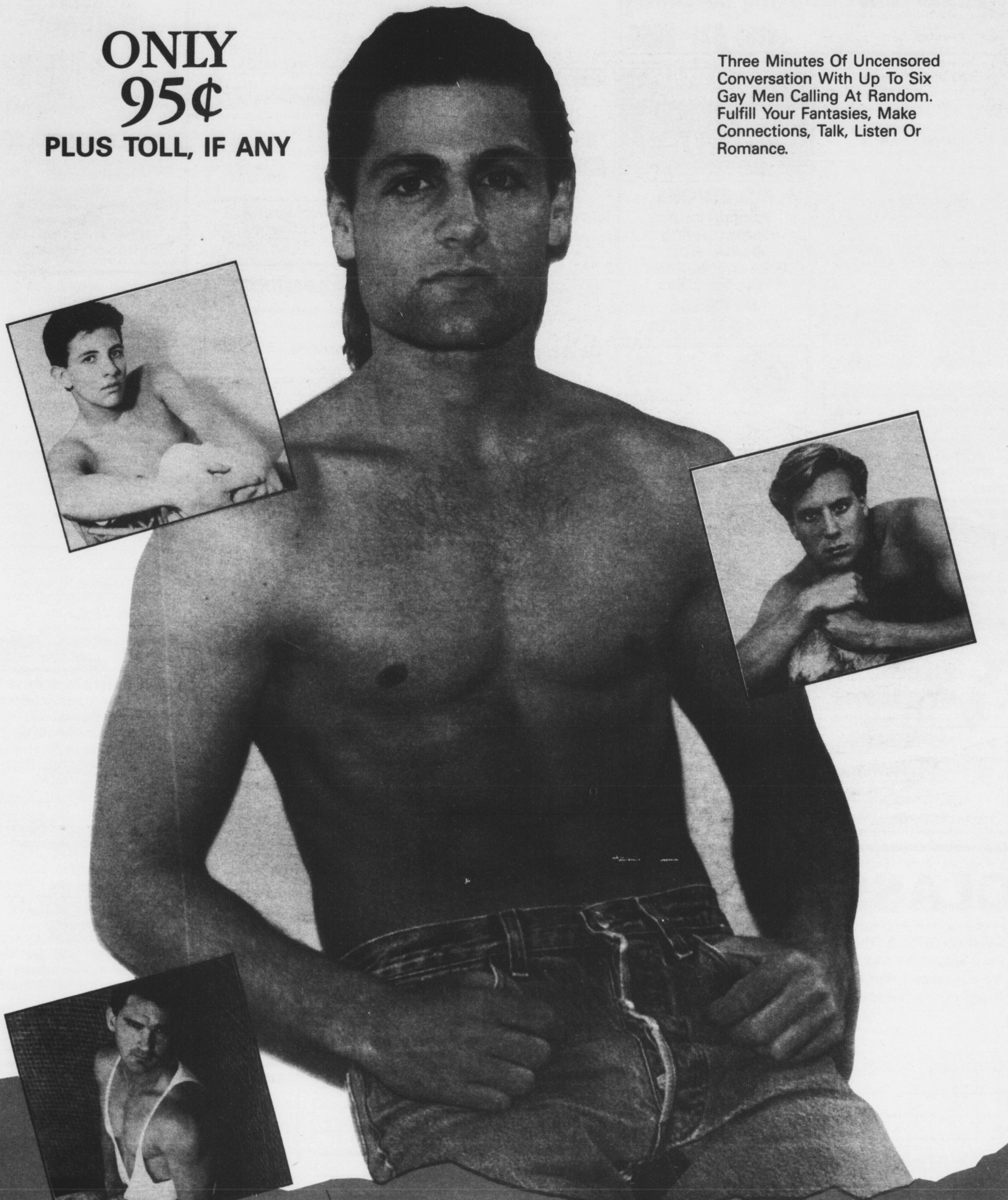


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BAY AREA REPORTER

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Sunny Skies Help Cyclists Raise \$300K for AIDS

1,400 Riders Go 60,000 Miles for Charities

by Dennis McMillan

Fifteen support services for people with AIDS throughout the Bay Area will net over \$300,000 from Bike-A-Thon IV. Saturday, May 14, over 1,400 cyclists hit the streets to ride 60,000 miles altogether and raise funds for a variety of organizations providing direct care for AIDS. Supporting the riders were 200 more volunteers staffing rest stops, directing traffic, and counting pledges.

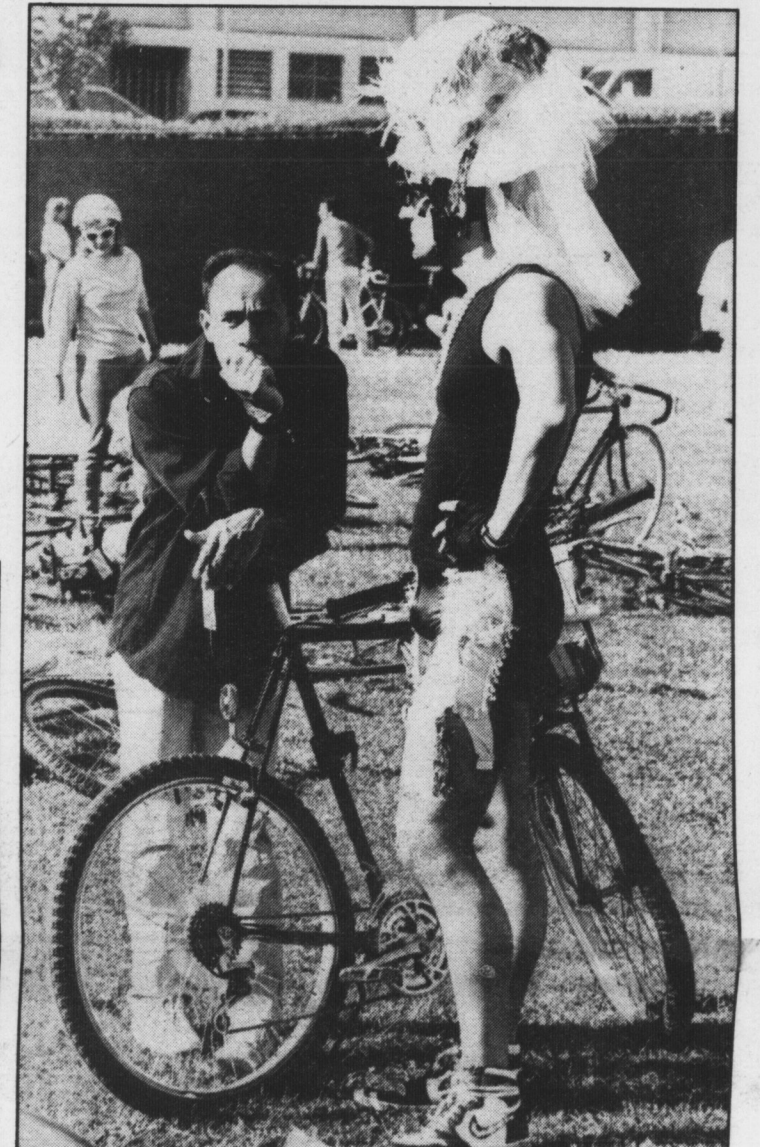
The key word for what is regarded as the largest community-based AIDS fundraiser in Northern California was "volunteer." Sponsored by Different Spokes Bicycle Club, every cent collected in pledges goes to the beneficiaries. All administrative costs are paid for separately.

(Continued on page 18)



They're off!

(Photo: PhotoGraphics/Darlene)



High fashion at the Bike-A-Thon. (Photo: PhotoGraphics/Darlene)

Lesbian Sorority Opens S.F. Chapter To Provide Alternative for Women; Other Chapters Expected Soon

by Miranda Kolbe

With its second chapter gaining official recognition at San Francisco State this month, and a third possibly opening at the University of California in Berkeley this fall, Lambda Delta Lambda, the first lesbian sorority in the country, is on its way to becoming a nationally recognized group.

Elise Waldman and Michelle Mattos, founders of the organization at S.F. State, said they would not be surprised if a dozen other California campuses followed their lead in the next year or two. The two women began organizing the S.F. State sorority after hearing of the formation of UCLA's Lambda Delta Lambda this spring.

However, Mattos added, "Whether or not it takes on grander proportions, this is a great, bold move for gay and women's liberation."

The San Francisco State chapter refuses the term "political" except insofar as its existence may be viewed as a political statement. Their charter includes a pledge "to provide a supportive



Dina Wilson (l.) and Elise Waldman of Lambda Delta Lambda.

(Photo: S. Savage)

atmosphere, community service, and an alternative social environment for women," as well as to "promote awareness of women's issues and gay issues on campus and in the community."

Any woman willing to pledge to this constitution and commit herself to four hours of community service a month can join LDL. "We've already had two or three straight women express an interest in joining," Mattos said.

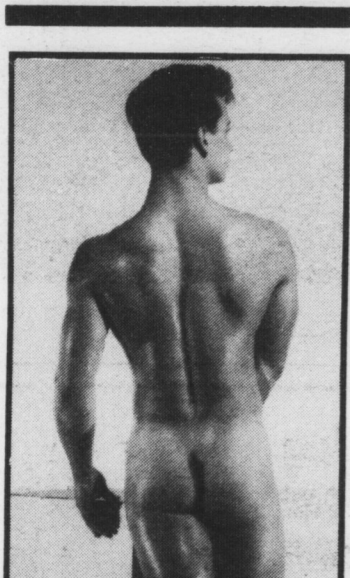
There are presently 14 members of the group, and they expect another 18 to 20 "sisters" when they begin pledging in the fall. Lambda Delta Lambda will accept an unlimited number of interested women and hope to keep their dues to a modest \$20 per year to avoid economic barriers which would prevent women from joining.

"San Francisco State is a supportive atmosphere for lesbians," Mattos said. "It's always been a very liberal campus. We had the first school of ethnic studies in the country here, and the school policies include discrimination disclaimers regarding sexual or-

(Continued on page 2)

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GGBA President Quits In Flap Over Olympics

Members Grill Board on Stand on Issues; Vote to Oppose Proposition M, Missouri

by Allen White

Under a shield of secrecy, the board of the Golden Gate Business Association met with the group's membership on Monday, May 16, and before it concluded Rod Palmer was out as president. Palmer said he resigned because he had caused "controversy" to come to the association because of his personal stand on the Olympics. He had also been accused by several members of allowing the association's name to be used, without authorization, on statements which advocate bringing the U.S.S. Missouri to San Francisco.

Monday night Palmer said, "I am resigning, effective immediately. There are several reasons. I have caused the association some controversy and some press that has not been all that positive for the association because of my own personal stance on the Olympic issue."

Because the meeting was held in secret, it is not known whether Palmer was forced out of office. Palmer insists he resigned, but acknowledged that the board had the power to remove him from office. He said, "I didn't leave in a huff. I didn't leave because I was asked to leave. I left on my own."

The board then elected Dr. Gary Dill as their new president. Robert Barnes was elected vice president, and Earl Mock is now treasurer. The subject of the ballot propositions was taken up in secrecy in executive session, but not in the general meeting.

Palmer's resignation caps almost four months of turmoil among the GGBA board of directors. Their problems started last February with a telephone poll of board members regarding support of Sup. Harry Britt's resolution demanding human rights be a condition of inviting the International Olympics to the Bay Area. The result of the telephone poll of board members was 8 to 2 against Britt.

The desire for secrecy exploded last week when GGBA members confronted and overruled the organization's board in a special general membership meeting. At the meeting, only half a dozen of the more than 50 members present voted to back the board.

Members voted to go on record in opposition of Prop. M, the Olympics ballot measure repeal-



The GGBA board of directors meets. (Photo: Rink)

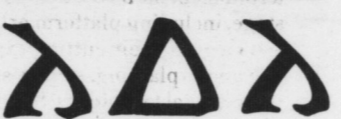
ing the Britt resolution.

Board members also explained why the Golden Gate Business Association name had appeared on a letter supporting the homeporting of the U.S.S. Missouri. The GGBA, in fact, has taken no position on the issue. At the meeting, then-president Rod Palmer insisted that there had been an error and that the name was being removed.

The special meeting was called because the GGBA membership began to put pressure on board members for taking stands that are not authorized and not in agreement with the group's membership.

One problem for the Golden Gate Business Association has been that since the meetings were held secretly, the gay community was not aware of their political positions. As a result, Palmer made personal statements which were interpreted as the position of GGBA. Palmer had been quoted as saying he was for Prop. M (the Olympics issue), for homeporting the U.S.S. Missouri, and against Prop. K, which calls for an increase in small business taxes.

According to new GGBA president Gary Dill, "This change in leadership means that we are putting some of the issues of the past aside, and we have taken a stand on the Olympics issue, as an organization. We will definitely be an issue- and action-oriented board, but we will refrain from endorsing candidates. We will only take stands on issues that affect the entire lesbian and gay community."



(Continued from page 1)

entiation, along with a host of other categories."

Wagman estimates that 20 percent of the student body are gay or lesbian. Both students spoke of people they hardly knew coming up to congratulate them on the formation of their group.

The students at San Francisco State are older than their counterparts at UCLA, and many are involved in organizations outside of campus. Lambda Delta Lambda is attracting women who are not already overburdened with commitments to student gay and lesbian organizations, the women's center, or outside organizations. Instead, LDL is seeking those who are not already affiliated with another group.

Nonetheless, Wagman herself is the co-president of the gay and lesbian student organization and is a leader in student government. She hopes that her position on campus will be a boon to the sorority. "I was elected to my position on student government by 697 people, which I guess means people respect me. People know me as a good person to work with, and I think that will help us to work with the other sororities on campus."

"The whole purpose of the Greek system was to create support networks," Mattos said, adding that she hopes LDL will help the Greeks get back to their original aims.

When questioned about the anti-fraternity/sorority movement across the country, Wagman said, "That's why we're here. We're going to be an excellent example of what fraternities and sororities can be about."

Roots

Beauty-Rama, an AEF Benefit, Features Haircuts, Fashion, Music, and the 'Wheel of Beauty'

by Dennis McMillan

Beauty-Rama, a benefit for the AIDS Emergency Fund (AEF), will be held at Club DV8 on Sunday evening, May 22, from 8 p.m. until midnight. The affair features everything from chic haircuts to cheap models, live music to lively games.

The concept of the Beauty-Rama fundraiser had its roots (as they say in the hair-burning business) in the dreams of two local hairdressers, Christy Keith of Belli Capelli and Fritz Kirk of the Big Tease, who decided it was time for the beauty industry to help in the AIDS crisis.

At first the event was to be strictly a haircutting marathon. But after talking with their friends, clients, and other hair stylists, Keith and Kirk accumulated more ideas, and the fundraiser for cutting hair grew (as it were) into the potpourri of beauty it has now become.

Product manufacturers and salons have pledged money to cover all operating expenses and prize giveaways, so all proceeds go directly to AIDS Emergency Fund, and all that money goes directly to persons with AIDS.

The cut-a-thon portion of the show, running from 4 to 8 p.m., will involve approximately 100 hair stylists from the top salons in town (Yosh, di Pietro Todd, and Hubert Braun, to name a few) offering a haircut for a minimum donation of \$25. This price includes admission. Advance tickets are being sold at the stylists' salons. Walk-in cuts will be available the night of the event. Tickets are \$15 in advance, \$20 at the door, and are available through BASS outlets.

There will be continuous entertainment on DV8's upper level stage, including platform artists showing off their cutting expertise and explaining, step-by-step, their special techniques. South of Market fashion shows promise lots of leather and avant-garde clothing styles. Various product manufacturers will be on hand to introduce new beauty supplies.

Tovar, known as hairdresser to the stars, especially Tina Turner, will be at the show. He will "do some heads," as he puts it.

BIG TOP

A circus big-top tent outdoors will feature the Wheel of Beauty, a takeoff on the *Wheel of Fortune* game. As promised, cheap models such as Doris Fish and special guest celebrities will be spinning the wheel, Vanna-like, clapping hands rapidly and shouting, "big mousse... big mousse... big mousse." Rather than offering typical Wheel of Fortunian prizes like ceramic Afghan dog statues and imitation brass umbrella stands, Wheel of Beauty will graciously bestow its winners with dinners out and fabulous beauty products.

Starting at 8 p.m., Beauty-Rama will provide dancing to the live music of Bammie winner Bonnie Hayes, Nashville's Tracey Nelson, Teresa Trull, Norton Buffalo, and Allie. Special guests, "who must remain nameless" according to publicity chair Wendy Miller, will periodically

ARC Support Group

The ARC Drop-In Support Group is a weekly support group which meets every Thursday at 6 p.m. at Health Center 1, 3850 17th Street (near Sanchez), Room 206. No fee, no advance registration. For further information, call Operation Concern at 626-7000. All persons with ARC are welcomed.



Wendy Miller (Photo: S. Martin)

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City Must Act To Stop 'Second Wave' Says AIDS Report

Cites Tenderloin as Vulnerable; Group Demands Services, Education

by Jay Newquist

A coalition of AIDS activists demanded this week that the city of San Francisco reverse its policy of neglect and provide services to the Tenderloin, which may be the next neighborhood to see an explosion of AIDS cases. The Tenderloin AIDS Network released its findings May 17 to the Health Department following a study that called San Francisco's inner city "home base for the sex and drug trade industries."

Rev. Glenda Hope, co-chair of the Tenderloin AIDS Network, appealed to Dr. David Werdegar, director of public health, to implement the study's recommendations.

Those recommendations include:

- Recognition of the Tenderloin as highly vulnerable to the spread of the AIDS virus because of its dense concentrations of at-risk populations who are drastically underserved by existing public and private agencies.
- Establishment of an AIDS Resource Coordination Center within the Tenderloin to make needed services and existing expertise available to those neighborhood residents exposed to AIDS.
- Development of a tiered housing system to enable people with AIDS and ARC to live in the least restrictive, most cost-effective situation appropriate to their needs.
- A massive increase in policy-makers' attention to publicly funded substance-abuse services addressing drug problems. The neighborhood has the largest concentration of intravenous drug use in San Francisco.

"The city doesn't view the Tenderloin as part of the community," Rev. Hope said, a Presbyterian minister with the San Francisco Network Ministries. "We've never been able to get the officials to take a serious look at the neighborhood, so we raised the money ourselves for a needs assessment."

"All the city has to do now is take the information we have gathered and implement a plan of action," she said.

Rev. Hope and her colleagues specifically requested Dr. Werdegar to convene a planning body immediately so "there is no more delay causing unnecessary suffering and death in our neighborhood."

The 42-page report, which cost \$9,000, was funded by grants from the San Francisco Foundation, the Columbia Foundation, and St. Anthony's Foundation.

MINORITY CASES

The study revealed that the Tenderloin represents three percent of the city's population, but contains five percent of the reported AIDS cases, excluding transfusion recipients, hemophiliacs and children.

About 30 percent of AIDS cases in the Tenderloin are among minorities.

The neighborhood also has 23 percent of all heterosexual cases, the report noted, and 10 percent of all gay/bisexual IVU-related AIDS cases.

These figures do not include the many people who live on the streets or in shelters and do not report an address.

In their position paper, the Tenderloin AIDS Network complained that the only public forums or needs assessment on the health crisis were initiated by the community, not city health planners.

"Previous requests for attention and response were ignored by local officials," the Tenderloin activists said, resulting in "band-aid" programs that they said are completely disproportionate to the magnitude of the problem.

Robert Tobin, director of Hospitality House, said solutions in other neighborhoods were found, but that the Tenderloin had never organized itself to act.

"This area of poverty hasn't mobilized before," he said, indicating that City Hall never gave the Tenderloin much encouragement.

"They've never been to the Tenderloin to look into AIDS or drug use or anything," he said.

SECOND WAVE

The proposal for an AIDS Resource Coordination Center was issued to maximize the efficiency and effectiveness of service efforts needed to confront the epidemic in the neighborhood.

"This information and referral program would combine both outreach and intake with a case-management component," the activists reported.

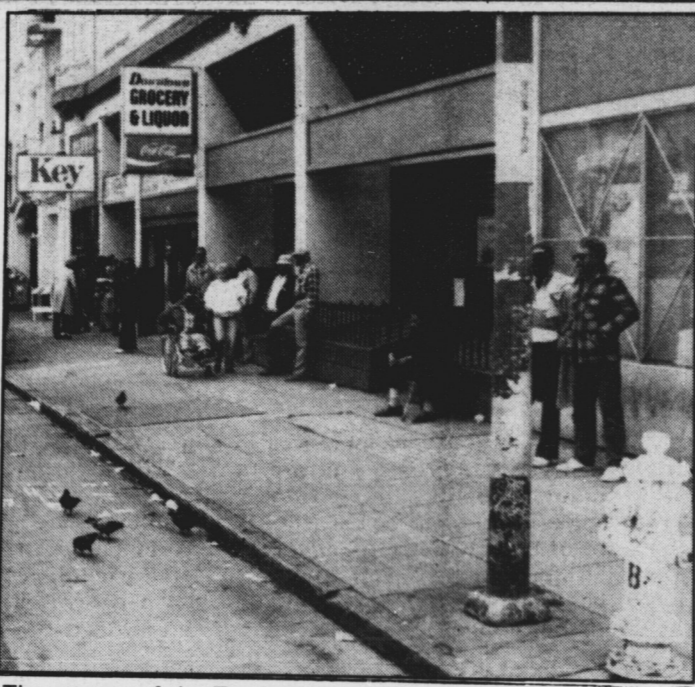
Such a facility would be a focus for education and prevention efforts, as well as antibody testing and personal support services including attendant care, money management, access to transportation, hospice-like living environments, child care, skilled nursing, and legal services.

The report concluded that "San Francisco's internationally-acclaimed efforts to address the AIDS/ARC issue must no longer ignore those left unprotected by those accomplishments."

The report said the second wave of AIDS is shifting to the harder-to-reach and heavily IVU-drug-using population of the Tenderloin.

The largest Tenderloin risk group are IVU's, and that carries the increased risk of heterosexual and prenatal transmission. It added that many women with AIDS and ARC live in the Tenderloin, and some have one or more children living with them.

Another major component of the Tenderloin AIDS Network report was housing, specifically for many of San Francisco's estimated 450 homeless people with AIDS who live on the streets or in shelters in the Tenderloin.



The streets of the Tenderloin aren't pretty. (Photo: S. Savage)

The report noted that some were homeless before their illness, while others have become homeless as a result of economic impacts of the disease.

"Although the Department of

Public Health has funded a residential and case management program for homeless PWAs/ARCs, its current capacity falls far short of meeting the needs of the population." ●

Rights Panel Hit For Bias On AIDS

U.S. Rights Commission Quotes Bible; Refuses To Include Gays In Bill

In sharply worded testimony delivered on May 16 at hearings on AIDS discrimination by the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, Jeffrey Levi, executive director of the National Gay & Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF), strongly criticized the bias pervading the commission's three-day hearings. The hearings have drawn criticism from AIDS activists, the civil liberties community and the gay and lesbian community for being politically biased against gay people and people with AIDS and HIV.

Levi's testimony criticized three biases evident in the commission's AIDS discrimination hearings. Levi noted the commission's overt hostility to gay/lesbian rights, expressed most recently in its refusal to endorse the inclusion of sexual orientation in the Hate Crimes Statistics Act. He said bias was also evident in the proposal which called for the AIDS discrimination hearings. The proposal stated that "Those acts generally responsible for transmitting the virus are often illegal and have traditionally been morally proscribed." The proposal went on to quote at length from Biblical condemnations of sodomy.

In his testimony, Levi asked, "When 70 percent of the people with AIDS are gay or bisexual men, how can we trust this commission's handling of AIDS discrimination issues when its own project proposal carries such homophobic rhetoric?"

NGLTF criticized the commission's stated intent to study HIV transmission issues. "This is a civil rights commission, not a public health commission," noted Levi. "It is appalling that a commission with no medical or public health expertise is also considering issues concerning the transmissibility of HIV. These should not be issues of debate before this commission, nor are they issues of debate within the public health community."

