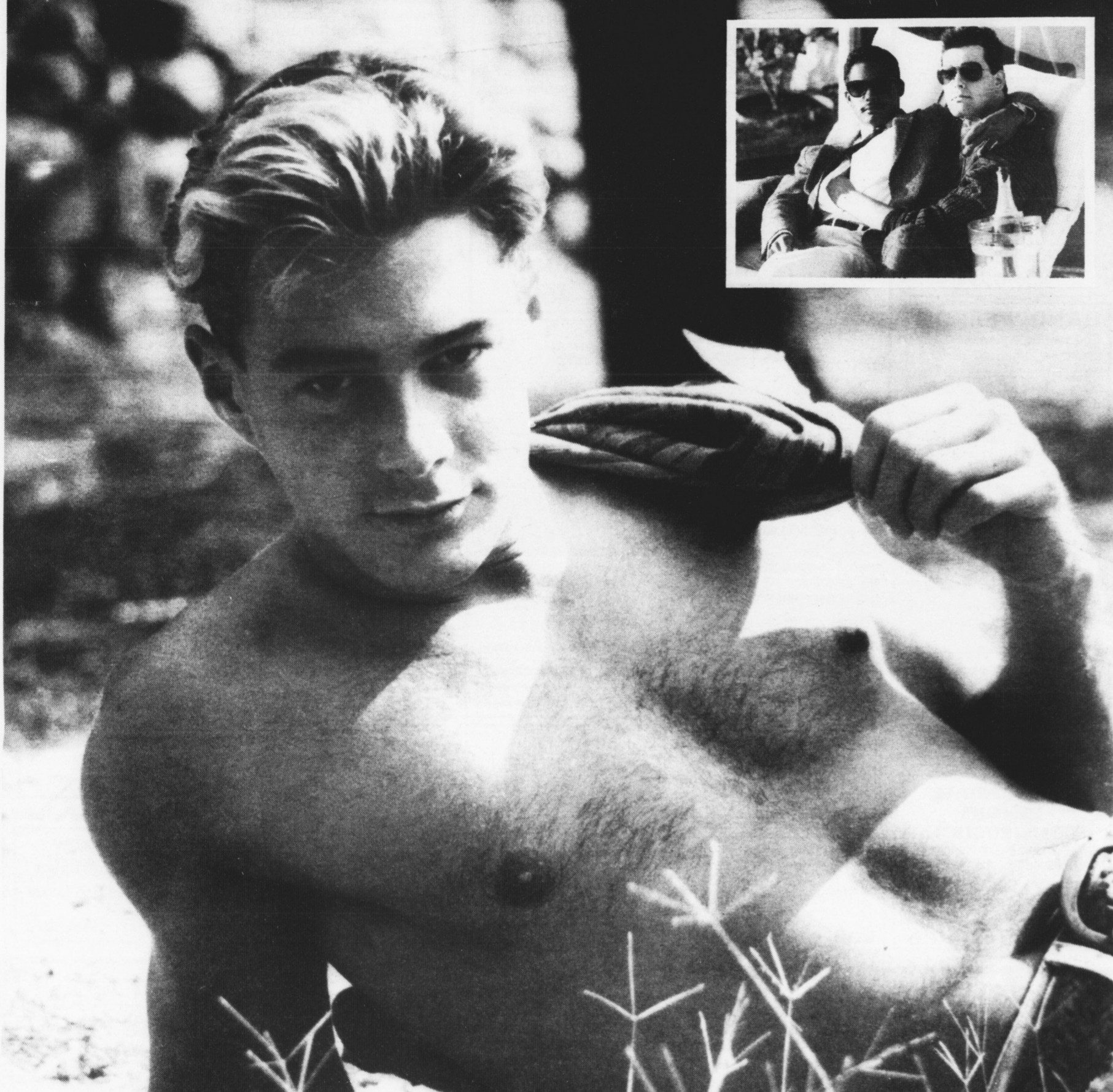


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City Okays Funds For Shanti Project

Remainder of Contract Approved; Vote of Confidence for Agency

by Miranda Kolbe

The San Francisco Health Commission voted last Tuesday, Nov. 8, to extend the Shanti Project's funding to the end of its natural funding cycle, June 1989. The commission's extension of funding was described as a vote of confidence for the new management of the Shanti Project. It was also seen as a commendation of the work of Internal Review Committee chair Douglas Holloway, along with other board members.

The move brings Shanti up to full funding of its city contract for \$1.2 million, one-third of the agency's total budget.

Commissioner Jim Foster commented, "I feel a great of confidence in the new management team at Shanti. Shanti provides such an invaluable service for us in the AIDS epidemic that it's critical that we get the past behind us and move on."

In September, the Health Commission had voted to restrict Shanti's funding until the end of January 1989, at which point the commission would decide whether to continue the project's funding until June. At that time the Health Commission expressed its desire to see evidence of changes at the project before reconsidering its funding status.

Holloway requested early consideration of Shanti's funding status in late October, arguing that most of the changes pinpointed by the board of directors' Internal Review Committee and the San Francisco Human Rights Commission had already been accomplished.

In a letter written to Jeff Amory, Shanti's contract administrator at the AIDS Activity Office of the city's Health Department, Holloway noted that an early

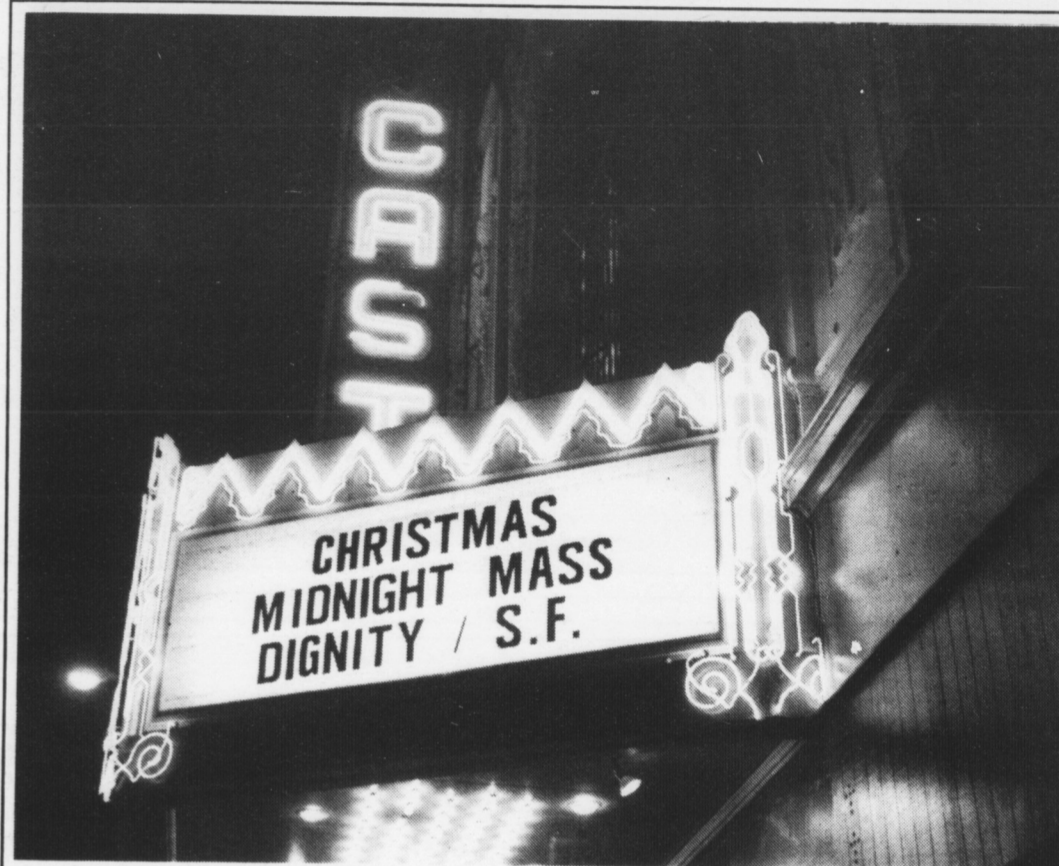
decision in favor of extending the project's funding would "send a clear message to both [Shanti's] donors and volunteers that the board of directors has taken and will continue to take aggressive action to restore the project to the preeminence it enjoyed prior to the March 1988 disclosure of our internal problems."

Holloway went on to detail dramatic drops in private contributions and new volunteers to the project over the past few months, which came as a result of the negative publicity surrounding Shanti since the beginning of the Human Rights Commission's investigation in late March.

Contributions to the project are down \$121,028 from last year and \$195,755 from projected revenues. In addition, the number of new volunteers to the project has dropped from 109 in September 1987 to 66 in September 1988.

Holly Smith, Shanti's media relations representative, said, "Since Jim [Geary's] departure, we have received a number of very large, private, anonymous donations, donations in the five-

Continued on page 2



(Photo: Rink)

Castro Theatre Says 'Humbug' To Dignity's Christmas Mass

Gay Catholic Group Scrambles to Find New Location

by Allen White

The new owners of the Castro Theatre have refused to allow Dignity to use the theater this year. The reason given by the organization of gay Roman Catholics is that the theater's employees don't want to work on the night before Christmas.

Daniel Cota, co-chair of Dignity/San Francisco, said the group had sent a letter last August requesting use of the theater. They offered \$800, which is what they had paid for the last three

years. Cota said they had received no reply. He finally talked to Bob Blumenfeld, who heads Blumenfeld Enterprises, which took over the theater early this year, just last week.

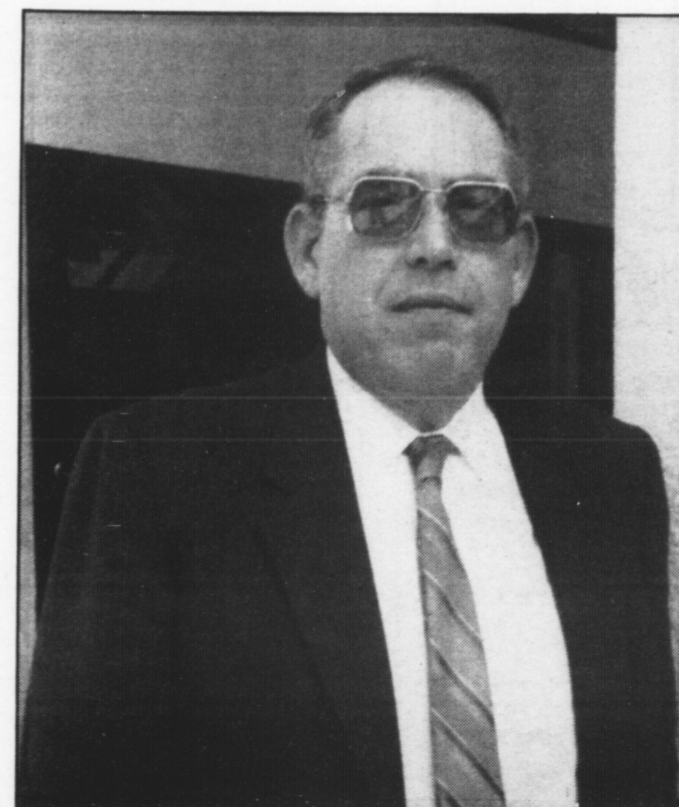
"He said he wasn't getting my messages. There was a lot of miscommunication," said Cota. "His position was that he was the new owner and said he was uncomfortable renting the theater to Dignity. He said the theater had been open during the day in the past, and it simply was a con-

tinuation of the crew. This year, he said, they would not be open at all that day."

Cota was then told that even if it were available, the \$800 rent figure was too low. "He mentioned that a reasonable amount of money would be \$2,500," Cota said. "He said even if we had the money, he would not be able to get a staff for that day."

Kevin Calegari, communications chair of Dignity, said, "We have done it for three years. I am

Continued on page 2



Douglas Holloway.

(Photo: Steve Savage)

Bush Expected To Be Active, Hear Better Advice on AIDS

Era of Presidential Neglect Over, Say Insiders

by Ray O'Loughlin

When George Bush takes up residence in the White House next Jan. 20, he will have a lot of questions to answer. His election to the presidency Nov. 8 left gay and lesbian lobbyists and aides in a quandary as to what to expect. Some were concerned enough to call Bush's election a "catastrophe," in the words of Steve Morin, aide to Rep. Nancy Pelosi.

"In order for Bush to get the nomination and the backing needed to win, he had to court the right wing," said Morin. "They will have access to the White House."

Others, like Jeff Levi of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, were more cautious in

their view of the future. "It's the end of an era of presidential neglect on AIDS," said Levi. "Certainly we don't agree with everything Bush represents, but he's better informed and more engaged than his predecessor ever was on AIDS. He recognizes the importance of this issue."

Bush has gone on record supporting federal legislation outlawing discrimination based on HIV status. Although he has supported wider HIV testing, he also has said confidentiality should be protected.

The President-elect has also

Continued on page 19

HealthAmerica Settles AIDS 'Redlining' Discrimination Claims for \$250,000

District Atty. Arlo Smith announced Nov. 16 that his Consumer Fraud/Environmental Protection Unit has settled its claim against the HealthAmerica Corporation of California and the HealthAmerica Corporation for a payment of \$125,000 in cash and medical services valued at another \$125,000 for the people of San Francisco.

The settlement resulted from the accusation by the district attorney and the California Department of Corporations that HealthAmerica Corporation of California and HealthAmerica Corporation, its parent corporation, violated state and local discrimination and false-advertising statutes. The initial complaint came to the district attorney's office from the public-interest law firm, National Gay Rights Advocates, which represented the former employee of HealthAmerica who revealed the illegal practices.

In particular, the district attorney asserted that the health plan had failed to process individual

applications to the plan's individual enrollment program submitted by persons residing in San Francisco. The accusation arose out of a complaint that HealthAmerica Corporation of California "redlined" the City and County of San Francisco with respect to the individual enrollment program because of fears of the high costs of caring for persons afflicted with AIDS, ARC, or who have tested positive for HIV.

Smith said he was pleased that the settlement would be a direct benefit to both San Francisco's citizens and its bank account and hoped that it would send a message to other health-care providers throughout the state which might be tempted to discriminate against persons with AIDS. He also praised the Department of Corporations for its participation in the investigation and negotiations which led to the settlement.

"We hope this will encourage other prosecutors and public officials to become active in preventing or punishing discrimination by health-care providers, espe-

cially in the area of AIDS and AIDS-related conditions," said Smith.

In agreeing to the settlement, the district attorney noted that the alleged wrongful acts ceased two years ago, when HealthAmerica terminated its individual enrollment program. No accusations have been made with respect to any of the health plan's group enrollment programs.

The settlement includes an injunction against HealthAmerica Corporation of California and HealthAmerica Corporation prohibiting them from false solicitations or advertising, violation of state and local discrimination statutes, refusing or cancelling health memberships for arbitrary reasons including sexual orientation of the subscriber, and denying the full and equal enjoyment of the company's facilities and privileges based wholly or partially on sexual orientation or because a person has AIDS, ARC, or has tested positive for the HIV virus. See next week's issue for the full story.

Shanti

(Continued from page 1)

and six-figure level. We're hopeful that the Health Commission's decision will encourage the smaller donations to start flowing again."

The drop in private donations has forced the project to adopt an austerity program which includes a hiring freeze, a moratorium on new projects, and no 1988 holiday bonuses for staff.

Changes which have already been instituted at the project include adoption of an affirmative action plan; the departure of director Jim Geary in early October; and restructuring of several board committees, including the personnel committee.

A search committee for a new executive director has been formed, as has an advisory committee

comprised of AIDS service organization representatives, people from various ethnic communities, Shanti volunteers and donors, people with AIDS, and the business and the religious communities in San Francisco.

The Internal Review Committee has also begun work restructuring personnel policies and bylaws for the project.

Smith noted that "The board is actively moving to expand its membership and to replace directors whose terms are naturally ending."

One-third of board members' terms will be ending in January. The board hopes to add new members who will bring a broad diversity of backgrounds and perspectives to the project.

The project will soon commence with a new fundraising campaign with the theme, "The best of Shanti Project is yet to come."

Dignity

(Continued from page 1)

community. "It was a wonderful Christmas present that our organization was able to offer to the wider community," Calegari noted. "There are a lot of folks who have no home at Christmas, who feel lonely or feel they are not welcome in their families. The Castro Theatre in the heart of Castro Street was a place where folks could feel at home, where we could share with a family."

Bob Blumenfeld told the Bay Area Reporter that the theater will be closed all day Dec. 24, and he doesn't believe he can get anyone to work at the theater that evening. He said that he didn't want to turn the theater over to people he did not know.

Blumenfeld repeated his position that he hoped to be able to work out a rental of the theater in 1989.

Regardless, this is a blow to Dignity. They believe now that time is working against them. They have less than six weeks until Christmas to find a new location and get the word out. Negotiations are under way to obtain Everett Middle School for the mass.

"I think Bob Blumenfeld has done a disservice to the community. I know he has done a disservice to Dignity," said Cota. "This is a commitment to the greater gay community of bringing midnight masses to the Castro. There is a need there. This is a loss. It is a central location. It's a safe location, and it is the gay and lesbian community."

Calegari said, "The Castro Theatre is a community center. It is more than entertainment. It is the focal point of a neighborhood where many of us come to know ourselves, and we are very proud of our neighborhood. Obviously they don't understand that, or they would be welcoming us even if they wanted to raise the rent a little bit."

He also noted, "Christmas is a time when you are supposed to hear a different kind of message, and I guess they just don't understand that. We have tried to explain to them in terms of good business for them and their relationship with their community and how important the Castro Theatre is in reaching out to the community. Obviously that outreach is not important to them."

Blumenfeld countered by saying they do attempt to open the theater to the gay community. He pointed out that the annual International Lesbian/Gay Film Festival is held at the Castro. He also noted the theater will be used on Nov. 27 for a special showing of *The Times of Harvey Milk's* assassination.

Britt Finds Victory Tastes Very Sweet

Gay Supervisor to Direct Board; He's Got Votes for Partners Bill

by Allen White

Sup. Harry Britt was elected by an overwhelming plurality to San Francisco's second highest elective office last week. On Jan. 8 he will become the president of the San Francisco Board of Supervisors. This week Britt talked of the meaning of that election. Describing what it means to be president of the board and be gay he commented that, "In terms of the office, it means that I will be the official representative of the City of San Francisco in many situations. My name will appear on every proclamation issued by this board."

"We interact with thousands of people in a year and all that interaction will have a gay person at the top of the page and everybody will know that I'm gay. I think that everyone who knows me, knows I'm gay. So, symbolically it creates an identification."

Britt emphasized that the symbolism is important. "Not that people will think that San Francisco is a gay city. That is not accurate," he said. "But the idea that a city will elect a gay person to its second highest office sends a message to politicians all over the country that they can associate with our community and it won't hurt them. We have had to make that statement over and over again that when gay people do their political work correctly, we are an asset, not a liability to the system," said Britt.

"In terms of my work, I will automatically be chair of the Rules Committee which appoints people. I will have a primary role, working with my colleagues in making hundreds of appointments in the next two years. I will be able to see that the committees of the board are formed so our interests are represented."

He firmly stated that with the election of Angela Alioto and Terrence Hallinan to the board, "This board is supportive of gays, without exception and our community has nothing to fear from our board or our mayor."

Domestic partners benefits legislation has been one of the most important items on Harry Britt's agenda. A 1983 attempt to pass this legislation was met by a veto from former Mayor Dianne Feinstein. "There is now no obstacle to domestic partners. We are ready to go and it is the highest priority," he said.

As San Francisco approaches the tenth anniversary of the assassination of Sup. Harvey Milk and Mayor George Moscone, Britt believes his election is symbolically very important.

"Harvey's dream for us was that we get rid of all the obstacles that keep us from being first-class citizens. After ten years we are there in this city. If my election shows anything, I hope it shows that gay people who want to be leaders on the highest level in this city can do it."

"Whatever vestiges of the closet that are left to us, we should get rid of them because the city needs us. What we have done around AIDS is a gift to the

whole country and we have to continue to do that same kind of thing.

"I like the symbolism of ten years after the murders of Harvey Milk and George Moscone that Art and I would be leaders. Art, was very close to George and I was very close to Harvey and I think this city has said that there was something about the spirit of those two people that is worth fighting for," said Britt.



Sup. Harry Britt has come a long way from this day.

(Photo: Rink)

now, those people have stayed together and have gotten bigger and bigger and bigger. My name is on the door but the community that has made that happen is a wondrous thing."

Britt also commented on just who voted for him last week. "I got 116,000 votes and I would not

want to guess how many were gay but probably 80 percent were not. We have always had to understand that to be strong we have to form relationships with other people. As proud, openly gay people, we can be partners in making this city happen."

Britt believes that what hap-

pened in last week's election is very important for gay men and lesbians. "I still keep hearing from people who do not understand politics, particularly journalists from out of town, that because of AIDS, political power is gone and I hope that this election

Continued on page 27

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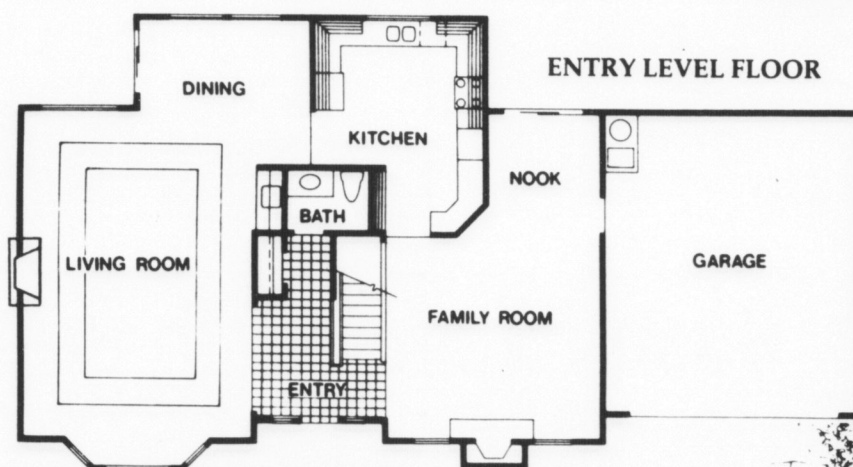
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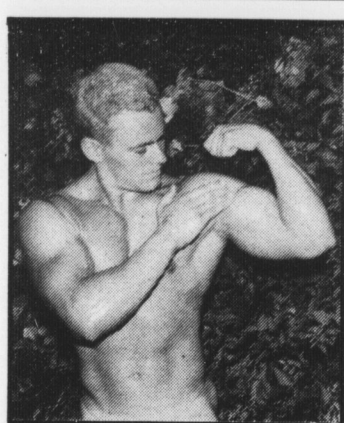
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Comedian's AIDS Material Fails to Hit the Funny Bone

Kinison's Act Called Homophobic, Racist, and Sexist

by Allen White

It's called comedy. But when Warner Brothers Records released a new album by Sam Kinison recently, few were laughing. In fact, Warner found itself facing some angry people. Southern California activists have condemned the record album for including material joking about AIDS, discouraging the use of condoms, and spreading misinformation about the disease.

The new album, *Have You Seen Me Lately*, which last week hit record stores across the country, has been criticized for containing numerous remarks that are racist, sexist and homophobic. One section is mockingly titled, "Lesbians Are Our Friends." But the focus of most criticism is Kinison's remarks about AIDS.

Talking to an audience in Florida he says, "Safe Sex! God damn these fucking bastards. Get off of our back. Because a few fags fuck some monkeys—they got so bored because their own assholes weren't enough they had to go in the fucking jungle, grab some fucking monkey and fuck him in the ass and bring us back the black plague of the fucking 80s. Because of this shit they want us to wear fucking rubbers."

Kinison then continues, "AIDS, it is a communicable disease, heterosexuals die of it, too." He then challenges his audience, yelling, "Name one. Name one fucking one. Yeh, they're just dropping like flies aren't they. Yes, any day now. It's not our dance alright. Fuck you, it's not our dance."

Speaking of gays, he says, "They don't look like they're having that much fun to me.



Sam Kinison.

Especially now. But you never see these gay guys going 'Oh, no, I don't miss pussy that much.'"

Bob Merlis, a spokesperson for Warner Bros. Records acknowledged they had received many calls regarding the content of the album. He said there had been similar complaints about Kinison's first album. He said many Warner Bros. employees were so offended by the albums that they refused to work on the records.

The result of the complaints was a meeting last week between Los Angeles civil rights attorney Gloria Allred and representatives of Black and White Men Together, the Gay and Lesbian Community Services Center in Los Angeles, ACT UP-Los Angeles, People With AIDS Coalition, the AIDS Hospice Foundation and AIDS Project Los Angeles.

Instead of a condemnation of the album, Warner Bros. released a joint statement with a letter from Allred. The letter stated, "At that meeting numerous options were explored which would protect the free speech of recording artists and at the same time address the concern of those present that the facts about AIDS be communicated by record companies. Warner Bros. Records' executives were open to suggestions, and I suggested that in the future, an insert giving the facts about AIDS be added to certain albums targeted toward a sexually active and youthful audience."

Allred then wrote, "Warner Bros. Records agreed and as a result we are pleased today to make the following joint statement."

The statement said in part, "As part of the ongoing national effort to prevent the spread of AIDS, Warner Bros. Records executives and the individuals and organizations listed below have agreed to use the new Sam Kinison album, *Have You Seen Me Lately*, as a vehicle to distribute AIDS education and prevention guidelines. It was agreed that this information should be distributed with albums that are targeted toward a sexually active and youthful audience, which can be

reached with the appropriate information. The Kinison album is such an album.

"Also, references to the disease and its mode of transmission are made on the Kinison album, thereby creating a context for the frank discussion of how AIDS is and is not spread, and who is at risk for infection. An information sheet is being designed which will be inserted in all copies of the album distributed after Nov. 8, 1988, the date of the album's release. As far as is known, this is the first time that a major recording company has made such an effort."

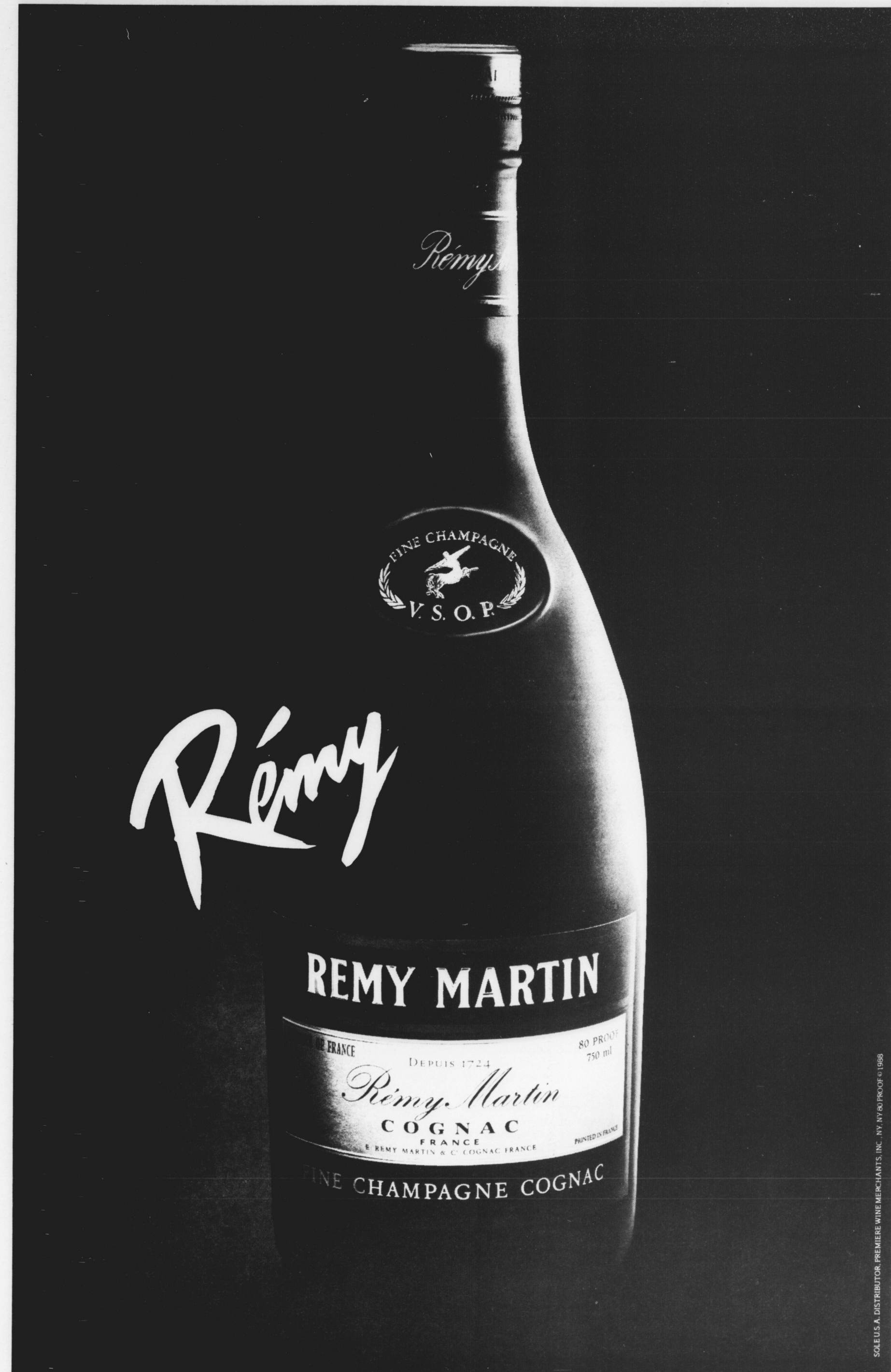
But the protest may have been for nothing. What Gloria Allred may not have known when she signed the agreement is that most of the copies of Kinison's record were already released, as Warners said, on Nov. 8. Those albums contain none of the AIDS prevention material.

