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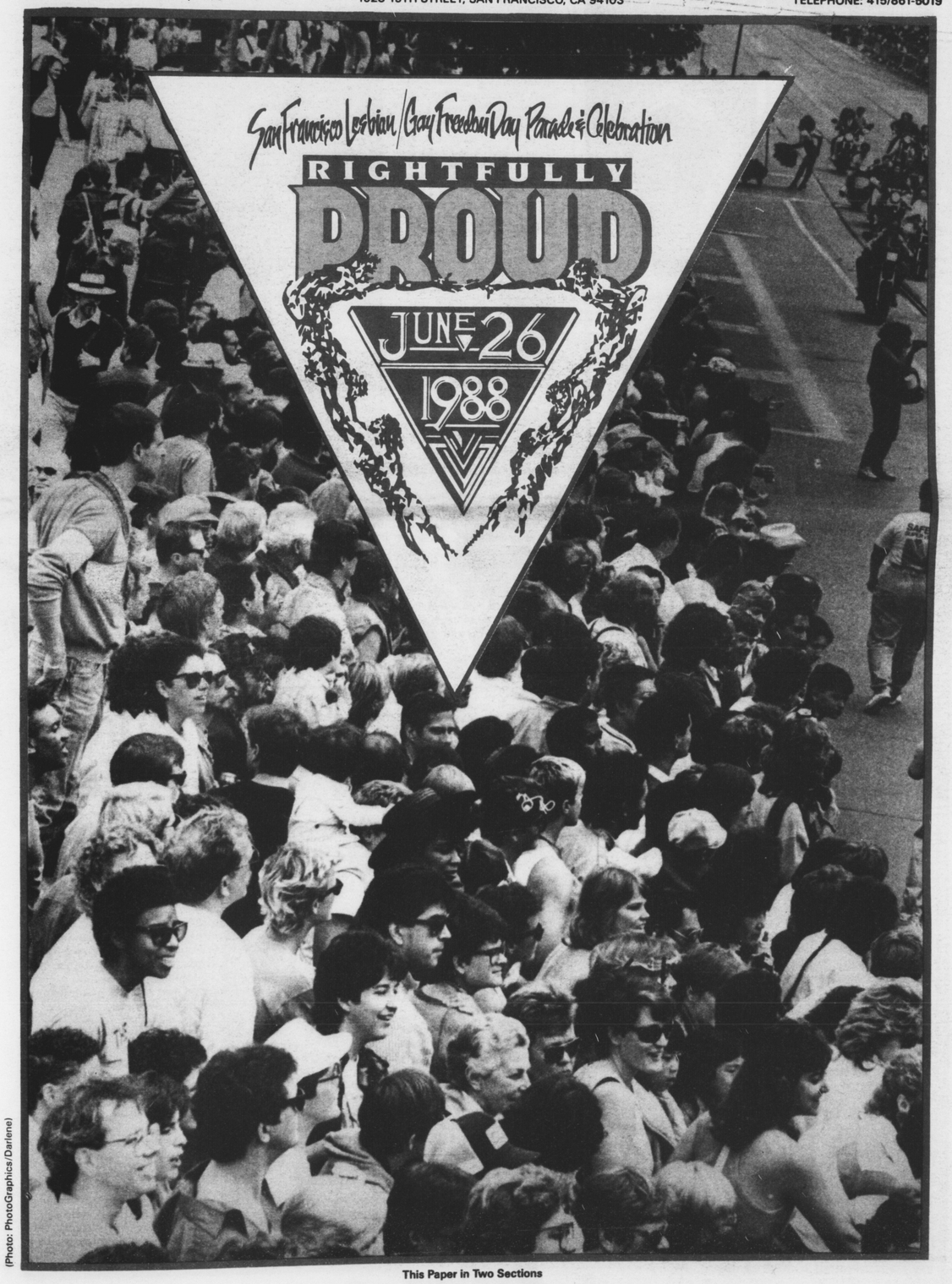

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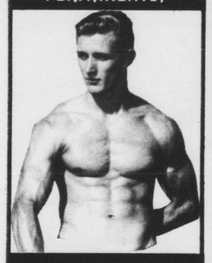

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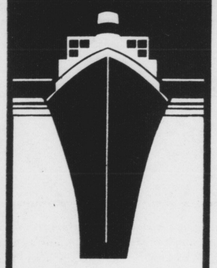

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Mirror of Our Community

A History of the Gay Parades in San Francisco

by Greg L. Pennington
Co-Chair, S.F. Bay Area Gay & Lesbian Historical Society

The story of the parade is interwoven with the history of our communities, and it begins with each and every one of us. For many of us, it started with the realization that we were somehow different.

We were terrified of anyone learning our "shameful" secret, because society taught us to hate ourselves. Some of us were lucky to have supportive families and friends, but many felt frustrated and all alone, wondering if there were any others "like me."

My first trip to a gay bar was a wonderful experience. I was finally able to socialize with other gay people, and over time I learned that not all of us fit the stereotypes. We could express ourselves in uniquely different ways and still be gay.

Gay bars, for many of us, were the only places where we felt safe and comfortable to be ourselves. When we walked through the doors, we left the hostile world behind us. Too often, though, it crashed through the doors after us, trying to rob us of our very right to be ourselves. Police harassment and intimidation were common in dozens of cities from the 1950s on, until gay people began to fight back.

San Francisco's turning point was New Year's Day 1965, when the police raided a dance held by the Council on Religion and the Homosexual. A scandal and shakeup occurred when the ministers involved held a press conference blasting the police department. As a result, police harassment of the community was dramatically curtailed.

Battles were fought in many cities, and change occurred slowly. But the events in New York City in 1969 ignited a movement.

The police raided the Stonewall Club at 2 a.m. on Saturday, June 28. They had no reason to believe that the raid would be any different from the others in the previous weeks and years. They closed the club on the grounds that alcohol was being sold without a license. The police moved everyone out into the street. The "fairies" and "drag queens" began throwing pennies, then bottles and cans, and finally an uprooted marking meter.

The Angels of Light performing in 1973. (Photo: Rink)

The police barricaded themselves inside the bar. The crowd outside set the club on fire as the officers inside waited for reinforcements to arrive. Nearly 1,000 gays and 200 cops were involved in a melee that lasted two hours until the police controlled the area.

After making repairs, the Stonewall opened Saturday night, giving liquor away so that they would not be in violation of the law. Crowds filled the bar,

(Continued on page 24)

Gay Presence Planned For Demo Convention

Protest Groups Plan to State Their Case; Up to 70 Gay Delegates Expected in Atlanta

by Rex Wockner

Despite a reticence on the part of Atlanta gay and lesbian activists, Yankees and Californians plan to make sure the Democratic National Convention July 18-21 sees some of the new gay/lesbian direct action and civil disobedience. The AIDS Coalition to Unleash Power (ACT UP), the National Gay & Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF), the Human Rights Campaign Fund (HRCF), the Mobilization Against AIDS (MAA), the Gay Freedom Ride (GFR), and others have all said that they consider civil disobeidence to be an integral part of the movement now. To go to the convention and not take action would be inappropriate, they say.

Civil disobedience, though, is only the beginning of what the movement has up its sleeve for the Democratic convention.

NGLTF and HRCF will operate a "media information/action center to coordinate the myriad activities of the different gay groups that will be there," according to Urvashi Vaid, NGLTF's information director.

"We see our media information room as a conduit of information from the gay and lesbian and AIDS communities to the straight and the gay and lesbian press," she said. "It'll also be a lifeline back to our community about what's happening at the convention."

In addition, NGLTF and HRCF will host a reception for gay and lesbian delegates and will schedule press conferences with civil rights leaders. "The goal is to keep our issues highly visible and to get our community's agenda placed on the platform," Vaid said.

Between 50 and 70 gay and lesbian delegates are expected at the convention, according to Chris Riddiough, executive director of the National Association of Gay & Lesbian Democratic Clubs (NAGLDC). On Sunday, July 17, NAGLDC will hold an opening meeting for the lesbian and gay caucus. Jack Campbell, president of NAGLDC and a Dukakis delegate, and Pat Norman, co-chair of the March on Washington and a Jackson delegate, are co-chairs of the gay/lesbian caucus.

"What the caucus does throughout the convention depends on what happens with the platform," Riddiough explained. "Our strategy will be to provide support for anything that comes

(Continued on page 29)

Party, Party, Party

It's the Weekend of Weekends

by Allen White

Gay Day tea dances, a new route for the parade, an international film festival, and dozens of parties create an incredible weekend for San Francisco as it celebrates the 19th anniversary of the Stonewall rebellion and ten years since Harvey Milk became the city's first gay supervisor.

The annual Giftcenter Gay Day Tea Dance starts Sunday afternoon at 4 p.m. It features the world premiere release of Jeannie Tracy's newest Megatone release, "Let's Dance." Music is by Mark Watkins from the Castro Station. This year the event is a benefit for the AIDS Emergency Fund. All costs have been underwritten by grants including a major donation from Absolut Vodka. This means virtually 100 percent of the ticket cost will actually make its way to a person with AIDS through the fund. The tea dance costs $12 in advance and $15 at the door. Tickets are on sale at all Headlines stores.

The tea dance follows the 1988 San Francisco Lesbian/Gay Freedom Day Parade, which begins at 11 a.m. at the corner of Sanchez and Market streets. The route is down Market to Larkin and into the Civic Center. The grand marshals are Holly Near and James Broughton. For the first time, the mayor of San Francisco, Art Agnos, will be riding in the parade.

The celebration program begins at noon on three stages in the Civic Center and continues until 6 p.m. The stage in front of the Civic Auditorium will feature talent including Holly Near, Tom Ammiano, Sistah Boom, Hunter Davis, Aldo Bell, and many others. Speakers on the stage will cover a wide variety of subjects. Among the speakers will be National Gay Rights Advocates attorney Ben Schatz; Maraos Rodriguez from the Latino AIDS Outreach; and Ginny Lynns and Stacie Neldaughter, who organized the gay parade in Dubuque, Iowa.

The stage at Larkin and McAllister features entertainers from E.C. Scott to the competitors from Physique '88, from the Sluts From Hell to the Glide Church Ensemble. A third stage in front of City Hall will contain a dance floor for dancing throughout the day.

At 2:35 p.m. there is going to be a moment of silence in honor of people who have died of AIDS. For a few moments, the activity in the entire Civic Center will stop. Even the parade, which will be entering the area, will be stopped during this time. At 6 p.m. the celebration will continue with a grand balloon release. Sponsored by the Names Project, thousands of balloons containing names of people who have died of AIDS will be released.

There will be many other events throughout the city, not only on Sunday but throughout the weekend. Steve Bronski, formerly of England's Bronski Beat, is featured at the Boy Club Sunday night at 9, with DJ Brian Raffi. Thelma Houston appears at 9, also on Sunday, with DJ Michael Garrett, at the I-Beam. Tickets cost $7 at both clubs.

This weekend the Boy Club also takes place on Friday and Saturday night at the Larkin Music Hall location for the 18-and-over crowd.

Dreamland's after-parade party is their Gay Day Triple Play, featuring three of the nation's best DJs. Michael Jorba, Steve Fabus, and Tom Johnson are featured from 1 p.m. until the after-hours of Monday morning. Tickets are $15 in advance and $20 at the door.

The Galleon features David Canfield at 5:30 for $5 and Katibelle Collins and Luaren Mayer in *An Evening With Noel & Cole* at 8 p.m. for $8. Holly Near is at La Pena in Berkeley at 7 and 9:30, with tix at $10.

Hunter Davis appears at Olive Oyl's at 4 for a post-parade celebration, with cover at $5. The New College Auditorium, at 777 Valencia near 18th, is the site for the IMA Benefit with June Millington, Jean Millington, Julie Homi, Mimi Fox, Debbie Lane, Carolyn Brand, Melanie Monsur, and Jenna Mammina. Tix are $5 to $10.

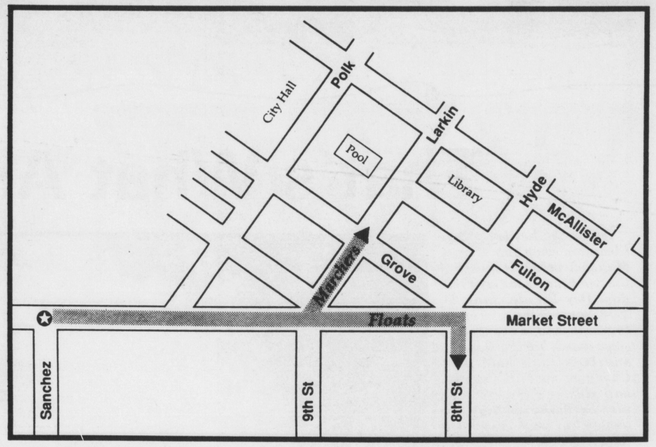
Code Blue at 16th and DeHaro has their gay day "dirty dancing" finals for women, with a cover of $5.

The San Francisco Tavern Guild sponsors a day of partying at Circus-Circus at 240 Golden Gate Ave. The event begins Sunday morning at 9 a.m. and runs through the day. It is a benefit for the AIDS Emergency Fund and the Godfather Service Fund.

The weekend begins Friday night with the Annual Gay Musical Celebration, which will be presented this year at the First

(Continued on page 47)

1988 SAN FRANCISCO LESBIAN/GAY FREEDOM DAY PARADE ROUTE



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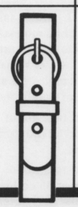

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RIGHTFULLY PROUD JUNE 26 1988

That's What America Is

It was the heyday of gay liberation when Sup. Harvey Milk delivered this speech at the San Francisco Gay Freedom Day Parade, June 25, 1978. Some of the references to people and to events may seem dated, but the ideas, by and large, still hold true. Change some of the names, and Harvey's impassioned plea for understanding, for leadership, and, above all, for gay people to come out of their closets are as valid now as they were then.

Harvey Milk urged us to "Come out! Come out!" (Photo: D. Nicolleta)

My name is Harvey Milk—and I want to recruit you. I want to recruit you for the fight to preserve your democracy from the John Briggs and Anita Bryants who are trying to constitutionalize bigotry.

We are not going to allow that to happen. We are not going to sit back in silence, as 300,000 of our gay brothers and sisters did in Nazi Germany. We are not going to allow our rights to be taken away, and then march with bowed heads into the gas chambers, on this anniversary of Stonewall. I ask my gay sisters and brothers to make the commitment to fight. For themselves. For their freedom. For their country.