NGLTF made two recommendations to the Civil Rights Commission: (1) that the commission endorse the extension of civil rights protections to gay and lesbian people and endorse the repeal of sodomy laws; and (2) that the commission endorse a broadening of section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act to cover private sector discrimination based on handicap or HIV status.

Levi concluded, "If gays and lesbians have learned one thing in life, it is that we should never give up hope that people will overcome their fear and hatred of us—whether those people are our parents, or, I hope, the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights." ●

Ten Arrested In Drug Price Protest

Cost of Pentamidine Rises Again; U.S., U.K. Firms Vie for Licensing

by Rex Wockner

CHICAGO—About 100 members of Chicago for AIDS Rights (C-FAR) demonstrated outside the LyphoMed Corporation in suburban Rosemont, Illinois, May 7. They were protesting a 500 percent increase over the past four years in the price of the AIDS drug Pentamidine. At the end of the demonstration, ten protesters committed civil disobedience by trespassing on LyphoMed's property. They were arrested by Rosemont police.

The protesters were particularly angry that LyphoMed raised the price of the drug again recently after gay community complaints had been registered about previous price hikes. Pentamidine is the most common treatment for pneumocystis carinii pneumonia (PCP). LyphoMed holds a seven-year exclusive license on the drug.

The day of AIDS action began in Chicago's Loop with a rally at Federal Plaza to protest governmental inaction and underfunding in the AIDS crisis. Protesters then piled onto the subway and rode to the end of the line, where they began a 3.2-mile march to LyphoMed's suburban headquarters.

Accompanied by a large contingent of Rosemont police cars during the 1½-hour walk, demonstrators chanted, "LyphoMed, LyphoMed, you can't hide; we charge you with genocide"; "LyphoMed, you don't care if people die; all you want is a piece of the pie"; and "Arrest AIDS, not people with AIDS!"

When they arrived at LyphoMed headquarters, C-FAR members were surprised to see 40 police officers and a barrage of "no trespassing" signs. In addition, LyphoMed had taken down the large corporate sign on the front lawn and removed the company's flag, which normally flies alongside the U.S. flag.

C-FAR spokesperson Paul



Chicago's C-FAR offered a replacement sign for the LyphoMed headquarters. (Photo: R. Wockner)

Adams said, "Well, LyphoMed, you took down the corporate sign and flag, but we found you, and we're back, and we're not going away until our demands are met."

C-FAR is demanding an end to corporate profiteering from AIDS; availability of all promising drugs to people with AIDS, ARC, and HIV-positive status; free distribution of Pentamidine; full disclosure of the side effects and toxicity of Pentamidine; use of LyphoMed "superprofits" to fund education and treatment by community-based groups; public accountability by drug companies on development, research, manufacturing costs, and pricing structures of AIDS drugs; and lobbying by pharmaceutical com-

panies for a free national health care system.

"The choice is very clear," said Carol Jonas of C-FAR. "We fight or we die. AIDS will not end unless every day, somewhere in this country, there is a Stonewall. As long as we remain governable, we will be manipulable by politicians."

When Jonas finished speaking, ten protesters crossed onto the LyphoMed property and stuck cardboard hearts, emblazoned with the names of persons dead from AIDS, into the lawn. When demonstrators refused to return to the street, Rosemont police arrested them for trespassing. The ten, including three per-

sons with AIDS, were taken to a nearby police station and released within half an hour.

Police were well mannered, repeatedly asking PWAs if they were okay and assuring arrestees that "nothing was going to happen" and that they'd be free in a short time. Unlike a C-FAR demonstration nine days earlier in Chicago, no police in Rosemont were seen wearing gloves.

C-FAR first complained to LyphoMed about Pentamidine pricing on April 4. The drug company responded then by pleading for C-FAR to call off a press conference scheduled for that afternoon. In what some activists interpreted as an attempt at bribery, LyphoMed also offered to route Pentamidine to any persons with AIDS in C-FAR.

The company has admitted to reporters that the constant price increases for Pentamidine are offsetting the cost of a race between LyphoMed and the British drug company Fisons. Both companies hope to win the FDA license on a new form of Pentamidine that is inhaled, rather than injected. Inhalable Pentamidine has been shown to prohibit development of PCP. When the inhalable drug comes into wider use, injectable Pentamidine (as a treatment only for PCP) will become obsolete. LyphoMed has the rights only to the injectable drug.

A single dose of Pentamidine sold for \$24.95 in late 1984; this month the price rose to \$129. ●

Ballot Initiative Would Repeal Confidentiality Law

Dannemeyer, Gann Head Drive To Require Reporting HIV Positives

by Allen White

A sweeping ballot initiative has been submitted for the November election which would repeal the confidentiality for people who test positive for the HIV antibodies. The initiative is sponsored by Congressman Williamann Dannemeyer, tax crusader Paul Gann and a group called California Physicians for a Logical AIDS Response. They turned in at least 600,000 signatures to California Secretary of State March Fong Eu on Monday, May 16. The measure needs 300,000 to qualify.

If it should pass in November the initiative would require doctors and blood bank officials to report anyone who tests positive for HIV antibodies to public health officials. It would also mandate that health officers find sexual partners of people who test positive as well as transfusion recipients. The people would then be notified they had been infected.

Any infected person who donated blood or engaged in prostitution would be guilty of a felony under the initiative. The primary goal of the initiative, according to Gann, is to add HIV infection to the list of 58 communicable diseases that must be reported to health officials. At present, only those diagnosed with AIDS are reported to health officials.

The initiative is opposed by the California Medical Association, public health officials and the gay community.

Paul Gann, 75, is a person who has AIDS. Apparently he was exposed to the virus during a 1981 blood transfusion. Since that time he has joined Congressman Williamann Dannemeyer of Southern California in strongly criti-

cizing policies in California.

Because of the names attached to this initiative, many believe it could win in November. Gann was able to deliver an estimated 600,000 signatures, more than twice the number required by law, to the Secretary of State to probably qualify the initiative for the ballot.

The Northern California campaign against the initiative will be headed by Dick Pabich. He said that the initiative, if passed "will repeal all the protections that people now have to keep their jobs and to keep their insurance."

This is the latest in a series of initiatives to hit the ballot box attempting to destroy the confidentiality requirements that now protect people infected with the AIDS virus. Prop. 64 was defeated last November and Prop. 69 is on the ballot in June, both backed by Lyndon LaRouche.

According to health officials at the San Francisco Department of Public Health mandatory reporting for the AIDS virus infection would not help in the prevention of the disease and would cost millions of dollars to enforce. ●

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EDITORIAL & OPINION

Breaking the Stranglehold

Sen. Jesse Helms of North Carolina may have succeeded in attaching his amendment to ban federal funds for certain AIDS education materials, but he didn't do so without a fight this time. And unlike the first time, when he waltzed away with a victory that may have cost lives, he may have won nothing at all this time.

In passing the AIDS Research and Information Act authored by Sen. Edward Kennedy of Massachusetts, the U.S. Senate has called for a national policy on this epidemic, which has been raging now for over eight years and has claimed as many victims as the war in Vietnam. This bill (S. 1220) is the first piece of comprehensive federal legislation on AIDS ever considered by the U.S. Congress. Previously, bits and pieces were attached to other bills, and money appropriated through general appropriations bills.

If Kennedy's bill becomes law—it has to be heard in the House of Representatives and signed by the President—it will streamline federal procedures in research, unless funds for research and treatment, and expand education efforts. The bill formally declares the AIDS epidemic a public health emergency. This legislation puts AIDS on the federal agenda of national problems to be dealt with forthrightly.

It passed with little difficulty by an 87 to 4 vote. What attracted attention and some heated debate were a number of amendments stuck on by right-wing senators who saw the maneuvering as their only chance to score points with the bigotry they rely on to stay in office.

Sen. Helms turned the debate into a diatribe on homosexuality, deflecting attention from the public health issues. It seems that Sen. Helms doesn't care about the spread of a lethal disease and the loss of life from it so much as he wants to score some cheap shots. Just as ranting about gay militants brings dollars to television evangelists, it gets attention for Helms. Commanding attention is one of the trappings of power.

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OPINION

Prop. K and Bashing the Board

by Sup. Nancy Walker

There is a campaign being waged by one of my colleagues opposing Prop. K and bashing the Board of Supervisors, which reveals an alarming political strategy—at least it is alarming to me and, I expect, to other rational, progressive people.

The ignorance which concerns me is the opposition to Prop. K. If the voters do not agree to allow the city to lift—for a maximum of four years—the Gann-imposed limit on revenue collections, we will soon be in the process of cutting services and laying off employees, while at the same time refunding money to various kinds of taxpayers. This measure has less to do with our ability to impose new taxes than with our ability to retain the taxes we are currently collecting.

Sup. Bill Maher and the Chamber of Commerce would have you believe that if Prop. K passes, we will continue our past budgeting practices of ignoring or manipulating the balanced budget requirement of the City Charter. The battle cry of these misguided and misinformed folks is that the city should "live within its means." They neglect to tell you what that means.

They toss around phrases like "structural deficit." What does that mean? Are they talking about the salaries of nurses, street sweepers, billing clerks, Muni drivers? It would be irresponsible to dismember this city in a matter of weeks. They are advocating chaos and fiscal irresponsibility for reasons that make no sense.

Mayor Art Agnos had made it very clear that he does not intend either to ignore the Charter nor to butcher it in response to this fiscal crisis. It takes the mayor and the board to do business (not to mention the city's chief fiscal officer, the controller). The mayor proposes and the board disposes. Before you buy the distortions, please check the facts, don't compound the ignorance by keeping our hands tied in the face of the AIDS epidemic, the crack problem, increasing immigration, and homelessness, to name a few of the issues confronting us.

The meanness I spoke of is the board-bashing. To read comments made by representatives of the Chamber of Commerce and Sup. Maher, it is this Board of Supervisors which is singularly responsible for the city deficit. No mention is made of former Mayor Dianne Feinstein and her staff; no mention of John Farrell, controller; and Harvey Rose, the board's budget analyst for the past decade, is a folk hero! However much as I may disagree from time to time with my colleagues, I must insist that they are all well-intentioned, hard-working, bright people who are trying very hard to grapple with very difficult problems. Sometimes we do very well, and sometimes we do poorly, but that is true of most people and most institutions.

This is a supervisory election year. Sup. Maher and the Chamber of Commerce say that all of the ills of the city have been caused by the supervisors—no culpability anywhere else among the bureaucracy or the elected and (particularly) appointed officers, past or present. It

But he didn't get a free ride this time. Other senators such as California's Sen. Alan Cranston, Sen. Lowell Weicker of Connecticut, and Sen. Kennedy fought back. Not only did they deny Helms some votes, they may have succeeded in blocking Helms' maneuver from having any real effect. A counter-amendment sponsored by Kennedy and conservative Republican Sen. Orrin Hatch of Utah states that nothing shall obstruct public health education on AIDS risk reduction.

Thank you, Sen. Cranston, for rejoining our side in this battle. Cranston had sided with Helms last October, but he's redeemed himself now. Cranston's remarks to the Senate during debate of the bill and the amendments made a strong case for funding education materials in the candid and graphic style that will get results.

It's unfortunate that California's other senator, Republican Pete Wilson, couldn't muster the courage to go up against Helms. If even fellow conservative Orrin Hatch opposed Helms, why didn't Wilson?

Worse yet, this incident marks the second time Wilson has double-crossed the gay community. In 1986 Wilson promised to sign onto the federal gay rights bill. He's never yet made good on that promise. Now we're told by those who organized the opposition to Helms that Wilson had promised to vote no on the amendment. Then he turned around and voted with Helms.

We thought Sen. Wilson, who is up for re-election this November, was open to being educated on gay issues. But it appears otherwise. We cannot rely on Wilson to support our cause. If he wouldn't stand up to Helms' bullying this time, when would he defend us?

Other bills on AIDS are working their way through Congress. Hopefully the success of the Kennedy bill will open the door for other positive measures. It is time that the federal government really address the AIDS crisis and live up to its very serious responsibility. The stranglehold of the Reagan right wing may have been broken.

appears that my colleague is setting up a situation to unseat incumbent supervisors and replace them with supervisors of his choice. I don't know what makes anyone think that because a candidate agrees with Sup. Maher and the Chamber of Commerce he/she is better, smarter, wiser, more honest or honorable than the present group.

I am looking to the future. What is being set up here, and why? How many of these strings are being pulled from faraway places like Sacramento? Is that in our best interest?

Finally, as to intolerance: These same people who are bringing you ignorance and meanness are intolerant. They are intolerant of any ideas or opinions that may differ from their own. Sup. Maher lies when he asserts that the board spends time on international and national affairs to the detriment of local problems. Records compiled by my office, reaching back to mid-March 1987, describe some 16 items that one might construe as being outside the purview of the board. When you consider the hundreds of items and matters that come before this board, it is really insignificant.

Distortion and lies, predicated upon a belief that if you don't agree with them, you are not only wrong but should not hold office, seem to be the currency of this line of reasoning. The board represents the people of this city, and I venture that if we got all 750,000 San Franciscans together, you would uncover some vast differences of opinion. However, I submit you would find that tolerance would rule and the prevailing attitude would be, "That's what makes horse races."

And if we handle it any other way, who is to be the censor? Who is to decide what is and is not appropriate material for the Board of Supervisors? Are the Olympics appropriate and South African divestment inappropriate? What about the United Farm Workers boycott? Where do we draw the line?

Please don't be misled by the distortions, half-truths, and lies. And please do remember to be tolerant of people who are different from you and hold views divergent from yours. Please don't be guided by sensational headlines and slick political brochures. Check the facts for yourselves. For this city, during this crisis, the future is now.

Let me also establish a historical perspective. Just over a decade ago, the referenced colleague presided over the demise of the public school system in this city. He is now urging that we apply the practices and policies he applied to the school district's crises to the city's budget crisis. I find that unacceptable.

And finally, as a woman leader, I find much of what Sup. Maher is promulgating to be the antithesis of what the women's movement, the gay movement, and other minority movements have fought for, the right to get the issues out on the table, honestly discuss them, and move on. The No on Prop. K "movement" seems to argue that either you are for them or you are wrong.

LETTERS

Whoops!

★ In the interest of total accuracy, I feel I need to point out that in your wonderful article on Hank Cook, who has always been a good friend to Project Open Hand, you quoted him as stating that the AIDS Emergency Fund takes care of meal payment for 239 of our clients. Would it were true! We would be in clover! The article should have read that the AIDS Emergency Fund pays for about 239 meals each month, for which we are certainly grateful.

Since we are serving about 400 clients seven days a week you can see that we need a great deal of other community support if Project Open Hand is to survive.

Far from "being in clover," Project Open Hand finds itself in a back-against-the-wall struggle to stay alive. We have a kitchen to construct, equipment to purchase, a mortgage to pay off, an ever-growing case load which the Surgeon-General tells us will quadruple in the next three years.

If we are to continue serving high quality meals to all AIDS/ARC patients who request our service, we will need on-going help from the entire community.

We at Open Hand are deeply grateful for the warm support we've received from the community in general and the AIDS Emergency Fund in particular. With all of you behind us I know we will continue to flourish.

Ruth Brinker
Director, Project Open Hand

Eyesore

★ If you look up the word "eyesore" in the dictionary, there's a picture of the new Tower Records CD store on Market Street.

Aaron Travis
San Francisco

Bravo To Women

★ I want to respond to John Morrison's letter in the April 28 issue of the B.A.R., in which he deplores the fact that so many Shanti employees and volunteers are women. As a gay man, I feel ashamed that one of my fellows could be so remarkably ungrateful to the wonderful women, lesbian and straight, who have come to our aid during this epidemic.

Is this how we thank our sisters for standing by us and caring for us when most Americans won't even shake our hands?

Bravo to the strong, brave, generous women who have made our tragedy their tragedy, and who have thus helped unite gay men and lesbians into a truly united community. Please don't think that John Morrison speaks for the typical gay male.

This gay man is daily moved to tears by the compassion Bay Area women have shown towards PWA's. Gold bless you, women of Shanti. You've renewed my faith in humanity.

Drew Siegel
San Francisco

Two Cents

★ Keith Carey's letter in response to one by John Gilbert about NAMBLA says it all. But please let me add my two cents. The Walt Whitman Bookshop is one of the few interesting bookshops in San Francisco and needs to be preserved.

Jack Ragsdale
San Diego

Animal Experiments Immoral

★ I have just read the editorial printed in your paper May 5, and I feel it necessary to make a rebuttal to it. The article was titled "The Morality of Animal Research."

Throughout history this debate has continued, and there has always been the polarities of thought on the subject.

To begin with, most societies have accepted "the golden rule" as the ultimate law governing social morality. From Mr. O'Loughlin's article, it appears that he does not take this position, but one which is called "situation ethics." This ethic allows any contradiction to be rationalized as accepted behavior, as equal to its opposite behavior. I'm sorry, I find this erroneous thinking, and that there is a right and a wrong in the world. Besides, it is contrary to "the golden rule." It is also opposite to the Judeo-Christian ethic dictum stated in one of its commandments, "thou shalt not kill." This commandment, as with the rest, did not come with a list of exceptions.

I can readily understand Mr. O'Loughlin's logic, but I disagree with him completely. His thinking is

of those who readily eat the flesh of animals without any regard to the animals' right to life. It is only when one has an animal as a pet, or when a particular species of animal life is on the brink of extinction, that there is any appreciation shown them, with the care and protection given them, to the point of federal statutes.

Society may have "the might" to murder animals, living fetuses, etc., but it does not have "the right" to take the lives of these defenseless creatures, murdered because they are smaller than humans.

Mr. O'Loughlin has not looked at the matter from the animal's viewpoint, but gives the argument that many people with AIDS are to die because of the animal rights movement. To sacrifice defenseless animals to help fight the AIDS epidemic, is both barbaric and immoral. Mr. O'Loughlin apparently speaks with a forked tongue, stating that he cares for life (i.e., AIDS cases), but does not care for the lives of animals, when it comes to the use of them for experimentation to achieve a cure for AIDS. The end, in this case, does not justify the means, when it comes to the matter of life.

Just because we humans communicate in a different way than the other creatures of this planet, does not mean that these creatures are inferior, as Mr. O'Loughlin implies in his statement—"that animals do not have rights." He speaks of responsibilities that come with one's rights to life, that these animals have not earned their rights. How absurd. Animals do not owe society any responsibilities attached to their right to live out their lives. It is their birthright to be able to live their lives the only way they know how.

Mr. O'Loughlin states that it is not always wrong to cause pain in order to achieve good. He is choosing the sacrifice of animals to suffer over his friends with AIDS, a very selfish statement. Animals are our relations. We are all one family in this universe. Why has Saint Francis of Assisi been respected so? Because he revered life, the lives of all creatures in the world. He was not a cannibal who, like others, ate the flesh of his fellow-creatures.

It is about time that society starts thinking first before committing the same immoral acts, the harms done to these other creatures of our world, in the name of good intentions—intentions which are morally wrong. I look forward to the day when there will be a larger awareness and awakening from this distorted madness of our society where in it will be replaced by the true meaning of the golden rule.

Richard A. Daller
San Francisco

Not Funny

★ Was Krandall Kraus' article on "coupling" an attempt at satire? If it was, it was third-rate. If it wasn't, then he has a serious problem.

Bruce J. Beleges
San Francisco

Castro Callous

★ I am a native Californian who moved to San Francisco a year ago. Upon arrival, I found the strength and unity of the gay community inspiring and warming, so I chose to live in the Castro area.

But now, after a year, I see little of the warmth or humanity I originally thought I saw. Instead, I see streets filled with handsome men with beautiful bodies and cold, unfriendly attitudes. I see a society of hypocrites where muscular men leave their gyms after good workouts and immediately light up a cigarette and head for a bar.

I see trendy, young gay men who have little interest in helping AIDS patients because they feel it is an older man's illness and therefore not their responsibility. I see middle-aged men trying to look and act like teenagers; and of course I see that ever-present group of "Castro Clones" trying desperately to keep the outdated lifestyle of the 1970s alive.

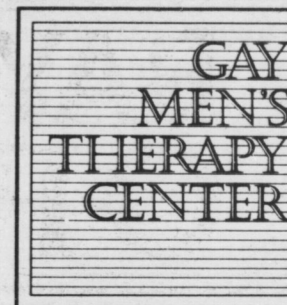
I see callousness and selfishness brought on by a fear of AIDS. I see too many drugs and drug abusers and too much drinking and drunkenness. I see people who prefer to live in bitterness and fear rather than open their minds and hearts and live with knowledge and contentment.

I see a gay community which prefers to shun the rest of the world when it should be striving for acceptance.

Although I do see a small group of gay people trying diligently to right these wrongs and move the gay community forward—people working relentlessly for AIDS research and education, gay rights and gay unity—I find their efforts often hidden and sometimes lost behind the plastic and superficial facade which basically defines the Castro.

So now I am leaving the Castro and San Francisco and moving back to a small town in the East Bay, where the values are more true and the people are more genuinely human.

John Christopher
San Francisco



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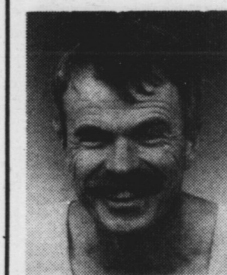
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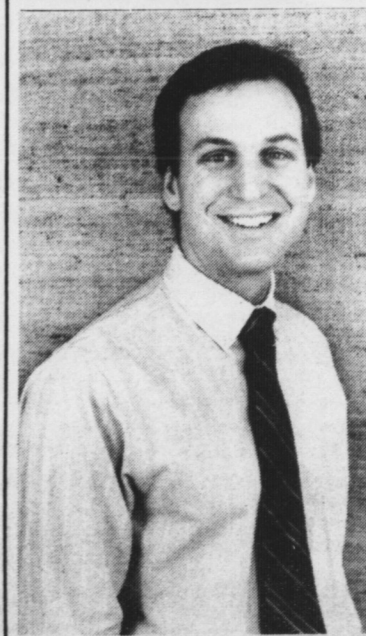
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LETTERS

Somethin', Honey

★ Add my name to the list of supporters in the effort to have that offensive Kellogg commercial for "Nut 'n' Honey" advocating violence against gays from the television airways.

I have seen two different commercials for "Nut 'n' Honey," each consisting of four vignettes. In no other vignette is violence a response to the "misunderstanding" created by the phrase "Nut 'n' Honey," and there is no reason why violence should be the response in the one vignette that implies gay.

More, in not one of the eight vignettes is response predicated on the fact that there is "nothing" for breakfast, but on the fact that one of the participants has called the other(s) "honey." For Kellogg to claim that this one, and only this one, response predicated on the operand "nothing," is utter nonsense.

The mistress does not look up startled because her butler has said there is nothing for breakfast, but because she believes her butler has addressed her as "honey." That holds true for all eight vignettes, and to try to backpedal out of that unacceptable commercial with the claim the vignette operates on the word "nothing," rather than the implication that the cook has called someone "honey" is totally unacceptable.

None of the other vignettes will support that outlandish theory; there is no reason to buy it for the one anti-gay vignette.

Donald Cameron Scot
San Francisco

Pride

★ I would like to thank the producers of Community Action News, the new gay show on cable 6, for at last giving us a program that is thoughtful, and intelligent, and avoids focusing on negative stereotypes.

After embarrassments like Gay Cable Network and Electric City, it's a pleasure to have a show that both its makers and its viewers can look to with pride.

Richard Pontiac
San Francisco

NAMBLA No Help

★ Here we go again. What's politically correct, what the community should support, and people crying free speech. Figure it out!

Remember John Gacey of Illinois, who molested and murdered dozens of boys from age 5 to 21 and buried them under his home? When this was a big news item, NAMBLA was there supporting him as a "gay" organization. This does not help the gay community.

NAMBLA has been as negative for gays as the far right wing and evangelists. Heterosexual sexual/pornographic publications don't support kiddie porn or sex with minors. Even convicts in prisons regard a child murderer or molester as the lowest of the low.

What in the hell is wrong with the gay community? Wake up and smell the coffee! Case closed.

