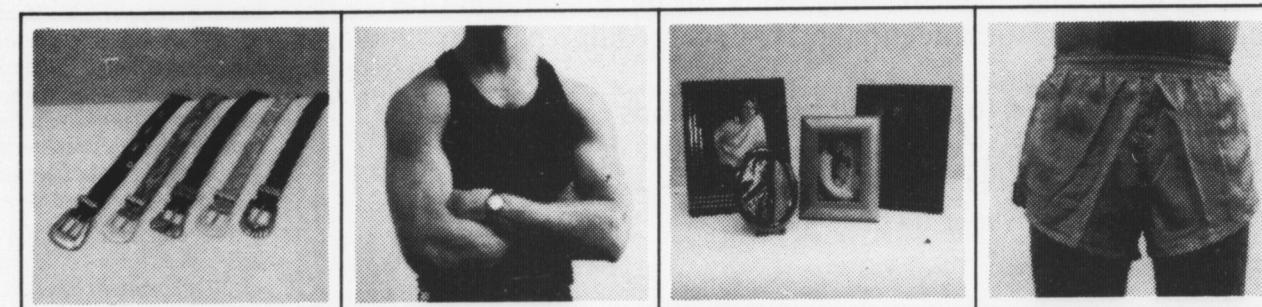
The second annual Men of Color Conference will be held on Saturday, Sept. 17, at the Capp Street Center, 362 Capp Street, San Francisco. The center is located one block south of Mission street between 18th and 19th streets.

Major workshops scheduled for the conference are AIDS in Third World Communities, and Men of Color in the Men's Movement.

For further information regarding conference fees, additional workshops and speakers, please call Bart Casimir (415) 861-3237 (San Francisco) or Ron Franklin (415) 436-7435 (East Bay), or write to Men of Color Conference, 3326 13th Avenue, Oakland, CA 94610-4013.

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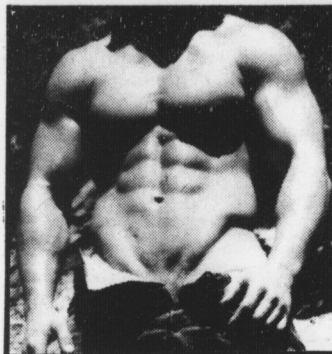


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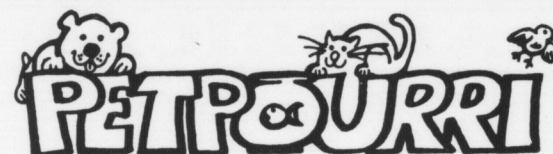
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ViRx, Inc., a private clinical research center, wants you to know about an upcoming Phase III drug study for the prevention of a common opportunistic infection in HIV-seropositive patients.

This study is limited to 50 participants. Persons eligible for the trial must be HIV-seropositive with a T-helper cell count of less than 650.

Study participants will receive:

- \$100 cash stipend (\$25 initially and \$75 upon study completion)
- Free laboratory tests and monitoring of HIV infection including monthly T-helper cell counts during the 20 week study
- Physician consultation associated with the study at ViRx Medical Group, Inc. for 20 weeks

If you are interested in this trial, or future clinical drug trials, please call ViRx Medical Group, Inc. at 415-474-2233. Enrollment for this study begins September 6, 1988.

ViRx

**ViRx Medical
Group, Inc.**
655 Sutter Street
Suite 600
San Francisco,
California 94102
415-474-2233

Neighbors Still Object To Alcohol Recovery House

S.F. Supervisors to Vote on Permit Appeal Sept. 6

by Jay Newquist

The relocation of a gay men's resident alcohol treatment program in San Francisco has been greeted with further opposition from neighbors of the new site. The City Planning Commission approved the move in July, but neighbors have filed a protest with the Board of Supervisors, which will make a final ruling on Sept. 6.



Acceptance Place.

(Photo: Steve Savage)

Acceptance Place, the 15-bed alcohol recovery home, was set to move from 1710 Golden Gate Ave. to 673 San Jose Ave. near Guer-

rero. But opponents complained about alleged lowering of property values and their fears of an influx of transients and drugs.

"People come into this area without drinking problems and seem to develop them," complained Eugene R. Skelley. "Perhaps we should take a direction like school busing to bus our local drunks to areas like St. Francis Woods, Sunset and Presidio Heights. Let them spend the day there urinating on lawns, sitting on door steps and bumping quarters."

Jim Illig, executive director of Baker Places, which administers Acceptance Place, said the protest was an insult. "This is just veiled homophobia from the community. They have no real objection to us, it's self-interest and almost harassment because they know they can't win."

The opponents of the move were able to secure the signatures of 20 percent of the property owners living within 300 feet of the San Jose Ave. site. That meant they were able to bring their protest to the board where a two-thirds vote is required to overturn the Planning Commission ruling.

Illig indicated he wasn't counting his chickens before they were hatched, but he hoped Acceptance Place had the votes of enough supervisors to sustain the permit to move.

"We are not detrimental to the community," he said. "The facility will actually help raise property values. All our detractors are doing is delaying, discouraging the move."

Skelley, a dentist who has lived in the area for 67 years, complained that the arrival of Acceptance Place in his neighborhood was ill-advised for anyone with an alcoholic problem.

"There is an oversaturation of bars and liquor stores with local alcoholics living in the street, begging for change, sleeping in backyards and in need of every-

thing from sanitation facilities, to food and clothing," he wrote.

"What chance would a person have to recover in this environment? It's like treating sex offenders at the Mustang Ranch."

Vicky Moulas, who lives nearby on San Jose Ave., complained in her written protest that Acceptance House is "incompatible with the residential nature of our neighborhood."

She said that she feared an increase of criminal activity and "other undesirable activity" if the move is carried out and "the facility will suffer poor maintenance and deterioration."

Moulas further said the City Planning Commission was "coerced into deciding in favor" of the petition to move by a "well organized group of (gay) men, whose relation to the subject property was never established."

Another neighbor was more sympathetic, but still opposed Acceptance Place. Norma K. Wardell said, "We are sympathetic to the problems of the people who would use such a facility, we also believe... the risk of criminal and undesirable activity will be increased."

Jim Illig said the city-funded Acceptance Place would present no problem to the neighborhood, stipulating that the people in their program are already clean and sober.

"These protests are absurd," Illig said. "We have the full support of the Planning Commission that gave us the conditional use authorization. The real issue is homophobia and fear of AIDS."

Illig said the protestors believed the myth that all gay people lived in the Castro and opponents of the Acceptance Place move wanted to restrict gays to their own ghetto.

News you need to know.
Only in the B.A.R.

Canine Cuties

Every Dog Has His or Her Day As Bow-Wow Beauty Pageant Brightens the Castro

by Mary Richards

The first annual Bow-Wow Beauty Pageant held Sunday evening, Aug. 28, brought cheers from a capacity crowd as canines in spangles, ruffles, leather, and bows romped down the runway of the Castro Theatre. Ms. Bow-Wow 1988 was chosen from a showbiz selection of airedales, poodles, boxers, whippets, and just plain mutts in the special benefit for PAWS (Pets Are Wonderful Support for people with AIDS).

Every dog has his or her day, and Sunday was no different. Sixty dogs in assorted shapes and sizes began to line up in the parking lot behind the theater mid-afternoon for a preliminary judging in all categories. At 3:30 p.m. the parade of participants proceeded down the sidewalk of Castro Street, to the admiration and amusement of pedestrians and onlookers in the windows of bars and restaurants.

Kathie Flood of the City of Berkeley Animal Services was in her best ringmaster regalia to introduce the registrants for the afternoon. After making sure that all contestants were accommodated, she joked: "Everyone's enjoying this—the two-legged ones as well as the four-legged ones!"

Sequins, veils, and crinolines bedecked dogs in drag, and the more butch numbers came with studded collars and chains to match. The Golden Gate Peace Officers Association volunteered to take care of security as other helpers darted back and forth with pooper-scoopers to prevent any embarrassing moments.

Twenty-five contestants were chosen as finalists in various categories and waited patiently for the evening show to begin. Although the doors to the theater were planned to open at 6 p.m., there was a slight delay before the show started. But soon the Castro's historic organ played as a spectacular laser and light show lit up the stage.

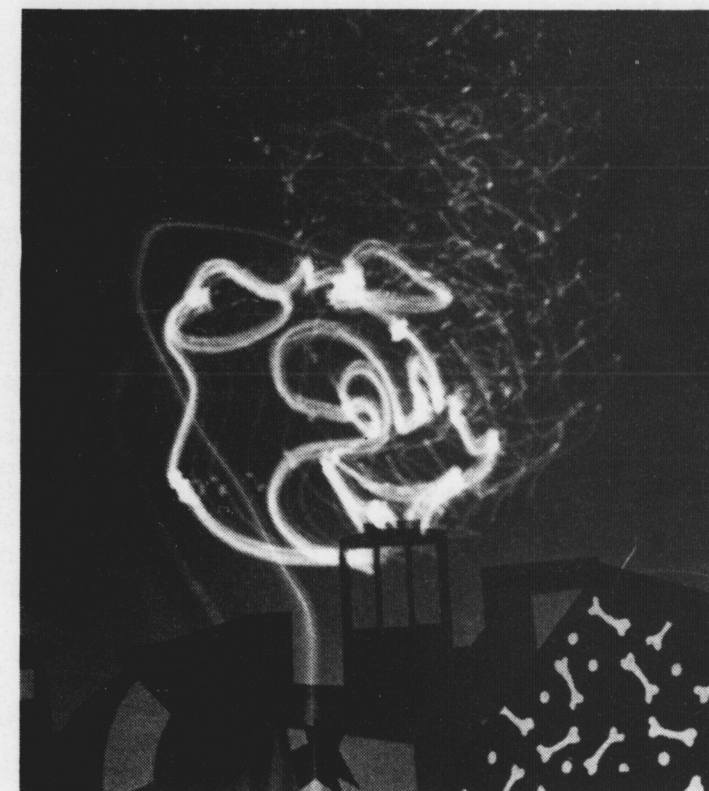
Famed dancer and entertainer Juliet Prowse was emcee. Prowse said she hadn't been to San Francisco in 20 years, but it was wonderful to be back.

"I'm very involved with animal causes," she said. "This is a great way to do both things—have a fun evening with the animals and help a very worthy cause. There have been so many AIDS benefits that you can donate and give your time to. This is a lovely one to be a part of because, besides helping the actual people who have AIDS or ARC, this also helps them to take care of the ones they love, which are their animals."

There were no "Beware of Dog" signs up as the curtain was raised on a brightly colored set complete with picket fence and large doghouse. Prowse was escorted onstage by a large Snoopy, and she introduced the judges, among them Lana Turner's daughter Cheryl Crane; Pat Norman; Sylvester; and Ruth Brinker.

Marga Gomez got laughs from the crowd before introducing the best look-alike category. Joey the Mutt won paws down for "Two Peas in a Pod." The nine-year-old veteran chihuahua/terrier was twice a winner of the Castro Dog Show and looked quite fetching in her Carmen Miranda costume. Her owner Diane was dressed in similar south-of-the-border ruffles adorned with fruit.

Friends Mark and Sylvia accompanied Dallas the English Bulldog, who tossed around and



The lazer light show at the Bow-Wow Beauty Pageant.

(Photo: PhotoGraphics/Darlene)

lip-synched to a new wave song. She trotted away with the prize for best vocalist.

VALKYRIE!

Isadora the Bulldog won in the "Face Only a Mother Could Love" category. Phil Siegel, who loves her as well, helped her to dress as a Valkyrie maiden. Her pudgy little face was framed in bright gold pigtails, and she wore the horns of Norse mythology atop her furry head.

After intermission, Megatone recording artist Jeanie Tracey belted out some of her more famous rock numbers and, during one song, persuaded Sylvester to join her for a few moments. The spotlight shined on his familiar face as he picked up the microphone with confidence, and the well-known voice was heard again. It was a dramatic moment when he received the second of three standing ovations for the evening.

Contestants were resplendent as they flounced across the footlights in the "Best Doggie/Owner Coordinated Evening-wear" category. Elegant men and their dogs in top hats and formal wear competed against a poodle with red nail polish and a collie in her best finery. But the prize went to Roger Austin and Reese, his delicate sheltie dressed as a mermaid, held aloft on a white half-shell throne with shining, multicolored streamers.

Comedian Danny Williams said he "was proud to be a part of this. The producers saw me near a fire hydrant and hired me, so this is a big moment." He introduced the "Most Talented" contestants who had been taught, among other things, to do "Stupid Pet Tricks." Joan Mills and her poodle Pie R Squared had no trouble tricking everyone and picking up the prize.

Empress Lily Street introduced two special animals who are the first dogs to be part of the Bow-Wow Hall of Fame: Cyril Magnin's faithful companion, Tippi, and Farkel, whose master was Bobby Reynolds. Farkel was given to PAWS by Bobby and was 19 when she died this year.

"A Pretty Dog Is Like a Melody" was played as the walk down the runway began for the winner of the contest. Roger Austin once again held Reese as she claimed the prize for Ms. Bow-Wow Beauty 1988 and was given the traditional roses and crown.

SMILES AND CHEERS

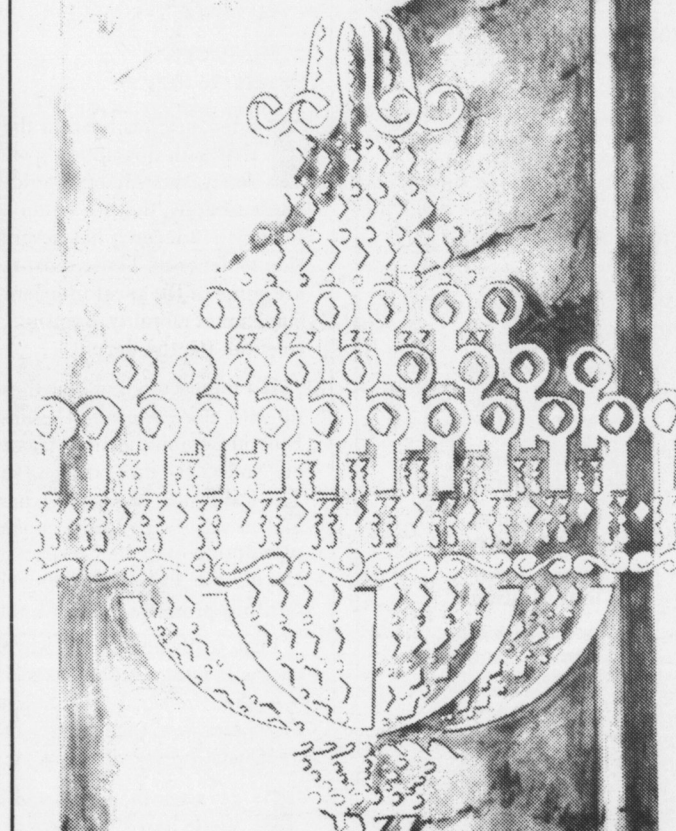
The Bow-Wow Dancers and Barkettes rounded out the evening's entertainment with a chorus line routine. The entire event was interpreted for the deaf by Jay Wilson, who provided his services on a volunteer basis, as did so many others during the show.

PAWS Pres. Steve Crider spoke about what the event meant to him and to others. "There are people here who are sick," he said, "who are depressed, who are grieving, who are low. If we can help and bring some smiles and some cheer into their lives for a short period of time, that's what we're about."

"It's hard to laugh through the tears," he added, "but we can do it! There's a lot of power in laughter and a lot of power in fun."

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A Political First: State Senate Candidate Tom Nolan

San Mateo County Sup. **Tom Nolan**, reelected to a second term in June with 74 percent of the vote, is the first openly gay candidate to be nominated for the state Senate by a major party in California. The Democratic central committees of San Mateo and Santa Clara counties nominated him to run against incumbent Republican **Becky Morgan** in the 11th District.

Nolan, 43, was chosen by the Democratic Party to replace **Robert Mach**, who won the June primary but died unexpectedly of heart disease on Aug. 2. Though Nolan goes into the race as an underdog against the wealthy, well-entrenched Morgan, his name identification and his reputation as a first-rate supervisor, along with the fact that he is recognized as a hard campaigner, gives the personable Democrat a chance for victory in November.

Nolan told the Bay Area Reporter that he expects the issues in the Senate election to include AIDS, transportation, toxic wastes, and industrial safety. A recognized statewide leader of the gay movement, Nolan is also the co-chair of the state campaign against Prop. 102 (the Dannemeyer initiative), which would require doctors to report names of people who test positive for the AIDS virus and begin a program of tracing sexual contacts of those people.

Nolan said he will do "very well" in the campaign against the incumbent Republican, adding that he expects bipartisan political and financial support from the community. He commented that "some of them want so much

to have a member of our community in the state Legislature that they're willing to cross party lines."

Before getting into politics, Nolan was general manager of the San Mateo County Development Association. His recent tenure as president of the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors made him California's highest elected gay official. Tom Nolan would make a great state Senator. He would be just the leader in Sacramento we need, particularly in the fight against AIDS.

I urge all, particularly those readers who live in the 11th Senatorial District, to get involved in the Tom Nolan state Senate campaign. The Nolan campaign headquarters are at 824 Winslow #214, Redwood City, CA 94063, and the telephone is 366-7044.

Well, it looks like Sen. **Dan Quayle** has ridden out the storm on his background regarding his military, scholastic, and personal careers. If the polls are to be believed, the Republican ticket is heading for a neck-and-neck finish with **Michael Dukakis**.

On a strictly personal level, I think **George Bush** and Dan Quayle would be a disaster for us. With the Republican right wing pulling **George Bush's** strings, the man would probably be the most anti-gay, pro-fundamentalist, conservative president we've ever had. And if we think that **Ronald Reagan** was dormant on the AIDS crisis, wait until **Jesse Helms**, **William Dannemeyer**, **Robert Dornan**, and **William Bennett** write the AIDS agenda for **George Bush**.



Sup. Harry Britt, Sup. Doris Ward, Roberta Achtenberg, and Tim Wolfred listen to Dolores Huerta about the United Farm Workers' grape boycott in preparation for taking up Cesar Chavez' fast for farmworkers' rights.

There might be a lot to be hoped for in **Michael Dukakis** and **Lloyd Bentsen**, but the gay and lesbian community, Democrat and Republican alike, had better set their sights straight and take a look at these two presidential candidates. With **Dukakis**, there is hope; with **Bush**, there is none.

Under the Democrats, we can do no worse than we did under **Reagan** and **Bush**, and hopefully we can do a lot better. This country does not need a **George Bush** for president. We do need a change, and that change—and hope—is represented by **Michael Dukakis**.

When is the Board of Supervisors going to pass some legislation dealing with the overly aggressive panhandlers in this city? It is bad enough to be stopped every half-block and be badgered for money, but it is really bad when the men and women of this city who pay through the nose in taxes have to be threatened by those who not only ask for hand-outs, but turn violent when they are refused. A woman friend of mine was violently pushed to the sidewalk recently when she politely ignored a request for money.

It helps little, either, to learn that many of these people are mentally ill. Give that explanation to those who are spit upon or punched because they don't care to hand over their hard-earned

money every time they walk down the street. It is time the Board of Supervisors pass some tough ordinances to handle this problem, and then let the cops enforce them.

Calling the Dannemeyer scheme "a wolf in sheep's clothing, a public health disaster," Atty. Gen. **John Van de Kamp** and Los Angeles Mayor **Tom Bradley** this week joined those who are fighting Prop. 102, the plan that would force mandatory disclosure of AIDS test results.

San Francisco attorney **Neil Eisenberg** looks like the favorite to become the next chairperson of the California Democratic Party. The selection will be made in January by state committee members.

In Southern California, **Ronald Stone**, the major architect of the incorporation drive that made a city out of West Hollywood, died at his home of AIDS at age 40. Known as the father of West Hollywood's cityhood, Stone was instrumental in turning the 1.9-square-mile wedge of unincorporated Los Angeles County into the first American city to be governed by a gay majority. West Hollywood has 34,000 residents and was incorporated in 1984.

Councilman **John Heilman**, a former mayor, said that "without **Ronald Stone**, it wouldn't have happened." Stone, a professional arbitrator, had been ill for more than a year and is survived by his mother and a brother.