Here in San Francisco, we recently held an election for a judgeship. An anti-gay smear campaign was waged against a presiding judge because she was supported by lesbians and gay men. Here in so-called liberal San Francisco, an anti-gay smear campaign was aged by so-called liberals.

These anti-gay smear campaigns are laying the groundwork for the Briggs initiative. We had better be prepared for it.

In the Examiner, Kevin Starr defames and libels gays. In the San Francisco Chronicle, Charles McCabe warns us to be quiet, that talking about gay rights is counterproductive. To Mr. McCabe, I say that the day he stops talking about freedom of the press is the day he no longer has it.

The blacks did not win their rights by sitting quietly in the back of the bus. They got off!

Gay people, we will not win our rights by staying quietly in our closets. . .We are coming out! We are coming out to fight the lies, the myths, the distortions! We are coming out to tell the truth about gays!

For I'm tired of the conspiracy of silence. I'm tired of listening to the Anita Bryants twist the language and the meaning of the Bible to fit their own distorted outlook. But I'm even more tired of the silence from the religious leaders of this nation, who know that she is playing fast and loose with the true meaning of the Bible. I'm tired of their silence more than of her biblical gymnastics!

And I'm tired of John Briggs talking about false role models. He's lying in his teeth, and he knows it. But I'm even more tired of the silence from educators and psychologists, who know that Briggs is lying, and yet say nothing. I'm tired of their silence more than Briggs' lies!

I'm tired of the silence, so I'm going to talk about it. And I want you to talk about it.

Gay people, we are painted as child molesters. I want to talk about that. I want to talk about the myth of child molestations by gays. I want to talk about the fact that, in this state, some 95 percent of child molesters are heterosexual—and usually the parent.

I want to talk about the fact that all child abandonments are heterosexual.

I want to talk about the fact that all abuse of children is by their heterosexual parents.

I want to talk about the fact that some 98 percent of the six million rapes committed annually are heterosexual.

I want to talk about the fact that one out of every three women who will be murdered in this state this year will be murdered by their husbands.

I want to talk about the fact that some 30 percent of all marriages contain domestic violence.

And, finally, I want to tell the John Briggs and Anita Bryants that you talk about the myths of gays, but today I'm talking about the facts of heterosexual violence, and what the hell are you going to do about that?

Clean up your own house before you start telling lies about gays. Don't distort the Bible to hide your own sins. Don't change facts to lies. Don't look for cheap political advantage in playing upon people's fears! Judging by the latest polls, even the youth can tell you're lying!

Anita Bryant, John Briggs: Your unwillingness to talk about your own house, your deliberate lies and distortions, your unwillingness to face the truth chills my blood. It reeks of madness!

And, like the rest of you, I'm tired of our so-called friends who tell us that we must set standards.

What standards?

The standards of the rapists? The wife-beaters? The child-abusers? The people who ordered the bomb to be built? The people who ordered it to be dropped? The people who pulled the trigger? The people who gave us Vietnam? The people who built the gas chambers? The people who built the concentration camps—right here in California, and then herded all the Japanese-Americans into them during World War II? The Jew-baiters? The nigger-knockers? The corporate thieves? The Nixons? The Hitlers?

What standards do you want us to set? Clean up your act, clean up your violence before you criticize lesbians and gay men because of their sexuality. It is madness to glorify killing and violence on one hand and be ashamed of the sexual act, the act that conceived you, on the other.

There is a difference between morality and murder. The fact is that more people have been slaughtered in the name of religion than for any other single reason. That—that, my friends, *that* is true perversion! For the standards that we should set, should we read your next week's headlines?

Well, I'm tired of the lies of the Anita Bryants and the John Briggs.

I'm tired of their myths.

I'm tired of their distortions.

I'm speaking out about it.

Gay brothers and sisters, what are you going to do about it? You must come out. Come out to your parents. I know that is hard and will hurt them, but think about how they will hurt you in the voting booth! Come out to your relatives. I know that is hard and will upset them, but think of how they will upset you in the voting booth. Come out to your friends, if indeed they are your friends. Come out to your neighbors, to your fellow workers. To the people who work where you eat and shop. Come out only to the people you know and who know you. Not to anyone else. But once and for all, break down the myths, destroy the lies and distortions.

For your sake.

For their sake.

For the sake of youngsters who are becoming scared by the votes from Dade to Eugene.

If Briggs wins, he will not stop. They never do. Like all mad people, they are forced to go on to prove they were right.

There will be no "closet" for any gay person.

So break out of yours today—tear the damn thing down once and for all!

And finally, most of all, I'm tired of the silence from the White House.

Jimmy Carter: You talked about human rights a lot. In fact, you want to be the world's leader for human rights. Well, damn it, lead! There are 15 to 20 million lesbians and gay men in this nation listening, and listening very carefully.

Jimmy Carter: When are you going to talk about their rights?

You talk a lot about the Bible, but when are you going to talk about that most important part: "Love thy neighbor?" After all, she may be gay.

Jimmy Carter: The time has come for lesbians and gay men to come out—and they are. Now the time has come for you to speak out. When are you?

Until you speak out against hatred, bigotry, madness, you are just Jimmy Carter. When you do, then and only then will some 20 million lesbians and gay men be able to say Jimmy Carter is our president, too!

Jimmy Carter, you have the choice: How many more years?

How much more damage?

How much more violence?

How many more lives?

History says that, like all groups seeking their rights, sooner or later we will win.

The question is: when?

Jimmy Carter, you have to make the choice—it's in your hands: either years of violence—or you can help turn the pages of history that much faster.

It is up to you. And now, before it becomes too late, come to California and speak out against Briggs.

If you don't, then we will come to you!

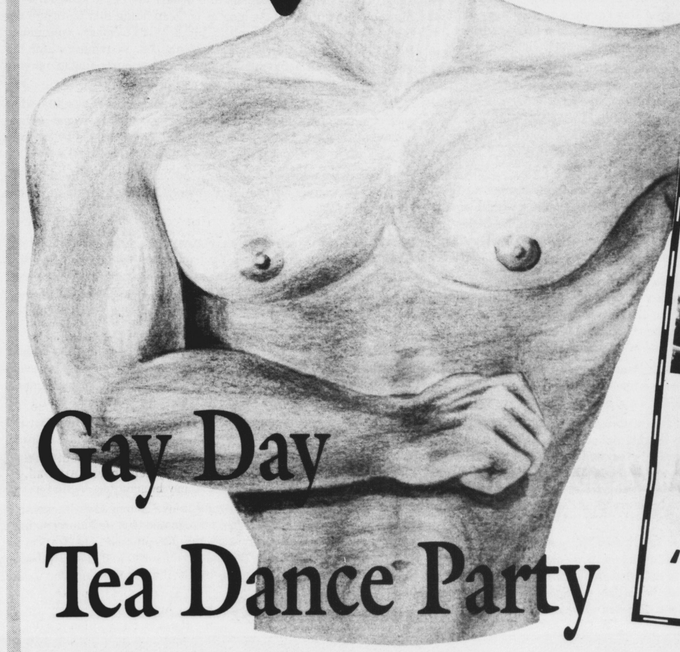
If you do not speak out, if you remain silent, if you do not lift your voice against Briggs, then I call upon lesbians and gay men from all over the nation—your nation—to gather in Washington one year from now on that national day of freedom, the fourth of July—the fourth of July, 1979—to gather in Washington on that very same spot where, over a decade ago, Dr. Martin Luther King spoke to a nation of his dreams, dreams that are fast fading, dreams that to many millions in this nation have become nightmares rather than dreams.

(Continued on page 36)

BAY AREA REPORTER

PRESENTS

LET'S DANCE



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EDITORIAL & OPINION

Rightfully Proud

Few events remain as inspiring after nearly 20 years as they were when first begun. Establishment usually brings stodginess. The Lesbian and Gay Freedom Day Parade is now 19 years old and despite its familiarity, it still has the capacity to rouse enthusiasm, to remind us of where we come from and where we're headed.

This week we commemorate the announcement to the world by a scruffy bunch of drag queens that gay people were tired of being pushed around and beaten down. Rosa Parks started a revolution when she sat down on that bus in Montgomery, Alabama. The queens of the Stonewall Inn started a similar revolution when they stood up. Great things can come from humble beginnings. We are reminded that freedom comes to those who take it.

There is a French saying that goes "the more things change, the more they stay the same." In the two decades since Stonewall, we lesbian and gay Americans have seen enormous change in our lives, for better and for worse. But each June we come back to our roots, our roots in rebellion. The need for that rebellion goes on.

We were born in rebellion both personal and social. There is the personal rebellion each of us faced in choosing to be openly gay or lesbian despite the lifetime of counter-conditioning we endured. And there is the social rebellion as we band together to demand our society change to include us in its promise of justice.

This year's theme — Rightfully Proud — is a very fitting one. We have a right to be proud. We've earned that right. Look around you at what we have created and continue to create.

This year marks the tenth anniversaries for a number of community organizations. National Gay Rights Advocates is commemorating a decade of carrying on legal battles for gay and lesbian rights. At the same time, the San Francisco Gay Freedom Day Marching Band marks ten years of music making. These two anniversaries show some of the diversity of our accomplishments from art to law and dozens of areas in between.

Ten years ago this Freedom Day, Harvey Milk gave his stirring speech calling on our nation's leaders to lead us all to equality and justice and calling on each gay person to take that step out. What Milk said then is true now. The backbone of the lesbian and gay movement is made up of the individuals who take that step in whatever way they can.

Our parade is to tell each of us and the whole world that we are not alone or only a few. We are many. And we take this day to show ourselves to each other and to all. As long as we keep doing that we insure our future. There is stength in numbers. Just as at last October's enormously successful National March in Washington, D.C., we reinforce both our individual commitment and our community's commitment to our well-being and our pursuit of happiness and justice.

It's reinforcing to see all the diverse people marching at a time when each of us has at moments wanted only to escape the challenges we face, wanted to escape from the burden of feeling overwhelmed by the work we have yet to do. Our parade reminds us and reenergizes us.

As long as we remain visible, we are not so threatened. We cannot be ignored. We cannot be trampled upon. If we stick together, we can fight back.

Each parade now marks not just another year of survival and not just another celebration. Each parade is a sign of our stability, our endurance, our maturity, and our commitment. We've lasted and grown. Our community is larger now than ever. We have outlived some of our enemies and surely will outlive others. Anita Bryant is a has-been. John Briggs is now unknown.

We've gone on to fight new fights. Our enemies seem only to make us stronger and more visible. Even with the AIDS epidemic, we seem to be stronger as a community. We've learned that we really are a community and not just a political interest group as some would say.

Despite the incalculable toll the epidemic has taken on us, we are not shrinking as many would hope. Part of the reason for our being rightfully proud today lies in the array of support services we have formed, supported and staffed to help ease the burden for those who have ARC and AIDS. We have worked while our government has scoffed at us.

Freedom goes to those who take it. We march today to remind ourselves of that, to say we've had enough and that we deserve to have our society, founded on ideals as it is, keep its promise to us. We remind ourselves of the promises we've made to ourselves and to each other as well — promises of love and joy as we celebrate once again who we are in all our wondrous variety.

Have a happy Lesbian and Gay Pride Day. ●

OPINION

Take Time for the Homeless

by Sup. Nancy Walker

On the occasion of yet another Gay Freedom Day Parade, it is a pleasure to welcome visitors to our city and express my pride in and for this grand San Francisco. For those of you who live here, I welcome us, as well, to another wondrous San Francisco tradition. The Lesbian/Gay Freedom Day Parade is truly a time to celebrate "rightful pride."

While we celebrate the pride of the gay and lesbian community, I want to ask you all to join me in considering, also, the failure of public policy to remedy the plight of the homeless among us.

The homeless are gay men and lesbians. They are people with AIDS and ARC, and they are people of color. They are straight people, they are men, women, and children.

One of the chief responsibilities of local government today is to take care of—or see to it that care is taken of—people unable to care for themselves. Another major responsibility for those of us in local government is to ensure that our communities are safe and healthy places in which to live and work. We have not been very successful at either. The failure of public policy in these areas is clearly evident in the numbers of homeless people in our communities, in the growing numbers of drug-related problems, in the burgeoning numbers of people present in our public hospitals and in our social services system and in our severely overcrowded jails.

The failure which concerns me as a public official is also represented in the loss of affordable housing, school systems which fail to educate our young, the spread of graffiti, and the terrible growth of violence throughout our cities.

The problems of these failures of public policy result in spending increased amounts of public money and resources. At the same time, we see little, if any, positive change in the problems we're facing. Instead, our problems continue to grow, and we continue to throw more money at them.

I submit that the fundamental mistake we make as government officials is that we fail to look at or we fail to see how inseparable all of our problems are. We continue to try and deal with the homeless problem, the mental health problem, the housing problem, the jail crowding problem, the crime problem, etc. Never in my experience have we identified the need to hypothetically erase all existing programs and bureaucracies and examine the problems with a broader brush. Instead, we continue to work within existing structures and budgets. If we want to make positive social changes, we must be willing to seek solutions which transcend established policies, procedures, and institutions which are clearly not working.

Why, during Lesbian/Gay Freedom Week, am I talking to you about failures of public policy and homelessness? Because, just as the AIDS epidemic reflects government's failure to respond to a minority, so homelessness is a symbol of our inability to find a solution to our social ills. I believe we must explore how—absent the artificial barriers of governmental and departmental jurisdiction and preconceived, established assumptions—we can begin to craft a response and a solution to a social problem which, left untended, will only get much, much worse. (Ronald Reagan's extolling of the health of our national economy not withstanding!)

We need to understand that whatever we do will cost money, but that we also know that not doing anything is also costing considerable amounts of money. A well-constructed, humane, and helpful program will result in taking people off the streets and out of our expensive institutions. It will assist them in reaching nondependency with appropriate self-help mechanisms and allow people to become productive members of our community.

At a time when we celebrate the pride and freedom of the gay community, let us also remember that we must now turn the strength and power of the lesbian and gay community toward eliminating homelessness and changing political institutions which inhibit rather than assist in the changing of public policy. That is not the kind of impoverishment we can tolerate in our world. As long as such poverty of thought and deed is permissible, so are all of the oppressions we are committed to ending. ●

LETTERS

Outraged

★ As the two remaining original members of the AIDS Homecare and Hospice program of the Visiting Nurses and Hospice of San Francisco, we are outraged by the imbalanced representation of the changes in the hospice programs. Many of the supposedly inexperienced and homophobic "traditional" hospice staff are the very people who *trained* the AIDS Homecare team. There may very well be more years of combined AIDS experience among traditional staff.