Bob Merlis, with Warner Bros., said that the AIDS information would appear only on albums which are distributed after the initial distribution. A quick check of record industry sources indicates that the material will most likely appear at the tail end of the distribution pattern. In other words, if there is a later pressing of the record, that is most likely when the AIDS material will be used.

"These records," one person said, "are the ones that end up in the back of record racks six months from now."

Merlis said Kinison is not a major seller and predicted the album might sell 100,000 copies. As a comparison, he said a Steve Martin album will sell over 500,000.

Merlis did say that the AIDS prevention material could also be appearing on releases by their major artists, of which Sam Kinison is not one. He said this included artists such as Madonna and Prince. He offered that this is the area where AIDS information would have its most impact.



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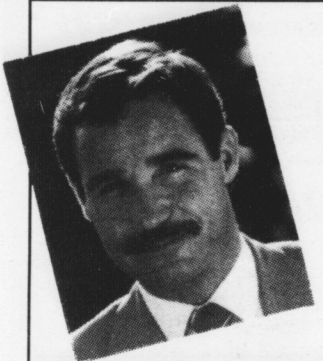
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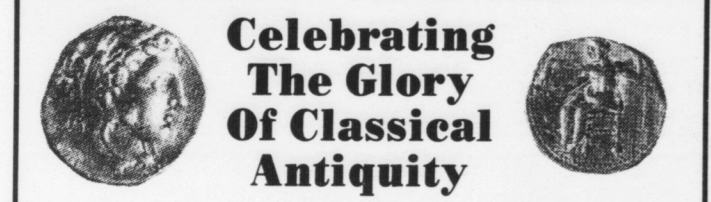
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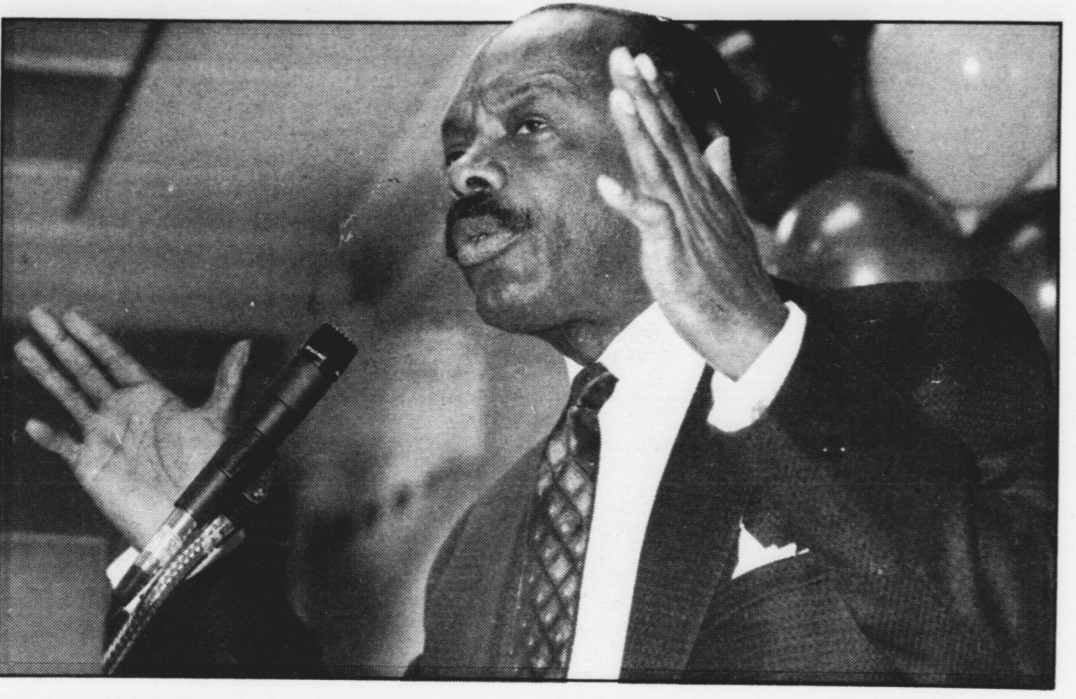


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Willie Brown a Big Winner



Speaker Willie Brown. (Photo: E. Slomanson)

While Republicans have won five of the last six presidential elections, usually by landslides, the GOP has continued a downward slide when it comes to electing members of Congress, governors, and state offices.

When **Ronald Reagan** was inaugurated in January 1981, the Republicans had 58 U.S. senators and 192 House members. After **George Bush's** win last week, the 101st Congress, to take office in January, will show 175 GOP House members and 45 senators. Democrats, in fact, gained one U.S. Senate seat (giving them 55), while picking up three House seats, giving them a new majority of 260.

In addition, last Tuesday's election gave the Democrats a net gain of one new governor, giving them a majority of 28 statehouses, compared to 22 for the Republicans.

There can be no question that George Bush, with a landslide of electoral votes, was the clear choice of voters across the country. Bush won 40 states; Dukakis 10, plus the District of Columbia. There seems to be a definite trend that voters prefer a "sharing of the power"—one party to control the executive branch, while the other controls the Congress.

Many political observers were quick to predict that a Republican White House would face a rancorous Democratic Congress, but that might not necessarily be the case. Democrats in control have seemingly adopted a conciliatory tone toward the new president-elect, with the House and Senate Democratic leaders insisting that they are genuinely hopeful of cooperating with Bush.

Top Democrats were saying this week that they actually regard George Bush and his closest advisors as "pragmatic and experienced government insiders," and House Democratic leaders were quick to soften their criticism of what some thought was a dirty campaign by the Republicans.

In fact, California Rep. **Tony Coelho**, the Democratic House whip, even went so far as to say of former congressman, ambassador, and Vice Pres. Bush that "he is one of us, someone with whom we can deal."

Rep. **Tom Foley** of Washington, the House majority leader, also sounded a friendly note to the incoming Bush administration when he said, "The campaign is behind us. Americans are not happy with constrictions, confrontation, and gridlock. We will work with this administration."

How long this new Democrat/Republican "friendship" lasts remains to be seen. But with the multitude of problems, such as the AIDS crisis and others, that the Reagan administration ignored for eight years, we can only hope that George Bush is serious when he says he wants a constructive working relationship with the Democrat-controlled Congress (and likewise).

Things couldn't be much worse than they were under the outgoing Reagan administration.

Voter turnout in last week's presidential election declined in 48 states and the

District of Columbia from four years ago. Overall, 91.3 million Americans—only half of those eligible—bothered to vote, the number down from 92.7 million in 1984.

While political prognosticators across the state are trying to evaluate the real winners and losers in the California vote, Speaker **Willie Brown**, bolstered by the Democrats winning three Assembly seats formerly held by Republicans, clearly has to be considered a big winner. Governor **George Deukmejian**, who was rejected by the voters' choice on no less than four major propositions, clearly got his ass kicked.

As the San Jose Mercury News editorialized this week, "When the governor takes a close look at the results, he will see that Californians are not satisfied with the way he's not leading the state."

Deukmejian lost on two propositions for which he had actually signed the ballot arguments and lost badly on two others on which he had taken public positions. Deukmejian signed a ballot argument against and campaigned against Prop. 98, the school funding formula initiative. Proposition 98 passed easily. Deukmejian came out against Prop. 99, the cigarette tax; it passed by a 58-to-42-percent margin.

Deukmejian destroyed Cal-OSHA by deleting it from the state budget, but the voters put it back by passing Prop. 97 against Deukmejian's wishes.

Lastly, Deukmejian ignored all responsible health experts, including his own Health Department chief, in endorsing Prop. 102, the dangerous AIDS initiative.

Continued on page 25

Mike Hippler

Pissed Off and Inspired: ACT UP Encourages Defiance

The reasons the members of the Thursday night group gave for attending were many and varied. "I've lost two lovers to AIDS," said one. Said another, "I want to do something about the crisis. I want to keep the quilt from growing." Said a third, "I'm pissed off, and I'm inspired by what the group is doing."

Added a fourth, "America cares more about two whales in Alaska than it does about the 43,000 people who have died of AIDS."

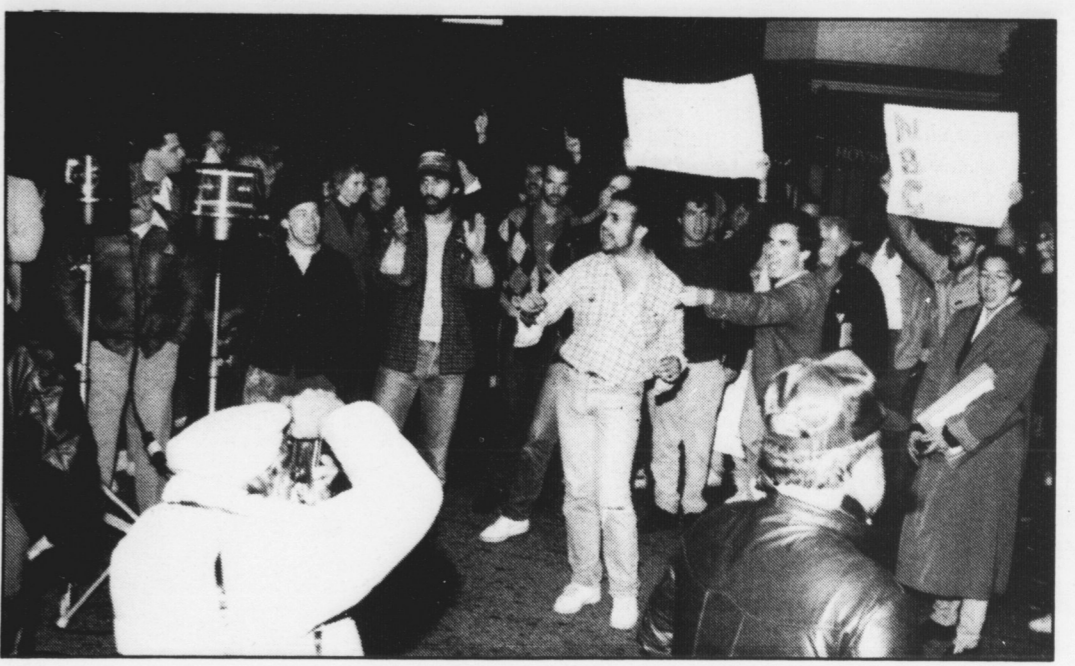
Whatever their reasons, the one thing the members of ACT UP share is a sense of grief and anger and a determination to bring about immediate change. According to Dean Ouellette, a member of ACT UP's fundraising committee and one of the facilitators of group meetings, "We believe in direct action, in confrontation.

"Other groups talk about doing something, but often can't or won't due to political connections. Because we are all volunteers with no one to answer to and no reason to be afraid or hesitant, we don't have to be careful about what we say or do. We cut through the bureaucracy and take our concerns directly to the street."

Specifically, Ouellette explains, "direct action" means picketing, street demonstrations, sit-ins, die-ins, civil disobedience, and other similar tactics. Such methods were common during the early, heady days of gay liberation, but were soon abandoned in favor of more conservative approaches to change. The kind of action ACT UP recommends represents a growing militancy within the gay community, which is a direct result of the government's "deplorable" response to the AIDS crisis, among other factors.

This militancy first became apparent with the formation of a group called AIDS Action Pledge in August 1987. Inspired by last year's civil disobedience at the Supreme Court, the AIDS Action Pledge organized a march on the Burroughs-Wellcome company, makers of AZT, in Burlingame the following January. Eighteen people were arrested at that action.

In February, the group disrupted Congressman William Dannemeyer's speech at Hastings School of Law, forcing his retreat. That same month, the group protested mandatory testing of prostitutes and prisoners at the State Office Building on



ACT UP acted up in front of Lorimar's cameras to stop filming of an episode of *Midnight Caller*. (Photo: PhotoGraphics/Darlene)

Van Ness Avenue. In the spring, AIDS Action Pledge changed its name to ACT UP, aligned itself with other ACT UP groups in New York, Los Angeles, and elsewhere, and continued to mobilize.

At the march on Sacramento in May, members of ACT UP were among the 41 people arrested when they took part in the civil disobedience at Gov. George Deukmejian's office. ACT UP also helped to organize demonstrations at the Social Security offices and the Immigration and Naturalization Service in San Francisco.

Recently, local ACT UP members were arrested at the Health and Human Services and Food and Drug Administration demonstrations in Washington. In San Francisco, they led street demonstrations blocking the filming of an episode of the television show *Midnight Caller*. The group also led the march protesting the governor's endorsement of Prop. 102 in late October. One of the largest actions yet, the march attracted over 1,000 enraged community members.

At all these efforts, defiance is the common note. As one member noted at a weekly meeting, "First of all, diplomacy is not ACT UP's forte."

Explains Ouellette, "When we demonstrated at the set of the *Midnight Caller*, Judge Daniel Hanlon issued a temporary restraining order against us. People demonstrated anyway, yet this open defiance of the TRO didn't result in a single arrest, due to the number of people present.

We encourage this kind of action, rather than try to repress it. We are emboldened by it.

But Ouellette warns that some members have their own agendas and ACT UP has to be careful about what actions it endorses.

Decisions concerning exactly what the group will or will not en-

courage are made at weekly meetings, which are open to everyone. "We try to work by consensus," states Ouellette, "which means that we discuss and decide things as a group. We raise issues, ask questions, pose objections, and try to ascertain a general feeling before we reach an agreement. It's not an easy process; it's a bumpy one. But we try to make it

as fair and as democratic as we can."

"Bumpy" is exactly the word for it. At a recent meeting, a discussion concerning *Midnight Caller*, which was supposed to take 30 minutes, lasted for an hour and a half, and no decisions were ever reached as to what the next step would be. Eventually the meeting self-destructed in restlessness and anxiety.

Said one member, "Some of us would like to continue living with AIDS and stop dying of AIDS activism." Fortunately, unfinished business is often resolved at committee meetings. In any case, when push comes to shove, indecision and paralysis are hardly characteristic ACT UP responses.

Meanwhile, the size of the group continues to grow as more and more people learn of ACT UP activities. In the beginning, no more than a dozen people attended meetings. Now over 70 people show up on Thursdays at 7:30 at the Metropolitan Community Church at 150 Eureka St.

Due to the size of the group, it may take longer than before to reach a consensus. However, "while the dying continues," the group proclaims, "We have no intention of lowering our voices."

Life at the Closet Door



Farm Workers' Protest to March Through Castro

United Farm Workers leaders Cesar Chavez and Dolores Huerta will lead a mass march against dangerous pesticides in our foods through the Castro district this Saturday, Nov. 19. Chavez urged lesbian and gay activists to participate.

Both founders of the union have been long-time supporters of gay issues. Chavez has spoken at two national lesbian and gay marches—in Washington, D.C. last October and on the eve of the Democratic Convention four years ago in San Francisco.

Huerta was arrested at the ARCAIDS vigil at U.N. Plaza last spring.

Actor Martin Sheen will join a number of national and international figures at the head of the march.

The march has been endorsed by the Harvey Milk, Alice B. Toklas and Stonewall lesbian and gay Democratic clubs; ACT UP and the Lesbian/Gay Labor Alliance.

Marchers will assemble at 11 a.m. at 23rd and Folsom St. and begin marching at 12 noon, proceeding through the Mission and Castro districts and end with a rally and music in front of the Church and Market Safeway. ▼

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NATIONAL & WORLD NEWS

Barlow Acquitted In Cop-Biting Case

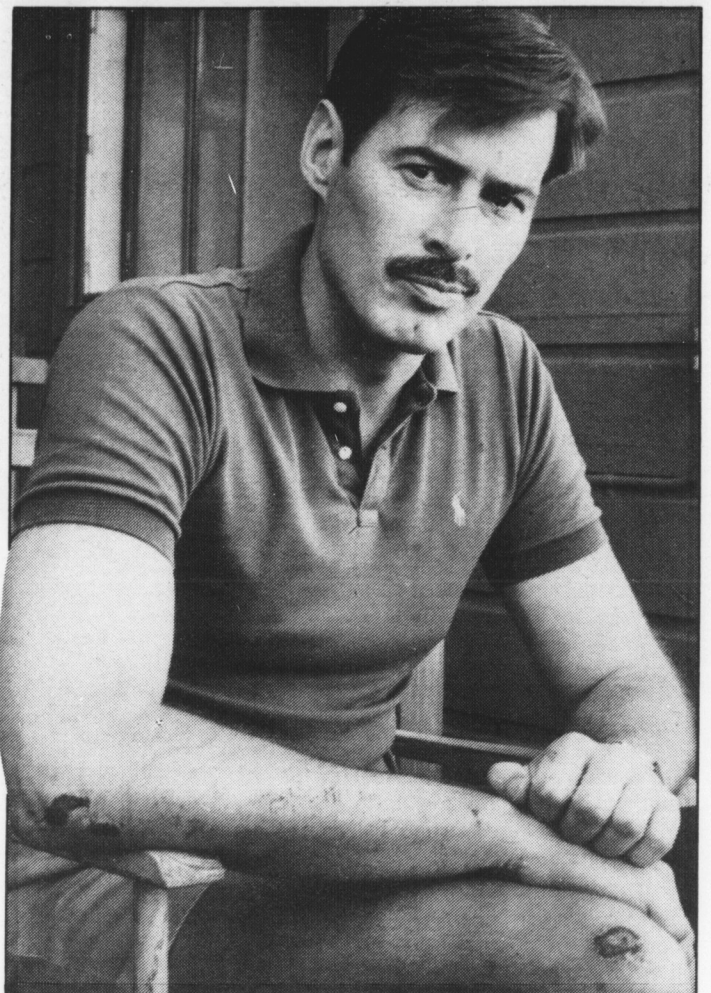
SAN DIEGO—A Superior Court jury has found former San Franciscan Brian Barlow not guilty of biting a police officer and resisting arrest during the 1986 Gay Pride Parade in San Diego.

"I'm just happy this ordeal is over with. It's been a major cloud over my head," said Barlow, who now resides in Long Beach.

The jury deliberated for one day on the case before acquitting Barlow. One juror told Update, a Southern California gay newspaper, that they felt that the police had no real cause to arrest Barlow. "We weren't satisfied that there was a crime," said one.

The case stems from an altercation during the parade when a fundamentalist group began jeering the gay marchers. Barlow squirted some water at one protester. Police then intervened and arrested him after a scuffle.

—Update



Brian Barlow.

(Photo: Rink)

Rights Bill Debate Provokes Bombing

CHICAGO—Only days after a gay rights bill was defeated by the Chicago city council, a gay bar in the city was firebombed. The bomb did little damage, and police arrested two suspects in the incident. A number of observers blamed the vehement comments made in the city council's debate of the rights measure for provoking the attack.

"This episode is an indication of the negative impact such harmful comments can have on the city at large," said Alderman Kathy Osterman.

"A handful of aldermen in Chicago's city council expressed a lot of hatred, which has now made this kind of attack acceptable," said Dem Hopkins, owner of Different Strokes, the bar that was attacked.

A makeshift incendiary device was tossed over the fence of the bar's beer garden. No one was injured, and patrons quickly chased two youths believed to have thrown the firebomb.

The crowd captured one youth, while the other ran into an apart-

ment house. He emerged with baseball bats moments later, but police arrived and arrested the two. They claimed that they "were tired of fags taking parking spots," according to the Windy City Times. The two will be tried as adults.

—Windy City Times

Rights Ordinance Passed by Council

ALEXANDRIA, VA—The Alexandria City Council voted Oct. 15 to amend the city's human rights law to prohibit discrimination based on sexual orientation. By a vote of 5 to 2, the city became the first in Virginia to enact such a law. Alexandria is across the Potomac River from Washington, D.C.

The bill was first introduced in 1983, but lost out in a 1986 council vote. But changes in the makeup of the council produced a

more sympathetic panel. Mayor James Moran, who had not supported the measure in 1986, also decided to support it this year.

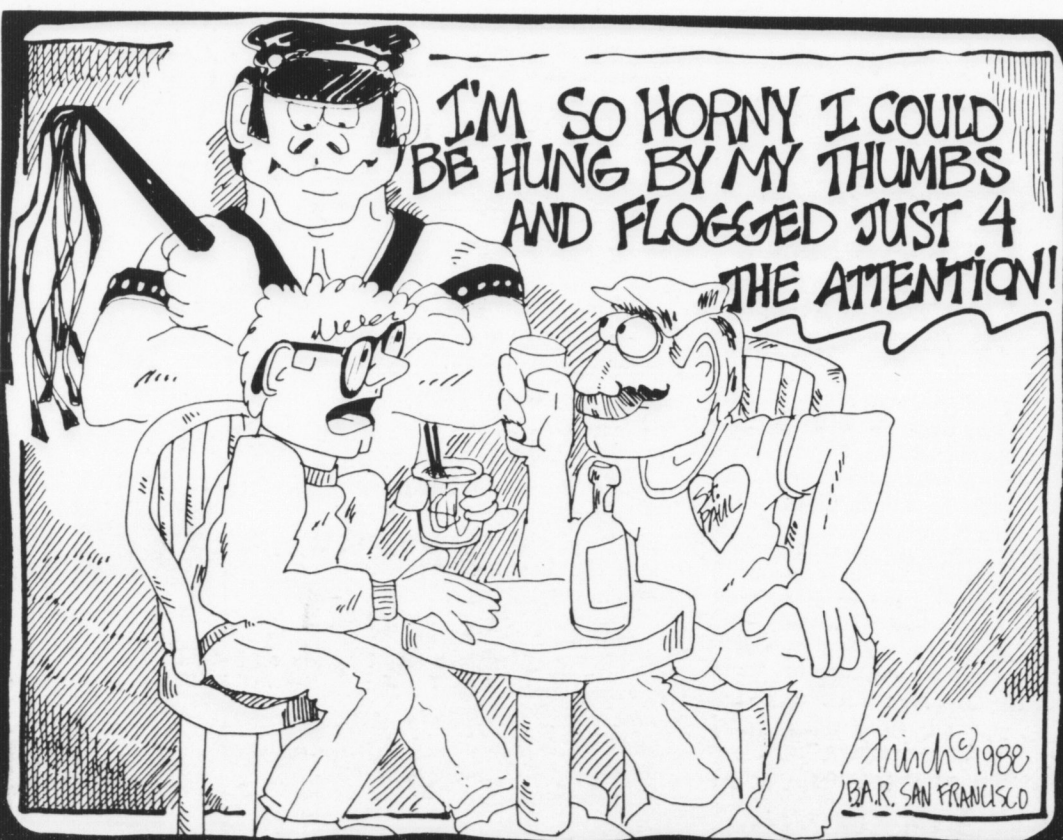
When the earlier bill was under debate, opponents dominated the hearings with claims about endangering children and other moral concerns. This year, supporters of the legislation got parents of gay people, public officials, and religious leaders to make statements in favor of the bill.

Activist Jay Clark, who had pushed the earlier bill, was delighted to see passage of the measure at last. "Come January," he said, "Alexandria will have a stronger human rights law than D.C." Neighboring Washington's law is currently under attack by the U.S. Congress, which is insisting that the local government repeal its ordinance.

—Washington Blade

Every week
 Bay Area Reporter.

Frisch



Prop. 102 Authors Threaten a Rerun May Take It to State Legislature

by Jay Newquist

Prop. 102, the latest state ballot initiative to attempt to radically alter California AIDS policy, bit the dust in the recent election, losing by a two to one margin. But will it rise Phoenix-like from the ashes for a fourth try? That was the question of the week.

"It's a tough call to make at the moment," said Bruce Decker of the Stop Dannemeyer campaign in Los Angeles, the group that targeted the California media with the message that Prop. 102 was "bad medicine."

Decker felt that Rep. William Dannemeyer (R-Fullerton), who sponsored Prop. 102, would likely try to enact legislation to remove confidentiality from AIDS testing.

State Sen. John Doolittle will also probably try to push a like-minded bill through the state legislature, Decker said.

The big question, according to Decker, is the attitude of Gov. George Deukmejian, who came out in favor of Prop. 102 in the waning days of the campaign before Nov. 8.

"There's no rational explanation for the governor's support of the initiative unless it means he wants to have a bill to eventually sign," Decker said.

He said an effort for another Prop. 102 would have until August 1989 to get a bill through the legislature. The initiative process takes about 15 months. Paul Gann, who co-authored Prop. 102 with Dannemeyer, has promised to take his measure to the voters again.

Tom Beermann, a press spokesman for Gov. Deukmejian, said the governor was miffed that the press had widely misinterpreted that he "officially" supported Prop. 102.

"He voted for it not as an advocate but as a private citizen because he felt Prop. 102 was the best way to fight AIDS," Beermann said.

He added that despite the resignation of three of his advisors on AIDS, the governor was still dedicated to fighting AIDS. He said that the state budget for AIDS in 1988 is \$90 million as opposed to \$3 million in 1983.

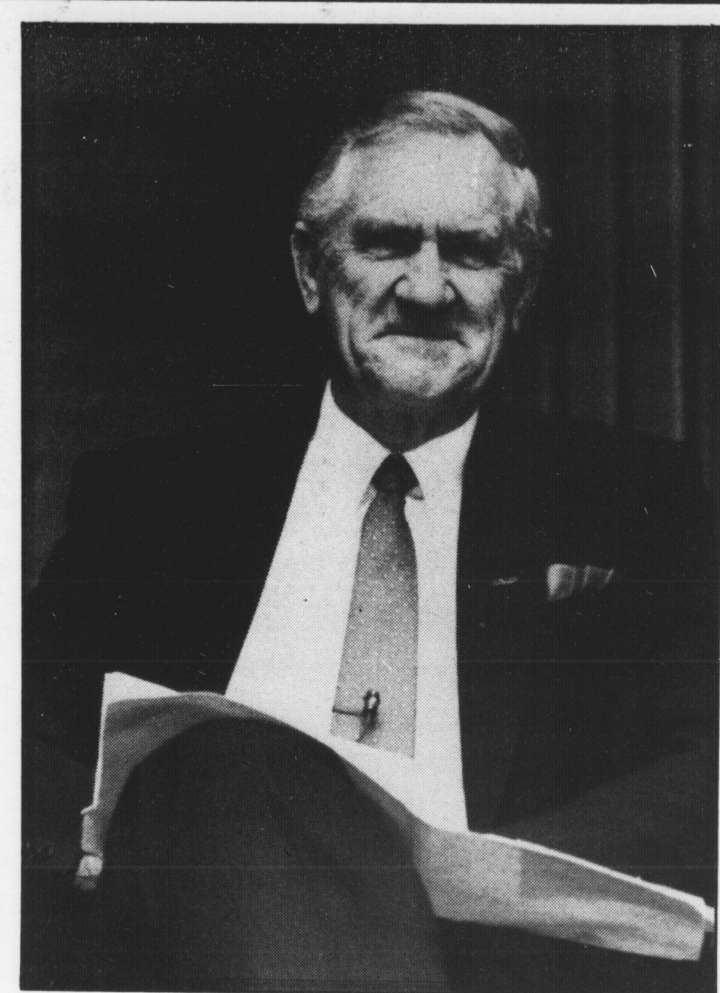
Beermann could not say what was in the governor's mind as far as the path he wanted to take should a new AIDS initiative reach the state legislature or the ballot.