Dan Serbin
San Francisco

Get the Beat

★ I agree that pop/dance/rock music is selling more records. I also agree that it is more commercial, although it is certainly not better, except relative to music three years ago. Judged on its own, dance music has been rather insipid; after hearing one minute of the song, you have heard the entire structure. The singer's voice (if they have one) is lost in the mix, and if not, they have extremely limited range.

This is the biggest reason for Whitney Houston's (deserved) success. She makes you feel her emotions when she sings. You know if she's happy, hurting or just melancholy. The power of contemporary music, reduced as it is to percussion, drums and synthesizers, depends more than ever on the singer's ability to sound involved in the music and less like she is simply yelling the notes.

As a disc jockey of the '70s and '80s, the '70s had, if nothing else, far superior singers and songwriters as far as dance music. Dance music in the '80s has been uninspired.

Glen McLeod
San Francisco

Mexican Bandits

★ This letter is to make you aware of a serious incident which occurred to me and my two friends on May 7. Having driven from San Diego to the border, we decided to try parking on the Mexican side so as to be closer to the Cultural Center which we were planning to visit and then continue by foot to the central

LETTERS

G.A.W.K.

★ Thank you for listing GAWK (Gay Artists and Writers Collective) in the calendar of events section. Many have called in response to these listings and I'd like to answer the most asked questions here.

A. We are open to women.
B. We provide DJs and all types of entertainment free to benefits.
C. There is no age limit. (but prefer fun, upbeat talents)
D. We network (video makers, playwrights, gay TV shows can testify to that).
For more info call 585-8814.
Have a Doris Day!

Jon Sugar
San Francisco

God and Hurricanes

★ Pat Robertson's success shows how gullible the voters are to believe that prayer can get God to send a hurricane out to sea (and endanger sailors' lives). As God does not answer prayers of the millions who died in Middle Ages plagues, Nazi concentration camps or African famines, it is absurd of Robertson to say that God is bothered about a hurricane killing a handful of people (unless they are sailors).

Robertson should learn that God is not there to give a bicycle or to change a hurricane or to stop plagues, death camps or famines. God is there to give us the whole Earth; to give us free will to do whatever we want with the Earth and with each other; to give us the love, truth and facts to guide us in our free will; and, if we deserve it, to give us forgiveness when we fail.

Robertson obviously worships that cruel Old Testament God of fear and killing, who wanted slavery, who had people stoned to death and who slaughtered millions of innocent babies by sending floods, famines and diseases; but that God does not exist.

Only the God of love and forgiveness exists, the God who Jesus told us about. Tell us which God you worship, Robertson, and explain why you quote that nonexistent Old Testament God.

The millions of people in the church such as Robertson who still worship that nonexistent cruel God are godless. They should be expelled from the church before they destroy it.

Royce Bradshaw
Sheffield, England

A Happy Ending

★ So many times we hear about the cruel, bigoted, or anti-gay situations which afflict gays and lesbians. I have experienced my own share of these things. That's why it makes it all the more gratifying when there is a happy ending to relate.

About a month ago, my lover and I decided to dine at the new Arby's Roast Beef Restaurant located at 840 Market Street in San Francisco. Our dinner was marred by three loud, obnoxious employees. It was distracting enough listening to them laugh and tear down everyone who walked in, but the final straw was when one employee began making fun of two other gay diners in the restaurant. She imitated what she thought was a hilarious example of an effeminate gay man and made loud comments about "going to Castro Street." It was impossible not to hear her.

I was so angry, that I came home and composed a letter to the corporate headquarters of Arby's, and the manager of the local Arby's. I told them in no uncertain terms I was totally offended.

Shortly thereafter, I received a very apologetic letter from the president of the San Francisco franchise which owns this particular Arby's. Apparently, these three employees had been terminated as they attempted to upgrade their personnel. He came across as sincerely sorry, and stressed that they attempt to instill a respect for everyone in their employees. He offered to meet with me in order to clear up any negative impressions which I had developed due to the rudeness of the three.

This large nationwide restaurant could have easily ignored my letter. Ten years ago, they would have laughed at it and thrown it into the trash. The fact that the president took the time to listen to what I was saying, think about it and respond in a very positive manner is quite impressive to me.

It is easy to criticize when there is so much antigayness around. I also hope that it is as easy to praise when a small portion of this hatefulness is addressed and rectified quickly. Sadly, that's something our community sees all too seldom.

John M. Heath
San Francisco

In Point of Fact

★ Your coverage of the Sacramento March was quite accurate and to the point except for one error. You detailed each performer who appeared at the rally and you stated that the rally ended with Jesse Jackson's "Run, Jesse, Run."

The rally, in point of fact, ended with the performance of the Vocal Minority who sang after Jesse Jackson left the stage. Our efforts and support of the rally and its purpose are just as valid and important as those of other entertainers who were given credit in your article.

Peter Alfano
The Vocal Minority
San Francisco

Self-Righteous

★ I was extremely upset to read your article "Clean and Sober—But Still Dirty." As a gay man who has been clean for many years longer than any of the DIRT girls (and I have been clean from all drugs, including the drug alcohol, thanks to the wonderful fellowship of N.A.), I deeply resent this small self-righteous group passing themselves off as leaders in the recovery community.

If they were truly as interested in recovery as they claim, rather than stardom, then they would have room for 24 DIRT girls rather than only 12 since there are 24 steps to recovery: 12 steps and 12 traditions. In the 12 traditions which I incorporate in my recovery (as do thousands of others in the local 12 step programs), there is one specific tradition that states ". . . we (addicts in recovery) need always maintain personal anonymity at the level of press, radio and film."

Also, when it comes down to equating "Recovery equals Silliness," I am offended. I certainly am no prude or "born again fuddy-duddy." I have a healthy sex life, a wonderful social and spiritual life, but most importantly I have been delivered, one day at a time, from drug addiction. So you will excuse me if I say recovery is not a silly, frivolous experience, it is damn serious for those of us who are working at it. It is, quite simply, life and death.

Also, please spare me from the tired line that I must be a drag queen to be "truly gay." I respect all gay men and lesbian women in all their wonderful diversities.

The 12 step recovery programs are there for men and women from every part of gay, straight or bi life and for any class, color, race, etc.

A.R.A.
San Francisco

Destiny

★ Being gay is not a lifestyle without responsibility. Some of us take it for granted, not knowing how our freedom came to be. There are those of us who have lived in the Bay Area over 50 years who have seen the beginning of our liberation. It was not easy. But the past is the past and not to be forgotten.

The future for my younger brothers and sisters is yours, "The New Generation." You must accept your responsibilities as the gay/lesbian community. Organize and vote, become a family and vote. To become a single voice that is heard, your voice becomes a mass chorus of others with possibly the same ideals.

Your collective ideas and votes are the future for the next generation and the dream of mine.

My imagination became my future, let your imagination become your destiny.

Bill Grove
San Francisco

Still Strong

★ On the occasion of our tenth anniversary, the members of the San Francisco Gay Freedom Day Marching Band and Twirling Corps wish to thank the many members of the community for a decade of support. We couldn't have done it without your generous donations of services, time, money, rehearsal space, advice, merchandise and love.

It takes a healthy combination of all of the above to keep an organization going, and we are grateful to all who care about us. We hope that you feel a particular sense of pride the next time that you hear us, knowing that you are a part of the reason that we're still going strong!

Mark Nathan
Band Manager
San Francisco

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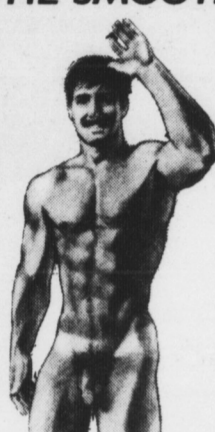
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Don't Know What To Do Tonight?
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NATIONAL & WORLD NEWS
U.K. March Protests Anti-Gay Bill

LONDON—At least 15,000 demonstrators marched through central London April 30, protesting a new law that discriminates against gay people and may stifle artistic expression. Marchers carried signs and banners with such slogans as "Stop the Bigots."

The new local government law called Clause 28 will take effect June 1. It makes it illegal for city and county governments to "intentionally promote homosexuality."

The national government of Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher is seeking to block any promotion in public schools of homosexuality and denies that the provision affects the arts in any way.

Among the demonstrators were gays and lesbians from around Britain and several celebrities from the stage and screen.

Organizers said 50,000 people took part in the march that ended with a rally in a park. But police put the number at 15,000. Two women were arrested for allegedly assaulting a police officer.

The provision against deliberately promoting homosexuality was included in a local government bill that was approved by Parliament earlier this year, despite opposition from gays.

At the time, Secretary of the State for the Environment Nicholas Ridley said, "The government considers the recent criticism of this clause to be misguided, particularly the claims that it would stop local authorities [councils] funding the activities of arts groups using homosexual themes."

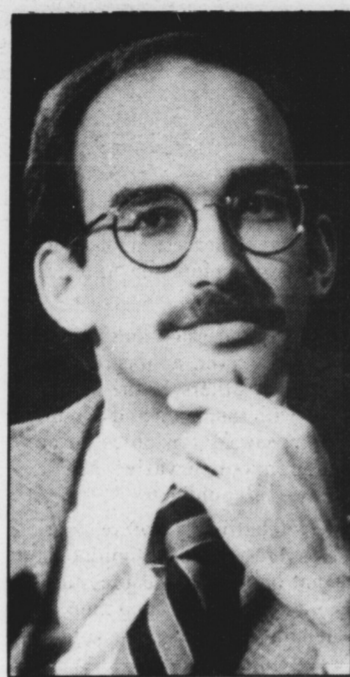
—Associated Press

NGLTF Endorses Disarmament March

WASHINGTON, DC—The National Gay & Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF) has endorsed a broad national coalition of organizations' call for national demonstrations calling for nuclear disarmament, an end to military intervention, and a governmental commitment to economic development and social justice.

The June 11 demonstrations will be held simultaneously in San Francisco and New York City and will coincide with the third U.N. Special Session on Disarmament. The second U.N. Session on Disarmament in 1982 drew one million people to New York City.

"The NGLTF board endorsed this action because gay men and lesbians are not single issue people. We care deeply about issues like a sane nuclear policy and an end to militarism," noted NGLTF director Jeffrey Levi. "And we have seen first-hand how our government's focus on defense directly hurts funding for much-needed social programs, such as funding to fight AIDS or to devel-



Jeff Levi

op a national health insurance policy."

Information on gay/lesbian contingents to the marches and more logistical details may be obtained from the SSD III National Coalition, 11 John St. #803, New York, NY 10038, (212) 608-8155.

FDA May Stop Guerilla Clinics

SAN DIEGO—Organizers of an alternative buyers club here say they fear that the federal Food and Drug Administration (FDA) may soon move to cut off all access to alternative AIDS therapies.

According to a report in Update, a Southern California gay newspaper, Japanese firms have stopped sale of dextran sulfate. Company officials said that the move was to avoid compromising a small AIDS clinical study of the drug.

"Nobody's been able to get any [dextran sulfate] for two weeks that's been acceptable to specifications," said Paul Levesque of the Alliance 7 Buyers Club in San Diego. Sources of the drug that are available have not been of adequate quality for medicinal use, he said.

"We are holding our breath," said Levesque, who fears a crackdown by the FDA on alternative therapies. He cited recent actions against makers of AL 721 and a similar drug, EL 1021.

—Update of Southern California

Group Seeks OK At Catholic U.

WASHINGTON, DC—Gay and lesbian students at Catholic University of America have applied for recognition of a student organization and are awaiting a response from the university administration. Organizers have said that they do not wish to see a reenactment of what happened at nearby Georgetown University when two gay groups were denied recognition.

"Whatever happens, we don't want a situation like the one at Georgetown," said David Harvey, student organizer of the group. Joanna Truitt, C.U. assistant dean of students, said that the university is considering the group's application and would make a decision by next fall. She said that university officials will determine whether the gay group's purpose is consistent with the "range of appropriate student activities and the mission of the university."

Truitt told the Blade that the university is studying the federal court ruling that ordered Georgetown to grant partial recognition of gay groups. She would not comment on whether or not recognition of a gay student organization would automatically violate the university's mission to uphold Catholic moral doctrine.

Harvey would not say if his

group would sue the university if denied recognition. The organization has been allowed to meet on campus while it is applying for university approval.

—Washington Blade

Police Keep List Of West Virginia Gays

PARKERSBURG, WV—State police in this West Virginia town have been quietly collecting the names of gay people in the area since 1985. Police Sergeant Robert Blankenship told the Parkersburg News that the list was to assist police in the investigation of sex crimes.

"We're keeping information on all deviant or abnormal sexual activity, the whole gamut from pedophiles to homosexuals," said Blankenship. He would not specify how the information was being compiled nor to what use it was being put.

"The only thing we're doing is gathering any type of information on behavior that we feel is atypical," he said. "We're not really doing anything with the information except compiling it."

No organization exists in West Virginia to monitor police actions. But two private attorneys are reportedly looking into the matter.

—The Advocate

USOC Goes After Senior Olympics

WASHINGTON, DC—Rep. Claude Pepper of Florida has charged that the U.S. Olympic Committee is discriminating against the elderly by forbidding the National Senior Olympics from using the word "Olympics" in its title.

Pepper said, "The U.S. Olympic Committee has permitted handicapped and young athletes the right to use the Olympic designation. Senior citizens who are not able to compete in the regular Olympic contests should have the same rights that are granted the Special Olympics and the Boy Scouts' Explorer Olympics."

The Senior Olympics were held for the first time in 1987, when over 2,500 athletes from 44 states took part in the games in St. Louis. All participants are over the age of 55.

Shortly after the 1987 games, the USOC sent a letter to the seniors demanding that they cease and desist from using the Olympics designation.

Senior Olympics organizers said that if the USOC denies them permission to use the word, Congress should amend the Amateur Sports Act to allow them to use it.

—National Masters News

Mike Hippler
Biography, He Wrote



Mike Hippler and Leonard Matlovich making progress in their interviews. (Photo: R. Pruzan)

Last fall it happened. After years of trying to peddle my own books—unsuccessfully—to publishers across the nation, one of them actually asked me to write a book. The call came from the head of Alyson Publications in Boston, who wanted me to write a biography of Leonard Matlovich.

Matlovich, if you'll recall, is the former Air Force sergeant who appeared on the cover of Time magazine in 1975, when he challenged the military's long-standing policy concerning lesbian and gay service people. The first openly gay person ever to initiate such a challenge, rather than simply to react defensively to military provocation, Matlovich became an instant media star.

"I Am a Homosexual," blared the headlines superimposed on a picture of Leonard, dressed in full military attire on the Time cover. In an age when the concerns of gay people were routinely dismissed or trivialized, the magazine story created a sensation. Never before had the gay liberation struggle been featured so prominently (if imperfectly) in the mainstream press.

Unprepared for the attention, Matlovich nevertheless responded to it by fulfilling the duties of his new position as best he could. He spoke before countless organizations and support groups, championing the goals of "the movement" wherever and whenever they were attacked. Because of his service record and his all-American credentials—the same factors which made his case against the military the perfect test case—he was seen by many as one of the nation's first certi-

fiable gay "heroes," a role model to parade before the American public.

For the exact same reasons, however, he was regarded by others in the community with suspicion and hostility. Many saw Matlovich as an outspoken conservative and an avowed Republican.

Combative by nature, Matlovich refused to be intimidated by what he considered pressure to conform. He spoke out then, and he continues to speak out now, stepping on a few toes in the process. Consequently, for over a decade he has remained a figure of controversy in the gay community.

This is only one of the reasons I was a little hesitant to write his biography. I am anything but conservative or Republican, and I was afraid that a confused public might assume that, by telling Leonard's story, I was endorsing his politics.

Furthermore, as any regular reader of this column surely knows, I would infinitely rather write about my own life than someone else's. Finally, the offer came at a time when my own health, like Leonard's, was becoming a matter of serious concern. If I only had a limited time left, I reasoned, did I really want to spend it writing Leonard Matlovich's—or anyone else's—biography?

Well, in an imperfect world, you take what you can get, I concluded.

At any rate, the final decision was not mine, but Leonard's. As it happened, I was not the first author to be offered the project. The original choice had quit in

a huff following a serious disagreement, and Leonard wanted to make sure that we would get along before he accepted me as the chronicler of his place in history.

Fortunately, despite our political differences, we got along beautifully, and in November we began a series of interviews at his home on the corner of Castro and 18th. At first I was careful to keep quiet when we disagreed on something or someone, such as Barry Goldwater or the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence.

I soon learned that this was not necessary, however, for Leonard does not insist on uniformity of thought from either friend or foe. This was a man, after all, who was once told by Harvey Milk, "Get out of town, you carpetbagger." Yet he recently led the effort to establish a Harvey Milk memorial in Washington, D.C.'s Congressional Cemetery.

This is also a man who is a lot more radical than people think. Matlovich, remember, is a veteran who once chose to serve his country by fighting in Vietnam, yet who now says he serves it by getting arrested for civil disobedience, protesting the Reagan administration's handling of the AIDS crisis.

Besides all this, he is a warm, compassionate, extremely funny man who it is impossible to dislike, unless you are the staunchest and narrowest of political bigots. And I say this not as his propagandist or ally, but as one who entered the relationship with a great deal of caution.

Leonard has AIDS now, which

(Continued on page 13)


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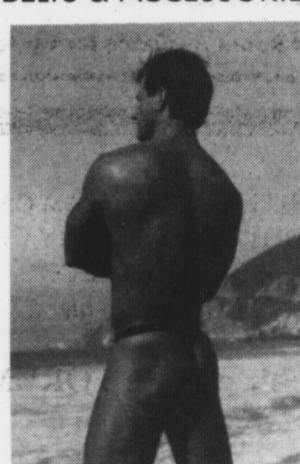
Childcare and sign language provided at 10:30 am services. For information about choir, bible study, AIDS Ministry Team, women's programs, men's programs, and other activities please telephone the church and request the newsletter.

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LIFE AT THE CLOSET DOOR



Harvey Would Have Been 58

The Harvey Milk Memorial mural will be unveiled Saturday, May 21, in Duboce Park, with the program starting at 1:30 p.m. The 60 by 40 foot masterpiece by Johanna Poetig shows the late supervisor in a clown's costume in a field of dahlias that includes "The Kid," Milk's pet dog.

Harvey Milk would have been 58 years old on May 22.

The media continues to give it to Mayor Art Agnos, with one of the latest attacks being a "The Honeymoon Is Over" editorial from The Sun Reporter, a black

newspaper that had supported his candidacy.

I didn't think I could find anything to agree with Jerry Falwell about, but when the anti-gay evangelist says, as he did on the Larry King Show, that he "prays for the day when a law will be established banning smoking in all places everywhere in this country," well, even the Reverend makes sense.

An AIDS walk-a-thon held Sunday in Washington, D.C. netted \$500,000 (the second such walk in a city that has 1,500 AIDS cases). And a record \$2.5 million

was raised in New York City's third annual AIDS Walk Saturday, a benefit for the Gay Men's Health Crisis, an AIDS service organization.

Speaking of big bucks, some 1,200 Democrats paid \$250 to hear Gov. Mario Cuomo raise \$500,000 for his special friend Rep. Nancy Pelosi at the Hilton Hotel Friday night.

We will probably have to vote for him in November (can anyone sanely vote for George Bush?), but Gov. Michael Dukakis made few friends among gays and lesbians in California this week. In Los Angeles, while speaking to gays, the Massachusetts governor refused to support allowing gay couples to adopt foster children. Though he claims to support civil rights for all, including gays, Dukakis said, "There is no civil right" to be a foster parent.

Dukakis, incidentally, has agreed to debate Jesse Jackson in San Francisco on May 25 at public television station KQED.

Carole Migden, one of the hardest working Democrats I know, has won the endorsement for another term on the County Demo Committee from all three gay clubs despite organized opposition from a few gays in the Milk and Toklas clubs.

In Baltimore, that city's Catholic Archbishop William Borders, has, to the surprise of no one, announced his opposition to a bill being considered in the city council that would protect gays from physical abuse and discrimination.

In Sacramento, they are saying that the mere fact Speaker Willie Brown has agreed to meet with the rebel "Gang of Five" Democratic Assemblymembers this week to discuss their "reform" proposals means that the once-confident Brown realizes his Speakership is in trouble. The on-going, time-consuming power struggle between the Speaker and some of his fellow Democrats has produced a legislative logjam of some 150 bills.

Mayor Agnos, holding a series of press conferences last week to discuss his plans to handle the city's deficit, was ironically elected last November on a platform offering generous social spending, a plan he quickly postponed upon taking office and confronting the large deficit.

"I did not run for mayor in order to cut services, postpone pay hikes or raise taxes," he said after announcing plans to do all three. "But there is no way to redirect priorities or to tackle the real problems of this city until we put our fiscal house in order. That's what I'm doing in the fairest way I know how."

Saying that "San Francisco has a good and fair judge in Douglas Munson," the Examiner endorsed incumbent Munson Monday over challenger Dave Wharton.

An omen? The last two sitting vice presidents to seek the presidency lost: Dwight Eisenhower endorsed veep Richard Nixon who lost to John Kennedy in 1960. Lyndon Johnson gave his endorsement to his vice president Hubert Humphrey in 1968, but Humphrey was defeated by Richard Nixon.

Speaking of presidential hopefuls, former Rep. Ron



Harvey Milk

(Photo: S. Savage)

Paul, the Libertarian Party nominee for president, was in Northern California last week and no one noticed. In 1984, the Libertarian nominee, David Bergland, received only 228,000 votes nationwide, and Paul isn't expected to do much better.

Still more bad news for U.S. Senate hopeful Leo McCarthy, the latest Gallup Poll has incumbent Sen. Pete Wilson extending his lead over the lieutenant governor to 21 points, leading in all regions of the state and within all age and education groups.

A bitter fight is taking place for seats on the County Republican Central Committee in the June 7 election. With the continuous in-fighting and frivolous lawsuits this minority party inflicts upon itself (who is this guy Terence Faulkner, anyway? Even his "friends" tell me they are embarrassed by him. It is little wonder they don't have time to fight the Democrats.

Sen. Milton Marks is holding a benefit to raise funds to defeat Prop. 69 (the LaRouche Initiative), at his home this Saturday, May 21, 5-7 p.m., 55 Jordan Ave. (off California St., near Children's Hospital); admission is \$25, \$35, or \$50. Funds are badly needed to defeat this bigot. Try to make this one (621-6164 for info).

Where do the two Democratic presidential candidates in the June primary stand on the AIDS crisis?

Jackson: "We should have some sense of mercy on those who are dying with AIDS. How

viously need to have more research money, and I would hope that we would commit ourselves to an international research arrangement and fund it adequately. Testing should be voluntary, and tests ought to be confidential. I think that the blanket testing of what we call "targeted groups" would tend to violate some very basic freedoms in this society."

Dukakis: "Education to prevent infection is the best defense we now have against the AIDS virus. It is intolerable that anyone should die of ignorance, when the danger of AIDS is so clear and the means to communicate that danger are at our disposal. I strongly support the efforts to increase funding for AIDS research and education to over \$1 billion a year. An increasing commitment to research, treatment and education will be necessary in future years. Even in the only situations outside of blood, sperm and organ donor banks, where I support mandatory testing—the military service and immigrants from countries with a high incidence of AIDS—strict standards of confidentiality of test results and counseling must be required."

Our Quote of the Week comes from Vice-President George Bush, after having been formally endorsed for president by Pres. Ronald Reagan, discussing the relationship the two have had for the past seven years: "We've had triumphs, we've made mistakes, we've had sex, oops, I mean setbacks." And how was your week?

Pooch Parade To Highlight Mural Unveiling

The public is cordially invited to the dedication of the Harvey Milk Memorial Mural, painted by artist Johanna Poetig, on Saturday, May 21, 1:30 to 5 p.m. The artwork is located on the Harvey Milk Recreational Arts Building, 50 Scott St. near Duboce.

Festivities will begin with Petpourri's "The Kid" dog pageant, held in honor of Harvey's pet, followed by dancers, comedians, musicians, and clowns.