The suggestion that the change is based on a reluctance to serve the minority population is ludicrous. Let's be real. The AIDS Homecare and Hospice Program (AH&HP) serves mainly gay white men. It is the traditional team that truly serves people who reflect the cultural diversity of this city. Who is charging racism?

Further insult and misrepresentation is added with reference to the AH&HP being built on the backs of gay men. We have a hard time not experiencing this as misogyny and an invalidation of the contributions of the lesbians, straight and minority women who have been a majority of volunteers, attendants and field staff. The supposedly straight, homophobic hospice management is actually eight people, five are gay.

Non-AIDS team members have always been willing to take an AIDS case if AIDS staff could not. The point of integration is to make the program as responsive as possible. Do you think we should turn away the elderly patient in the Tenderloin because the AIDS staff is too "special" to care for people who do not have near the services available to AIDS patients in this city?

We will continue to serve the same number (or more) of AIDS patients with the same amount and quality of services. The mixed caseload of Coming Home Hospice has been very successful. We think it is slanderous to take the perspective of a few people and invalidate the integrity of the rest of the staff and services.

There is a lot of glory in AIDS work. We need to look at some of the backbiting that goes with it. Seeing so many people die evokes a lot of rage, but let's not misdirect it.

Yurii Cachero
Kitsy Schoen
San Francisco

Ed. Note: If your letter is an example of "let's be real" and the integrity of the hospice staff, it doesn't speak well. Pitting one age, race, gender group against another, you seem quite expert in the backbiting you protest. You make it seem as though non-AIDS hospice is doing AIDS people a favor by carrying them along when, in fact, it was non-AIDS hospice work that was suspended for lack of funds two years ago. Hospice chose then to concentrate on AIDS work which was maintained largely by donations from the gay and lesbian community.

We hope we're wrong and that the corporate entity that oversees Hospice is not about to diminish services for AIDS or non-AIDS cases alike. But concerns are justified and trusting corporate managers is risky. The problem is at corporate headquarters, not with volunteers whose dedication is unquestioned despite your manipulative effort to reduce the issue to personal sniping.

Ray O'Loughlin

Hospice Integration

★ I need to respond to my unhappy colleague at Hospice of San Francisco. Like him, I am a registered nurse and a gay man. Unlike him, I work on the traditional hospice team and I am in complete support of integrating our teams.

I have been a hospice nurse for over five years. During those years I have cared for over three hundred dying people and their families. I have cared for people with all kinds of diseases, including AIDS. I am not "ill-equipped" to care for people with AIDS. I speak from experience when I say that my years of cancer expertise better prepares me to care for people with AIDS.

There are many issues specific to AIDS care that are different from cancer work, but a great number of issues about dying are similar. What is needed is compassionate, competent health professionals. I need to tell my gay brothers that I would willingly entrust the care of my friends, my lover, or even myself, to any of my colleagues of the traditional hospice team. The traditional hospice team is highly skilled. Contrary to the B.A.R. article, all members of the team *want* to care for people with AIDS.

The comment by my unhappy colleague that the integration is "flatly elitist" is absurd. We, on the traditional hospice team, have always served the poor and disenfranchised. We go into Hunter's Point, the Tenderloin, or wherever we are needed. To imply the integration has something to do with not wanting to serve "addicts and the lower social classes" insults the good work we have all been doing.

Integration of the hospice teams will have beneficial impact on people with AIDS. Nurses and social workers will expand their expertise, not dilute it. AIDS does not exist in a vacuum, caregivers need to know about other communities and cultures to better serve people.

If the population of people with AIDS is shifting to more IV users and lower economic classes, does it not behoove AIDS workers to start working with a few non-gay, non-AIDS patients to reach a better understanding of them? Hasn't this damned disease taught us that we are not alone in our suffering? There are so many in need all over the city, why create an artificial boundary between us?

Burn out is a significant concern in hospice and is intensified by serving only young men dying of AIDS. It is a wonderful balance, to a difficult job, to witness the expected death of a 90-year-old woman. It gives me perspective and brings me closer to all types and ages of people. I believe integration will result in caregivers working with hospice longer and therefore *increase* our expertise.

I think the point most upsetting to me in the article about hospice is my anonymous colleague's comment that hospice was "borne on the backs of gay men." Hospice grew from the hearts of many in our city. In 1984, when the AIDS Home Care and Hospice was just opening, my lover's business partner was dying of AIDS. Hospice served us so well, and so compassionately. Our nurse, social worker and two wonderful attendants were all women. Home care and Hospice, for people with AIDS, is alive and doing great work today because of *all* the workers and volunteers (men and women, gay and straight) who have given so much.

Many of those people are still with Hospice today. These are people with a commitment to serve our community and deliver the best hospice care to all in the city who need it. As a nurse at Visiting Nurses and Hospice of San Francisco, and a gay man, I know that services to my community, and my brothers, will continue at the current high standard and even improve as a result of integration.

Tom Grothe
San Francisco

Safe Free Love

★ I can't take it anymore. In response to Hippler's bewilderment at the baths—why this constant denigration of the baths? This constant projection that the baths have somehow created our demise. AIDS is caused by a virus not a bathhouse. It is the virus that is the culprit. It is the government that should feel guilty for failing to spend money on AIDS research and health projects.

We gay Americans, like all human beings, have a need to be intimate and be touched. The needs of our gay brothers who are AIDS patients are very real. They need to be touched too! If we fail to take care of our emotional needs will we be good care givers?

The baths are as good a place to touch as anywhere else. The fact that you can sauna and soak before you get into rubbing; and take a good clean shower afterward is an added benefit.

The fact that our bathhouse scene in San Francisco was out of hand, and needed cleaning up was brought home and dealt with. Let's take what is left of a gay tradition of balanced, healthy, touch in a clean environment, and celebrate it in Berkeley, the home of free speech. Let's make safe free love.

James F. Kerley
San Francisco

March With PWAs

★ Sunday is the Gay and Lesbian Freedom Day Parade. Please march with other PWAs and people with ARC in the People with AIDS contingent on this day. We very much need your support. It is a time for us to show the community and the City of San Francisco how strong we have grown. How large our numbers are and who we are.

Every person's participation at this time is vital to the success of the group. You can make the difference by being there. We need you. Don't be ashamed of having AIDS or of letting people see that you have AIDS. Don't march in another group where people won't be able to identify you as having AIDS. Come out of the closet and walk with the AIDS contingent. Make that political statement. Make a commitment now to be in the group with your brothers and sisters who are living wth AIDS. It is your right and your responsibility to be there on that Sunday.

Be a part of a wonderful experience as thousands of people, gay and straight, shower us with love and support. Don't put it off again this year. Do it now. In strength are numbers. Please make our showing successful—something we can be proud of by being with us for this important time.

Bob Russell
San Francisco

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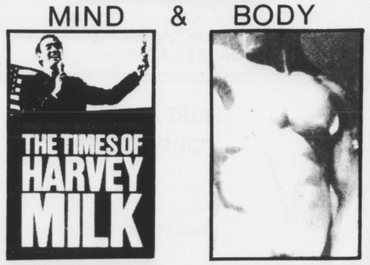

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LETTERS

Removed From Council

★ A special meeting was held on June 8, at the San Franciscan hotel for the purpose of officially deciding the course of action to be taken based on charges presented against Anthony White (a.k.a. Deena Jones) and Anthony Trevizo. Messrs. White and Tevizo declined to attend to show cause why they should not be removed from our Council.

After following all due process and procedures outlined in all recognized sources of instruction for such proceedings, the Council membership voted by overwhelming majority of the votes needed to remove Messrs. White and Trevizo as members of the Grand Ducal Council of San Francisco, Inc. (a.k.a. The Council of Grand Dukes and Duchesses of San Francisco).

It was further declared that they shall no longer be recognized as Grand Duchess XIII of San Francisco and Grand Duke XII of San Francisco, respectively.

Alex F. Buiel, II
Recording Secretary

Ken LaPierre
President

SPCA Homophobia

★ I read with great interest your article on Ellen Novogrodsky and Barbara Dullea and the discrimination they've suffered on their jobs at the SPCA.

I can tell you that in my experience, you have just touched the tip of the iceburg. Besides homophobia, there is also blatant racism and sexism running rampant through the image-conscious Humane Society.

By printing your article on the oppression these two women have suffered, you have done something all the other press in the Bay Area has refused or been afraid to do. Richard Avanzino is a master at media manipulation, and in the many years he's been running the SPCA, has successfully managed to get the large majority of the local media in his pocket.

There have been many cases filed with the Human Rights Commission, Fair Employment and Housing, and Equal Employment Opportunities Commission against the SFSPCA, and since these complaints are a matter of public record, I suggest you start by looking there and follow up on the article about Ellen and Barbara.

I am also positive there will be an outpouring of letters of support from current and former SPCA employees and volunteers who have experienced the discrimination and oppression which is a normal part of the day-to-day function at the SPCA. There are many lesbians and gay-identified non-gay women who have been subjected to a wide variety of abuses ranging from on the job sexual harassment, to job and pay raise denials.

Another common SPCA practice is harassing an employee until she/he resigns, then perjuring themselves in court to block the employee's unemployment benefits. Several former employees have experienced this situation, and the large majority of them have won their benefits. One lesbian woman now drives a new car as the result of the long-deserved settlement she finally received.

The SFSPCA continues to search for the "all American" stereotype white employees for any job position having to do with public contact, while the people of color work in behind the scenes positions [i.e. janitorial, maintenance, support services, etc.] The same goes for any openly gay (or gay identified) woman. For some reason, the SFSPCA does not seem to have any difficulty with openly gay white men.

The Gay Freedom Day Parade is upcoming and for the first time in the past couple of years, the SPCA will again be represented. There has been insufficient support for the SPCA's entry the past couple of years, so they have not been included. This year, when the SPCA's truck goes by, please note who is driving it and who is in the contingent. I can assure you it will be mostly gay white men and very few (if any) women—gay or otherwise. Check for yourself. The SFSPCA is sexist, racist, and discriminates against gay women. Thank you for printing the article about Ellen Novogrodsky.

Name withheld by request.

Fascism In Pearls

The following was sent to British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher:

★ Clause 28 of the local Government Finance Bill is not only a major setback to gay and lesbian rights but to civil liberties throughout the United Kingdom. I understand that protests have already come from gay groups, Anglican bishops, writers, painters, actors and the Dutch government. As a long-term resident of your constituency of Finchley and a gay Englishman living overseas, I too write to protest.

I take particular exception where Clause 28 refers to same-sex unions as "pretended family relationships." Which smug, village tory dreamt that up, I wonder? In case you don't honestly understand that gay men and lesbians are just as capable of affection and love as heterosexuals and have the same, ordinary human aspirations to enduring relationships, I would not only draw your attention to British history—from Richard the Lionheart to Virginia Woolf and beyond, gay relationships flourished despite climates of oppression even more intense than the one you are fostering—but to the following.

There is a memorial in San Francisco. It is not a grandiose essay in stone like the Cenotaph in Whitehall, nor austere like the black marble wall in Washington which commemorates the Vietnam dead —it is a quilt, made of hundreds of fabric panels in a time-honoured tradition of American quilting. Each panel commemorates someone who has died of AIDS. And many, perhaps most of these panels were made in grief and grateful remembrance by the lovers of those who died—the relationship your bill callously and vindictively dismisses as "pretended."

It will shortly be Gay Pride Day, a day on which young and old, men and women, black and white march openly together through the cities of the world and, incidentally, have a lot of fun along the way. Gay Pride, Prime Minister, is not just a slogan from the '70s, remembered once a year as an excuse for a parade. It is an absolute, inner commitment to our self-esteem as gay men and lesbians. Self-esteem demands that we oppose any organization or law that seeks to relegate us to the status of second class citizens or deny us equality. And because Clause 28 attempts to do just that, it will be resisted.

However, I have no fear that the love that once dared not speak its name will be silenced by this petty-minded piece of bigotry. Gay history has seen many forms of fascism: concentration camps, police harassment and entrapment, queer-bashing, discriminatory laws, religious homophobia, state homophobia, McCarthy's witchhunts and Reagan's willful neglect of a health crisis. Once fascism wore jackboots; now it wears pearls and a twinset!

While in Texas recently, I heard of a demonstration against Clause 28 at the British Consulate in Houston. The organizers intended to boycott British goods and services. Now this is hardly likely to signal the immediate collapse of the British economy—in Joe Orton's words, "It's a gesture not a recipe" but it was a heartening gesture, positive action that I could take myself.

And if anyone reading this in the California press feels that they can do without the odd bottle of Scotch, Rolls Royce or trip to London, I'm sure that gays in Britain would appreciate it.

Kenneth Orton Williams
San Francisco

Hippler Responds

★ C'mon, guys. Where's your sense of humor? I think the leathermen who took offense at my article about the event in Chicago missed the point. I enjoyed the contest. Really I did. In no way was I trying to be snide or sarcastic. Hell, I make fun of everyone, myself included. I don't see why I ought to treat leathermen any differently. It's *not* a religion, you know (although some obviously think so).

Okay, so maybe I was a bit heavy-handed in one paragraph, but what do you want? You dress like a Storm Trooper, and somebody's going to wonder if you act like one. The funny thing is that I spent most of the week in Chicago defending the leather scene to my boyfriend, to feminist friends, and to countless others. I tried to explain that it was basically all harmless fantasy and shared with them some of my own rather innocuous experiences in leather—but they didn't buy it. Perhaps I wasn't convincing. Clearly, I have mixed feelings about the leather scene, and my friends were not the only ones who noticed.

At any rate, now I know why some men wear leather —to protect their thin skins.

Mike Hippler

Castrodom

★ I note with amusement the letters and articles [i.e., These Kids Today 6-9] recently submitted bemoaning the impending encroachment of the new, collegiate gay into the "true" rank and file of Castrodom. It reminds me of the ironic ending in *Wild In The Streets.*

K. Jaquish
Santa Rosa, CA

Wayne Friday

We Lose a Police Commissioner

Mayor Art Agnos announced his appointments to the powerful city Police Commission last week and for the first time in a decade there is no gay or lesbian among those appointed. The question is, why?

Years ago, **Mayor George Moscone** said publicly that appointing a gay or lesbian to the important Police Commission was a priority of his. Upon his death, **Mayor Dianne Feinstein** did eventually appoint a lesbian, **Jo Daly,** to the commission, and there has been a lesbian on it ever since.