Some gay and lesbian activists suspect that Deukmejian may not know the difference between a case of full-blown AIDS and merely testing HIV positive.

Pat Christen of the San Francisco AIDS Foundation and the No on 102 campaign was reasonably certain that the supporters of Prop 102 would attack once more.

"Yes, Dannemeyer will try again," Christen said. "He's exploiting the issue, but it's fortunate the voters aren't buying it. I don't get the impression that Dannemeyer is fighting against AIDS. He's just using it for political gain."

Christen said she saw two strong messages emerge from the Prop. 102 defeat: first, that the public is sophisticated enough to recognize a poor initiative; and



Rep. William Dannemeyer.

(Photo: Steve Savage)

second, that the new administration in Washington is now aware that harsh and repressive measures are unacceptable.

Christen added that the gay and lesbian community should pat itself on the back because they were able to reverse the tide that at the outset heavily favored Prop. 102 across California.

"The campaign was an astonishing success to have turned around a 70/30 percentage for Prop. 102 because of a constant barrage of information from various AIDS organizations," she said.

Christen made the interesting assessment of President-elect George Bush that he would be easier to deal with on AIDS issues than was President Reagan.

"No one can be as brutal as Reagan was or as inactive on such a health emergency. It's heinous. Bush, however, has said he would support anti-AIDS discrimination legislation," she said.

Christen repeated a note little raised in the presidential campaign that Bush would be more sensitive in general on AIDS as a health issue since he lost a daughter to leukemia at a time when there was limited access to treatment.

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(Photo: PhotoGraphics/Darlene)

A Gift of Music

A 55-Year-Old Church Organ Is Repaired; Parish Rejoices Over a PWA With 'A Good Heart'

by Mary Richards

The Sacred Heart Church presents a sedate facade to Fillmore Street, its light bricks worn with age. Inside, stained-glass windows depict saints and martyrs going about the business of God. The Stations of the Cross flank the walls, and a dusty-rose glow permeates the large, square, inner structure.

The back of the church is dominated by an organ, its huge, golden pipes gleaming in the dusk of the upper gallery. The organ was built in 1933, but has diminished in use through the years, its somber and majestic music quelled by neglect and lack of the necessary funds needed for restoration.

Now, mainly due to the dedication and commitment of one man, Kevin McGowan, the or-

gan's extraordinary sound is once again heard within the 103-year-old church.

Kevin went through pipe organ apprenticeship in Springfield, Illinois, and worked with a pipe organ builder for four years. He had done restoration on larger organs, but this was an experience, as he says, "where I made all the decisions and I was running the show. It felt good, although scary at times because of the responsibility."

A parishioner of Sacred Heart, who lived in Kevin's apartment building and was aware of the damaged organ, put him in touch with Father Ken Westray, pastor of the church. "I called Father Ken," Kevin said, "and asked if I could see it. I saw the organ and fell in love with it. It had basically been unplayable for 15 to 20 years. I knew what its potential was and told them that they had a Cadillac of pipe organs. Then

I started working on it."

Kevin has AIDS, and, regardless of his state of health, the magnitude of the task which he undertook could not be handled by one person working alone. Numerous volunteers assisted him in what was to become a six-month labor of love. They were not remunerated for their work, but the \$3,000 needed for materials came from the church.

"I had pneumonia, and I was recuperating from that," Kevin recalls. I realized that I had to do something constructive. At first I only worked [on the organ] about six or seven hours a day, seven days a week. Then it was up to 10 or 12 hours a day, when we found out we were going to do an organ concert for the Historical Society. We had a deadline, and we ended up working that much harder. This was not good for me physically, because of my AIDS virus, but I did it anyway."

TAKES A TOLL

The intense work took its toll on Kevin, and after the project was completed he collapsed and was bedridden for a month and a half. His feeling of achievement, however, was not dimmed by his physical setback. "I felt very good after I finished the organ," he remembers. "I felt like I really accomplished something, and I was pleased with that. I was very, very pleased with how the organ turned out and how it sounded. It's quite an organ."

Both local and national media have become interested in Kevin's story. The Chronicle did an article on the restoration. In the November *Life* magazine, he was featured in a special series on six people throughout the country who have made "great accomplishments."

According to Westray, the Sacred Heart Church has about

200 families who attend services regularly in the racially-mixed parish. "You name it, we have it here," Father Ken says with a certain pride. "Blacks, whites, Asians, Filipinos, and a few Vietnamese. The neighborhood is constantly changing. It has never been static."

Restoration of the organ, says Westray, "was a blessing. We'd never have been able to do it otherwise. Kevin is still working on this organ, little bit by little bit, when his health permits. I think Kevin has a good heart."

Parishioners were told from the beginning that their organ was being restored, and Westray describes what it meant to them. "They could hear Kevin working up there some days, and they would come in and see him. They were very much excited. They knew it was a gift, and they also knew how much work went into it."

HUGS AND KISSES

When the project was completed, the Organ Historical Society, in San Francisco for their annual convention, arranged to do one of their concerts at the church with a noted organist from New England.

After the performance, Kevin says, "People were coming up to me and hugging me. Men were hugging me, and women were kissing me, and it was just incredible. They just kept coming and coming—it was amazing. That was a real nice high. I felt lots of love. People were totally accepting and totally open about the whole situation. They thought what I did was wonderful."

The restored organ of the Sacred Heart Church is played every Saturday at 4:30 p.m. and the first and fifth Sundays of the month at 10 a.m. Mass. ▼



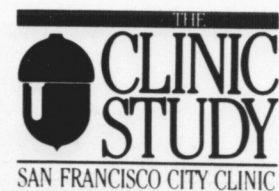
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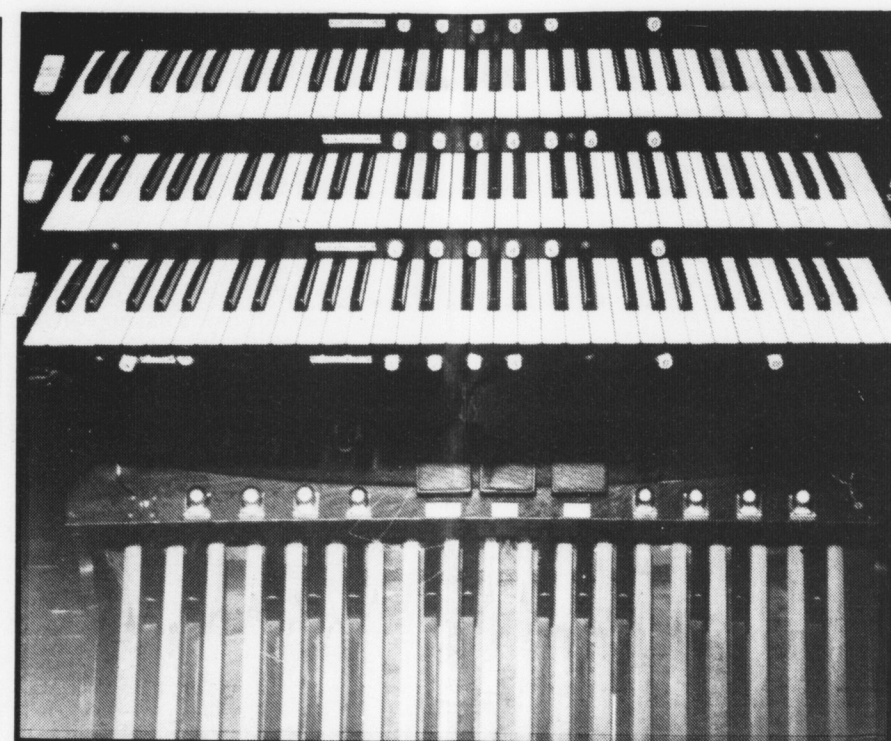
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(Photo: PhotoGraphics/Darlene)

Revolutionary Rights Case

Lesbian With No Biological or Legal Relationship Seeks Parental Rights

NEW YORK—Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund has filed a revolutionary case in the area of lesbian and gay family law which seeks to establish the parental rights of a lesbian co-parent who hasn't any biological or legal relationship with the child.

Lambda represents the co-parent in her petition for restoration of visitation with her son. Paula L. Ettelbrick, the Lambda Staff Attorney who represents the co-parent said, "The increasing numbers of lesbian couples having children by artificial insemination has led to a multitude of questions regarding the legal relationship between the child born of that relationship and the co-parent. Because the emotional bond between parent and child is so strong in this case, it is essential to get the court to legally protect that relationship."

The case involves a lesbian couple in a small New York town who had a child together through artificial insemination in 1981. Both parents supported the child financially and emotionally, and it was clearly agreed that both of them were the child's parents.

When the couple separated in 1983, their son, then 2½ years old, remained with his biological parent, though the parents worked out a very liberal visitation schedule so as to keep the relationship between the co-parent and child intact. Further, the co-parent continued to attend to her son's medical needs, took him to and from school, provided discipline and love, and cared for his tangible needs such as food, shelter and clothing. This amicable agreement continued until late 1986 when the biological parent began limiting the co-parent's access to their son.

The biological mother disconnected the phone, returned cards and gifts sent by the co-parent and moved to avoid any contact between the child and the co-parent. ▼

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Academy of Art College Action Against AIDS



Low Overhead for Emergency Fund Means More Cash for Distribution

by Jay Newquist

The AIDS Emergency Fund (AEF) serves people with AIDS or disabling ARC in the Bay Area. But its fund directors also see themselves as serving donors who want their money immediately airlifted to the front lines of the epidemic. At present, AEF puts 95 percent of its \$700,000 1988 budget directly into client services, helping people with the PG&E bill or the rent that the landlord wanted yesterday. They have distributed \$423,000 this year, as of Sept. 15. They expect to give out a total of \$900,000 in 1989.

With a mere 5 percent in overhead costs and one full-time and one part-time employee, AEF has provided service without becoming a dinosaur in the process. It's the way they've been operating since day one, except they used to give away 98 percent of their budget at first.

The AIDS Emergency Fund is still not in business for its own creature comforts. Its digs at 1550 California St. are one large, perfunctory room, with the coffee machine in a nest of offices behind a flower shop. The distinctive logo out front is the only hint that altruism lurks down the hall.

At a maximum grant of \$500 per calendar year for each client, AEF served 973 clients last year. "We used to give away \$1,000, but because of our client demand, we felt we might have to turn people away," said Hank Cook, AEF's unsalaried director.

"We didn't want to turn people away, so we reduced the stipend. I think it's worked. We've never turned anyone away. We've taken care of women and children, and there's been an enormous increase in minority grants of about 30 percent from the Latino community," he said.

SUPPLEMENTAL AID

Cook said AEF provides 70 percent of its money to clients for rent. The remainder goes for utility and phone bills; hot meals and groceries for patients at home; transportation expenses for visits with family and medical treatment in other cities; warm clothing for winter months; and living expenses until public assistance or SSI begins.

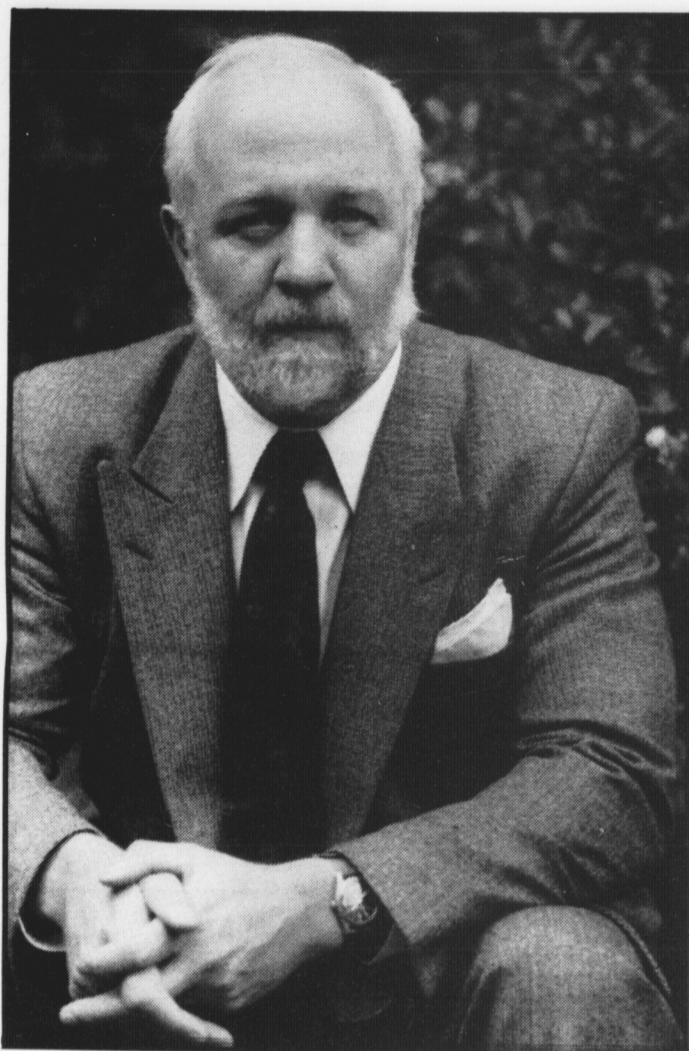
AEF underwrites three specific programs: Service by Touch that provides massage for PWAs in their homes; hot meals for Project Open Hand (\$800 per month); and Paratransit (\$1,000 per month) that provides reduced taxi fares for people with AIDS and disabled people with ARC.

"I don't want a patient out on Muni all day long, trying to get to a doctor's office," Cook said. A client of the Paratransit program, for example, would pay \$3 for coupons worth \$30 in taxi rides. AIDS Emergency Fund picks up the difference.

"Our mission is to provide financial assistance to our clients, and these programs like the Godfather Fund are supplemental until they are able to get on their feet."

AIDS Emergency Fund started raising money in September 1982 and served 50 clients that year. The donations came principally from appeals to the leather community via fundraising events like the first Leatherdaddy's Boy Contest at the S.F. Eagle in 1982.

Tax-free donations to AEF may be made by cash, check, Visa, or MasterCard. The fund is also part of the United Way Donor Option Plan. Donations of securi-



Hank Cook.

(Photo: L. Warwick)

ties or real property, bequests, and corporate or foundation grants are also being sought.

Cook reported that once AEF becomes computerized and expands programs, the staff may have to increase.

At present, the organization functions with one full-time office manager at \$18,000 per year in salary plus health benefits paid by a special grant from the state. The one part-timer is paid \$6 per hour for four hours work each day.

Many first-time clients are so sophisticated to the process, Cook said, that they arrive at AEF with their paperwork completed, which lessens the workload. A check is usually issued within three days.

A large portion of the intake and paperwork is done by some 14 volunteers. "Anyone who wants to work is welcomed, but I've found the best kind of volunteer has to be someone more reasoned and more mature, very decent, and patient," Cook said.

Clients must present a document from physicians attesting to the AIDS or disabling ARC diagnosis. They also must present a financial statement showing their income is less than \$900 a month.

"When they come in, they are really in need," Cook said. "We have to forget about the few who

are trying to rip us off. We look at the big picture."

NO PUBLIC FUNDS

The AEF budget is targeted at \$3.5 million by 1992 as the epidemic reaches its projected peak, according to Cook.

"This charity basically raises money the old-fashioned way," said Cook, who puts in 125 hours a month. "Pressing the flesh, leaning on old friends, and it's going to continue. I don't see it tapering off."

"Everyone has fears of destitution. No matter how wealthy you are, I think everyone wants to see us continue."

AIDS Emergency Fund receives no regular federal, state, county, or city money. More than 80 percent of all income comes from private donations, with 20 percent from corporate and foundation grants.

"The success of this charity has been based on the generous donations of the gay and lesbian community. It overwhelms me sometimes. I'll go out in the evening to an event and pick up \$3,000 in checks for the fund," Cook said. "They know that there will be instant results."

Cook recalled when AEF was giving away only \$1,000 a month. "The first fellow we gave \$100 to

Continued on next page



Images Gallery held a benefit for the AIDS Emergency Fund in August 1987.

(Photo: Scott Martin)

Budget: 1986, \$226,000; 1987, \$328,000; 1988, \$700,000.
Staff: one full-time, one part-time.
Clients: 1986, 275; 1987, 400; 1988, 973.
Volunteers: 14.
Income:
 • Government grants, 5 percent.
 • Private donations, 80 percent.
 • Corporations, 7.5 percent.
 • Foundations, 7.5 percent.
Services: Emergency cash assistance to people with AIDS or disabling ARC; subsidies to support services. ▼



The AIDS Emergency Fund float in the 1988 Gay Parade.

(Photo: Scott Martin)



An AIDS Emergency Fund event at the Green Room.

(Photo: Scott Martin)

First in a series on AIDS organizations



AEF

(Continued from previous page)

broke down in tears. Now we're giving away between \$40,000 and \$50,000 a month," he said.

"But we do get worried we won't be able to meet the client demand. It's a real hard problem to face every day."

The AEF board is quite tight-

fisted and "fanatical about accountability," Cook said. "But we're so successful that we must be doing something right."

"Let's raise some money and have a good time in the process, that's my philosophy. We give the most bang for the bucks, and they keep coming back."

The recent Danny Williams birthday celebration at the S.F. Eagle was expected to raise some

\$4,000 for the fund. The "In Memory of Friends" soiree at the Palace of Fine Arts pumped \$30,000 into AEF coffers.

On the darker side, Cook suspected that problems at Shanti Project that led to the firing of Jim Geary had created a certain hesitancy about charitable giving across the board.

"People are more cautious now when they donate," he said. "Shanti seems to have created some problems. Charities are businesses that have deadlines, goals, and paperwork. When a business is successful, it means you've got good people at the top who are doing their job."

"I don't want to project the image that we are pure and clean and giving our heart and soul. People forget that these are big businesses, and a lot of people are making a good living off them."

"There's nothing wrong with that, because they're helping people. It just has to be watched and controlled so we don't have abuses. [The director's] job is to administer the bylaws of the charity," he said. "I think sometimes that other groups tend to get away from that."

RELY ON COMMUNITY

Cook said that, as a fundraising entity, AEF had to rely on its board members to beat the streets for donations. "If you cannot sell a booklet of 10 raffle tickets, then you are no use to

AEF as a board member. I'd love to have 13 Charlotte Maillards. Fundraising is a cold, dark, basic thing that's a hard pill to swallow. You have to be a dynamo or else you're just extra fat on the body."

Has the gay community exhausted its capacity for contributions to AEF or other AIDS-related charities?

"I don't think that people are tapped out. People who give \$75 to \$100 at one time are tapped out, but there are a lot of \$1 people out there."

Cook didn't hold much hope that the straight community would contribute a fair share.

"They are not going to give us the dollars we need. We have to rely on ourselves and our own cleverness. We haven't plugged into our genius out there."

Cook reported that the charity was forming Friends of the AIDS Emergency Fund who would be asked to contribute no more than \$15. They would receive a membership card and a free subscription to a monthly newsletter.

"It's a nice way to broaden even more our grassroots support. There are a lot of people we haven't touched, and we won't until the epidemic affects them personally. It's exciting work. You get such fulfillment, and you have to treat everything as a learning experience."

"It's never-ending," Cook said. "Who would have thought that at our age we'd be doing this?" ▼

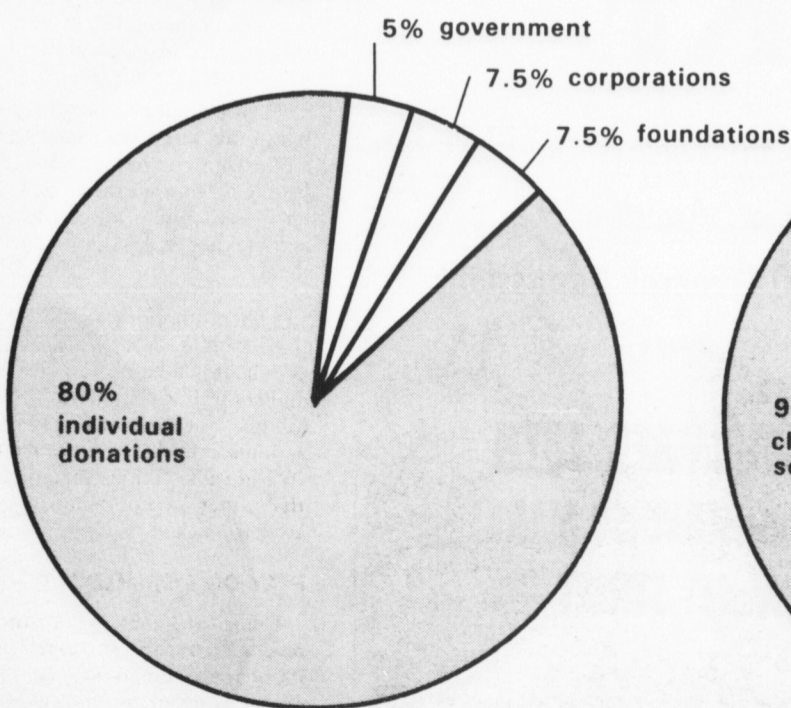


Mayor Art Agnos was honored by the AIDS Emergency Fund.

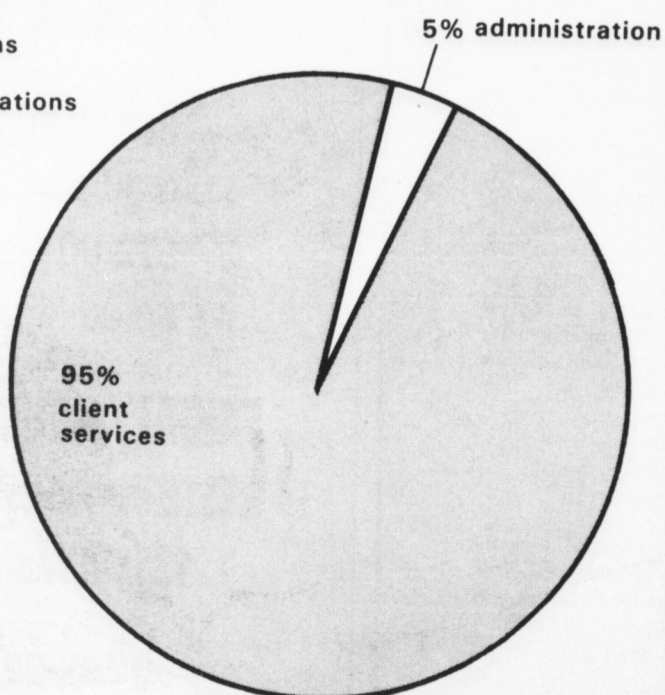
(Photo: Scott Martin)

AIDS Emergency Fund

Income



Expenses



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Perry Watson
8/50-11/87

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DEATHS

Glen Peter Fiantago
April 17, 1959-Oct. 2, 1988

On or about Oct. 2, 1988, at Long Beach, California, Glen Fiantago died of AIDS-related causes.

Founder of the Gay Student Union at San Francisco State University, he was also an active participant in gay softball as manager, player, and critic. Often critical, in the end he was more critical of himself than of others. He was small in stature and fought hard to grow.

He came to San Francisco in January 1976 and became part of an extended gay family. We of that family will miss him deeply.

He is also survived by his natural and loving family in Anaheim, California.
... love will be with you, oceans away

Nikos Kafkalis
Nov. 11, 1942-Oct. 8, 1988

Nikos died peacefully at home on Oct. 8 of AIDS. A stage manager, his credits range from Broadway to regional theaters; his last production was *Waste* with Sharon McNight here and in Los Angeles.

Born in New York, he attended Hofstra University and served in the Air Force. Prior to receiving his own diagnosis, Nikos worked as a Shanti volunteer. Graced with a classic profile and proud of his heritage, he spoke Greek, lived on Eureka Street, and had planned to visit Greece for the first time this September until his health prevented him.

"The Greek" is survived by cousin Athena, mother Dorothy, composer Conrad Susa, and by friends and colleagues who are diminished by his death, but sustained by the memory of his friendly openness, humor, moodiness, and overwhelming love of life.

A memorial service will be held at the Marines Memorial Theatre, 609 Sutter St., San Francisco, on Monday, Nov. 21, at 7:30 p.m.

Donations may be made to Equity Fights AIDS, Actors' Equity Foundation, 165 W. 46th St., New York, NY 10036, or to the Actors' Fund of America, 444 N. Larchmont Blvd., Ste. 204, Los Angeles, CA 90004.

"We have eaten bread and salt together." See you soon, "Toots."

Jeffrey J. Reiswig
Jan. 11, 1950-Nov. 6, 1988

Jeff left this world Sunday morning after a brief illness.

Known as "Sadie" to his friends and lovers, Jeff lived life to the fullest. He loved walks at Lands End, orchids, beauty, perverse humor, and honest conversation.

He was an avid operaphile, Egyptologist, and brilliant organizer of gallery openings and outrageous dinner parties. He brought an unforgettable craziness, magic, and passionate intensity to the many social events which he graced with his usual madcap presence.

In 1977 he and the late photographer Jeff Clark opened their "Love and Death: A Pentology" at the Mindscapes Gallery on Polk Street. He organized other art shows in the late '70s for local artists and a few private shows for friends. Who could forget the "Madama Butterfly Bonsai Dinner Party"?

He will be missed by his companion of many years Jim, by his friend Eric, his cat Beethoven, and by all those whom he touched with his wit and love.

Thanks to the staff of Ward 5R of San Francisco General for all of their love and care.

His friends are invited to a memorial service on Sunday, Nov. 20, at 7 p.m., at 2852 California St., Apt. B, San Francisco. Call Eric at 839-7103 for details.

James R. Gussett
May 9, 1940-Sept. 16, 1988

Jim Gussett taught school in Monroe, Michigan for 18 years before moving to California. Together with his lover and friend for all time, Tom McConnell, Jim opened "Mr. Slick's," a shop where his love and expertise in Art Deco could shine. Though in later years he became an apartment manager, he kept his Deco treasures about him like old friends. A very private man, Jim, after being literally surrounded by family and friends during his last weeks, chose the one moment when he was completely alone to slip away from us. We will miss his warmth and generosity always.

Jim is survived by his father, Carl Gussett of Rudolph, Ohio; his three sisters, Doris Okey of Canal Fulton, Ohio, Carol Dolon of E. Canton, Ohio, and Carline Gordon of Phoenix, Arizona; and his former lover and friend of 28 years, Tom McConnell of Toledo, Ohio, now residing in San Francisco.

P.S.: Jim, we know where you are, and we carry your Love in our hearts forever. Thank you for spending the time with us that you did. We Love You.

Biaggio A. Tucciarelli
Oct. 1, 1960-Sept. 21, 1988

Biaggio A. Tucciarelli passed away on the morning of Sept. 21, 1988. He was 27 years old. His beautiful eyes, wonderful smile, vivacious personality, and mostly the warmth and the love that he gave to everything and everyone that he touched will remain forever in the hearts of those who knew and loved him.

He survived by his mother Luisa, his father Bill, his two sisters Marisa and Rita, and by his partner in life, David.

He will live on forever in all of our hearts. San Francisco was fortunate to have such a fine human being living here. He will be missed by all of us.

Gary Steven Niksich
Jan. 8, 1951-Nov. 8, 1988

Gary passed away, leaving his beloved mother, Marge, from Portland, Oregon, and many friends in Seattle, Portland, and San Francisco.