The mural will be unveiled at 3:30. The artist, Johanna Poetig, invites all to attend this celebration of the mural and of Harvey Milk's birthday.

birthday cake in honor of the late supervisor's birthday. The photography center located inside the building will have a special exhibition, tour, and slide show going on throughout the afternoon.

Register for the dog pageant at Petpourri, 157 Fillmore, 552-0233, or on May 21, 11:30 a.m., at Collingwood Park for the parade. The parade will go through the Castro to Duboce Park to the mural site.

There will be a variety of categories and prizes for the winners. Dogs must be on leashes.

The mural will be unveiled at 3:30. The artist, Johanna Poetig, invites all to attend this celebration of the mural and of Harvey Milk's birthday.

Getting Help From Social Security

by Faith Hunt
Social Security Administration

In behalf of the Social Security Administration, I am writing to inform your readers about the Social Security disability program as it applies to AIDS and ARC cases and to clear up some misconceptions they may have.

The Social Security Administration administers two disability programs, the Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) program and the Supplemental Security Income (SSI) program. To qualify for SSDI, a person must have worked and paid Social Security taxes for a specific number of years. That varies according to the age at which the person becomes disabled.

Payment amount is determined by the amount of earnings on which taxes were paid. Applications for SSDI can be retroactive for up to 12 months, and a five-month waiting period, beginning with the month of disability onset, must be served. In many cases, the five-month period has already been served by the time the person applies.

The SSI program is financed entirely from general revenues of the United States Treasury. There are no work requirements. The SSI program provides payments for aged, blind, and disabled people who have limited income and resources. There is no waiting period for SSI, and benefits are not retroactive beyond the month that the application is filed.

The definition of disability as written in Social Security regulations is a strict and exacting one. It is stricter than that of some other programs that may pay benefits in cases of partial disability. Under Social

Security regulations, the definition of disability is related to the ability to work.

A person is considered disabled when he or she has a severe physical or mental impairment or combination of impairments that prevents him or her from working for a year or more or that is expected to result in death.

During the disability claim process, an individual's medical evidence from treating physicians and other sources is evaluated, considering symptoms, signs, laboratory findings, and medical prognosis.

Currently an individual with a confirmed diagnosis of AIDS will be considered to have an impairment that meets our definition of disability because, unfortunately, AIDS cases are expected to result in death. These cases can be processed expeditiously, since persons with AIDS having treating sources whose clinical records can readily verify the diagnosis of AIDS.

Low-income persons with AIDS who are applying for SSI disability payments can receive immediate financial assistance from SSA. Local Social Security offices have the authority to make an immediate "presumptive" finding of disability when there is a confirmed diagnosis that the individual has AIDS and when other factors of eligibility are met. Based on this "presumptive" decision, the individual may receive SSI payments for up to three months and may also be eligible for Medi-Cal health care benefits.

The formal decision is made later, when complete medical documentation is obtained. This "presumptive" finding of disability applies to very few impairments and includes, along with AIDS cases, total blindness or deafness and cases of severe mental retardation.

AIDS-Related Complex (ARC) cases must be evaluated on a case-by-case basis considering signs, symptoms, and laboratory findings. We evaluate the impairment by following a sequential evaluation process. The functional limitations imposed by the impairment, the individual's ability to do past work, and the ability to perform other work are considered to determine whether he or she is disabled.

This sequential evaluation process is applicable for all impair-

Hippler

(Continued from page 11)

is one reason why his story remains as relevant as it ever was. It is also one of the reasons that the publisher and I are trying to get the book out as soon as possible. I know it sounds heartless, but that's the way the real world works, folks. If it's any consolation, I am equally as concerned about the likelihood of my living to finish the book as I am about the chances of his living to see it. (Ah, melodrama.)

In any case, after spending the winter interviewing everyone but his second-grade teacher, I have recently finished the first draft and hope to send the completed manuscript to Boston any day now. I imagine the book will appear on the shelves sometime this fall. Book readers stand to learn something about a remarkable man.

ments, not just ARC cases. In working with treating physicians, we emphasize the need to provide complete and descriptive reports and laboratory findings so we can process these cases quickly.

Nationally, SSA has processed a total of 21,178 disability applications based on AIDS since 1983 and approved 20,645 (97 percent) for benefits at the initial

application or first level of appeal (reconsideration). Of the 3,901 applicants based on ARC, 2,551 (65 percent) have been approved at the initial or reconsideration level.

The Social Security Administration works closely with many AIDS/ARC advocacy groups. We applaud the invaluable support these groups provide to persons

with AIDS and ARC.


We also encourage those with specific questions or confusion about Social Security programs and benefits to contact us directly. Our employees are knowledgeable about the disability entitlement requirements and are also compassionate and committed to serving the public effectively and efficiently.

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Bias Complaints Filed In 48 States

Insurers Given Notice — Unfair Coverage Not Tolerated

by Dennis McMillan

Discrimination complaints have been simultaneously filed with the insurance commissioners of 48 states and the District of Columbia by National Gay Rights Advocates. NGRA asserts that two insurance companies are unfairly limiting the lifetime coverage for AIDS to a maximum of \$10,000 while other life-threatening diseases are covered for \$250,000 by one company and have unlimited coverage by another.

The two companies involved are Providers Fidelity Life, based in Blue Bell, Pennsylvania, and Reserve Life Insurance of Dallas, Texas. Since the companies do business in every state but New York and New Jersey, NGRA sent letters to the commissioners of 48 states. They urged them to inform the companies that exclusion or limitation of coverage of AIDS will not be tolerated.

So far, NGRA has received ten letters responding favorably to the complaint.

According to Benjamin Schatz, of NGRA's AIDS Civil Rights Project, this complaint is not an attack singling out the two offending insurance companies. He said it was a chance to give warning and set precedent for all insurers that are trying to ignore AIDS and slight the gay community in the process.

NGRA argues that it is fundamentally misleading for health insurers to offer major medical coverage which excludes coverage for an increasingly common catastrophic illness. "Consumers who have such packages and later develop AIDS have, in fact, 'benefits' which are essentially worthless. Insurance statutes in some states protect consumers from policies of this nature," the complaint states.

A further argument takes the stance that such practice is "quite obviously a thinly-veiled attempt to punish persons with AIDS, because the great majority of them are intravenous drug users or gay and bisexual men."

NGRA alleges that this action violates the policy of the National Association of Insurance Commissioners against anti-gay discrimination by insurers, and it increases the stigmatization and victimization of those with AIDS.

NGRA demands that the insurance industry bear its fair share in helping to deal with the AIDS crisis. They point out that if insurance companies are permitted to escape paying for AIDS, the burden will be shifted onto the taxpayers. The purpose of private health insurance would then be undercut.

A fourth argument cited by NGRA shows that physicians who are aware of the exclusion on a patient's policy may be tempted not to report conditions as AIDS-related. According to experts, AIDS cases are already under-reported by at least 20 percent.

NOT A FINANCIAL BURDEN

Schatz called to task many insurance companies for their double standard of behavior. "When they want to use our test results,



Ben Schatz (Photo: S. Martin)

they make the claim that they want to treat AIDS like any other disease. But when it comes to paying out claims, then they don't want to treat AIDS like other illnesses."

NGRA executive director Jean O'Leary stated, "Just as there is no legal justification for insurers to wash their hands of AIDS, there is no financial justification either." The complaint goes on to state that the aggregate medical cost of AIDS has been shown to be considerably smaller than the net national costs resulting from car injuries, cancer, heart by-pass surgery, and disease caused by smoking.

A recent survey by the Health Insurance Association of America and the American Council for Life Insurance showed that AIDS-related costs comprised a mere three-tenths percent of the total group health and accident claims paid by health insurers in 1986.

NGRA is asking state insurance commissioners to send out a special regulatory bulletin informing insurers that they will not be allowed to limit coverage for AIDS.

NGRA encourages the community to inform them of any possible cases of gay discrimination.

Atty. Gen. May Join L.A. AIDS Bias Suit

by Dell Richards

The California state attorney general's office may enter a discrimination case and file a friend-of-the-court brief on behalf of a gay man who was denied service by a West Hollywood nail salon because he had AIDS. A spokesperson for Attorney General John Van de Kamp's office said it will study the case of Paul Jaspersen to see if his civil rights have been violated. If so, the attorney general's office will add its weight to Jaspersen's side of the case.

"We have filed a number of briefs in cases dealing with AIDS," said Ann Jennings, gay liaison for the attorney general.

Jaspersen is appealing the March 1988 ruling by a Los Angeles Superior Court that ruled that Jessica's Nail Salon was not required to provide him service.

Judge Lawrence Waddington decided that Jaspersen's civil rights were not as important as the possibility of the cosmetologist contracting AIDS through the transfer of blood that could occur during a manicure or pedicure.

"Any risk of death, however minimal, cannot be acceptable or tolerable," Judge Waddington wrote in a 14-page decision.

However, businesses are prohibited from refusing service to anyone—including someone with AIDS—under California

law. That is why the attorney general's office is looking into the case.

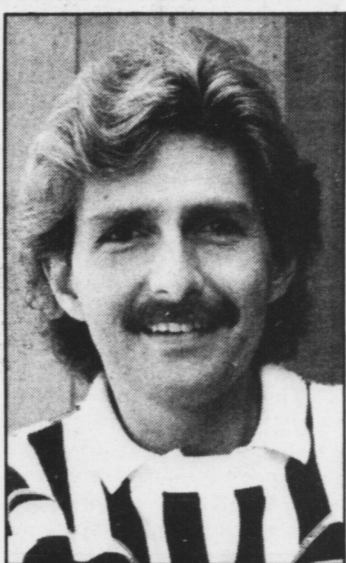
"You file a friend-of-the-court brief to offer your views to the court and talk about the other people who would be affected by the decision, but who are not part of the case," Jennings explained.

"It's a way to talk about the policy and the broader implications."

At this point, turning to a higher court is Jaspersen's only recourse. Jaspersen said he was disappointed with the March verdict, but not surprised.

"We had a very conservative judge," he said in a telephone interview.

Both Jaspersen and his attorney, civil rights activist Gloria Allred, see the setback as a temporary one.



Paul Jaspersen (Photo: D. Richards)

"We will make every legal effort to assure that the decision is reversed on appeal," Allred said. "If necessary, we will pursue this case to the California Supreme Court."

Allred is afraid the lower court's verdict could have a profound effect, leading to the wholesale denial of services to people with AIDS.

The attorney general's office will be making a decision on the case in a few weeks.

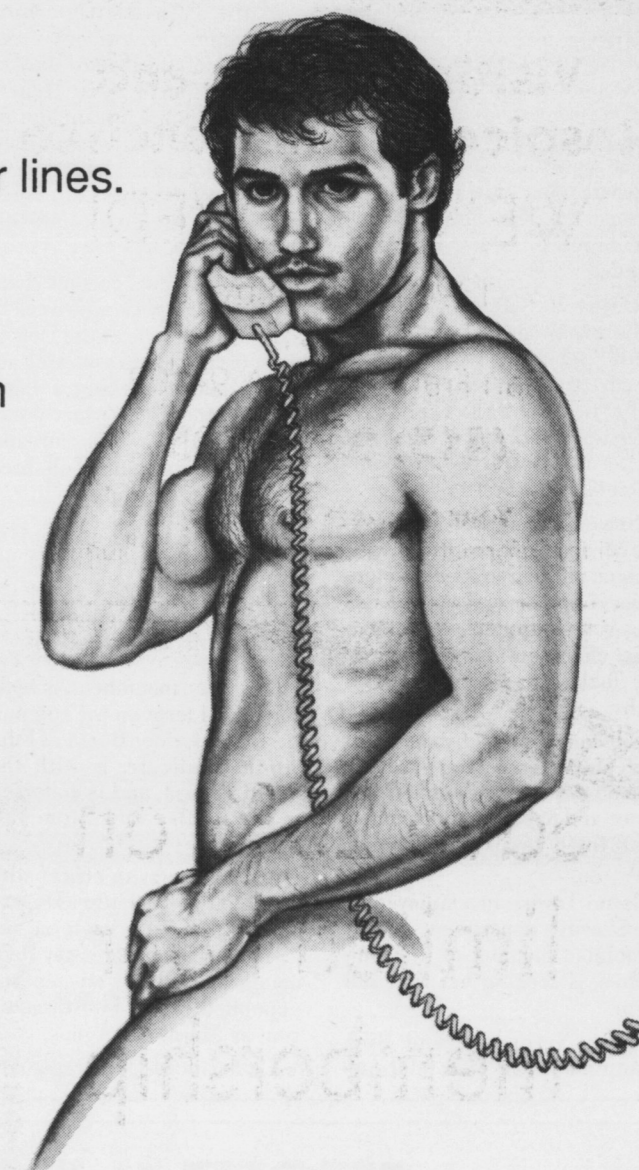
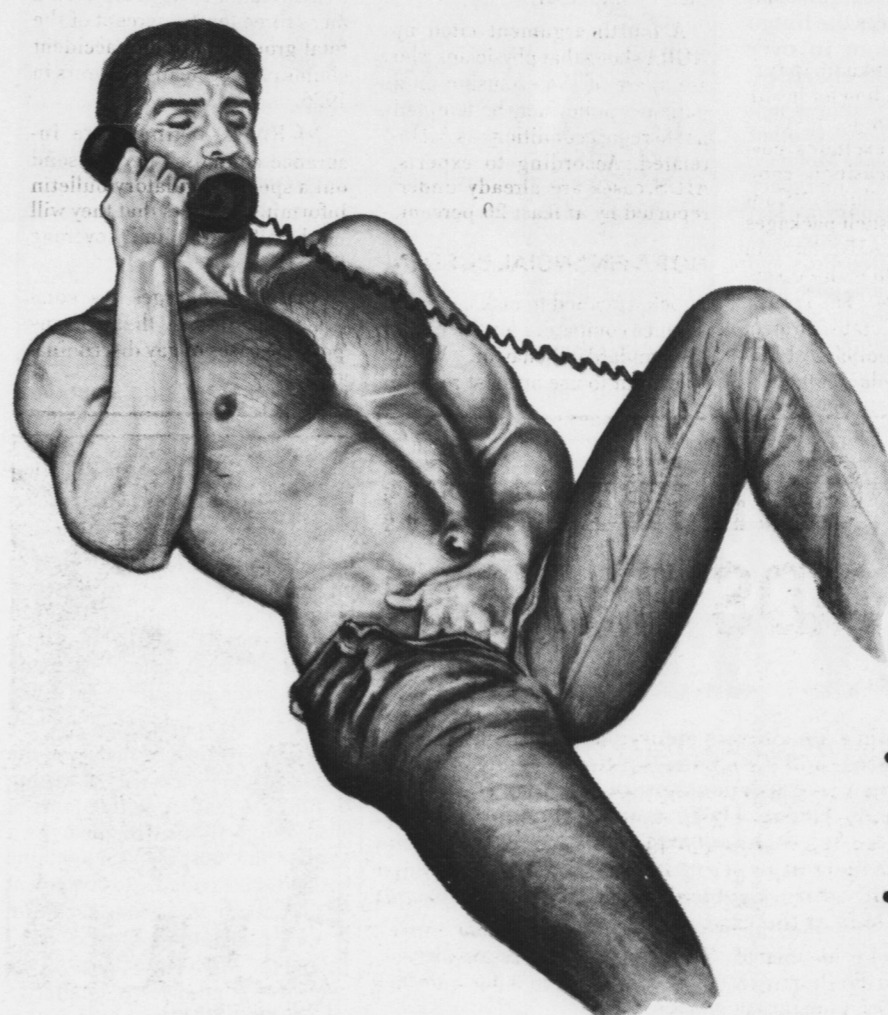
"We are interested in making sure that when the balance is struck, that people with AIDS are afforded the maximum civil rights consistent with public health and safety," said Jennings.

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Gays Make Run For Demo Cmte.

Slates Set for 16th, 17th Districts

by Wayne Friday

In addition to the hotly-contested race between Gov. Michael Dukakis and Jesse Jackson in the presidential primary, the June 7 vote finds a number of gay and lesbian candidates seeking seats on the San Francisco County Democratic Central Committee, a total of 12 in the 16th and 17th Assembly Districts.

Like its Republican counterpart, the Democratic Central Committee sets the San Francisco Democratic Party policy on issues, endorses candidates, raises money and provides workers to get candidates elected. San Francisco is a county in which more than 70 percent of its registered voters identify with the Democrats. The current chairperson is lesbian activist Carole Migden.

In the 16th District, Connie O'Connor, former Alice B. Toklas Club president, is seeking a fourth term. O'Connor is a lieutenant in the San Francisco Sheriff's Dept., and is endorsed by the Toklas, Harvey Milk, and Stonewall clubs.

Steve Krefting, a former president of the San Francisco League of Environmental Voters is seeking a second term. Krefting is a computer expert for a hotel chain, and is endorsed by the Toklas, Stonewall and Milk clubs.

Seimon White, a former Milk Club officer, is seeking a second term on the County Central Committee and has the endorsement of all three gay Demo clubs as well.

Jaqui Lewis, an employee of the Sheriff's department, and an appointed member of the committee, is seeking her first full term.

Zach Nethercot, and Rick Hauptman, are Milk club ac-

tivists seeking their first term from the 16th District.

In the 17th District, Ron Huberman, the current vice-president of the committee, is seeking a fourth term. Huberman is a criminal investigator in the office of District Attorney Arlo Smith, and is a former vice-president of the Milk Club. He is endorsed by the Toklas and Milk clubs.

Carole Migden, current chair of the County Committee, is recognized as one of the Democratic party's hardest-working activists, and is seeking a third term. Migden is a former president of the Harvey Milk club, and has the endorsement of all three gay Democratic clubs.

Richmond Young, an officer of the Toklas club, is seeking his first term. Young, a respected party activist, is endorsed by Toklas, Milk, and Stonewall.

Greg Day, incumbent, is seeking a third term on the committee. Day, a former Board of Education candidate, is with the Shanti Project, and is endorsed by the Toklas and Stonewall Democrats.

Sharon Bretz, an officer with the county's Probation Department, is seeking a first term, and is endorsed by all three gay Democratic clubs. Bretz was recently appointed to the Fire Commission by Mayor Art Agnos.

Catherine Dodd, a registered



Some of the gay candidates for the Central Democratic Committee (l. to r.): Greg Day, Sharon Bretz, Connie O'Connor, Jacqui Lewis, and Richmond Young. (Photo: Rink)

nurse who works for Rep. Nancy Pelosi, and an incumbent member seeking another term, is en-

dorsed by the Toklas club. Tony Travers, a vice-president of the Milk club, is seeking his

first term on the County Committee, and is endorsed by the Milk club.

Happy Anniversary

Hospice Bingo Marks Second Anniversary; \$130,000 Raised for AIDS Charities

by Dennis McMillan

On Thursday, May 12, Coming Home Hospice Bingo celebrated its second anniversary. So far the bingo games have taken in over \$130,000 for AIDS charities.

Bingo plans to feature a new celebrity guest caller every other Thursday night. Louise Molinari, co-chair of the AIDS Emergency Fund, did the honors at last week's anniversary game, and B.A.R. publisher Bob Ross and comic Danny Williams (also AEF co-chairs) are slated to call out numbers in the future.

Plans are being made for KRON-TV news anchor Sylvia Chase to take a turn at the Bingo



The gang celebrates Coming Home Hospice Bingo's second anniversary. (Photo: S. Martin)

hopper, and rumors have it that Chronicle columnist Herb Caen will take a turn as Bingomaster.

In addition to the prestigious position of Master of Ceremonies, the game requires about 20 volunteers to help assure a smoothly-run game. People who wish to volunteer are urged to call 333-5670.

The original concept of the bingo games was that of raising funds to help open the doors of Coming Home Hospice. Now that the hospice is open, the money is divided into 50 percent for Coming Home and 25 percent each for AIDS Emergency Fund and the AIDS Food Bank. All the proceeds go directly to charity, after rent for the bingo hall is paid.

The entry fee for bingo is \$10. The first two games pay \$150 each, and every third game pays \$200. There is an early bird special of a dollar a card or six for \$5. Almost \$3,000 is given away nightly, and most players generously donate the larger share of their winnings back to charity.

Doors open at 6 p.m. every Thursday, with the first game beginning at 7 p.m. and ending no later than 9:45 p.m. Bingo is held in the basement of Most Holy Redeemer Church across from Coming Home Hospice on Diamond Street. An extra incentive is the two free parking lots available in the midst of an area where it is usually difficult to find parking.

Gay to Breakers

Our Community Was There for Distance Race; Names Project Makes \$600 From Info Booth

by Allen White

Ray Burdick was one of 100,000 people who made their way up and over the Hayes Street hill in last Sunday's Bay to Breakers footrace. But even after he got through huffing and puffing, he could still look at the race and smile.

"I have never seen anything that fine," said Burdick.



The Heal AIDS With Love runners make their way through the crowd. (Photo: S. Savage)

The Bay to Breakers was as rigorous for others as it was for Burdick. For C.J. Smith, the reason was different. He was out dancing the night before until 2 a.m., and then found himself up at the crack of dawn to buy doughnuts at Safeway. He spent the morning working at the Overpass Club on Hayes Street.

The Hayes Street hill was also stressful for the local residents. For those with the prime locations in the block between Pierce and Steiner, the Bay to Breakers is the purpose for the ritual of dozens of early morning brunches.

From their vantage point, the early morning partygoers watched as the thousands of runners made their way over the hill.

One group that started out as a unified group was the Front Runners. This year they wore shirts with the phrase, "Heal Love With AIDS," as they made their way. That phrase has been the theme of Don Crawford's "centipede," which received some help from FrontRunners.

For many of the runners, the huge number of participants became obvious as they simply waited to begin. Once the race got going, the sea of people extended for miles.

One of those running for the first time was lesbian/gay parade co-chair Jennifer Roberts. She said, "The only thing that gave out was the blisters on my feet. I was really surprised at the number of women." The Bay to

Breakers gave people different ideas. Roberts said, "I had thoughts about touching my feet in the bay, and then touching my feet in the ocean, but I didn't do that."

The gay community's participation in the Bay to Breakers came in many forms. Last Friday approximately 50 volunteers from the Names Project spent several hours signing up last-minute registrations for the race.

In return, they were given a booth in the Bay to Breakers Expo, which was located in the Hyatt Regency Hotel. Lance Henderson, with the Names Project, said most of the people weren't really interested in the Names Project. "I think most of the people were interested in seeing what was for free." Nevertheless, he said that it was an opportunity to introduce many people to the new Names Project book. "I think we made over \$600, which is really great for us," he said.

The AIDS Foundation had a booth, and, in a somewhat similar vein, Planned Parenthood was giving out condoms. The relationship between the race and safe sex was never quite defined.

Throughout the day, the Bay to Breakers shirts were proudly worn throughout the Castro and even under leather at the S.F. Eagle.

The Examiner, which sponsored the race, announced that the 1989 Bay to Breakers will be held on May 21. Ironically, it is the tenth anniversary of the White Night riots, the night gay

Simpson No Longer Funeral Director

Sold Name, Business to CFS; Company Pledges To Maintain Quality

by Dennis McMillan

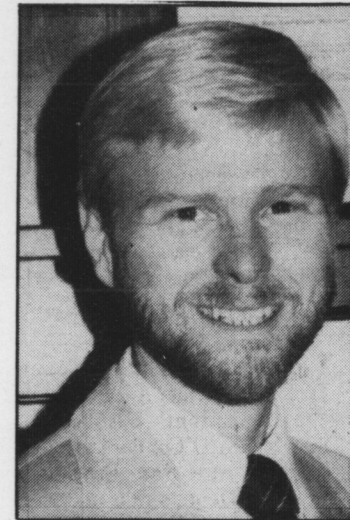
California Funeral Service advertises Tom Simpson as funeral director, but Simpson is no longer available when asked for by clients. According to CFS director Alex Macias, Simpson has sold his name to CFS and moved to Hawaii.

Simpson gained an excellent reputation as the first and only funeral director during the early days of AIDS in the San Francisco community who would handle AIDS cases and offer the proper bereavement services for the loved ones of the deceased person with AIDS.