When Mayor Agnos' appointments were announced last week, **Dr. Juanita Owens,** a respected lesbian activist, had been replaced and our community is no longer represented on the five-member commission. How was this allowed to happen? Who screwed up?

For the record, Mayor Agnos should not be blamed. After all, Agnos had plenty of heterosexual friends and political supporters who wanted a seat on the Police Commission and if there was no one, as apparently there wasn't, in the gay and lesbian community who was willing to speak up for us, why shouldn't the mayor appoint someone, as he did, from another community.

Mayor Agnos, after all, has a broad-based constituency (at least he did on election day), and cannot be held to blame for appointing someone from a community that asked for the appointment.

So, who did allow this appointment to get away? One of the first rules in competitive politics is not to give up what you already have. That is exactly what happened by the gay and lesbian community losing a seat on the Police Commission, the most important commission in this city as far as our rights are concerned. Make no mistake, the fact that we no longer are represented on this Police Commission is a loss for us. I don't give a damn what anyone tells us.

Shortly after taking office, Mayor Agnos appointed a highly-touted Commission on Commissions, a group that was to advise the mayor on appointments to the various city commissions. Appointed to that group was a number of gay and lesbian Agnos loyalists, including **Paul Melbostad** and **Gwenn Craig** of the Milk club, and **Sharon Bretz** and a **Lester Olmstead-Rose** of the Toklas club.

Did these four have their collective heads in the sand while the seat on the Police Commission slipped away? Were these people so intent on "getting theirs" that they neglected to speak up when a seat we had long fought for on the Police Commission was being handed to someone else?

Melbostad, it should be pointed out got an appointment to the Board of Permit Appeals and Bretz was appointed to the Fire Commission. Both of those appointments, with a couple of seats on the Rent Commission thrown in, do not equal a seat on the Police Commission.

While both Melbostad and Bretz are viewed as good appointments, neither came as a surprise since they supported the Agnos mayoral campaign, and in the real world such rewards are both proper and expected. The question remains, however, where the hell were these people, and why didn't they tell the mayor that the seat on the Police Commission was not on the table. That seat was already there and it should have remained there. They should have said: "Don't even talk about it, Mr. Mayor, that one is non-negotiable."

Any gay activist who has been around this town long enough to be aware of the problems the gay and lesbian community has had with the police over the years will agree that someone screwed up—and screwed up badly when we, in effect, traded away a seat on the important Police Commission for a seat on the Fire Commission.

The only group that police officers, be they anti-gay or not, listen to or respect, is the powerful Police Commission. We lost a big one here and all the excuses and explanations don't change that.

Sup. Harry Britt said last week that the fact we lost a police commissioner "doesn't bother me. It would have several years ago when getting a gay man or lesbian on the Police Commission was our first priority."

What? Was that the Harry Britt that I know speaking?

Sup. Britt goes on to say that "you can't start locking in seats, not in a town like this." Bullshit!! It has been done for decades and Britt knows it as well as anyone else.

Understandably, Sup. Britt feels that we have a friendly administration in City Hall and maybe because of that it is not important that we have a representative on the Police Commission, but the supervisor is wrong on this one, and again, all the excuses and explanations don't change that.

Harry Britt is a good friend and a good supervisor who deserves to be overwhelmingly reelected in November, but what if, come about October, the gay and lesbian voters were to start thinking that since we have a "friendly" administration at City Hall, it is not necessary any longer to have a gay on the Board of Supervisors. Hello, Harry?

Carole Migden has been appointed to the Platform Committee for the Democratic convention. (Photo: Rink)

San Francisco Democratic Chairperson **Carole Migden,** along with fellow San Franciscans **Dianne Feinstein** and **Loke Devon,** have been appointed to the National Platform Committee of the Democratic Convention. Migden, along with Vermont's **Terje Anderson,** is the only gay on the panel which starts hearings this weekend in cities around the country.

Former **Sup. Lee Dolson's** friends are holding a reception/fundraiser to support his bid for a seat on the board Monday, June 27, at Trader Vic's; 5:30-7:30, $150 (673-1955 for info).

Another sup candidate, **Bruce Lilienthal,** has named lesbian activist **Laurie McBride** as a co-chair of his campaign.

The latest NBC News/Wall Street Journal poll finds **Michael Dukakis** with a 15-point lead over Republican **George Bush,** 49 percent to 34 percent.

San Jose Mercury News columnist Leigh Weimers is worrying that if Dukakis does take **Jesse Jackson** as his veep choice we will be plagued with "Michael-Jackson" bumper stickers.

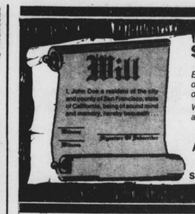
Singer **Dionne Warwick** among those helping **Elizabeth Taylor** fight AIDS. Warwick's single "That's What Friends Are For" has so far raised $15 million for AIDS research and the singer donates proceeds from concert after concert for the cause.

Jane Fonda's interview on last week's ABC "20-20" program shows her to be one of the class women of our time.

Some of those in the Jesse Jackson campaign are saying that **Speaker Willie Brown** is miffed that Jackson selected Washington attorney Ronald H. Brown to be the candidate's convention manager in Atlanta next month, a move that will no doubt diminish Speaker Willie's role.

Mayor Agnos, **District Attorney Arlo Smith, Rep. Barbara Boxer, Sen. Milton Marks,** Speaker Willie Brown and a host of fellow supervisors will be on hand in the Green Room of the Veterans Memorial

(Continued on page 36)



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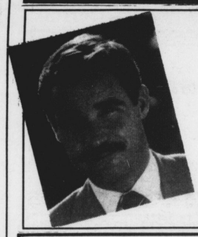
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Mike Hippler

Chicago Renews Efforts For Lesbian, Gay Rights Ordinance

Although few people on either coast seem to realize it, there *is* gay life in the nation's heartland. New York may well have the largest number of lesbians and gay men of any city in the country, West Hollywood may have an openly gay mayor, and San Francisco may still be the spiritual capital of gay America. But in places like Denver, Houston, Atlanta, and Chicago, gay communities are thriving. They are playing an increasingly significant role, not only within the context of the national gay community, but also within the wider boundaries of mainstream society.

Take Chicago, for instance. For years this city of three million people and 396 square miles has had a vibrant gay community. There are three gay newspapers, two separate gay athletic associations, three gay and/or lesbian choruses, over 20 gay religious congregations, more than a dozen political groups, numerous gay professional organizations, a host of AIDS groups, and scores of bars.

But gay Chicagoans still feel they rarely get the recognition or respect they deserve.

One of the reasons for this is that, until recently, their political strength has been negligible. Unlike San Francisco, where the gay percentage of the population is much higher, there are no openly gay elected officials (although there *is* a Committee on Gay and Lesbian Issues in the mayor's office).

Furthermore, there is still no gay and lesbian rights ordinance despite years of trying. But all this may soon be changing, due largely to a group called Gay/Lesbian Town Meeting, whose sole function is to work for the passage of this year's Human Rights Ordinance.

Laurie Dittman is the secretary of Town Meeting. An enthusiastic advocate for lesbian and gay rights, Dittman has been working with the organization since the spring of 1987, only a few months after its establishment. In the beginning she only attended monthly meetings, but recently she has put in 10 to 12 hours a day, along with six or seven other core members of the group.

For Dittman, this kind of dedication is necessary if the proposed legislation has any chance of becoming law. In order for the ordinance to pass, all that is required is the support of a simple majority of the 50 aldermen on the City Council, plus the support of the mayor.

Such support is not easy to garner. The city's only previous gay rights ordinance was stuck in committee for more than 11 years, from 1975 to 1986. When it was finally brought out of committee for a full vote by the council in July 1986, it lost 30-18. It was a major blow for Chicago's gay community—but hardly a fatal one.

Determined to reintroduce the ordinance as soon as possible, members of Town Meeting and others decided to better their chances by rewriting the existing human rights completely, rather than simply adding the words "sexual orientation" to the list of protected categories.

Consequently, they altered the proposed changes to include marital, parental, and military discharge status, as well as source of income, and they called their bill the "Human Rights Ordinance" rather than the "Gay Rights Ordinance."

Then they set about educating the populace and lobbying politicians and influential community leaders.

Among these leaders is Acting Mayor Eugene Sawyer, who agreed earlier this year not only to support but also to introduce the legislation. Sawyer's predecessor, Harold Washington, also supported the previous gay rights bill. But, according to Dittman, "The city was too polarized then. He was the city's first black mayor, and he hadn't yet been able to consolidate his power. Then he died before he had a chance to fulfill his promises to the gay community, without whom he could not have been elected."

Even though Sawyer is not nearly as powerful a leader as Washington, Dittman feels that his backing has made a big difference: "A lot of the aldermen who hadn't considered supporting the ordinance before are now taking it seriously. One example is the new vice mayor. He was an adamant opponent of the first ordinance—absolutely vicious. But his new position has forced him to think about representing the whole city. And he realizes that the gay vote can't be ignored."

Other city leaders, however, have remained hostile. Archbishop Joseph Bernardin's strident condemnation of the first bill 30 hours before it came to a vote the last time was widely credited for its defeat. This time, Bernardin has announced his opposition once again, although he has moderated his stance somewhat.

Explains Dittman, "It was something he had to do. The Catholic Church is in turmoil, and he had to follow church doctrine. Since we expected it, we think the damage will be minimal. The church will stay out of it unless people give them a reason to be involved."

Despite the opposition, Dittman believes that this year the legislation, which was introduced to committee in early June and is expected to face a full vote by the council in late June or early July, will be successful. "We may not have the archbishop, but we do have a wide variety of support from different political, ethnic, and religious organizations. There's no one this ordinance doesn't touch. It's just a matter of reaching out to people and telling them what it will do for them."

If the bill doesn't pass now, admits Dittman, it will be very difficult to get it passed in the near future. The gay community will have to pull back and to reassess the situation. Even if that happens, Dittman swears she will not lose faith, for this campaign has taught her a great deal about the community's strength and sense of purpose.

"I've really been encouraged. People call constantly to ask what they can do. Others give up perfectly gorgeous Sunday afternoons to attend meetings, distribute flyers, or write letters. One guy made a personal pledge to get 1,000 people to send postcards. To me, that's just overwhelming."

Dittman realizes, of course, that Chicago isn't San Francisco—a city where a strong sense of allegiance to the gay community has long been taken for granted. Only three of the 50 wards have a sizable percentage of gay voters—no more than 25 percent, according to Jon-Henri Damski of the Windy City Times.

"By a wave of our magic fairy wand, we can no more make Chicago into a San Francisco than we can turn the El into a cable car," says Damski.

Yet, notes Dittman, "The gay and lesbian community here is becoming more and more politi-

(Continued on page 47)

Life at the Closet Door

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RIGHTFULLY PROUD JUNE 26 1988

Agnos Places Gay Rights Front and Center at City Hall

First Mayor of S.F. to March in Parade Won't Play Games With Rights Ordinance

by Dell Richards

San Francisco has seen a major turnaround in its politics since Art Agnos became mayor in January. Not only has Agnos at times moved the rights of the gay and lesbian community to the forefront of his administration, but he will make history this Sunday as the first San Francisco mayor to march in a Lesbian and Gay Freedom Day parade.

Twice he has gone to bat for gay rights in the first six months of his administration. Using the city's anti-discrimination ordinance, Agnos told the U.S. Navy and the U.S. Olympics Committee that neither should plan on doing business in the city of San Francisco until they change their policies against lesbians and gays.

The Navy wants to make San Francisco the homeport of the battleship U.S.S. Missouri; the USOC had considered San Francisco for the 1996 Olympic Games.

But under the Agnos administration, neither was welcomed with open arms.

"In my view, it's a simple question of human dignity and equality," said Agnos. "The U.S. Olympics Committee singled out the Gay Olympics with a lawsuit prohibiting the use of the word 'Olympics.' They didn't sue the Armenian Olympics, the Black Olympics, the Chinese Olympics. They only sued the Gay Olympics.

"I know that the USOC claims that it was a question of trademark law, not homophobia. But let me tell you this: Anyone who believes that must think that Rosa Parks' struggle to sit where she wanted on a Montgomery bus was really about transit policy."

The shift marked the first time an anti-discrimination ordinance was used on behalf of gay people to tell a national organization to change fundamental policy before it will be welcome in a city.

CITY OF CONSCIENCE

Many cities nationwide have anti-discrimination ordinances on the books, but most use the codes sparingly, if at all. Generally, when someone files a complaint, the ordinance is used as a basis for judgment.

Agnos' interpretation gives a totally new meaning to anti-discrimination ordinances.

"Human rights for gay and lesbian people is the hardest, most unpopular civil rights issue of all time," said Agnos. "But I want San Francisco to be known as a city of conscience—when it comes to blacks or Jews or women or Asians or Latinos—for all of us.

"What we do affects history. We can decide if history remembers our commitment to each other or simply a selfish society that ignores our relationship as a community and a city."

The key for Agnos is the democratic process—bringing the poor and disenfranchised into the political system.

In his 82-page campaign booklet, *Getting Things Done,* which exit polls showed almost 60 percent of the voters had read during last year's city election, Agnos wrote: "No politician can solve people's problems for them. Real progress only comes when people genuinely contribute to solving problems for themselves."

For Agnos, the Olympics issue is similar to the internment of Japanese-Americans that took place in World War II. At a recent annual Day of Redress and Remembrance, Agnos said he "wondered, as politicians filled the stage to express shock 46 years later, what I would have done at the time that order came. In 1942 the mayor of San Francisco did what everyone else did: He said, 'Put them away.'

"Today there are those who say that the U.S. Supreme Court ruled against the Gay Olympics, and so there is no issue of discrimination. And they feel comfortable locking up the struggle for equality and justice for another 46 years, until another generation looks back and asks, 'How could they have tolerated such intolerance?'

"Whenever the mayor of *that* time looks back to see what this mayor did, the record will show that *this* mayor honored conscience."

Agnos follows his conscience because he knows what it's like to be poor.

The son of Greek immigrants, Agnos shined shoes in his father's cigar store when he was growing up. As a result of working most of his life, Agnos identifies with people who have had to struggle to survive. And it shows.

When he ran for mayor, he ran on a platform of affordable housing and rent control, limiting downtown development such as the controversial baseball stadium, and gay rights.

Art Agnos greets a constituent. (Photo: R. Pruzan)

PERSISTENCE

Agnos has been a vocal friend of the gay community since his election to the California State Assembly in 1976. Early in his Assembly career, Agnos introduced a bill to ban discrimination on the job against gays and lesbians—A.B. 1. Despite being rejected by the Senate and vetoed by the governor when finally passed by both houses, Agnos persisted.