He was also known as "Mr. Gary," a versatile performer who always ensured packed houses in Seattle with his unforgettable impressions of Bette Davis, Joan Crawford, and Bette Midler.

He was a lifetime fan of Ann Francis. He was a successful businessman, co-partner of Michael-Gary and Company of San Francisco. Gary was a warm, loving, and giving man. He most happy when helping others.

He leaves his friends a simple message of love and hope, "I'll be seeing you again, somewhere over the rainbow."

Memorial services were held at Most Holy Redeemer Church in San Francisco on Monday, Nov. 14. In attendance were many friends and relatives from the West Coast, who each received, at his request, a single yellow rose.

Remembrances may be made to the Hospice of San Francisco or Most Holy Redeemer Church.

Lynn M. Smith
Lynn M. Smith died on June 7, 1988 after several months of hospitalization resulting from AIDS. Services were held by family in Minnesota and by friends in San Francisco. Lynn was an instructor and administrator at DeAnza Community College and was best known for his contributions to the disabled and his love of nature.

Patrick T. Clifton
Nov. 22, 1960-Nov. 8, 1988

Patrick Clifton of San Francisco, formerly of Utica, N.Y. died peacefully at his home on Nov. 8, 1988. He was the beloved son of Eleanor, devoted brother of David, and adored grandson of Palma DeAngelis. Patrick was predeceased by his brother Anthony. He attended Fashion Institute of Technology, and for a time he lived and worked in Chicago with his good friend Kathy Sherman.

With his mother, brother, and friends in attendance, Patrick died with the same strength, love, and humor he had while living with AIDS. The family gives special thanks to the Visiting Nurses Association and Hospice of San Francisco for the wonderful care and consideration they provided for Patrick and his family during his final days.

A funeral mass was held at the Church of the Most Holy Redeemer on Saturday, Nov. 12, 1988. Donations in Patrick's memory can be made to the San Francisco AIDS Foundation.

Your absence cannot be consoled. We will always love and miss you. May God give you peace and serenity. Don't forget to save a place for Mom.

Donald Heath

The world is a lonelier place today. A Great Soul among us has passed. How fortunate are those to have known him.

An R.N. at San Francisco General for years and a private duty nurse, Don founded the Sathya Sai Baba Center here 15 years ago. A maverick and natural-born leader, Don launched thousands to the path of enlightenment with his tours to India. A wish fulfilled, he died in India unexpectedly; his ashes, a gift to the sky. Sai Ram Don.

Bush

(Continued from page 1)

avored AIDS prevention education, but he believes education programs should be local, not federal, and should stress traditional moral values.

Although the Republican platform does not mention it, Bush has personally endorsed the recommendations of the Watkins commission on AIDS. Admiral James Watkins, greatly praised for his work on that commission, is believed to be a friend and advisor to Bush.

Who Pres. Bush will be talking to about AIDS is a key to what he might do about the most severe crisis ever to hit the U.S. health-care system. Bush once mentioned Dr. Anthony Fauci, AIDS researcher for the National Institutes of Health, as one of his personal heroes. That, said Levi, is a vast improvement over Pres. Reagan's chief advisor on AIDS, Gary Bauer.

"My hope is that he'll leave public health officials to do their jobs with less meddling from the political crazies," said Levi.

He expected that Bush would name a more moderate cabinet. He cited the appointment of the Health and Human Services secretary and assistant secretary as crucial indicators of future Bush administration policy.

Levi said he doubted that Rep. William Dannemeyer would be an advisor of any significance to the new president regarding AIDS. "I can't believe that he will be listening to people like Dannemeyer," said Levi.

Morin agreed that Bush will probably get better advice on AIDS than Reagan got. "Some of his advisors are said to be good. He has available to him quality people. But whether the right wing allows these people to work remains to be seen," he said.

Levi said he thought that the right wing ideologists were in for a rude shock and may not have the access they are expecting. "Bush has nothing to be gained by moving further to the right," he said. "He's probably gone as far to the right as he will."

BUMPER-STICKER POLICY

If the Bush administration shows less "overt hostility" on AIDS, will it push positive, proactive measures? Morin had his doubts. "It's Bush's feeling that one deals with AIDS the same as one deals with any illness. In other words, it's business as usual. That attitude has been pinpointed by groups such as the National Academy of Sciences as the most critical failing of the federal government," he said.

Morin said he wrote the Bush campaign, asking for candidate Bush's plan on AIDS, but got no response. "All I got back was a bumper sticker," he said. "Things couldn't be any worse, but there are real barriers to getting any better," he added.

Even so, Morin was willing to give Bush the benefit of some doubt. "The only way is up," he said.

"There is some hope of working with Bush on AIDS," said Eric Rosenthal, political director of the Human Rights Campaign Fund (HRCF). "He has, of course, sent mixed signals, and it remains to be seen whether he'll come down on the side of Jesse Helms [R-NC] or that of responsible public health officials, but he did endorse the HIV Commission's recommendations of non-discrimination protections for persons with AIDS."



Jeff Levi. (Photo: T. DiMaria)

"An opportunity to become more human..."

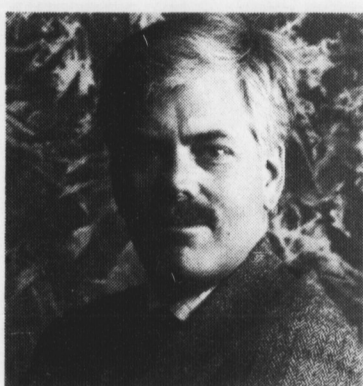
"My motives in becoming a volunteer were in part selfish: to look within and understand more of who I am.

"The training Shanti provides was an opportunity for

me to explore some of my own experiences with death, loss, grief, and illness in an atmosphere of complete safety and acceptance.

"My two client relationships

have become models for other friendships in my life. Through them, I have experienced more deeply that giving and receiving are part of the life-enhancing process."



John Emmons, Shanti Support Volunteer

Shanti Project provides volunteers to people with AIDS who need help with chores or just someone to talk to. We need you because people with AIDS need you.

The next Emotional Support Training begins December 2nd.
The next Practical Support Training begins January 27th.



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Kaiser Offers Classes On HIV

Kaiser Permanente Medical Center of San Francisco is presenting a series of classes on HIV infection. The series is free to Kaiser health plan members. No advance registration is needed. The classes take place in the 5th floor hospital conference room, 2425 Geary Blvd., from 6 to 7 p.m.

Future classes will cover tips on staying healthy and early warning signs of illness (Dec. 12). Treatment issues such as conventional therapies will be discussed on Jan. 2 and alternative therapies on Jan. 16.

For more information about these classes, call Pat Sanders at 929-4849.

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INTERNATIONAL HIV-AIDS RESOURCES

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ViRx, a private clinical research center, wants you to know about an upcoming drug study for the treatment of anemia, a common problem in HIV-seropositive patients.

There are two studies available: one for persons who are currently taking zidovudine (AZT) and who have a hematocrit of less than 30%; and one for persons not taking zidovudine and who have a hematocrit of less than 30%.

Study participants will receive:

- \$200 cash stipend (\$25 initially, \$150 after 3 months, and \$25 upon study completion)
- Free laboratory tests and monitoring of anemia during the nine month study
- Physician consultation associated with the study at ViRx Medical Group, Inc.
- Free treatment with drug for final six months of study

Enrollment for this study begins November 21, 1988. If you are interested in this trial, or future clinical drug trials, please call ViRx Medical Group, Inc. at:

(415) 474-2233



ViRx Medical Group, Inc. 655 Sutter Street, Suite 600, San Francisco, California 94102

Frank, Studds Win Landslide Votes

Gay Congressmen Returned to Office

by Rex Wockner

America's only two openly gay Congressmen were both easily re-elected Nov. 8. Representatives Barney Frank and Gerry Studds, both from Massachusetts, took 70 and 65 percent of the vote respectively in their districts.

For Studds, it was his third re-election since being forced out of the closet in 1983 due to allegations that he had had sexual relations with a Congressional page years earlier.

But for Frank, it was a first-ever test of voter response to a national politician voluntarily announcing that he is gay. Frank came out a year-and-a-half ago in a newspaper interview, saying he was concerned about the media's increasing meddling in the private lives of politicians.

"If I'm not hiding anything, they can't uncover anything," Frank later explained. Since coming out, Frank has become highly visible in the national gay and lesbian rights movement.

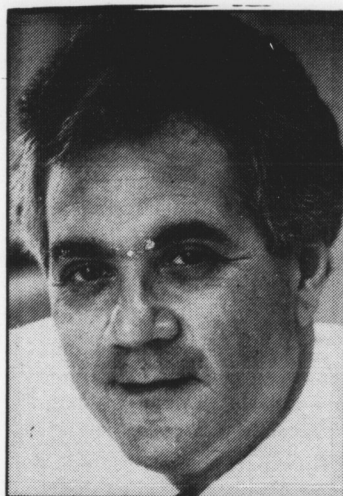
In an interview the day after the election, Frank acknowledged that he "might have lost a couple of points from coming out but not more than that." He says his last comparable race was in 1984, when he captured 74 percent of the vote. The drop to 70 percent this time, he believes, was probably a combination of his coming out and of a better organized opposition in the person of Deborah Tucker.

Tucker, who Frank described as a "Robertson Republican," spoke frequently during the campaign about "family values," and blasted Frank for his "liberal" votes on "dial-a-porn" and drugs.

At one point, Tucker asked attendees at a George Bush rally if they would trust their children with Barney Frank for the weekend. Another time, she said she was disgusted that Frank had compared voting to a gay sex act.

Frequently during the campaign, Frank encouraged gays and lesbians to look at a vote for candidate Michael Dukakis as a "one night stand, not a lifetime commitment," acknowledging that Dukakis was not an ideal candidate but was the best choice at "ten 'til two, with the bar about to close."

National gay and lesbian leaders were elated at Frank's "landslide" victory and believe it proves that voters can see beyond sexual orientation.



Rep. Barney Frank.



Rep. Gerry Studds. (Photo: Rink)

"Barney is very respected by his constituents and being openly gay was obviously not a liability," said Urvashi Vaid of the National Gay & Lesbian Task Force.

"This is tremendous, amazing, fantastic," exclaimed Robert Bray, communications director of the Human Rights Campaign Fund. "It sends a very powerful signal not only to other politicians who might be gay, but to constituents in general."

HRCF's political director, Eric Rosenthal agreed, adding that "safe incumbents don't often get 70 percent. This demonstrates," Rosenthal said, "that the American people are much more sophisticated and much less bigoted than politicians think they are."

Hayward MCC Plans Memorial Service

The AIDS Chaplaincy Team of Maranatha MCC in Hayward is presenting a community memorial service "in memory of those who walk with us no more."

This service is for our loved ones who have died; for care-givers, lovers, friends, parents, sisters and brothers of persons with AIDS. This will provide the East Bay an opportunity to remember, a time to share our grief, and a place to begin again.

The service is scheduled for Wednesday, Nov. 23, from 8 to 9 p.m. at Maranatha Metropolitan Community Church, 22577

Bayview St. (Starr King Unitarian) in Hayward. For more information call (415) 881-5649.

The AIDS Chaplaincy Team is an outreach of Maranatha MCC providing comfort and company for those with AIDS. Currently working with Fairmont Hospital in San Leandro the team has been in existence for two years and is operated through the laity of the church. Maranatha MCC is a member of the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches which is currently celebrating its 20th anniversary.

AIDS Raises Demand For Legal Services

Conference Forms Network for Help

by Jay Newquist

Last week over 300 lawyers and activists gathered in San Francisco to learn about AIDS-related law and other gay and lesbian legal issues. The goal was to give people the tools they need to establish programs in their communities across the U.S.

The first AIDS Law conference was aimed to reverse AIDS not only as a national health crisis, but also as a legal crisis. That was followed by the Lavender Law conference that dealt with gay and lesbian legal issues beyond AIDS.

"The critical and special legal needs of persons with AIDS, ARC and HIV infection are simply not being met," said Clint Hockenberry, host of the national conference and administrator of San Francisco's AIDS Legal Referral Panel.

"Only 10 legal aid programs throughout the U.S. are presently providing legal services to the more than 1.5 million people with AIDS and ARC," he said.

Hockenberry said he was encouraged that the AIDS Law conference would spawn these crucial AIDS-related services in cities like Tallahassee, Santa Fe, and Rochester, which had representatives attending the day-long training session.

"The time seems to be right for this program," Hockenberry said, indicating that organizers were unclear how the conference would turn out. "We didn't have to reinvent the wheel," he added. "Timing is everything."

"We had 300 people from 30 states and three countries (Canada and the United Kingdom). There was a lot of enthusiasm, people showed a willingness to provide these services for free or for low cost."

"We worked hard to target the solo practitioners who would start a similar program in their communities," he said.

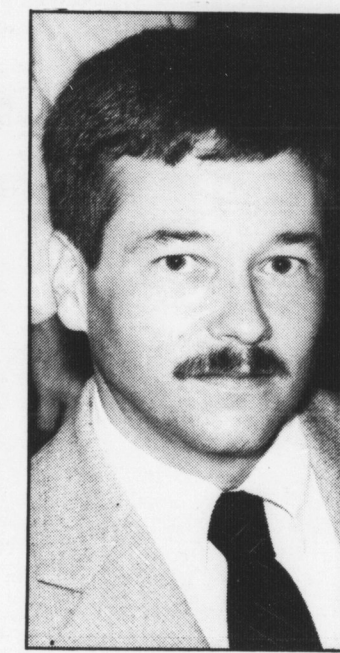
Hockenberry reported new efforts to address AIDS legal issues in the last few months in cities like Miami and Chicago, noting that California was years ahead of other states in all facets of AIDS-related services.

"We've been more organized, more evangelical," he said, expressing the belief that new warriors in the battle against AIDS would "take the load off California's shoulders."

Hockenberry said at present that legal help for persons with AIDS or ARC was largely only available in major cities. A client would have to look hard to find a sympathetic attorney in a smaller setting, he added.

He continued that most of these legal providers were altruists who weren't in their field for profit. "They're not being well paid, if at all," Hockenberry said.

"The need for free legal services is acute because more than



Clint Hockenberry. (Photo: Rink)

70 percent of these clients are on disability."

Hockenberry said eight areas of substantive law were covered during the all-day conference, including employment discrimination, criminal law, family law and patient confidentiality and mandatory testing.

Conference participants also received a 400-page manual to help them organize and administer a legal service project in their local communities.

Ora Prochovnick, a member of the AIDS Legal Referral Panel Management Committee, said the training the conference provided lawyers and legal workers would assist people with AIDS or ARC who can't afford legal help "at a time they are most in need and most vulnerable to stress in their lives."

"At a time when they have just lost their job or their health insurance or their home or are being denied government benefits, or need assistance drafting a will or power of attorney, providing services which address or alleviate their legal problems will enable them to concentrate on their health concerns," Prochovnick said.

The conference raised its costs from registration fees and from a consortium that included Bay Area Lawyers for Individual Freedom (BALIF); Employment Law Center of the Legal AIDS Society (ELC/LAS); National Educational Foundation for Individual Rights (NEFIR); and Volunteer Legal Services Program of the Bar Association of San Francisco (VLSP/BASF).

Support Group Formed for HIV+ Asian/Pacific Men

A support group for Asian/Pacific gay and bisexual men who have tested positive to the HIV/AIDS virus is being offered

by the Gay Asian/Pacific Alliance. The group is a drop-in confidential gathering which meets every Thursday from 8-9:30 p.m. Issues of testing positive and living with HIV are discussed in a mutually supportive atmosphere. For information, contact Kevin at 548-7120 or Steve at 282-7546.

Thanksgiving Dinner

Parsnip Cheddar Soup

Curly Endive & Escarole Salad
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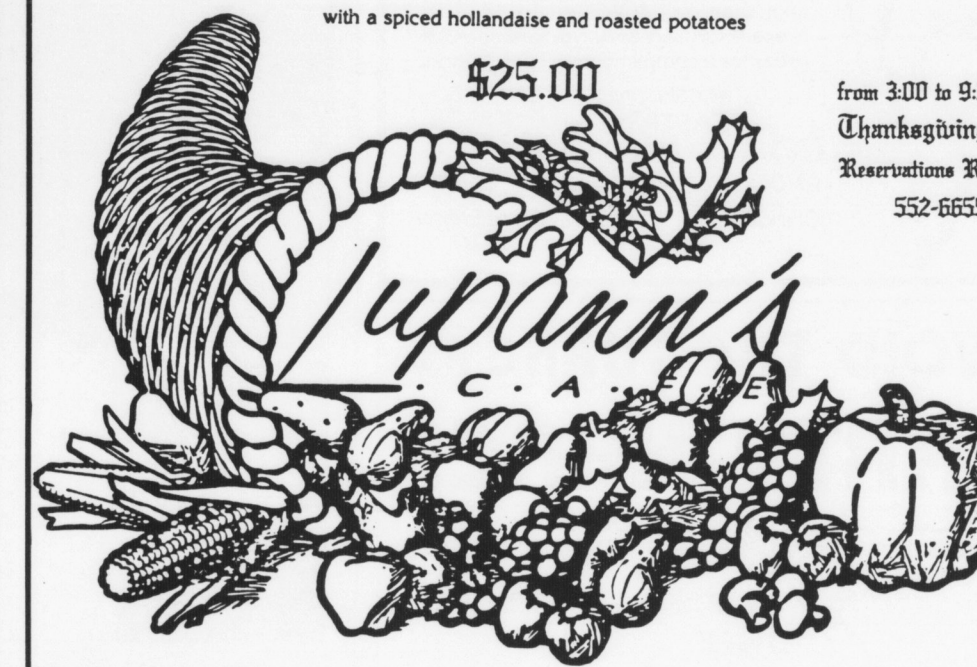
Rack of Lamb

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Baked Salmon

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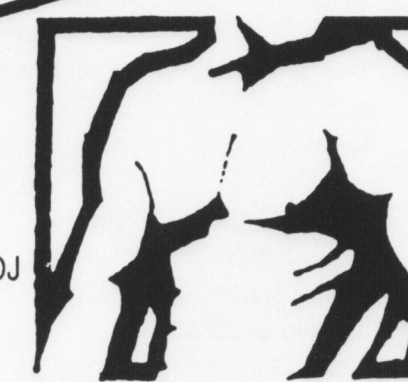
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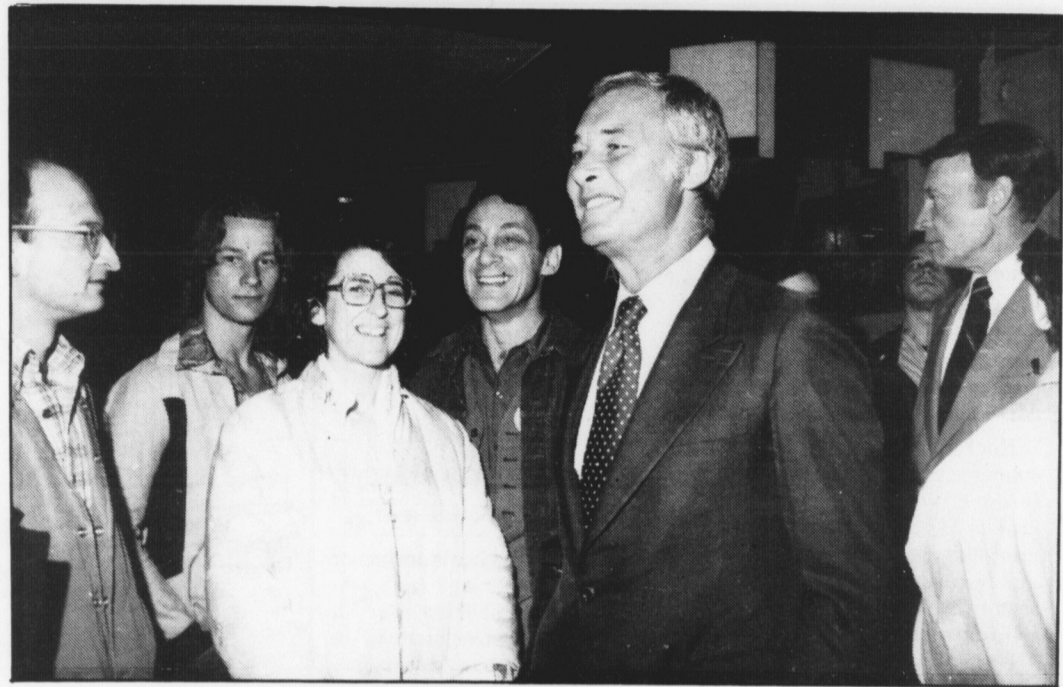
Milk Assassination Put Spotlight on Violence

Nov. 27 Candlelight March to Commemorate Life and Death of First Openly Gay Supervisor

by Allen White

Ten years ago this month, gay Sup. Harvey Milk and San Francisco Mayor George Moscone were assassinated in their City Hall offices by Sup. Dan White. On Sunday, Nov. 27, thousands will again be marching from the Castro to City Hall in a memorial candlelight vigil.

The remembrance in San Francisco is but one of several that are planned across the United States. The National Gay and Lesbian Task Force and the Gay Services Network of Kansas City have formed an ad hoc committee, the Harvey Milk Remembrance Committee. They have declared Nov. 27 Harvey Milk Remembrance Day.



Halloween on Polk Street—ten years ago.

(Photo: Steve Savage)

"The tenth anniversary of Harvey Milk's assassination allows us not only to recall his enormous contribution to our movement," said Kevin Berrill, director of NGLTF's Anti-Violence Project, "but also to focus attention on the violence that still plagues our community, still threatens our freedom to live and love as we choose."

Carl Hippensteel, organizer of the Remembrance Committee, commented, "Within our community there are many who do not know about Harvey Milk's role in our history. Remembering him allows us an opportunity to educate both gay and straight people who have never heard his story."

In San Francisco, the tenth anniversary candlelight march will begin at 7 p.m. at Castro and Market streets. The march will proceed down Market Street and turn left to City Hall on Polk Street.

There will be a brief program when the march arrives at City Hall. Several who participated in the program at City Hall in 1978 will return. Joan Baez and the San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus will again be singing. There will be music by the Washington Sisters with Melanie Monsur. Mayor Art Agnos, Cleve Jones, and Rev. Cecil Williams will also be participating in the memorial.

Cleve Jones, now the executive director of the Names Project, will again lead the march. With Harvey Milk's bullhorn in hand, Jones has organized and led each of these marches in memory of Milk and Moscone.

There will also be a screening of *The Times of Harvey Milk* at the Castro Theatre earlier in the afternoon. The film will be shown at 5 p.m. on Sunday, Nov. 27. It is a cooperative effort between the Film Arts Foundation, Frameline, the Names Project, and the San Francisco Gay and Lesbian Historical Society. The Academy

Award-winning film documents Milk's life.

Harvey Milk lived and worked in the Castro in the 1970s. From his camera shop, located on Castro a few doors up from Headlines, he successfully became the first openly gay person ever elected to the San Francisco Board of Supervisors.

He took office in January 1978. As a city supervisor, he was responsible for the city's first gay rights law. Mayor George Moscone signed the legislation into law.

That was the year of the fight against state Prop. 6. Harvey Milk led the fight across California against the legislation, which would have barred gays from teaching in schools. The battle was won during the first week of November.

At about the same time, Dan White, another supervisor, had resigned from his office. Almost immediately, he reconsidered and asked Mayor Moscone to reappoint him.

On the morning of Nov. 27, 1978, he evaded City Hall security devices by crawling through a side basement window. He then went to the office of Mayor Moscone. In a brief meeting, Moscone told White he would not be reappointed.

White then pulled out a gun and shot Moscone. He reloaded the gun and went to the other side of City Hall and the offices of Sup. Harvey Milk. A few moments later, he shot Harvey Milk dead.

That evening more than 40,000 people converged on the City Hall steps to mourn the deaths of both men. The San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus sang that night for the first time in public.

Those planning on participating in the commemorative march are encouraged to bring candles and to dress warmly. Organizers

have stated the candlelight memorial will be presented regardless of weather conditions. There will be a motorized cable car for people with AIDS or ARC.

GLAD Publishes Attorney Directory

The Fourth Edition of the *National Attorneys' Directory for Lesbian and Gay Rights* was recently published by Gay and Lesbian Advocates and Defenders (GLAD).

The directory, which GLAD has published since 1981, lists lesbian and gay attorneys and attorneys interested in lesbian and gay legal issues in a state-by-state format. The directory helps lesbian and gay attorneys create a stronger network within the legal community in order to further the struggle for our civil rights.

"The directory is an important resource," said GLAD executive director Kevin Cathcart. "It is used by civil rights groups, hot lines, and community groups, as well as by individuals. Many people in our community want to have a lesbian or gay lawyer when they have legal needs, and the directory helps them to find appropriate help."

Gay and Lesbian Advocates and Defenders is New England's public interest legal foundation which does litigation and educational work on lesbian and gay civil rights. GLAD's AIDS Law Project focuses on AIDS-related discrimination. The group is celebrating its tenth anniversary this year.

The directory is available from GLAD for \$12, including postage. Checks should be made out to GLAD and sent to P.O. Box 218, Boston, MA 02112.

Graff, Chinn Named to Rights Panel

by Allen White

Gay rights attorney Leonard Graff and Women's Blood Drive organizer Lenore Chinn are the latest gay appointees by Mayor Art Agnos to city commissions. The two were named last week to the Human Rights Commission. The Human Rights Commission has traditionally been one of the most important city entities for gay men and lesbians because it is charged with identifying and fighting discrimination against all people in the city.



Mayor Art Agnos swore in the Human Rights Commission.

(Photo: Steve Savage)

Mayor Art Agnos praised the commission, saying it is as important and vital to the well-being of the city as the Port or Airport or any commission dealing with this city's resources because the Human Rights Commission is committed to our most important resource: people."

He added, "We have a human rights contract with each other that makes this city work. It is not mere tolerance, but an abiding respect for each other that recognizes that this city is better because each of us is here."

Leonard Graff is currently serving as the legal director in San Francisco for the National Gay Rights Advocates. "Lesbians and gay men form part of the rich diversity of citizenship that is one of San Francisco's greatest assets. I'm anxious to get to work developing strategies for protect-

ing human rights that will carry us through the next decade," he said.

Lenore Chinn has gained enormous respect for her work on the Women's Blood Drive. For the last three years she has been the driving force in the annual effort which encourages women to give blood specifically for people who have AIDS.

Chinn was honored for her work on the blood drive last year when she won the Human Rights Award from the Friends of the Human Rights Commission. Chinn works as a laboratory assistant at Davies Medical Center and is a member of the executive committee of the Harvey Milk Lesbian and Gay Democratic Club.

When the announcement of appointees to the commission were named, the mayor pointed

out that he was naming only ten members to what has been a 15 member commission. Agnos said he was contemplating a re-organization of the commission and pointed out a change in the city ordinance which could result in a nine member commission.

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NGLTF Sponsors Skills Seminars

A faculty of leading gay and lesbian activists from across the country will conduct workshops on political issues and skill-building at the first national conference for grassroots gay and lesbian activists and organizations. Sponsored by the National Gay & Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF), the "Creating Change" conference will be held on Nov. 18-20 in Washington, D.C.

The conference is designed to provide both practical expertise to activists working at the local and state level and to provide an environment for activists in the gay and lesbian political movement to exchange ideas about strategies and direction for the movement.

Registration will be possible at the door, but is strongly urged in advance. To register or receive information, please call NGLTF at (202) 332-6483.

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Project Inform is an organization that provides information about treatment approaches for AIDS, ARC, and HIV infection. Information packets are available for the asking. You can reach Project Inform by phoning: (415) 928-0293 (local); California toll free (800) 334-7422; and national toll free (800) 822-7422. Or write: 25 Taylor St., Suite 618, San Francisco, CA 94102.

The project functions on volunteer energy (neither of the two directors—Joe Brewer or Martin Delaney—draw salaries). The information hotline also needs daytime volunteers.