Rev. **Cecil Williams**, Sup. **Carol Ruth Silver**, Gay Parade co-chair **Douglas Conrad**, state gay Republican leader and CRIR activist **Marty Keller**, and B.A.R. reporter **Allen White** were among the 100 San Franciscans who made the trek to join the 50,000 attending the 25th anniversary of **Martin Luther King's** famous National Civil Rights March in Washington this past weekend.

However, despite the boasting by the National Gay Task Force that there would be gay/lesbian participation during the actual program at the Lincoln Memorial, such participation was nonexistent.

In Southern California, **Ronald Stone**, the major architect of the incorporation drive that made a city out of West Hollywood, died at his home of AIDS at age 40. Known as the father of West Hollywood's cityhood, Stone was instrumental in turning the 1.9-square-mile wedge of unincorporated Los Angeles County into the first American city to be governed by a gay majority. West Hollywood has 34,000 residents and was incorporated in 1984.

Councilman **John Heilman**, a former mayor, said that "without **Ronald Stone**, it wouldn't have happened." Stone, a professional arbitrator, had been ill for more than a year and is survived by his mother and a brother.

From One Girl to Another

Not long ago, I received the following letter in the mail:

"I've read your columns with interest off and on for a year or so. And you can be a damn good writer. At times, you're downright inspired. . . I beseech you, then, why is it you . . . resort to the anachronism of calling yourself and other guys 'girl'? I've heard all the arguments over the years about gender-bending, and why does it matter, etc., etc., etc. I've also heard black people call their black friends 'nigger,' and I can buy the validity of doing that about as much as your calling yourself 'girl'!"

"Sure, words, gender words, are just a symbol, mere words. . . And what power they have! You, of all persons, being a writer, should know that. And the symbol in most persons' minds, gay and straight, of using the word 'girl' to describe a guy is that of *Boys in the Band*: the old, stereotyped view of the gay male: weak, ineffectual, depressed, sad, effeminate, generally an unhappy mess.

"And how are bright, happy, natural, unaffected young guys who are gay and . . . still looking for role models supposed to be affected by your choice of words? They read your column, and what do they get? Regurgitated, recycled self-homophobia.

"Why? Where is your sense of male dignity? I didn't say male pride or false pride, and I'm not talking about macho bullshit! But how about just a little calm, clear, down-to-earth sense of gay male dignity?"

Well! My first reaction after reading this letter was to respond, "Aw, get over it, girl. It's a joke. I don't know why it's funny. It just is." But then, in the course of doing research for a book, I ran across an article entitled "Crossing Signals" from the Sept. 8, 1975, issue of *Time* magazine (hardly the world's leading authority on homosexual matters, but so be it), which caused me to rethink the question. According to *Time*:

"Like most subcultures, the



Mike Hippler shows his feminine side. (Photo: Rink)

homosexual world has its own language. . . Many gay terms for sexual styles and tastes are put-downs. Besides nelligs, effeminate gay males are called twinkies, sissies, or queens; they do their drinking in vanilla bars, swish joints, or fluff parlors. . . Butch women are sometimes called brothers; effeminate male homosexuals call each other sister. . . Fag and faggot are acceptable terms among gays if no straights are present.

"Gay speech can be fresh and funny, but also dirty and self-deprecating. Bruce Rodgers, who compiled more than 12,000 terms for his book *The Queens' Vernacular*, acknowledges that many gay activists regard gay slang as 'another link in the chain which holds the homosexual enslaved.'"

When I first came out, several years before this essay was published, I agreed entirely with the gay activists quoted by Mr. Rodgers. I'll never forget entering a gay bar

that first summer and hearing the terms "Mary," "sister," and "girlfriend" bandied about. I was appalled, for I considered queens to be an embarrassing throwback to an earlier, darker era. The straight friends who accompanied me to the bar were equally disgusted and confessed with a shudder, "You're okay, Mike, but these other guys make us sick. Thank God you're not like them."

Over the years, however, I grew less and less hostile to incidences of overtly effeminate behavior, whether natural or unaffected, as I grew more and more comfortable with my sexuality. Rather than viewing such behavior as self-deprecating or homophobic, I saw it as liberating. No longer was I ashamed of effeminacy in general or of having been a childhood sissy in particular; I was proud of the things that set me apart, that made me different. In time, I, too, began to use some of the queens' vernacular—but always with a detached and bemused attitude.

Straight friends accused me of losing my critical perspective. I countered that I was actually gaining a new perspective. I was learning not only the dialectic of camp (it was fun to talk this way), but also the dynamics of radical, deliberate, confrontational politics. I understood that, like some of their enlightened predecessors, the queens of the '70s were saying, "This is who and what we are. Like it or not, we aren't apologizing or changing for anyone."

When other people claimed that, by sanctioning this mode of speech, I was institutionalizing oppression, I argued that the opposite was the case. By calling each other "girlfriend" or even "faggot," my friends and I were turning the tables on our oppressors by transforming what they considered to be derogatory epithets into harmless endearments or badges of identification.

For validation, I turned to the example of Christopher Isherwood, who called himself and his friends "queers." This usually shut my critics up; few had the courage to contradict Saint Christopher.

Of course, I acknowledge that, by using terms like these, we run the risk of confusing our opponents. They knew when we exchanged the words "pansy," "fruit," and "fairy" for the word "gay" that we were making a valiant, if obvious, attempt to change an age-old stereotype. It must be difficult for them to understand that the terms "faggot" and "queer" are no longer shameful.

My initial response to this problem is "Who cares what they think?" But the answer is "I do." As much as I'd like to pretend otherwise, I want others to respect us—but I'm certainly not willing to gain that respect by playing by their rules—and I'm far more concerned that we respect ourselves.

So I still use the term "girlfriend" occasionally—but only when kidding around, just as I always have. And I still use the term "faggot"—but never pejoratively. Obviously I still get flack for it from gay and straight people alike. But I honestly don't think it matters much what terms we use, as long as we know what we believe. Sure, words are powerful things, but ideas are still more powerful. And it is in ideas that I place my faith—as well as find my dignity.

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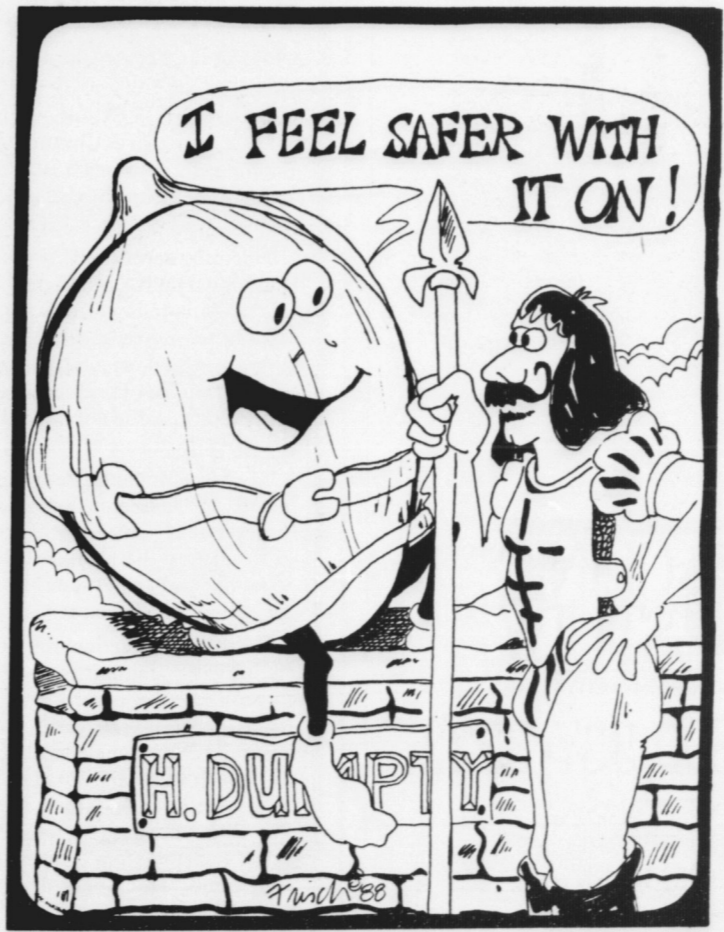
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Life at the Closet Door



Frisch



Humphrey-Helms Provisos Blocked

WASHINGTON, DC—A joint House-Senate committee on Aug. 9 killed legislation that had passed the Senate July 27, banning the use of federal funds for AIDS instructional materials that "promote or encourage homosexuality" or that call homosexuality "normal," "natural," or "healthy." The measure had been proposed by New Hampshire Republican Sen. Gordon J. Humphrey.

The joint conference committee adopted instead an amendment by Sen. Alan Cranston (D-CA) which prohibits only AIDS educational programs deliberately "designed" to promote homosexual activity. The amendment equally applies to materials designed to promote or encourage heterosexual activity.

Cranston disclosed that he and Sen. Edward M. Kennedy (D-MA) had urged key Senate conferees to reject the Humphrey amendment to the Labor-Health and Human Services appropriation bill because of its potentially "far-reaching harmful consequences."

The measure, they warned, would "interfere with life-saving AIDS education efforts."

The Senate, also on July 27, overwhelmingly passed the Cranston amendment, which Cranston proposed at the request of national organizations responding to AIDS, including the Human Rights Campaign Fund and the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force.

That amendment, which also requires that AIDS educational materials include information to reduce exposure to the AIDS virus and would allow materials that "talk to people in language they can understand," was intended as a "preemptive strike" against Sen. Jesse Helms (R-NC), Cranston said. Senator Kennedy was an original co-sponsor.

"The strategy," Cranston explained, "was to protect AIDS educational funding by giving senators an alternative amendment to vote for, so they could then vote against a far more restrictive 'killer' amendment which they had supported in the past and which we knew Helms was planning to propose again."

Twice before, last year and again earlier this year, the Senate voted for Helms amendments prohibiting the use of federal funds for AIDS educational programs that "promote or encourage, directly, homosexual sexual activities," whether or not they are so intended.

"By our action on the Senate floor and in the conference committee room, we have made clear that the federal government must not interfere or hamstring public health efforts to educate all Americans, including gay and bisexual men, about AIDS," said Cranston.

Dukakis Calls For Action on AIDS

Would Take Lead as President, But Critics Still Not Satisfied

by Dennis McMillan

Democratic Presidential candidate Michael Dukakis has issued a statement on AIDS calling for greater federal intervention in the fight against the epidemic. Dukakis met recently with a group of people with AIDS in Massachusetts to announce a major expansion in the state's battle against AIDS. He praised the Watkins Commission report, demanding more Presidential involvement.

Claiming to be one of the five leading states in the U.S. fighting AIDS, Dukakis said he has committed \$14.6 million to AIDS-related services this fiscal year. The funds will go towards a comprehensive AIDS education and prevention program, an extensive network of free HIV testing and counseling centers, and an array of treatment/support services for

people with AIDS and their families and loved ones.

"I want our scientists to use their great gifts not to destroy life, but to preserve it; to wage war on AIDS—the single most serious threat to the public health we have faced in our lifetime and a disease that must be conquered," stated Dukakis. "As President, I will provide the leadership and the resources to meet this crisis. We will have a national strategic plan to guide us in the war on AIDS and we will have a President leading the charge," he promised.

Massachusetts will add new supervised housing programs for families affected by AIDS, for the homeless infected by HIV, and for intravenous drug users who are infected. Plans are underway for a hospice in Boston.

There is currently a residence for people with AIDS, a unit at Boston City Hospital for children with AIDS, and a dedicated unit for adult AIDS patients in Jamaica Plain.

"AIDS is not exclusively an urban disease, nor is it confined to a few select groups," said the presidential hopeful. "We recognize this and we are responding to it by building education, health care, and service networks in every region of the state and serving every cultural group," he added.

When Dukakis signed the Massachusetts Health Security Act into law in April, his state



Michael Dukakis.

(Photo: Scott Martin)

else to become infected because of ignorance and that the projected deaths of hundreds of thousands of our fellow citizens are not acceptable. We need accelerated drug treatment trials and research efforts. And we need to reach out to people with AIDS with compassion and support, not turn our backs on their pain."

Offering evidence of his work in Massachusetts in the fight against AIDS, the governor cited a list of accomplishments, including having the first Medicare-certified AIDS residential hospice, being one of the first to offer alternative anonymous HIV testing sites, and one of the first to provide grants to home health agencies for at-home services to people with AIDS.

Massachusetts also ranks among the top four states in expenditures per AIDS case. The state boasts that it was one of the first to fund AIDS studies (between 1984 and 1987 it allocated more than \$3 million for research).

Over two million households in Massachusetts were mailed AIDS educational brochures developed

by the state Department of Public Health last October.

STILL DOUBTS

Despite his stand on AIDS-related issues, Dukakis is still not a popular figure among gay and lesbian voters. So far, none of the three San Francisco gay Democratic clubs has come forward with an endorsement, although it is still early and they are taking a wait and see attitude. According to Alice President, Ron Braithwaite, several attempts to contact Dukakis' campaign during the convention were thwarted.

Many gay voters find Dukakis' stand on gay foster parenting a reason for not casting their Democratic ballot this year.

Carole Migden, chair of the Democratic county central committee, which is opening a party campaign headquarters this week, said, "I strongly encourage all lesbian and gay activists to join our efforts there."

"The man stinks on foster care; so that's the way it is, but that's not the main issue," said Migden.

According to ACT UP activist

Terry Sutton, "We perpetuate a system of no-choice when we say we have no choice but to vote for Democrats. We do have a choice. We can stay home, or write in Jesse Jackson, or protest the election, letting the Democrats know that if they sell us short, we will not fall into line."

Migden countered, "I think a Dukakis victory, bluntly stated, is a life and death issue for us, and I say let's cast aside concerns over an imperfect record and throw ourselves into this race."

The AIDS plank in the Democratic platform written by Migden is, in her words, "a tremendous step forward, all inclusive, tight, concise, and broad-reaching."

"Maybe four years of George Bush would help politicize and radicalize this very complacent community," stated Sutton. "If we don't seek real change now, when will we?"

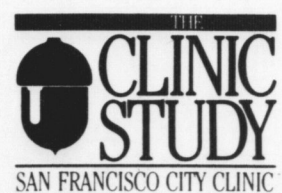
On the other hand, Migden stated, "The only question to ask is, would we be better off with George Bush? The fact is, there is no question that we would not."

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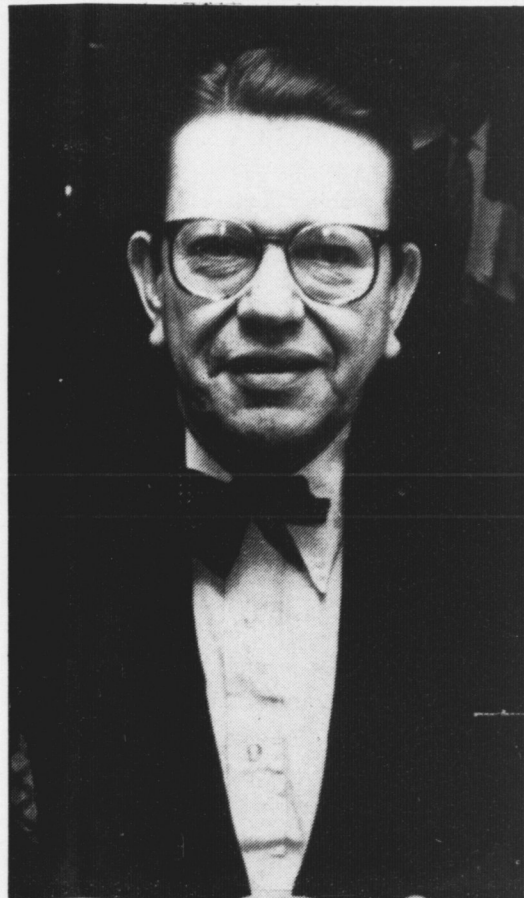
Committee OKs Hate Crimes Act

WASHINGTON, DC—The Senate Judiciary Committee unanimously approved S 702, the federal Hate Crime Statistics Act, on Aug. 10.

The bill, sponsored by Sen. Paul Simon (D-IL), is designed to collect statistics on crimes motivated by prejudice based on race, religion, sexual orientation, and ethnicity. In May the House overwhelmingly passed a similar bill, HR 3193, by a vote of 384-30.

S 702 is now referred to the full Senate for floor consideration. However, the Senate is not expected to take up the measure until September, when it resumes business after the August recess.

Unlike House action, the Senate Judiciary Committee was not embroiled in a controversy to strike the sexual orientation provision. During consideration in the House Judiciary Committee, Rep. George Gekas (R-PA) introduced the amendment to strike "sexual orientation" from the legislation. The Gekas amendment failed by a vote of 22-11.



Sen. Paul Simon.

(Photo: Steve Savage)

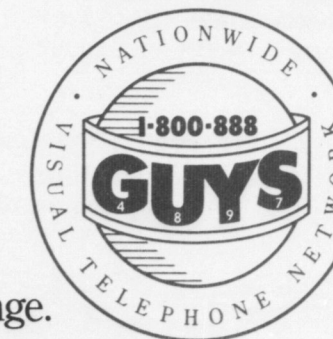
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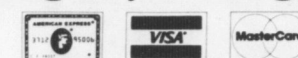
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Wilson Referrred For Medical Tests

Sentencing Delayed on Drug Charges

by Allen White

Lawrence Wilson, former San Francisco Police Department lawyer, was directed to report today (Sept. 1) to the California Correctional Facility in Vacaville for medical evaluation prior to sentencing. Wilson had pleaded guilty to two felony counts and two misdemeanor counts relating to the sale of drugs in his Western Addition home.

Many were surprised Monday when Judge Timothy Riordan announced that Wilson would not be put into custody, as is the normal procedure. The reason is that Wilson claimed he has an AIDS-related condition and is receiving treatment with a nonapproved, experimental drug. According to his attorney, Michael Gaines, Wilson would not be able to receive that drug in prison.

Wilson was not taken into custody. He may, in fact, spend only a short time in custody. A deputy district attorney noted that a person who has pleaded guilty to such charges would be facing five to ten years in the state prison.

Jerome Benson, chief of the criminal division of the district attorney's office, said, "In my view, it creates a bad precedent. The district attorney's office has historically objected to any deviation from the normal procedure."

He said, "The person who is the subject of a state prison evaluation like this goes into the custody of the City and County of San Francisco and is transported to the state prison by the sheriff. He is then returned at the appropriate time by the sheriff for sentencing. In this procedure, the person goes into custody and remains in custody until the time of sentencing."

Benson said, "We have historically opposed any deviation from that principle, and we oppose it in relation to this case."

When Lawrence Wilson was arrested on Dec. 10, 1987, it was discovered that he had large quantities of a number of illegal substances that included heroin, cocaine, various kinds of amphetamines, as well as marijuana. When the police raided Wilson's home, they reportedly took over the telephone and continued a



Lawrence Wilson. (Photo: Rink)

sting-type operation, arresting people as they attempted to purchase drugs.

"Law" Wilson was well known in local political circles. In the past several years, he was an officer of the Alice B. Toklas Lesbian/Gay Democratic Club and was a leader in the national political action committee, the Human Rights Campaign Fund.

Wilson had also been a member of the board of directors of San Francisco Arts and Athletics, which produced Gay Games I and II. He also served on the city's Elections Commission. ●

Castro Rapist Gets 15-Year Sentence

A man who was convicted of raping his trick was sentenced to 15 years in prison last week. Eric Gentry, 31, was put away for forcibly sodomizing and robbing a man he picked up outside a Castro district bar.

The men had agreed to have sex, but Gentry turned nasty during sex, said the prosecutor, assistant district attorney Ken Cady.

"The victim had voluntarily started to perform fellatio when the guy pushed him down, sat on him, and demanded his jewelry," he said. "He took the jewelry, and then told the victim to turn over and forcibly sodomized him."

Superior Court Judge Alfred Chiantelli sentenced Gentry on Aug. 17 to eight years for forced sodomy plus five years for robbery, with an additional two years for his prior record. Gentry was on parole for burglary and assault with a deadly weapon.

Cady said the sentence was appropriate. "It was the most he could get under the law," he said.