Although he is known for persistence and willingness to stand up for his beliefs, Agnos can also strike a deal after hours, if not days, of lengthy negotiations.

He's also known for his humor. A few years ago, he startled a new Assembly reporter by handing him a note that said to put the cash in a brown paper bag and leave it on the front seat of the car. Agnos let other reporters in on the joke, and all watched as the amazed newcomer read the words.

But the joke about money had a jarring edge when it was later disclosed during last year's campaign that Agnos had failed to disclose $65,000 in income on his state and federal tax returns.

And he isn't perfect, despite his middle name—which is Christ—or the fact that he survived being shot in the stomach by the Zebra killer, whose random attacks in 1973 terrorized San Francisco.

Having come to San Francisco on a Greyhound bus with $500 in his pocket, Agnos knows what it's like to be young and poor while looking for housing. But with a master's degree in social work and having held a job with the San Francisco Housing Authority, he feels he has a unique handle on the problem.

If anything, he is known for his ability to bring widely diverging groups together to come up with creative solutions.

As an assemblyman, he worked out a joint venture with Standard Brands Paint co., the city, and a local community foundation to use the air space above a planned store for low-income senior citizen housing.

Agnos also inherited a $170 million deficit from the previous nine years of Mayor Dianne Feinstein. One thousand city employees could face pink slips, and across-the-board cuts will probably be made in city services. Even police and fire protection will not be exempt.

But services to people with AIDS most likely will not be severely affected. Expenditures from the general fund will be less, but Agnos intends to make up the difference by lobbying harder for state and federal funds. In fact, the city plans to expand AIDS services.

There is little choice in the matter.

This year alone, AIDS spending will cost the city some $10 million in local funds. If you include the cost to local businesses and the amounts raised for volunteer groups, the figure rises to $85 million.

While the economic cost could create a crisis of unimaginable proportions, for Agnos the social cost is even higher.

"It's going to mean enormous psychological and economic stress for San Francisco," said

(Continued on page 36)

Art Agnos claiming victory in the 1987 San Francisco mayoral race. (Photo: S. Savage)

N.Y. Mayor Koch Hooted Down at Gay Pride Event

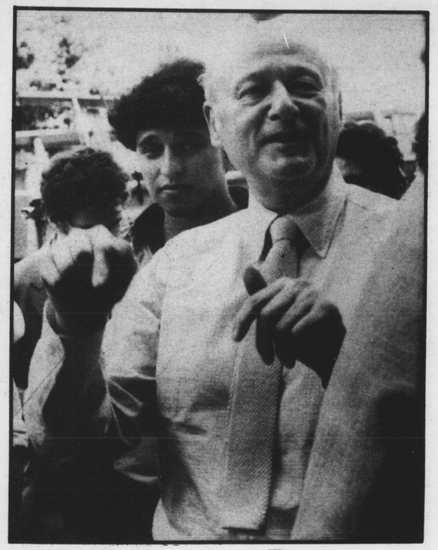
NEW YORK CITY—While Mayor Ed Koch was proclaiming June as Lesbian and Gay Pride Month, 50 protesters shouted down speakers and protested Koch's handling of the AIDS crisis. The protest overpowered the ceremonies, including a number of gay historians' talks.

Koch was unimpressed by the rowdy demonstration, however. He accused the protesters or using the tactics of "Nazis and fascists." "The easiest thing to do would be to throw them out on their asses. But we will not do that," said Koch. "If anyone has suffered from being shouted down, it has been the gays. Are they adopting the tactics of their oppressors," he asked.

Speaking for the protesters, Jean-Paul Phillipe of ACT UP, said "I'm glad we interrupted the little party. He probably thought it was going to be another platform where he could receive applause from a bunch of Koch suckers."

Koch defended the city's response to AIDS and said he would do more if there were funds available.

—New York Native



New York Mayor Ed Koch on Castro Street in 1984. (Photo: Rink)

L.A. Proposes Plan On Domestic Partners

LOS ANGELES—The city council here has taken the first step toward granting domestic partner rights to gay and lesbian couples and other unmarried city employees. The government operations committee voted June 1 to add domestic partners to the list of family members eligible for sick leave and bereavement leave. A task force on family diversity had recently recommended implementing domestic partner benefits.

"The American family has changed dramatically from the days of the stereotypical family with two parents and two kids," said Council Michael Woo, who headed the task force.

Under the proposal, domestic partners are defined as two persons 18 years or older who have shared a household for at least one year, having mutual obligations of support, share the common necessities of life and are not related by marriage or blood.

—The News (Los Angeles)

High Court Says CIA May Be Sued by Gay

WASHINGTON, DC—The U.S. Supreme Court ruled June 15 that a gay man can sue the CIA in his dispute with the agency over his dismissal. The 6 to 2 vote means that the man's lawsuit can proceed.

In the majority opinion by Chief Justice William Rehnquist, the court ruled that the man had a reasonable claim that his constitutional rights had been violated when he was fired by the CIA. The ruling was not on the issue of gay job rights but only upheld the claim that the CIA must answer the suit in federal District Court.

Justice Department lawyers who defended the CIA argued that the agency should be granted special immunity from lawsuits over personnel matters.

But Justice Rehnquist wrote, "Nothing in the [law] persuaded us that Congress meant to preclude consideration of constitutional claims arising out of the actions of the director. We believe that a constitutional claim based on an individual discharge may be reviewed by a District Court."

Federal law gives the head of the CIA the power to fire anyone anytime he "deems it in the interests of the United States."

Thomas Stoddard of Lambda Legal Defense Fund said, "This seems to open the door, at least part way, to the equal protection claim."

—Los Angeles Times

Tests Show Saliva May Stop HIV

PHILADELPHIA—According to a new report published in the Journal of the American Dental Association on May 5, a mysterious substance found in saliva may kill HIV. A researcher at the National Institute of Dental Research said that the presence of the as-yet-unknown substance may inhibit the ability of the virus to infect the immune system.

Researchers were quick to caution that oral sex still cannot be regarded as safe. Tiny breaks in the skin or mouth tissue could still be routes of transmission.

—Au Courant

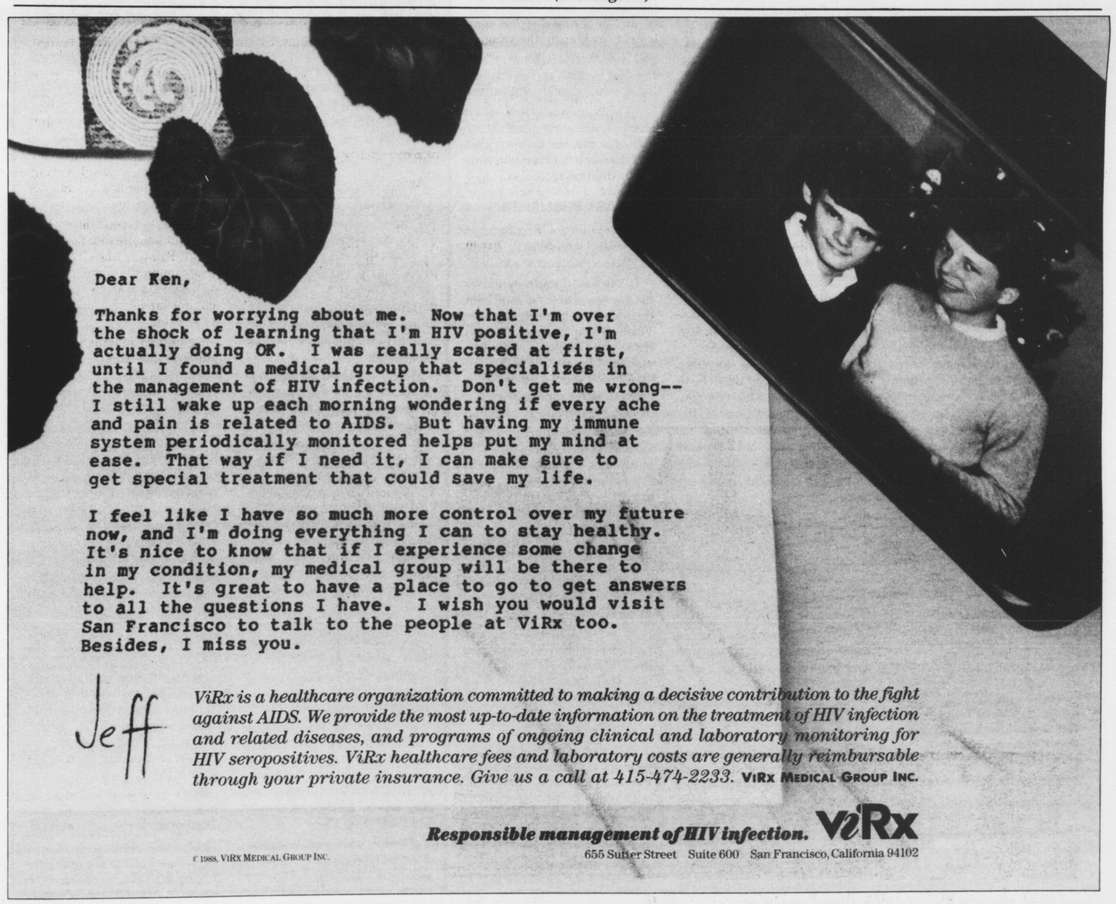
No Discipline For Convicted Firemen

BOSTON—Two firefighters convicted of assaulting two lesbians will not be disciplined by the Boston Fire Department. The department said that since an appeals court had reduced the two men's sentences, they had not been found "guilty of anything."

Edward Gottwald and John Sylvester were found guilty of assaulting two women as they walked past a city fire station in 1986. A third man had charges dismissed against him.

The trial judge gave the men suspended sentences of six months each. But an appeals court reduced the sentences further to six months of pretrial probation.

—The Advocate



RIGHTFULLY PROUD
JUNE 26 1988

Publisher=Activist

Sasha Alyson Fought Visa, Then He Galvanized Book Trade

by Dell Richards

This year, Sasha Alyson had two booths at the prestigious American Booksellers Association convention in Anaheim, California, making him the envy of his competitors. One is for the gay books he publishes. The other is for the book on AIDS he has just organized the publishing industry to produce, featuring articles by Hollywood movie stars, administration officials, lawmakers, people with AIDS, and national commentators.

The book, *You Can Do Something About AIDS*, marked the first time the publishing industry ever did a book for free.

"This is the first time anyone ever heard of a book being given away free," said Sasha Alyson, founder of Alyson Publications.

Sasha, 36, got the idea a year ago, when someone at the 1987 ABA convention asked him what they could do about AIDS.

"I looked at the statistics—how many people were likely to be infected with the AIDS virus—and realized that I would never be able to forgive myself if I didn't do absolutely everything I could."

The culmination of a year's worth of struggle, the book is being given away at all Walden's and B. Dalton bookstores, starting in June, and to Book-of-the-Month Club members.

To make copies of the 126-page book available cost the publishing industry over $200,000.

Unlike Alyson's other books—which are gay—*You Can Do* isn't written for a gay audience. Instead, it brings AIDS awareness out of the closet and into middle-class American homes.

"I directed the book at mainstream America because I feel that most gay people already have a good sense of what they can do about AIDS," said Sasha.

"But many people who don't feel at risk are starting to feel its impact and want to do something. This book is a way to put that energy to use."

The ABA booth stressed the mainstream nature of the venture. Along the back, there are photos of Elizabeth Taylor, Whoopi Goldberg, and Abigail ("Dear Abby") Van Buren—celebrities who wrote chapters and lent their names to the book.

U.S. Rep. Gerry Studds (D-MA)—one of the two openly gay members of Congress—and world-famous fashion model Beverly Johnson were on hand for the press conference.

The book already is a tremendous success. Many bookstores went through the shipment the first day, and booksellers from Nebraska to Nevada to New York were talking about it at the ABA convention.

Which isn't surprising.

Its first printing was massive. Most books are lucky to get a 10,000-book run, but *You Can Do* started with 325,000 copies, including 175,000 copies for Book-of-the-Month Club members. Its second printing was another 250,000. A third run is in the planning stage, and Sasha hopes to keep going as long as there is a demand.

But he has other motives than just publishing a book on AIDS.

DO SOMETHING

"I'm hoping people who are concerned will get involved. That way, we can avoid what I call the 'disease of the year' syndrome," said Sasha. "One year it's Alzheimer's Disease, another disease next year.

"I think that once people get involved while the attention is on it, they'll stay involved. They'll keep calling their legislators and volunteering for the hotlines."

One year ago at the prior ABA, when Sasha was asked, "What can we do about AIDS?", he began to wonder what the publishing industry *could* do, given its unique ability to generate publicity.

"I thought there must be something we could do to take advantage of our specific communications skills and abilities," said Sasha.

Generating enthusiasm was easy, but getting a firm commitment was slow going.

"Individuals within most companies were great, but the executives themselves said, 'A free book? You want us to pay?' "

Although people in the industry could see the significant public relations value of a free, educational book about AIDS, "most of them didn't do it for that reason—they did it because they thought it was important."

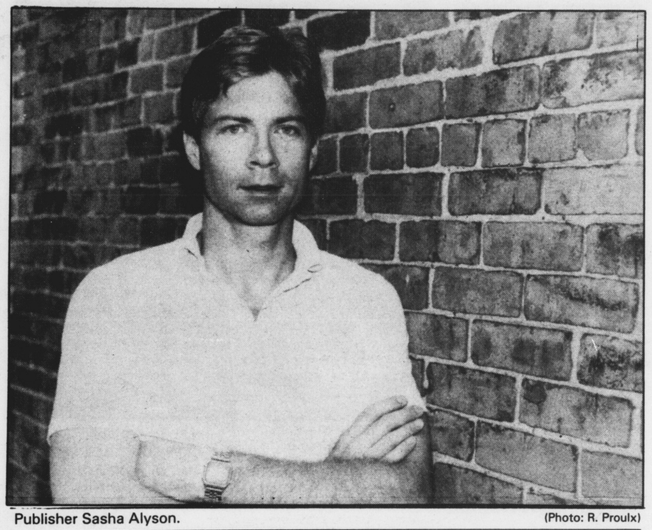
Publishers were interested, but most adopted a wait-and-see attitude. They weren't willing to commit until it got off the ground.

That's when Sasha turned to friend Gerry Studds.

