

BAY AREA REPORTER

VOL. XVIII NO. 51 DECEMBER 22, 1988

1528 15TH STREET, SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94103

TELEPHONE: 415/861-5019

Dignity Marches Out, Protesting Expulsion

May Tackle City-Church Contracts in Light of Bias

by Allen White

Dignity/San Francisco worshiped for the last time in a Roman Catholic church last Sunday evening, Dec. 18. Following the beginning of the service at St. Boniface Church, a crowd of 800 held a candlelight march to St. Mary's Cathedral. It was also learned that Archbishop John Quinn's plans for a ministry to lesbians and gays to continue at St. Boniface will not happen.

Father James Kyrie, the pastor of St. Boniface, told the Bay Area Reporter Sunday night that there would be no ministry to gays at Sunday evening masses at the church. When asked if he would continue the ministry to gays, he said, "Well, just as we do in any other way. We have all kinds of people here, all kinds of commu-

Kevin Calegari, a spokesperson for Dignity, said, "They don't want to appear to be backing down on their ministry to gay and lesbian people, but they don't have one. They never had one."

He further noted, "They don't intend to do anything. As far as I'm concerned, any promise to reach out to gay and lesbian people is pretty hollow. The archdiocese is not honest in saying they are going to have a mass for lesbian and gay people. They are not honest in saying they have a legitimate outreach. It has never preached the truth to the gay community."

Tom Carroll, western regional director for Dignity, added, "The people who run the church are only human beings and not necessarily good ones. Archbishop Quinn tells the truth when it is

convenient. When it is not, he tells his version of the truth, which is not exactly the same."

With the departure from St. Boniface, Dignity will move to the Dolores Street Baptist Church, where they will hold their first service on New Year's Day.

With the departure also comes a new freedom for Dignity. Dan Cota, co-chair of Dignity/S.F., said, "The gloves are off. Dignity is all too often trying to work within the system, and I think we have made too many concessions out of undo respect. That era is over."

"I think Dignity has to speak out. The lines are very clearly drawn. We have led ourselves to believe that the archbishop was listening. From tonight on, I know that he is not listening, and

(Continued on page 28)



Rest in peace, Sylvester. (Photo: PhotoGraphics/Darlene)

Sylvester AIDS Claims Disco Diva

by Allen White

Hundreds gathered in Oakland's Love Center Monday night, Dec. 19, for a funeral service to honor Sylvester. The legendary gay entertainer died of AIDS last Friday morning in his San Francisco home.

Two weeks before his death, he told his minister, Love Center's Rev. Walter Hawkins, that he was "ready" and began to plan the service. His instructions were to "have church." That they most certainly did.

For two hours, the old theater building that houses the church vibrated with the sounds of gospel music in a Pentecostal service that spoke to Sylvester's strong religious roots. People sang and shouted as the famous Love Center Choir, with Edwin Hawkins at the organ, sang "Going Up Yonder," "I'll Fly Away," and "When the Saints Go Marching In."

Sylvester's friend Jeanie Tracy sang "Never Grow Old" and gave a knowing look at the crowd as she said, "I've got the stories, you know." Tracy had been like a sister to the entertainer as he skyrocketed to fame as one of the world's most famous disco performers.

Jeanie Tracy had been on stage in 1979 when Sylvester gave his famous San Francisco Opera

House concert. She sang with him on the stage of the Lesbian/Gay Freedom Day celebration a few years ago. And as she pointed out, she was the one who would bake peach cobbler to bring to his home when he began to suffer the effects of AIDS.

Tim McKenna, Sylvester's personal manager, also had remarks for those attending the service. At every point in his career, McKenna was present. He worked to produce Sylvester's 1984 concert at the Castro Theatre. He was backstage at each of Sylvester's appearances at the Giftcenter and Galleria gay day T-dances.

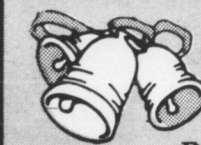
It was also Tim McKenna who pushed a wheelchair carrying Sylvester down Market Street in this year's Lesbian/Gay Freedom Day Parade. Sylvester chose to ride in the people-with-AIDS contingent and use that time to tell the world he had AIDS.

He said, "To our great benefit, Sylvester has left a vast legacy of music, and I know how important this legacy is firsthand. Phone calls came to my office from every corner of the country from fans distraught over his passing, but so very thankful for all his music. They expressed their admiration and love for Sylvester, who they probably have never seen. There have been many beautiful stories

(Continued on page 16)



Dignity's last mass at St. Boniface. (Photo: Steve Savage)



We've Moved

Bay Area Reporter has moved to a new location. Our business and editorial offices are now located at:

395 Ninth Street, San Francisco 94103

Telephone numbers remain the same:

861-5019, 861-7230

Muni lines 19, 27, and 42 all stop nearby.

The Civic Center BART-Metro station and all Market Street bus lines are just four blocks away.



SOLE U.S. DISTRIBUTOR: PREMIERE WINE MERCHANTS, INC., SAN FRANCISCO, CALIF. 1988

LIVING WITH AIDS/ARC/HIV
 • Individual & Couples Therapy
 • PWA Support Groups in a private practice setting
 Vincent Sofia, Ph.D. 210 Fell Street, Suite 1
 Licensed Psychologist # PSY10729 415/621-2962

Mark J. Busché, D.D.S.
 Mark Veigl, D.D.S.
 Stan Ayers, D.D.S.

Personalized Care for our Community Since 1978

861-4864
 4053 18th Street
 one block east of Castro
 Early morning, early evening and Saturday appointments available.

S.P.W.M.!
 Carl Heimann gives good insurance!
 (415) 673-9340

ACCOUNTING PLUS
(415) 255-4530
 "A Complete Accounting Service"

OUR SERVICES INCLUDE . . .

General Accounting Package

- General Ledger & All Journals
- Federal, State & Local Tax Reports
- Financial Statements
- Reconciliation of Bank Accounts
- Updated Monthly or Quarterly
- As Low as \$225 per Quarter (\$75 per Month)

Bi-Weekly Payroll Package

- Computerized Checks
- Payroll & Personnel Reports
- Federal Tax Deposits
- All Federal & State Quarterly Reports
- As Low as \$150 per Month (1-15 Employees)

FREE PICK-UP & DELIVERY
 DISCOUNT ON BACK WORK

Spend the Holidays With Your Family at MCC/SF

CHRISTMAS EVE, Saturday, December 24th
 Candlelight Communion Services with traditional music
 7:00 pm and 10:30 pm

CHRISTMAS DAY, Sunday, December 25th
 8:30 am - Holy Eucharist
 10:30 am - Community Worship followed by potluck dinner
 7:00 pm - AIDS Healing Service

NEW YEAR'S EVE, Saturday, December 31st
 10:30 pm - Silent Meditation
 11:00 pm - Watchnight Service of Hymns and Holy Communion

NEW YEAR'S DAY, Sunday, January 1st, 1989
 Worship at 8:30 am, 10:30 am, and 7:00 pm

THE METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH OF SAN FRANCISCO
MCC
 150 Eureka Street San Francisco California 94114
 Telephone 415-863-4434
 The Reverend James Mitulski, pastor

Moscone Display Draws Smaller Crowd to Quilt

30,000 People View 6,000 Bay Area Panels

by Allen White

Only 30,000 people visited the Names Project Quilt last weekend at Moscone Center as many were examining the focus and the direction of the project. The death of Sylvester and the collapse in London of Jack Caster, the Names Project tour manager, were high in the minds and emotions of many of the visitors to the Quilt, as well as to the volunteers and staff.

It was becoming increasingly clear to many that the primary focus of the Quilt, at least in San Francisco, was not the size, but the individual panels. Names Project general manager Michael Smith said, "The display is obviously important, but where we have had the biggest impact, I think, is in helping individuals walk through their grief on a very personal level. On a large scale, it is important in terms of education and fundraising, but the effect and the purpose of the Quilt is always on making that individual panel."

Smith continued, "Looking at the guestbook pages, we can see there were a tremendous number of people from out of state and from Sacramento, Modesto, and Los Angeles. You can walk through the room, and you can see that certain panels have potted plants and flowers, and you know that this was a memorial for these individuals and that somebody came and sat with that panel for a while and left those flowers as their way of staying in touch with somebody."

Smith acknowledged that there may be a shift in the public's perception of the Quilt. "Maybe that's true for San Francisco, but I don't know if that's true outside of here. You have to remember how different San Francisco is from the rest of the country, how far along we are in the epidemic and in our understanding and our support systems for dealing with grief."

"I think San Francisco is much further along in developing coping mechanisms and ways for the community to deal with AIDS than other parts of the country, so the shift we may see here may not reflect what would happen if we went out across the rest of the country."