Gentry met his victim outside an 18th Street bar about 5 p.m. on Dec. 15, 1985. The men went to a nearby bar, had a couple of drinks, and decided to go to Colingwood Park and have sex.

The park was crowded, so the men went under the steps of the Most Holy Redeemer Church, adjacent to the park.

After the assault, the 25-year-old victim ran home and told his lover what had happened. They called the police and reported the rape and the theft of several thousand dollars' worth of jewelry, including three diamond rings, a necklace, and a wristwatch.

Gentry was arrested about a month later after the victim spotted him eating at a Castro area cafe.

The trial was delayed by a psychiatric evaluation after Gentry appeared in court, claiming he was a multimillionaire and owner of the Giants and the 49ers sports teams. He was convicted in July 1987, but sentencing was delayed by another psychiatric evaluation.

"It certainly took us long enough to get the sentence," said Cady. Defense attorney Tony Gurrola nearly succeeded in getting a psychiatric dismissal, he said.

Gentry was originally charged with raping and robbing three other men. But two of the alleged victims dropped out of sight, and those charges had to be dismissed.

Because of the time Gentry has already served, he could be eligible for parole in about five years. ●

Healing Project Needs Volunteers

Volunteers needed for the exciting and unique San Francisco AIDS Alternative Healing Project. The project sponsors a phone resource service as well as highly successful holistic treatment programs for people with all stages of HIV infection.

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Mayor Art Agnos on Aug. 26 appointed four new members of the Library Commission and re-appointed three others. The new appointees include the first openly gay man on the commission. The new appointees are Dale Carlson, Lonnie Chin, Steve Coulter, and Jean Kalil.

Steve Coulter, the first openly gay person on the commission, is an area vice president in Pacific Bell's San Francisco office. He is responsible for government and community relations, media, and marketing.

Coulter, 41, is a former assemblyman in the Nevada State Legislature. He is currently a member of the San Francisco Private Industry Council's Planning Committee.



S.F. Man Killed On NYC Visit

New Anti-Violence Campaign Launched

by Dennis McMillan

A San Francisco man visiting New York City was fatally beaten in what New York police are assuming was a fag-bashing. Twenty-six year old Paul Chow was found dead of head injuries on the piers on the Hudson River on Aug. 21. Gay activists in New York are calling it part of a surge of violence against gay men in that city.

Investigators are fairly certain it was an act of homophobic violence, since Chow was found with clothing intact and jewelry and wallet on his person. "We're not ruling anything out," NYPD officer Michael Lentini stated, "but it does not appear he was a victim of a robbery."

Manhattan gay activists believe the murder to be a fag-bashing because of a similar incident the night after Chow's murder. A young gay couple, David Frank and Barry Finnegan, was attacked with baseball bats and knives by six teenagers while the two men were walking in the upper westside, approximately four miles from the site of Chow's death.

Frank suffered fractures from a baseball bat and Finnegan sustained two stab wounds in the back.

Bill Smith of the New York City Gay and Lesbian Anti-violence Project reported that "the group that attacked them was shouting anti-gay epithets. There is little doubt that gay people are being singled out here."

Anti-violence Project records show a 36 percent rise in incidents of gay attacks this year. So far there have been 20 bashings in the Christopher Street area. Smith attributes the sharp climb in statistics to AIDS-phobia.

Troy Harris, Chow's lover for four-and-a-half years, was notified of the tragedy when New York police phoned him, having

found his number in the slain man's wallet.

Commenting on the senselessness of the slaying, Harris said, "He had an awful lot of friends, and he never did anything bad to anyone. Everybody liked him. He was a very peaceful man, and this happened so violently."

According to Harris, police are not giving him much information or consolation, saying that the case is still under investigation. They apparently called in a very businesslike tone and informed Harris, "It appears that we have a body here by the name of Paul Chow."

"At that point I lost it," Harris recalled in sadness.

All that the police will confirm at this time is that it is definitely a homicide due to a severe blow to the back of the head.

But according to Peter Lee, a gay reporter for an Asian newspaper in New York, several gay activist groups are conducting their own investigation. They have been posting a picture of Chow around the piers asking for any information that might be helpful in the case.

"Something has to be done about this violence," Harris said. "We have to band together to stop this and not ignore the situation any longer."

"I want to deal with this the way [Paul] would want me to," he said. "Maybe we can save some other people. Even if just one life is saved, it's worth it."

of an affirmative action program at the project and adoption of a specific plan to address the needs of women, children, and minorities with AIDS in San Francisco.

The HRC found that women and minorities are underrepresented in several areas at the Shanti Project. Specifically, women are underrepresented in executive positions, and minorities are underrepresented as department managers, staff counselors, and offsite workers. The report concluded that Shanti must develop an affirmative action policy for recruitment, selection, and hiring in order to foster greater representation of women and minorities at the project.

Following the filing of the HRC complaint in March, Shanti has begun to develop an affirmative action program, and the HRC complaint noted that "the lack of an affirmative action program appears to be the result of poor recordkeeping and defective management policies and does not appear to have been motivated by discriminatory or deceptive action."

Regarding personnel policies, the report stated that it was difficult for the HRC to make conclusions as to whether current policies adversely affected the promotion or termination decisions regarding women and minorities currently working at the project, because the number of

(Continued on next page)



Couples

(Continued from page 1)

ship was a close one and that you're hurt by the loss," said ACLU attorney Matt Coles.

According to Ellen Shapiro of National Gay Rights Advocates, this ruling "creates a totally impossible situation for same-sex couples. They won't let us get married and won't extend the rights of marriage to us."

Mosk claimed that his opinion was "not based on anachronistic notions of morality."

But Shapiro debunked that idea, saying, "It does give a certain legitimacy to anachronistic moral notions, whether intentionally or not. You cannot ignore the obvious."

NO ADDED OBSTACLES

She disputed Mosk's claim that to admit lawsuits from unmarried couples would impose an impossible burden on the legal system. "There are all kinds of rational ways to examine relationships to figure out if this is a relationship based on longstanding commitment that would be like a marriage," said Shapiro. "People go to court all the time to figure out the subtleties of a relationship."

Coles said that merely being married did not automatically entitle one to damages, but only to the right to go to court to sue for damages.

Both Coles and Shapiro saw this ruling as presenting no increased obstacles for same-sex couples. "In terms of the recognition of gay and lesbian relationships, it means we'll have to get changes through legislation, not the courts," said Coles.

Coles has authored a number

of statutes establishing limited domestic-partner rights for same-sex couples. This ruling, he said, was "not really a setback" to that effort.

"Whenever a prestigious institution does not take nonmarital relationships seriously, progress is more difficult," he said. "But this ruling does not stand in the way."

Shapiro agreed. "The opinion reiterates the values of the institution of marriage, but does not add any impediments. People who object to domestic-partner legislation will point to this, but it does not control legislation."

He accused his fellow justices of ignoring "the reality of our evolving social fabric."

According to Broussard, courts have never held that difficulty in determining the nature of a relationship is sufficient reason to deny legal action.

"I do not share in the majority's enthusiasm for crude, bright lines," wrote Broussard. "In my view, recovery should not be cut off on arbitrary, definitional grounds, but on functional grounds that correspond with real loss."

Broussard said it was hard to see how granting rights to unmarried couples could distract

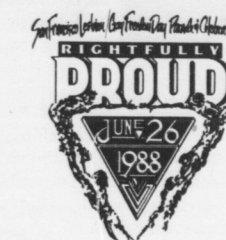
will be specifically addressed by the board's Internal Review Committee over the next few months. The committee issued a statement accompanying the HRC report, citing 19 specific areas of concern, including employment policies regarding board members; policies concerning sexual and other forms of harassment and discrimination; application of policies and procedures in a manner that might tend to create a hostile and intimidating environment; and uniform application of policies and procedures for staff, clients, residents, and volunteers.

The San Francisco Health Commission will decide whether to grant Shanti \$1.26 million in city funds next Tuesday.

Aerosol Pentamidine Study

Subjects needed for trial study of aerosol pentamidine at San Francisco General Hospital. Subjects must have had *Pneumocystis carinii* pneumonia within the past six months. Treatments in the study are free of charge to subjects. Other restrictions may apply.

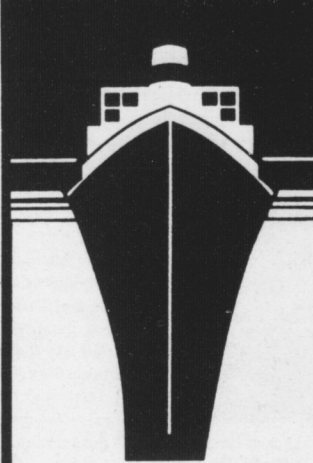
For further information, contact Erin McGinty at 415-821-3012.



The San Francisco Lesbian/Gay Freedom Day Parade and Celebration Committee would like to announce a special meeting of the General Membership that will be held on Tuesday, September 6th, at 7:30 pm at the Parade office located at 1519 Mission St. The special general membership meeting has been called to discuss allegations of vote buying for the positions of co-chairs for the 1989 Parade.

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GAY RODEO?

"Women should not rodeo any more than men can have babies. Women were put on earth to reproduce, and are close to animals. Women's liberation is on an equal to gay liberation - they are both ridiculous."

—a rodeo steer wrestler, as quoted in "Rodeo: An Anthropologist Looks at the Wild and the Tame," by Elizabeth Arwood Lawrence (Univ. Ten Press, 1982)

'Nud said? Apparently not, for the San Francisco chapter of the Golden State Gay Rodeo Association will host a rodeo at Hayward's Rowell Ranch on September 10 & 11.

Let's get real, folks. Gay rodeo is a sell-out to the very ethic which is most responsible for the oppression of gay people, women and ethnic minorities in this country. Rodeo is an exercise in domination, man (or woman) over beast, one step removed from rape. Every major animal welfare organization in the U.S. condemns rodeo for its inherent cruelty.

Urges the organizers and sponsors of this rodeo to present instead an event which neither harms, terrorizes nor exploits animals: GSGRA, PO Box 410773, San Francisco 94141, 707/629-9440

Please join **ACTION FOR ANIMALS** on a peaceful, educational picket line at the Hayward Rowell Ranch on both Sept. 10 and 11 at noon. For further information, contact AFA at PO Box 20184, Oakland 94620. 415/652-5603

BAY AREA REPORTER GREATER BAY NEWS

Nolan Plans Strong Senate Campaign

Supervisor Seen as Serious Contender,
Gets Party Nod in Run for State Senate

by Marv. Shaw

By acclamation, Tom Nolan, San Mateo County's gay supervisor, was nominated to run for the California State Senate's 11th District at a joint meeting Aug. 25 of the San Mateo and Santa Clara counties Democratic central committees.

The historical first of an openly gay man running for such a post was marked by Nolan through his introduction by emphasizing his life companion. But he followed up immediately by emphasizing that he will be a representative for all the people.

Nolan is taking the place of Robert Mack, the original nominee who died a few weeks ago. His widow, Ann Mack, placed Nolan in nomination, expressing her confidence that Nolan will win in November.

Originally elected supervisor in 1984, Nolan ran for reelection last June and racked up a 74 percent majority. That large plurality, and the results of a recent poll of 600 district residents showing that he had a 68 percent name recognition in the Santa Clara County portion, Nolan finds encouraging. The district extends from San Mateo to Los Gatos.

Pledging to conduct a campaign centered on the issues, Nolan also promised an avoidance of personal attacks. He also asserted that the senatorial performance of his Republican opponent, Becky Morgan, will be criticized, especially her docile following of the lead of conservative Gov. George Deukmejian.

His own dominant concerns are transportation, education, AIDS, and the environment. He pointed to his work with SamTrans, BART, and the Metropolitan Transportation Commission and particularly to his victories in securing a BART extension to near the San Francisco airport and an extension of CalTrans tracks closer to downtown San Francisco. Nolan represented himself as the best local person qualified by developed expertise to bring BART to around-the-bay completion.

Another major objective of his political ambition is to improve the state's help in the AIDS crisis. In addition to improved funding from Sacramento, he insists that increased public education on AIDS is vital if there is to be containment of the contagion.

As state co-chair of the No on 102 Committee, Nolan pointed out that one of the most devastating effects of Prop. 102 would be



Tom Nolan (c.) has announced his intention to run for the California State Senate.

that insurance companies could cancel insurance for people with AIDS and shift the burden of care to already financially-strapped counties. He reminded the crowd of 200 that he was a key developer of the San Mateo County AIDS program, which has been used as a model for other municipalities throughout the nation.

Realizing that he is starting late, Nolan and his supporters are moving quickly to organize and get his campaign in high gear. Larry Scheingold, an experienced campaign manager from

Sacramento who has recent Southern California victories to his credit, will be the campaign director.

Assistants are being hired and strategy mapped. Financing for a budget that will run to at least \$250,000 has started.

Quizzed on possible antagonism from the religious right in Santa Clara County which succeeded in rescinding an anti-discrimination ordinance a few years ago, Nolan responded by voicing confidence in the sophistication of the general public on the peninsula.

He explained that in the four years he has served as an openly gay county supervisor, he has never had one hostile expression directed at him on that score. He cites that record to demonstrate his belief that the electorate will make their decisions on the basis of his stands on majority concerns.

Fellow Sups. Bill Schumaker, Anna Eschoo, and Mary Griffin have come forward with enthusiastic support for Nolan. Support has also come from Sen. Milton Marks and various groups in organized labor, such as the Service Employees Union.

Aris Project Seeks Board Member

The Aris Project, a nonprofit corporation providing volunteer support services to people with AIDS, is seeking an individual interested in serving as a member of its board of directors. The Aris Project provides services in Santa Clara County. Aris Project programs include volunteer peer support counseling, weekly discussion support groups, assistance with tasks of daily living, and community education.

The current board has identified specific skills and background experience as priorities in considering qualification of applicants for board membership. Applications are encouraged from people who hold experience in fundraising and public relations. The board welcomes applications from persons sensitive to, or interested in service provision to women, Latinos, blacks, youth-at-risk and intravenous drug users.

An application process is utilized for selection of new members to the board. Applications materials or names to be placed in nomination for board membership may be directed to: MaryAnne Wakefield, chair of the Nominating Committee, c/o Aris Project, 595 Millich Drive, Suite 104, Campbell, CA 95008.

San Jose Police Dept. Reopens Bashing Case

Investigating Arrest of Victim; Charges Dropped

by Gregory Douthwaite

San Jose police think they may have arrested the wrong man when they booked the victim of a gay bashing at a hospital emergency room in May 1987. Acting on an interview with the assailants, police had arrested Barney Grubbs for indecent exposure and hit-and-run driving. They are now reopening the case for further investigation.

Grubbs, 45, had exposed himself to two men in a van on the freeway, thinking they were interested. After the men stopped and attacked him, he struck their van while trying to escape.

Charges against Grubbs were finally dropped in July. Police are now considering filing charges against the attackers and taking disciplinary action against the arresting officer.

It was clearly a case of "the accused being presumed guilty," said Grubbs' attorney, deputy public defender John Vaughn.

Grubbs, a handyman, was driving his station wagon down Highway 101 late one afternoon when he noticed two shirtless men driving by in a van. They made eye contact and smiled, and Grubbs smiled back and rubbed his crotch.

The driver of the van nodded his head "yes," and Grubbs unzipped his pants. The van pulled in front of Grubbs, and he followed it to the Capitol Expressway off-ramp.

Both vehicles stopped, and the van driver got out. He asked Grubbs what he wanted, and Grubbs replied, "Sex." The van driver snarled, "We're going to

kill you," according to Vaughn, and started pounding on Grubbs' car with rocks and fists.

Grubbs took off in his car, striking the open door of the van and causing minor damage. The van followed Grubbs, who made the mistake of driving down a dead-end road. Cornered on South Capitol Avenue, Grubbs accidentally ran over a small tree.

The men took one of the branches off the tree and jammed it into the car window, cutting Grubbs' face and neck and nearly severing his left ear, Vaughn said.

Grubbs got out of his car, bleeding. The men beat him, kicked him, and hit him with the branch, Vaughn said. A woman who lived nearby called the police.

The men told Grubbs that if he moved, they'd finish him off, Vaughn said. Police came, saw Grubbs bleeding profusely, and sent him by ambulance to San Jose Hospital without questioning him.

Police interviewed the two men and took pictures of the damage to the van. Then they went to the hospital, where Grubbs had just gotten 14 stitches in his ear and

been treated for cracked ribs and numerous cuts and bruises. They read Grubbs his rights and told him he was under arrest. Grubbs exercised his right to remain silent.

The Santa Clara County district attorney's office pressed charges, and the case was scheduled for trial. On July 19, the D.A. finally decided to drop the charges due to the insufficiency of the evidence and the severity of Grubbs' injuries, Vaughn said.

At the request of Vaughn and a San Jose group called Hi-Tech Gays, police are now reinvestigating the case. They are considering filing charges against the assailants for felony assault with a deadly weapon. They may also decide to reprimand the arresting officer.

The men in the van have both spent time in jail, Vaughn said. The driver, Ernest Arreola, 34, has been in state prison for possession for sale of drugs. The passenger, Donald Martinez, 37, has served time for battery and being under the influence of drugs.

If convicted of assault, the men could face up to four years in state prison.

Mendocino AIDS Group Seeks Coordinator

A search is underway for a paid coordinator of volunteers efforts being made on behalf of persons with AIDS living in inland Mendocino County.

Mendocino County AIDS Volunteer Network, formed a year ago, has developed to the point where its programs require full-time attention. "To provide that attention, we have decided it is necessary to hire a coordinator," says MCAVN Board of Directors chairman Jerry Newton.

Mendocino County Department of Public Health hopes (pending final approval of its 1988-89 budget) to provide a portion of the salary for the new coordinator, and to provide some of the expenses for the coordinator's Ukiah office.

MCAVN has provided housing

and other assistance with funds raised through concerts and other events.

MCAVN volunteers are already helping persons with AIDS and AIDS-related illnesses in the inland area of the county. A separate organization, Coastal AIDS Project, provides similar assistance to residents along the Mendocino Coast.

Persons interested in applying for the new job are invited to send resumes to MCAVN, Post Office Box 495, Redwood Valley, CA 95470. Newton says the board of directors will begin interviews in mid-September, hoping to hire the coordinator by Oct. 1.

Mendocino County AIDS Volunteer Network—an assembly of residents of the inland area of the county trying to provide help to

New MCC Opens in Santa Cruz

A new face with an old faith has come to Santa Cruz in Rev. Jean Hart. As the new pastor of MCC Santa Cruz, she has opened the doors and the hearts of those who come to worship.

Jean is a longtime California resident. She has pastored in Canoga Park, in the Los Angeles area, and just recently was pastor at MCC Stockton. A recent job change has brought her to Santa Cruz and her true love of bringing the joy of her beliefs through MCC to a new home.

For those who may not have been to a Metropolitan Community Church, you are missing out on a special ministry to gay and

lesbian people. The Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches (UFMCC) was founded by Rev. Troy Perry almost 20 years ago. There are now MCCs throughout the world, each based on the love of God for all persons and a ministry in social justice and advocacy of human rights. Each church is a unique blend of the backgrounds and beliefs of the members of that church.

Each Sunday at 10 a.m. at 303 Walnut in Santa Cruz, you can be a part of a new beginning and join in the celebration. The church is on the northwest corner of Chestnut and Walnut streets.