"He made a lot of phone calls to people he didn't know at all," said Sasha. "And they'll return calls to a congressman when they won't return calls to Sasha Alyson."

Studds used his influence to get publishers and celebrities alike involved in the project. In addition, he talked Elizabeth Taylor into writing the introduction. By using his name, Studds gave the project tremendous credibility.

Once the book captured the support of noted celebrities and lawmakers, the publishing industry was ready to jump on the bandwagon.



Publisher Sasha Alyson. (Photo: R. Proulx)

Book-of-the-Month Club pledged $10,000 and financed 40 percent of the first 100,000 copies. Ingram Book Co. (a major distributor), Bantam, Random House, Simon & Schuster, Waldenbooks, Harper & Row, Viking, McGraw-Hill, Morrow, and New American Library—all the majors and many independents—contributed to the effort.

"There's no way to find out for absolute sure—there are no reference books, but no one knows of anything even remotely similar," said Sasha.

ACTIVIST PUBLISHER

But it's not the first such triumph for Sasha since he founded Alyson Publications in 1977.

In the past decade, he roused the gay community to send back their Visa charge cards to protest Visa's Olympics contributions. He donated one-third of Alyson's monthly income to AIDS research and started a pen-pal organization for gay teens.

Sasha's mobilization of the gay community resulted in nearly 1,500 Visa cards being turned in to Alyson's offices so far. And he thinks the impact has been much greater—that many more people sent their cards directly to Visa.

"Hundreds of thousands—if not millions—of gay people have seen the name 'Visa' in a very negative context," said Sasha. "Other people are applying for MasterCard."

Working Assets, a firm that had only offered Visa, recently decided to offer MasterCard as well. It also made a $1,000 donation to each of three gay organizations as a direct result of the controversy.

While Sasha believes in being involved as an individual, he also gets his business involved. This year Alyson Publications donated all of March's gross receipts from mail order—$5,000—to AIDS research.

"I've often contributed to an

(Continued on page 36)

Gay Publishing Is Booming Industry

by Dell Richards

Twenty years ago the thought of having gay publishing houses, bookstores, and newspapers that criss-crossed the country seemed a far-fetched, unattainable dream. That was two decades ago.

Today there are over a dozen gay and lesbian publishers, some 400 gay newspapers, and bookstores in every major city which form an information network linking gays across the U.S. to each other.

The network is doing so well, it has become the political and cultural cornerstone of the gay community.

Sasha Alyson's "Clip Your Visa" campaign was created by writing to gay newspapers across the country, to name just one of the political campaigns waged through papers nationwide.

"This network of publishers, bookstores, newspapers, and general word-of-mouth network has made it possible for a lot of things to happen that weren't happening before," said Sasha Alyson of Alyson Publications, one of the largest gay publishers in the U.S.

In addition to political action, authors and journalists are using the network to discuss being gay.

"What does it mean to be gay? What sociological and psychological differences are there in the community? And what type of community do we want to create?" are a few of the questions asked. This ongoing dialogue is creating a unique culture, bringing the past to light, and shaping the future.

"People have a sense of identity, of community, of a common culture being passed on," said Alyson.

Since it started over a decade ago, Alyson Publications has published 120 titles. Three-quarters of the books end up selling 10,000 copies or more.

The flash hit *Reflections of Rock Lobster*, by a Rhode Island high school student who took his gay date to the prom, sold 30,000 copies. *Choices* has sold 40,000 to date.

And Alyson isn't the only gay press that's thriving and making its mark on the culture. Many lesbian presses have created a solid financial foundation and are expanding steadily.

The largest lesbian press in the country, Naiad, has published over 50 titles of every variety, from coming-out stories to mystery, science fiction, and fantasy. Naiad has popular author Katherine Forrest in its stable, as well as recent addition Joyce Bright.

Another lesbian press, Seal, is adding a mainstream audience to its gay market by concentrating on design as well as content. Its bold "new wave" covers rival the literary lines of any major publisher on the market.

And their strategy is paying off. With distinctive covers and 20 sales reps, it now has books in over 1,000 stores, including majors like Walden and B. Dalton. To date, *Getting Free* has sold 70,000 copies.

"We've become a lot more realistic," said Barbara Wilson, co-owner of Seal. "And we've become a lot stronger because of it."

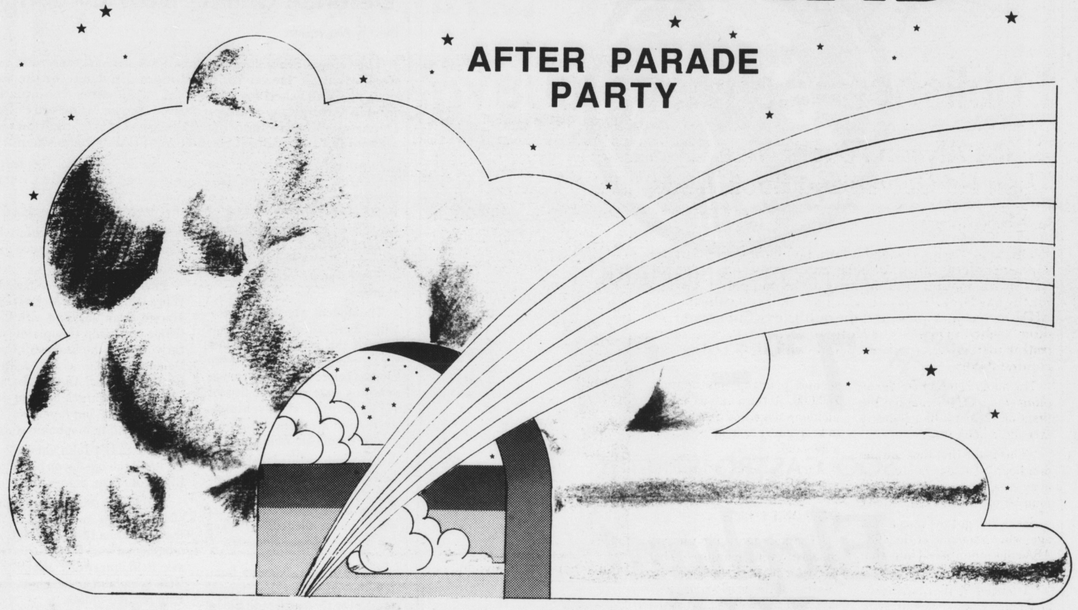
Cleis Press started in March 1987, but already is making a name for itself. This past year

(Continued on page 36)

THE WEST COAST'S LARGEST DANCE CLUB

DREAMLAND

AFTER PARADE PARTY



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New Trial Sought In Smoot Case

Defense Claims New Evidence

by Jay Newquist

The George Smoot murder case took still another twist last week when the lawyer for the student convicted for the gay man's killing asked for a new trial. Meanwhile, a complaint filed in May by a gay coalition against the San Francisco Police Department for its handling of the murder investigation was also joined by a second complaint of police harassment.

Attorney John Burris told the Bay Area Reporter he had discovered new evidence that would shed light on the case of the 17-year-old McAteer High School student convicted of manslaughter on Feb. 24. He had stabbed Smoot to death last November.

The student, who was not identified because of his age, was himself the victim of a brutal locker-room hazing incident two months betore the killing. He was sent to a state youth facility for three months of psychiatric evaluation by Superior Court Judge Daniel H. Weinstein.

The youth testified that Smoot had made sexual advances to him a few hours before he stabbed Smoot as an act of self-defense when Smoot allegedly attacked the killer's 12-year-old sister.

Burris did not elaborate, but it is believed a witness has stepped forward to try to discredit Smoot with allegations of sexual violence.

The Oakland lawyer has also asked Judge Weinstein to accept as evidence extracts from the 52-year-old Smoot's private diaries. Their graphic contents were broadcast on local TV stations last March.

Burris is widely believed to have leaked the diaries himself through an aide to enhance his client's defense.

A four-point complaint against Police Officers Frank McCoy and Marvin Dean was filed with the Office of Citizen Complaints in early May by the Stonewall Gay Democratic Club as well as the Harvey Milk and Alice B. Toklas Clubs. The charges focused on allegations of improper police conduct and homophobic slurs.

The ACLU's John Crew filed the formal complaint on behalf of Bill Paul of the Stonewall Club.

Paul filed a second complaint of harassment in mid-May with the OCC when Inspector McCoy telephoned him. McCoy tried to ask Paul questions about his OCC complaint against him, but Paul refused to talk.

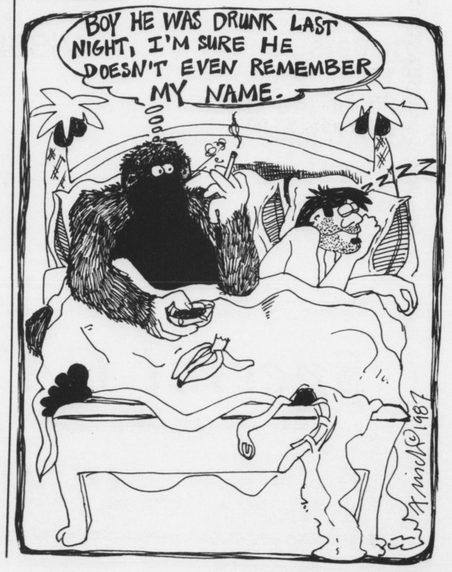
Police Chief Frank Jordan attended a public forum to discuss the Smoot case two months ago. He said there would be a full investigation of police conduct. He promised nothing would be swept under the rug. ●

History on Display for Parade Day

The San Francisco Bay Area Gay and Lesbian Historical Society will debut its permanent, portable exhibit in the Civic Center on Lesbian/Gay Freedom Day. *Rainbow by the Bay: A History of Lesbians and Gay Men in the Bay Area* starts with the native Indian cultures in the Bay Area and briefly covers major historical events from that time to the present.

What impact did World War II have on the lesbian and gay community? When was the first gay pride celebration in San Francisco? When did San Jose and Berkeley first celebrate gay pride? What was the first lesbian organization in the nation? When did the Castro rise to worldwide fame? These topics and many others are covered in the exhibit. Look for us at the celebration after the parade. ●

Frisch



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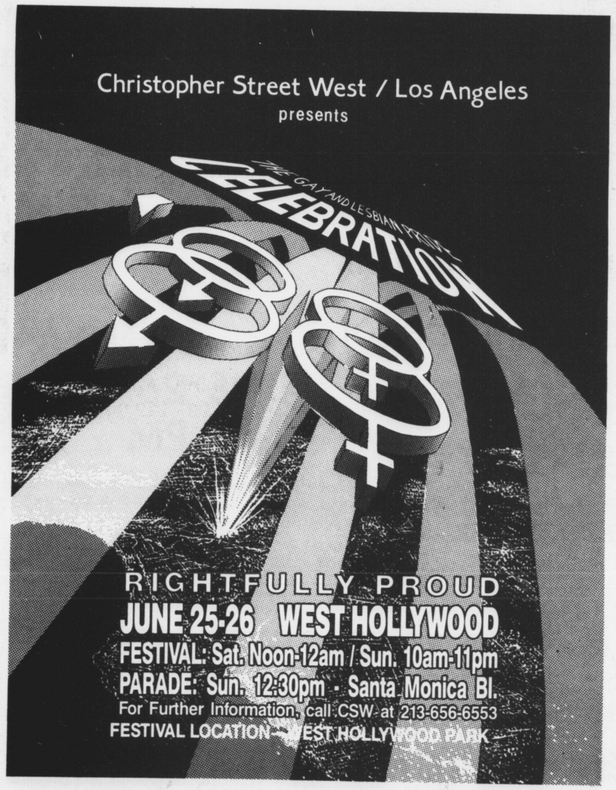

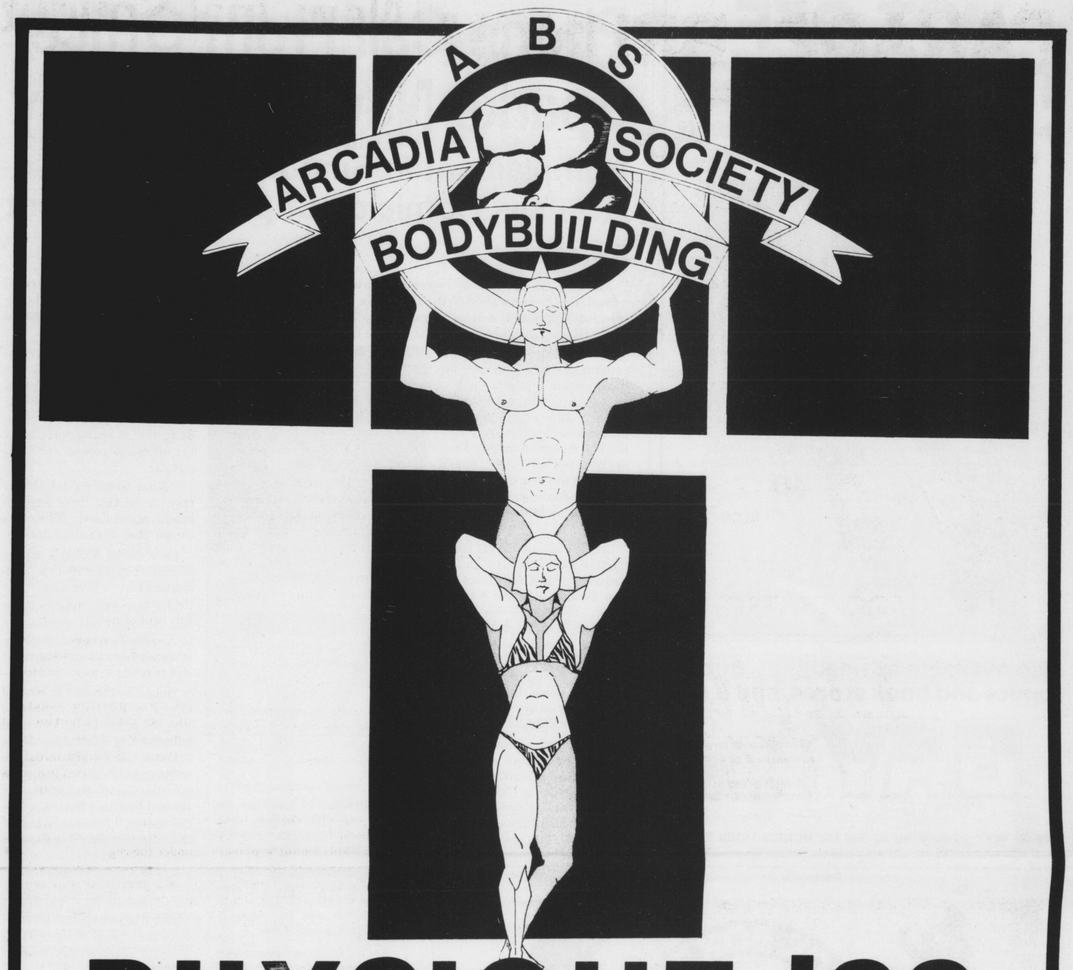

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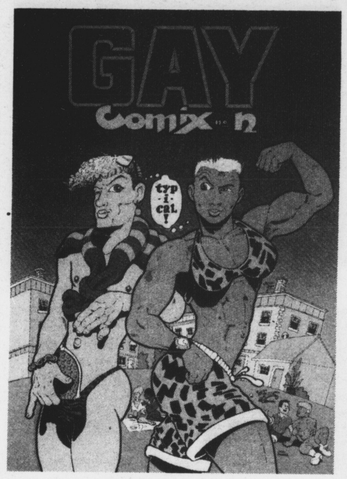

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Phone Call From Officer Sparks New OCC Policy

Complainant in Smoot Investigation Accuses Homicide Cop of Harassment

by Ray O'Loughlin

The actions of one San Francisco police officer, who was already the subject of a formal complaint, have resulted in the filing of a second complaint. In addition, the city's Police Commission has issued a detailed policy statement strengthening the department's requirement that officers cooperate with the Office of Citizen Complaints.