The presentation of the Quilt at Moscone Center was one of its largest presentations ever. To give the otherwise barren hall some warmth, panels were placed on the walls as well as on the floor for viewing. As large as the presentation was at Moscone, hundreds of panels remained at the Names Project workshop. Moscone Center is not large enough to contain all the panels in the Quilt.

The Moscone Center presentation was also a fundraiser for many local AIDS service agencies. Money has been raised not only at the exhibition, but also at a concert by the San Francisco Symphony and an extended series of fundraising appeals in the San Francisco Examiner.

The volunteers who staff the Quilt now number over 3,000 people in the San Francisco area.



Moscone Center, Dec. 18, 1988. (Photo: Scott Martin)

Throughout the five days, they worked to staff this major AIDS event.

Last Tuesday evening, there was a reception sponsored by Pacific Telesis to honor the volunteers of Bay Area AIDS service agencies. That served as the opening of the Quilt at Moscone. Cleve Jones announced then that Jack Caster had been hospitalized in London.

Caster is one of several Names Project staff who visited several cities around the world earlier this month for World AIDS Day. The World Health Organization sponsored the event and underwrote the cost for the Names Project staffers.

Caster is the tour manager for the Names Project. He and Scott Lago jointly coordinated all of the displays of the Quilt in this year's tour of the United States.

(Continued on page 20)



The Faces of AIDS display at Moscone. (Photo: Scott Martin)

Checkbook Activism Comes Into Its Own

Gay PAC Donations Are Sought After; Record Amount Given to Candidates

Now that the dust has settled on the recent election battles, one thing has become crystal-clear about the 1988 congressional campaign: More candidates than ever took record-breaking contributions of gay and lesbian PAC money—powerful political greenbacks that helped most of them win their races.

The Human Rights Campaign Fund (HRCF), the nation's largest gay and lesbian political action committee (PAC) and lobbying organization, contributed more than \$400,000 in cash and in-kind gifts to Republican and Democratic candidates and progressive groups during the 1987-88 election cycle. That's 60 percent more than 1985-86 contributions.

But who takes gay money, and why? And is it politically risky for candidates to take such contributions?

HRCF gave more than \$300,000 to 111 candidates running for U.S. Congress from 29 states in 1987-88. The PAC also gave to three politicians who did not run this year or who withdrew from the race. In the 1986 cycle, only 98 candidates received contributions.

Of special note is the fact that HRCF contributed to twice as many Republicans this time, thus building a bipartisan power base for gay and lesbian issues in the next Congress.

Political analysts believe the increased number of politicians willing to take gay money and to support what some perceive as controversial issues points to the progress gays and lesbians have made in mainstream American politics.

"In the past, some candidates considered it a liability to publicly stand up for us and take our money," said Vic Basile, HRCF executive director, "and some still do. But the fact that 81 percent of the candidates we supported won—some by landslide margins—is a sound argument that gay money is an enhancement, not a hindrance."

Basile also noted that, with the exception of Sen. Lowell Weicker (R-CT), no co-sponsor of the gay and lesbian civil rights bill in the House or Senate lost his or her reelection.

HRCF contributed to 12 candidates running for U.S. Senate and 99 for the House. Ninety-one were winners, while 20 lost.

Other facts about who took lesbian and gay dollars:

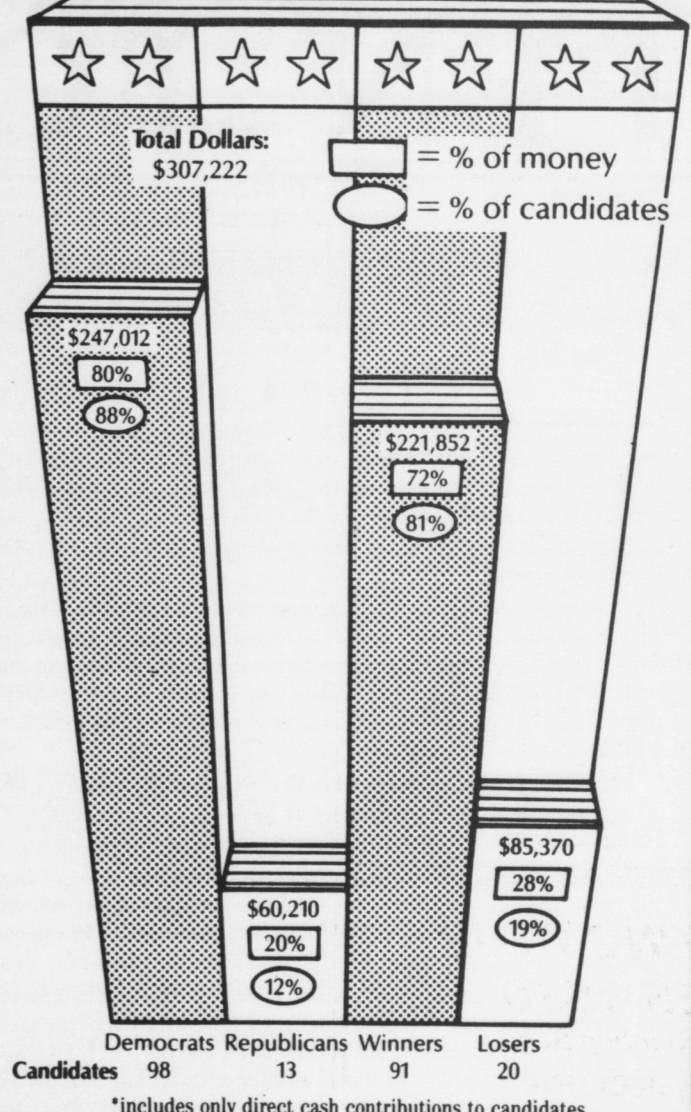
- Thirteen Republican candidates received 20 percent of HRCF's total contributions.
- Eighty-three of the total number of candidates were incumbents, while 15 were challengers, and 13 vied for open seats.
- Thirty-eight of the candidates were from the West, 17 from New England, 26 from the mid-Atlantic, 9 from the South, and 21 from the Midwest.
- Thirty-four women candidates received HRCF funds, as did 18 black candidates.

Congresswoman Connie Morella (R-MD), the only Republican woman and one of only four Republicans to co-sponsor the gay and lesbian civil rights bill, won her reelection bid for Congress by a sizable margin. HRCF contributed \$6,000 to her campaign.

Nita Lowey (D-NY) won an upset victory over Republican incumbent Joseph DiGuardi. Lowey has pledged to co-sponsor

Where the Money Went

HRCF 1987-88 Political Contributions*



Basile. "There is power behind lesbian and gay money. It provides us with a tangible way of helping people who are our political allies and friends."

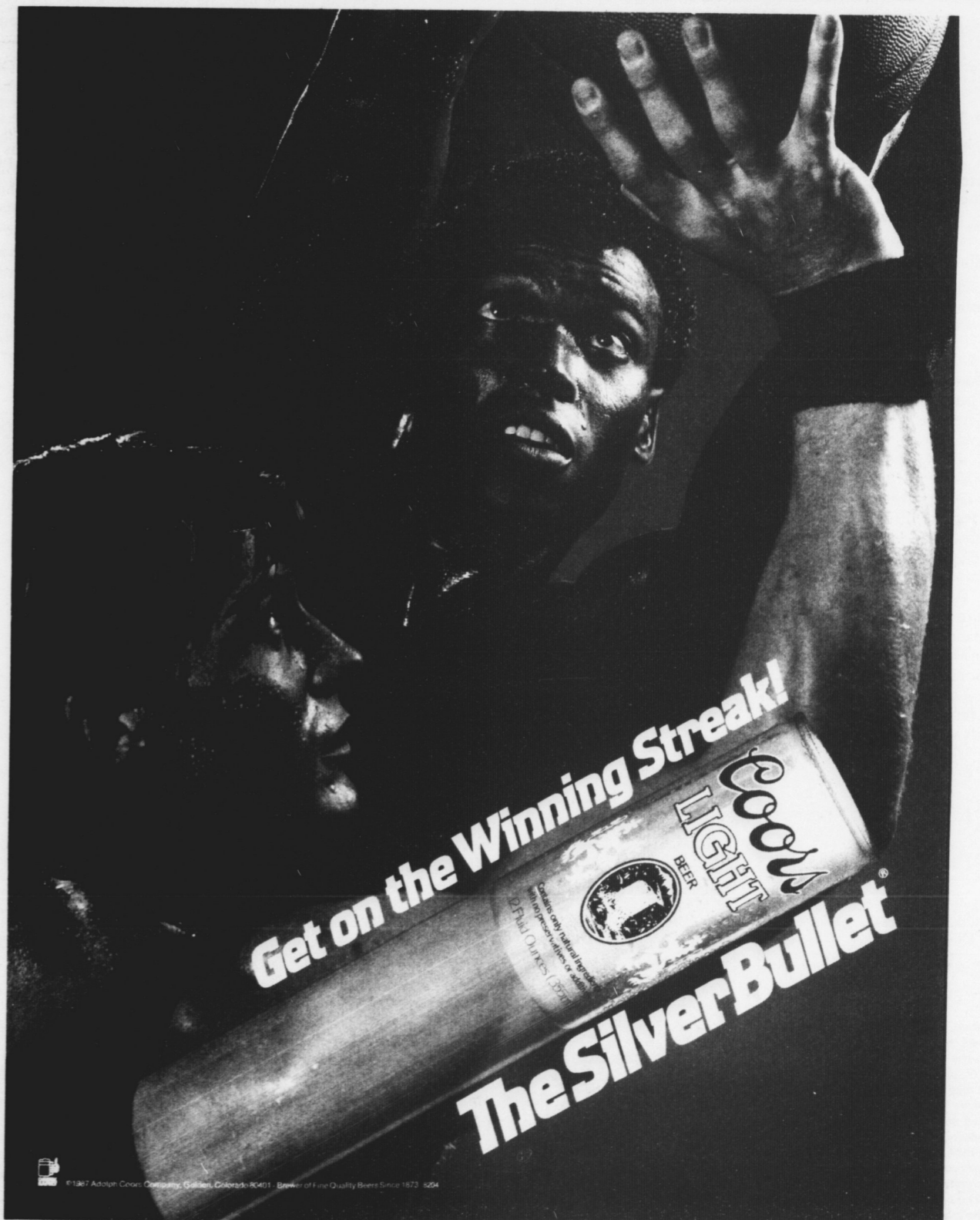
HRCF gave \$10,000 to key Republican Sen. Lowell Weicker, long an advocate of AZT subsidies and other AIDS issues. Weicker's loss is considered irreplaceable to the gay and lesbian community and a serious blow to responsible AIDS legislation.