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Illustration by Laura H. Young

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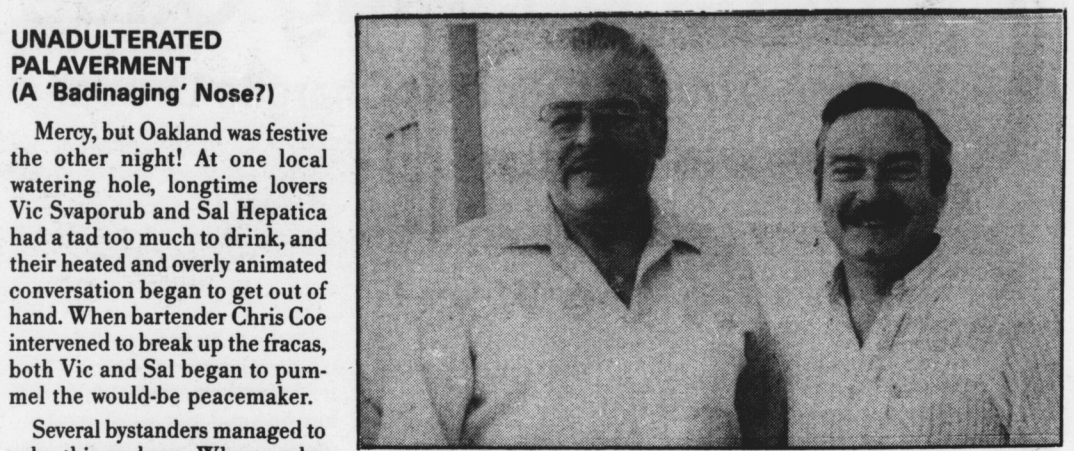
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A Night on the Town



Nez Pas (r.) with his better half, to whom we all wish good health. (Photo: Rink)

UNADULTERATED PALAVERMENT (A 'Badinaging' Nose?)

Mercy, but Oakland was festive the other night! At one local watering hole, longtime lovers Vic Svaporub and Sal Hepatica had a tad too much to drink, and their heated and overly animated conversation began to get out of hand. When bartender Chris Coe intervened to break up the fracas, both Vic and Sal began to pummel the would-be peacemaker.

Several bystanders managed to calm things down. When cooler heads prevailed, Vic was heard to mutter, "Hell's bells! Don't people realize that a private 'disagreement' is strictly private—even when it's in public!?"

Meanwhile, across town, local paramour Ed Settera was seen cheating on his "one and only" (Warren Peace), who, lo these many years, has been cheating on his "one and only" (Bud Vase). You guessed it, Ed was billing and cooing with good old Bud!

Down the street, a lighthearted group was singing their hearts out with the tingling tunes played by Mel Odios. It was a tossup as to who was the most off-key, Bette Wetter or Claire Voyance. Mel pleaded the Fifth. Come to think of it, he drank one, too, what with all that caterwauling abusing his senses.

In yet another popular pub, there was much speculation as to the current marital status of "I'm-changing-partners—again!" Cole Shute. Lately he's been seen in the company of several different . . . er . . . "supporters," if you will (including Benny Fitt, Gill D. Lily, and Justin Thyme). Jerry Atrick commented that, "If a jd when Cole ever settles down, he won't try to keep up with the Joneses. He'll drag them down to his level!"

Two drag queens, Penny Loafer and Bunny Pellits, are in a real snit—as opposed, I suppose, to an artificial snit. They both chose identical dress patterns and fabrics for their coronation gowns. Penny sneered, "Well, honey, you could always dye your hair a different color—if you had any!" Bunny countered with, "I could knock out your teeth—if you had any!" Ladies, ladies! A contrasting scarf of belt should solve the quandary. Besides, neither of you are running for empress, so who will be looking at you?

Down Hayward way that very same night, Hammond Ecks was busy passing out while he was pissing at the urinal! Bar manager Lee Mealone was not pleased to have to clean up the bathroom puddles. Hey! What ever happened to "We aim to please. . .?"

Up the street a bit, several sports aficionados were discussing the five North American cities with professional sports teams whose names end in "O." They could only come up with four. Juan Morefore DeRhode offered Chicago. Alf Fannomega came up with San Francisco. Ben Dover added San Diego, and Meyer Z. Dhoates included Toronto. Several drinks later, Perry Stalsis remembered the fifth one—Buffalo! He got rounds of drinks and applause for solving the dilemma.

Across the street, Matt Tress was spying the young, delicious morsels dancing under the flickering neons. He turned to his drinking buddy, Allen Rentch, and expounded, "Whoever said

that money can't buy happiness didn't know where to shop!"

Somewhere in between ol' Oakland and Hayward, bartender Kit Anne Caboodle accidentally spilled a martini-up all over steady customer Rosa Cruscion. Rose taunted, "You must be the kind of gal who climbed the ladder of success wrong by wrong!"

I was seated next to this unbearable twit who wouldn't stop talking about himself and his money. Since the bewitching hour was drawing (actually, "scribbling" or "doodling" would be more apropos) nigh, I decided to call it a night. "Actually," he sighed, "my name is Stu Pendous, but if you want to call me 'a knight,' it's all right with me!"

When I finally got home, my doorbell trade, Earl E. Byrd, was waiting for me, but I just didn't have the desire nor the gumption for any Tom Foolery!

ENTELECHY RECONFABULATED (A Veracious Nose?)

The Imperial Star Empire, Inc., of Alameda County will present its tenth coronation on Saturday, Sept. 24. The event will take place at the Henry J. Kaiser Convention Center, 10 Tenth St. in Oakland. How about that? The tenth at the tenth on Tenth! Similarities stop there, however. The doors open at 6 p.m., and admission is \$20.

The theme this year is "A Decade of Distinction—Musicals"—from Broadway to the silver screen. Someone with a little bit of creativity could really come up with some outstanding costumes and presentations.

Voters this year will not only be able to choose emperor and empress, but, also, they will be able to cast their ballots for six of the members of the ISE board of directors. Remember, if you don't vote, don't gloat!

REGNANCY RIDICULE (A 'Participating' Nose)

The Most Imperial Count Paul and Imperial Countess Raven will present a Most Imperial Regal Roasting of Emperor IX Carlos and Empress IX Tootsi at Town & Country on Thursday, Sept. 22, beginning at 8 p.m.

This most prestigious event will be hosted by none other than Bobby and Manuel. Hors d'oeuvres will be served, and there is no admission charge.

Yours truly has been invited to be one of the excoriators. Where do I begin? Let me count the ways—if there are any!

HOTCHPOTCH (A Ragout Nose)

The Miss \$1.98 Beauty Pag-

er (listed in ISE's most current calendar of events) was to have taken place at the Bench & Bar last Sunday, Aug. 28. It was ceremoniously (or "un") cancelled, with a new date and location pending.

Ms. Becky Brown was in Oak Noll Hospital one recent weekend, having some kind of tests. On my way to visit my own better half in another hospital, I stopped off to see Ms. Becky. I entered the hospital through the main entrance, stepped on the elevator, and rode it to the ninth floor. I chatted for a little while and made my exit. I stepped once again into the elevator, pressed first floor, and waited. When the door opened on the first floor, I discovered there was no exit. There was no way to get out of the hospital!

Thank goodness for those five young, cute, friendly, buffed, and unfortunately unavailable blue-jackets. They informed me that the main entrance to the hospital is actually on the second floor! Mercy! I thought I was going to be trapped with those middy hunks for at least an hour or so!

Speaking of hospitals, my significant other should be home as you read this. (My fingers are crossed as I write this.) Out of the last 42 days, he has been home only four. Damn those confounded complications that can set in after major surgery. My association with that godawful Ashby Avenue will, I hope, be at an end.

Don't be too harsh with me about this particular column. After all, I've gone through a week's conference in Burlingame; two days of jury duty; more hospital visitations than I ever care to remember (I'm known as the "resident visitor"); even washed my car and bought four new tires (can you believe it, Steve?); maintained basic household duties; accomplished one day's preliminary work at school; arranged for "surprises" for Carol, Ben, Sam, and Marv when they arrived in Hawaii last week; read up on all the car insurance propositions (good luck—the more I read, the more confused I get); rearranged the den and constructed new shelving; and even managed to make a party or two—even though all too briefly.

I didn't, however, have any time to make gravy—and if you remember that advertisement, you're as old as I!

Much thanks to Helen Highwater for the following: Everyone else can sleep around, and no questions are asked. But if I, however, make 19 or 20 mistakes, everyone calls me a tramp! I'll try to smile at that. —Love, Nez

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BAY AREA REPORTER ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

My Bruncheon With Charles

Diva Pierce Has the Memories as He Plans to Hang Up the Boa

by David Perry

Charles Pierce is not a drag queen.

"When I was performing in the '50s and '60s, the phrase 'drag queen' was a no-no as far as being an entertainer," recalls the world's most famous female impersonist. "A drag queen was someone who went to balls. There's nothing wrong with it. You be a drag queen. I'm an entertainer working in drag."

Charles Pierce puts down his fork with a flourish. Lingering over Sunday brunch at the Waterfront Restaurant, Pierce holds forth in the expected fashion, along with longtime confidante John Wallraff and his production coordinator of 20 years, Kirk Frederick. Champagne and oysters on the half shell have been whisked to our table courtesy of the house, and at every turn Pierce has been treated like a member of Hollywood royalty.

Blondish gray hair swept delicately back from his forehead, large Carboesque glasses with the slightest of tints upon his face, and a casual suit *à la* Truman Capote (or perhaps *à la* tasteful Tom Wolfe) wrapped about him, Pierce looks rather sad, sitting among his friends. It



Charles Pierce at the 1985 Cabaret Gold Awards. (Photo: R. Pruzan)

may very well be his last professional bruncheon in San Francisco. After 34 years upon the nightclub stage, Pierce is hanging up the boa—for the most part. It would be hard to imagine San Francisco without the "naughty, bawdy lady of Nob Hill."

Diva Pierce will be back, just without the schiepping.

"Look at these boxes," points out Frederick at an earlier tour of Pierce's Fairmont Hotel dressing room. "They're immense."

Truly, traveling with Bette Davis, Tallulah Bankhead, Marilyn Monroe, Mae West, Joan Collins, or any of Pierce's famous ladies requires more hat boxes than Mrs. Astor took on the Titanic. Not to mention a pacemaker-like device that recharges the batteries needed to make Pierce's opening-scene cape glow in Liberace fashion.

It has gotten to be just *tutu* much. A girl of a certain age (61) can only do so much touring. To quote Pierce (and hasn't everyone by now?), "I don't want to overstay. Life is a drag, you know—then you become one."

Charles Pierce is anything but a drag. "Witty" just doesn't seem to cut it.

"Campy" is more like it, and was probably invented just for Charles Pierce. Born in Watertown, New York, the would-be actor escaped to the Pasadena Playhouse to take to the stage. What he really took to were piles of old costumes and a career satirizing the great and not-so-great ladies of the silver screen.

The world has never been the same.

"I was doing Bette Davis before you were born," Pierce winks. "One day I just fell on my knees and started doing Bette for John (Wallraff)." The next thing you know, people were passing the hat at parties.

From such humble beginnings in Pasadena, Pierce took to the road, first doing his standup routine in a suit or tuxedo. It wasn't until an engagement at the Echo Club in Miami Beach that Pierce first donned a dress. That was 1954. Since then, Pierce's Bette Davis has arguably been photographed more than the original.

"I met Bette Davis just once," says Pierce, pursing his lips. "It was at the opening of Geraldine Page at Studio One Backlot in L.A. during the late '70s. Miss

(Continued on page 29)

Blue Is Red-Hot!

Billy Blue's Comfy Clothes Lead the Revolt Against Synthetics

by David Perry

What turns me on is excitement, fashion, and glamor," says Billy Bragman, aka Billy Blue. "What turns me off is ordinary, silly, and cute."

In the two years since Bragman opened his men's clothing store, Billy Blue, no one has accused him or his line of being ordinary, silly, or cute.

"We're not talking about 'fashion victim' clothing," he says, pushing aside a rack of slacks to give an example. "I'm representing a new generation of gentlemen which wants quality and current fashions, but doesn't want to be taken. I'm dealing with the guy that can afford an \$800 suit, but isn't worried about the label."

To listen to Bragman is to become excited about men's clothes. For skeptics who live in sweatpants on the weekends, khakis and button-downs during the weekdays, and jeans and pull-overs at night, this sort of devotion is a new experience. Bragman loves to talk about clothes.

"I think if my parents had understood me a little bit better—and this goes along with being a gay man—I should have been encouraged to go into fashion [design]," he says. "But I think I was a little uptight about allowing

this creative side to come out, because I was trying to cover up my own gayness."

Bragman came to the world of fashion late. When Billy Blue debuted two years ago, Bragman was 40. However, from an early age Bragman was a clothing junkie. Born in Brooklyn, he recalls that "the idea of having something new and fresh always turned me on."

The teenaged Billy spent a great deal of time haunting the clothing stores of Manhattan. After college at George Washington University in Washington, D.C., Bragman went to work at a conservative men's clothing store, selling the "typical collegiate uniform." Moving to California, he made a tidy amount in real estate and opened a small chain of video stores, Video Wave, of which he still owns one in Noe Valley. Still, the fascination with men's fashions continued to bite.

"I used to say the only reason I had jogging shoes was so I could get from Macy's to Wilkes Bashford," he laughs.

In 1986 he decided to take on a market long-dominated by the heavyweight duo of Bashford and Macy's, opening up a store within blocks of each.

"I toyed with the idea of opening a shop right in the Castro," he says. "But from the start, I knew I wanted to be more than a neighborhood store."

Bragman's strategy has paid off. His 73 Geary St. location, while admittedly slightly off the typical Union Square path, is drawing in a crowd of men who used to only dress the Wilkes Bashford way. It is exactly the crowd that Billy wants.

"My clothes interpret classic clothing in a new way," he says. "I'm not talking about fashion with a twist. I'm talking about blue blazers, blue and white oxford shirts, but presented in a new way."

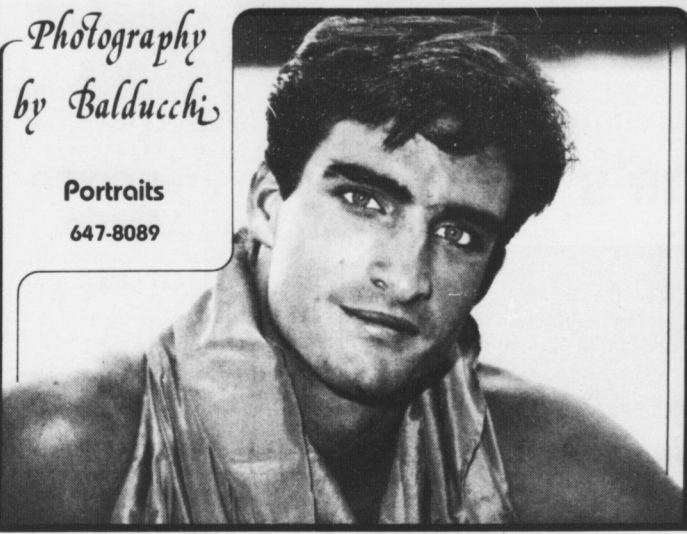
Bragman's new way can be summed up in a word—comfortable. The shirts are oversized, the pants fitted but flowing. Everywhere are charcoal, browns, grays, and navy blues. The dashes of color come in a wide range of shirts and ties, including one-of-a-kind neckwear that is made from Japanese kimonos. The designers Bragman buys from only work in natural fibers, and the factories that churn them out are the same ones that make the most expensive Italian labels.

His revolt against synthetic materials, and his very personal

(Continued on page 36)



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MUSIC

'The Shouting Stage'

A Personal Album by Armatrading

by Matthew Ogden

This has been the summer of Tracy Chapman, so it's probably not mere coincidence that A&M Records has chosen to release *The Shouting Stage*, the latest album by Joan Armatrading, as competition for the 24-year-old "upstart."

Chapman's music has been compared to Armatrading's, but it is important to note that Joan, who has a huge gay and lesbian following, was a black feminist musician long before it was fashionable. Perhaps because she came first, Armatrading's commercial success has always been limited, and she's never had the airplay that Chapman is currently enjoying with her "Fast Car" single.

Unfortunately, *The Shouting Stage* does not seem to be the crossover commercial success its record company is probably hoping for. It is a personal album, rich in Armatrading's own contemplative lyrics and expert arrangements.

"The Shouting Stage" of the title refers to the point of no return in a relationship: "I'm thinking more and more/Of what we had before/We lost it at the shouting stage. . ." And it closes side one of the album on a wrenching emotional note.

It is Joan's *tour de force* of the project, and her throaty vocal—alternately faltering and strongly resolute—does justice to the tragic simplicity of the lyric. The rest of the album is a variation on the theme, but the individual songs are ideologically juxtaposed, creating disturbing mixed messages.

In "Stronger Love," Armatrading sings, "I want/Stronger love/Just want somebody/Who will/Take care of me," and in "Did I Make You Up" she reveals that she has been searching for a "forever man."



Joan Armatrading.

Conversely, in "All a Woman Needs," Armatrading pities the conventional male sexism that uses candy, flowers, and phone calls as substitutes for love: "Man likes to own/A woman shares/Man has his needs/A woman cares." In what is arguably the album's best song, "The Devil I Know," the male sexist double standard is derided, while at the same time Armatrading admits that she has played the game all too well, and she dreads the day when she will lose her man the same way she stole him.

"The Devil I Know" opens the album on a high note with its cavalier, upbeat—almost danceable—rhythm which deceives the listener, just as the singer has convinced herself that her lover will be faithful.

If all the songs were as good—multi-layered and musical—as this one, the album couldn't miss. Unfortunately, the very next cut, "Living for You," which has already been released as the album's first single, begins with a sensual-sounding intro and verse which are soon lost in a whiny, bubble-gum refrain that may be designed to sell singles, but will disappoint devotees who expect better.

The Two Faces of Anne

by John F. Karr

It is hard to be critical of Anne Toffelmire, who is concluding a two-week concert engagement at the Plush Room this weekend. She is a beautiful woman with a warm presence. She has a flawless voice of crystalline clarity which she employs with an impressive vocal technique.

Her selection of songs is impeccable, ranging from some of the choicest ballads in pop history, such as "Blame It On My Youth" and "You're Nearer" to lesser known gems like "Just Once" from "The Fantasticks." She lites through "The Sailor of My Dreams" from *Dames at Sea*, sings Jerry Herman's "Time Heals Everything," the Kander-Ebb "A Quiet Thing," and isn't even afraid to poach on Barbara Cook's territory with "Dear Friend." She delves with unusual panache into comedy routines, and if "The Boy From . . ." has been too often heard, it is deftly done and complemented by comedy of high style with a rare Martin/Blaine screamer from the obscure film, *Athena*, and the boffo Styne/Comden and Green *If*

turn unfolds; the girl's been holding back. Returning to her ballads, she returns to automatic pilot. The show, in which ballads greatly outnumber the rhythm and comedy numbers, is a tepid display of Toffelmire's skills. Given her emotional reserve, no amount of lovely singing can raise her ballads beyond "nice."

As long as Toffelmire disregards her talent for character impersonation and comedy, her act remains cool. A fascinating indicator of this is her success with her encore, Porter's "Night and Day." Toffelmire gives it a glamorous flow and a warm lyricism—stemming, of course, from the song's inherent surface allure. And that's the Anne Toffelmire story. She's capable of much more, but won't dig into it for us.

Why? It would seem neither director Bill Brewer nor Toffelmire herself have analyzed where her strongest talents lie. When Toffelmire goes into any comedy or character number, she is as one possessed—suddenly there's a person behind the eyes, a surge of charisma enters her physical presentation, and a star

Anne Toffelmire
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Pierce

(Continued from page 25)
Davis was there, surrounded by people like Kirk Douglas, Olivia de Havilland, and Gregory Peck. Right before the show started, I was brought over and introduced. Her one remark was, "Arthur Blake (the famous female impersonist) was the first one to do me."

"Well," says Pierce, shrugging, "where do you go from there?"

If Miss Davis was not amused, she was one of the few. Pierce's shows are known throughout the industry as the places where fashion sits. Stars in the audience are a regular feature of a Charles Pierce show. On one memorable occasion, Carol Channing grabbed the mike from Pierce and cooed, "You do me better than I do."

Pierce relates the story over filet mignon smothered in hollandaise and topped with poached eggs. He ignores the accompanying English muffin and fried potatoes. We wondered how he kept his svelte figure and Betty Grable legs. As usual, the punchline is followed hard by raucous laughter—his own and our table mates'.

"Carol loved my show," says Pierce, smiling. "Liz Smith [a New York Post columnist] said to me years ago, 'Darling, this is cabaret. You can say anything you like.'"

Pierce always says and does what he likes. This is the man who once almost got arrested with Rudolf Nureyev and Dame Margot Fonteyn.

"Do you really want to hear about that?" he asks between bites. Everyone answers yes. "Well, we had been to the Opera House [in San Francisco] to see Rudy and Margot dance. As we were coming out, some hippie person came up and invited us to a party. Well, Margot took down the address, and we all went, much to my surprise. Of course, this was 1967, and people did things like that."