The development is part of the continuing controversy over the investigation of the killing of George Smoot. Smoot was stabbed to death on the front porch of his home by a teenage neighbor who claimed Smoot had earlier attacked his sister. Though the youth was convicted of manslaughter, controversy has grown around the police handling of the case.

Critics contend that the investigation was inadequate and focused on the fact that Smoot was gay. Details of Smoot's sexual habits and character were splashed throughout the media. They say that homophobia led police to limit their investigation. Better police handling of the case, they say, would have enabled prosecutors to try for a stiffer penalty for Smoot's killer.

Bill Paul, a longtime political activist who became involved in the case, filed a formal complaint with the Office of Citizen Complaints. Paul alleged that the investigation of Smoot's killing was shoddy; that police officers leaked Smoot's personal diary to local media, who broadcast his sexual exploits; and that investigators made anti-gay remarks during their investigation.

Bill Paul (Photo: Rink)

Paul's complaint was backed by the Stonewall Gay Democratic Club, the Harvey Milk Democratic Club, and the Alice B. Toklas Democratic Club.

Named in the complaint were SFPD homicide inspectors Frank McCoy and Marvin Dean.

Shortly after the complaint was filed in late April, McCoy took the unusual step of phoning Paul to inquire about his complaint. Paul refused to discuss the matter with McCoy.

McCoy then contacted Bay Area Reporter writer Jay Newquist about Paul's complaint. Newquist had written the B.A.R. report on Paul's formal complaint in the May 5 edition of the paper.

"He started out very friendly," said Newquist of McCoy, "then it turned into an interrogation. He kept trying to pump me for more information on whether or not Bill Paul had any proof for his allegations."

After McCoy called Paul, Paul filed a second complaint claiming McCoy's call was harassment. Newquist joined in that complaint with the OCC. He joined the complaint, he said, because "I felt McCoy's call was improper."

Paul's new complaint states that McCoy also taped both Paul and Newquist without either man's knowledge or consent. He said he found out about the taping through friends who told him that McCoy had bragged about doing so.

INTIMIDATION

According to John Crew of the ACLU, who is representing Paul and the three gay political clubs in the matter, McCoy's behavior is worse than improper. "Phone calls about a complaint to a complainant or to witnesses are inherently intimidating," said Crew. "If there are questions about a complaint or OCC handling of it, it is more proper for the officer to contact the OCC directly.

"What authority did McCoy have to contact these individuals?" asked Crew. "What was the purpose of this inquiry?"

Crew called McCoy's taping and then boasting about it "outrageous."

McCoy told Bay Area Reporter that he could not discuss the OCC complaint or the Smoot investigation because the case was still pending in juvenile court.

"There's nothing I'm allowed to say," said McCoy, explaining that the judge in the case had issued a gag order forbidding comments to the press.

Though he said he could not go into detail about why he phoned Paul and Newquist, McCoy did say, "The reasons I made the calls were directly related to the pending matter."

The underlying issue, according to Crew, is the integrity and seriousness of OCC investigations. "Police officers have an obligation to cooperate fully with the OCC. This sort of behavior by an officer named in a complaint is not in line with that."

As a result of McCoy's action and other examples of possible harassment and failure to cooperate by police officers under investigation, OCC director Michael Langer went to the Police Commission to clarify department policy on OCC investigations.

At its June 9 meeting, the commission beefed up its original order requiring cooperation from police officers being investigated. Police officers are now expressly forbidden to contact complainants or witnesses. Furthermore, violations of the order and failure to cooperate with the OCC are to be treated as serious infractions of department rules.

Department policy now reads, "any attempt to threaten, intimidate, mislead, or harass potential or actual OCC complainants, witnesses, or staff will be considered to be a serious violation of General Order L-1, deserving of severe forms of discipline including but not limited to termination."

Instances of noncooperation with OCC inquiries are now to go directly to the Police Commission for disciplinary action, and not the chief of police.

According to Crew, OCC has always had the authority to compel cooperation, but never pushed it. "This is not a change in policy, but a reinforcement of policy," he said.

The OCC is continuing its inquiry into Paul's and Newquist's complaints. ●

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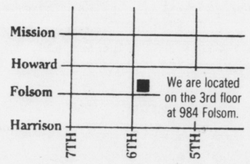

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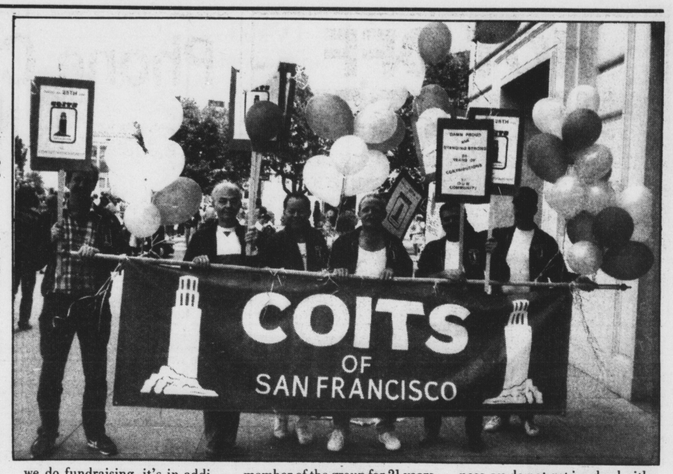
Coits: 25 Years Of Service, Fun-Raising

Their Moves Predated the Movement

by Mary Richards

On June 25 the Coits of San Francisco, the oldest continuously active gay organization in the United States, will celebrate its 25th birthday. The anniversary marks a milestone in the annals of gay and lesbian history, to be celebrated on the weekend of the Lesbian and Gay Freedom Day Parade.

In 1969 the Stonewall riot and its aftermath focused the attention of society on the gay community. But in 1963, when the first official Coits meeting was held, it was a daring move for a few gay people to go public and organize.



The goals of the group state that they are "to provide organized social activities for its members and friends and to promote and participate in charitable activities." Over the years the Coits have more than met their goals.

Newcomers to San Francisco and old-timers, too, can point with pride to the many ways in which the Coits have served the community and the city.

Stanley Boyd has been a member of the group of 2½ years, but his involvement with their activities dates back further. "We were one of the first to start Toys for Tots in 1970," he says, and the idea was a simple one. At their annual Christmas dinner, members and friends were encouraged to bring toys to be distributed. He mentions the many thank-you letters the Coits have received from Children's Hospital, General Hospital, and other groups who have benefitted from their activities such as Guide Dogs for the Blind.

The focus of the gay community has changed, and now people coming to their Christmas dinners bring food for the San Francisco AIDS Foundation Food Bank. Eastertime finds the Coits involved in a Bonnet and Basket Plant Auction, and baskets and bonnets fashioned with love and care are given to the Godfathers Fund for distribution to local hospitals.

Larry Hughes has served two years as president of the group. "I like the organization because it's small, but it's been one of the most continually active organizations for years," he says. "During my term as president, I have been very personally adamant that our fundraising for AIDS has gone to organizations that have a very low administrative cost. I'd rather see the money go directly to the people who need it, rather than give it to somebody to run an office.

"In the last two years, our big charities have been the AIDS Emergency Fund and the Godfathers Fund. We have also contributed to Operation Concern. There, I felt—and a lot of people agreed with me—that while AIDS is very important to us, and we've raised money for that, Operation Concern had to continue, too—and, of course, they're also dealing with AIDS."

INVITATION ONLY

Compared to other groups, the Coits have a small membership—about 25 to 35 people. Larry explains why: "To start with," he says, "we don't do membership drives. The club invites people who have proven themselves, or who are active in the community, to become members. People who want to join can attend Coit functions or fundraisers and become known to other Coit members."

Before the club votes on a person, they are required to attend three functions. "That way," he explains, "everybody knows who's coming in as a member, and we know that they're going to be supportive of the group and help in the drives to raise money for charity or help in general to support the image of the club.

"For the most part," Larry continues, "I don't know of any of our members who are not active in other organizations outside the club. The Coits is a very active group in that we have at least two gatherings a month, a meeting and a social function. If we do fundraising, it's in addition to those two time periods. When you have two meetings or more a month, the burn-out rate is fast. At the same time, we can go back and look at the Coits who are active in the community, and when we do anything, they'll all come back for fundraising."

Chuck Demmon has been a member of the group for 21 years and, when asked what being a Coit meant to him, says jokingly, "A lot of damn work!"

As his tone changes, he becomes more serious. He's a member, he admits, because "it's the greatest club in the world. We do not get involved with politics, we do not get involved with pettiness, we do not get involved with inner fighting or competitiveness among ourselves.

"The club works as a group of people for a goal, just like our 25th anniversary—we're all working to make sure that this is important. After the anniversary, we're all going to go our own ways

(Continued on page 39)

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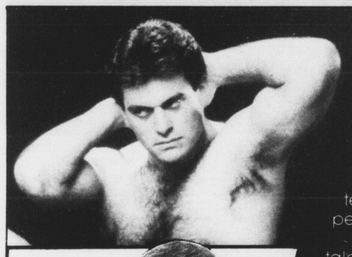

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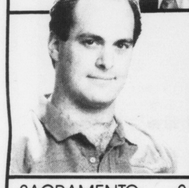

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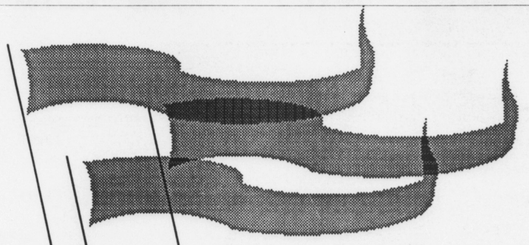

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The Advocates

NGRA Celebrates a Decade Of Taking Homophobia to Court

by Dennis McMillan

This year the National Gay Rights Advocates celebrate their tenth anniversary. Celebrations will acknowledge a decade of precedent-establishing legal cases winning numerous victories for gay rights throughout the nation. Beginning ten years ago with little more than 200 members, NGRA has grown to over 18,000 strong.

Back in 1975, Don Knutson, a visiting law professor at Stanford University, came out as a gay man and caused a stir among the conservative law school faculty and students.

Soon after, Knutson received a grant to study the place of homosexuality in the law. By summer of 1977 he was involved with the Pride Foundation's Legal Defense Fund while teaching a seminar entitled "Civil Liberties of Gay Persons."

That same summer, Richard Rouilard, a University of Texas law student, wanted to form a gay public interest law firm. After meeting Knutson, he contributed $125,000 to create Gay Rights Advocates, which eventually became NGRA.

In January 1978 operations began at 540 Castro St. Shortly after this, a bill similar to the Briggs initiative in California attempted to outlaw openly gay and lesbian teachers in Oklahoma. Knutson flew to Oklahoma and filed suit in the Federal District Court. It took six years to finally resolve and became the first victory ever in the U.S. Supreme Court for gay rights.

The experience established several characteristics of NGRA that still exist. Although California-based, the firm is always ready to act nationally; and no matter the time or effort required, the risk or problems involved, they will keep fighting anti-gay cases to the end to establish precedents for gay rights.

In June 1979 Carl Hill, an gay Englishman, arrived in San Francisco for the parade and was apprehended by a border guard as a practicing homosexual alien, under the usual category of psychopathic personality. The resulting decision for Hill allowed gays to enter the U.S. and put GRA in the media spotlight as a gay-rights law firm.

After several other long battles with such giants as the phone company, the military, and the government, NGRA was becoming depleted of funds.

In spring of 1981, Jean O'Leary, former co-executive director of the National Gay Task Force, became executive director of NGRA. Membership at this time was 800, which she felt could be expanded to over 10,000. By the end of 1981, the firm was becoming solvent.

When Knutson and Rouilard retired that year, Leonard Graff was named legal director.

By the end of 1982, the legal agenda for NGRA had been established: equal rights for gay couples; protection against discrimination in employment; repeal of sodomy statutes; and solidifying protection through First Amendment rights. Soon after, AIDS discrimination and issues were added to the list.

Two years ago, in *Gay Law Students v. Pacific Telephone and Telegraph*, NGRA won a $3 million class-action judgment, the largest award of damages in a gay discrimination case in history. It will be the benchmark by which all other such cases are measured in the future.

The law firm also forced Eastern Airlines to withdraw an employment application that asked if people had homosexual tendencies. In a similar case, NGRA made a Hawaiian restaurant stop printing the warning on their employment form, "If you are a homosexual or knowingly associate with homosexuals, you need not fill out this application."

The first NGRA case in the area of AIDS was in 1983 against the state's Medi-Cal program, forcing the agency to pay for certain AIDS medical treatments, saving local taxpayers several hundreds of thousands of dollars.

NGRA won their first case of AIDS discrimination in employment in *Truman v. Advanced Underwriters.* Tim Truman had been fired when it was discovered he had AIDS. This was the first cash award ($16,000 in back pay) made in an AIDS-discrimination case.

NGRA discovered a secret AIDS quarantine policy, proposed by an official for the California state department of health. He at first denied such a policy existed, but NGRA forced him to turn over a copy of the evidence under the Business Records Disclosure Act. It was subsequently exposed in the press, and the policy was withdrawn.