On the victorious side, many HRCF candidates trounced their opponents. Congressmen Barney Frank (D-MA) and Gerry Studds (D-MA) both won their reelection bids by near-landslides for the first and third times, respectively, as openly gay candidates.

And then there's the enemy. Fighting notoriously homophobic Sen. Jesse Helms (R-NC) took a big chunk of gay PAC money. With an eye to his 1990 Senate race, HRCF spent about \$66,000 in advertising and lobbying that helped overturn or weaken numerous "killer" amendments Helms tried to attach to federal AIDS legislation.

Furious, the senator fired off a letter to HRCF saying he "was obliged to observe that if I were asked to choose the one organization in America which I would most prefer to attack me, the Human Rights Campaign Fund would win in a walk."

All told, direct and in-kind contributions to candidates, independent expenditures (including anti-Helms costs), and support to other PACs topped \$400,000.



CALIFORNIA BEVERAGE415-647-0306
 GOLDEN GATE DIST.....415-892-6949
 JOE MORGAN BEVERAGE CO....415-471-4322
 COORS WEST.....415-367-7070



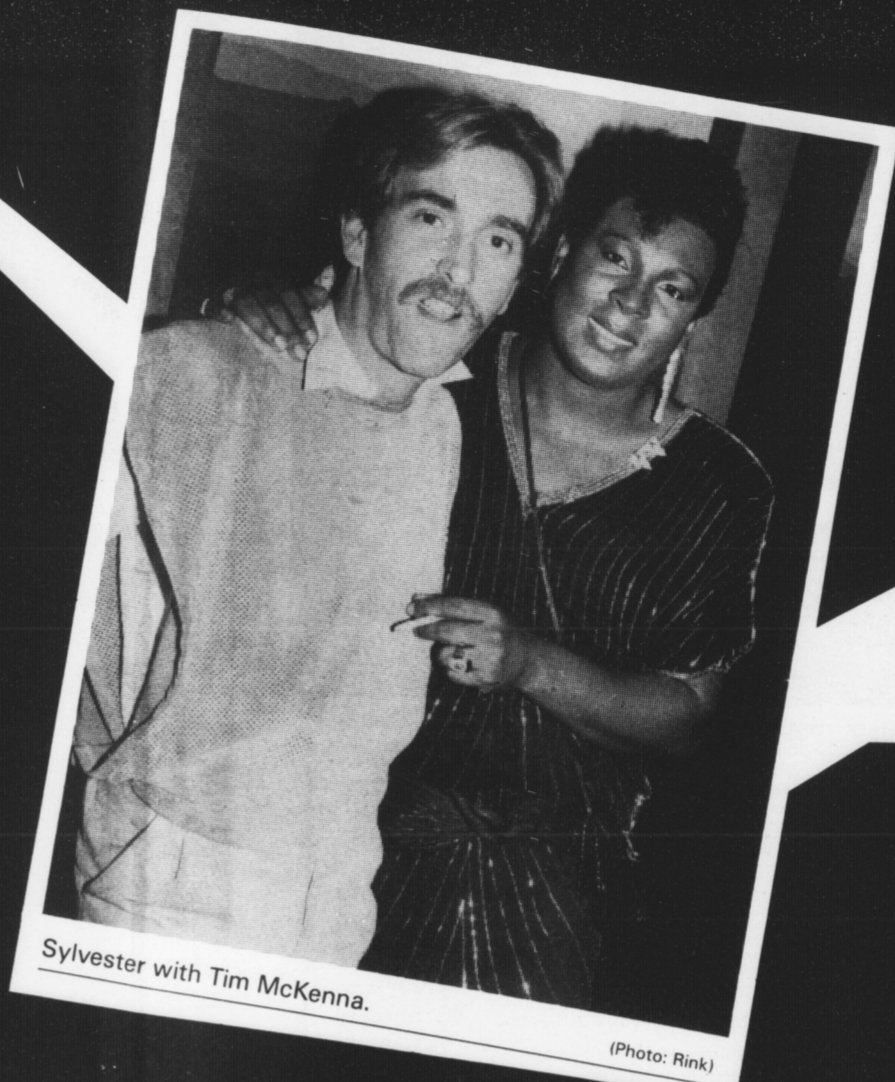
Sylvester and his gold record.

(Photo: Steve Savage)



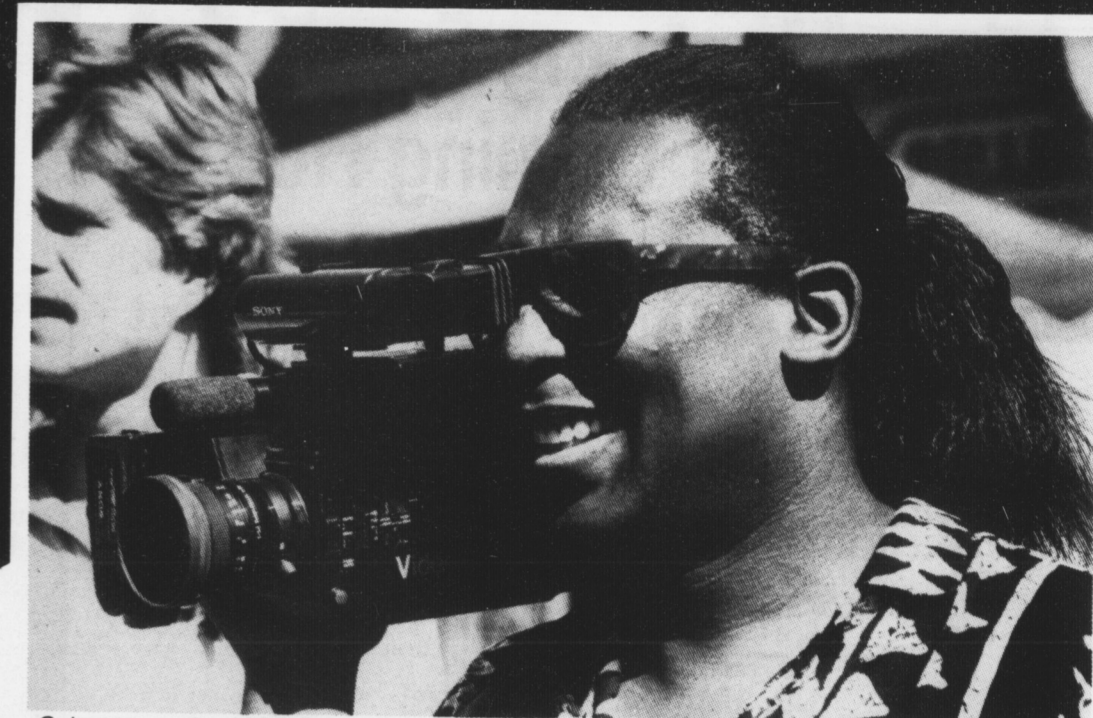
Sylvester at the La Cage Aux Folles benefit.