For those not around in 1967, the party was raided. Nureyev and Dame Margot were apprehended by the police, while Pierce escaped. It caused quite a stir, giving Herb Caen a scoop heard 'round the world.

"Oh, it was quite the night," remembers Pierce. "All these queens were in the back of the police van, singing, 'There Is Nothing Like a Dame' to Margot, and when I got down to the police station, Rudy was doing his Bette Davis impersonation, camping, 'What a dump!' for the cameras. The Queen of England even called Margot to find out what hippies were like. Oh yes, it was a big story."

Of course, by this time the table is engulfed in laughter. Even offstage and de-dressed, Pierce is the funniest of people.

However, it is in his guise as a funny lady that Pierce feels most comfortable.

"You want to hear about finding a lover?" he asks, and then snores. "You want to hear about my old lovers?" He snores louder. Queries as to the political Pierce are likewise humorously side-stepped.

"Am I political? Absolutely not, no way," he says emphatically. "I think everyone should vote, but do you mean carrying a placard?" He shakes his head. "Besides, no one cares what I think politically, do they? I mean, would you really want to know if I was going to run for president in four years?"



Charles Pierce in his "hostess" drag—er, costume.

He is assured in the affirmative. "Well, of course you would, because if I were elected I'd be president and first lady. My platform would be built on six-inch heels."

If Pierce likes to keep the conversation banter cream-filled and light, he is totally serious about his art. He is known for amazing stage crews by showing up two hours prior to curtain in order to prepare.

"Just like any other actor," he shrugs. He says he doesn't write material. "I compile it," he says, using source material from commercials, friends, and his 83-year-old mother who lives in upstate New York. To hear him talk, he is clearly devoted to her. So what now?

The man who is playing the Fairmont Hotel's Venetian Room and has played the Plush Room, Bimbo's, Ann's 440, the Purple Onion, and the Gilded Cage for six unequalled years in the 1960s is about to leave San Francisco. Later this year we get to see him as the drag performer, "Bertha Vanation," in the film version of Harvey Fierstein's *Torch Song Trilogy*.

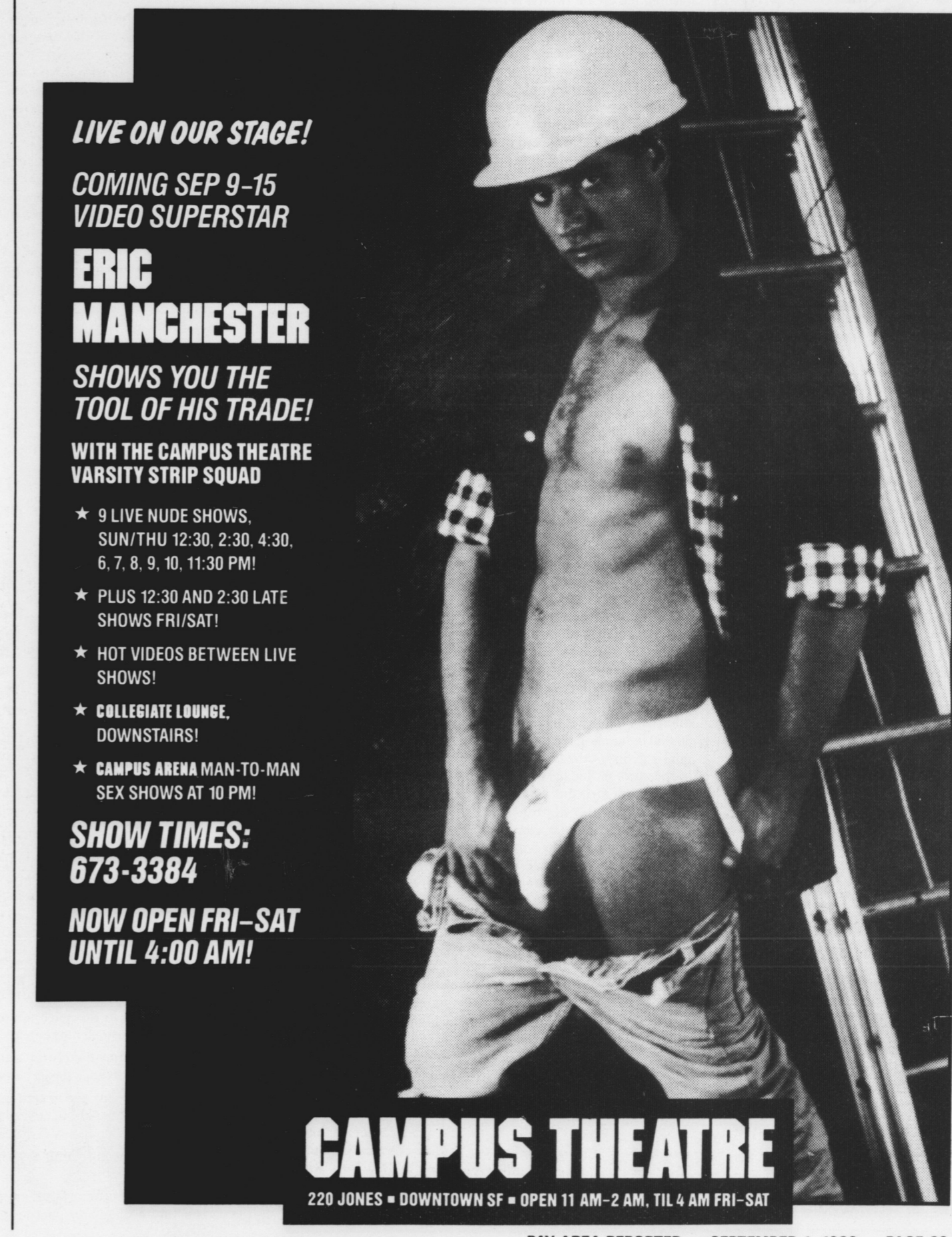
"I think I'm going to cry," he says as we pass. He points to his old apartment, a brown-shingled affair perched on the side of Telegraph Hill. "It used to look more like a steamboat." The car drives on, past Charles Pierce's sequined memories.

Bounding out at the Fairmont, Pierce says thanks for the brunch and pauses to give hugs all the way around. It's beginning to look a lot like goodbye. We can only hope that, like so many before him, this entertainer's "farewell tour" will be an annual event.

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George Heymont

No Culture Shock in Corn-Fed Opera

Earlier this summer, I went into mild culture shock while visiting the Des Moines Metro Opera. Perhaps it was because, after steadily becoming inured to the pressures of racing through crowded airport terminals and across bustling downtown streets, I was completely unprepared for the sight of a Country Kitchen restaurant where half the customers looked like Surgeon General Everett Koop!

Although it was a pleasant surprise to pass through rolling fields of corn, drive by John Wayne's birthplace, straddle the Middle Raccoon River and attend performances in scenic Indianola, I don't think a person can claim to have truly gotten a handle on Middle America until he has discovered that instant mashed potatoes are the specialty item on the Marriott's Sunday brunch buffet and that the breakfast menu in Omaha's Ramada Central hotel includes such yummy treats as a peanut butter, jelly and bacon sandwich!

While working the malls in Iowa, I got to sample Superman-flavored ice cream (which is *not* made the way you think it is) and visit the South Des Moines branch of K-Mart during the exceedingly hot 4th of July weekend. And yet, as tempting as it might be to poke fun at such experiences, the hard truth is that, under Robert Larsen's supervision, the Des Moines Metro Opera offered a most impressive artistic product.

The dimensions and acoustical dynamics of Simpson College's 480-seat Blank Performing Arts Center—plus the fact that all operas are sung in English—created a wonderful environment with which to support an extremely intimate style of opera theater. Although two of 1988's productions (Rossini's *The Barber of Seville* and Mozart's *The Magic Flute*) seemed like perfect choices for this particular theatrical venue, the Des Moines Metro Opera's third offering, Puccini's *Turandot*, proved to be quite a surprise. Here's why.

PEKING MUCK

Based on a Chinese fairy tale, *Turandot* promises lots of Oriental glitz and one of those "Anything you can sing, I can sing louder" duets between the soprano and tenor. Most productions of Puccini's last opera take place in oversized theaters where, confronted by audiences ranging from 3,000 to 30,000 in number, the producer's goal is to drown the ticket buyers in spectacle so that (as with Franco Zeffirelli's recent staging of *Turandot* for the Metropolitan Opera) the visual impact overwhelms the production's musical values and the audience leaves the theater whistling the scenery. Under such circumstances, it's not unusual for the soloists to be drowned out by the orchestra and for any artistic achievements to get lost in all the scenery.

There was no way that could have happened in Indianola where, due to the extreme flexibility of the Blank Performing Arts Center's main stage and fore-stage, the Des Moines Metro Opera's production achieved a surprisingly panoramic feeling. With sets by Paul A. Norrenbrock and Katherine Ross, lighting by Martin Ross and fairly elaborate costumes on loan from the Opera Company of Boston, this *Turandot* offered Iowan audiences a



Tenor Marcus Haddock (Tamino) and soprano Janice Grissom (Pamina) starred in the Des Moines Metro Opera's production of Mozart's *The Magic Flute*.

very impressive show. The acoustics of the theater did a tremendous job of enhancing the orchestral sound so that, when everyone was singing on pitch, one could honestly wallow in the excesses of Puccini's Chinese wet dream.

Pitch, alas, proved to be a problem for soprano Pyramid Sellars, who tackled the title role with a voice that was loud, but not always well-focused. As Calaf, tenor Paul Spencer Adkins did a fairly good job but seemed over-parted (I'd really worry about his singing this role in larger houses). Soprano Jean Glennon offered an attractively sung and sympathetically acted Liu; bass William Walker delivered a nice cameo as the blind old man, Timur. Lee Franklin displayed some attractive flesh as the Prince of Persia.

The roles of Ping, Pang and Pong were taken by Kimm Julian, Mark Kleinman and Reginald Pittman, who performed Act II, Scene I quite effectively from the theater's fore-stage area (thus offering an extra measure of communication with the audience). Robert Larsen's conducting was fairly solid, but I got the distinct feeling that *Turandot* was one show which might have been a little too big for him to handle.

MAGICAL MOZART

That was hardly the case with *The Magic Flute* which, of the three operas I saw in Indianola, fared best. Using Paul A. Norrenbrock's handsomely-designed unit set (with costumes designed by John Lehmyer) this staging of *Flute* was strongly cast, beautifully sung, visually quite rich and staged with surprisingly good taste. Larsen's Mozart conducting was right on target and the sound in the tiny theater bolstered the singers to the point where this performance of *The Magic Flute* became one of the better experiences I can recall having had with the opera.

Casting, as I say, was quite strong. Amanda Halgrimson's soaring Queen of the Night had a firm control on the role's coloratura demands while Janice Grissom's radiantly sung and endearingly acted Pamina evidenced the growth this attrac-

tive young artist has experienced while a member of the Houston Opera Studio. Marcus Haddock sang Tamino's music with a surety and pureness one rarely encounters (this was a tenorino singing from the balls rather than from his fingernails) and Mark Christian—an exceptionally fine black comprimario tenor whom I had never heard before—delivered a superlative portrayal of Monostatos.

The only weak performance came from Bruce Brown's Papageno which, considering that this was his first experienced with the role, may simply need some more time to mature. James Patterson delivered a solidly-sung Sarastro while Thea Potanos was an appealing Papagena. Special mention goes to veteran Anne Larson's Third Lady which, along with Rebecca More and Lorraine DiSimone's help, offered some fine Mozartean doo-wop singing.

Where does that leave my assessment of the Indianola experience? As readers of this column know, I derive tremendous enjoyment from experiencing opera in small theaters like In-

dianola's Blank Performing Arts Center (where communication as a part of opera theater ranks as a top priority). I'm happy to report that the company's artistic standards are extremely high; the product is just a tad below the level of performance one finds at the Opera Theatre of St. Louis.

And thus, although Des Moines may not rank as one of the nation's trendiest vacation destinations, I wouldn't hesitate to recommend a trip there for a weekend of good, solid opera in suburban Indianola. In fact, if one were to combine the St. Louis and Indianola seasons on a week's journey next June (when OTSL will be producing Massenet's *Werther*, Lehar's *The Merry Widow*, Purcell's *King Arthur* and the world premiere of Anthony Davis's new science fiction opera, *Under the Double Moon*) the combination of seven operas performed in English in such intimate surroundings might be too much to handle. Such a week could offer a truly revelatory operatic experience on a grassroots level.

Band Needs New Drum Major

The San Francisco Gay Freedom Day Marching Band and Twirling Corps is seeking candidates for the position of Drum Major. Duties of this position include:

- Leading the band during all marching performances.
- Conducting the band in ensemble or combined marching/ensemble performances at the request of the Conductor.
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- To assist in the selection of marching music arrangements.
- To provide coaching and support to individual performers.
- To represent the marching interests of the band to committees.
- To accept marching awards and prizes.
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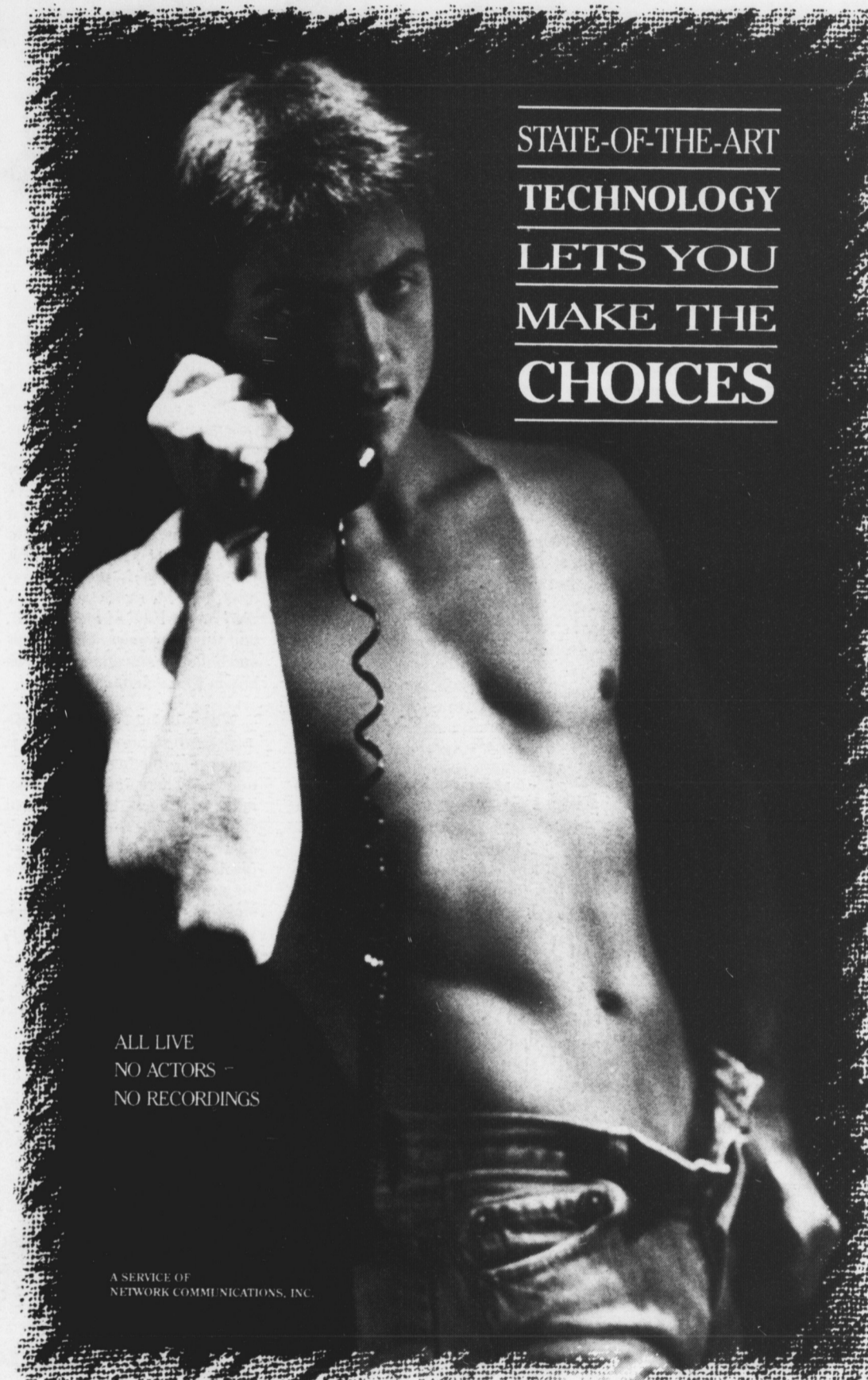
The successful man or woman applicant should have some drum major experience in a band or drum & bugle corps environment. This volunteer position will require virtually a year-round commitment as the band appears in marching events in all seasons. The band is presently celebrating its Tenth Anniversary during the second half of 1988.

The San Francisco Gay Freedom Day Marching Band & Twirling Corps performs dozens of times every year, at parades, formal concerts, pep band events, and a variety of civic functions in every venue imaginable.

The deadline for applications is Oct. 15. A decision will be made by Nov. 15. Interested candidates should send a resume and request for further information to Drum Major Search, San Francisco Band Foundation, 1519 Mission Street, San Francisco, CA 94103. Or, call (415) 621-5619 during business hours, 10 a.m. -6 p.m.

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Resse and Roger Austin are congratulated by Danny Williams at the Bow Wow Beauty Pageant. (Photo: PhotoGraphics/Darlene)

Marcus

(Continued from previous page)

ing your way too, including the RushRiv Jazz Festival (Sept. 9/10) and the Rodeo in Hayward the same weekend. GGBA's 22 on the Red on 17 Sept.; Tatiana's Drag Show at Kimo's on 3 Sept.; Leather Week Sept. 19 through 25, culminating with Mr. Drummer on 24 Sept. and the Folsom Street Fair on Sept. 25. Get ready! Who said summer is over? Maybe Mr. Hello Summer is over, but not the Miracle Mile!

WIN ONE FOR THE DISHER

Just got a flash that some dirty dude(s) broke in and stole the video equipment from Electric City and what are we going to do without that show on Thursdays? Stay tuned, there's sure to be a fundraiser for this group!

I don't know how wide the appeal may be for a new brand of condoms headed your way out of a rather dubious entrepreneur; they're called "Scat Dancer" and whether the ratio between the sale of douche hoses and Scat Dancers evens out, it could be a

neck and neck race! Scat Dancer? Hmmm.

I would have had a photo or two of the newly selected Mr. Great Lakes Drummer (Eric Braun, a hunk from Ohio), but I couldn't get to Shannon Kennedy, the producer, but promise to have one for you next week!

More sad news: The Cove (formerly the Norse Cove) experienced a devastating fire last week, but they're plowing ahead and will be open soon. Sorry I called the co-owner Samantha. Her true name is Solange, and watch for their re-opening.

The Esta Noche will celebrate its 9th anniversary on Sunday, Sept. 8, with a special show. The champagne will be flowing, but you can drink tequila if you've got the centavos, or should that be pesos? The fundraiser for Lola Lust there last Sunday and on the Taco Strip (16th Street) garnered some \$1,600. Good show for the Dowager Duchess!

Hey, you all know that heart-breaker Joe Dupuis at the City Athletic Club gym, don't you? He won gold medals in bodybuilding at the Gay Games. Well, Joe's got a secret and it's in Hollywood, but of course. I couldn't mention the "facts" here, could I? Can't mention a marriage without a divorce now, could I?