According to Macias, the interest in the business and his good name were sold by Simpson to Macias approximately six months ago when Simpson became ill and decided to move to Hawaii. Macias said he intends to keep up the good reputation Simpson had established when he joined CFS.

In answer to customers' complaints, Macias does not think it dishonest to answer the telephone "Tom Simpson, California Funeral Service." He said that this is a trade name that CFS has bought the rights to use along with the range of services Simpson had developed.

Macias said that public notice of the business sale had been given. He said that Simpson notified people of his imminent



Tom Simpson (Photo: Rink)

move to Hawaii and the resulting transition. According to Macias, a meeting was held with AIDS service groups, hospices, and Shanti shortly before Simpson left, announcing the change.

Macias assured the gay community that the same good service continues to be offered for AIDS cases without any additional charges.

SHOULD YOU TAKE THE AIDS ANTIBODY TEST?

Possible Benefits

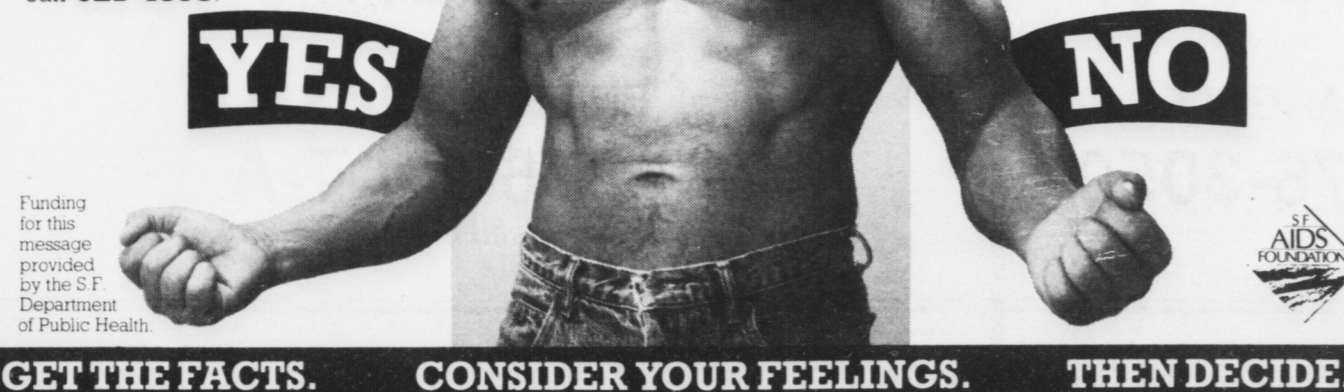
- People who get test results usually reduce high risk behavior.
- By taking the test, you find out whether or not you can infect others.
- Regardless of the result, testing often increases a person's commitment to overall good health habits.
- People who test negative feel less anxious after testing.

The San Francisco Department of Public Health offers AIDS Antibody Testing which is **voluntary, free and anonymous**. Counseling and referrals are also available. To make an appointment for testing, call **621-4858**.

Possible Disadvantages

- Some people wrongly believe that a negative test result means they are immune to AIDS.
- People who test positive show increases in anxiety and depression.
- When testing is not strictly confidential or anonymous, some people may risk job and insurance discrimination.

For more information about AIDS Antibody Testing, call the San Francisco AIDS Foundation Hotline at **863-AIDS**. Toll-free in Northern CA: (800) FOR-AIDS TDD: (415) 864-6606



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Thirteen South of Market clubs and restaurants are participating in a program to raise funds for the campaign to defeat Prop. 69, the LaRouche AIDS Initiative which is back on the June ballot.

"Eat, Drink, and Stop LaRouche" will be held on Friday, May 20. Participating businesses will be donating ten percent of their income for that day to the AIDS Initiative Committee as a statement of their opposition to

the purposes of the LaRouche Initiative.

The community is encouraged to support those businesses on and after Friday, May 20, which are working to defeat LaRouche. They are: Billboard Cafe, Border Cantina, Don Ramon's, Julie's Supper Club, the Paradise Lounge, the Lineup, the Maltese Grill, Milano Joe's, Trocadero Transfer, Ring's, Holy Cow, the Stud, and Taxi.



The 60-milers head up Castro Street. (Photo: S. Savage)



The 100-milers on their way to Marin. (Photo: S. Savage)



Tinkering before the start. (Photo: PhotoGraphics/Darlene)

Bike-A-Thon

(Continued from page 1)

Top pledge-getter was AIDS Hospice/Coming Home Hospice, with \$43,900 raised. Next was Project Open Hand with \$43,300, followed by Shanti Project with \$35,500 and the AIDS Emergency Fund at \$31,300. Other beneficiaries in San Francisco were the S.F. AIDS Foundation with \$23,100 raised; PAWS (Pets Are Wonderful Support) at \$18,150; AIDS Health Project at \$9,000; and the Godfather Service Fund with \$6,200 in pledges.

For six other Bay Area counties, pledges distributed as follows: In Alameda County, the AIDS Project of the East Bay received \$11,000, and the East Bay Assistance Fund got \$8,600. In Contra Costa County, the AIDS Task Force netted \$7,900. In Marin County, AIDS Support Network received \$9,600. In San Mateo County, Project Ellipse:

\$14,700. In Santa Clara County, the ARIS Project will get \$8,800. In Sonoma County, Face to Face/AIDS Network will get \$6,900.

Scott Bishop, organizer of the contingent known as the AIDS Emergency Fund Pedalers, proudly announced over \$4,800 in pledges collected for AEF. Bishop commented for the other 11 PWA riders in his group on their three-hour-plus journey, "That was a much longer ride than we thought. But it was a smashing success, and we'll be back again next year."

Three years ago the event raised \$30,000, with 62 riders pledging for the S.F. AIDS Foundation. This year the amount raised was slightly below last year's high of \$340,000 for the 15 beneficiaries. But with this fourth year of its operation, the annual fundraiser will have raised a total of over \$900,000 for the battle against AIDS.

The 200 riders for the 100-mile challenge took off in sunshine from Eureka Valley Playground promptly at 7:30 a.m. They were followed by 500 who rode 60 miles in a dramatic 9 a.m. startup from Castro Street toward Golden Gate Park. During the day, 800 more riders rode the 25-mile loop.

The 25-mile loop was a tour of the "flatlands" of San Francisco, through the Presidio, Golden Gate Park, and around Lake Merced. The 60-mile route added Sausalito and Corte Madera to the itinerary. The 100-mile jaunt combined those two routes, then went up to San Rafael.

Around noon the Bike-A-Thon rosters began gathering in mass at Collingwood Park to welcome returning cyclists. Hundreds of spectators, dressed in short shorts and less, basked in the warm sun on the grassy grounds, spirits high and getting higher with the help of the entertainment lined up for the event.

Members of the Gay Freedom Day Marching Band and Twirling Corps stirred up the crowd with their performance. Self-proclaimed mother of gay comedy Tom Ammann and lesbian comics Marga Gomez and Rene Hicks got the audience chuckling. The Barbary Coast Cloggers, South-Bay Stompers, Gold Rush, and San Jose Spurs gave a country flair to the entertainment. The Gay Men's Chorus, Lesbian/Gay Chorus of San Francisco, and Scott Johnston with Carol Booth provided lively singing. Fiddle-stix sang an X-rated, gay version



Relaxing after the Bike-A-Thon. (Photo: S. Savage)

of the '60s Shangri-La's hit, "Leader of the Pack": "Get the picture? Yes, we see..."

A bountiful, healthy buffet was consumed by the riders and workers. At 4 p.m. the totals were announced to the enthusiastic crowd, and everyone agreed the event was a success both as a fundraiser and a fun-raiser.

What most of the crowd was unaware of was the tremendous amount of planning and staffing behind the scenes that was responsible for the event's success.

Matt O'Grady, this year's Bike-

Athon coordinator, headed up the six operating committees which comprised the steering committee.

The finance committee, composed of approximately 30 accountants, worked nonstop, beginning at 7 a.m. in the basement of Holy Redeemer church, headed up by Jim King and Tom Crites. There was one slight mishap when the computer plug was accidentally pulled and data was lost. But the workers managed to join forces and re-enter the missing numbers.

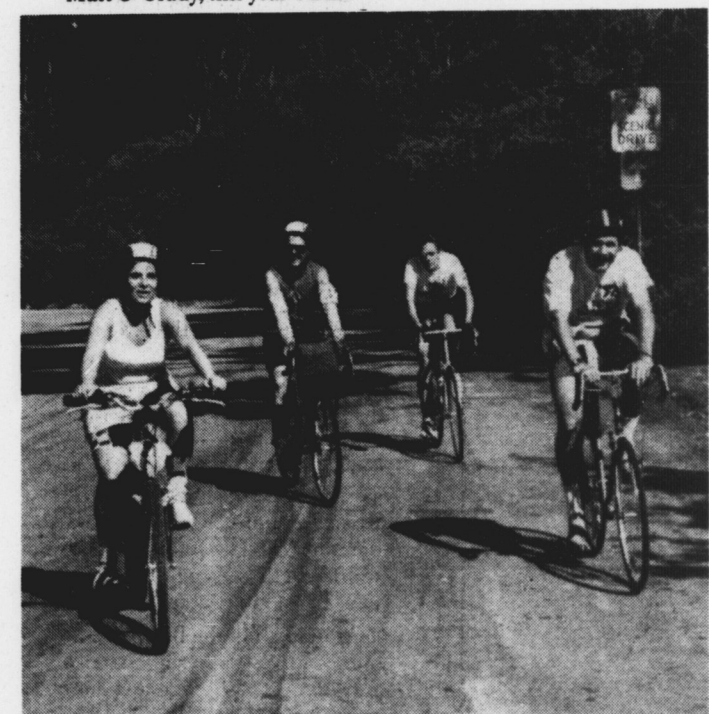
Logistics, co-chaired by Matt Algeri and Charlene O'Neil, handled the four rest stops serving refreshments from fresh fruit to cookies and providing any necessary medical and mechanical assistance to the riders on the road. Ten sag wagons followed along the bike route to provide auxiliary transportation if a

bicycle (or bicyclist) broke down. Lambda Amateur Radio Club kept up communications between the home site and all rest stops. Mechanical support was provided by members of Different Spokes.

Shawn Allison coordinated the day-of-event organizing, ranging from the rider check-ins and

check-outs to the afternoon buffet.

Mike Voight and Leslie Smith took care of the publicity angle, beginning months prior to staging the event. Karry Kelley coordinated rider recruitment, and Bob Humason directed beneficiary relations, as well as maintaining Bike-A-Thon data bases. ●



Four riders head through Golden Gate Park. (Photo: S. Savage)





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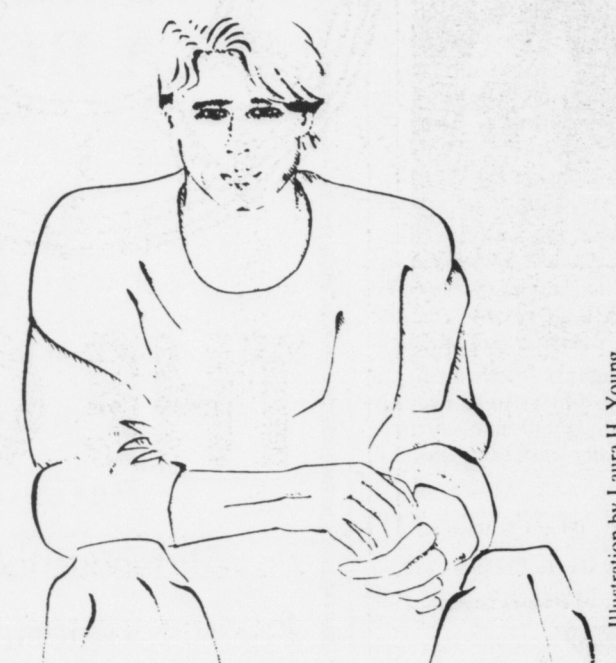


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Nez Paz

AIDS Isn't Just A Gay Disease

PORTLY PIXIE REMINISCENCED
(A Summoning Nose)

After all these years since the passing of Bob Wasson (Fat Fairy), the grave site is still not marked. Sam (of Town & Country) has taken it upon himself to do something about it.

Raffle tickets will be sold by various people and various bars. Already agreed to participate in the selling are Sam, Mama Chuckles, Suzie, and Val. It is estimated that the grave marker will be in the neighborhood of \$600. Any money from the sale of tickets above and beyond that amount will be divided among BASH, EBAF, and In Memory Fund.

It was decided by all concerned that there would be no one bar holding a function, event, or party to sell the tickets. Tickets will sell for \$1 each, and the drawing for the three top winners will be held Sunday, July 3. The top prize will be that real reel slot machine. Zephyr Jim said he would donate the second and third prizes.

If that doesn't pan out, Sam said he would donate them, with that bottle of Pushers Rum going for second place. (I just hope it isn't the same bottle of Pushers Rum he was going to raffle to pay insurance premiums for EBAF!) There will be no cost to print the raffle tickets, and all prizes will be donated, so there should be a good chance for sales to go way over \$600.

The marker will lie flat, and be inscribed, "Bob Wasson, 19-19-19. They CAN see me now!"

INCREDULOUS MISOGYNY
(A Scratching My Head Nose)

Several years ago, when the scare, threat, and expense of AIDS was first brought to the attention of the gay community, several auctions were organized to raise some anticipated needed monies. The underlying theme of each of the auctions was that when and if "one of our brothers" needed assistance, the money would be available. If I remember correctly, every bar in Oakland and Hayward participated in that series of auctions.

I don't recall any one of the involved bars dissecting "one of our brothers" to mean strictly gay, strictly male, strictly white, strictly protestant. I honestly feel those involved took "brothers" in the same meaning as the term "mankind."

After a somewhat turbulent beginning, the funds were placed with the organization East Bay Assistance Fund. (It was originally named East Bay AIDS Fund, but those requesting assistance didn't particularly want that name on a check to the landlord.) EBAF has been actively disbursing assistance every month for the past few years. Assistance was granted to those requesting on a "case work sheet" and a "doctor's statement sheet."

No one on the board of EBAF ever saw the people who did the requesting, but a representative from Fairmont Hospital was always at the meetings to verify the doctor's statement and the person requesting assistance. Of late, it has become apparent that requests are running about 50/50 between male and female, and

there are indicators that the majority of those requesting assistance are not, indeed, gay.

I cannot imagine EBAF refusing a legitimate request just because the person wasn't gay, wasn't white, and wasn't male.

If BASH was originally created to cater strictly to the gay, white male, its philosophy certainly has been turned around. To BASH, like EBAF, AIDS/ARC is the enemy, not the gender or the sexual habits of the afflicted.

The reason for all this background is simply this: A big evening of dining and entertainment to raise money for EBAF and BASH is now in limbo because one of the organizers isn't sure if he wants to expend his efforts to raise money for AIDS/ARC patients who just happen to be heterosexual and non-white.

If this "gay male organizer" can't believe the slogan, "AIDS isn't just a gay disease," and is prejudiced against heterosexuals who have the illness, how can he possibly hope for his own "acceptance" in a world that is not strictly all gay, all white, and all male?

I sincerely hope there is some deep soul searching. If "A Night of a Thousand Tears" doesn't happen because of prejudice, EBAF and BASH won't be the only losers—but they will certainly have lost less.

SOUNDTRACK ENTERPRISE
(A Recording Off Key Nose)

Mary Martinez, administrative assistant to E.C. Scott and Smoke, announces that "Project Album" is now underway for this tremendous group. The recording studio has been selected, and an estimated \$40,000 is needed to complete the project. Once a reasonable amount of the capital is obtained, work will proceed.

Sunday, May 22, the Spoiled Brat will present E.C. Scott and Smoke in a fundraising event for the album. All donations will be applied to "Project Album." Show time will begin at 7 p.m. and last until 9 p.m. All donations of \$20 or more will inspire E.C. to personally autograph a picture of herself and the band in appreciation. Tickets for the show are available at Spoiled Brat for only \$3 each.

FARRAGO
(A Goulash Nose)

Word has it that ISE will be bringing an all-male revue to Town & Country Friday, June 10. ISE is making a determined effort to have some function at each gay bar in Oakland and Hayward. Fortunately, yours truly will be able to attend all but two of those functions.

Yes, Little Mother's auction (for EBAF) is this Saturday at the Turf Club starting at 4 p.m. Hope to see you there.

It only took a year and a half! Michael (Midge) told me it was that long ago when he first requested replacements for several TV remote controls in the AIDS Ward. EBAF received the request four months ago, and the "best offer" order was placed Thursday, March 24. Eighteen months and \$441.94 later, seven CT73 remote controls were delivered. The head nurse couldn't believe it, and hugged and kissed me when I brought them in.

Love, Nez. •

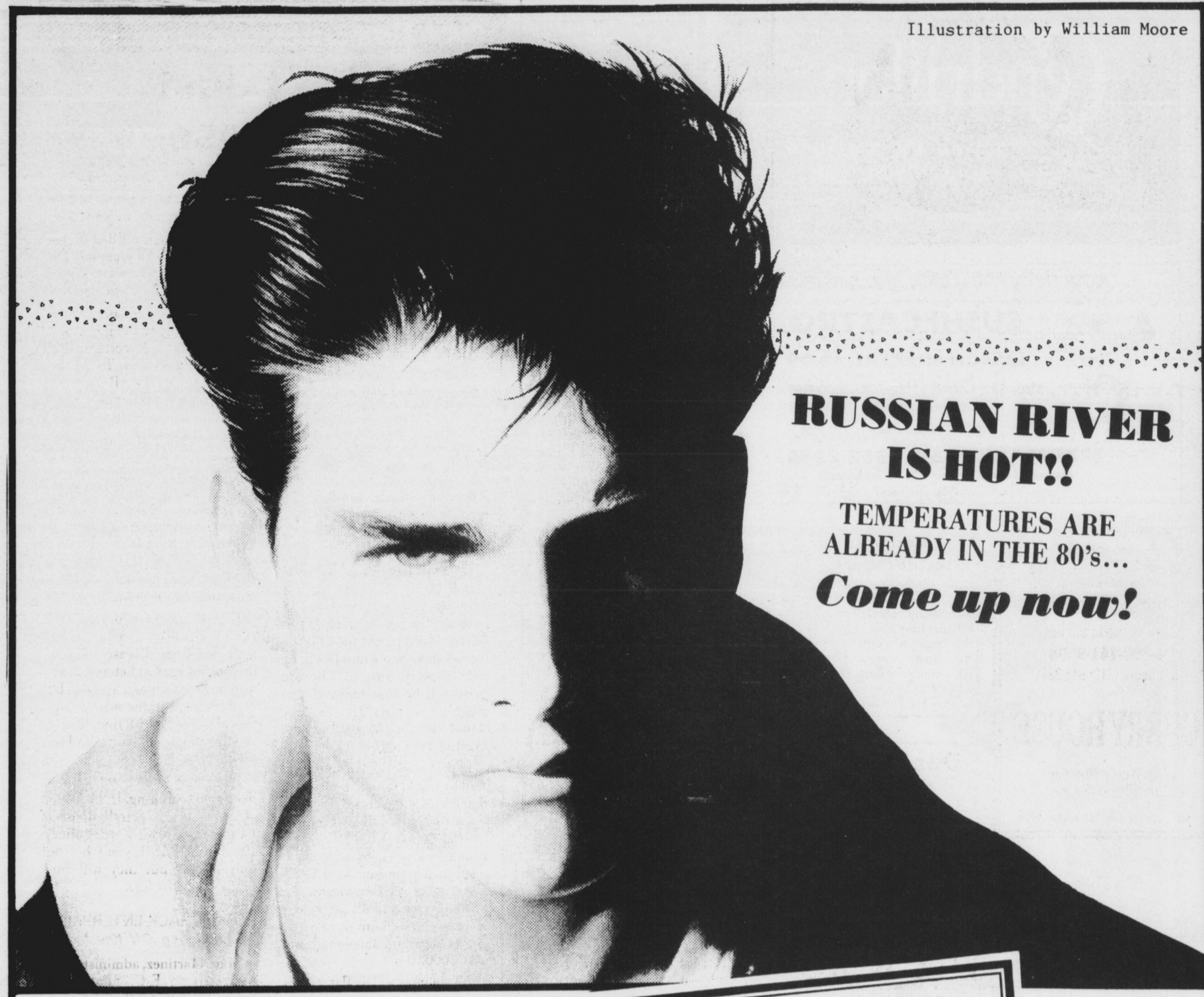


Illustration by William Moore

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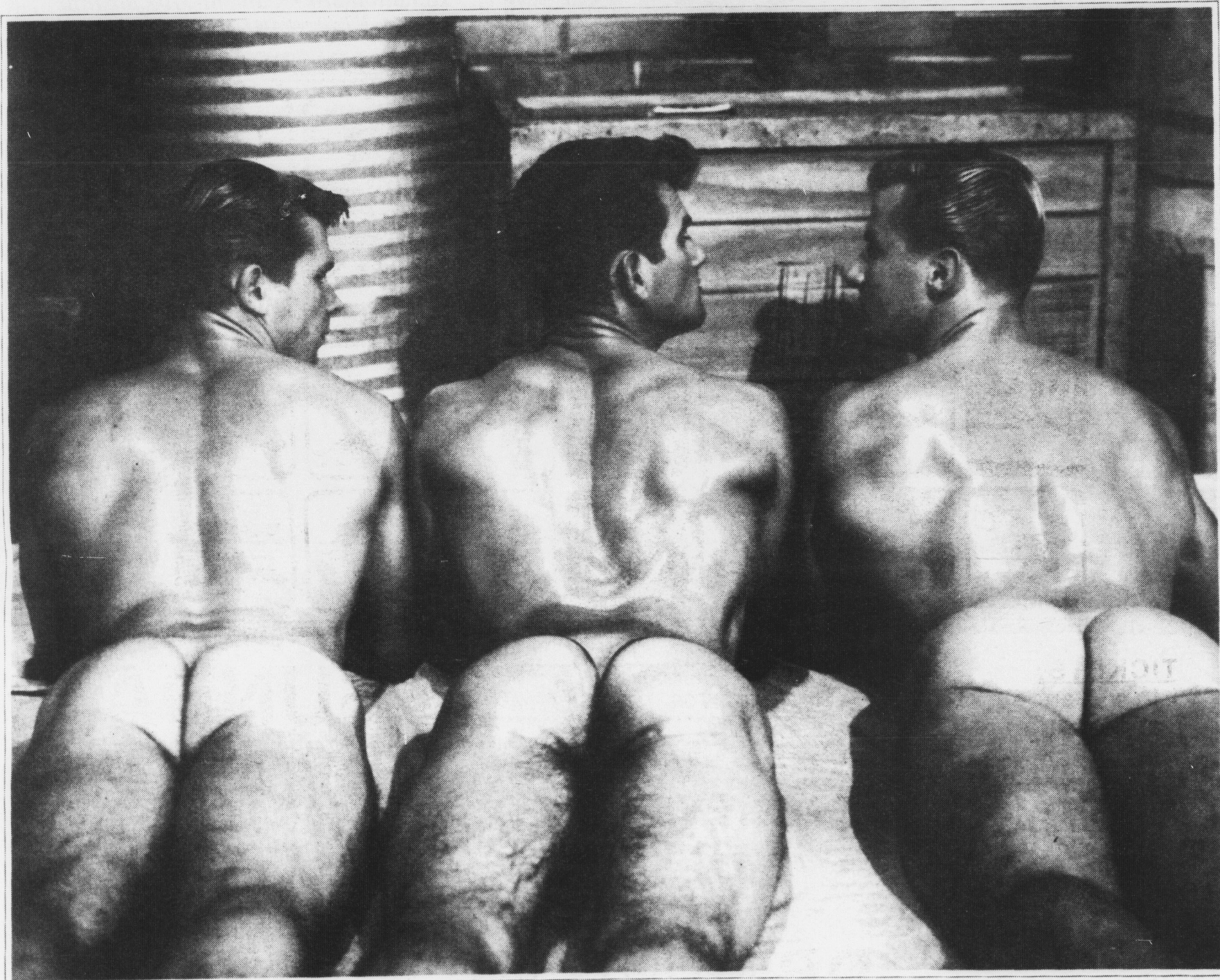
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BAY AREA REPORTER ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

A Piece of Our History

Physique Photography Once Celebrated the Male Body,
But Now This Art Is Disappearing Before Our Eyes



Three of the '160 Young Americans' photographed by Robert Mizer

by Mark I. Chester

Somewhere in my past there is a memory. It was a seminal experience. It was as if a light were suddenly switched on. I was too young to be in that section of the store. But there I was, looking down an aisle of magazines with pictures of unclothed men on one side of the aisle and pictures of naked women on the other. The pictures of the men touched some unknown place in me. I knew then that somehow I had to have them.