(Photo: R. Pruzan)



Sylvester with Tim McKenna.

(Photo: Rink)



Sylvester at the 1987 Castro Street Fair.

(Photo: PhotoGraphics/Darlene)



Sylvester at the 1984 Democratic convention.

(Photo: R. Pruzan)

Sylvester

(Continued from page 1)

of how one of his songs became so important in their lives. It came through—joy, hope, love, fun, it all came through in his music."

McKenna, who has directed most of Sylvester's professional career, also commented, "I've

said it before: If I had to know just one person in my lifetime, it would be Sylvester."

Also sitting in the packed church was Tip Werrick. He had collaborated on most of the records featuring Sylvester. It was Tip Werrick who, with Sylvester, wrote "You Make Me Feel Mighty Real" and "Dance (Disco Heat)." It was Werrick who was with him in every recording studio or live performance.

Sitting next to Tip Werrick was Marty Blecman. Blecman was a disc jockey at '70s disco dance palaces like the City and Alfie's when he first began to know Sylvester. Blecman went on to produce some of his greatest records and, with the late Patrick Cowley, founded Megatone Records.

There were many in the church who were a part of Sylvester's remarkable career, such as Fuqua, his producer at Fantasy Records,

and Eric Nielsen, one of those responsible for making the Opera House concert a reality.

And there were his fans. Some gay, others straight, together they participated in a Pentecostal service that was remarkable for its absence of being judgmental. Rev. Hawkins strongly declared, "Tragedy is not a punishment from God." To rousing applause, he made clear to all that "AIDS is not God's punishment."

During the final moments, the lid on the casket was opened. Lying in a red kimono, Sylvester was being seen for the last time. Sitting nearby as the hundreds filed by was Letha Hurd. Hurd was Sylvester's mother, and she had been praised through the entire evening for her concern, not only for her son, but for his many friends.

The primarily black congregation was joined by members of ACT UP/San Francisco, the reigning queens from the Tenderloin, porn stars, and entertainers from the full gamut of the gay experience. They came to remember and to honor an entertainment

legend and a truly historical person in the gay rights movement.

Sylvester and Sup. Harvey Milk are possibly the two most recognized figures to emerge from the gay movement that had its foundations in San Francisco and particularly in the Castro. Sylvester had always been completely open and straightforward about his sexuality and had become an unofficial ambassador for the gay community around the world.

His views on bigotry in a community dealing with prejudice and unity were well known. The singer lost one of his major recording offers because of his refusal to hide the fact that he was gay. He once stopped a concert when he learned there was a racist door policy.

The entertainer has given many performances for San Francisco's gay community. Last year he gave a fundraising benefit for Harry Britt in his run for Congress. He appeared at the San Francisco Band Foundation's annual "You and the Night and



(Photo: R. Pruzan)



Sylvester with Leo Ford at the 1984 Cable Car Awards.

(Photo: R. Pruzan)

the Music' presentations at the Fairmont Hotel. For the last several years, he appeared at AIDS fundraisers across the United States, Europe, and in Australia.

One of his last performances in San Francisco was in September for the Gay Softball World Series dance. The night before, his lover, Rick Krammer, had died. The same weekend, he performed for a birthday party in his honor at the I-Beam.

Sylvester was first admitted to the hospital last December. The reason given at the time was that he had infected sinuses. He had just returned to San Francisco from Philadelphia, where he had performed for an AIDS benefit. He would never perform again.

Sylvester was buried Wednesday, Dec. 21, in Inglewood Park Cemetery in Inglewood, California.

DIGNITY/San Francisco

Come out for Christmas!

Midnight Mass

EVERETT MIDDLE SCHOOL

450 CHURCH STREET/17TH
11:45 PM, DECEMBER 24

INCLUSIVE LANGUAGE/SIGNED FOR THE HEARING IMPAIRED
For information call 255-9244

if you've been away from church for a long time... or the church has been away from you...

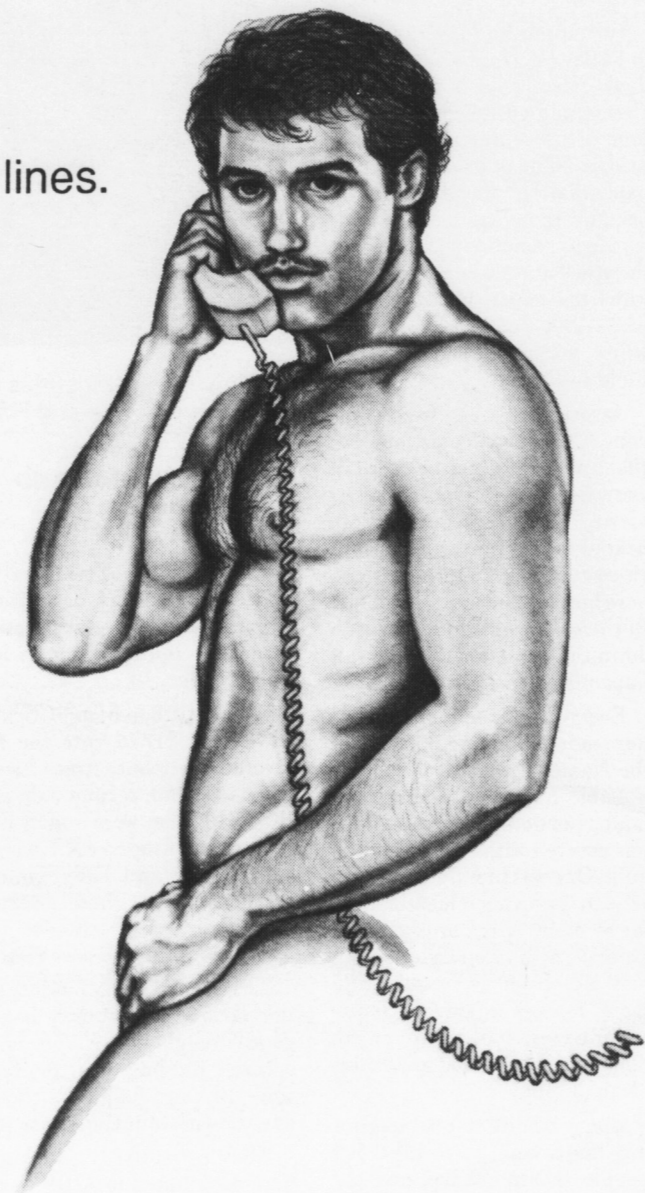
This Christmas join us at Saint Francis
~candlelight eucharist & carols
christmas eve ~ 11:30 pm.
christmas day ~ 11 a.m.
~st. francis lutheran church
152 church st. (north of market)
621.2635

WE'RE STILL

THE RIGHT CONNECTION

California's Original Party Lines For Men Are Still The Best!

- We're well established and have thousands of men calling each day, so your chances of connecting with other men are greater on our party line than on newer lines.
- Talk With Other Hot Men Live!
No recordings! No Actors!
- The fun, safe and exciting new way to meet other men without leaving your home or office!



- Each call discreetly billed to your phone bill. Anonymity guaranteed!
- Only \$2 per call*

IN SAN FRANCISCO:
415-976-6767

IN LOS ANGELES:
213-976-3050

IN SAN DIEGO & PALM SPRINGS:
619-976-GAYS

EN ESPANOL:
213-976-C-I-T-A

* This call is only \$2 per call in most of the 213, 415, and 619 area codes. Matching is random and you may not hear another caller and yet still be charged. Call at peak night times to avoid unwanted charges. Additional toll charges may apply in some areas.

BAY AREA REPORTER ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Back From the Grave

Peter Stack Brings His Outrageous 'Dead Marilyn' to S.F.

by Dennis McMillan

A multi-media, shock/schlock opera, caustic musical commentary entitled "Say Goodbye to the President" arrives in San Francisco soon. Starring Dead Marilyn (Monroe), the controversial act has raised eyebrows and spirits around the world, much the way the wind from that subway grating raises Monroe's skirts in *The Seven-Year Itch*.

Born several years ago as a Halloween costume in S.F., Dead Marilyn emerged from the creative loins of makeup artist Peter Stack (Not the Chronicle film critic, rebellious son of a Northwest rodeo star. With the encouragement and inspiration of the outrageous drag comedy group Cockettes, gradually Dead Marilyn (DM) grew into a bizarre piece of theatre in New York and began touring the nation.

Schizophrenically speaking, Marilyn and Peter are not often separate. During the performance, the audience can tell when Marilyn Monroe is actually present for fleeting moments and when "you are left with a monster, that's me, Dead Marilyn," says Stack. "Dead Marilyn is not a drag queen. She's a zombie-monster portrayal," he hastens to explain.