Craig Amaral, sometimes known as Craig Who? and Richard Rollins have called it quits. They almost made it to their 5th



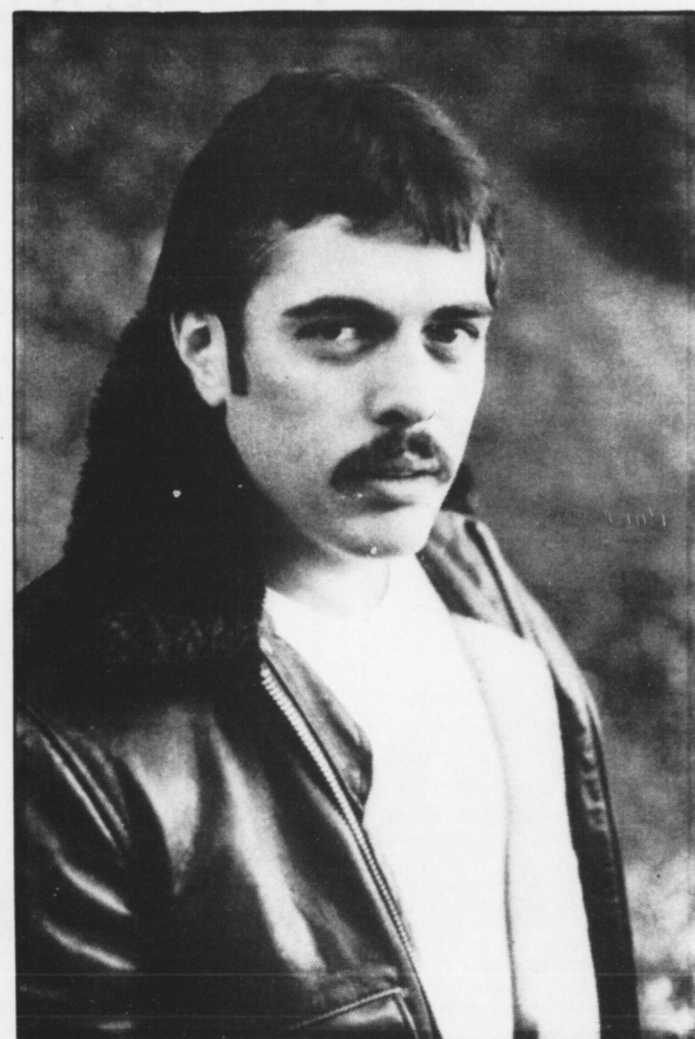
Juliet Prowse resting before the pageant. (Photo: PhotoGraphics/Darlene)

Anniversary, but both are up for "grabs" if you're the grabby type, and why not?

On the other hand, Ernie Viola hasn't introduced his new "squeeze" Steve Elliott to Sharon-Sharon either, but is Sharon worried? Not at all!

Hey, it's a holiday weekend; have fun, but be careful. And be generous again as you have been in the past. Stay calm, sober, out of the bushes; keep your legs crossed, and if you must dish, just dish one for the disher! See you next week, boys and girls!

John Hyer 1947 - 1988



To know him truly was to love him. John was a many-faceted diamond that required no sunlight to accentuate his brilliance and illuminate any corner he occupied. He was filled with an incredible zest for life and lived it to the fullest. His enthusiasm spilled over onto all those fortunate enough to cross his path on this earthly journey.

Many of us were privileged to be his customers here in San Francisco and Russian River where he demonstrated his special kind of magic as chef and bartender.

We'll miss your glow, Hyer. We'll especially miss the sparkle of those spectacular royal blue eyes, and oh that smile!

Godspeed dear friend!

Sweet Lips

They're All Catching Up to Me!

Puttin' on the Glitz is moving from Sutter's Mill to a new showroom on the third floor of Splatters today, the 1st of September, and what a beautiful show room it is. It seats 200 people in comfort, with everything new. Splatters is at 571 Mission St. between Second and First streets and is open for luncheon and cocktails daily. It truly is a handsome new room, with Bill Brown as the chef putting out some delicious meals.

Here is wishing a speedy recovery to Pearl of the Butcher Boy, who recently had a bad accident. When you get better, Pearl, remember to get your ass down to Ginger's Too for some dinner. Right, Jim?

Are Motha Phil and Poochie trying for babies?

Tatiana and Company will present *First Sunday* (now in its second year) on Saturday, the 3rd, at Kimo's showroom, with shows at 10 and midnight. A \$5 donation will benefit the S.F. AIDS Foundation Food Bank, and the cast includes the Saint and Suzie Wong, both contestants in the ducal race. Don't miss this entertaining show with the special guest star—Irene.

Have you had a drink at the Polk Rendezvous with the very pleasant David Kapp on the planks lately?

Anita Biggin for Ms. Tavern Guild. Yes, the great Tavern Guild Annual Picnic is coming up very soon, so check your favorite bars for info on buses.

Monday the 5th, Labor Day, Ginger's Too will be open for brunch from 11 to 3, and if you haven't tried Chef Ray Montez' new brunch and dinner menu, give it a try, because you'll be pleasantly surprised. Dinners nightly from 6 to 10 p.m.

The Tavern Guild Picnic is on Sunday the 18th at the Woods at the Russian River. Empress Reba and Empress Pushy Phyllis will be handling the high-heel race through a maze of obstacles, so be prepared.

Bella, did it really happen to you, and what is missing?

Reflections has the great Les on the planks. He was with Buzzby's for many years.

Happy birthday today, the 1st, to Ms. Jeri Ford, who has hit the 70 mark.

Johnny Tom of Ginger's Too is having a great tennis vacation in Palm Springs. If you see Gloria Grant, Johnny, tell her hello for me—and also Jim Anderson.

Yes, that is the BIG Bird at Mueller's Deli on Castro Street, and if you notice the weight gain, you'll realize how great the food is at Mueller's Deli. Right, Bruce?

Coming Sunday, the 2nd of April in '89, is the 20th Hanging of Sweet Lips. If you haven't been to one of these "hangings," you don't know what you are missing. Right, Greta Grass of the Kokpit?

Incidentally, the Kokpit has been redecorated, and you did a good job on it, Flame.

Dennis Klink, thanks for being such a great escort, but why push me in front of a cab? Only kidding, dear.

Larrie Merlin is having a birthday party, "Back to the '40s," on Saturday the 10th at Kimo's at 8:30 p.m. It promises to be a fun-filled event that shouldn't be missed.



Empress Lily and Emperor Steve make their entrance into Closet Ball '88. (Photo: Darlene)

Rita of the Ramshead, you were lookin' great the other day.

My good friend Dennis Garner in Portland is opening a brand new Salon, his third, in a multimillion-dollar complex. Good luck, Dennis, and I hope to see you soon.

"Twenty-two on the Red" will be held Saturday the 17th from 8 p.m. on at the Garden Court of the Sheraton Palace Hotel. Tickets are at all Headlines stores, and it's a benefit for the AIDS Emergency Fund, etc.

Yes, the popular tennis player,

Mr. Les Balmain, is still on the planks at the popular Gallean Bar & Restaurant. But how come I didn't hear from Roxie before he left, Les?

A special thank-you to Phoebe Planters, Pat Montclair, Flame,

and of course Sable Clown for their help on Steve's and Lily's birthday bash at Ginger's Too—it was fun.

Kimo's presents "At the Hop" tonight, Thursday the 1st, at 9 p.m. It will be a '50s dance-athon, a benefit for Project Open Hand, presented by Karl, a candidate for Grand Duke. It sounds like fun.

At 8 p.m. on Tuesday the 6th, Karl will host a party at Ginger's Too, so drop by and say hi.

Big D for Grand Duchess is having a party at noon on Labor Day, a brunch bust at the popular Transfer. This should be a biggie, just like Big D. And on the 9th from 7 'til 9, a party will be held at the Hob Nob, so get to know this candidate.

Thank you again, Mark Friese, for the great, fourth Bar Wars on Polk Street. It was fun, fun, and did raise a lot of money for the very important Godfather Service Fund, and I hope I can do it with you again next year. Right, Dolly Dale?

Happy birthday—the 65th—to Charlotte Calaman of Charpe's, Gilmore's, etc. You are catching up to me, honey.

Check it out! All new! ALL THE RIGHT OPTIONS ... ALL RIGHT NOW!

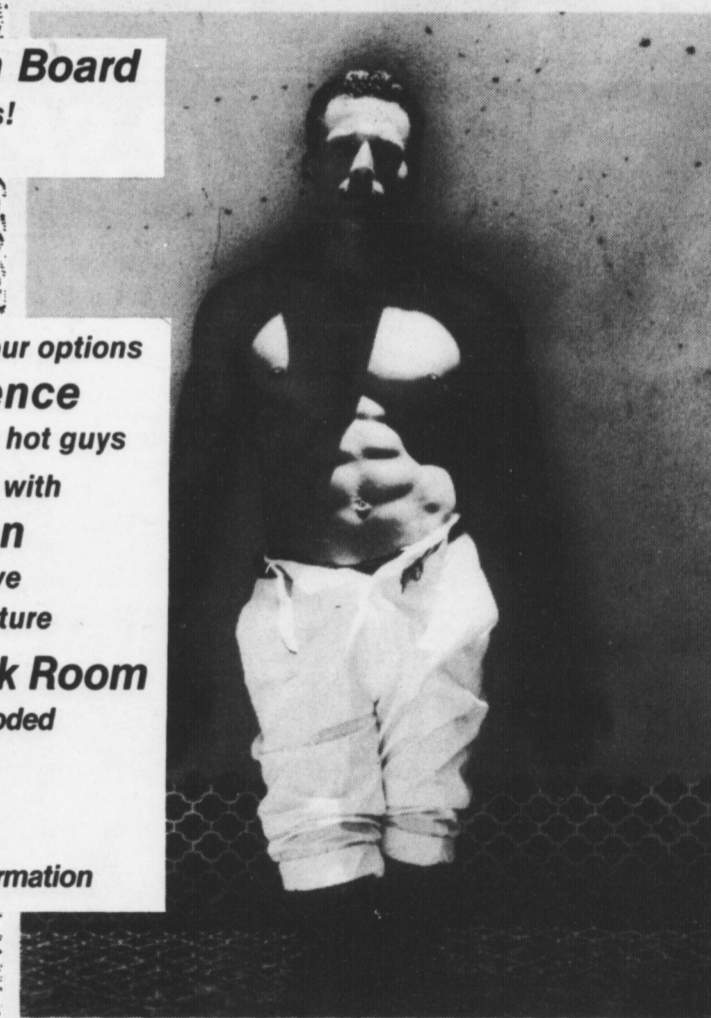
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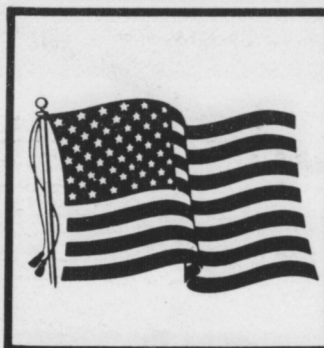
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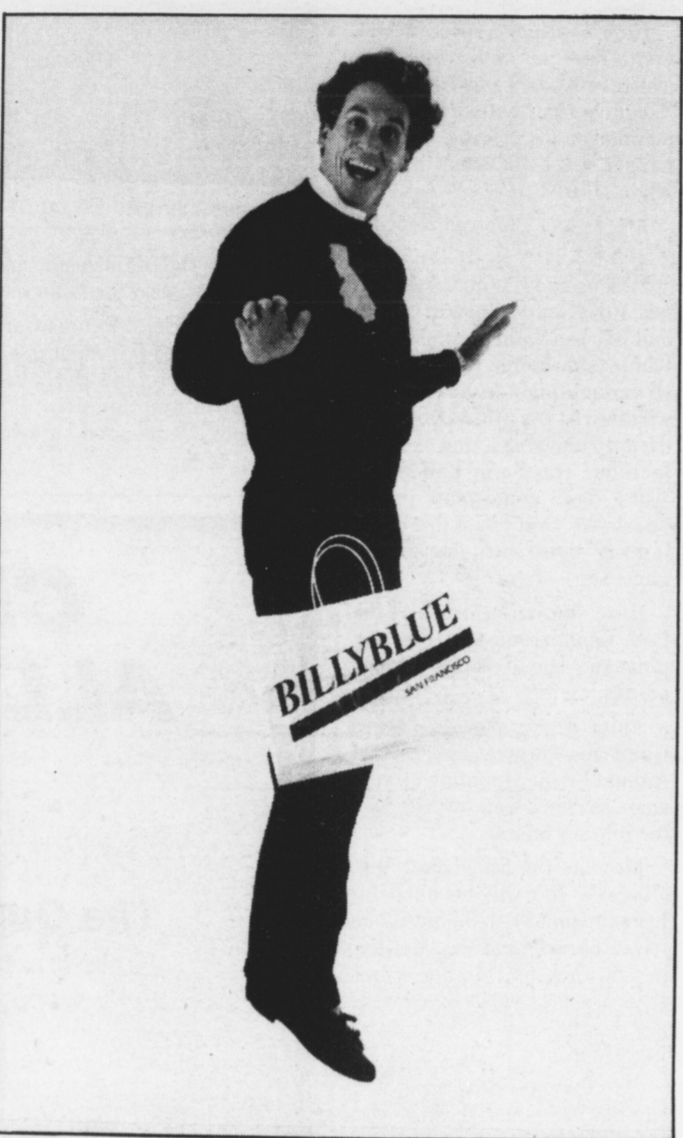
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—Billy Bragman



Billy Bragman.

Billy Blue

(Continued from page 25)

marketing style, has made Billy Blue one of the most talked-about shops in San Francisco and, in truth, the nation. Last year GQ Magazine put Billy Blue at the top of its list of places to shop in San Francisco. A little dazed, but delighted by the success, Bragman expects to branch out to mail-order shortly.

"I'm out to accommodate the demand for quality at fair prices in a contemporary way of presenting classical clothing," he reiterates. "I'm saying, 'Look, there are people out there like me who want to wear gray flannels, who don't want them made in Hong Kong, and who don't want them made from synthetic materials.' We want something with an individual style and quality."

Quality comes at a price. Shirts range upward from \$75, with slacks hovering around the \$200 mark. These are not off-the-rack clothes designed for hiking up Mt. Tamalpais. For graphic artists, designers, or other businessmen of the creative ilk, they are work attire. For others, they are out-on-the-town duds. The look is elegant, smooth, and unpretentious. Bragman shudders at the notion that he is dealing in trends.

says. "The connotation being that if I bought something in your store this year, next year I wouldn't want to wear it. Classical clothing is just the opposite. If someone buys a pair of flannel pants in my store, they're going to wear them 'til they fall apart, and that's a long time."

Bragman is a proponent of the soft sell. There is nothing pushy about his shop. You're likely to run into Billy if you stop by, and he takes a personal interest in his customers.

For those not likely to get excited by the prospect of buying clothes, Billy Blue might be the exception. There is no doubt that the merchandise is of a superior quality; even less that the store's owner is a personal believer in his own stock. Bragman is fond of saying, "When someone walks into a room wearing something from Billy Blue, people should say, 'You look great,' not 'The clothes look great.' In a market replete with shlocky synthetics and clonish Euro-imitations, Billy Blue is an original, and not a cheap one.

"I take a stand, like one needs to do in art," Bragman says. "If you like something, you should state your case and don't back off because it's not popular."

Understated design, natural fibers, and personalized service are making Billy Blue very popular. It might start that dreaded "T" word—a trend.

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Closet Ball '88

Monica Wins While New Reporter on the Scene Is Dazzled

by Dennis McMillan

The 16th annual Closet Ball, billed as "San Francisco's Most Outrageous Coming Out Party," was held at the Giftcenter Pavilion on Saturday night. It was a once-in-a-lifetime chance for a gorgeous hunk to be Queen for a Day.

But I was "new boy at the closet." Somehow I had missed the opportunity of ever attending a closet ball. I wondered, what does one wear to this thing?

I picked out a nice black tuxedo. You know what they say—you can't go wrong in basic black... and pearls. Once I had donned the pearl necklace, it seemed only natural to add rhinestone earrings, brooch, bracelet, and necklace. And, of course, heels. Finished off with black lace gloves, and *voila*, I was ready.

The first half was harmless enough: 12 manly men paraded around while Empress Lily Street (looking very Lauren Bacall) and Emperor Steven Rascher (looking very dashing, Rascher) did their commentator thing.

"We will now take a half-hour intermission while the transformation occurs," announced Ms. Street. I was perplexed. What transformation? And where were the drag queens in this contest (besides the audience, I mean)?

I was quickly clued in. It seems those 12 hunky men were going to be transformed into 12 bitchy drag princesses vying for the coveted crown of Closet Ball Queen.

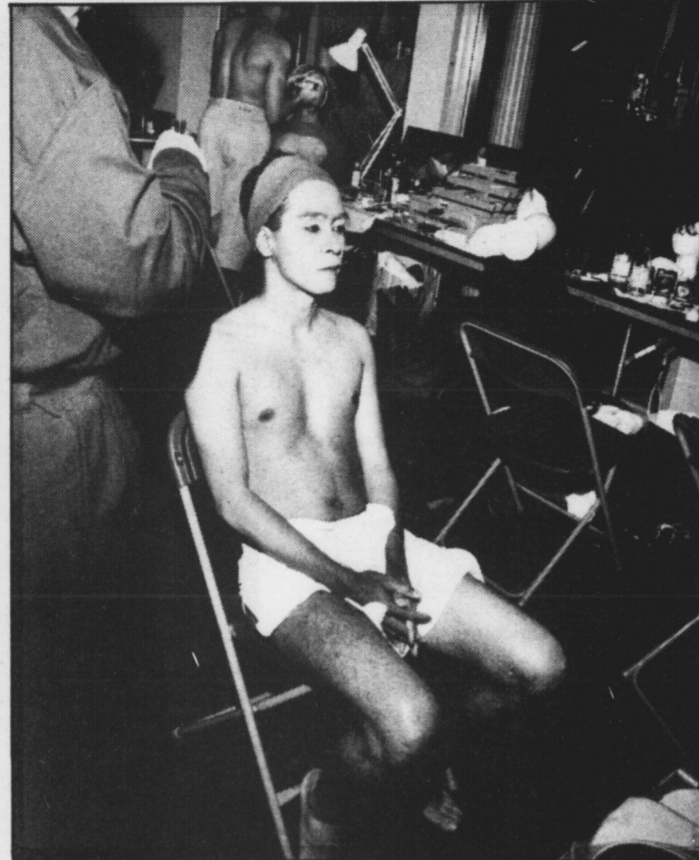


Closet Ball '88 winner Monica Loca was crowned by Lily and Ginger. (Photo: PhotoGraphics/Darlene)

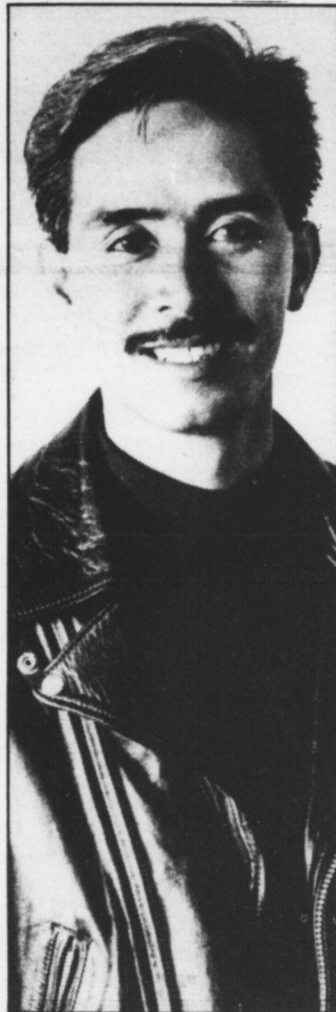
But, first, Desiree appeared in a sort of Aztec space goddess outfit, including a metal merry widow. Accompanied by her entourage of scantily-clad, beefy men carrying rhinestone-studded spears, she danced and slithered to "Coming Out of Hiding."

Then, with a fanfare, the contestants returned to the stage one by one, shaved and coiffed, braided and bejewelled.

Gina Lola Magnani was first to grace the stage, putting every Italian movie sexpot to shame in her black cocktail dress with



Leonardo Andaya makes the transformation to Monica Loca. (Photo: PhotoGraphics/Darlene)



Leonardo Andaya. (Photo: PhotoGraphics/Darlene)

gown with a veritable waterfall of long, black fringe flowing to the floor. Tiffany High-Priced was more like Macy Bargain-Base-ment (designer section, of course), in black velvet dress topped by electric blue lamé blouse with shoulders that made Joan Crawford look like Rebecca of Sunnybrook Farm in comparison.

Either a dancing mushroom out of *Fantasia* or a modernistic Christmas tree, Lattricia Charmaine was fluid in black satin, flowing in black boa.