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The Projected Winners

According to Up-to-the-Minute Poll Results, Gays Have Superior Taste, Wit — and Polls

by Dennis McMillan

The current political topic of discourse in learned circles appears to be this year's plethora of pre-election polls. Perhaps the gay community should take inspiration from this powerful tool of molding public opinion and action.

The mid-October *Newsweek* magazine cover boldly explained, "Why Bush Is Winning," and featured an illustrated explanation of the "Republicans' well-honed marketing skills." Right. Like, for instance, getting *Newsweek* and the other journals to tell us weeks in advance that the race was virtually over and why bother to even think of Dukakis as a winner.

USA Today headlines continually informed its readers of the latest CNN poll, with Bush ever in the lead. The subcaption read: "But Dukakis still within striking distance in key states." Well, thanks a lot for giving us that. Perhaps if we were in the key states, maybe then it would matter if we went out and actually cast our votes.

And not to jump on merely the magazines and newspapers for their self-fulfilling prophecies. No, the electronic media was equally guilty of this John-the-Baptist syndrome: "Prepare ye the way for the coming of Bush."

For example, ABC's Sam Donaldson was less than reassuring several days prior to election day when he claimed, "Dukakis can't quit because there's always the chance he might turn it around."

After Black Tuesday, every news anchor in the nation (with the exception of Gerdal Rivera, who was busy nursing his recently wounded schnozzola) devoted long and tedious programming to the subject: "Do polls measure public opinion... or form it?" They came up with a resounding "yes" on the latter.

Let's conduct a quick poll, shall we? (1) Do you know anyone who was polled? (2) Were you yourself polled? (3) Do we really know for certain if anyone was polled?

No matter. What's important is that we, the gay community, realize the effectiveness of polls and jump on the ol' bandwagon.

Imagine sending out daily press releases to every member of the news media in the nation, flatly telling the public that not only is gay good, but gay is best.

Sure, at first Mr. and Mrs. America would balk. But after weeks of these daily polls "informing" everyone of the belief in the natural superiority of the homosexual, is it not feasible that these suckers would buy it? I mean, *somebody* out there voted for Reagan twice and Bush once, so we can safely assume that the sheep mentality is alive and well in the U.S.A.

Imagine this:

- A *Newsweek* magazine cover boldly explains, "Why Dykes and Faggots Are the Winning Race," and would feature an illustrated explanation of the "homosexual's superior taste and inherent wit."

- USA Today headlines would constantly enlighten readers with the latest CNN poll, with gay people leaving the straights in the dust. The subcaption might read: "But heterosexuals still within striking distance in rare instances."

- And look for the Dan Rathers and Leslie Stahls in TV news to reassure their hetero viewers, "Straight people shouldn't quit because there's always the chance they might become as witty and wise as the gays."

Of course this means work, Mr. and Ms. Gaymerica. We will have to get campaign posters all over

the place, proudly proclaiming, "Gay Is the Way."

We'll want to buy advertising time on TV with scads of sound bites showing same-sex hugging and kissing. And keeping in mind that derogative mud-slinging is very fashionable right now, we'll need some negative commercial spots (with teeny lettering at the bottom: "Paid for by the Committee to Convince Straights That Gay Is Great").

We'll have solemn black-and-white, slow-motion shots of all the stupid, hideous, tasteless, witless

things that non-gay people have done, followed by artsy, lively, colorful, romantic depictions of the fabulous gays in history and today, with clever computer graphics and stirring music in the background.

At the end of the spot, a commanding basso-profundo announcer will read a voice-over in dead-serious tone, asking viewers, "When you come right down to it, is there any other way but gay?"

Harvard Study Cites 'Irrational' Policies On AIDS Epidemic

A new, comprehensive, worldwide survey of the laws and policies with respect to AIDS that are being considered by or have been adopted in developed and third-world countries show that 91 percent of all industrialized countries have adopted some legislation designed to halt AIDS. The findings also show that less than half of all countries have adopted legislation to combat the spread of AIDS.

Larry Gostin, executive director of the American Society of Law and Medicine and associate professor at the Harvard School of Public Health (HSPH), presented the study conducted by HSPH and sponsored by the World Health Organization to the Second International AIDS Forum. He called the international response to the disease "unprecedented in medical history."

However, Gostin also said that there are a significant number of countries that are enacting "irrational and discriminatory policies" that could hurt a global effort to stop the disease.

The study shows that the most acceptable and effective policies being adopted to combat AIDS are blood screening programs and extensive educational programs targeted at "high-risk" segments of the population, gay and bisexual men and intravenous (IV) drug users. According to the findings, 21 countries have well-financed national education task forces.

The study also shows that many nations are relaxing restrictions on advertising condoms while, at the same time, forcing condom manufacturers to meet higher safety standards.

The United Kingdom and the Netherlands have enacted controversial programs to distribute hypodermic needles to IV drug users. Thus far, findings show that these programs have not resulted in increased drug use as opponents of these programs have claimed.

All of these policies are believed to be effective in slowing the spread of AIDS.

"These are the positive aspects of our findings," noted Gostin. "They demonstrate that

the entire world is extremely concerned about this disease."

As to the negative aspects, Gostin pointed out that many countries are enacting policies that could adversely affect a global effort to stop the AIDS epidemic.

Some of the irrational and discriminatory policies that have been implemented by several countries include statutes that require AIDS victims and suspected carriers of the virus to be quarantined or imprisoned.

In Cuba, for example, over 150 people have been "quarantined for life." In the USSR, there is mandatory testing of all people in high-risk groups. In Bolivia, there is mandatory testing, notification of sexual partners and the possibility of imprisonment. These policies are considered irrational because they focus on the victims of the disease, not the virus.

Additionally, some countries are implementing border restrictions on foreign travelers and immigrants. Gostin noted that these policies have dangerous civil rights implications and could lead to international conflicts.

Gostin warned that unless the industrialized nations reach out to underdeveloped countries and assist them with AIDS prevention programs, financially-strapped third world countries ultimately will suffer the most from the pandemic.

The study, conducted by the Harvard School of Public Health, solicited information from every ministry of health in the world. Seventy-seven countries responded to the solicitation. The findings of the study will not be published officially until the end of 1988.

Friday

(Continued from page 16)

tive sponsored by right-wing Rep. William Dannemeyer. California voters decided to go with medical experts over the politicians on that one and defeated Prop. 102 overwhelmingly.

Take a look at Deukmejian's scorecard in last Tuesday's election, and maybe voters are thinking that it is none too early to look for a candidate to replace this buffoon in 1990.

San Mateo Sup. Tom Nolan, the last-minute Democratic nominee for State Senate in District 11 (Santa Clara and San Mateo counties), went into the campaign a definite underdog against the wealthy incumbent Republican. But he polled a respectable 94,668 votes (36.1 percent) and set himself up as a person to be contended with in Democratic Party politics.

In Southern California's 23rd State Senate District, Republican Tom Larkin, an upstart gay man, also did well, winning 44,150 votes (26.3 percent) while losing to incumbent Democrat Sen. David Roberti in a heavily Democratic district.

In Oregon, voters overturned an executive order signed by Gov. Neil Goldschmidt that protected state workers from discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation. Voters in Fort Collins, Colorado, turned down a proposed gay rights ordinance; and St. Paul, Minnesota, voters defeated a measure that would have barred them from overturning gay rights legislation approved by the city council.

Other big winners: Sup. Harry Britt, the incoming president of the Board of Supervisors, who polled a whopping 115,050 votes, the only supe candidate to win more than 100,000 votes. (Britt polled 20,761 more votes than second-place finisher, newly elected Angela Alioto.) Retiring Sup. John Molinari, who served five terms as president, predicted Thursday night that "Harry will be a good board president."

State Sen. Milton Marks proved that it doesn't matter which party he belongs to. The voters know Milton Marks does a good job, and they proved it by his three-to-one win.

One of the good guys in local politics, Michael Bernick, won a BART board seat. Barbara Boxer, the best congressmember in the state, won a deserved landslide victory.

Tom Hsieh and Jim Gonzalez deserved reelection and got it; and the two new members, Angela Alioto and Terence Hallinan, will be good supervisors.

In the race for board of education seats, incumbent JoAnne Miller won a deserved first-place finish; Libby Denebeim, I am happy to see, was reelected, and newcomers Leland Yee and Fred Rodriguez look like refreshing additions to that board.

In a race that deserves mentioning, Tom Ammiano, who spent not a dollar on his race, placed 15,479 votes ahead of Robert Barnes, another gay candidate, who reportedly spent a small bundle on his unsuccessful race.

One of the best politicians in town, Julie Tang, led voting for the Community College Board, followed closely by Tim Wolfred. Incumbent Chuck Ayala won reelection, as well, and they will be joined by newcomer Robert Varni, who ousted in-

cumbent Amos Brown for the fourth seat in that race.

There was a considerable amount of ticket-splitting in San Francisco at the presidential and U.S. Senate level. While Michael Dukakis carried San Francisco by 74 percent, Leo McCarthy, a San Franciscan running against GOP incumbent Sen. Pete Wilson for the U.S. Senate, carried the county by a 70-percent vote. In fact, 31,415 San Franciscans voted for Dukakis who did not vote for fellow Democrat McCarthy, while only 2,678 city voters went for George Bush who didn't support fellow Republican Pete Wilson.

In Los Angeles, Superior Court Judge George Trammel ordered a county jail inmate, Fernando Villanueva, to undergo a blood test for the AIDS virus, making the 21-year-old inmate the first person in the state to be so ordered under provisions of the just-passed Prop. 96. The order came one day after voters passed the controversial measure and was part of the sentencing of Villanueva, who had pleaded guilty to assault on a police officer. Proposition 96, which won by a 62.3-percent margin, allows sex-crime victims and certain others to seek court orders to force their alleged assailants to be tested for exposure to HIV.

VA Medical Center Studying AZT Use

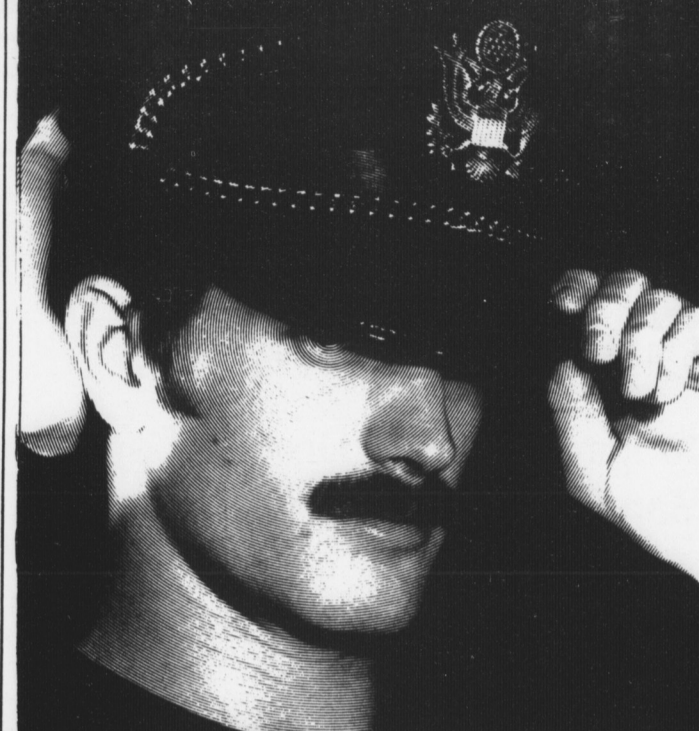
Researchers at the UCSF-affiliated San Francisco VA Medical Center are seeking volunteers for a study using AZT to treat patients who are infected with the AIDS virus but not yet seriously ill.

The study, which began in January, offers AZT to veterans who have mild cases of ARC. The anti-viral drug already has been proved useful in treating AIDS and severe ARC.

All study-related care is free. While monitoring the health of study patients, the researchers conduct extensive laboratory studies, including periodic cultures for the AIDS virus and tests to measure the condition of the immune system.

Veterans who have tested positive for antibodies against the AIDS virus or who do not know their antibody status but consider themselves at high risk of infection are encouraged to call 221-4810, ext. 3224, for more information.

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BAY AREA REPORTER GREATER BAY NEWS

Job Bias Lawsuit Given Go-Ahead

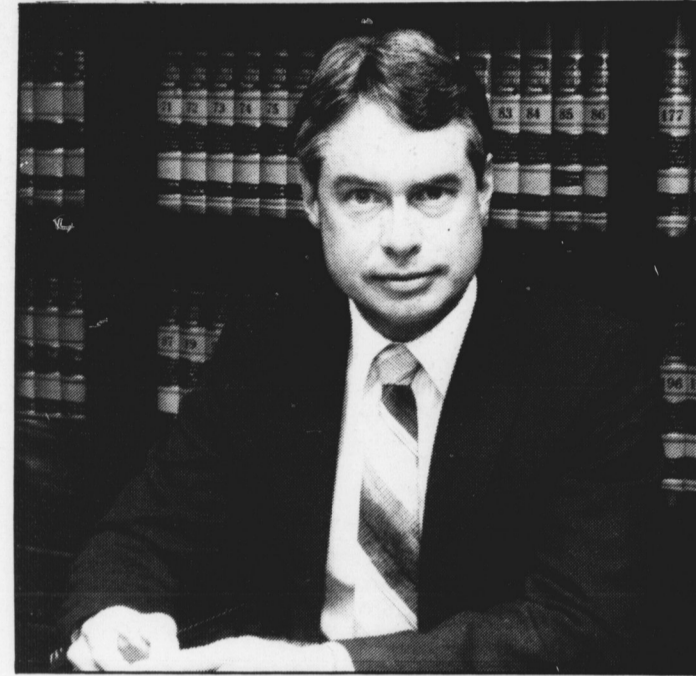
Judge Refuses to Dismiss Case; Man Fired for Sex Party Invitation

by Dennis McMillan

A \$5 million discrimination lawsuit filed against Shell Oil Company was given the green light to proceed when an Alameda County Superior Court judge refused to dismiss the case. The suit was filed on behalf of Jeffery Collins, former director of therapeutic products for Shell Oil's subsidiary Triton Biosciences in Alameda County. Collins was fired after 19 years of service to the company.

In November 1985, on his day off, Collins had made a copy of a gay safe-sex party invitation using the company laser printer. The next day, his secretary found

the original in the printer tray and notified the personnel director, who contacted the Texas-based Shell Oil. As a result, Collins agreed to



Jeffrey Collins.

(Photo: Steve Savage)

leave Triton in exchange for three months severance pay. But he was told the next month that he was terminated without compensatory pay and without warning.

Shell Oil alleged that the invitation was obscene and, therefore, the company was justified in terminating Collins. There were no pictures on the invitation, which asked participants to undress and refrain from oral or anal sexual activity and to "expose yourself, get hard, enjoy the scene."

Although the company logo

did appear on the original as part of the printer's automatic programming, Collins said he cut the Triton name off when he sent the invitations out.

The law offices of Paul Wotman filed the \$5 million suit, contending wrongful termination and discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, in violation of Labor Code Sections 1101-02. A California Supreme Court decision ruled that gay discrimination by private employers was illegal under the provisions of this law.

Last month, Shell filed a motion for summary judgment in Alameda Superior Court, attempting to have the case thrown out.

Collins' attorney pointed out that the party invitation was, in fact, part of the gay community's response to the AIDS epidemic in promoting safe sex and should not be punished in any way.

Ironically, Collins was working at the time on developing an AIDS treatment.

Wotman commented on the absurdity that Collins was working to help combat the epidemic, both in his public and private life, and was fired for that very reason.

Alameda County Superior Court Judge Dawn Girard refused to dismiss the suit on the grounds that the invitation was obscene. She also ruled, in spite of Shell's contention, that Collins did have enough evidence to support his charge of wrongful termination.

The trial date is set for April of next year.

Should the court find in favor of Collins, an important legal precedent would be established, being the first time a claim of gay discrimination on the job has been upheld by a California jury.

"This case would show employers, especially those outside of California, that, when they do business in California, they have to obey California law preventing gay discrimination," said Wotman.

AIDS Prevention Center Launched In Oakland for Native Americans

The National Native American AIDS Prevention Center, the first national organization of its kind inaugurated its new center on Nov. 10 at 6329 College Avenue in Oakland.

With a five year grant from the Centers for Disease Control, the National Native American AIDS Prevention Center will create programs for Native American communities based on the San Francisco model which emphasizes a network of community-based organizations. The focus will be on technical assistance, outreach to Native American groups across the country, a national toll-free hotline, research on Native American attitudes and behavior, and on-line computer services for Native American physicians. It is the first Native American health program independent of the Bureau of Indian Affairs or Indian Health Services.

Ron Rowell, founder and executive director of the organization, believes "We're coming in at the right time and the right place to stop the epidemic in the Indian community. California has the largest population of Native Americans in the U.S., and 87 percent live in urban areas. Right now there are only 79 cases of AIDS among Native Americans, so it is still early in the Indian AIDS epidemic."

Prevention of AIDS within the Native American population is a

complex issue because of other factors affecting Indian health. At the present time alcohol is the major cause of death among Native Americans, 37 percent of whom die before the age of 43. In addition, the high rate of sexually transmitted diseases, and an extremely high pregnancy rate among teens can have a direct impact on the spread of AIDS within Native American communities.

Rowell hopes to create a health network among the people who need the health services and the Native American physicians who serve the community that will be unique. "This is the first generation of Native Americans to have developed its own cadre of physicians. This is crucial in the development of AIDS prevention programs for Native Americans. This organization could not do its work without the foundation of Native American professionals serving their own community."

The founder of the National Native American AIDS Prevention Center, Rowell, is a Choctaw Indian from Ardmore, Oklahoma. His interest in health issues began when he worked as a hospital orderly in North Texas. His career has focused on multicultural health programs with a special emphasis on the Native American community. Immediately prior to creating NNAAPC Rowell was the coordinator of the AIDS Anonymous Test Site Program for the San Francisco Department of Health. He earned

an A.B. in Liberal Arts from the University of California, Berkeley; and an M.S. in Marriage, Family, and Child Counseling from Cal State University, Hayward; and a MPH from the School of Public Health, University of California, Berkeley.

Working with the organization as director of training will be Dr. Terry Tafoya, a Pueblo Indian from Taos, New Mexico who is a traditional storyteller in addition to being a clinical specialist in Native American sexual behavior. Lori Beaulieu, RN, MPH, is an Ojibway and Mdewakanton Sioux. She will run the branch office in Minneapolis which will concentrate on NNAAPC research projects.

Since August Rowell and his staff have criss-crossed the country conducting AIDS education workshops for Native Americans from Cherokee, North Carolina, and Mandan, North Dakota, to the Hoopa Reservation in Northern California, and Fairbanks, Alaska.

According to Rowell, "The response has been overwhelming. People are starved for information. People have heard of AIDS but, unbelievably, they don't yet know anything about it and they're very curious. All of us are going to be working long hours and long days to make sure our Native American communities are informed about AIDS. If we do our job AIDS will not become a major factor in the health of Native Americans."

Contra Costa Co. Gets AIDS Director

Barry Friedman, 34, a resident of Orinda, has been selected to be the new executive administrator of the Contra Costa County AIDS Task Force (CCCATF). Friedman will concentrate on finding new sources of funding for the CCATF, as well as doing his administrative duties.

The organization includes more than 200 people from throughout the county, mostly volunteers, who provide direct and indirect support to people with AIDS, as well as conducting educational campaigns about the disease for the general community.

Earning his bachelor's degree in psychology and religion from Hobart College in Geneva, N.Y., Friedman went on to obtain his master's degree in divinity from the University of Chicago. Also at Chicago, he earned a doctorate degree in South Asian languages and civilizations. At the University of Illinois campus in Chicago, he served as assistant director of the school's foreign student and staff program.

The Contra Costa County AIDS Task Force can be reached at (415) 646-1253.

Britt

(Continued from page 3)

with Prop. 102 defeated and my election will show that that is not the case.

"Because of a lot of hard work by a lot of people we are stronger than ever in this city and in this state. We are now ready to make the national push for real power so that Congress will respond to our lives like the Board of Supervisors does and that's the only thing that will make it happen."

Prop. O was given a resounding defeat by the voters. It was the initiative of John Barbagelata that would have recalled most of the current board and mandated a two-term limit for supervisors. "In terms of gay people, this was John Barbagelata's last stand," Britt said.

Explaining the significance of the vote, Britt said, "In San Francisco, the overwhelming majority of San Francisco citizens accept lesbians and gay men as a positive part of this city. There are some who do not and Barbagelata's appeal was to those people. To those people who want the world to go back to before gay people got here."

Sup. Richard Hongisto agreed with much of what Britt said. "I think the board is going to forge ahead fighting for the policies it has been recently—AIDS funding, balancing the budget, controlling housing density in San Francisco as well as providing affordable housing. Transportation will continue to be a big concern. I think overall the biggest issue will be balancing the budget."

Hongisto added, "I think the election represented a turn for the better for the Agnos administration in terms of two new people who clearly support him. The new board will clearly be for Mayor Agnos in that the two new members were strongly endorsed and supported by him and I think that will be good for the mayor and good for the city."

"For the gay community," Hongisto said, "it won't represent a big change one way or another." He explained that historically Sup. Silver and Sup. Molinari have been supportive of the gay community's problems. The two new supervisors will be also."

Nez Pas

Getcha Free Publicity!

SUBSEQUENT TO THE PARTICULAR I
(A "Faster Info" Nose)

I received the notice quite late, due to the fact that it was originally sent to an establishment that no longer exists and it had to be forwarded to my home address. Everyone knows it can take up to several days, if not weeks, for rerouting—even if it is sent first class!

The notice was about The Hub of Walnut Creek's "first" East Bay Bartenders Bash held last Tuesday, Nov. 15, from 9 p.m. to 2 a.m. A cordial invitation promised a night of celebration, dancing to the year's hottest music, and watching the music pass on the Hub's seven video monitors.

There was a "Best Mixed Drink Contest," a "Speed Pouring Contest," and a "Best Body Parts Contest," with the entire evening being hosted by the fabulous Irene. The notice promised nothing less than nonstop excitement and fun at the "first" of what will become a continuing and unique East Bay event.

The notice I received was sent to Revol, which no longer exists. Several owner/managers with whom I have talked told me they didn't receive any such notice. (I really can't believe the invitations were strictly limited to "night-clubs" per se.)

I don't know how it can be billed as an East Bay event when nonexistent businesses receive the invitation and currently running businesses don't. Besides, how can it be a "first" East Bay Bartenders Bash? Mama Chuckles organized one about two years ago.

Perhaps organizer David Taylor doesn't realize that the Caldicott Tunnel is longer than he thinks! A little more research and more timely mailing would have been an asset to the entertaining idea.

SUBSEQUENT TO THE PARTICULAR II
(A "Another Late Note" Nose)

D.J.'s also in Walnut Creek, celebrated its first anniversary on Sunday, Nov. 13, with free food, free drinks, and free Bob Sandner—at the piano, that is!

Unfortunately, the information flyer was received way too late to give this event any advance publicity. Bulk rate mail from Walnut Creek shouldn't take two weeks to get to Oakland, but it did in this case! (Don and Joe, send mine first case, OK? Your monthly Contra Costa AIDS benefits would then get much better publicity.)

Included in the flyer was news about D.J.'s now having two Tonys: Tony D. and Tony M. (listed as the handsome one!). Don Thompson tickles the ivories on Tuesday and Saturday nights; John Erceca excites the 88s on Friday nights. Stop in and enjoy the sing-along and fun.

Sundays and Wednesdays remain D.J.'s movie nights.

ESCHewed GRATUITIOUS BLURB
(An "I Offered" Nose!)

The new Emperor and Empress and the elected member of the board have my phone number, but Frumpy had to give me the information—he was surprised that ISE hadn't told me!

ISE will present a "Thanksgiving In Hawaii" (La Ho'omaika'i) at the Turf Club this Friday, Nov. 18, starting at 6 p.m. Included in the festivities are a buffet, beer bust, and a show—Hawaiian, I presume.

Tim, Fina, and Timmy: don't ignore the opportunity of free publicity. You call me; I can't call you. You never gave me your phone numbers in exchange for mine!

(Timmy did call several hours after Frumpy had and added this



Emperor and Empress X of the Imperial Star Empire Tim and Fina are now officially unioned.

additional information: Sheila DuPont, Turn-Around Queen, will be the hostess/MC.)

DOMINICAL DECISIONS!
(A "Flip A Coin" Nose?)

Sunday, Nov. 20, offers two distinct and different opportunities.

At Town & Country there is a fundraiser for Jimmy "D" from 4 to 8 p.m. Featured will be entertainment, raffles, and an international buffet. Your hosts will be Sam and Marv; Little Mother will be the MC; and Stephanie will coordinate the entertainment. (Jimmy "D" has helped numerous fundraisers in Alameda County in the past.)

At the Turf Club there will be a Canned Food Drive for the Alameda County AIDS Food Bank. The festivities will begin at 3 p.m., and there will be a potluck dinner. No, I don't know whether Frumpy is contributing any of the potluck offerings—with any luck, you won't have to sample anything from his pot... Every-one attending is urged to bring one or more cans/packages/boxes/containers of food, keeping in mind the dietary requirements of people with AIDS/ARC. The Food Bank is an extremely worthwhile cause.

GALLIMAUFREY
(A Mish-Mash Nose)

The official opening date for Foxtail has been announced. It will open Saturday, Nov. 26, at 4 p.m. The flyer states, "Our new bartenders will surprise you!" This event will feature entertainment, dancing, raffles, and surprises.

What with the large lounge area, dining room, and patio, coupled with talks and negotiations with various groups and individuals regarding shows and entertainment, there just may be an alternative in Oakland.

At the recent ISE meeting at Town & Country Jim Malone made it a point to display the Empire's 501 (C3) papers. Marv mentioned it to me, so I'm passing it along to you.

Damn! I'm sworn to secrecy, but my computer is ramming its rim in anticipation of announcing one of the bartenders at Foxtail. I can hardly wait, but it has to be official. It will be very interesting to see just where loyalties actually lie.

I don't care what you say, there isn't too much crud build-up in my oven. I can still bake a single cupcake! I'll smile until I figure out how to work the self-cleaning dials. Love, Nez.

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BAY AREA REPORTER ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Re-View

'View From the Bay': A Nostalgic, Musical Look at Gay Life

by Robert Frank

Starting tonight, the Studio at Theatre Rhinoceros will be the home of the world premiere engagement of *View From the Bay*, an original musical re-view of the 1970s in the gay community of San Francisco. The pun is intended by its author/composer/director, Scott Thomas Champlain.

It is a musical revue that is also a review, or re-view, of gay life in San Francisco in the latter half of the 1970s and early 1980s, a blend of book, lyrics, and music transporting the audience back for a nostalgic look at the Castro district during that time. It is "95 percent music," orchestrated on tape because of space limitations precluding a live orchestra at the Studio. Champlain wants more of an orchestral sound, not just piano and drums.

The opening number, "In the City," is an introduction to the gay scene in San Francisco in the heady days of 1977, mentioning a number of gay places popular at the time, many of which do not exist today. It is a Saturday night routine or ritual for the three gay male characters, who are meant to be something of a cross-section of the 1970s contemporary Castro population.

They dress onstage, each donning his particular "uniform," as it were—the "guppie" in designer jeans, open-collar shirt with loose tie; the leatherman in tight-fitting leather pants, tank top, and leather cap; the drag queen done up as Liza Minnelli. The latter sings "I Choose To Be Liza,"



Todd Menard (l.), Robert Sokol, and Mykel j. Mengert (r.) in *View From the Bay*. (Photo: P. Gentile)

plus a reworking of "Maybe This Time" (from *Cabaret*) and "The World Goes 'Round'" (from *New York, New York*).

After meeting on Castro Street and coming to no agreement as to their separate ways, the guppie goes to Alfie's, the most popular dance bar at that time; the leatherman to the Jaguar, the membership "bookstore" with its notorious back rooms; and the drag queen to Cafe San Marcos, the then-new "in" bar with attitude for days,

where one went to be seen. They all meet again at the end of the night. The leatherman gets to sing about "Another One-Night Stand," and the guppie, having met and fallen for someone that night, sings "Falling."