Full of anger and wanting to release it, Dead Marilyn periodically takes over Stack, sometimes in private life and always on stage, something like a channel or medium. But Stack says DM has never been Shirley MacLaine and vice versa.



Peter Stack.

(Photo: R. Pruzan)

According to Stack, Marilyn herself does not remember much of the dying process. He feels that MM blacked out for five minutes of her suicide/murder, that she still feels alive and now wants the real story told. Stack does not dwell on the mystical white-light-at-the-end-of-a-long-tunnel afterlife, before-death part.

As Stack sees it, the combination of MM's allegedly forced addiction to drugs by the studio, her unfulfilled longing to be loved, and the precarious position she held as a security risk to the nation (those messy Kennedy affairs) were enough to kill anyone. And she's back now to name names.

And sing songs. Although diamonds are a girl's best friend, DM can musically attest with her decomposing flesh that "we all lose our charms in the end."

But not our rage. Audience members will be surprised and shocked to discover that DM is not the sweet, innocent Sugar character she played with Jack Lemmon and Tony Curtis in *Some Like It Hot*, that marvelous movie manual for would-be transvestites. When *this* Marilyn sings, it is with the voice of a stool pigeon, a canary who sings the whole truth and nothin' but the truth (in her opinion anyway) about Jackie O, JFK, and J. Edgar Hoover covering up her affairs with nothing less than conspiracy.

"Jackie has a photo, but she won't tell! She and Jack weren't

doing well! Jackie has a pill-box on her head/ didn't want a scandal but wanted me dead," go the toe-tapping lyrics of one little ditty.

In the serious side, Stack wants to erect a monumental shrine worthy of the former screen idol, not the present day forgotten grave which has become buried under a parking lot despite ex-hubby Joe DiMaggio's best efforts.

"Her estate has done nothing to preserve her memory," Stack fumes. Instead, according to Stack, they have licensed people to use and abuse her image in such degrading venues as cheap Tom McAn shoes and Sears dresses.

The estate, in the hands of executor Roger Richman, is attempting to slap a cease-and-desist order and copyright infringement complaint on DM and Stack. But DM is undaunted and flames on (*Some Like It Hot*).

Stack is challenging her estate representatives (who supposedly take 35 percent for themselves) and her old studio, Twentieth Century Fox, to match monies in a giant fundraising effort toward purchasing a fitting resting place for her.

DM is asking her loyal fans in the gay community to write Mr. Richman and bitch like hell. As DM points out, what kind of agent is this? After all, he hasn't gotten Marilyn a gig for 26 years.

(Continued on next page)

Fierstein Terrific as Arnold

'Torch Song' a Motion Picture Milestone for Gays

by Ron Larsen

Harvey Fierstein's award-winning comedy/drama *Torch Song Trilogy* may not burn as brightly on the screen as it did on the stage, but the miracle is that it got on the screen at all. In its powerful depiction of gays as "real people," as three-dimensional, flesh-and-blood characters not so very different from their straight counterparts, *Torch Song* emerges as a motion picture milestone, a breakthrough movie for homosexuals that is sure to win a wide audience among gays and straights alike.

As the title implies, *Torch Song* is a trio of interwoven plays about the life and loves of a Jewish, Brooklyn-born drag queen named Arnold Beckoff, who is known as "Queen of the Torch Songs" because of his passion for sad, lump-in-the-throat love songs. In the first part of the film, Arnold meets, falls in love with, and loses a handsome, boyishly charming bisexual named Ed Reiss. Although Ed cares a great deal for Arnold, he longs for the stability and respectability of a "normal" relationship, replete with family and white picket

fence, and so he leaves drag queen Arnold for a plain but sensitive "real woman" named Laurel.

The movie's second segment finds Arnold and his new love, a ravishing young hustler named Alan, visiting Ed and Laurel at their rustic place in the country. What starts out as a cozy, "civilized" weekend with two lovers and their new mates rapidly deteriorates into a full-blown fiasco, with far-reaching implications for all concerned. In the film's final act, Arnold is visited by his feisty, shoot-from-the-hip mother, who is horrified to learn that her degenerate son is in the process of adopting a 15-year-old boy. Fireworks ensue.

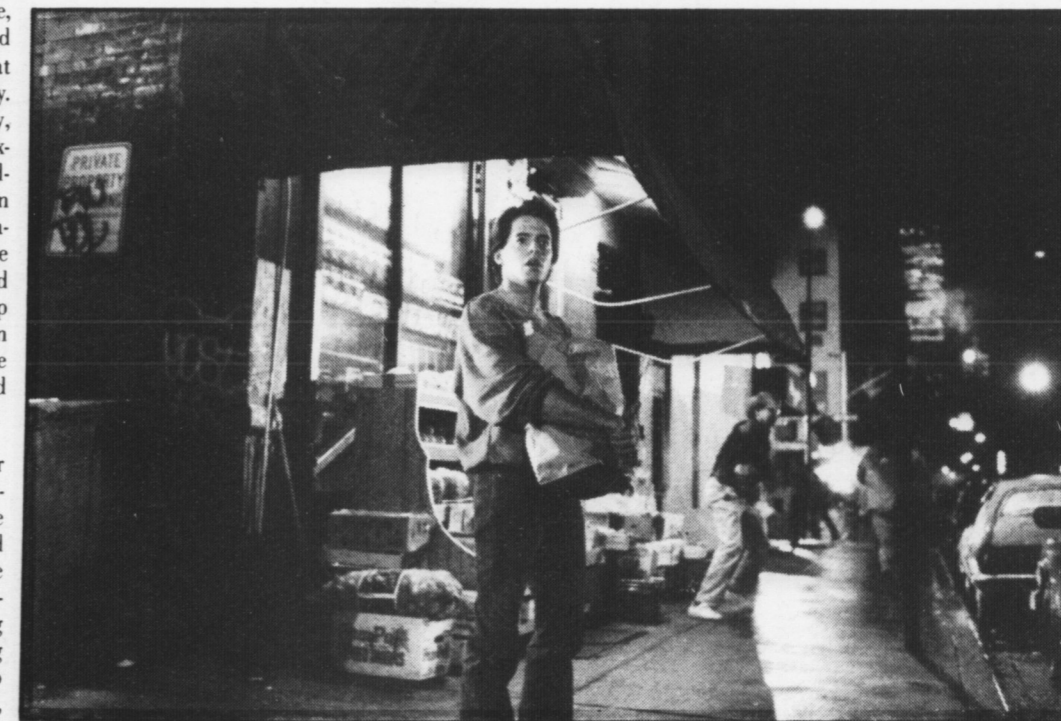
In Adapting *Torch Song* for the screen, playwright/screenwriter Fierstein has altered the play considerably, with mixed results. He has "opened up" the action to good advantage, expanding the narrative, adding many new scenes, and fleshing out the role of Mrs. Beckoff. To accommodate this new material, he has restructured, streamlined, or eliminated some of the old

scenes, diluting the dramatic conflict between Arnold and Laurel and whittling down the characters of Laurel and Alan to the bone.

While purists will lament the cuts, most filmgoers will applaud the new scenes—a telling flashback to Arnold as a young boy, dressed in his mother's clothes;

a hilarious scene showing a group of drag queens shopping off the racks in a dress shop run by an uptight saleslady; a sexy

(Continued on next page)



Matthew Broderick in *Torch Song Trilogy*.

Sweet Lips

Merry Christmas to You All

I must apologize for a goof in my last column. Now that Robbie, aka Helen Trent, is no longer at the Kokpit, the one and only Ms. Greta Grass will be on the planks, besides regular times, on Sundays from noon 'til 7 p.m. starting on the 25th of December. Merry Christmas, Greta.

Flash: The ever popular formerly Polk Street Sally, known as Dixon, will be on the planks on New Year's Eve at the very popular Mint. According to the great Stanley Boyd, he will be doing relief shifts there. Welcome back home to the Mint, Dixon.

I understand that Charpes on Gough Street has catered a lot of Christmas parties this season, and everyone has enjoyed the food and atmosphere of Charpes, so do give them a try for lunch or dinner in the near future.

Michael stars at 1 a.m. at My Place on Folsom Street on Saturday nights, so don't miss him.

Cory Productions is presenting the Miss Gay West Coast USA Pageant 1989 on Saturday the

14th of January. For ticket info contact Cory Productions at 928-5988. This should be a truly interesting event that shouldn't be missed. Yes, I am one of the MCs.

The ever popular and still lookin' great Bill Wales was in town the other A.M. looking for his good drinking buddy, Shep.

La Mere Dusquene is open for Christmas dinner from 4 p.m. on, and reservations are a must. If you haven't been there, the food is super and the service just great. Ask for Laurier or Glenn and you won't be disappointed.