Ms. Peachy King came out in black midi draped with see-through gold fabric, in makeup that proved beyond a shadow of a doubt that Divine is definitely not dead.

Monica Loca brought the house down (and simultaneously blinded the audience) in her "sprayed-on" (this thing was tight), full-length, silver sequin gown and train. The effect was like a human disco mirror-ball as she twirled around. Lady Mariposa then waltzed out in a blue velvet gown that appeared to have too many straps, until she undid two of them to spread her batwings open, the lining revealing sprays of silver spangle-bangles.

Last was La Belle Glamorine wearing a serious black vampire cape and cowl, which she stripped off to show her Bob Mackie-type red and silver and flesh dress (the kind Cher wears, with which a few strategically placed bugle beads keep her from an indecent exposure charge).

At last the winners were announced. Miss Congeniality was Peachy King. Third runnerup was La Belle, wiping crocodile tears from her eyes. Second runnerup went to Monique. First runnerup was Alejandra.

CB Queen of 1988 was (may I have the envelope, please?)... Monica. How tasteful, what foresight, and how like a true queen that she managed to match her crown with her gown—all in silver.

And so the closet doors opened on another ball. Wait a minute... that doesn't sound right. Well, you get the general idea. ●

Red Alert For Gay Redheads

Big Red International is a club for gay guys with red hair and has chosen Dallas, Texas, for its first annual meeting during the Texas Freedom Weekend, Sept. 23-25, 1988.

Just over a year old, Big Red has local chapters forming in various cities. While Big Red International provides general guidelines and plans national and international events, local chapter members decide the club's general direction regarding its own activities and special events. This first annual meeting in Dallas will give its members their first opportunity to meet other Big Reds from across the United States and will provide discussions on future growth and expansion of Big Red.

Club president Rusty Perdue reports that the club will also decide on one special AIDS-related project for Big Red to support. This project will be in addition to any projects any local chapters may already be supporting.

Rusty got the idea for Big Red about two years ago, and the response has been excellent. It is estimated that about 2 percent of the world's population are redheads, but maybe 10 percent are in the United States. When you take into consideration the percent of the gay male population with red hair, the number is very small.

Even so, the response to Big Red has been excellent, with a lot of comments like "Well, it's about time" coming from the United States and other countries. One of the more interesting aspects of the club's formation has been the response from non-redheads who want to join to get to know more redheads. The response has been so great, in fact, that a special category of membership has been created for non-redheads. There is also a category of membership for advertisers and businesses.

Big Red is a fun, vibrant, and exciting club whose time has come. More information and an application for membership can be obtained by writing to: Big Red, P.O. Box 190174, Dallas, TX 75219-0174. The deadline for registration for the annual meeting in Dallas is Sept. 9, 1988. ●

Lesbian Trilogy To Play in L.A.

LOS ANGELES—Celebration Theatre will hold Sunday marathon performances of Rebecca Ranson's *Lesbian Trilogy Desperadoes*. All three plays in the trilogy will be performed each Sunday, with Play 1 at 2:30 p.m., Play 2 at 4:30 p.m., and Play 3 at 8 p.m. Tickets for all three plays are \$25, and individual tickets are \$10. Play 1 will also be performed on Fridays at 8 p.m., and Play 2 on Saturdays at 8 p.m. For reservations, call 876-4257.

Desperadoes has been called a "lesbian *Nicholas Nickleby*," and each play is a completely independent play. Billed "the lesbian theatrical event of the year," *Desperadoes* explores with uncommon depth and humor, passion, freedom, commitment, loneliness, and obsession through a relationship between two women and the other people in their lives.

Celebration Theatre is located at 426 N. Hoover in Silver Lake. For further information, call (213) 876-4257. Tickets are also available at A Different Light Bookstore in Silver Lake. ●

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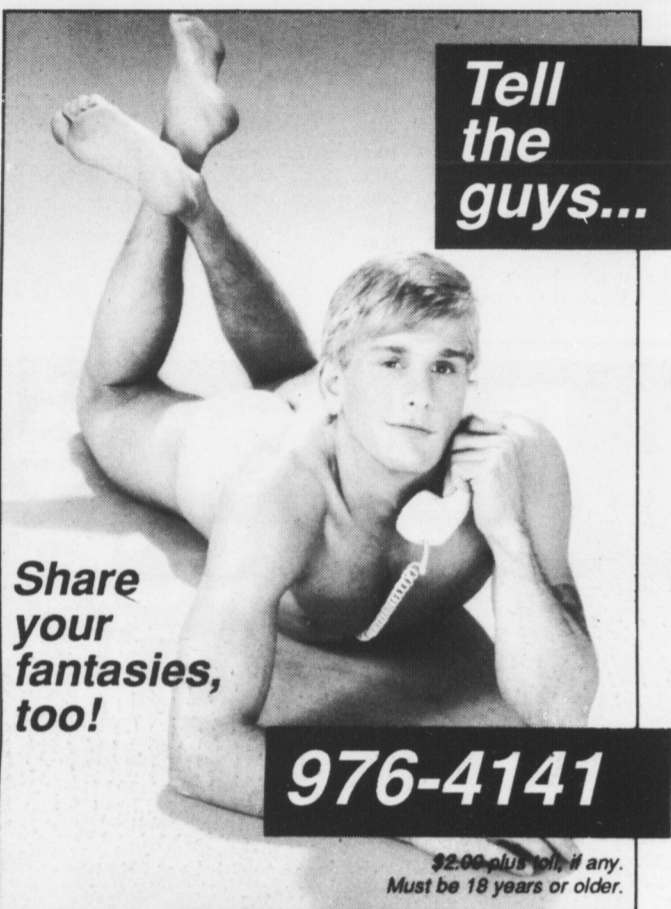
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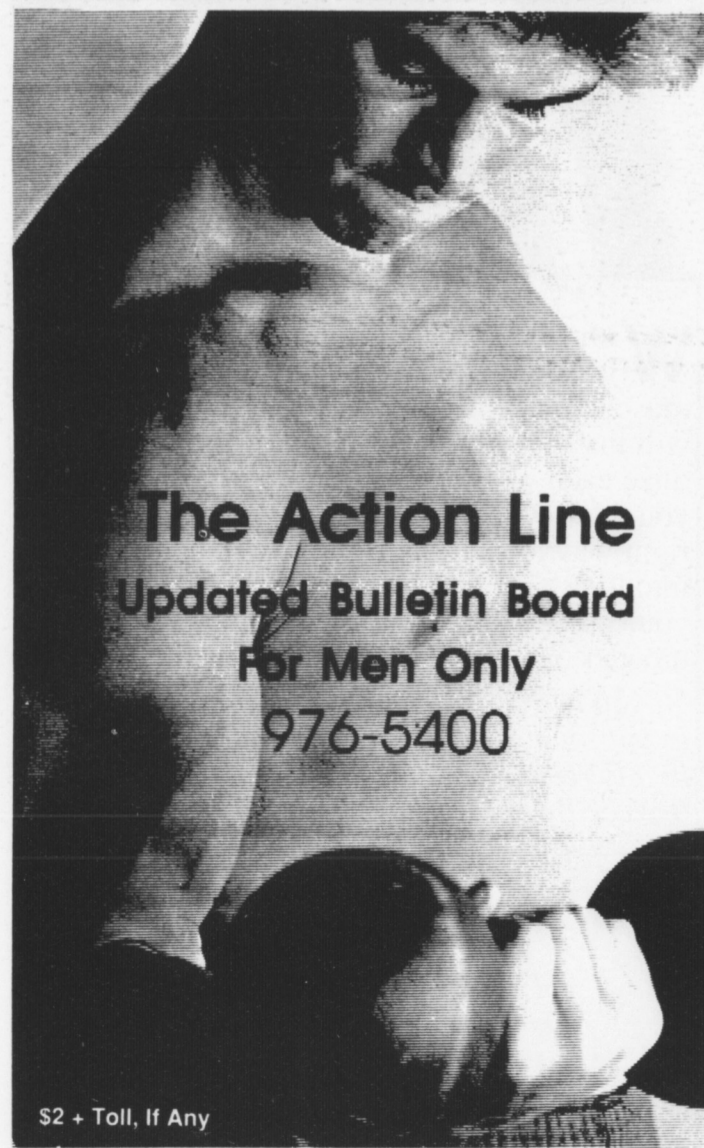


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SWIMMING & DIVING

Tsunami Swim Team Has Its Most Successful Season Ever

by Hal Herkenhoff

San Francisco's gay and lesbian Tsunami Masters swim team, combined with its S.F. Park and Recreation teammates, has just completed its most successful season ever with a fourth-place team finish out of 42 teams at Northern California's Long Course (50-meter pool) Championships held last month at U.C. Santa Cruz's new facility.

The fourth-place finish for the combined SFRP team, which includes the non-gay Sava and Garfield Masters along with the larger Tsunamis, is a repeat of the Short Course (25-yard pool) Championships at Berkeley in April. Defending national champion Walnut Creek again took the team title, followed by Rinconada de Palo Alto and Los Altos Masters. Before the formation of the Tsunamis after the 1986 Gay Games II, the tiny SFRP team usually scored less than a dozen points at such meets.

Simultaneously, the International Masters Swimming Top Ten times were released for the 1987 season revealing that gay and lesbian swimmers posted 10 of the top times in the world, all at the 50-meter distance.

San Francisco's own Tsunami ex-coach Maria Pease pulled in four of those times in the 400 and 800 meter freestyle, ranking also in the 100 and 200 butterfly. Garfield's Sue Smuck had three International Top Tens in 1987, not only the top time in the world for the 200-meter breaststroke at 2:57.51, but also sixth in the 50 and 100 breast. Liz Kay rounded out the SFRP women's eight Top Ten times with a tenth in the 100 breast.

Jim Johnson from the Tsunamis finished 7th in the 50 fly, while San Diego's Mark Wussler came in tenth in the 800 free.

This is the first time that gay and lesbian International Masters Top Ten results have been announced and one of the first times that gay and lesbian athletes have received open recognition as gays and lesbians participating in their sport. You were there!

Improvement at the individual level was just as impressive for the Tsunamis. Forty-eight team records were broken, along with 61 SFRP records.

Tsunami women, led by Laurie Levy, Crystal Brunzell, and Mary Huber joined Sava Women for an eighth-place finish among women's teams. Sue Smuck of Garfield and a participant at Gay Games II was the only top women's finisher, taking first in the 400 I.M. and a second in 50 and 200 breast.

The 23 Tsunami men, along with six more swimmers from Sava and Garfield, managed to win nine events. Chris Waters of the Tsunamis was the top scorer for the meet in the 25-29 year bracket. In addition to setting a new Northern California Masters record in the grueling 200 meter butterfly in a time of 2:11.86, Waters topped the field in two more events (100 fly and 200 I.M.), took second in three more (50 fly, 50 freestyle, and 400 free), and had a third in the 200 free. Waters also set new SFRP records in all six of his events while breaking the Tsunami record for each event.



In the 30- to 34-year bracket, Rick Windes grabbed first in the 1,500 free with a 19:11.02, a second in the 400 free with a 4:51.29, a third in the 200 free, fifth in the 100 free and 200 fly, and sixth in the 50 free. Richard Chapman (30-34) collected a third in the 50 free, plus fourth in the 100 and 200 free, sixth in the 200 I.M., and a seventh in the 50 fly.

However, it was in the 35-39 men's bracket where SFRP managed to score in 33 events! Against national-caliber talent in the 50 freestyle sprint, the Tsunamis scored an incredible 1-2-3 sweep thanks to Cris Allen, Richard Atondo, and David Ahlman. Allen's time of 26.79 set SFRP and Tsunami records.

Richard Atondo won both the 50 breast and 200 I.M., along with his second in the 50 free and 100 breast, a third in the 100 free, and fourth in the 200 free. Allen added a second in the 200 breast and 50 back, third in the 100 breast, and fourth in the 800 free.

Ahlman won the 100 back in 1:20.67 for SFRP and Tsunami records, then added points in the 50 back, 100 free, and 200 free.

Terry Shelton (40-44) added a

fourth in the 200 free and a fifth in the 50 fly. Bill Schoenherr (50-54) took third in the 50 back, 50 breast, and 100 breast.

Garfield's Bob McCusker (70-74), one of the regional leaders who greatly assisted Gay Games II with its sanctioning, took second in the 50/100/200 freestyles and got third in the 400 free. It has to be encouraging to all of the other SFRP swimmers to see the spread of ages on their team stretch from 23 to 71. Who said you're never too old!

All in all, the Tsunamis recorded 105 personal-best times for their efforts at Santa Cruz.

Board elections are coming up for the Tsunamis in late September and will be held by mail. Therefore, all members are urged to be paid up in their annual and coaching fees in order to vote. Tsunami/SFRP dues are \$30 annually and a \$10 monthly coaching fee, in addition to the pool fee for each visit.

A new coach search is closing due to the loss of original coach Maria Pease to medical school at Boston University. For further information on this paid position, contact 285-5659.

POOL

The Elite Win With Consistency

by Lauren Ward

The quest for consistency is shared by players in sports and pool is no exception. Consistent players make successful teams and that concept is dramatized by the recently released list of the two-year, top 16 players in the San Francisco Pool Association.

Individual averages from each of the last four seasons were compiled and the list was composed of players with at least 50 percent participation in each of the seasons. The results are a roll call of the league's best, and each can be justifiably proud.

The top three players on the list: E.Z., Lauren Ward and Lisa Duncan, form the core of the league's most successful team, the DeLuxe Ducks, winners of four City Championships, a West Coast Challenge Team Championship, and six consecutive regular season first place finishes. Over the last four seasons, they have combined for nine individual tournament championships and many more

top-four finishes. Part of their success can be credited to their loving friendship which extends beyond the pool-playing arena.

Jim Russo makes the list at No. 4. On Tuesdays, he plays for the White Swallow Wave, but most other days, he'll be down at the Palace Billiards looking for some 9-ball action. Jim's trademark is his effortless style and his sheepish grin which freely accompanies both wins and losses. He's had two MVP victories to his recent credit and has played on both of the White Swallow's Spring and Fall 1987 City Champion teams.

Leo Emanon checks in at No. 5 and he, along with team captain Charles Dossett (rated No. 10), are the forces behind the perennial playoff contenders, the Eagle Creek Chaos. Leo's a rather quiet, unassuming type who lets his red-hot stick do the talking.

The No. 6 player is Rick
(Continued on page 48)

Ugh, Baby! Another Stereotype Needs To Be Broken

by Will Snyder

The Ramblings of a Sports Writer:

There is a delicious, true scene in Peter Gollenbock's wonderful book, *Bums*, which was brought out of my memory bank the other day. Gollenbock's book is about the Brooklyn Dodgers and some of the chapters deal with the time the Dodgers and Jackie Robinson broke the color line in 1947.

The delicious scene concerns Ben Chapman, then the manager of the Philadelphia Phillies. Like many established people in the game then, Chapman was opposed to a black man like Robinson breaking into the white man's private club. When the Phils and the Dodgers met for the first time that season, Chapman was leading the racial slurs against Jackie.

Chapman's strategy backfired. A nation saw the courage of Robinson and soon rallied to his side. Chapman started getting all kinds of pressure and nasty phone calls. Quietly, he approached the Dodge public relations department and asked if he could have his picture taken with Robinson.

One has to believe when Robinson smiled and shook the hand of Chapman for wire service photographers, there was a great amount of glee in the heart of a great baseball pioneer.

Hopefully, umpire Pam Postema will get a chance to experience the same glee. Sadly, she has experienced discrimination from an ex-San Francisco Giant and the current Giant manager.

The Giant manager, of course, is Roger Craig while the ex-Giant is Houston pitcher Bob Knepper. No one is saying Craig and Knepper don't have a right to their views. But that doesn't mean they shouldn't get spanked for them, either.

Knepper started the whole mess during spring training. The Astros' left-hander, a card-carrying born-again Christian, said women shouldn't be in the umpiring profession. He railed out at the National Organization of Women (NOW) as an organization of feminists and lesbians.

Thankfully, Knepper got more heat than an evangelist could give from decent-thinking Americans from all walks of life. He apologized.

Craig told the press last week that women shouldn't be umpires, but he had a reason other than the born-again's Biblical theory about women and the home. Craig said women shouldn't be around all of the filthy language that ballplayers and managers use.

How absurd. Postema has been a minor league umpire for 11 seasons. She hasn't already heard everything that she wouldn't hear at the major league level?

During spring training, many players, thankfully, came to Postema's defense. Many of the players had played in the Pacific Coast League where Postema currently works. They know about her ability, and her right as an American for equal treatment.

Postema just missed being called up to the majors this spring. Hopefully, she'll get the call next year. Hopefully, she'll work Opening Day at Candlestick Park. And if the Giants ever decide to improve the cuisine at that wretched place, Roger Craig should serve the first meal for Postema at home plate.

That would be a main dish of

crow followed by a dessert of humble pie...

Here we are feeling some summer-like weather when we should start thinking about the ski season. That's the word from the SAGA North Ski Club.

SAGA North will hold its season-opening picnic on Sunday, Oct. 16 at the Meadows Picnic area of Tilden Park in Berkeley. The picnic starts at Noon and concludes five hours later.

This event, of course, is meant not only as a way for current SAGA members to socialize, but it also serves as a way for those folks who are interested in taking the slopes to take that first step. So, don't bring your skis (unless October weather in Berkeley changes dramatically), but do bring your energy (plenty of volleyball, croquet and a neat merry-go-round) and your appetite (SAGA North will provide the hamburgers and hot dogs while attendees are asked to bring a salad, dessert, beverage and other accoutrement). A small charge will be requested from those attending to defer ex-

penses.

If you're new to SAGA North, you'll find it an interesting club. The group holds a number of in-state meets and also is planning on trips to Jackson Hole, Aspen and (get ready for your cue, Julie Andrews) Austria.

For more information, call 995-2772...

Now, this is more of a social note than a sports note, but you folks in San Jose will get double the skating fun this fall. The Billy DeFrank Lesbian and Gay Community Center will hold Skate Night two Mondays per month instead of one.

The DeFrank newsletter reports that the Skate Night was so popular that rollerskaters will have twice as much fun this fall. DJs for the combination dance/rollerskating parties will be Pete Jemo on Monday, Sept. 5 and Mark on Monday, Sept. 19. Both nights start at 7:30 p.m. at Skate World, which is located off Stevens Creek Blvd. near the San Tomas Expressway, behind the Decor Unfinished Furniture Store.

For more information, call

(408) 293-ACAY...

One more note for those preparing to attend The Church of Joe Montana, either at The Stick or at your favorite bar: The Niners will win their division again, but not without first rate competition from both New Orleans and a vastly underrated Ram team. Here's the predicted order of finish:

NFC West: 49ERS, Saints, Rams, Falcons

NFC Central: Vikings, Bears, Packers, Bucs, Lions

NFC East: Giants, Redskins, Eagles, Cowboys, Cardinals

NFC Champions: Giants

AFC West: Broncos, Seahawks, Raiders, Chiefs, Chargers

AFC Central: Browns, Oilers, Steelers, Bengals

AFC East: Bills, Colts, Patriots, Dolphins, Jets

AFC Champions: Browns

Super Bowl Champions: Giants.