While there is no intermission, the second part of the show has a mood change, as did happen in the Castro around 1983-84. Toward the end of the show, the guppie suffers the breakup of a nine-month lover relationship, the drag queen goes to a psychia-

trist, and the leatherman goes to a doctor. The show ends with a song called "Under the Rainbow." While still a wonderful place to live, "San Francisco is not Oz, and reality is under the rainbow, not over the rainbow," according to composer Champlain.

The cast is made up of three young men who are already known to many San Francisco theater- and cabaret-goers. Bob Sokol has been seen regularly at J.J.'s and used to appear at

the old Fickle Fox. Todd Menard and Mykel j. Mengert have both performed at Theatre Rhinoceros.

Champlain said he always wanted to "write a show about those times a lot of us have forgotten. We can't change it, but why forget it?" He wants people to remember what it was like, especially the younger ones who were not here then and who now have the freedom to "walk arm-in-arm," but "take this freedom for granted... It was like it is now, but it was different..." He feels there is a "need to get fun back."

The author/composer said the actual concept of the show began eight years ago. In the early 1980s, he used to appear locally in cabarets and worked with Kirk Frederick in that memorable revue of Gershwin music, *By George!* He mourned the near-extinction of the once-flourishing cabaret scene in San Francisco, with names like Chez Jacques, Savoy Tivoli, and Fanny's nostalgically cropping up.

His diagnosis of AIDS 16 months ago, he says, allowed him time to put the show together at home, encouraged in this by his friend and companion, Charles Zukow, the show's producer.

The enthusiastic, talkative, and animated Champlain says the show is "my therapy" and, tapping his head, "the mind is still working." Having had some problems with AZT causing atrophy in his muscles, he says that

(Continued on page 34)

Jane Chambers' Unfinished Symphony

Strong Cast, Strong Direction Highlight 'Kudzu'

by David Perry

Since her death in 1983 at age 45 from a brain tumor, playwright Jane Chambers has become a sort of patron saint for gay theater. Her play, *Last Summer at Bluefish Cove*, has become a dramatic icon of sorts—far above the usual hackneyed fare of other writers of the gay and lesbian genre. Her last play, *Kudzu*, currently in its world premiere at Theatre Rhinoceros, is yet more evidence of the gifted artist Chambers was and the increasingly skilled craftsman she was becoming.

Kudzu is still not a finished piece. There are glaring inconsistencies in character and plot, especially in the play's second act. However, none are so fatal as to kill the inherent warmth and insight of Chambers' creations. Had she lived to see *Kudzu* mounted fully (before her death, there were workshop productions), certainly she would have seen and corrected these minor flaws. As it is, *Kudzu* is Chambers' unfinished symphony—a poignant reminder of a unique



Jo Farkas (l.), Carol McElheney, Jane McFagan, and M.H. Commons (r.) in *Kudzu*. (Photo: S. Cohen)

voice that is already sorely missed and needed.

Set in the rural Georgia of this

decade, *Kudzu* chronicles the 40-year lesbian relationship of Martha (Carol McElheney) and

Katy (Jo Farkas). The couple live with and care for Martha's feisty, invalid mother, Ginger (Jane

McFagan) on Ginger's farm.

Also present is Katy's cousin, PT. Bell (Milt Commons), a one-time state politician of George Wallace (pre-shooting) policies and Huey Long methodologies who longs to return to the stump. Resentful of his financial support, Martha and Katy are nonetheless fearful of the economic difficulties such a return would bring about. Throughout, there are cleverly closeted skeletons to unveil, broken promises and unrealized dreams to put into perspective.

However, though deftly handled (until the last ten minutes of the play), the plot is totally subservient to the rich and real characters Chambers has populated her farm with. What a great joy to see homosexual love removed from the city, homosexual dialogue divorced from its usually-rendered acidic cocktail banter. Chambers' are characters you would like to sit down and have a cup of coffee with. Moreover, they are ones who would probably invite you in themselves, ask you to

(Continued on page 32)

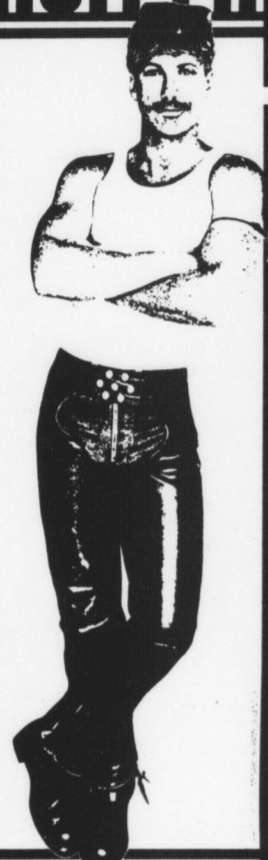
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A 70's RE-VIEW



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PRODUCED BY
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MOVIES

Jaime Humberto Hermosillo

Profit Without Honor for Gay Filmmaker



Angel (Rafael Monroy) goes back to nature for onlookers (l. to r.) Denise Montiel, Alonso Tellez, and Magnolia Rivas in *Clandestino Destino*.

by Steve Warren

The gay comedy, *Dona Herlinda and Her Son*, gave filmmaker Jaime Humberto Hermosillo profit without honor in Guadalajara, Jalisco, Mexico, where he lives and works. Although he proudly states it's now the highest-grossing Mexican film ever released in the United States, *Dona Herlinda*, made in 1984 and shown here in 1986, still has not had a theatrical run in the city where it was made. Hermosillo's own mother has yet to see it.

The problem is not with the film's content, but with Mexico's distribution system, which makes it next to impossible for an independently-made picture to find screen time. The same fate has plagued Hermosillo's latest release, *Clandestino Destino*, which premiered a year ago at the Acapulco Film Festival.

"I'm less known within Mexico than outside," Hermosillo sighed in a recent telephone conversation.

Clandestino Destino ("Clandestino Destiny") was written before *Dona Herlinda*, Hermosillo reveals. If he'd had a choice, he wouldn't have made two bisexual comedies back-to-back. The newer film is a piece of speculative fiction in which Eduardo (Alonso Tellez), a suicidal writer, is taken on a weekend camping trip by two women and a man who are horny for him. Away from the pressures of the city and the sexually repressive government, his friends offer Eduardo a "sex cure" for his melancholia.

Of the women, Lila (Magnolia Rivas) is a former lover of Eduardo's, and Isabel (Denise Montiel) a woman he loves but has never been able to get together with when one of them wasn't married or about to be married. Angel (Rafael Monroy) is harder to work into the equation, because Eduardo is somewhat homophobic.

The country air works its magic, and the men become friends before they become lovers. That gives their lovemaking, when it finally occurs, a deeper spiritual base than that of either man with either of the women. Unfortunately, in this film the same-sex

lovemaking takes place off-camera, except for some friendly kisses, while the heterosexual love scenes are more graphic.

Hermosillo, who went the other way in *Dona Herlinda*, says this was the way he envisioned *Clandestino Destino*, both when he wrote the screenplay and when he finally filmed it years later. He denies that there was any pressure from producer Manuel Barbachano Ponce, who had asked him to put male-female sex scenes in *Dona Herlinda*. "He may suggest," says Hermosillo, "but he never imposes."

By the time the four principal characters go on to a more public destiny at the end of the new film, Eduardo has something to live for—but it's a political cause, not gay sex, which only disturbed his hemorrhoids.

According to Hermosillo's prescient premise, Mexico is divided in 1994 after the left wins a fraudulent election. Split into

North and South Mexico, the country is on the verge of civil war, with the true revolutionaries working to reunite the two sides by the imminent turn of the century. (In fact, the left almost won this year's presidential election in Mexico, six years ahead of the filmmaker's schedule, and might have won if not for allegedly widespread fraud on the part of the ruling PRI party.)

"I hope that in six years things could change," Hermosillo says, "but for the better. I needed a more pessimistic mood [in the film], so I took things to the extreme. I hope the story is only fantasy, never a reality."

Another prediction in the film is that a cure for AIDS is found in 1991, but the government invents a new disease called Sexstoo, "illness of insatiable desires," as an excuse to repress sexual expression. The mixture of sex and politics in *Clandestino Destino* leads to liberation on several levels for its characters.

'Best of Fest' Concludes

by Steve Warren

"The Best of the San Francisco International Lesbian and Gay Film Festival" continues at the Roxie through Dec. 6. Gus Van Sant's *Mala Noche* (★★★), reviewed last week, plays through Saturday, Nov. 19.

Showing Sunday, Nov. 20, is one of the best lesbian love stories ever filmed, Alexandra von Grote's *Novembermoon* (★★★½). Gabriele Osburg plays November, a German Jew who falls in love with Ferial (Christiane Millet) in Paris in the 1930s. November suffers at the hands of the Nazis, but love conquers all.

On Monday there will be a triple bill, one of the festival's several odd combinations of films of primary interest to different genders and lifestyles. *Bertrand Dispara* ("Bertrand Missing") (★★★½) was an audience fa-

vorite last summer, an intriguing story of a strange, sweet, platonic friendship between a middle-aged drag queen and a 12-year-old, runaway boy. Even at 44 minutes, it has slow spots, but it's a good showcase for director Patrick Mimouni.

Of similar length, Ayelet Menahemi's *Crows* (★★) follows Maggie (Gili Benussiloi) from her farm home to Tel Aviv, where she's invited to share the communal existence of four gay men. Life on Maggie's farm was never like this, in what is virtually an Israeli version of *Dogs in Space*, although that had better music going for it.

Monday night's main feature is *Seduction: The Cruel Woman* (★★) by Elfi Mikesch and Monika Treut, whose *Virgin Machine* will close the festival. This is the

(Continued on next page)

MOVIES

Director Paul Morrissey Wants to Drown Out Seriousness

by Steve Warren

My whole life is a reaction against the seriousness that's crept into everything," says film director Paul Morrissey, who may be following John Waters into unexpected mainstream acceptance with his new film, *Spike of Bensonhurst*, in many ways the best of this fall's trio (*Married to the Mob*, *Things Change*) of Mafia comedies.

It's not the filmmakers who have changed, Morrissey explains; it's the marketing. "I don't feel I'm making an effort to be 'mainstream.' They always take my pictures and put them in one or two theaters. [This time] the distributor just said, 'We'll make it and distribute it to a wide audience.'" The same thing happened to Waters' *Hairspray*, he believes, and might have happened to his own *Mixed Blood* a few years ago if another distributor had handled it.

Morrissey crossed over once before, with the 3-D version of *Frankenstein* in 1973 and, to a lesser extent, with *Dracula* the next year. They were billed as *Andy Warhol's Frankenstein* and *Andy Warhol's Dracula*, but they were all Morrissey's. He had worked for Warhol as producer, writer, and photographer on such cult classics as *Lonesome Cowboys*, *Bike Boy*, and *Chelsea Girls*, but came into his own when Warhol was shot and forced out of the action for a few weeks.

The turning point came when English director John Schlesinger came to New York to make *Midnight Cowboy*. "In the script," says Morrissey, "the cowboy meets an underground filmmaker/party-giver—a Hollywood writer's idea of Andy... There was no underground, there was no group, and Andy never gave a party in his life. He went to parties, but he never gave any."

They wanted Warhol to play the filmmaker and approached him through Morrissey, who acted as his manager. "Andy was shy and didn't want to do it, but he



Sasha Mitchell as Spike Fumo in *Spike of Bensonhurst*.

said, 'Tell them to use Viva. She can play me.'" Morrissey was asked to round up people to act as extras in the party scene and brought in some of the Warhol crowd, including Candy Darling and Joe Dallesandro. Unused to the slow pace of real movies, they got bored waiting around all day just to walk around in the background a couple of times. By the third day, most of them had stopped coming.

There was, however, a side benefit for Morrissey during his work on *Midnight Cowboy*: He met actress Sylvia Miles, whom he cast in his third film, *Heat* and uses in a supporting role as a very liberal congressperson in *Spike of Bensonhurst*.

Spike was originally called *Throwback*. Morrissey wrote the story, but he credits Alan Bowne with 70 percent of the dialogue.

On the outside, she calls herself a transsexual, sometimes dresses as a man, and tries to cover up her sensitivity. An affair with a woman who wants her to act like a woman leaves her more confused, and an inconclusive ending unfortunately leaves the audience the same way.

Next Wednesday and Thursday, Nov. 23-24, the festival features *Three Bewildered People in the Night* (★★½), a failed experimental film by Gregg Araki that features good, atmospheric black-and-white photography of the all-night side of Los Angeles. It's the plot that's a letdown, an indulgent affair about two men and a woman—alienated, disillusioned people in their 20s who spend their time and ours bitching about how bored they are. Still, there are hints throughout that Araki may have possibilities, now that he's gotten this one out of his system.

Franeline and the Roxie are to be commended for bringing this array of good, bad, and beautiful lesbian and gay filmmaking. If you're tired of the "video revolution," support this festival and show that San Francisco has the potential to support a full-time, year-round gay cinema.

He tries to get the local don (Ernest Borgnine) to sponsor him, but gets in trouble when he makes the don's daughter (Maria Pitillo) pregnant. Forced to leave Bensonhurst, his Brooklyn neighborhood, he moves in with a Puerto Rican family in nearby Red Hook. They have a daughter (Talisha Soto), too, and she also becomes pregnant.

Morrissey leaves himself open to charges of racism and sexism when he spoofs those subjects or gives them cavalier treatment. The New York Native blasted him as "homophobic" when his last film, *Beethoven's Nephew*, opened earlier this year. Morrissey says he didn't read the article, but goes on to complain, "Those political publications don't discuss issues so much as [they try to set standards for everyone else to conform to]. There's a kind of fascism in groups that pretend to be open and liberal!"

In *Spike of Bensonhurst*, lesbians and Puerto Ricans are subjects of derision. Spike's mother (Geraldine Smith) has a woman friend living with her while her husband's in prison for beating up hookers who turned out to be cops in drag. Spike calls them "dykes" and "lesbos" and says, "This arrangement is non-Italian, nonreligious—and definitely anti-nature!"

Later, Borgnine tells him, "I hear your mother's a dyke."

"No," Spike replies, "it's just

a phase. Change of life or something."

"You gotta give her credit," Borgnine sighs, "At least she's not cheatin' on your old man with another man."

"I purposely didn't want to show she's a lesbian," Morrissey says. "I like to set things up, and then contradict them. Her son says she's lesbian, but that's just his way of needing her. Their mother-and-son relationship is more like brother and sister. That's how it is these days in a lot of families. Whether she's a lesbian or not isn't important. It's comical that nobody cares. It's just grist for the humor mill."

Morrissey tends to cast attractive young men in his films. In the past he has used Joe Dallesandro, Kevin Bacon, Udo Kier, Dietmar Prinz, and Walter Schupfer. In *Spike*, his star is Mitchell. "Sasha, I think, is a born actor," the director says. "He has instincts. He couldn't play wimpy, for instance. He should play parts within his range."

Paul Morrissey believes humor such as his is the wave of the future. "Drama doesn't have a place anymore," he says, "because life is too silly."

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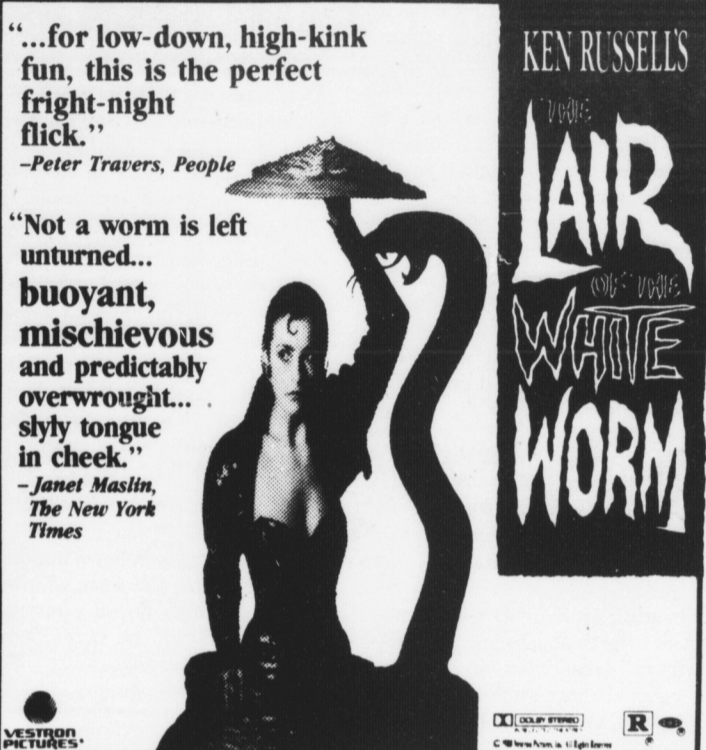
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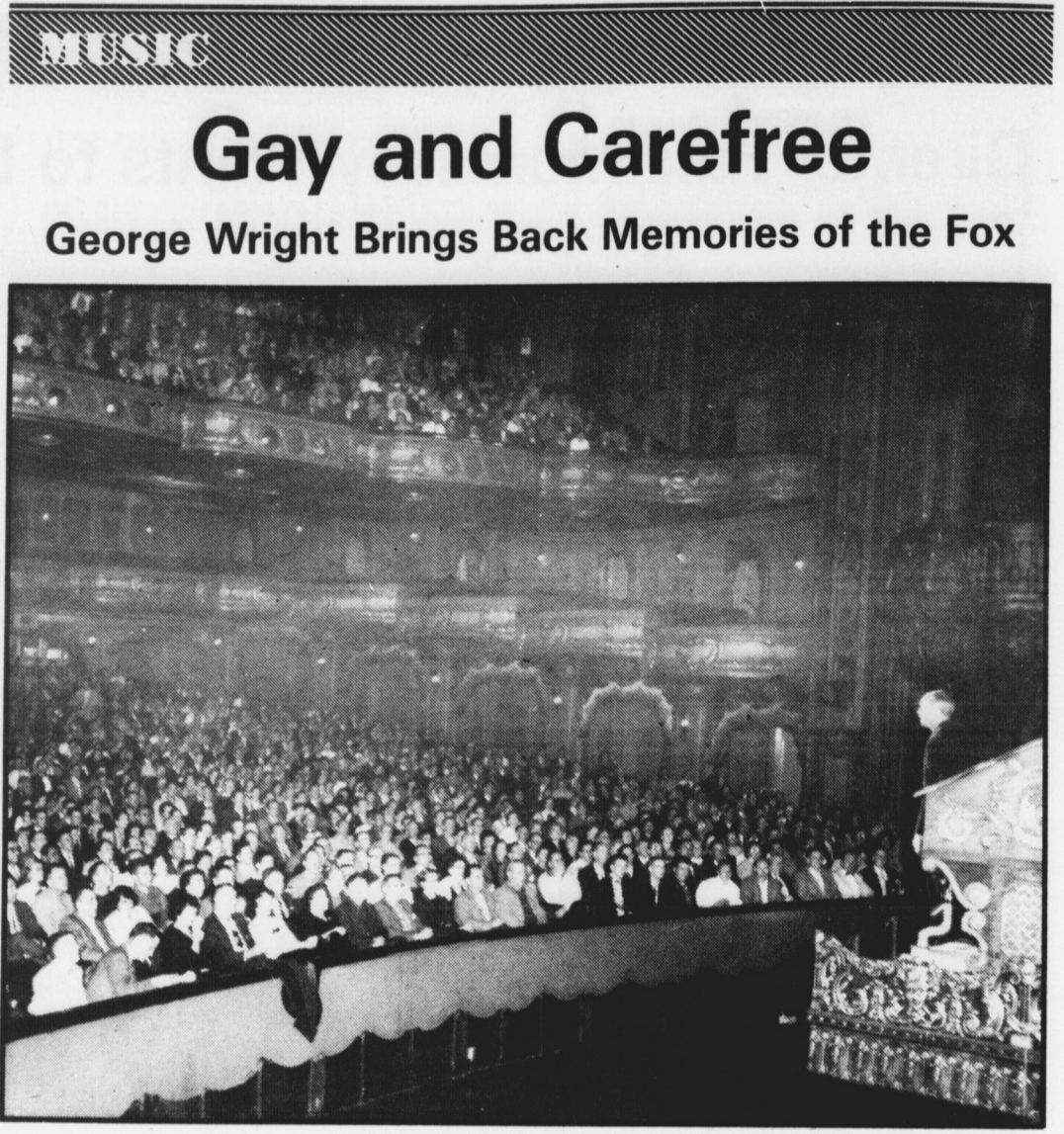
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MUSIC

Gay and Carefree

George Wright Brings Back Memories of the Fox



by Allen White

Twenty-five years ago, San Francisco's Fox Theatre was torn down. On Saturday, Nov. 19, hundreds of gays will join thousands of others at the Oakland Paramount Theatre to remember the movie palace with organist George Wright. The concert will begin at 8 p.m.

For years, Wright was the organist at the Fox and in 1960 was featured in a series of midnight concerts. The last one was on Feb. 15, 1963, two days before they began tearing down the 5,000-seat theater.

The Fox was notorious as one of the spectacular gay cruising locations in the country. The balcony, which seated thousands, was over six stories in the air. A feature of the theater was elevator service. For gay men in the 1950s and the 1960s, the elevator was no match for the excitement available on the stairs. The stairs were in gold-leaf tunnels which provided a degree of privacy from all but the most athletic. A standing

area at the top of the balcony generated a cruising scene that equaled any gay bar in the city.

Providing a musical setting for all of this activity was the mighty Wurlitzer theater pipe organ and its most famous performer, Wright. He would play intermission music as the console rose majestically from the depths of the orchestra pit. On Saturday nights he would entertain while the audience sang along.

Along with a series of record albums from the mid-1950s which told of the Fox's glory, Wright brought renewed attention to the theater when he began his midnight concert series. But Wright's work wasn't enough to save a 1960 announcement that the Fox would be torn down in 1963 to make way for an apartment/business highrise building.

A "Save the Fox" campaign was begun, with many picketers coming from the gay and lesbian community. Many of the people

who picketed then became activists for bigger causes later on. Some of them were arrested a few years later at a gay New Year's Eve dance at California Hall on Polk Street.

The Wright concert is part of a six-concert series at the Paramount, which boasts one of the finest organs in the world. Simon Gledhill, an English organist, will have a concert on Jan. 28. Later, Grace Cathedral organist John Fenstermaker will accompany the silent classic, *The Phantom of the Opera*, on March 11.

The next concert will be performed by Walt Strony, one of the best contemporary theater organists, on April 15. Lyn Larsen and Carlo Curly will play on May 27, and Gaylord Carter will close out the series with his accompaniment to Buster Keaton's silent classic, *Steamboat Bill, Jr.*, on July 15.

Tickets range from \$6-\$15 for the Wright concert.

Kudzu

(Continued from page 29)

sit a spell in the lazy fire of Chambers' parlor while they grind fresh beans.

A native of North Carolina, Chambers knows the language of the rural South. Hers is a dialogue as insightful as Tennessee Williams', as comfortable and down-home as Beth Henley's.

In the character of Ginger, Chambers and *Kudzu* have their liveliest mouthpiece. Jane McFagan's iron-magnolia portrayal is just right—a spunky octogenarian who squirms sexily in her wheelchair at the memory of the black-haired farmboys of her youth. Her portrayal of Chambers' best character to date is doubly welcome—evidence of how vital seniors are to our stages and to our society; an indictment of how little respect we afford them as a nation.

As the long-enduring lovers who have sacrificed everything

except their love, McElheny and Farkas are perfect—never overstating the obviousness of their sexuality nor underplaying its place in their lives and the lives of their family. Milt Commons as PT, pulls off the difficult task of making a bigot lovable. Simply put, this is ideal casting.

Donna Davis, better known to audiences as a performer, makes her Theatre Rhinoceros debut as a director. Other than a couple of rushed transitions, hers is a direction that, like the best, is little-noticed. All attention is on the actors and the story. Nice.

With the exception of an obvious and hokey spotlight on Katy and Martha during a romantic scene, Stephanie Johnson's lighting is adequate and unobtrusive. Sandra Howell's set design goes further and may very well become the definitive plan for this play. Sound design by John F. Karr is likewise effective.

Kudzu, that ubiquitously stubborn southern groundcover, is as persistent as family, observes one of the play's characters. You just can't get rid of it. And though you

know it's there for some purpose, you really wish that it often were not.

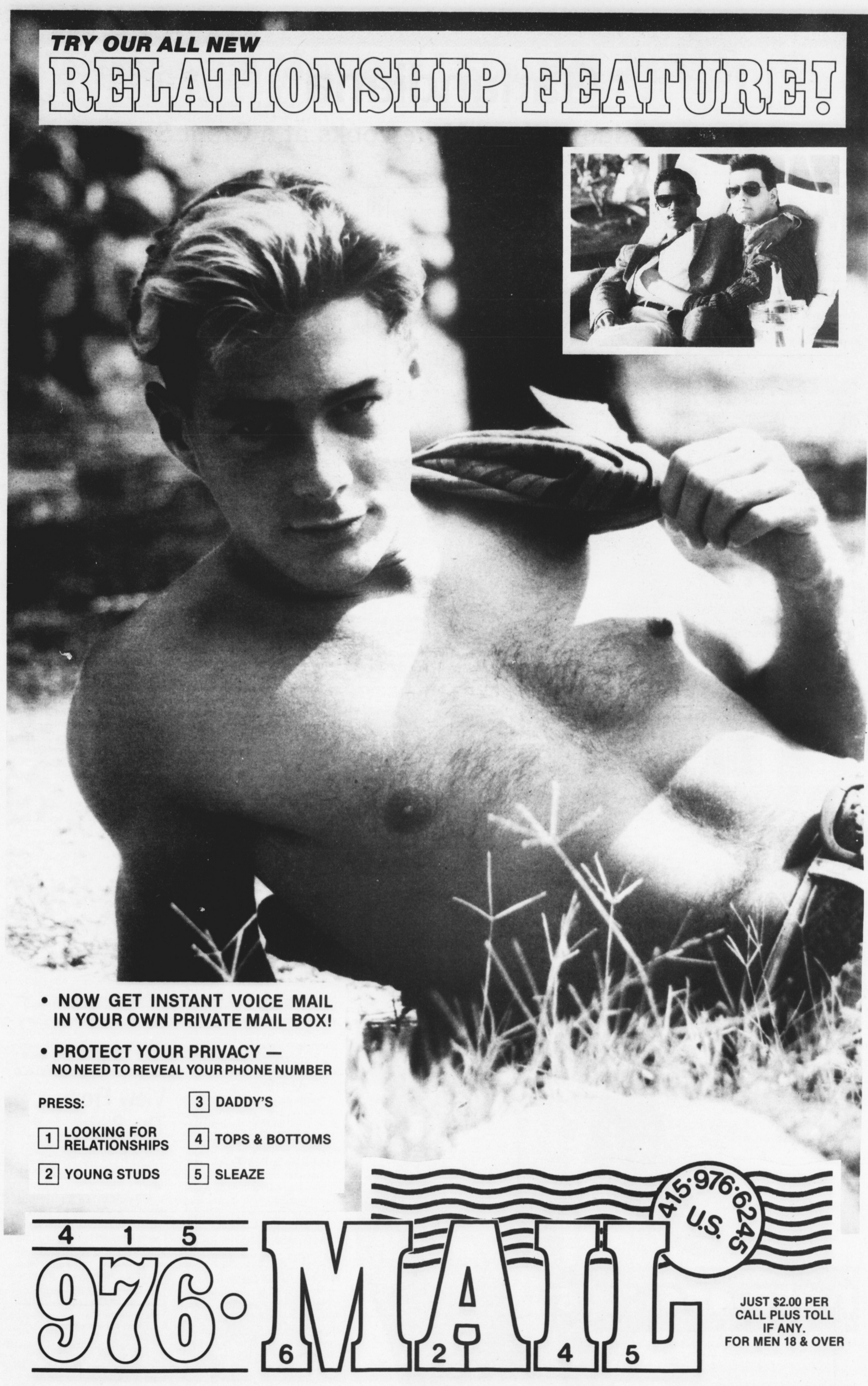
The family in *Kudzu* is like this. Ginger is often loose with family secrets; PT, vindictive and racist; Martha and Katy—for all their faithfulness and loyalty—frightened and often cowardly.