Totie of New Belle Saloon fame had a surprise birthday party for her Russell, and it was a smash with a great prime rib dinner held at the Gate Restaurant on Pine and Jones. And of course Tinkerbelle was there and sat on Russ's lap—ugh.

Notice: Glen Seaholm, please contact Rome at the Gold Room on Geary Street. It involves an inheritance.

John (Donnie-Marie), formerly of the Mother Lode, is now on

the planks at the Wooden Horse on Lower Polk Street mornings, Friday through Tuesdays, so drop by and have a cocktail with him.

The Court of The Shaky Quake Empire is offering a 1976 Toll Saver Activity Pack for the coronation events that will be coming up, so for info contact Dennis Kaump at 798-2807 or any member of the cabinet. Their highnesses have a spectacular coronation planned, and lots of interesting events leading up to it. Your newsletters are great, Phoebe Planters, and you never looked as lovely as you did in your Ms. Claus outfit, Empress Lily.

Ginger's Too will be closed on Christmas day, but will be serving a great brunch on Monday the 26th from 11 a.m. 'til 3 p.m., so when you are downtown or exchanging gifts or whatever, do drop by, and, yes, I'll be on the planks being as kind and loveable as usual.

The Corral, a new and interesting western bar at 2140 Market St. has Mr. Cowboy, The Saint, on the planks on Tuesday nights.



Suzie Wong and Frau Schneider at the Ducal Court Christmas dinner Dec. 14. (Photo: Jennifer)

The Corral is open and doing great.

On Friday the 23rd the Kokpit will present Stephanie Miller and the Hand Maidens in A Christmas Show! with show times at 9 and 11 p.m. with no cover charge, so come join in the fun.

Flash: Billy, the better half of the former '3,' is now working the planks at the very popular Special on Castro Street and doing a great job of it, so don't miss this great and hunky guy.

Have you seen Mueller's Deli windows on Castro? Yes, Bella has outdone herself again, and I don't know how she finds time to start all of the things that she does.

Congrats to Jesse, Eddie, Felix, and Oscar on having their first tree. Sorry I can't make the party, Jesse, but I will be there in spirit. The Polk Gulch Saloon does look fabulous and should be nominated for a Cable Car award.

Don't forget Ginger's Too on Sixth Street is having a great gala New Year's Eve dinner and party. Reservations are a must, so call now (543-3622). It promises to be bigger and better than last year's, if that is possible, so see you then.

Since this is my last column for the year I want to wish one and all a very Merry Christmas and a happy and prosperous New Year. A special greeting to all my wonderful friends in Portland, especially Steve, Dennis, Lucy, and of course the wonderful Mame.

Happy 50th birthday today, the 22nd, to our own Allen White. ▼

New Logo For Int'l Ms Leather

Shadow Morton has produced the logo which will appear on posters, T-shirts, and other promotional material for the third annual International Ms Leather contest. The contest is scheduled to be held March 25 at the San Franciscan Hotel, 1231 Market St.

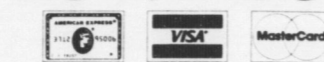
T-shirts printed with the 1989 logo are available from IMsL, Inc., P.O. Box 460504, San Francisco, CA 94146 for \$10. All proceeds will be donated to AIDS service organizations and other charities. ▼

GUYS NATIONWIDE 1-800-888-GUYS

Nationwide Conferences:
• Dudes coast-to-coast.
• Studs who play heavy.
• Straight and Bi-Guys.
One-on-One Buddy Talk.
National Message Exchange.



95¢ per minute for as long as you can go.



Compatible with VisiTel™— Where you *see* the guy you're hearing.

Charges will appear on your credit card statement as "System 800 International #2"

CHOOSE from SEVEN LINES — 24 hours a day ON THE

Gay Action Network

- UP TO EIGHT MAN ACTION
- ONE-ON-ONE
- HEAVY-ACTION PARTY LINE
- SLEAZELINE
- SOCIAL CHAT LINE
- PLACE PERSONALS
- LISTEN TO PERSONALS

NO ACTORS
ALL LIVE



TRY OUR FREE NUMBER FIRST —

415.982.6660*

A BUSY SIGNAL MEANS THERE'S ACTION ON THE NETWORK SO CALL —

1.900.999.8500

LISTEN TO WHAT THEY'VE GOT AND WHAT THEY WANT — THEN LEAVE YOUR ANSWER IN COMPLETE PRIVACY

ON OUR NEW ELECTRONIC

MAIL BOX SYSTEM 1-900-234-2345

YOU DON'T LEAVE YOUR PHONE NUMBER ON AN OPEN LINE!

JUST 50¢ A MINUTE (95¢ FOR THE FIRST MINUTE) • YOU MUST BE 18 TO USE THIS SERVICE • *TOLL CHARGES APPLY • © 1988 NETWORK COMMUNICATIONS

Marcus

(Continued from page 43)
mas. And once again, let me express my thanks on behalf of all the charities we have, for your contributions throughout this past year.

Thanks to all of you who clean up the mess afterwards; who set it up to look just right; to those of you who get the word out, draw and letter the posters; pay for the printing of tickets and buy program ads; for those generous merchants all over town and bar/restaurant owners who donate auctionable items, dinners, drinks, etc.

And thanks to all the little guys and girls who are behind the

scenes and never get any recognition. We love you all for your kindness, patience, generosity, talent and perseverance. Without all of you unnamed angels, nothing would be accomplished. Yes, we all have our differences in one way or another, but we do pull together when it's necessary and you know it's necessary in these dark times. Maybe it took the death of a lover or a close friend to get you out and doing things—good!

Some of the "war horses" in town are getting very fatigued and over-imposed-upon these days. Your fresh blood, strength, ideas and talent are very much welcome so get in there and volunteer—you'll feel so great about yourself afterward.

And whether you get any recognition of any great magnitude, it doesn't matter, does it? After all, you answer only to yourself and you'll know deep down you didn't let the opportunity go by to show how thankful you are to be living in the greatest gay city in the world. And it got that way by your contribution and efforts.

Have a Wonderful Christmas
—you deserve it!



A Holiday Card

by Jay (Ethyl) Noonan

The calendar tells me it's the time of year to wish good cheer with word and, hopefully, in rhyme.

A sleighful of toys for sweet Kenny A: Char and John a festive salad do toss.
Mistletoe for Reba, Luscious (Paul Bentley), J. Randolph, and Bob Ross.

Cheery regards to June and George, John and Mr. Bill Reilly, Tra-la's to Miss Minnie and Rome, Miss P. to Patterson and Jerry. I think of you often and highly.

High kicks to Fred Fudd, Sissy Spaceout, and good Greta Grass. Mazel tov to Mr. Lips, Mrs. Dennis, and Billy Fogelman. Also to Nick and Eddy, hope your new year's a gas.

Rum toddies to Tim and John, plus Draggie and Ed. Please, Santa, send Dixie Peach to Alex and Jimmie. Raunchy Rita—say, are my reindeer all fed?

Noels to Mikey at Royals, the Belles Totie and his Russ. Salud to big Bette B and for Wayne Friday, plus platinum cuffs.

Merry bells to Jesse and the Tonys, one, two, and three. Skoal to Marlena and Jim, plus Mother and Charles, a star for your tree.

On Delmar, on Cookie, on Durwood and Doug, Keep Christmas love bottled up in a jug.

Seasonal glows to Charlotte and Peg, Mary Ellen, et al. Silver bells to cute Paulie, Mike Winnings—wow, there's a ball. Darling Mame, good Dennis, Roxy Darcelle, not too many red noses.

Aloha to pat and Duane, pretty Dee and Greg, and Sandra Dee in the city of roses.

Not for a moment to forget Max and Ali, sly Lucy, Sussy, and Jan. 'Cause if I forgot anyone up there, you know what hits the fan.

Buon natale to good Mabel, Big Mike, and Jerry of the White Swallow.

Seasonal hi's to Mr. Marcus, Chez Lenny Mollet, and Paul B. Are these hard acts to follow?

Please, Santa, tell Art, San Francisco needs and wants the Missouri.

And let's wish, for the Giants, a stadium with the help of Bob Lurie.

God rest ye, dear Craigy and (Ruth) Craig, too.

Bon mots, Harold St. T. Tammy and Ronny, drink your fill of the brew.

A wassel cup full of cheer for Kimo and Russell, "Proust" Rosa and Randy, Randy and Richard, Randy's Johnson, "Der" Humphreys amid this holiday bustle.

Get going, Roberta, shy Kenny, tell Paul M. and Janus to fill your stockings with hay, and then take a vow To share it with Alan and Eddy and Scott and good Candi Cow.

Merry bells, dear Chet, Mr. Jed Lick, keep the hot brandy near For a toast to Garrett Poret, Scott Taylor, and my love Michael Greer.

To Wilma, Ms. Caswell, Mr. Frieda, "Call me Bob Frank!" A wreath of good wishes, my Modesto, Ann Francine—also called Frank.