But my attempts to possess photographic images of the male body created far more trouble than I could have imagined. What a curious battle to have to fight. That there could be something so terribly dangerous and horrible in wanting to look at pictures of men. To understand and feel what it meant to be male. The right to be acknowledged and validated. Soothed and calmed. In the sleepy arms of a safe harbor.

That is a somewhat backwards reconstruction of a reality that, at the time, just didn't make sense. So I covered those magazines devoted to the celebration of the male physique. I studied their pictures. I stared into the eyes of their models. I wanted the answers to convoluted secrets.

They must have known something. There was always a curious spark in their eyes and a slight slyness or smile upending the corner of their mouths. And sometimes they would be just on the brink of almost... maybe doing... something.

It wasn't enough, but it was the first step. In 1963, those physique photographs were signposts; they had been, not only to me, but to a whole generation of gay men. Building an identity. Exposing and creating fantasies. A physical ideal and attitude that interweave an almost feminine beauty with a masculine strength and youthful vigor against the background of a seemingly carefree, never-work-a-day world.

And underneath this veneer of sexual desire there lies a history. It is a history of homosexual artists struggling to flower while under the thumb of oppression and censorship. It contains the only surviving examples we even have of some artists' work. It is a history that has been, for the most part, ignored or suppressed because eroticism and sexuality are its very foundation. And even when it is not ignored, it is largely dismissed. It is a history that cries out to be told, acknowledged, and cherished for what it says about us and the role that it has played in our evolution.

All of this was brought, once again, sharply to mind by a book showcasing the work of Los Angeles photographer Robert Mizer, which I discovered on one of my recent forays through A Different Light bookstore. This \$29.95, oversized softcover book, *Athletic Model Guild - 160 Young Americans Photographed by Robert Mizer*, was published in the Netherlands in 1987. It sensually illuminates a piece of this history in deeply resonating tones of black and white, reflecting us back through a mirror of hopes, dreams, and fantasies.

Mizer started the Athletic Model Guild (AMG) during the 1940s and with it a physique magazine called *Physique Pictorial*, which is still active today, as is Mizer at the age of 65. This 13-page, photographic monograph of AMG's output focuses particularly on Mizer's work from the 1950s. His 4x5-inch photographs are captured in high quality, large scale reproductions on a semi-glossy, thick paper. The book design displays Mizer's photographs with respect, a respect they deserve.

Mizer's photographs are like an anthropological archive of the times. A catalog of the American dream re-visualized through homosexual eyes. They portray an army of men still young enough to be called boys. This is a world without women, inhabited by vibrant, fresh, clean-shaven boy-next-door youths. While some of the pictures use camp, limp-wristed or fey, unathletic men are nowhere to be seen. Only the images of tattooed toughs, in their leather and motorcycles, come even close to society's inappropriately restrictive homosexual stereotypes.

A studio photographer, Mizer created strikingly different worlds through stage settings and props. For example, a flat made to look like a brick wall and a couple of trash cans become a back alleyway in which three muscled men, gleaming in oil, are caught flexing and posing. The real world would have been, most likely, inaccessible to the photographer, his bulky equipment, and his entourage of

(Continued on page 36)

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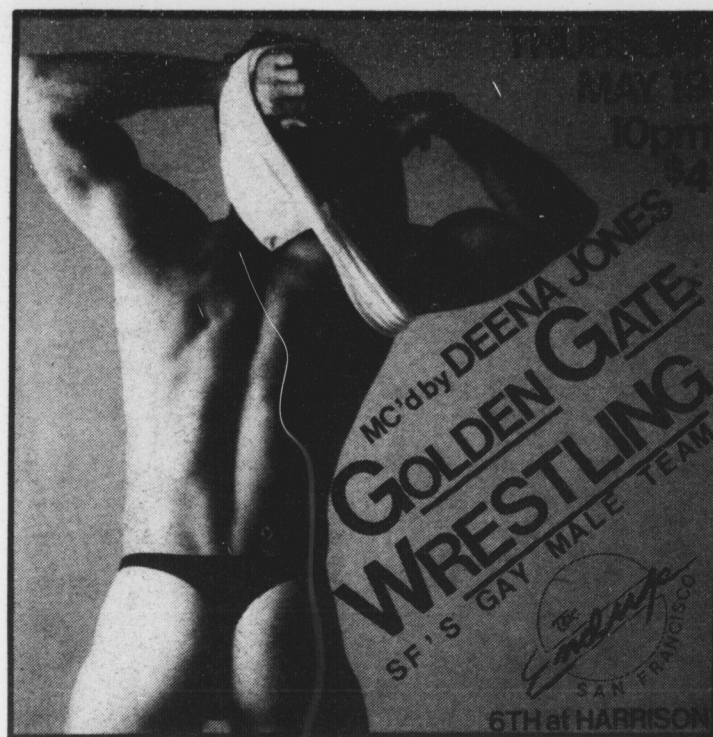
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STAGE

Doug Holsclaw's Entertaining New Play
'Hot and Sticky' Pops and Crackles



Robert Coffman (l.), Donna Jean Davis, Kathleen Stephano, and Doug Huttleston in *In the Summer When It's Hot and Sticky* (Photo: Savage Photography)

by David Perry

Theatre Rhinoceros has a hit by one of its own. Doug Holsclaw, Rhino's literary manager and marketing director, is back on the boards with a winning new comedy, *In the Summer When It's Hot and Sticky*.

The standup comic turned playwright knows a good one-liner when he writes one, and *Hot and Sticky* is full of them. However, though it pops and crackles like a 4th of July fireworks display, in the end we are slightly confused. After the smoke clears, we have been delighted and entertained, but not especially enlightened.

Holsclaw has gathered a lovable group of crazies at New Jersey's Cozy Nook seaside resort, just a short bus ride from New York City: the Cozy Nook's owner, Betty (Donna Jean Davis), and her recently widowed sister, Linda (Carol Landes); the infamously flamboyant queen, Tony (Robert Coffman); and the off-season Broadway theater bathroom attendant, Dolly (Priscilla Alden), with her widower son, Bobby (Frank Diamanti), and granddaughter, Colleen (Kathleen Stephano). Into this seasonal family fall Columbia journalism students Kevin (Doug Huttleston) and Diane (Suzy Berger), ready to cut their teeth on the small local newspaper.

Kevin is a new age homosexual, Diane a new age southern belle. Both are in for a new age education.

Kevin takes an instant dislike to Tony and the perpetuation of what he sees as a pathetic homosexual stereotype. Tony responds by nicknaming the young student "Brenda Starr." When Kevin launches into an anti-drag diatribe, Tony nails him with a retort of his own:

"Most people hate fags, always have and always will. But they're not going to affect my wardrobe."

Here is the contest to be: pre-Stonewall fairy vs. post-AIDS gay. By the end, both should be a little more aware due to the other's stubborn and egocentric efforts. However, though this clearly is to

be the evening's premiere match, the play's greatest insights and most hilarious sparrings take place in Dolly's ring.

Deliciously portrayed by Alden, Dolly is kind of a Shelley Winters cloned with Ethel Merman and Kate Smith. Hers is an earthy wisdom, full of bathroom humor and front-of-house sagacity. *Hot and Sticky* is her play.

"If I get it," says Kevin, musing about AIDS, "there'd be no justice in the world."

"There isn't," Dolly shrugs.

Holsclaw's greatest talent is dialogue such as this. He delivers punchlines like ballistic missiles. The characters he has created are full, well-rounded, and very human. Too much so. The only real fault with this script is that Holsclaw has tried to take on too much. He unravels yard after yard of potential storyline and never reels it in.

We are teased with a brief scene hinting at Colleen's bisexuality and another about her epileptic condition. Neither is followed up on. Kevin queries Dolly about her unmentioned third child. Dolly clams up and, well, doesn't mention it. Holsclaw never should have, either.

There are other instances. Time after time we are promised a cathartic moment between the self-righteous Kevin and the aging queen, Tony. It never comes.

The play's final scene is reserved for them, and yet, when it was over, the audience had to be coaxed to clap. The scene was fine. It just wasn't a closing scene. Holsclaw does himself a disservice. Just when we're on the edge of our seats, waiting for a punchline, we get an anticlimax. He's like a great acrobatic pilot who doesn't know how to land.

Sadly, he's not helped by the sloppy technical crew, who seem bent on using every scene transition to sort out light cues. Some of these ambiguities can be laid at the feet of director Barbara Daoust. In an otherwise understated and well-staged pro-

duction, these are glaring inconsistencies.

In the *Summer When It's Hot and Sticky* is a play waiting to be great. It's already very, very good and tear-producingly funny. There are shades of Lanford Wilson and Beth Henley in Holsclaw's work, and yet it is all so refreshingly original. In a time when gay theater seems to revolve only around the issue of AIDS, *Hot and Sticky* reminds us that there are still other lessons to learn, other diseases to conquer. Holsclaw proves that laughter is still among the best of medicines.

In the *Summer When It's Hot and Sticky*
Theatre Rhinoceros, 2926 16th Street
Wednesdays-Sundays through June 18
Tickets: \$12 weekends, \$10 weeknights and matinees; showtimes: evenings 8 p.m., matinees 3 p.m.
Call 861-5079 for tickets

Bulgarian Tenor To Sing in Benefit For Food Banks

Pacific Chamber Singers, directed by Robin Kay, perform the music of Bach, Monteverdi, and Faure in two benefit memorial concerts the weekend of May 20.

The first performance is Friday, May 20, at 8 p.m. at St. Mark's Episcopal Church, Bancroft and Ellsworth sts., Berkeley. All proceeds will go to the Food Bank of the AIDS Project of the East Bay. The second concert is on Sunday, May 22, at 7 p.m. at St. Paulus Lutheran Church, Gough and Eddy sts., San Francisco. All proceeds from this performance will go to the San Francisco AIDS Foundation Food Bank. Tickets are \$10 and may be purchased at the door, or in advance by calling 861-3104.

Featured soloist at both performances will be Dimitar Ovtcharov, operatic lyric tenor, who will perform arias by Puccini, Verdi, and Flotow.

John Karr

One Gets the Bird; Another Takes Wing

I was so excited by Stacy Keach's charisma and Max Caulfield's striking beauty at the press conference preceding the opening of *Sleuth* that I promised heavy breathing in this review. Little did I expect the sounds would be the result of 20 seconds' panting over the bodily exposure of Maxwell Caulfield (right down to red Calvin Kleins) and nearly two hours of snores over a tired and tedious production of what, after all, is reputed to be a good play.

The present revival fails in most every respect: It reduces the play's potential for fear and suspense to drawing room chit-chat; it replaces what must be direction of concisely structured and threateningly lethal gamesmanship with casual to-and-fro or relentless shuffling about; it replaces a set described by the characters as the most splendid example of old English manor with one that can only be called lackluster (even the tour of *Arsenic and Old Lace*, with a cast five times the number of this one, had an elegant old home); and, worst of all, it doesn't provide much of a cast. And when a cast of only two is deficient, it takes little sleuthing to figure out the jig is up.

Stacy Keach is charismatic, and jovial and energetic as all hell. But in his exertions, he never reveals his character's underlying convolutions and loathsomeness; he's a talk show host on speed. He plays to the audience, as well he must—he certainly doesn't get much reaction from Mr. Caulfield, whose numerous limitations in act one nearly abort the play before his slight improvement in act two. Basically he's implausible. He doesn't get drunk, he doesn't get fearful; he's impossibly stupid and too easily duped, and, after revealing an exquisitely muscled body, is rendered completely helpless and defenseless by a punch or two from a paunchy sot.

I can't go on, really. If you want to see *Sleuth* played as sitcom, here 'tis—a revival which seems a rehearsal for a movie made for TV. Which is where, I believe, the classic beauty of Mr. Caulfield would be more suited. His face and body need the closeup of the camera: Only when his shirt was left open for ten minutes of act two, revealing a broadening neck swelling into a chest of some glory, did I feel he was acting. When he buttoned up his shirt, he seemed to disappear altogether. Which is what this half-baked revival might do, too. (At the Curran through May 29; 243-9001.)

Making something fresher out of a play some several thousand years older—*The Birds*—is the ACT production of *Feathers*, which it freely and rightly calls "Variations on a Play by Aristophanes." I went against my will, expecting this year's *Faustus in Hell*—a lot of fury over some partially hatched omelet. Yet there was much to enjoy, particularly in act one, in which both the satire and spectacle are excitingly rich.

Human foibles get well worked over, and "The Convocation of the Birds" is a production number of high thrill: The birds, in Beaver Bauer's fantastical costumes, glide down double slides, accompanied by a pulsating synthesizer score by former Weather



Stacy Keach (l.) and Maxwell Caulfield in *Sleuth* (Photo: R. C. Ragsdale)

Report composer Peter Erskine and swirling lights by Derek Duarte. A thrilling sequence, it's mostly downhill, but pleasingly so, from there.

In act two the focus of the story is blurred, the script taking pot shots at whatever hasn't yet been satirized. Still good-natured, it can't convince us it knows any longer what it is trying to do, although John C. Fletcher's direction remains crisp and inventive.

Kate Brickley stands out winningly as the mortal wife who becomes a bird; Lawrence Hecht is stridently loud as her husband, whose quest to escape the human comedy gets the play in motion; and "star" Micheal McShane is disappointing as the King of the Birds. He may deserve his fame as an improv comic, but he has yet to prove his mettle as an actor.

◆◆◆
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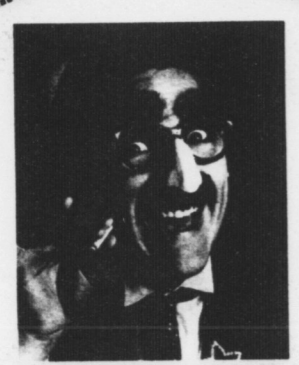
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MUSIC

'Olivia' Anniversary Show a Hit



Cris Williamson stopped the show

(Photo: L. Enkelis)

by Allen White

They came by the thousands to fill Zellerbach Hall last Friday night and celebrate the 15th anniversary of Olivia Records. The 4½-hour concert, sold out weeks in advance, was as much a statement of lesbian pride as it was an evening of excellence in music.

Women from around the country found that one bond they had was the music of the likes of Cris Williamson, Meg Christian, and Tret Fure. Throughout the evening, the audience sang the songs they knew so well with the performers. "This concert is not a spectator sport," one artist announced.

San Francisco's gay community has a lot to learn from the women of the East Bay when it

comes to putting on a concert. The lighting was simple, yet extremely effective. Money was spent on the sound, and it showed. Simply in terms of numbers, the audience was larger than any gay concert presented in the last several years in San Francisco.

The pioneering performers included Williamson, Fure, and Robin Tyler. But there were new stars, such as Lucie Blue Trem-

blay, Diedre McCalla, and Nancy McCalla. The audience sang the lyrics of Tremblay's songs in the manner of a 3,000-voice backup. It sounded like a massive, angelic choir.

But the warmest response of the evening was reserved for Cris Williamson. Much has been made in the press in recent weeks about her role in the development of women's music.

Many of her songs, especially from the album *The Changer and the Changed*, have become anthems of hope for tens of thousands of lesbians. She performed many of her hit records at the concert. It was only appropriate.

The show-stopper of the night was Dianne Davidson, a powerhouse of talent and gutsy energy. Her ability to move the audience into a hard rock mode was direct and wildly successful. She was given a standing ovation and a demand for an encore.

The incredible success of Olivia is reflected in the stamina of its artists. This entire group of musicians has been performing the same show these past few days in Cleveland, in Boston, and last Saturday night moved the whole show to a sold-out concert hall in Los Angeles.

The 15th anniversary show was taped by Wolf Video, working with the Male Entertainment Network. The video is expected to be released soon.

MOVIES

'Aria' Strikes a False Note

by David Perry

The popcorn "butter" wasn't of the best calibre for soothing stomachs at last week's opening of *Aria*, the ten-segment paen to various operatic top 10 chart toppers directed by ten world-famous directors. However, it did offer a justifiable excuse for taking a break midway through this overly-hyped excuse for directorial self-indulgence.

Aria will be remembered for one thing—its trailer. If the finished movie ever aspired to the tightly edited sensuousness of its ad campaign, there would be a film indeed. As it stands, or rather lays, *Aria* is an incongruous collection of tantalizing film snippets—lushly filmed, provocatively directed, richly scored and ultimately boring.

How can this be? Here's a film featuring the likes of Beverly D'Angelo, Buck Henry, John Hurt, Anita Morris and alright, Bridget (Henry's granddaughter, Jane's niece, Peter's daughter) Fonda in the cast; with writer/directors Robert Altman, Bruce Beresford, Bill Bryden, Jean-Luc Godard, Derek Jarman, Franc Roddam, Nicholas Roeg, Ken Russell, Charles Sturridge, and Julien Temple.

Hmmm... what have I missed. Oh yes, the composers. Giuseppe Verdi, Richard Wagner, Giacomo Puccini, Gustave Charpentier, Erich Wolfgang Korngold, Ruggiero Leoncavallo, Jean Baptiste Lully, and Jean Philippe Rameau provide the supposed *raison d'etre* for this

montage, but end up reduced to the import of elevator Musik.

One might expect the obvious drama of the music itself to save the effort should all else fail, but out of their broader contexts, these bits and pieces of classic operas flail helplessly. John Hurt roams the film in a white opera cape, looking a lot like a lost Tom Wolfe. I'm not sure what he's supposed to be doing.

The film opens with a touristic Hurt poking about the plaza of St. Mark's in Venice. Between scenes he walks around a bunch of opera houses, puts on makeup and ends up lip-synching to a scratchy recording of Enrico Caruso singing "Vesti la giubba" from *Pagliacci*. One might surmise he's sort of the ghost of opera past. Oh, there's also a mysterious woman (the muse of opera?) watching the final scene from the back of a darkened opera house. Hurt rolls his eyes, sheds a tear and falls down on the stage when she disappears. Such histrionic pseudo-intellectualism really makes me want to wash my hands. Yuk.

When Hurt isn't drifting wordlessly about trying to give this thing a unifying theme, there are some high points. Roeg dresses up his wife, Theresa Russell, as King Zog of Albania and uses Verdi's "Un ballo in maschera" as background for a love story *cum* assassination plot. The silent movie effect Roeg so deliciously calls forth works well here, one of the few instances in *Aria* where the inherent drama of these operatic selections is done justice.

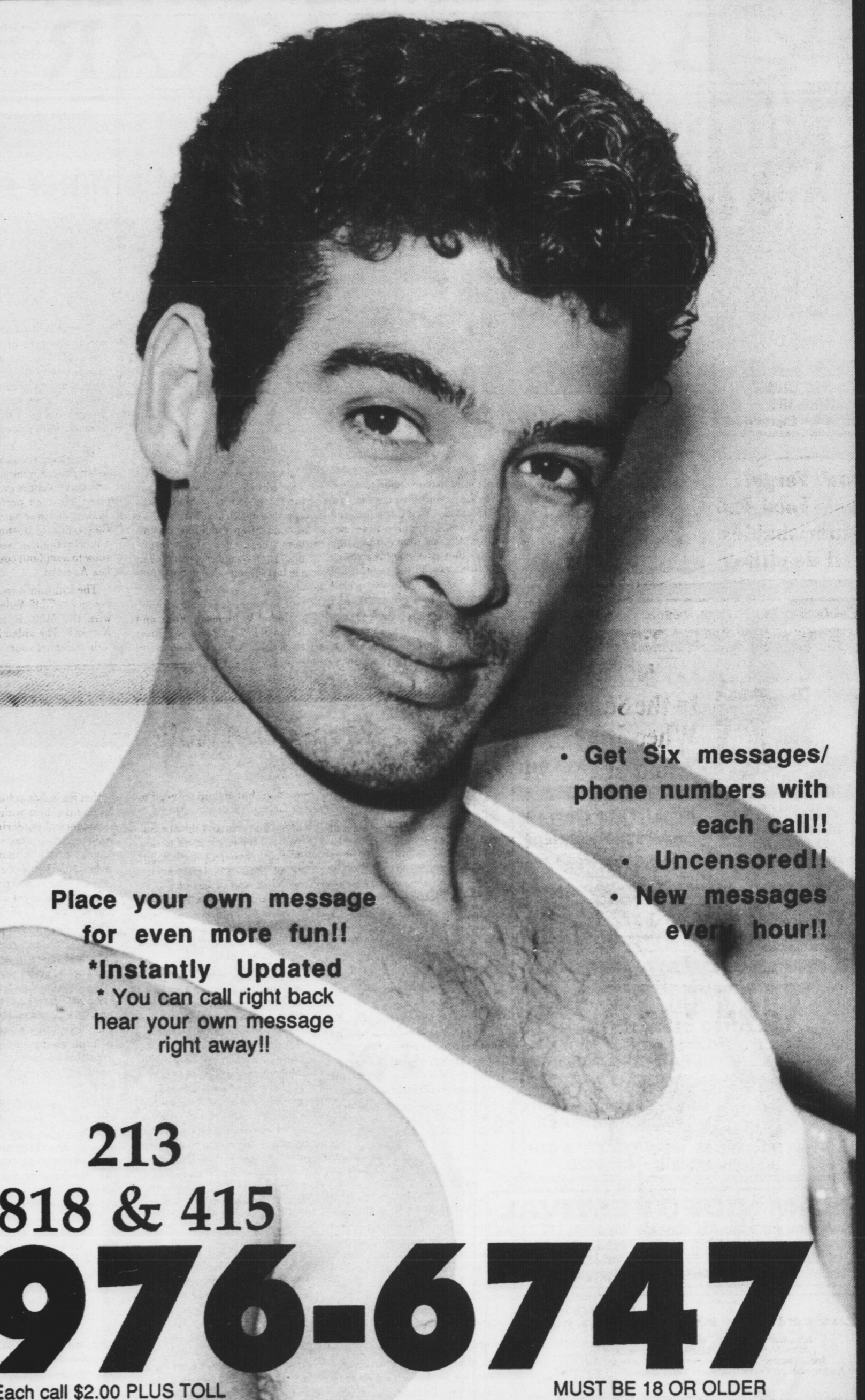
Ken Russell is at his morbidly fascinating best with his phantasmagorical rendering of Puccini's *Turandot*. Russell's effort comes closest to matching the original feel of the opera with the film director's interpretation. It has all the beauty of a bad dream that one wants to see to completion, no matter how painful.

Julien Temple provides the only real "plot" piece of the evening—a broad and pleasing satire set to *Rigoletto*. While Beverly D'Angelo, Anita Morris and Buck Henry explore adultery à la "Plaza Suite" at San Luis Obispo's Madonna Inn, an Elvis impersonator mouths "La donna è mobile." Delightful. Calories of laughter.

Aria is as confusing to the opera buff as it is to the novice. With a couple of oblique expectations, the scenes do not draw their inferences from the plots of the operas they are directed around. The music is merely an excuse for the directors to waste celluloid. Often, *Aria* is pretty to look at. But don't expect anything so foolish as depth, emotion or sharp stabs of humor. If it ever comes out on video cassette, it will make a great party tape. There's lots of naked flesh, and of course, there is the music. Fast forward to the good parts, turn up the volume, and get out your old librettos. Maybe if they had used supertitles...