As pointed out in this column last year, many gay and lesbian bars have become sports bars when the 49er season starts. If

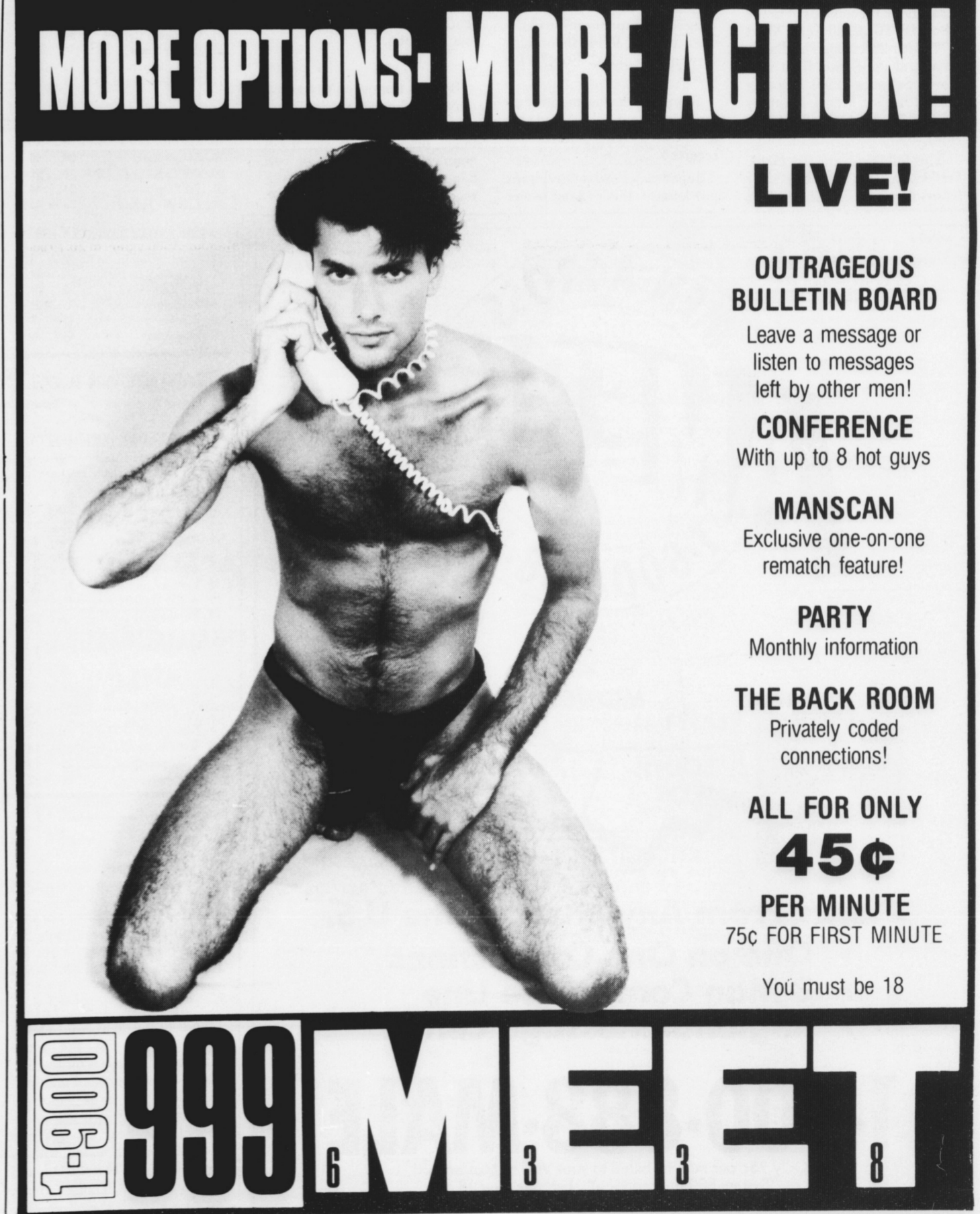
you don't believe it, stop by Uncle Bert's or The Bear or Kimo's or some other bar on a Sunday. The knowledge of the game is there, not to mention the enthusiasm for some of the boys in uniform.

World Series Results

by Hal Herkenhoff

The 12th Gay and Lesbian Softball World Series in Dallas wasn't too kind to local entries. In the open division, San Francisco's Endup was able to record a seventh-place finish, based on a 2-2 record. In the women's division, S.F.'s Amelia's lost all four of its games. In the newly-created recreation division, S.F.'s Rainbow Roos split four games.

Minneapolis' Cloud Nine won its third national championship in the last five years by downing Griff's of Los Angeles, 6-3. In the women's division, San Diego Peacock Alley defeated Chicago Synergy, while in the rec division, New York's Ty's beat Toronto. No scores were available as B.A.R. went to press.



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BOWLING

178 Pins Above 3-Game Average

Jay Makes National Bowling News

by Richard McPherson

There were a lot of good scores shot in the Tavern Guild Leagues at Park Bowl the week of Aug. 15-18, but certainly the greatest achievement (even though it was not the highest), was executed by Jay Kubovek, a 151 average in the Thursday Tavern Guild League (TGL). Bowling for "Trax," Kubovek shot a 631 series on games of 223, 176, 232. This is an American Bowling Congress (ABC) award-winning 178 pins over his three-game, total pin average, and the highest over-average score shot this season. (Awards are issued to bowlers shooting 150 pins or more over their average in a three-game league set.) Great shooting Jay!

A hot match ensued in the Wednesday TGL between Play With It, Ltd. and the Ram's Head Bar with Tom Sipple (179 avg.) topping both teams with a 232, 226, 211/669 effort, his highest of the season. Tom was aided in the 4-0 victory by Randy Peterson (186) shooting a great 263 game and 607 series (Peterson also shot a 259 game the next night in the Thursday TGL), and Kevin Ahart (177) with 223, 203. The Ram's Head put up a good fight with Kevin Schwabe (206) shooting 236, 201/635, Meryl Manthey (153) 208 and Gary Robinson (147) 203.

The following are the 600+ series scorers at Park Bowl: Roy Thorson (179) 205, 212, 223/640;

Dave Lilly (197) 200, 223, 213/636; Jeff Hettmansperger (199) 210, 255/635; David Arnold (197) 236, 227/614; Tim Mulvenon (179) 225, 210/614; R. McPherson (211) 215/612.

Bowlers shooting games over 215: Byron Mathews (182) 237, Keith Ray (175) 236, J. C. Halstead (191) 233, Doug Litwin (175) 226, 207; Kevin Ahart (187) 225, Byron Mathews (177) 220, Tom Neidert (164) 219, Don Gambell (165) 215.

Special congratulations to Allen Price, a 159 average, on 227 and 203 games, and to Chuck Webster (154 avg.) who shot 185, 197, 212/594. Phil Payton (138 avg.) shot his lifetime high game in the Tavern Guild Trios with a 213.

Honorable Mention (160 and under average): Elizabeth Yesowira (160) 212, Marian Nishimura (149) 210, and Rich Edmonds (154) 201.

Tom Mysong, 172 average, had high series in the Community Leagues at Japantown Bowl the week of Aug. 9-14, shooting a very consistent 202, 197, 204 for a 603.

Results of the last monthly no tap tournament will be listed here as soon as the results are received.

Japantown Bowl is offering six gay leagues this coming winter

season, three of which are vacation leagues to Las Vegas, Hawaii and Reno. Following is the winter JTown schedule and starting dates:

• **Mondays, Sept. 26:** Las Vegas League, 8:45 p.m. Vacation dates: June 2, 3, 4th (all league bowlers go to Vegas, not just the winning team) \$13/week (includes trip).

• **Tuesday Community League:** Sept. 20, 8:45 p.m., \$9/week

• **Wednesday Community League:** Sept. 21, 8:45 p.m., \$8.50/week

• **Thursday Afternoon Community League:** Sept. 29, 1 p.m., \$6.50/week (the only gay weekday afternoon league in the city).

• **Fridays, Hawaii Vacation League, Sept. 2:** 6:30 p.m., Vacation: early June, 1989, \$20/week (includes trip). For additional information call Terry Kaplan at JTown 921-6200. For Park Bowl leagues call Mal Garcia 752-2366.

Bowlers interested in finding out more about Team San Francisco can pick up a copy of their latest newsletter at the main counter at Park Bowl, or call 626-1333 (answering service) to receive a copy by mail.



Tim Mulvenon had another great week, too, with a 614 series. (Photo: PhotoGraphics/Darlene)

PARK BOWL TAVERN GUILD LEAGUES

Table with team standings for Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday Tavern Guild Leagues. Columns include team name, wins, losses, and averages.

JAPANTOWN BOWL COMMUNITY LEAGUES

Table with team standings for Wednesday and Thursday Community Leagues at Japantown Bowl. Columns include team name, wins, losses, and averages.

Pool

(Continued from page 46)

Mariani. He's captained two City Championship teams from the White Swallow past the Ducks. Rick also was the Fall 1986 9-ball champion.

"Lightning Joe" Ankenbrandt blazes in at No. 7 and is certainly one of the more entertaining players on the list. Rapid-fire runouts and multiple-rail kicks and bank shots are among his bag of tricks as he propels the Bear Thuggs into the playoffs each season, with an assist from No. 14-rated DJJ and the marvelous Thuggs' team spirit.

Colin Bradley is among the league's longest active members and checks in at No. 8. He's got a long list of past victories and in the last four seasons, he has played on a City Championship team. He also was the individual champion of West Coast Challenge XIV. He's an early favorite to win the next Most Improved Player award after a fluke, sub-par Spring 1988 season.

Rated 11-16: Kelvin Roberts, Bill von Prillwitz, Rick Bradford, D.J., Mike Macri and Royal Senn. Anyone hopeful of joining this elite group would do well to study the techniques and strategies which make them winners, season in and season out.

Dial JOE-POOL for SFFA information.

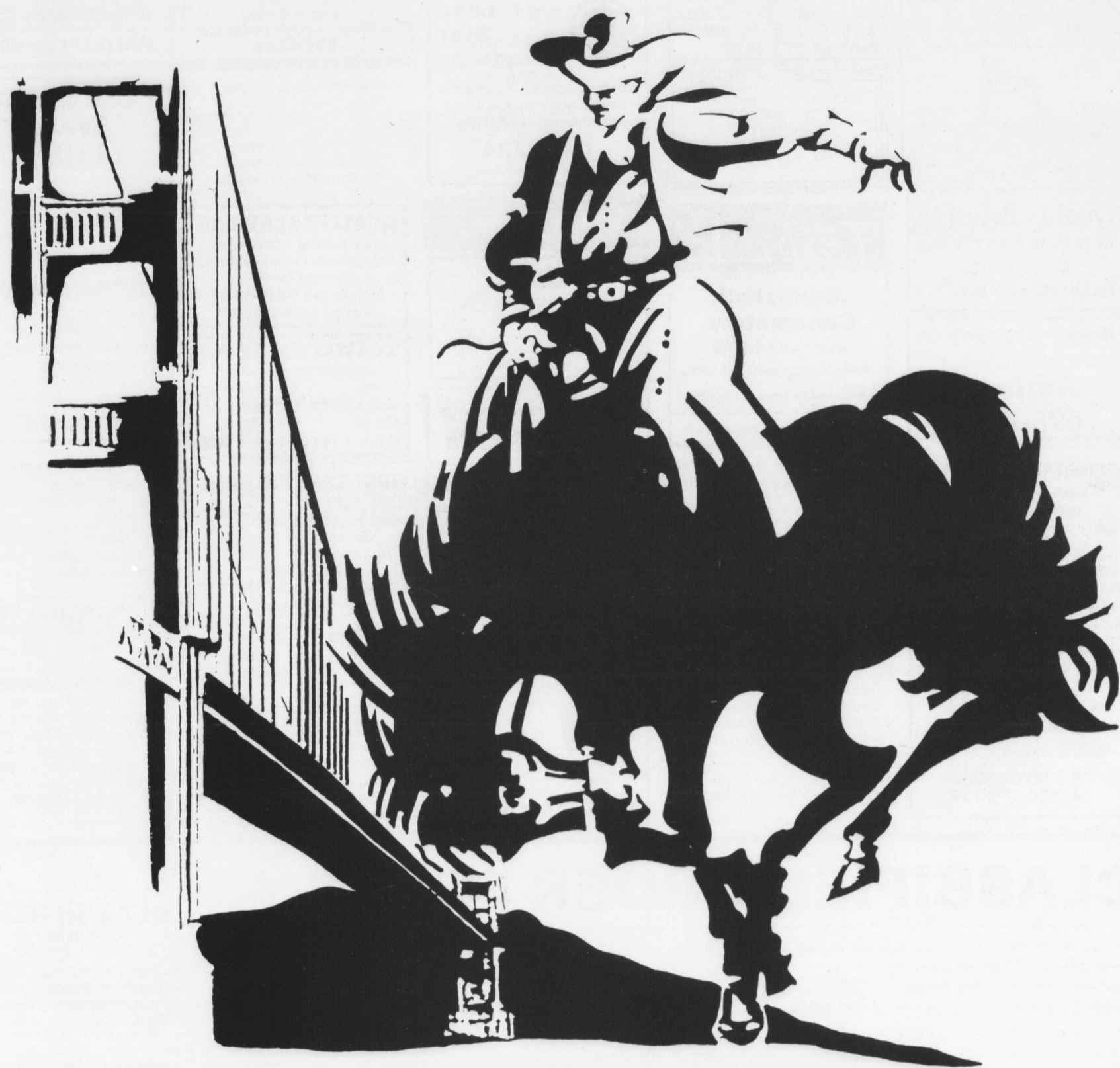
BAY AREA REPORTER CLASSIFIEDS

Advertisements for Rentals, Roommates, and Jobs Offered. Includes listings for 1 bedroom apartments, roommates for rent, and various job openings such as caretakers, drivers, and groundskeepers.

Advertisement for 'MEN ACROSS AMERICA' featuring a map of the United States and contact information for a phone service. Text includes 'Phone From Anywhere in the U.S.', 'One on One Connections', '8 Man Conference Line', 'Regional Message Center', and the phone number '1-800-888-MALE'.

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Street Patrol Launched In Castro

Crime Watch Group Organized; Plans To Stop Violent Attacks

by Dennis McMillan

Approximately 50 concerned gay men and lesbians gathered in the first of what will be a series of weekly Wednesday meetings to stop street attacks on gay people. In its formative stages, the group hopes to take up where the old Castro neighborhood crime watch brigade left off over a decade ago.

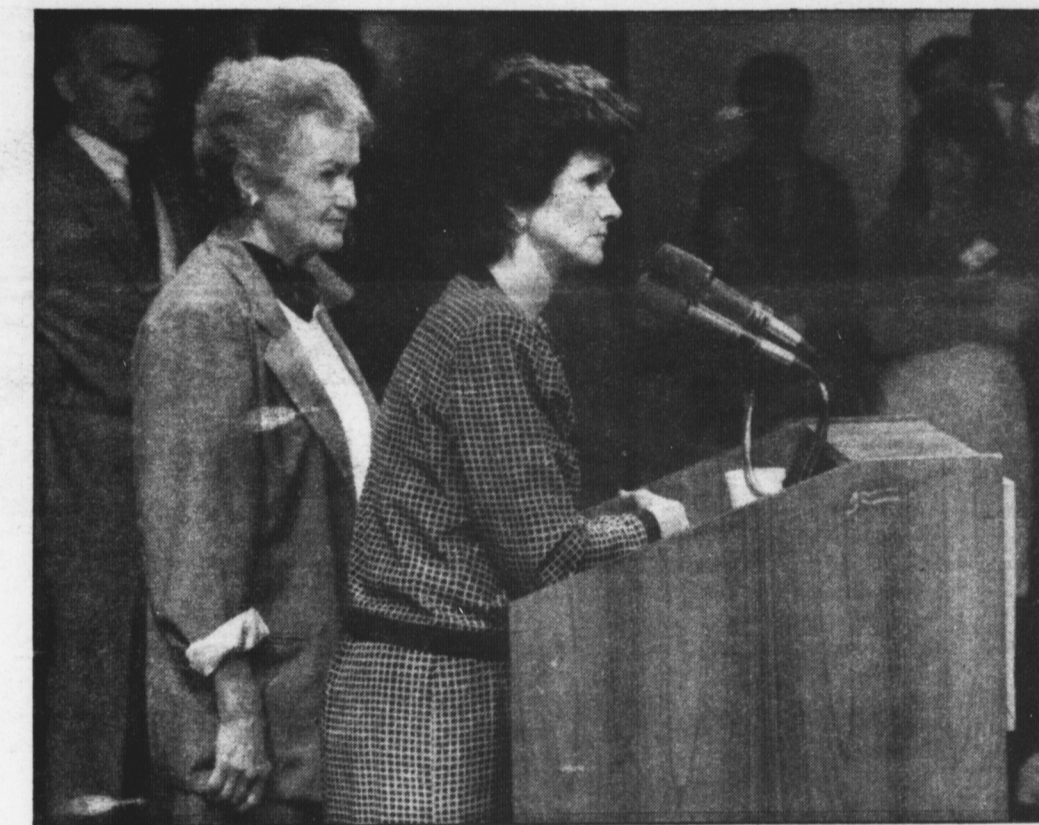
As Chris Burns explained, "The idea is to create a physical body of people trying to clamp down on the problem of gay bashings."

(Continued on page 2)



Chris Burns spoke before the community meeting on violence

(Photo: Steve Savage)



Kitty Dukakis spoke before the volunteers of Project Open Hand

(Photo: Steve Savage)

Mrs. Dukakis Meets S.F. AIDS Activists

Promises Leadership, Nat'l Strategy; Gets High Marks on AIDS Knowledge

by Ray O'Loughlin

Kitty Dukakis, wife of Democratic presidential candidate Michael Dukakis, called for the federal government to step up its efforts in combatting the AIDS epidemic. Her remarks followed a meeting with a group of AIDS activists in San Francisco last week. "Until the federal government begins to focus on this epidemic, we will have large numbers dying of AIDS," said Mrs. Dukakis.

"The President must proclaim that those deaths are unacceptable and morally wrong," she said. If her husband is elected to the presidency, he will provide that leadership, she said.

"We need a national strategy with a comprehensive health plan to guide us," she said. "We need a president who is willing to lead the charge. The President must take the lead, must educate."

Mrs. Dukakis, in San Francisco campaigning for her husband, took the time Friday morning to meet with representatives from ten AIDS service and research organizations to learn about problems in getting treatments for the disease.

She also toured the facilities of the Open Hand meals-on-wheels program for people with AIDS and ARC. Mrs. Dukakis personally delivered a meal to a man with AIDS living nearby.

Saying that "AIDS impacts all of us," Mrs. Dukakis called for accelerated drug trials, expanded education efforts, a guarantee of basic health care for everyone, and federal legislation prohibiting discrimination against people with AIDS.

Federal education efforts are "long overdue," she said. "It is intolerable that anyone should become infected through ignorance."

She termed health care a

"right of every American." No one should be denied care because of inability to pay, according to Mrs. Dukakis. Governor Dukakis recently signed into law such a comprehensive health insurance plan for Massachusetts.

She praised San Francisco's network of programs dealing with the AIDS epidemic. But, said Mrs. Dukakis, "it's not enough."

"Unless we get more for research, we'll all be in real trouble, including San Francisco, with all the creative work done here."

Mrs. Dukakis pointed to her husband's actions as governor in initiating Massachusetts' response to AIDS. She promised she would take what she learned in San Francisco back to her husband.

Those who met with Mrs. Dukakis in the closed meeting said they were impressed by her sincerity and her grasp of the problems involved in AIDS treatments.

"Someone, at last, at that level is being upfront and taking the issue seriously," said Rick Graham, head of the San Francisco group People With AIDS. "She really understood the issue and seemed genuinely affected in that she has an emotional commitment to our concerns."

"Not only did she understand the issues," said Martin Delaney

(Continued on page 2)

Company Drops Policy of 'No Gays'

Tour Company Settles Suit; Allows Gay Couples On Tours

by Mary Richards

"We got everything that we wanted!" Those were the words of Leonard Graff of the National Gay Rights Advocates (NGRA) after that organization obtained a victory in the case of *Eduard J. Patrick versus Vacation America Inc. and Trans-World Vacations*. The touring firms have changed their literature, making it possible for two men to travel together. This new policy will become retroactive, allowing other gays who were before ineligible to be able to claim their winning vacation.

Last year Ed Patrick won an all-expense paid vacation to Mexico. He and his lover were all set to accept their prize, when they suddenly were made aware of a small catch in the arrangements.

The trip, the company said, was available only to: "(a) married or cohabitating hetero couples between the ages of 25 and 65 arriving together, or (b) two unmarried

(Continued on page 2)

Today

Community Forum Blasts FDA: Say Feds too slow in AIDS fight. See page 4.

Women With AIDS: The numbers are growing, but education and services are just beginning. See page 14.

The White House Is The Backdrop: for the next quilt unfolding in Washington, D.C. See page 16.

Moving to Mecca: An NC couple who just moved to the Castro represents its continued gaying. See page 19.

This Paper in Two Sections