Happy holly to Ratch and Jack B., Rule La Linsk, and Dick P. To the gang at Charpe's, Twin Peaks, and Gilmore's; okay, Char, that's all three.

Happy channukah lights to Fern, good Patrick, and his Jim Cohen Parker.

The same for Tony and Tim, Mr. Doris and Cheetah, Gary D. in a cozy, warm rocker.

Jingles and rhymes to Mr. Mitch, dear Joy-see, Eddie, Bell P., and Molly.

Snowflakes and warm wishes to Stacy and Tracy and Maggi, by golly.

So at the end of this rhyme are my friends David and Art and the gang at the Stake.

And for all of you who this missive your name did not make, And for those who are gone from our house—

especially sweet Jorge, our Joinita, and of course Miss Mouse—you are in our thoughts with love out there afar.

Good night and love, Mama Noonan, I know where you are.

Merry Christmas, good friends, so long for a time.

Loads of luck and good wishes in 1989.

Third Int'l Ms Leather Contest

On Saturday, March 25, the third annual International Ms Leather contest will be held in San Francisco at the San Franciscan Hotel, 1231 Market St. The winner of this competition will represent leatherwomen at events worldwide and assist in the promotion of a positive image of women in leather and the fund-raising for AIDS service organizations and other charities which is the basic purpose of IMsL, Inc.

Applications are being accepted now. Interested contestants should send an SASE to IMsL, Inc., P.O. Box 460504, San Francisco, CA 94146. They will be sent

an information packet and applications. To assist in planning this event, please apply as early as possible.

In 1988, 12 contestants from five of the United States and from Canada appeared onstage. This year's contest is expected to be even bigger. IMsL strives to provide a venue where every aspect of the leather lifestyle can be represented, and women from each part of our community are encouraged to participate.

Volunteers with energy and enthusiasm are needed. For more information, write to the address above or call Sky Renfro at 552-0616.

Legal Eagles Eye Copyright Laws

California Lawyers for the Arts, a nonprofit organization providing legal information and education to artists, will present a workshop entitled "An Overview of Copyright." It will be held on Wednesday, Jan. 11, from 7 to 8:30 p.m. in the Fort Mason Center, Building B, Room 300.

Marc Paisin, an experienced copyright attorney, will discuss copyright basics for artists of all disciplines. The cost of the workshop is \$5 for members, \$15 general. For more information, please call California Lawyers for the Arts at 775-7200.



Lawyers Take Look At Labor Disputes

California Lawyers for the Arts is offering a program to help artists resolve disputes without going to court. The program provides neutral mediators and arbitrators from the arts and legal communities who can assist persons involved in arts-related disputes in reaching a satisfactory agreement.

Typical disputes handled by Arts Arbitration and Mediation Services, a program of California lawyers for the arts, involves disagreements over contracts, copyright, landlord/tenant relations, the ownership of artistic property, and payment for work performed. Consultations with program staff are free, and hearing fees are minimal.

For more information, call Arts Arbitration Services at 775-7715 or 775-7200.

LEATHER SERVICE
Protect your fine leather from the rains of winter and drinks of the holiday season with water-repellent treatment. We use only the best Kiwi mink oil conditioners and polishes to keep your leather soft, pliable, and water-repellent. Jackets, trousers, boots, overcoats, and all smooth leathers. Shoe shines and spitshines. Limited free pickup and delivery (S.F. only).
LEATHER CARE BY CHARLES
940 Hayes St., Suite 5 (415) 922-8663

Give. WE'RE FIGHTING FOR YOUR LIFE
American Heart Association

NOW OPEN THE NEW
JAQUAR
4057 - 18th Street
(off Castro)
adult books
objects of art
11am to 11pm 7 days

GALA HOLIDAY SHOW! CALL 781-9468 FOR DETAILS!

**Now We Have Your Attention
The Biggest Longhorn Of Them All!**

TOM STEELE WORLD PREMIERE CINEMA I

STAGE IN PERSON!
Leo ★
Kyle ★
Dan ★
Jeff ★
Mike ★
Ben ★
Tim ★
Carl ★
Voe ★
Pat ★

TOP MEN
THE MALE PLEASURE

MEN ON YOUR MIND

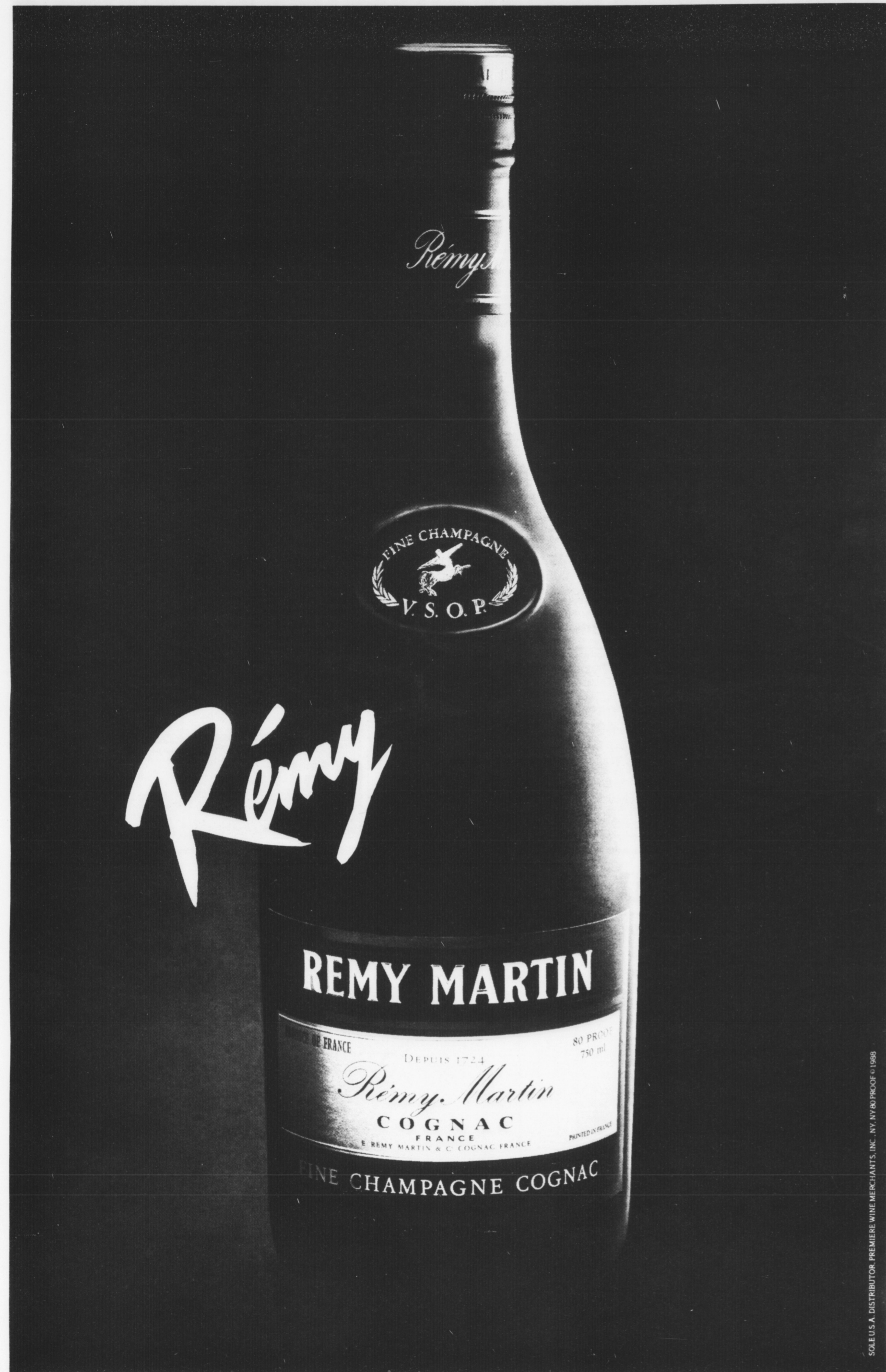
LIVE DAILY J/O SHOWS

CINEMA I ★ TODAY & DAILY 12:30, 5:30, 8 & 10 PM - SAT & SUN 2, 5:30, 8 & 10 PM	CINEMA II ★ LOUNGE TODAY & DAILY 3, 7 & 9 PM FRI, SAT & SUN 3, 7, 9 & 11:30 PM
---	--

NOB HILL CINEMA
729 Bush St. at Powell
Open daily 11:45 am 'til Midnight
781-9468

The management, staff, and performers of the Nob Hill Cinema would like to wish everyone, everywhere, the very best for the holiday season. At the same time, we would like to thank our thousands of patrons for the privilege of letting us entertain them throughout the year.