There are sloppy moments toward the end. Katy abandons her passionate idealism far too easily for the sake of a neat and tidy ending. And PT never questions a breach of privacy enough to justify several following bits of dialogue. However, these are small things—regrettably unable to be cleaned up by Chambers herself. When Katy and Martha, having both given up so much to be together, turn to each other and admit that what they have "is enough," we believe them. ▼

Kudzu
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Garlandiana

Judy, Judy, Judy: Three More Looks at a Great Star

by Ron Larsen

When it comes to Judy Garland, the unofficial Camp Madonna and Patron Saint of gays the world over, there's good news and there's bad news for those who remain avid fans/fanatical devotees nearly 20 years after the legendary entertainer's untimely death in 1969. Fortunately for all Judy-philes, the bad news, which comes in the form of a shoddy, third-rate video scrapbook of the singer's MGM days, is far outweighed by the good news, which includes both a classy book and a classic video chronicling and preserving the mature Garland's most thrilling and celebrated film performance.

First, the bad news. Cashing in on Garland's continued popularity, as well as the fascination she holds for a whole new generation of fans, MPI Home Video has gummed together a miserable and miserly 50-minute film retrospective called the *Judy Garland Scrapbook*. Even at the low, low price of \$19.95 (VHS and Beta), this ineptly produced, bargain-basement homage is a shameless ripoff, a flat, stale, and singularly uninspired filmography consisting almost exclusively of static stills and spliced-together movie trailers, virtually all of them in grainy black and white (picture *Meet Me In St.*



Judy Garland as a triumphant Vicki Lester in *A Star Is Born*.

Louis and the *Land of Oz* in shades of grey). The sound is hollow and scratchy throughout, and what little color there is, is muddy and washed out, like a tenth-generation video tape that's been duplicated into near-obscure.

If this video scrapbook rates even a single star, it's because it features some rare footage from Garland's aborted 1949 screen version of Irving Berlin's *Annie Get Your Gun* (two of the musical sequences from this film, "Doing What Comes Naturally" and "I'm an Indian Too," have been exhumed from the MGM vaults and edited into proper sequence for the first time), plus her unforgettable Special Command Performance of "Over the Rainbow" during World War II for the Army-Navy Screen Magazine, with an introduction by emcee Bob Hope.

Scrapbook is a lackluster hodgepodge that paints its portrait of Garland in variations of muddy grey, with none of her stellar quality or personal magnetism anywhere on display. Unlike the vastly superior *That's Entertainment* (Parts I and II are both available on video), which reprised some of Garland's finest MGM moments, this dreary rehashing of fragmentary bits and pieces of *Garlandiana* is more of a dirge than a celebration, and it will doubtless make the uninitiated wonder how on earth Judy Garland ever managed to become a major film star, much less a cult figure and a legend in her own time. Judy and her fans deserve much better than this video ripoff. Avoid it!

So much for the bad news. Happily, the good news for Garland fans is very good indeed. In the grand tradition of his critically acclaimed book *David O. Selznick's "Gone With the Wind"* and following up on his more recent *David O. Selznick's Hollywood*, author and film historian Ronald Haver has written another classy book about another classic film, *A Star Is Born: The Making of the 1954 Movie and Its 1983 Restoration*. Published by Alfred A. Knopf, Inc., this 300-page behind-the-scenes account of Garland's spectacular screen comeback after a four-year hiatus from films is a bit pricey at \$24.95, but it is sure to delight Garland fans and film buffs alike.

Star is an absorbing, lavishly illustrated book that gives the reader an insider's look at the making of a motion picture masterpiece, its subsequent butchering by Jack Warner, and its painstaking restoration some 30 years later. Haver's book is uncompromising, sometimes unflattering but always fascinating in its portrait of Garland.

As Haver chronicles the day-to-day filming of the mammoth Hollywood production, he gives great insight into Garland hard at work on the most important film of her career, struggling against the obstacles which dogged her from the picture's very inception and which continued to plague her long after the film's completion. This is the Judy Garland whom co-star James Mason described as "the most sym-

pathetic, the funniest, the sharpest, and the most stimulating woman I have ever known." It is also the temperamental, out-of-control star whom many of the film's cast and crew came to see as a monster, someone to be avoided at all costs.

Garland's frustrating search for a leading man (Laurence Olivier didn't want the role, and neither did Cary Grant), her constant battles with weight, diet pills, and booze; her temper tantrums, her bouts of depression, which held up production for days; her breakdown after the film's completion; and her heart-break over the Oscar that got away (when she lost the Best Actress award to Grace Kelly, an outraged Croucho Marx called it the "greatest robbery since Brinks," echoing the sentiments of many)—it's all here, and then some!

But more than a portrait of Judy Garland or the detailed production diary of a motion picture classic, *Star* is Haver's first-hand account of how he set about the difficult task of restoring the butchered film to its original length and glory almost 30 years after its initial release. Shortly after *Star's* premiere, some 27 minutes had been cut from the film, including two songs and any number of dramatic scenes, and much of the missing footage had seemingly been lost forever. Yet Haver managed to find both of the missing songs ("Lose That Long Face" and "Here's What I'm Here For"), as well as bits and pieces of many of the lost scenes.

Haver's book is sure to generate renewed interest in viewing the movie in its reconstructed, nearly complete form, as it was originally intended for audiences. And there's good news for VCR owners who'd like to buy (or rent) the 1983 *Restored Version of A Star Is Born*, because it is now available from Warner Home Video at a substantially reduced price. At only \$29.95, this four-star double-cassette, 176-minute video incarnation of *Star* is a bona fide bargain—and a full \$40 less than when it was first released. Garlands to Warners for making this timeless screen classic available at such an affordable cost! Judy would be very pleased. ▼

View From The Bay

(Continued from page 29)

now he is off AZT and is "bounding up stairs."

With insistence and conviction, Champlain states, "There is life after diagnosis." He will not "spend time trying to find a cure when there is none. Accept it and do something with yourself—anything you've always wanted to do. Why waste away?"

View From the Bay

The Studio at Theatre Rhinoceros, 2926 16th St., S.F. Thu.-Sun. through Dec. 18 (except Nov. 21) Tickets: \$9 tonight; \$10 all other nights. Call 861-5079 for details.

Philip Campbell

'Testimony': A Memory of Shostakovich's Genius

Soviet composer Dmitri Shostakovich lived a life of profound controversy. His music, politics, and philosophy—even his hotly disputed memoirs—have generated enough argument to confuse all but the most dispassionate observer. The great irony of his existence lies in the impossibility of discussing him without becoming embroiled in the conflict.

English filmmaker Tony Palmer, disciple of the outrageous Ken Russell and the man responsible for the nine-hour *Wagner* starring Richard Burton, might seem like just the chap for the job, and his epic *Testimony*, based on the memoirs as related to and edited by Solomon Volkov, is now playing in San Francisco at the Lumiere.

Palmer certainly has the necessary audacity and heroic reach but he also shares some of Russell's tendency to surrealistic fantasy. One often has the uncomfortable feeling he's padding the action with too many visuals. Two hours and forty minutes makes a long movie by any standard and it surely would have packed more punch had the director trusted more in Shostakovich's own spare and pungent recollections.

The book has been called a fake by the Russian government

and cited for inaccuracies by the composer's son Maxim but it clearly reads like the truth, even though Solomon Volkov admits to being "a fanatic admirer." Still, there is no doubt Shostakovich was one of the most misunderstood men of modern times and that he felt a genuine need to unburden his troubled soul. When first seduced into discussing important colleagues and acquaintances, the associative memoirs soon became "the testimony of an eyewitness," almost pitifully eager to set the record straight.

If history had not finally revealed the awful scope of Joseph Stalin's atrocities, Shostakovich might have appeared a raging paranoic. He was, more simply, a survivor—plagued by his tortured misgivings and trapped by the mind-numbing complexities of his era. That he still managed to write, often to order, such brilliant and emotion-filled music, is a testament to the indomitable human spirit; much as the self-

deprecating genius would have disagreed.

Calling Tony Palmer too sternly to task for his frequent pretentiousness and mishandling of the fascinating source material could obscure the film's many successful scenes. Once we get past the montage sequences (one more shot of Shostakovich running through a noisy engine room and I would have screamed), there are a number of unforgettable images which serve to heighten the presentation of key musical works—and what music it is!

Most of the score is played by the London Philharmonic Orchestra, conducted by Rudolf Barshai; powerful excerpts from the 1st Violin Concerto, the 5th, 7th, 13th, and 14th symphonies as well as the exquisite *Andante* movement from the 2nd. Piano concertos are given optimum performances in spectacular sonics by soloists like bass-baritone John Shirley-Quirk, soprano Felicity Palmer, violinist Yuzuko Horigome, and

pianist Howard Shelly. There doesn't appear to be a soundtrack album forthcoming which is a pity because it is, appropriately, Shostakovich's music that haunts us long after the final frame has faded.

That is, the music and Ben Kingsley's breathtaking performance as Shostakovich. Expecting a sensitive portrayal from the man who energized Richard Attenborough's ponderously noble *Gandhi* and Harold Pinter's coldly intellectual *Betrayal* isn't surprising, but wait until you see Kingsley huddled in front of a tiny TV screen with a bottle of vodka, watching the official eulogies for the dead Stalin. It's cinematic truth comparable to Olivier or Gielgud. Tony Palmer isn't terribly effective at revealing subtext, but those few moments of acting compensate and tell us more about Shostakovich the man than the rest of the film combined.

Testimony doesn't get into the composer's bitter condemnations or dry insights into contem-

poraries and daily Soviet life. It is more concerned with horrific pageantry molding the creative process. Most of the other characters are shadow people, and the relationship with Stalin becomes the only notable human interaction. That is conveyed largely on a symbolic level, and we get the point—boy, do we get the point. There is a brief but telling episode with the sensitive army general Tukachevsky, well played by Ronald Pickup, but it is Terence Rigby's convincing Stalin which dominates the cast list after Kingsley.

In the end, Shostakovich remains a mystery (also true of the book). A man of contradictions and conflicting statements, like the turbulent times, only the music remains to give us the ultimate subtext, but those few moments of acting compensate and tell us more about Shostakovich the man than the rest of the film combined. *Testimony* doesn't get into the composer's bitter condemnations or dry insights into contem-

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George Heymont

Those Working Girls

Although some people embrace the operatic art form because of its noble airs, the hard truth is that opera focuses a great deal of its attention on courtesans, hookers and whores. Whether these women are portrayed as tragic heroines (Puccini's *Magda*), ruthless rip-off artists (Verdi's *Maddalena*) or comic bawds (Stravinsky's *Mother Goose*), each prostitute has her own distinct set of priorities.

By and large, the whores one encounters on operatic stages tend to work a more refined clientele than the hookers who ply the streets of San Francisco's Tenderloin District. That's because, according to author Siegfried Kracauer, in the days of France's Second Empire courtesans were "luxury items of the first order who, through their extravagance, saw to it that money was always circulating. In a time of speculation fever, they represented the very product which the consumer in the market for love preferred. Though, like leeches, they unscrupulously bled their buyers dry and then abandoned them, it was not so much a lack of feeling but the strong influence of the ruthless

fluctuations in the business world which led to this behavior."

The business world is not the only arena which experiences ruthless market fluctuations. In recent months, I've seen some pretty wild jags in the artistic quality of some of opera's most famous singing whores.

One of the most interesting attractions at the 1988 Edinburgh Festival was a visit by Berlin's famed Schiller Theatre, whose history dates back to 1893 when the company was run by Heinrich George. The artists from the Schiller Theatre are noted for their training, versatility, and, in many ways, can be viewed as German counterparts of the thespians one would find working on a year-round basis in a Shakespearean repertory company which performs more than just the classics.

Operetta is often described as a cross between opera and musical comedy and thus, when the Schiller Theatre brought its production of Offenbach's *La Perichole* to Edinburgh, one had the chance to experience an operetta performed by actors who sing (as opposed to having it performed by singers who act).



Regina Lemnitz sang the title role in Offenbach's *La Perichole* at the Edinburgh Festival.

Needless to say, this phenomenon put a totally different stress on the evening. One did not go looking for pearl-shaped tones (nor should one expect to find any in a production of *La Perichole*) and Offenbach's comic operetta was treated as a rather

bawdy entertainment rather than as a "classical opera."

The plot, which is set in a highly-romanticized vision of Lima, Peru, is pure escapist fluff aimed at the tired businessman. As a result, the Schiller Theatre's interpretation of *La Perichole* was far more blatantly sexual than any American production of this work (on several occasions, the hungry, tired street singer, Perichole, didn't hesitate to grope her lover, Piquillo, with an obvious appreciation of the goodies contained in his crotch).

With a chorus of whores cheering the action on, I was most impressed by Wolfgang Ransmayr's animated, athletic, and lusty Piquillo. Max Buchsbaum's comic portrayal of the old prisoner who has spent 12 years burrowing his way through the cell wall with his trusty pocket knife scored strongly, too. Thomas Schendel's lanky Don Andres (the Vic ery of Peru) won plenty of approval from the audience in Edinburgh's Kings Theatre. However, Perichole seemed a bit overripe (both physically and vocally) for my tastes.

What thoroughly unnerved me was Santiago del Corral's severely skewed and mirrored set for Act II which, when combined with Mechthild Schwienhorst's costumes under the questionable direction of Franz Marijnen, laid the groundwork for a bizarre Fellini-style dream sequence that completely upset the theatrical balance of *La Perichole* while sending Offenbach's operetta off in the direction of a totally unjustified and pointlessly jarring dramatic diversion.

Everyone has to start somewhere, but I felt a most unfortunate sense of being absolutely *nowhere* when the Seattle Opera's silver cast took over the company's production of *La Traviata*. Verdi's classic demands strong singing and decent acting from its principals. Whereas, at the opening night performance by the Gold cast, *La Traviata* had fared extremely well, the Silver cast was frighteningly inadequate. Let me explain why.

Soprano Beverly Morgan was tackling the first Violetta of her career and, while a young singer has to do each role for the first time somewhere, Violetta should really be tested under more intimate circumstances than the 3,000-seat Seattle Opera House. Earlier this summer, when I

heard Morgan sing the role of Benigna in the American premiere of Penderecki's *The Black Mask* at the Santa Fe Opera, I was quite worried about whether or not she would have enough voice for Violetta. My concern was justified.

Although, in terms of sheer volume, she has enough voice to get through a performance of *La Traviata*, Morgan's instrument (whose timbre is extremely nasal) seemed ill-suited to Verdi's tragic heroine. The soprano's work seemed capable but totally mechanical (until the last act, her performance was a dramatic cipher) and, during parts of Act II, Morgan's Violetta reminded me of a very nervous Joan Rivers in period costume. The musicianship, charisma, and dramatic depth needed for this role (which can only come with maturity) were painfully lacking.

As Alfredo, Joseph Wolverton displayed a pleasing *tenero* voice. His performance, however, lacked confidence (possibly due to nerves). Of the three principals, Lawrence Cooper scored strongest as the elder Germont while conductor David Agler tried to keep matters moving as smoothly as possible.

During intermission, a subscriber wandered into the press room and asked if any of us were quite as appalled as she was by Morgan's performance and the general lack of acting ability on the part of the principals. I watched and listened with curiosity as she confronted General Director Speight Jenkins about the performance and let him know, in no uncertain terms, that she was not happy with the product he had put on the stage. I think it's important for General Directors to get that kind of direct personal feedback from their subscribers (instead of just being told what they want to hear) and, while Jenkins resolutely defended his casting, I have to concur that, even if Beverly Morgan's last act was decently performed, the soprano was cast in the role of Violetta quite prematurely.

I would, however, lay some of the performance's failure on the shoulders of stage director Patrick Bakman, who did not give his principals a dramatically secure enough foundation upon which to build the rest of their work. This was one occasion when I was quite relieved to see the final curtain come down. You would have been, too. ▼

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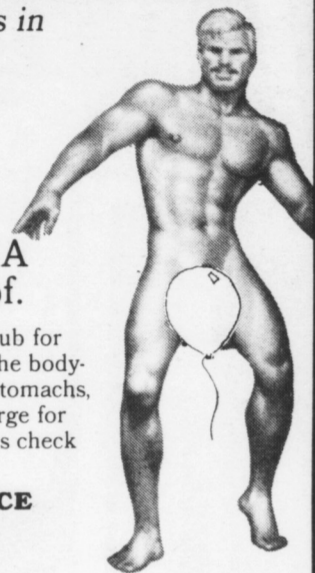
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Friday, November 18

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you wanted to know about piercing, but
had no one to ask! An informal talk and
slide show by Jim Ward with piercing
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and question-and-answer period.

Reservations suggested. Call Mark at 621-6294.

Saturday, November 19

Piercing Clinic at Mr. S Leathers
1779 Folsom St., noon-5 p.m.
Privacy assured.
Call Colt at 863-7764
for appointment.

Sunday, November 20

Piercing Clinic at Image Leather
2199 Market St., noon-5 p.m.
Privacy assured.
Call Bob at 621-7551
for appointment.



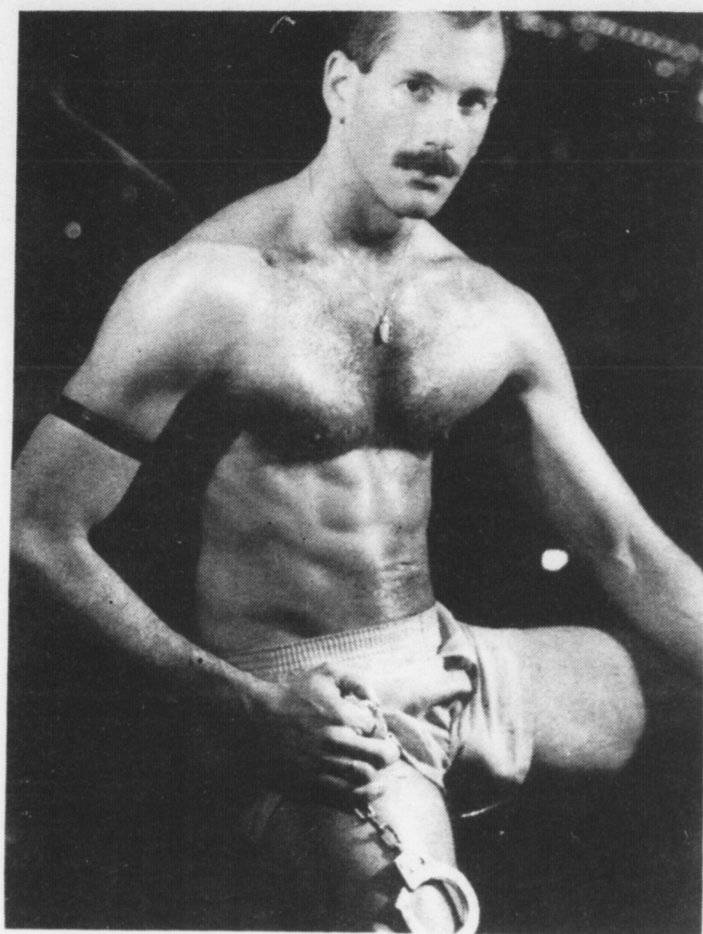
Mr. Marcus

The Next Biggie: Folsom Follies Show

One of the biggest fundraisers for the Inter-Club Fund (ICF) is the annual Folsom Follies Show. This year the extravaganza takes place on Saturday, Dec. 3, at the California Club on Clay Street (between Polk and Van Ness). Under the direction of one of South of Market's most prolific and talented leathermen, Warren Cave, the show this year promises to be better than ever.

Imbued with an innate sense of showmanship, timing, and artistic talent, Warren is no stranger to brilliant and innovative showmanship. More often than not, he has been forced to work with a limited budget, yet somehow he managed to pull off some of the most excellent traits of a real trouper. On countless bike runs, club events, and competitions, with his talented partner Jerry and the fun-loving Bobby Wong, they have created a stir wherever they endeavor to put on a "show." This is not Warren's first tryst with the Folsom Follies. When it was called the Casualty Capers in yesteryear, Warren managed to leave an indelible stamp on every production, whether he was in the driver's seat or not. With this thought in mind, and judging from the rumors emanating from the in-progress rehearsals, this year's production will be yet another apex for Warren on his long list of exciting and sparkling efforts.

Folsom Follies '88 will be preceded by a musical cocktail hour when the doors open at the California Club at 1800 hours; the show starts at 2000 on the dot (no "gay" time with Warren), and the list of talent was culled from the motorcycle clubs of the Bay Area. Tickets are \$10 in advance or \$15 at the door and are available at Mister S at 14th and Folsom now. You should be able to get one from any club member, too. As is to be expected, Folsom Follies is a benefit for the Inter-



Blake Jenks, Mr. May on the Bare Chest Calendar.

(Photo: Scott Martin)

Club Fund, an organization of all the bike clubs that sees to the needs of its members and friends of the leather/levi/biker set. ICF Chair Chuck Earle has long been associated with the production and has every right to expect another spectacular event for fun and frolic, as well as to help out disabled and less fortunate brothers and sisters.

South of Market's leather community was hit hard again last weekend with the loss of three of its most notable men. Over the weekend it was learned that John Kissinger, former co-owner of the legendary Febe's passed away in Mississippi; in far away Vancouver, Mack

McKinnon of Mack's Leathers left us; and here on the home turf, long-time manager of the Watering Hole Bryan Todd left his beloved Folsom Street.

All three of these men, each in his own way, made lasting contributions to the betterment of not only their leather brothers, but to the gay community as a whole. John Kissinger was my first confidante when I moved here in 1968; while running one of the most successful bars with his lover Don Geist, they enjoined on 11th and Folsom with the Stud bar and the Covered Wagon (now the Oasis) to begin the birth of the Miracle Mile. Folsom was a two-way street in those days, and



Mac McKinnon (r.) of Vancouver was here in September for the Mr. Drummer finals. (Photo: Marcus)



Friends and fans of Joel Singer and James Broughton gathered at the Art Institute Nov. 10 to sing "Happy Birthday." (Photo: R. Pruzan)

with the Ramrod and the Round Up, they helped form the world-renowned Leather Strip in San Francisco, the only city where you can wear leather year around. It was Febe's that lauded the leather lifestyle with that fabulous statue; it was Febe's that first supported the Tavern Guild with fundraisers just for openers. I "earned" my first leather jacket at Febe's at a fundraiser to buy furniture for the S.F. VD Clinic when it moved from 33 Hunt St. to 4th and Harrison Don and John, later with Doug Anderson, were the three caballeros of Folsom, and they gave and gave generously of their time and their money and dedicated themselves to the good of their customers and the community at large. After they hung it up with Febe's a few short years ago, they retired quietly to Mississippi.

Bryan Todd ruled long and vigorously at the Watering Hole, first on the corner of 6th and Folsom and later at its present location. Bryan was a product of the Los Angeles leather bars. He was low-key in his interactions and never made a big splash about anything. He managed to stay out of the politics of the bar wars and was basically a loner—but he had a good heart, a pleasant personality, and was definitely a leather person who

succeeded in everything he tried to do. He was admired by many, most certainly by Bob Merl, the Watering Hole owner.

Mack McKinnon, the pride of Canada's leather community, was here only last month for the Mr. Drummer Finals. He was a resident of this city for a long time, where he fashioned miracles in leather at the fabled Image Leather store. Later he moved to Vancouver, BC where he managed to establish himself as the premiere leather maker in the Northwest. His contributions to the leather community nationwide endeared him to American and Canadian leather men and women alike. At Intl. Mr. Leather two years ago he fashioned a small leather case that snapped onto an epaulet of your leather jacket in which to carry condoms for safe sex. Mack furnished several hundred of these to the attendees at IML that year—free! Inside was a note that they were available for only \$1 to benefit the AIDS agencies in the Northwest. Made of scrap leather, the demand became so intense it no longer became a "scrap" leather product. Yet, in spite of the expense of making them and selling them for AIDS benefits, he continued to make them for only \$1. During his last visit here, he attended everything on the

schedule and was also a firm supporter of the Living In Leather conferences in Seattle.

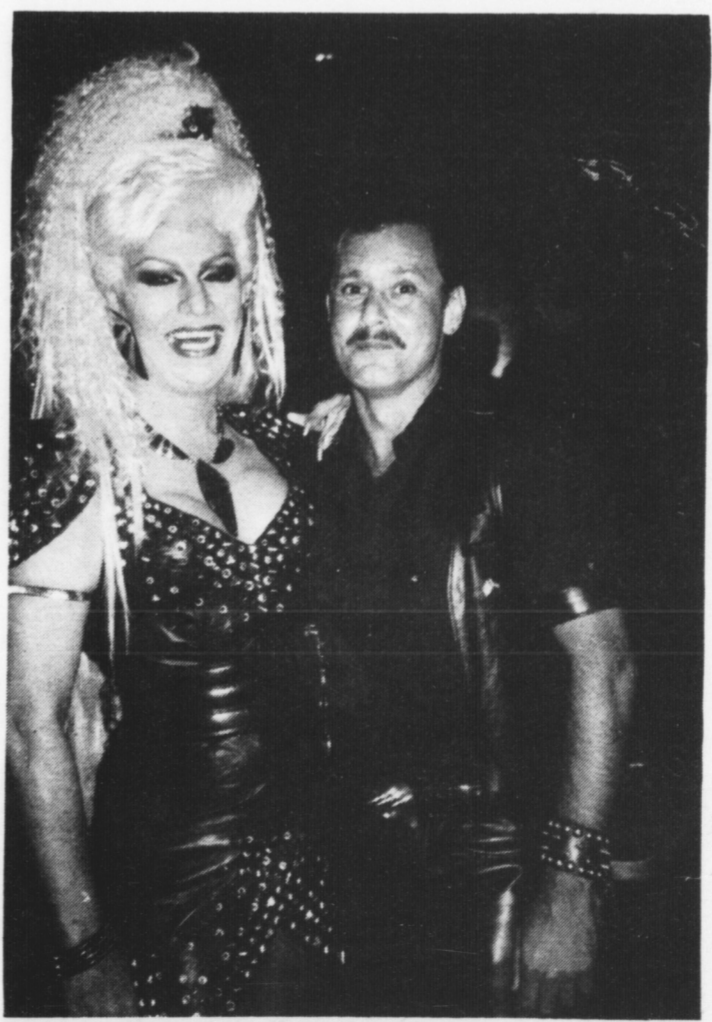
Men like these are rare these days. With all due respect to the efforts of contemporary leather men in the fray of the battle against AIDS and other worthy causes, these three were living examples of what a real leather man should be. They were no-nonsense, forceful in their beliefs and efforts, and the first to defend the leather lifestyle with its myriad of subcultures. And they cared, they really cared. You could ask no more from these three, who helped to inspire younger leathermen. And that's why the leather community is not bereft of icons to remember, revere, and respect. Without their presence in the early days of the leather scene's coming out, who knows what it would be like today? The leather community is a poorer one with regard to their deaths; yet, the leather community is richer in the knowledge that their early efforts made life easier for many, to come out in leather; to care for their fellow men (and women); to inspire younger men to carry on the codes of leather, caring; sharing; loving; and most of all, living—in leather.

What else, what else? Well they screamed! Well boys and girls, the holiday season is getting off rather snappily. Jim Ward of the Gauntlet will be in town this weekend if you need any piercing done. He'll be at 552 Castro (upstairs) on Friday, 18 Nov., at 1930 hrs. to answer questions on everything you want to know about piercing (\$7), with a Q&A period. Call Mark at 621-6294 for a reservation. He'll be at Mr. S on Sat, 19 Nov., from noon to 1700, and at Image Leathers on Sunday, Nov. 20, at the same time. Call either place for an appointment.

Sat. night, 18 Nov., it's a kickoff party for Mr./Mrs. Santa Claus at the Eagle (25 cents a vote) with all proceeds going for the AIDS Emergency Fund Xmas Eve Dinner for AIDS/ARC patients. Friday night too, *A View from the Bay* opens at Theatre Rhino, running until Dec. 18—don't miss this one!