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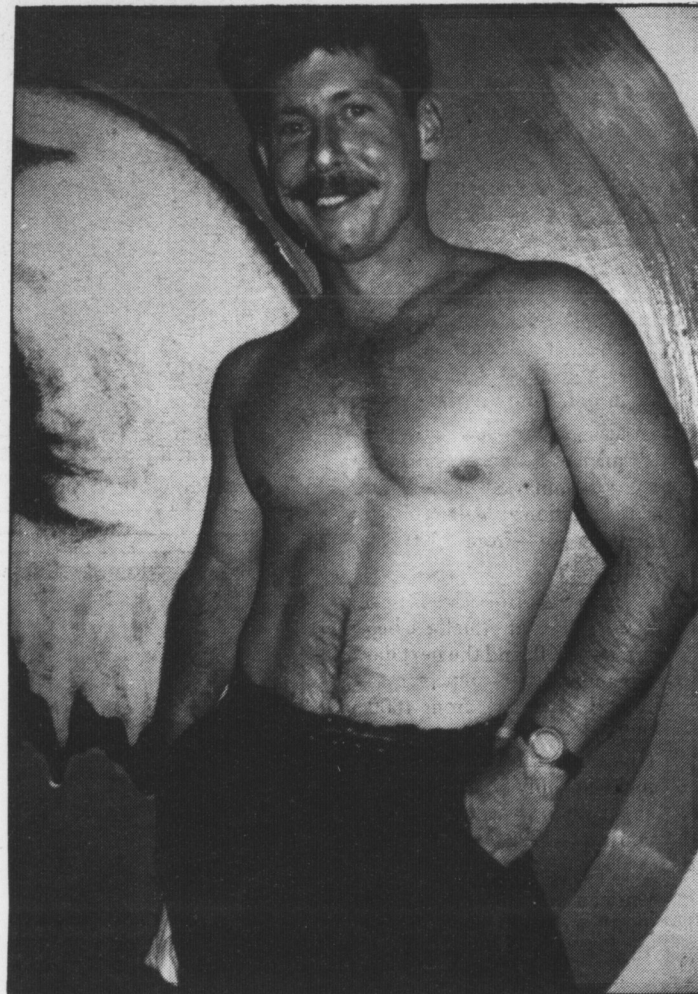
Revving Up for a Summer of Fun

Summer's just around the corner, and there are all kinds of fun things planned for you and all the tourists, who are already arriving in Faghdad by the Bay for fun and pleasurable experiences that can be found in both the gay and straight arenas.

A hot Berlin leatherman fell into the S.F. Eagle last Thursday and wound up being a judge for the Mr. July 1989 Bare Chest contest. The enthusiasm in study men seems to be on the rise. Last week seven dudes bared their chests and went through the ritual leading to a spot on the calendar.

In the end, a newcomer from Florida who's only been in town two months grabbed the honors. He's Gregg Phillips, a 33-year-old dude who says he's into surfing, writing, photography, and people; i.e., men who are big, husky, and teddy bear-like. This could be translated to mean a chubby-chaser, but why not?

Tomorrow night, Friday, May 20, the search continues for Mr. Powerhouse, beginning at 2200 hours. It's the third heat, and eventually an overall winner will be named in July, coinciding with the Powerhouse anniversary. Don't be shy, get in the fray, win \$50, and go on to fame, notoriety, and stardom!



Gregg Phillips will be Mr. July on the 1989 Bare Chest calendar (Photo: Marcus)

Another development in the International Mr. Leather contest Memorial Day weekend in Chicago: (1) Tom Rodgers, who was a runnerup in

the Mr. Leather of S.F. contest, will compete in the Windy City after all. Sponsor: the S.F. Eagle. (2) It was just flashed from across the western plains that the Vil-

lage People will perform at IML this year, adding yet another big surprise for the tenth anniversary extravaganza.

To date, San Francisco will be represented in Chicago by Stephen Misler, Tom Rodgers, James Buhler, Marty Blackburn, and Leather Daddy Zack Long. Los Angeles will have one contestant, and so will San Diego. After sending "Hello Summer Hello" to Chicago a couple of years ago, Sacramento will not be represented. But then, the capital city never did boast a leather community. Like San Jose, all their leather men come here to play and cavort around.

Speaking of leather, if you missed the finals of the Mr. Leather of S.F. contest at the Eagle, it will be presented on Viacom Cable 6 next Thursday, 26 May, at 2100 hours. Can you imagine? This is a first! I'm glad at least one other gay media group recognizes leather, something sorely lacking in other major gay rags... did I say "major"?

What's to keep you busy, broke, and exhausted? Tonight, 19 May, Deena Jones will perform at the Endup, beginning at 2200 hours with the Golden Gate Wrestling Club exhibition.

The GGBA is having a "coming out" party at the City Club (155 Sansome, tenth floor) with a reception beginning at 1930 and a cabaret show at 2130, with hors d'oeuvres, cake, champagne, and a drawing for a trip to Palm Springs. (Why there? Aren't we

Joe Falco, Mr. October on the 1988 Bare Chest calendar, will represent Los Angeles at the Intl. Mr. Leather contest in Chicago. (Photo: R. Pruzan)

having the drought? Only kidding.) According to that adorable Bob Munk, prez of the foundation, the GGBA will be presenting their new identity, hosted by a lot of the heavies in the gay and lesbian community. If you can handle \$30 to see all this splendor, call 546-5226, but hurry!

If you prefer something more racy, join the Gay Rescue Mission at the S.F. Eagle for an auction of exotic (not erotic) items to be offered by Carole Ruth Silver (the darrrring of Ramona Street) and state Sen. Milton Marks. They say there'll be rare and unusual items from around the world to raise funds for the drop-in center and the soup kitchen for homeless gays and lesbians at 1080 Folsom.

Saturday will be bizzzy! There'll be a dog pageant at Duboce Park in honor of Harvey Milk and his dog Kid, and the Harvey Milk mural will be unveiled, too. Similar to the dog show on Castro of yesteryear, I guess you can dress up your mutt to compete for prizes. Mary Richards didn't give me the details, and neither did Johanna Poethig. Call 552-0233, because they didn't give me the time, either.

At about the same time, the Council of Emperors is having a giant flea market in the Church Street Station art gallery—er, uh, parking lot—from 1000 hours until 1700.

Team San Francisco is having a workshop at Amelia's beginning at 1000, and the next day at Dreamland (not—repeat, not—a Ron Baer party), from 1800 to 0200 the next morn, it's Jocks Night Out. Meet gay and lesbian jocks for only \$5 and help send some 1,000 gay athletes to Vancouver in 1990.

If you're not into dogs or jocks, you can audition for City Jazz, another offshoot of the S.F. Tap Troop. You can audition from 1230 to 1400 at 1519 Mission if you're experienced in jazz, ballet, tap, or modern dance. Call 621-5619 for more details.

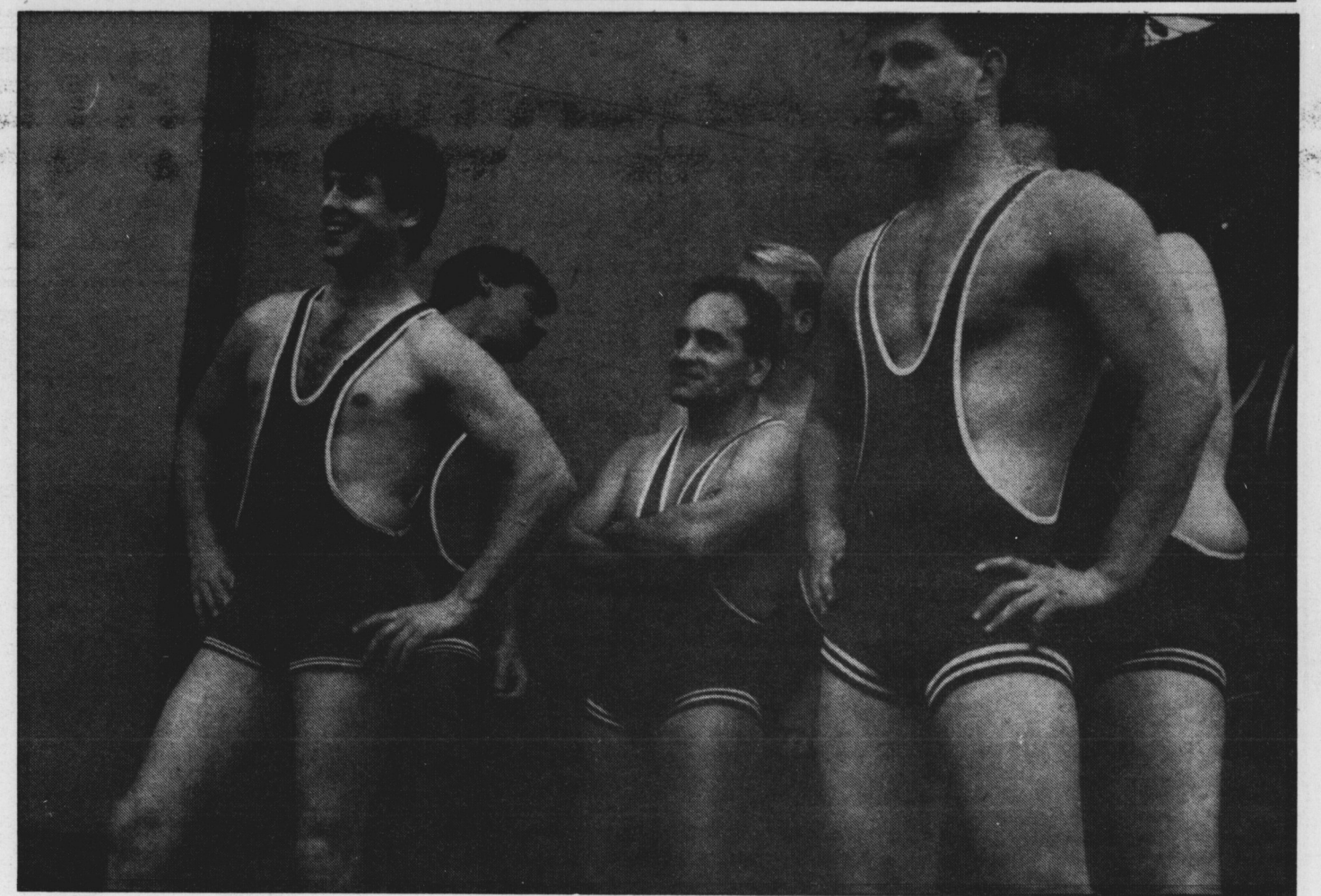
Saturday night, also, the S.F. Bondage Club party is at the usual place on Folsom, with the doors open for one hour beginning at 2100 for \$10 and BYO-BTE (bottles, toys, and energy).

This sounds like fun, too: They're having a Caldron Reunion Party at 890 Folsom for \$10 Saturday night. The doors open at 200 and close at 2200 to celebrate the fun times when the Caldron opened on May 10, 1984. Many of the old Caldron staff will be on hand; original tapes (music) will be run through again for your nostalgia, and souvenirs and refreshments will add to the blast. The FOC (Friends of the Caldron) are planning another one later this summer called the "Nuts and Bolts" party. Write to P.O. Box 5715, S.F. 94101 if you need more info.

If you're in the Russian River area Saturday, the Club MUD is having a Mud-In with all kinds of muddy activities. Call Duke at (707) 869-0546 for the mud-details.

Sunday, May 22, Beauty-Rama '88 will be at the Club DV8. It'll be a clipping extravaganza featuring almost 100 of S.F.'s best hair stylists, with lots of entertainment, food, drink, games, videos, and music, plus a fashion show and Cut-A-Thon. Call Wendy Miller at 648-8514 for the details. Tickets are \$15 in advance, \$20 at the door. It's a benefit for the AIDS Emergency Fund, and the action goes until midnight.

The Arcadia Bodybuilding Society is having a cha-cha party at the Club St. John in San Jose (Continued on next page)



The Golden Gate Wrestling Club invites you to Jocks Night Out this weekend

(Photo: J. Martin)

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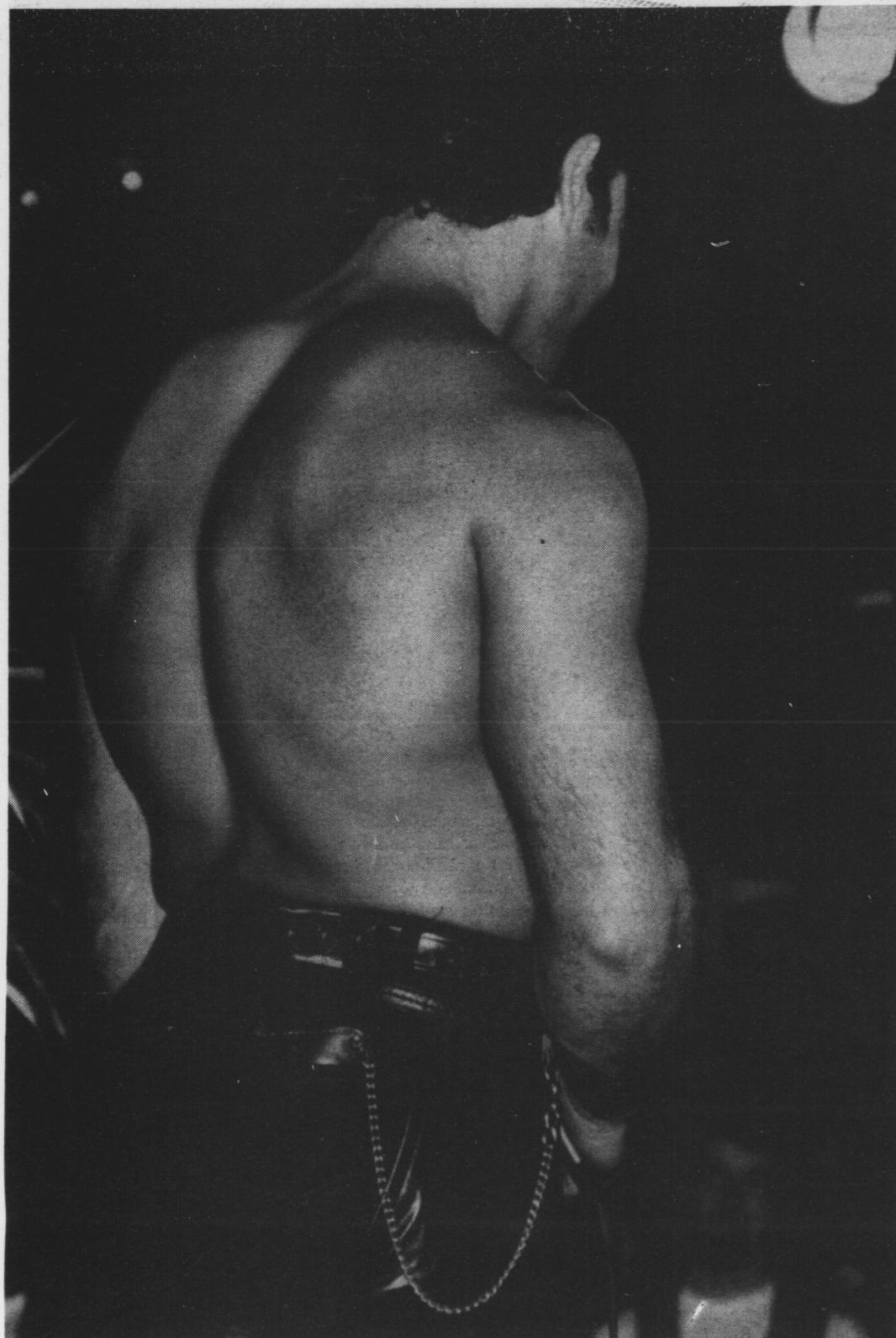
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Mr. San Diego Leather

(Photo: R. Pruzari)

Marcus

(Continued from previous page)

from 1830 on, with Tatiana and Desiree (Mutt and Jeff) entertaining, for only \$2.

Team San Francisco is again at Dreamland, from 1800 on - only \$5 in advance or \$7 at the door.

Monday it's Pat Montclair's birthday at the Galleon from 2000 to 2200. Trixie will entertain on the piano, and the invite states, "No gifts, please." Just votes next February! Okay, okay! You got mine, honey!

The Cheaters M/C weekend run this year is the weekend of 27-31 May for only \$90. The theme is Hollywood Canteen, and applications are being accepted now. Call (415) 621-7348 or write to them at 130 Hancock, S.F. 94114. If you run fast, you can catch Rocky at Uncle Bert's (formerly the Village), but hurry, because only 125 can participate, and the price can go up to \$10 more if you don't hurry.

Finally, the Tricycle Race is Memorial Day weekend, with pit stops all over the place.

The Golden State Police Officers Assn., aka Pigs in Paradise, are having a function May 29, too, but so far no details have been forthcoming.

If that's not enough or uninteresting to you, get Le Salon's latest video, *The Black Bullet*, a Jim West film (Video Pac 12). It's an interesting bi-racial tryst, with some hot dudes making it in moving boxcars and some excellent

photography. (Or should that be cinematography?) Some hot new men in this one, so get on down to your LeSalon outlet! Bullet Productions is making good headway in the field.

Several leatherman have lost their lovers because of AIDS and find they are unable to find the support, understanding, and friendship they need to get through the trauma. Interested parties wanting to form such a group are asked to call Alan at 863-7764. He will do his best to help get one started. You shouldn't feel cut off or alone; others are going through the same emotional stress, and it should be of some benefit to know there are others who understand your feelings.

AND DISH US NOT INTO OBLIVION

Hey, ever wonder what happened to John Cassas, our current Leather Daddy's Boy? He fled the coop northward, and last week word was received here that he just got selected as Mr. Oregon State Leather! John will compete in Chicago at IML, and you can pick yourself up off the floor now!

Hot new line of condoms for you to try, coming out any day now: They're called Bone Domes and are lubricated! Love that name! Love that protection!

My spies tell me, too, that at the Intl. Mr. Leather contest in Chicago on Memorial Day weekend this year, there are contestants from Honolulu (!), Boise, Idaho; several from Canada

(Toronto); and one from Spain! It will be a tough one this year!

And a certain lady in North Beach is just fuming about the success of *Puttin' on the Glitz* at Sutter's Mill. Now that the tourists are going there by the busload, that "other place" isn't doing so well. Carl Berry is ecstatic, naturally, and the new summer schedule is such that you can see choreographer George Lowy's smash triumph with the cast on hand. Shows are on Wednesdays and Thursdays at 2130 and 2330 and on Fridays and Saturdays at 2130 only. On Sundays, catch *Glitz* at 1930, 2130, and 2330, and don't mind the tourists! Half the fun is seeing their shocked faces. Carl Berry, you are too, too much!

The Covered Wagon, 917 Folsom, will be featuring Victim's Family/Stick Dog this Friday evening. The show starts at 10 p.m. Sorta sounds like the entertainment for Steph and Bill's. There is a \$4 cover charge, and don't forget their Kamakazi night on Wednesdays when those smooth little concoctions are just a mere \$1.25, and also their "Monday Night Menu's" where it's a different one-item menu served each Monday after 6 p.m. To check the menus or any of their other events, call 974-1585.

Brief out-of-town court news: Erin and Doug were elected Emperor and Empress of Visalia, wherever that is, and that coronation was MC'd by Jack E. of Reno. Our own multi-talented Gladys Bumps also was a command performer at that affair. One day last week I ran into Emperor Steven, and just as he was about to regale me with stories of Visalia, I was called off on one of those important journalist errands, so I will have to hope he can remember those tidbits 'til next we meet.

This Saturday will be the 2nd

annual "Giant Flea Market" for the Council of Emperors in the parking lot of the Church Street Station, Church and Market, with the sale going from 11 a.m. 'til 5 p.m. There are still some 6'x10' spaces left, and you can get more info by calling Chuck Demmon at 824-6114.

Also this Saturday the East Bay AIDS Fund will receive a boost, compliments of Little Mother, when LM presents another one of his spectacular "something for everyone" auctions at the Turf Club, 22517 Mission Blvd., Hayward, starting at 4 p.m. They have lots of items, you bring the checkbooks.

Mark this down because it is not a regular night for Bingo. Tonight, yes Saturday, will be Bingo at Most Holy Redeemer, 100 Diamond St., as a benefit for The Names Project. The games start at 7 p.m. and there will be the usual \$10 admission, which also gives you 10 Bingo cards. Of course for those of you with extra-

Mark Fries

Rip Van Winkle Returns



Join the fun at the Great Tricycle Race

(Photo: Photo Graphics/Darlene)

While news items have most likely been flying around town, and the dish, dirt, and tea has probably been extremely evident, what have I, the eager news hound, been up to except sleeping? Sleeping is the word that covers my activities, and I am lucky I gathered my share of newsey items before the Rip Van Winkle mood set in. Notice how I shied away from using Sleeping Beauty as a comparison, but I have been told by my medical sources that there is nothing unusual about my catching up on my rest, and in fact more people should do it more often.

This is one of those newsey items that certainly deserves the title newsey. It concerns Stephanie Miller and her other half of 13 years, Bill. The tea on this couple is that they will be celebrating their 13 years this Friday evening at the Transfer, 198 Church St., from 7 'til 9 p.m. There will be food and fun, and maybe some funny food, or something like that. Stephanie very likely will come in one of her (now famous) stinky and slinky outfits, while Bill will most likely come as his usual rugged, macho, handsome, swarthy, and attractive self, which will be no surprise to Steph. Anyway, it has to be fun because Stephanie and Bill won't tolerate anything less.

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ordinary powers of concentration you can always purchase more cards at an additional fee. Me, I stick with 10.

This Sunday Team San Francisco presents "Jocks Night Out" which is billed as an evening for gay and lesbian jocks to meet other San Francisco athletes. You mean they all don't know each other yet? However, this event is being held at Dreamland, and I suppose some dancing will take place when all the athletes aren't too busy meeting each other. You can do all this from 6 p.m. 'til 2 a.m. by getting your tickets in advance, for \$5, at *Headlines or All American Boy*. At the door they will run you \$7. If by chance I discover I do something athletic or jockish by Sunday I'll see ya there. If not, have fun.

Jock events abound as the Club St. John, in fast-growing San Jose, presents their Arm Wrestling "T" as in Tea Dance.

(Continued on next page)

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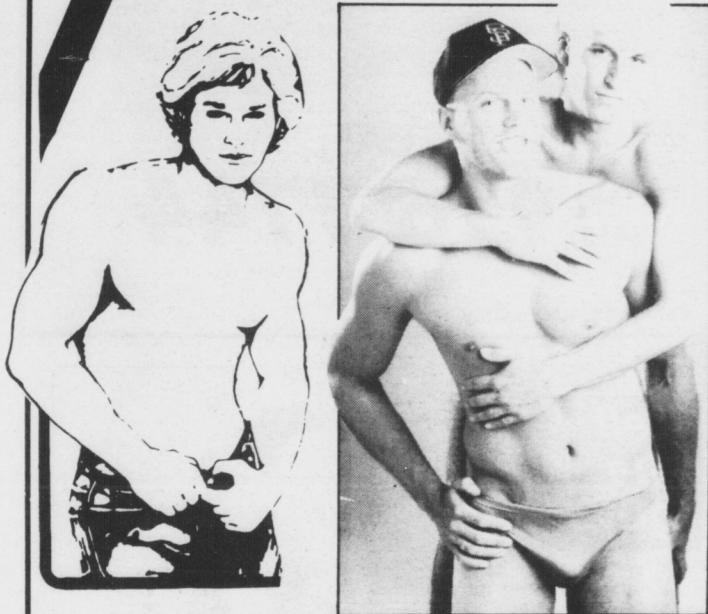
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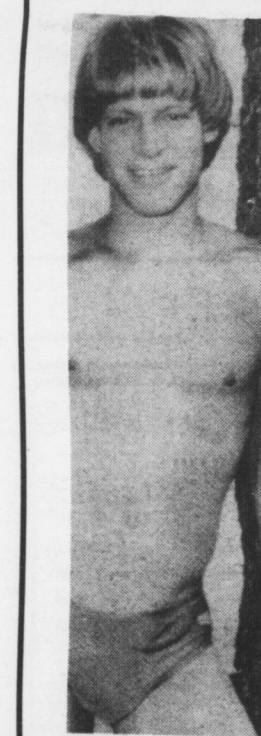
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Parade To Hold Open House

The 1988 S.F. Lesbian/Gay Freedom Day Parade and Celebration Committee will host an open house Sunday, June 5, from 6 to 8 p.m. at its office at 1519 Mission St. All Parade committees will have representatives present. The current co-chairs, Douglas Conrad and Jennifer Roberts, will be at the event, along with the Parade's Board of Directors.