DREAMBOYS
The Ones You Take To Bed With You
DREAMBOYS
1-800-TALK-2-ME
95¢ A MINUTE
Bulletin Boards Coast-to-Coast! Meet Men Now & Win Cash Too! The Newest! The Steamiest! So Much More! Call Now!



SOLE U.S.A. DISTRIBUTOR: PREMIERE WINE MERCHANTS, INC., NY, NY 10017 © 1988

BAY AREA REPORTER

VOL. XVIII NO. 52 DECEMBER 29, 1988

395 NINTH STREET, SAN FRANCISCO, CA, 94103-3831

TELEPHONE: 415/861-5019

Judge Orders Kowalski Moved to Rehab Center

Visitor Rights for Disabled Lesbian To Be Determined; Court Order Is a Setback for Her Homophobic Father

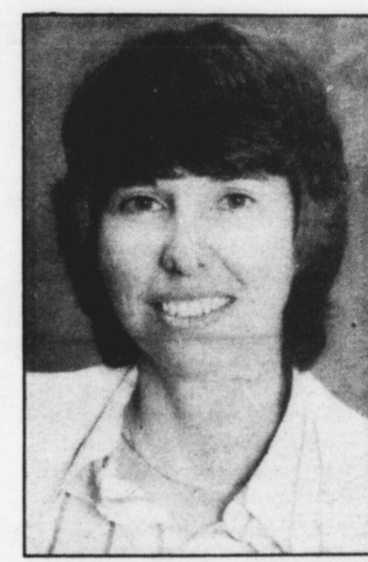
Three doctors affiliated with the Miller-Dwan Medical Center in Duluth, Minnesota, have found that Sharon Kowalski can clearly and consistently communicate her needs and wishes and that she understands the communications of others. The doctors, Matthew J. Eckman, M.D.; Clyde R. Olsen, M.D.; and John Hatten, Ph. D., performed a formal evaluation of Kowalski from Sept. 12 through 16 at the medical center's rehabilitation unit.

Sharon Kowalski is a seriously disabled, 32-year-old woman confined to a nursing home with a minimal rehabilitative program and forbidden the company of

her friends and her partner of nine years, Karen Thompson. Her disability stems from a car accident when she was 27. Kowalski's father has refused to acknowledge his daughter's lesbianism or to allow Thompson, a professor of physical education who has training in physical therapy, to visit Sharon.

Severely injured in 1983, Kowalski has been kept in a nursing home since 1985. She has received little rehabilitation there and has not been allowed to see visitors of her choice.

Although she has been under the legal guardianship of her father, Donald Kowalski, since 1984, this was her first full evaluation for competency, although



Karen Thompson. (Photo: I. Young)

(Continued on page 2)

Complaint Filed Against Use Of Typhoid Vaccine for AIDS

Complaint to State Medical Board About Physician; AIDS Patient Thinks He Was Mised by Practitioner

by Jay Newquist

A person with AIDS has filed a complaint with the California Board of Medical Quality Assurance that alleges unprofessional conduct by a San Francisco physician who administers typhoid vaccine as a treatment for AIDS. Craig Black said he lodged the complaint against Dr. Lewis E. Mehl & Associates following two visits in November 1988 to the doctor's offices, which are located in the rear of a restaurant on Presidio Avenue.

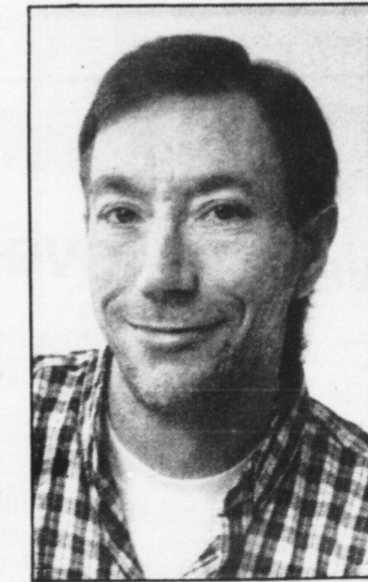
Black made an oral and written report to Mary Ann Boles of the Board of Medical Quality Assurance. Boles would neither confirm nor deny that she was processing Black's complaint.

Black, 36, complained that the then-associate of Dr. Mehl, Dr. Learie Yuille, charged \$550 at the start of Black's treatment, but did not perform certain promised services, including giving Black a full physical examination, taking a patient history, and doing full laboratory bloodwork.

"I didn't even have my temperature taken," Black said last week, recalling that he paid \$120 for one shot of typhoid vaccine.

"The first thing Dr. Yuille asked me was if I had any money," Black recalled. "These gentlemen claim to be professional healers, yet they play on hopes and fears of people sick with AIDS in order to make a buck."

Black, who was diagnosed in December 1987, said his former physician did not accept MediCal or other insurance and, instead, required cash or credit card.



Craig Black. (Photo: Steve Savage)

Black, who is taking AZT, was most bothered when he was given a typhoid shot immediately at his first visit despite the fact the literature distributed by Dr. Mehl said that patients had to stop taking AZT before they could take the typhoid vaccine.

"It is so easy to have our vision clouded by reading material like this," Black said, indicating that he should have refused treatment. But he said he was swept along because he hoped typhoid vaccine was the cure for AIDS.

"If I had thought about it, I would have realized, but I didn't think," Black said glumly.

Dr. Mehl told the Bay Area Reporter that he regretted that Black had had such a negative experience. "I don't know what the problem was with Craig and Dr. Yuille, but Craig was very upset, so I refunded the money he was owed."

Dr. Mehl said that Dr. Yuille no longer works for him.

A photocopy of Dr. Mehl's check showed he refunded \$80 of the \$200 in cash initially paid by Black.

Dr. Yuille, in turn, replied that he indeed was no longer an associate of Dr. Mehl. He would only say he left "for personal reasons."

(Continued on page 2)



Array of Parties To Ring in New Year

by Allen White

New Year's Eve conveniently comes on a Saturday night, and there is going to be an abundance of parties throughout the Bay Area.

The super party location this year will be at One Market Plaza. The event is called "San Francisco Under Glass" and the theme is "Black, White, and Silver." Tickets are on sale at all Headlines stores for \$19.89. Ticket-holders get a champagne toast at midnight and a buffet. The profits will be divided equally between the AIDS Emergency Fund and Project Open Hand.

This year marks a major change for the party scene on New Year's Eve in San Francisco. For the first time in over a decade, there will be no gay dance party at the Galleria or the Gift-center.

In San Jose, the Watergarden is giving \$2,000 in prizes at its 12th annual New Year's Eve Waterbaby Contest. The master of ceremonies is Danny Williams, and there will also be food. There is an additional \$12 cover, and information is available by calling (408) 275-1215.

The Pacific Friends in South Bay will hold their party at the Billy DeFrank Community Center, 1040 Park Ave. in San Jose, starting at 8 p.m. The cost is \$5. Call (408) 729-5648 to ask Chris for more details.

In Berkeley, there is the grand opening of the new bar at the White Horse. The bar has been completely remodeled with a completely rebuilt sound system from Randall Schiller. The disc jockey is Jim Corral, and there will be a show, "The Boys in the Back Room." There will be free champagne at midnight. The cover is \$3.

Happy New Year to all. Over on Fourth Street near Bryant, the newly-opened Hero club will present its first New Year's Eve party. It starts at 9:30 p.m. and goes until early morning. The disc jockey for the event is Steve Fabus, and partygoers receive champagne at midnight and some surprise entertainment. There will be a complimentary breakfast served, starting at 8

a.m. Tix are \$20 in advance at Headlines.

"Shit Happens" is the title of the 1988 year-end gay comedy review. Featured in the show will be Tom Ammiano, Karen Ripley, Teresa Changler, and Over Our Heads. The New Year's Eve show starts at 9:30 p.m. at the Victoria Theater, 16th Street near Mission. Tickets are on sale through BASS at \$15. The price jumps to \$20 the day of the show.

Shawn Benson performs at the Endup at 6th and Harrison. There is a \$7 cover, free champagne at midnight, and male strippers with party favors. There will be a New Year's Eve show at Kimo's, starting a few hours before midnight. Page Hotel presents a lively party at the Box, 628 Divisadero, starting at 9 p.m.

In San Jose, the Watergarden is giving \$2,000 in prizes at its 12th annual New Year's Eve Waterbaby Contest. The master of ceremonies is Danny Williams, and there will also be food. There is an additional \$12 cover, and information is available by calling (408) 275-1215.

The Pacific Friends in South Bay will hold their party at the Billy DeFrank Community Center, 1040 Park Ave. in San Jose, starting at 8 p.m. The cost is \$5. Call (408) 729-5648 to ask Chris for more details.

Happy New Year to all. ▼