Here's a hot ticket: The Freewheelers Car Club of S.F. presents its fifth annual Concourse d'Elegance at the San Mateo County Fairgrounds on Sat., 19 Nov., from noon to 1700. Tickets are only \$5, part of which goes to the AIDS Emergency Fund. Cars from 1916 to the present, all in "cherry" condition, all gay-owned, and all shimmering for your admiration (or camera); they'll also be featuring car com-

(Continued on next page)



Pat Montclair and Jerry Coletti's committee raised \$5,000 at the teddy bear auction at the Eagle Nov. 13. (Photo: Marcus)

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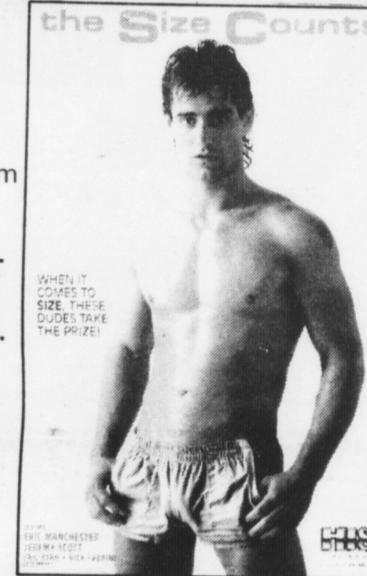
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Marcus

(Continued from previous page)

mercials from the '50s, vintage car films, and everything you wanted to know about joining this group. There's even a banquet afterward. Check into Fiesta Hall in San Mateo, and if you need more info, call 322-1956. Thanks, Chris Beaudoin!

After seeing the cars, where else to go but at Amelia's for their 10th Anniversary party beginning at 2100?! Willow Wray (of Nichols, Glover & Wray) will perform in person; it's free and manager Judy says both men and women are welcome! Congrats to Rikki Streicher on a great 10-year run!

Sunday, 20 Nov., GGBA is having a nice brunch at the Alta Plaza on Upper Fillmore from noon to 1500 to benefit Project Open Hand. According to Tom Culp, Soc. Events Chair of GGBA, it's an outreach for those who can't make the weeknight

events. Tix are only \$7, and you can reserve a space by calling 441-3651. Monday night, the 49ers will try to make it to the playoffs with their game against the Washington Redskins. Keep your fingers crossed.

Tuesday night, 22 Nov., you might win an oven-ready turkey at the S.F. Eagle's annual Turkey Shoot beginning at 2100. They'll be giving one bird away every half hour up to 0100. Needless to say, Bruce Traficante will be there. Bruce didn't win any last year, and James Buhler won seven! In all his benevolence, James gave one to Bruce.

Wednesday, 23 Nov., Dick Collier dreamed up a dizzy doozy. Imagine! They're having a Mr. Turkey Buns contest beginning at 2100 hours until 0400 Thanksgiving Day. The object is to position your buns in this mock-up of a turkey and judges will award \$100 to the winner; \$50 to the runner-up; and a 15-lb. turkey plus \$10 to the second runner-up. Eric Nielsen says this



It was packed for the K.D. Lang video party at Amelia's.

(Photo: PhotoGraphics/Darlene)

is Dick Collier's idea! To get in? It'll cost you \$3 or \$5 if you bring your significant other or someone else's significant other. This sounds like it was born in Fremont, CA.

Wednesday, 23 Nov., it's Cole Porter's *Can Can* at the GG Theatre, sponsored by Michael Vita and the indefatigable Don Johnson to benefit the Shanti Project. Tix are \$50 for Orch. and Loge, or \$100 for preferred seating with a blast of a reception at Le Domino afterward with star Chita Rivera. That's a bargain! Le Domino! Chita Rivera! Don

Johnson! Eric the Chef! Don the Waiter! Luc the suave Owner! Go for it. I say Go for it!

I got the financial statement from Up Your Alley Productions, and from what I can deduce from the pages of monies taken in and paid out, it looks like UYA is finally out of debt and is some \$342 in the black! While the Dore Alley Fair busted, the Mr. Drummer Finals profits were nearly \$5,000 divided up to the AIDS Emergency Fund, Howard Brown Memorial Clinic (Chicago), and Houston's DIFFA organization. If you want a copy of

the final statement, write P.O. Box 11314, SF 94101. Good show!

Outlook, the gay video show, premieres in S.F. on Thurs. 24 Nov., at 2030 hours on Viacom Cable 6, and on every 4th Thursday at 2030; it will also be on Cable 30 in Mountain View every Thursday at 2000, right after Community Action News at 7:30. Both shows are worth watching for both couch and non-couch potatoes.

Stay cool; stay generous; stay loving and caring; use your Stubbies; keep your legs crossed! ▼

Frameline Seeks Executive Director

Frameline, producers of the San Francisco International Lesbian and Gay Film Festival, is seeking a full-time executive director responsible for development and administration of its expanding national programs. This person will work closely with the festival/program director.

Requirements include previous experience in

organizational management and nonprofit development. You must be computer-literate. Interest and knowledge of film is a plus. Salary will be dependent on experience. Start as soon as possible. Please send resume and salary requirements to: Personnel, P.O. Box 14792, San Francisco, CA 94114. No phone calls, please! ▼

Sweet Lips

Catching Up After the Vacation

It is great to be back home in San Francisco after two weeks in beautiful Cabos San Jose, Mexico at the beautiful Aston Cabo Regis. Dennis Klink and yours truly did have a marvelous time.

Make your Thanksgiving reservations early at many of the fine restaurants in the city, and if you haven't heard, Ginger's Too at 43 6th St. is having a traditional roast turkey or baked Virginia ham dinner with all of the trimmings for only \$9.95, serving from 3 p.m. 'til 8 p.m. Call 543-3622 for reservations early. Yes, I shall be on the planks pouring your favorite cocktails.

Emperor Steven Rascher presents Boys Night Out Wednesday the 30th from 7:30 'til 10 p.m. at the Motherlode with entertainment and strippers. No, I wasn't asked to be one of the strippers. Aren't you lucky?

The Gangway at 841 Larkin St. is having a benefit auction for John "Mr. Classical" Wise on Monday the 28th from 8 p.m. 'til 12 with Empress Reba, J.J. Van Dyke, and Davida. This is for John, who fell and broke his hip and will be out for many months, so come on down and join in the fun. All donations for the auction can be left at the Gangway. See you all there, Merrill has decided to hang up his waiter's tray and



Ginger St. John will appear at Ginger's Too Nov. 20.

put on bartender's slippers. You can catch his solo performance at the popular Wooden Horse on

Friday, Saturday, and Sunday nights. Good luck, Merrill.

Continued on page 45

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WHAT BABY JANE SAID TO BLANCHE:

BJ: "BUT YA DID, BLANCHE, YA DID! YOU ALWAYS LIKED STRAIGHT MEN BETTER!"
 b: "no, jane, i like everyone, you know that."
 BJ: "YOU'RE A LIAR! YOU GET THOSE STRAIGHT VIDEOS JUST TO SEE MACHO GUYS EVEN IF YOU HAVE TO WATCH THEM STUFF IT IN THOSE YOUNG BROADS."
 b: "jane, you're disturbed. the reason i watch 'straight' videos is for their quality. . .uh . . . storyline. . . and perhaps the men do seem a tad more masculine and . . ."
 BJ: "PUKE! YOU LOOK AT 'EM BECAUSE YOU'RE TIRED OF WATCHING QUEENS PLAY BUTCH ROLES. ADMIT IT, BLANCHE, YOU'RE A CLOSET STRAIGHT VIDEO FAG-HAG. YA ARE! YA ARE!"

OKAY, GIRLS, ENOUGH! FOR ONE WEEK ONLY, THE NATION'S TEMPLE OF GAY PORN SMASHES ITS 21-YEAR "MEN ONLY" POLICY AND USHERS IN A DARING NEW PROGRAM FOR ALL THOSE CLOSET CASES WHO REALLY GO FOR THE MEN IN STRAIGHT PORN. BUT HURRY, MUST END NOV. 22. CINEMA II ONLY.

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Election Night in Our Town

The sounds over the PA system were booming up Castro Street. In my poll-crazed state, I had waited until 8 p.m. to switch on the TV for election results. And results there were. Plenty-o-results, without California's figures even in. The three main networks already had the jump start, run, and finish on the "big races," while neighbors up the street had only then begun to disassemble the voting machines in the garage/polling place that had just seen a turnout of more than 75 percent.

What about Props. 96 and 102? Where were the local results? I could hear music from the stage on 17th Street bouncing off walls and passing cars up the hill. Dukakis makes his concession speech to the tune of "Bad Girls"—now "Bad Laws"—coming in through the open skylight.

"Lock your date in quarantine. Look who's talking, Mr. Clean. Bad laws. Bad laws. Politician's bad laws. Uh-huh!"

Beneath a giant banner spray of "America Wins!," George Bush asks for a kinder, gentler nation.

Tom Ammiano's voice rips through the night air as he tauntingly mocks the governor of California, "Deukmejian in Armenian means 'moralistic sim-pleton.'"

What about Harry Britt and the Board of Supervisors? Local TV reports showed us over and over again that, if it wasn't insurance, it wasn't important.

Now depressed and somewhat numb, I joined forces with the 1,000 or so people gathered in the streets to protest the passage of Prop. 96 and to celebrate the defeat of Prop. 102. There I learned that Britt had probably won the majority of votes needed to become the first openly gay president of the Board of Supervisors. Big cheers. Big, big cheers. Later that evening, Harry Britt would generously acknowledge and thank the hundreds of campaign workers who had helped him to get the vote out.

In a spontaneous moment, he jumped up for a jig with Nancy Walker, and then brought his staff up onto the stage with him. For the gay community here, Britt represents the loudest voice we have to lead us into the 1990s.

But with the reality of a George Bush victory breathing down our backs, the crowd on Castro was far from jubilant. In order to maintain our status quo, the defeat of Prop. 102 had been time-consuming and costly and worth the efforts of all. But what advancement had we made in our fight for our basic human rights? Where are our insurance policies? Where are our domestic partnerships recognized? Where is our money to fight AIDS?

"I'm not a religious person," said national gay rights activist Ben Schatz as his voice was amplified down the street. "But as I watch the results of the presidential election, I'd like to pray for the health of Supreme Court Justices Bren-



Protesting near Bush headquarters election night.

(Photo: PhotoGraphics/Darlene)

nan, Blackmun, Marshall, and Stevens. May they live and be healthy for four more years.

"Secondly, as I think of Dan Quayle, I never thought I'd say this, but I'd also like to pray for the health of George Bush. May he survive to be resoundingly defeated in 1992.

"On a more serious note, we're here today because we are oppressed. We're here today because we are angry. And we're here today because we are frightened. We need to remember that 50 years ago tonight was the beginning of the Holocaust. As a Jew, I promise that I will never forget that, and that is why I am here, and that is why we should all

be here—to know that we will never allow ourselves to be dragged off to any camps."

Schatz drew wild applause as he brought his speech to a close, "And finally a word about Prop. 102. Governor Deukmejian, you are a scandal and a disgrace! Your cynical desire to exploit the AIDS crisis for political gain... by doing that, you have declared war on us and on all good people in California, and we will not forget that."

We can never forget.

I got caught up in the action on the streets that night. I didn't intend to march up onto the steps of the State Building to chant, "Hey! Hey! Ho! Ho! Ninety-six has got to go!" I hadn't expected to be cheered on, along with hundreds of others, by guys sticking their heads out of digs on Polk Street at midnight on a Tuesday.

But there they were, and there I was, and there were the police, with their tear-gas canisters, standing ready around the corner from the Republican headquarters, just in case. I will never forget that.

Dog-tired and dragging, we made it back to the Castro just before the first wave of protesters returned. Everyone, even the police, looked spent.

I thought that everyone would just call it a night and start for home, but as the last group approached Castro at 17th, something very curious happened. Many of the marchers, in a quiet yet very determined way, sat down full-circle in the middle of the intersection and joined hands in a show of unity. The grips looked strong, their faces resolute, as they remained for a few extra minutes in locked defiance. I will never forget that.

Now that the election is over, we've got a chance to catch up on our fun-time activities. And there are certainly plenty of them in our town.

Coming up on Dec. 6 at the Great American Music Hall will be "Wings of Shelter," a benefit for women living with AIDS starring Chris Williamson, Tret Fure, Betsy Rose, Marga Gomez, the Dance Brigade, Maria Cora, and Susan Freundlich, who will be signing for the hearing-impaired.

The performers have all donated their time, and proceeds from the benefit will provide emergency funding, housing, and child care for women with AIDS in S.F. and the East Bay. Tickets are

available at the box office or any BASS ticket center.

Two of the organizers for this event, Sylvia Perez and Fran Peavey, were at the Artemis Cafe last Saturday night for another benefit. This time it was a group of new and promising women musicians trying to raise money for Theatre Engage, a new playwrights' theater. Among the many performers were folk-rockers Lois Kirby and Gretchen Koch, as well as rhythm-and-blues singer Chrystal Cleer-Holman and her many friends from MCC.

Also that evening, up the street at Amelia's, it was *Happy Hour* with K.D. Lang, the crazy country-music powerhouse who has taken the nation by storm. *Happy Hour* is a rowdy video combo of greatest hits, as performed on a medley of stages from the Juno Music Awards, where Lang was named the best female vocalist of 1987, to the *Johnny Carson Show* (they call that bravado) to a backstage recording session with Nashville's greatest ladies of C&W, where Lang's butch haircut may stand apart from the others, but their voices blend in sweet harmony.

Amelia's was packed to the fringes with K.D. fans and memorabilia that had been provided by Jacquie Protts and the newly formed K.D. Lang Fan Club. If you're interested in joining the club or would like to lobby for another showing of the *Happy Hour* with K.D. Lang video, please call 530-6604 and get your dancing boots ready.

Amelia's will be celebrating its tenth anniversary on Saturday, Nov. 19, at 9 p.m. Everyone is invited to come on out and party. And tonight at 9, enter the Blue Zone, a new club for women and friends, at 16th and Deharo.

As always, there's just one more thing. Send me your notices of upcoming events, meetings, and activities to the B.A.R., and I'll send you my best. ▼

RECYCLE

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INFORMATION 554-6193 SF RECYCLING PROGRAM

Sweet Lips

(Continued from page 40)

Happy birthday greetings to Ms. Red who celebrated it at Ginger's Too on Wednesday the 16th with a bevy of friends and a great dinner.

The Rendezvous on Polk Street now has a restaurant open with the world famous Black Beauty doing the honors in the kitchen, so drop by and give them a try.

Welcome home to Jay Ethyl Noonan who has been in New York (again) for a needed vacation and to catch up on the shows.

Thank you Talven, not only for the welcome home card but for the lovely Christmas ornament from Neiman's. You are always so thoughtful.

Helen Trent is still holding forth on the planks at the Kokpit on Sundays and doing a great job. Helen, you are to be congratulated for all your work on cutting hair for the AIDS patients. You are great.

Memo to Mr. Marcus: Is it true that S&M really stands for Sequins and Mascara? I only overheard it at a S. of M. bar, honey.

On the 19th of November the Imperial Court of the Shaky Quake Empire will present a fundraiser beer bust at the S.F. Eagle at 3 p.m.; food, fun, and beer—hi Chuckles.

Sunday the 20th Vinnie will present a Teddy Bear auction at 7 p.m. at Ginger's Too, and at 8:30 p.m. Ginger St. John does Ginger's Too—a one-man drag show. She was a member of the cast of *Puttin' On the Glitz* for nine months and does a fabulous show that shouldn't be missed. "Relatives of Famous Dead Women" is the title of the show, so come on down.

The Galleon is also open for a special Thanksgiving dinner. For more info call 431-0253 because reservations are a must. One dollar from each dinner will be donated to AIDS-related organizations by Pat Montclair and Jerry Coletti—a nice gesture.

The Mint staff cordially invites you to its 1st anniversary party on Saturday the 19th from 6 p.m. on with a show at 8 p.m. featuring Stephanie Miller and the Vocal Minority, so give Stanley Boyd at The Mint a call for more info.

And now for the best news: Emperor Steven Rascher and Empress Lily Street and the Imperial Board of Trustees present Coronation 1989, an evening of Imperial Telephone Fantasy, 976-HMMM, on Feb. 25, 1989 at the Giftcenter Pavilion at 7 p.m. Tickets are available at ALL Headlines stores, so make your reservations early because this should be a biggie. I, for one, don't intend to miss it.

It seems as if the Yacht Club on upper Polk Street is getting a great crowd of people lately, and some of them are really interesting, so when in the neighborhood do drop in and have a libation, right Tony Lasagna?

Have you see the new neon look that is going into the Polk Gulch Saloon lately? A nice change thanks to Jesse the manager.

Here's wishing one and all a very happy Thanksgiving and a special greeting to all of my wonderful friends in Portland, especially Steve Suss of the popular Embers Avenue, and of course to you too, Lucy, of Ray's Ordinary Bar and Grill. ▼



Ireen takes the stage from Tatiana at the First Saturday benefit. (Photo: Scott Martin)

B.A.R. PEOPLE & PERSONALS

People

Drop in for coffee and conversation at **The SUPPORT CENTER** for and by people living with AIDS, ARC & HIV+. Attitudinal healing support groups and activities at 134 Church St. or call Rest Stop, 621-REST (10 a.m. to 4 p.m.) FREE.

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dis•tinction
(dis•ting•shun)
n. eminence; repute; mark of honor bestowed for merit. See: B.A.R.

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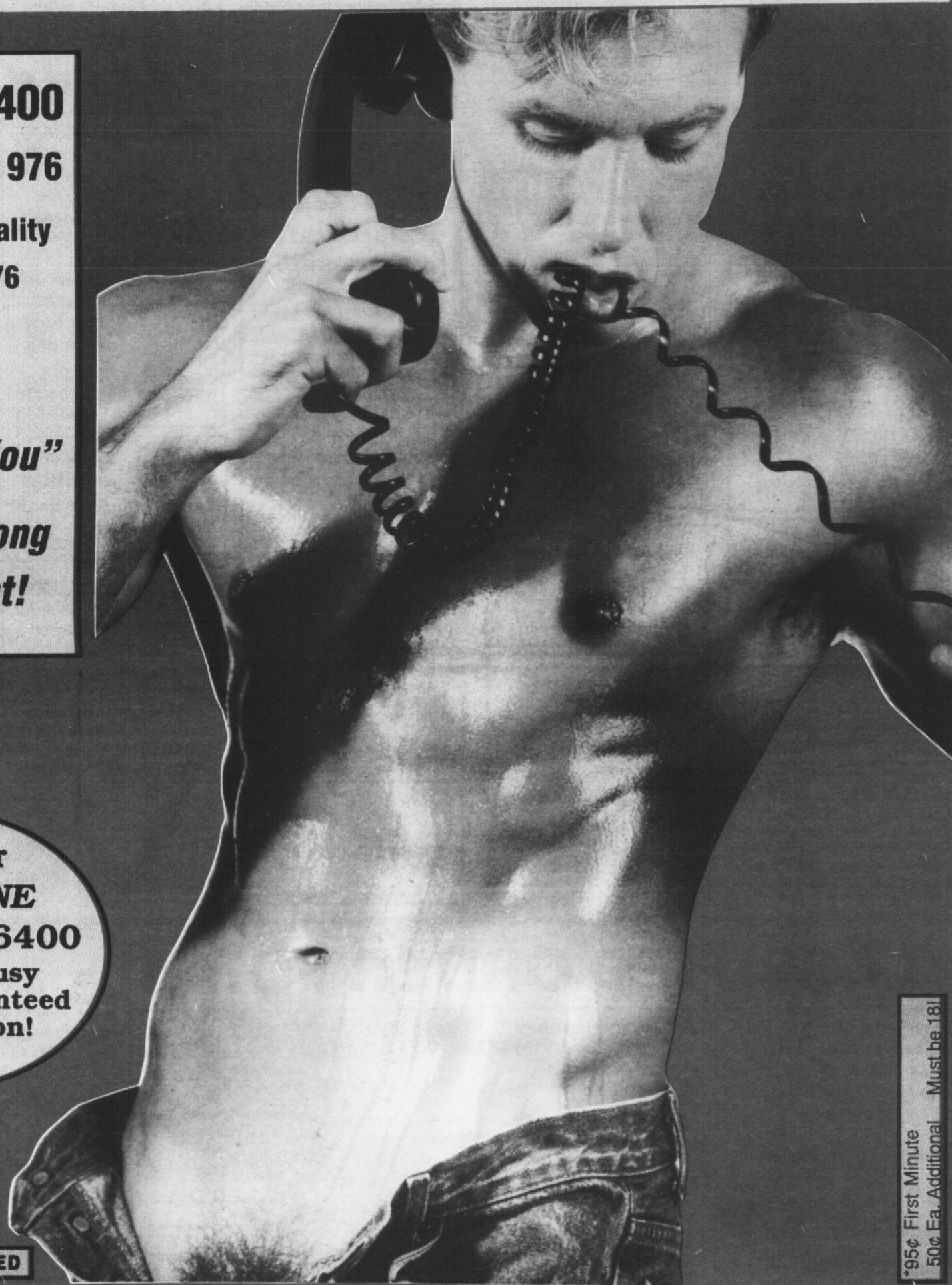
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No more Dignity masses at St. Boniface?

(Photo: Steve Savage)

Gay Catholics Booted Out Of Church by Archbishop

Archdiocese Will Discipline Priests Who Say Mass; Action Called Vindictive; Group Will Not Go Quietly

by Allen White

Archbishop John R. Quinn has told the San Francisco chapter of Dignity that they can no longer meet in a Roman Catholic Church. He also said that any priest who participates in a Dignity liturgy will be disciplined. Quinn told Dignity, a group of gay Roman Catholics, of his decision at a meeting held last Saturday morning (Nov. 19). A stunned group of worshippers heard the news last Sunday night at the Dignity mass at St. Boniface Church. They were told that Sunday, Dec. 18, would be the last Dignity mass in the building. The group has sponsored the weekly mass at the church for four years.

Continued on page 20

Right Wing Attacks Schools as Pro-Gay

Bill Would Ban 'Encouraging' Gays; Group Fires First Round in 'Warfare'

by Dennis McMillan

The Bay Area Network of Gay and Lesbian Educators (BANGLE) is organizing a massive response to the homophobic Traditional Values Coalition (TVC). Along with anti-gay fundamentalist Rev. Lou Sheldon, TVC has launched a national campaign known as SHAPE—Stop Homosexual Advocacy in Public Education. BANGLE and other advocates of equal rights for gay students are fighting to stop the group's proposal in the Legislature.

According to TVC, they have "fired the first round of open warfare... to stop [homosexuality] before it spreads throughout the nation like cancer." Sheldon militarily refers to California as "the beachhead" where the battle must begin.

BANGLE, on the other hand, sees TVC, SHAPE, and Sheldon as the only real cancerous spread that must be eradicated.

Sheldon has been sending letters to would-be supporters of SHAPE, using the fear tactic of the old mythology of gay men as pedophiles trying to lure boys into their lifestyle.

He illustrates his argument with an emotionally charged, melodramatic tale of "a sordid affair [of a young student] with a counselor, and to this day the student is still in the homosexual lifestyle."

Sheldon rages, "It tears me

apart to think about the heart-broken mother [of the student], and I'm mad. We're locked in a battle with one of the most pernicious evils in our society—homosexuality."

The Contra Costa County Human Relations Commission plans to take up the issue locally at their Dec. 5 meeting. The HRC is in a heated controversy, however, since one of its commissioners is a member of TVC and another member is Ken Stanley of Gay and Lesbian Awareness Development (CLAD). As a result, the HRC has decided to take no action.

"BANGLE is very angry that we have to respond to this declaration of warfare," said Robert Birle, chair of BANGLE.

Birle said that this attack directly impacts the kind of service BANGLE has struggled to obtain for three years. He cited Project

(Continued on page 2)

Gay Vote Turned Out Big for Dukakis, Britt

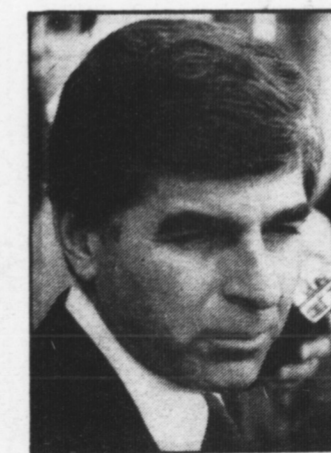
Rallying Against Prop. 102, Gay Precincts Went to Polls Above City Average

by David Binder

A precinct analysis of the Nov. 8 election results show that gay and lesbian voters turned out to vote in higher proportions—and more likely for Michael Dukakis—than the rest of the city. The analysis examined the top 35 precincts that have a history of supporting openly gay and lesbian candidates. These precincts are located in the Castro, Buena Vista Park area, Duboce Triangle, north Mission, Hayes Valley, the Haight, Twin Peaks, and Noe Valley.

The analysis estimates that 71 percent of those registered in the gay and lesbian precincts voted on Nov. 8, compared to 67 percent citywide. The Eureka Valley/Upper Market neighborhood is estimated to have had a 76 percent voter turnout, second only to Lake Merced among the 21 neighborhoods assigned by the registrar of voters' office.

The gay and lesbian precincts were more supportive of Michael



Gov. Michael Dukakis.

(Photo: Scott Martin)

Dukakis for president in 1988 than they were of Walter Mondale in 1984. This year it is estimated that 86 percent of the voters in the gay and lesbian precincts supported Dukakis, while these same precincts voted 81 percent for Mondale in 1984. Gay and lesbian areas voted significantly stronger for Dukakis than the rest of the city, which

gave 73 percent support to Dukakis.

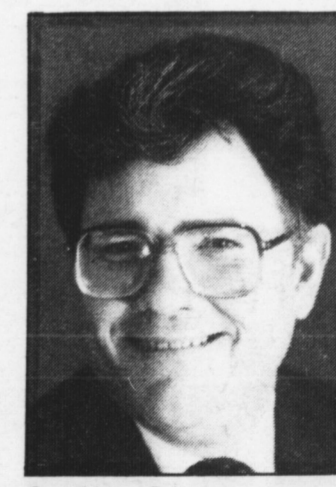
ANALYSIS

Voters in the gay and lesbian precincts gave strong support to Harry Britt in the supervisorial race in which he claimed the board presidency by finishing first citywide. Voters in these precincts gave 61 percent of their votes to Britt.

Lesbian candidate for supervisor Pat Norman finished second in these precincts with 48 percent.

Other candidates with significant support included the two newly elected supervisors, Terence Hallinan (42 percent) and Angela Alioto (40 percent).

Supervisor Carol Ruth Silver received 31 percent of the vote in these precincts, followed by Sup. Willie Kennedy (26 percent), Sup. Jim Gonzalez (23 percent), Bruce Lilienthal (22 percent), and Sup. Tom Hsieh (20 percent).



Sup. Harry Britt. (Photo: M. Hicks)

As could be expected, the voters in the gay and lesbian precincts were unequivocal in their opposition to Rep. William Dannemeyer's Prop. 102. It is estimated that these voters opposed Prop. 102 by 93 percent to 7 percent. Some precincts in the Castro area were as high as 97.5 percent against Prop. 102 on election day. There were no neighbor-

hoods in San Francisco in which Prop. 102 received 25 percent of the vote.

Proposition 96 was opposed by 81 percent of the voters in the gay and lesbian precincts, but this measure was supported among some of the city's neighborhoods. Some West Side precincts gave over 60 percent support to Prop. 96, perhaps due to endorsements by the San Francisco Chronicle and state Sen. Quentin Kopp.

It appears that gay and lesbian voters were strongly opposed to the homeporting of the U.S.S. Missouri in San Francisco. Only 32 percent of the voters in these precincts supported city Prop. S, the measure that ratified the memorandum of understanding between the Navy and the city. Proposition S narrowly passed the city with 51 percent of the vote.

On the other hand, Prop. R, the Agnos-supported measure that sought Navy guarantees of

(Continued on page 19)