Those still needing information on booths, float/march, the celebration, or insurance are particularly encouraged to take this opportunity to drop by and take care of final details before the Parade.

The event is being planned to formally begin the committee's celebration of the 19th anniversary of the Stonewall riots. Parade merchandise will be available and the official Parade route will be unveiled. For more information call 864-3733.

Friese

(Continued from previous page)

That should be fun, and you know who will be the MC for this event? If you guessed Danny Williams your Dream Kitchen is in the mail. If you guessed otherwise then the check's in the mail. For this party Danny will be assisted by the Arcadia Bodybuilding Society, for which it is also a fundraiser. There will be cash prizes of \$100, \$50, and \$25, and the doors will open at 4 p.m. Club St. John is located at 170 W. Saint John St. in San Jose.

A happy birthday to Pat Montclair Monday, May 23, and if you RSVP'd I'll see ya at the celebration.

This coming Tuesday the Tavern Guild will be meeting at 1 p.m. at the Melting Pot restaurant at 4063 18th St. If my sources are correct, which they are five out of ten times, I should think the Melting Pot will be coming up with some great edibles from their kitchen.

It looks like I'll end this column with Tricycle Race news, and most likely I'll be starting the next one with the final scoop on this year's event. However, the Memorial Day event is coming along smoothly, knock on wood, and we expect a good turnout both in contestants and for the party before, during, and after at the Mint. The entertainment will be provided by Linda Lane and Western Electric in the afternoon, with Frankie Banks playing in the early evening. Dixon will be hosting the Annual Bathing Beauty contest during the afternoon, and prizes will be awarded for Best Male and Female, Most Original, and Most Outrageous, so please do come up with something brief, daring, spectacular, or all of the above. To sign up see Dixon at the Galleon, or one of the friendly bartenders at the Mint.

Don't forget there is still time to enter the Race. We are taking applications until the 25th, and if you don't know where to get a Tricycle then call the Mint at 626-4726. They have the information on where to get one without leaving the city. Also, there is more than \$800 in prize money for the race, so get involved now!

Some people call it rambling on, I call it a column, so as fair warning I will tell you my column after the next will be mailed in from yet another of my Florida vacations, but I have some surprises for you on this one... Go ahead, lose sleep.

Piece of History

(Continued from page 26)

muscle, young men. So he created the outside world within, but with no intent to deceive the viewer. On the surface you see a back alleyway, but, if you look closely, the artifice is obvious. A fitting metaphor for the lives of homosexuals in the 1950s, forced to hide their true nature behind a facade that superficially mimicked the real world—for the purpose of basic survival.

While *Athletic Model Guild* presents Mizer's work as art, the editor has wisely chosen from highly diverse photographic styles to represent AMG. It ranges from snapshots and serious portraiture to obvious metaphors for sex play and the creation of fetishistic homosexual icons (such as soldier, sailor, Indian, cowboy, biker, and gladiator). It includes a wild sense of outrageous humor and farce that somehow results in surreal camp. In one photograph, a nude young man, with a paintbrush in one hand and a quart of Homo milk nearby, looks at another young man in a crib, drinking milk from his baby bottle while a pinata hangs over his head.

Amidst all of this there are enough images of great power to testify to Mizer's artistry and talents: a portrait of five biker boys, bare-chested in jeans, leather jackets, and greased-back hair. They penetrate the camera with their raw, angry gaze, yet the photograph sizzles with come-on and steamy sexuality. If the name under this photograph were Robert Mapplethorpe, Bruce Weber, or even newcomer Jack Shear (his portrait of four Marines is strikingly similar) and the subject were art and not softcore porn, this work would be taken quite differently.

Some of Mizer's studio work is reminiscent of the photography of George Platt Lynes, also located in Los Angeles in the mid-1940s. Lynes, like Mizer, was a studio photographer who used unusual environments and evocative lighting to create dramatic and highly emotional images. But while Lynes' photographs are darkly moody, psychological landscapes with hidden faces, Mizer's photographs are sexually tinged playgrounds flooded with sun and life. They are filled with faces that look directly into the camera and speak without shame or fear.

Mizer's work can also be found in a 1984 Gay Sunshine paperback release, *Physique*. While it covers his entire career, the mid-1940s until the present, the quality of its printing is only mediocre, and Mizer's photographs suffer from it. Still, *Physique* provides an interestingly different selection of work, and at \$18.95 you'll be less upset if you get the pages dirty. His early work remains inventive, likeable, and high-spirited. Unfortunately, his photographs from the late 1960s on, both in black-and-white and fast-food color pornography, clearly indicate a tired Mizer lacking in innovation and creativity. It is a disappointing sequel to such a promising start.

At the same time, it raises some interestingly disturbing questions about the struggle of homosexual artists and the nature of their artwork. In this highly homophobic age of science and reason, the worship and celebration of the human body as a kind of divinely earthbound beauty has been mostly set aside. And while nude photography has been part of photography's short 150-plus-year history from the start, the female nude has only come into grudging social acceptability during the last 40 years. But photographs of the male nude remain critically, artistically, and socially unacceptable in the broad mainstream of American society.

Homosexual photographers are left with few choices. I believe that the great majority of their output is covertly created. The work of George Platt Lynes, for example, was kept private to protect his commercial portrait career. Although his work was published posthumously, how much other homosexual art lies hidden or deteriorating, if not already destroyed? Other photographers of promise, such as Mizer, Roy Dean, and Jim French (Colt Studios) have chosen commercially erotic venues that seem to result in a loss of creativity and exploration and ultimately damn their work as pornography and, therefore, not worthy of serious consideration.

And even when their work is taken seriously, their homosexual aesthetic is ignored out of prejudice and homophobia, as if the creative seed for this work were inconsequential. Consider *Photoflexion—A History of Bodybuilding Photography*, a 1984 hardback release by St. Martin's Press, the closest thing to a mainstream gay press we have. *Photoflexion* is the photographic record of a collection of physique and bodybuilding photographs that seeks to honor and detail the history of physique photography.

The book is filled with the work of homosexual photographers such as Robert Mizer, Bruce of Los Angeles, Roy Dean, and Charles Renslow (of Chicago's Gold Coast and the International Mr. Leather contest). There may even be others of whom I am not aware. The contribution made by homosexual photographers to the field of physique photography is inestimable, yet *Physique* responds with a deadly silence. Our work is acceptable as long as we pretend not to be who we really are.

I have to further wonder why books of homosexual imagery keep being published in Europe, but not in the U.S. Even America's most important homosexual photographers, like Mapplethorpe, Arthur Tress, and George Dureau, have had to go out of the country to publish books containing their erotic images of the male nude, while other homosexual photographers of note, like Peter Hujar, pass away without a public record of the erotic nature of their work.

It is a piece of our history. Written in invisible ink. Disappearing before our very eyes.



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BOWLING

How Videos Can Help Your Game

by Richard McPherson

How about that Arne Prince trying to take back his all-time record high series status, which he lost only one week ago to Dave Lilly? Prince shot a 748 series (257, 164, 227) but missed Dave's 754 score by seven pins. Arne's 751 series, which he shot last

August, was the highest ever. A great effort, and great shooting. Arne! That 748 gave him a hearty boost in the average department. He jumped from a 192 to somewhere around 204. Prince will have to stay in top form to hold on to that one for awhile.



Arne Prince
(Photo: Photo Graphics/Darlene)

past year and can honestly say they've helped my performance level considerably. With the next couple of weeks I'll report details of what I feel are the two best in subliminal and self-hypnosis sports training techniques available.

The top shooters in the Tavern Guild Leagues at Park Bowl the week of May 2-5 are: Arne Prince (192 avg.) 257, 264, 227/748; R. McPherson (204) 245, 200, 225/670; Jeff Hettmansperger (190) 268, 201, 193/662; Kevin Schwabe (208) 244, 208/626; Don Gambell (166) 200, 216/608; Ron McKay (168) 215, 221/606; Randy Peter-

son (189) 223/600; Jim Hahn (188) 246/600.

Bowler's shooting 215+ games: Roger Spencer (170 avg.) 224, Darrell Thomas (170) 223, Michael Wheeler (149) 223, Geno Gales (170) 223, Joe Sanders (158) 222, Ken Sayles (177) 222, Jerry DeYoung (160) 221, Roy Thorson (177) 221, Vince DiColla (161) 220, Larry Kramer (166) 220, and Ed Hamm (157) 215.

Honorable mention (160 and under average): B.J. Irwin (160) 204, and Alan Stark (142) 200. Petrina LeClaire, a 134 average, shot a 200 even.

(Continued on page 44)

The Action Line
Updated Bulletin Board
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S2 + Toll, If Any

Meanwhile when I was visiting Jeff Hettmansperger Monday, May 2, I mentioned to him that I had a video bowling training tape I wanted to show him. A company called SyberVision, Inc. in Newark, CA, has produced training videos for many sports which feature the repetitive movements of some of sports best athletes.

In this video we see two of bowling's hottest (as in hunkiest) male pros roll strike after strike: the terminally cute Marshall Holman is featured for the right handers, and beefy Johnny Petraglia (wearing tight, ass-hugging slacks) demonstrates perfect form for the lefties. The idea is that you just sit and stare at the video, watching them roll one perfect ball after another, from many different camera angles. For men (of our persuasion) it takes awhile to stop the day-dreaming fantasy trips about these two dudes and actually watch them bowl.

There is no speaking, only background music, and for some reason which I haven't been able to quite figure out, the video has a remarkably hypnotic effect. After the first five minutes you just "space out," eyes glued to the screen, feeling very relaxed. This method of viewing is supposed to ingrain perfection into the subconscious mind.

What impressed me most, though, was how it held Jeff's attention without the aid of any pornographic inserts, although Jeff did say a couple of times he wished they would focus more on Holman's crotch.

We watched the 20-minute right handers' segment and put it aside. Later that day, in the Tavern Guild Trios at Park Bowl, I shot a 245 my first game. I went over to tell Jeff and arrived just as he was finishing up a 268 game, his highest in years. We just looked at each other and laughed. Maybe there is something to this stuff.

I've been experimenting with different visual and audio bowling training methods over the

POOL

A Duck Reclaims the MVP

by Lauren Ward

The S.F. Pool Association's spring season is building to a crescendo as post-season play begins and season-ending tournaments produce their winners.

The latest crown to be claimed was the championship of the Most Valuable Player Tournament, played last Saturday at Palace Billiards under the capable direction of Donna Blow.

Eighteen teams sent representatives to compete in the tenth edition of the contest, including last season's defending champion, Lauren Ward of the league's top-rated team, the DeLuxe Ducks. She once again proved unstoppable, tallying a 12-3 record in an undefeated march to her fourth MVP championship.

Royal Senn of the Alamo Square Killer Beez finished second with an 11-6 record. His opponents included John Schou, Tony Rios, Gene Miller, and Larry Fyvie.

Fyvie, of the Overpass L'Equipe, finished third, earning his first league individual trophy. He tallied 11-7.

Mike Macri of the DeLuxeditions rounded out the top four and finished with a 6-6 record.

By press time, the 12 playoff contenders will have been decided after Tuesday night's regular season finale. Over half the field will be decided on that night, the 13th week of team competition.

Division 1's title is within reach of the Eagle Creek Chaos IV, who will have to defeat the current leader, the White Swallow Wave, by at least a 10-6 score. All four division champions receive a first round bye in the playoffs.

WOMEN'S TOURNAMENT

The league's top 16 women will compete Saturday at Palace Billiards in the qualifier which decides S.F.'s four representatives in the Women's Individual Tournament at West Coast Challenge XVII.

The Challenge this season is being hosted by the Los Angeles Pool League in July. Besides the women's competition, it also features an open individuals tournament and a team competition between the city champions from San Francisco, Los Angeles, Long Beach, and San Diego.

Dial JOE-POOL for SFPA information.

This Week's Schedules

SOFTBALL

(This week's games at Balboa Field, Ocean and San Jose)

- Sunday, May 22:**
9:30 AM The Mint v. Rainbow 'Roos (Field 1)
 Cafe Sn. Marcos v. Cassidy's (Field 2)
11:00 AM Amelia's v. SF Eagle (Field 1)
 Kokpit v. Pilsner Inn (Field 2)
12:30 PM The Galleon v. Endup (Field 1)
 The Bear v. Rawhide Women (Field 2)
2:00 PM Phone Booth v. Amelia's (Field 1)
 Uncle Bert's v. Rawhide Women (Field 2)
3:30 PM Superstar Video v. Pendulum (Field 1)
 Endup v. Rawhide Men (Field 2)

TENNIS

(Games at Peixotto Playground, 15th St., two blocks west of Castro St.)

- Saturday, May 21:**
9:00 AM Leticia's v. Galleon
11:30 AM White Swallow v. Schmidt & Schmidt Ins.
Sunday, May 22:
9:00 AM Community Rentals v. Roto Rooter
11:30 AM Silver Fox v. Hartford Properties

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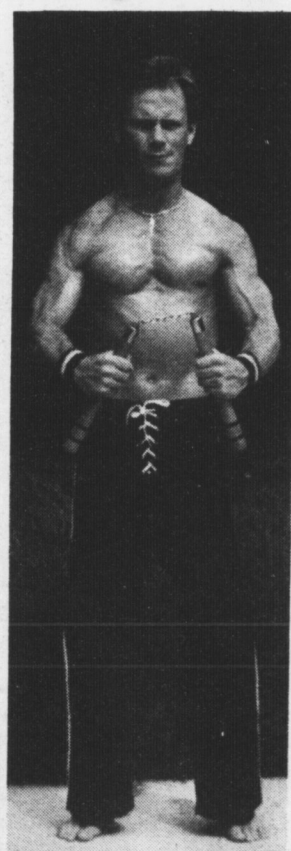
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If you have tested HIV positive but have not yet developed AIDS or ARC... there is something you can do.

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

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

What is Positive Action treatment?

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

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

What does the Positive Action treatment consist of?

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

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

How effective is this treatment?

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

What risks are entailed in the treatment?

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

The Positive Action HealthCare Staff:

The Positive Action HealthCare medical group is headed by Alan S. Levin, M.D., assisted by Vera S. Byers, M.D., Ph.D.

Dr. Levin and his wife, Dr. Byers, are both specialists in the research and treatment of problems of the immune system. They have published numerous medical and scientific documents in the field and both serve as Adjunct Associate Professors of Immunology at the University of California, San Francisco Medical Center.

Since 1981, they have maintained a private practice in San Francisco in the field of allergy and immunology. In 1987, they established Positive Action HealthCare, a medical clinic devoted to the treatment of immune disorders related to the HIV virus.

For more information or an appointment, contact Positive Action HealthCare

Positive Action HealthCare, Inc.
A Medical Group

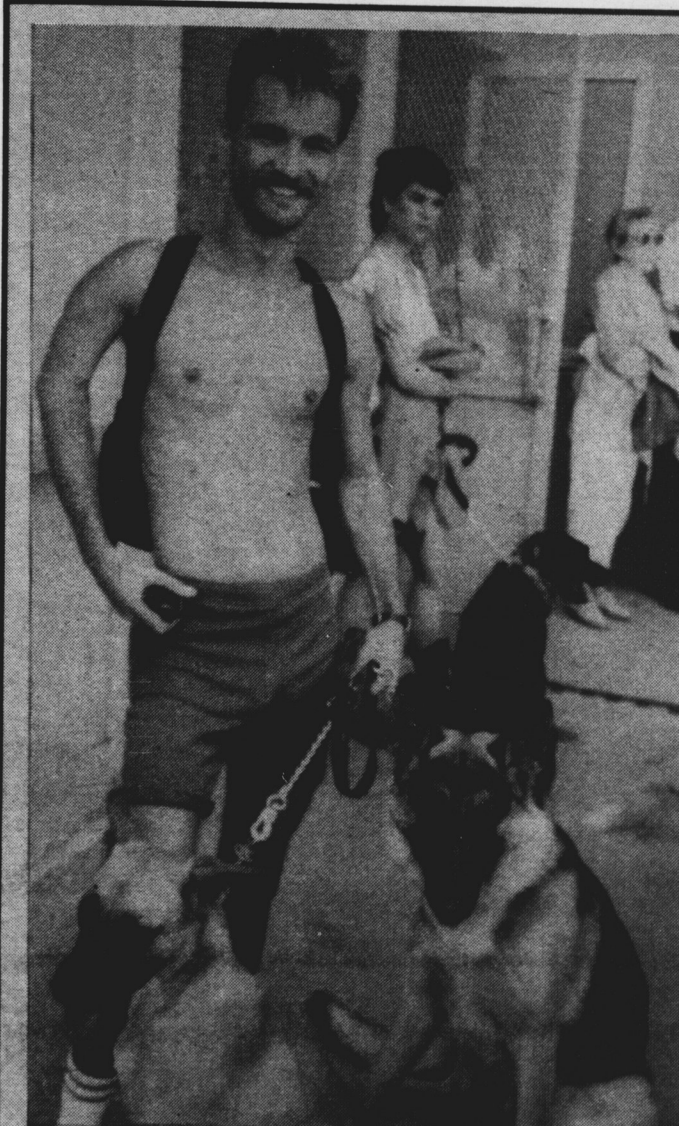
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BAY AREA REPORTER

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Jeffrey and his dogs Delta and Sable turned out for the official unveiling of the Harvey Milk mural. (Photo: Rink)

Mural Honors Milk For Giving Us Hope

Harvey's Charm Brightens Duboce Park

by Allen White

Harvey Milk's 58th birthday was celebrated last weekend with a party unveiling a 2,000 square foot mural in Duboce Park. It was ten years ago, in 1978 when Milk took office as San Francisco's first openly gay supervisor. Before that year would end, however, Milk would be assassinated in his City Hall office.

The mural designed and painted by Johanna Poethig is a vivid reminder of the man. It depicts Milk with a flower lei around his neck and flowers in his hand which is as he rode, ten years ago, in the Gay Freedom Day Parade.

It also shows him in a clown outfit. The clown outfit had actually been part of a publicity stunt for the Ringling Bros. Barnum & Bailey circus. He reportedly spent the entire day going to his many supervisorial appointments in the clown costume.

Poethig's mural had become the subject of a stormy battle in City Hall circles because of its size and the first proposed site for its display. Scott Smith, one of Milk's lovers said, "We showed that a majority of the people in this neighborhood did want a memorial to Harvey in the form of a mural. Now that everyone has seen it, we are hearing that everyone wishes it had been on the proposed side rather than having a few high placed vocal minority

political people torpedo the idea."

The original plan called for the mural to face Scott Street rather than Duboce. Others at the unveiling wished the mural were located in an even more visible location. Robert Xatana said, "I just wish it were in the Castro or somewhere more prominent. It is an unusual place to put something for Harvey Milk."

Park and Recreation Department Director Joel Robinson said, "I think the mural adds a lot of color to the building. It is certainly something the neighborhood wanted and we're glad to do it."

Most agreed that the mural

(Continued on page 2)

LaRouche Hopes Prop. 69 Will Start National Move

Plans TV Special Before June Vote; Calls Koop a Liar, Reagan a Kook

by Allen White

Lyndon LaRouche is predicting that his Prop. 69 will win easily this June. He announced an NBC network special, to air three days before the June 7 California election, as gay protesters marched outside a Redwood City hotel last Saturday.

Though Prop. 64 failed in 1986, LaRouche said he believes the new, similar initiative, Prop. 69, will pass, because "those who led the opposition to it are dead," he said, adding, "I should think that a lot of the people who opposed it are also dead."

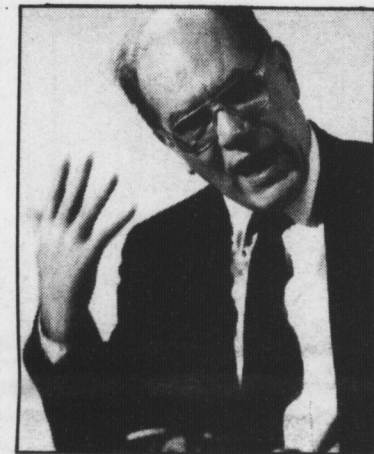
"So I think this time you will find a lot of the people who were panicked into opposing [Prop.] 64 are now thinking about supporting [Prop.] 69, because nobody else is doing a blasted thing about this disease," LaRouche told Bay Area Reporter.

Asked about the effect of having virtually no support from elected officials or from the medical community, he responded, "So what? Maybe some people would like to survive. Maybe you will find in San Francisco and a few other places that a majority of what you call the 'gay vote' might turn out and vote for this thing."

He is banking on the half-hour show on NBC to give him the edge. It will air Saturday, June 4, at 10:30 p.m. LaRouche said, "It is on the subject of 'Victory Over AIDS.' It will be quite a blockbuster."

He explained, "The program is like a documentary. You look at how we're approaching this thing. I think I have packaged it very well. We've got the facts. What do we know about it? How does it work? What are we going to do about it? What is the hope?"

LaRouche clearly hopes to see his position on AIDS reach far beyond the borders of California.



Lyndon LaRouche (Photo: Marc Geller)

"It's a national blast to put some dynamite under this thing nationally," he said. "It's going to cost about half a million dollars. We are going to give them facts about the biological reasons for the disease and get rid of the idea that this disease cannot be licked. What I want to do is blow things up so people can come out and talk about curing AIDS."

His views are frightening and are in almost every instance completely in conflict with respected medical advice. He told the Bay Area Reporter the viewpoints he will be promoting on his NBC special:

"I think the public should be told that the safe-sex material is worthless garbage. Safe sex is nonsense, absolute nonsense, because this is not a venereal disease. [U.S. Surgeon General] Koop is a liar. This guy is spending millions of dollars to mail silly, lying pamphlets, hoping that, like little Nancy Reagan, if you say 'no' to a little AIDS virus when it comes up and knocks on your door, it will go away," said LaRouche.

He plans to tell viewers throughout California that "all confidentiality is crap. People who have it have to be treated. We have to know who they are."

The most controversial aspect of his initiative regards the quarantine of all people who test positive for the HIV virus. "The problem is not quarantine," LaRouche said. "The problem is that quarantine costs millions of dollars. They panicked a good deal of the population into opposing it. I don't think it will work this time. Because these idiots said they had a better solution. They have no solution. They are doing less now than they ever did before, and the public knows it."

(Continued on page 4)

Today

FDA Cracks Down on Alternative Therapies. By Miranda Kolbe, pg. 5.

Mike Hippler Wastes Water in Palm Springs, pg. 11.

Rest Stop Celebrates Its First Anniversary. By Douglas Comstock, pg. 12.

Beauty-Rama a Stunning Success. By Dennis McMillan, p. 16.

Bound for Glory?

Amtrak Gives Couples Discount To Those Who Get Pushy Enough

by Jay Newquist

If you ride Amtrak with your significant other, you may be eligible for reduced family fares. Maybe. The catch is that the ticket agent may not be aware of Amtrak's discount policy for same-sex couples, and you may have to be a little pushy.

Arthur Lloyd, a San Francisco spokesman for Amtrak, said this week the reduced rates for lesbian and gay couples has actually been in place for years. But Amtrak hasn't let anybody know about it.

"The policy is not published in our tariff rates, but if gay and lesbian passengers claim a relationship, it's not questioned by the ticket agent," said Lloyd.

Lloyd said he didn't know why the policy wasn't better publicized and conceded that gays and lesbians might have to insist to an

agent that the policy actually exists.

Couples, Inc., the national organization for same-sex couples, did just that this month after a lengthy sojourn through the Amtrak bureaucracy.

Couples President Walter

(Continued on page 2)