As a result of *Chadbourne v. Raytheon,* a landmark case was won that established the illegality of discriminating against employed people with AIDS.

Major sodomy litigation has been fought by NGRA. In *Baker v. Wade,* a Texas court threw out the Texas sodomy law as being unconstitutional. An appeals court later reinstated the state law.

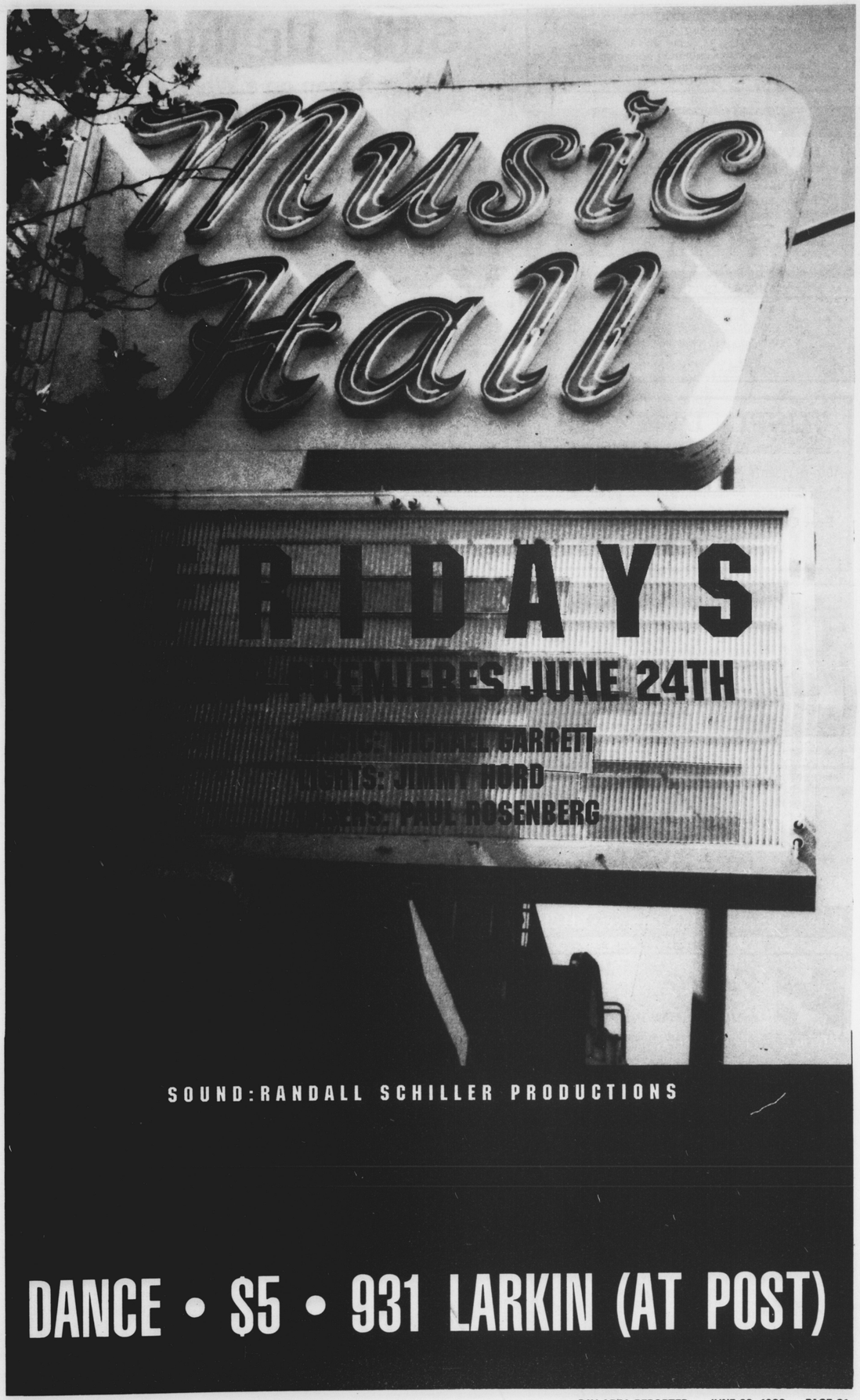
The *Hardwick v. Bowers* case may seem to have been a defeat for gay rights. But NGRA sees it as a step forward, considering all the publicity it stirred up in the media and public eye. Since sodomy was already illegal in Georgia, there was no tangible loss.

As Leonard Graff said, "People still continue to commit sodomy in Georgia, I assure you."

Couples' rights have been a precedent-establishing issue for NGRA. They were able to make the Southern California Automobile Association settle out of court so that gay couples could get the same discount as married couples.

NGRA took on the Big Sisters of Sacramento and threatened to sue them, and, as a result, lesbians and gay men can participate as big sisters and big brothers to youngsters in Sacramento.

Because of the request NGRA made through Rep. Sala Burton's office, a general accounting office audit of the military uncovered the fact that it costs the taxpayers $20 million annually to kick gays out of the armed services. ●



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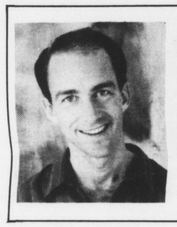
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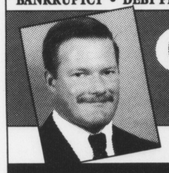
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Strike Up the Band

They Began on a Whim in 1978, Been Making Music Ever Since

by Dennis McMillan

For ten years the San Francisco Gay Freedom Day Marching Band has been parading its gay pride down Market Street every June. The first appearance was very casual—just a bunch of musicians who wanted to add some music to the 1978 parade. Founder Jon Sims caught everybody by surprise with his rag-tag band, which didn't even have uniforms at first. But that response to their debut still inspires the band, now a polished marching troupe.

The entire San Francisco Band Foundation has a membership of about 180 people in five groups—the Vocal Minority, City Swing, Tap Troupe, Flag Corps, the band itself—plus the support group known as the Aides-de-Camp. The actual marching band roster typically registers at around 50 musicians.

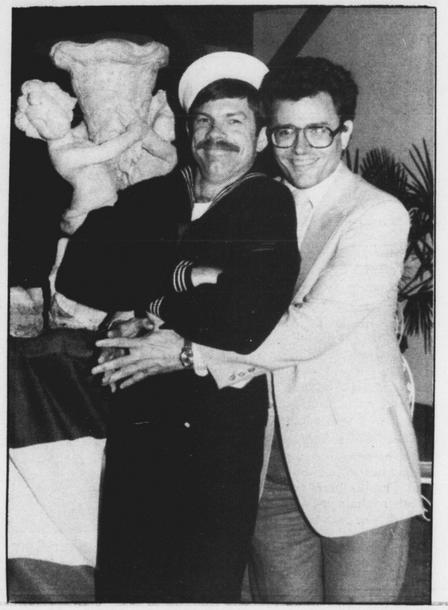
Band President Loren McGlade, a member since August 1984, spoke of the camaraderie and family feeling that attracts members. "Those of us who have moved into town from other communities or small towns may feel lost at first," said McGlade. "But when they join the band, they instantly gain a family of about 50 people they can have something in common with, begin relating with, and then from there develop a circle of friends.

"We all try to have fun, as well as a quality level of performance. And, of course, there's the pride of being in a gay organization," McGlade commented.

The requirements for joining are both very easy and very demanding at the same time. Easy in that all you have to do is have the desire (you don't even have to own an instrument); demanding in that you must make a commitment to show up weekly for rehearsal. No one can be "drummed" out of the band. If someone has lost the enthusiasm they came in with, eventually they will not want to devote the time and energy required and will leave on their own.

The band goes through its ups and downs and is particularly down when there is a long break between performances. To keep morale up, sometimes they have a real blow-out of a party. The March on Washington was a high peak in the band's morale. But then, with the proper attitude, every rehearsal can be a high for the musicians.

The band's originator, Jon Sims, had advertised for musicians to participate in a one-time-in-the-limelight performance at the 1978 gay and lesbian parade, but when they heard the awesome applause, shouting, and screaming as they turned the corner on Spear Street to begin the parade, everyone (musicians and crowd alike) knew this would have to eventually become the institution that it is.


S.F. Band Foundation founder Jon Sims (l.) with a young Harry Britt. (Photo: S. Savage)

WANNA HAVE FUN

This institution has proudly performed at a variety of functions—gay and straight, small and great—including concerts at Davies Symphony Hall, the annual gay day parades, Chinese New Year parade, Columbus Day parade, the Hollywood Bowl with the Lesbian and Gay Bands of America, YMCA and senior citizens events, Gay Games I and II, and the Vancouver Expo in 1986.

Most institutions typically begin small, but with great fervor. The band is no exception. Everyone is excited for the first time, "because it's new and different and really something," explained McGlade. "But we've evolved past that point now, where the novelty has worn off, and we have to stand on what we are as performers."

Since this is not the San Francisco Symphony nor a professional marching band, they do not strive for sheer perfection. But an occasional bad review will knock them back into shape should they begin to sour a bit or lose the verve and gay pride that has built them up into such a great gay institution.

It is also fun. Charter member and bass drummer Ralph Odem recalls many a humorous occasion, such as going to the cemetery with the Widow Norton's entourage to commemorate Emperor Norton's birthday. In attendance at the gravesite were band members dressed as gorillas, drag queens in mourning outfits, and various other costumed musicians, along with ordained ministers in absolutely proper ministerial attire.

The band is bolstered by this sense of humor. They even have their very own "archbishop" in their bass drummer. He long ago sent away in the mail for an official ordination certificate for $27 and, ever since, has ceremonially worked himself up and blessed the band before every performance. "That gives us the energy to get through the parade, past the hecklers and religious groups that call you everything under the sun and the occasional eggs that get thrown," said McGlade.

"This is especially important during Chinese New Year's, when people are throwing firecrackers into the tubas," added Odem.

"Everything we've ever done has been with emotion—humor, tragedy, you name it, anything but boring," Odem related.

TRADITION OF PRIDE

The result of this enthusiasm and gay pride is displayed in the band office and in their archives. They have 16 panels, four by eight feet each, plastered with certificates, proclamations, posters, plaques, medals, ribbons, and awards. There is even the key to the city. And to keep their sense of humor, a giant 12-inch Quaalude adorns the wall. No one knows (or will admit) exactly why.

This combination of love, humor, and commitment to be the best it can be has kept the band alive and marching for a decade. The conductor baton has passed through many hands, from Jon Sims to Lesesne Van Antwerp to the present conductor, Jeff Foote, who took over the position in March of this year.

Foote intends to carry on tradition. "I see the band continuing along the same path that it has been going," he stated. "I think it will become a more serious organization, appealing to the serious musician, yet never losing our sense of humor and always keeping our family attitude toward each other." Foote stressed, "A perfect performance should never override the fact that we really enjoy playing our instruments and enjoy being together."

The present conductor calls it a serious, creative means of having fun. "There's no way that these people around me would ever allow anybody to get so serious that it's not fun," he said with great assurance. ●

Your Dollars at Work

Community Thrift Recycles Goods To Raise Cash for AIDS Charities

by Jay Newquist

It may look like a house of clutter, so jammed are the shelves and racks, but you can make some rare finds at the Community Thrift Store. For example, they've got a first edition by Edgar Rice Burroughs at $250. In more mundane matters kitchen chairs fetch $2 apiece and forks are a dime. The store at 625 Valencia, near 17th Street, opened through the auspices of the San Francisco Tavern Guild in 1983. The difference is that proceeds are pumped into more than 100 community charities, the majority of which are AIDS-related.

Mark Issleib, store manager, explained this week that people who donate goods can earmark the selling price to their favorite charity. These service organizations range from Coming Home Hospice and Huckleberry House to Catholic Social Services and Theatre Rhinoceros.

"Everything in the world that's under the sun comes in here," Issleib said. "It's so cluttered that it looks like we haven't done a lick of work." The clutter shows how popular the shop is.

Most items are fair game for the store, including books, records, clothes, furniture and pictures. But most of the $200,000 raised in the last five years has come from the sale of household goods.

The prices are kept low to encourage quick sale so goods have a rapid turnaround time, Issleib said. The 12-member staff (and 12 other volunteers) are each responsible for specific categories of goods.

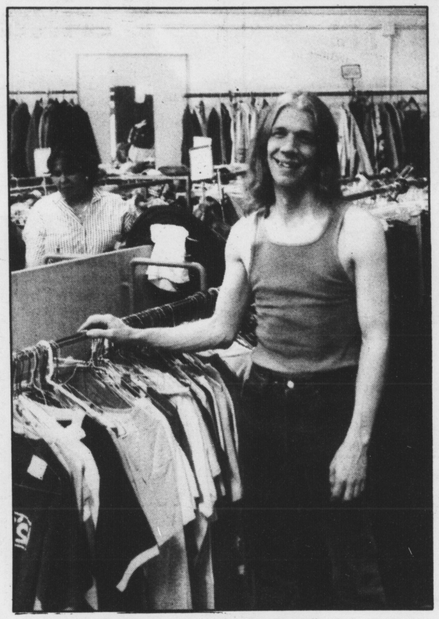
"There's a method to our madness, but it's hard to pin it down," he said. "We each have our special niche and know what's correct to charge."

Community Thrift Store has been self-supporting since it began, said Issleib. Last month some $34,000 in quarterly dividends was mailed to various charities. He expects the store to distribute some $25,000 more for the first three months of 1988.

A client brings his donated goods to the store and names the appropriate charity. The charity is coded on the goods and also in the cash register so there is a running tally.

More than 75 percent of the designated charities serve people with AIDS or ARC, Issleib said, adding that the vast majority of donors are gay men and lesbian women.

The Valencia site is also a must stop for antique dealers and professional collectors who think nothing of splurging $1,200 for an antique dining room or others whose sense of camp extends to a $15 hairdrier from the 1950s with those Medusa-like coils.


Community Thrift Store manager Mark Issleib. (Photo: S. Savage)

The store also has a pickup service two days a week.

The premises are always crowded with the committed and the curious. "It's a great way to raise money on absolutely anything," Issleib said, and "everything" just about covers the breadth of the goods for sale.

There were 197 sales on one recent day, creating a mob scene, but Issleib considered it "only a fair day." The store does no advertising whatsoever and all of its success is based on word of mouth. The Tavern Guild oversees the store's operation.

Issleib cautioned, however, that large appliances are a no-no, especially stoves and refrigerators. Beds are off limits because it is too complicated to fumigate them prior to sale according to law.

A solid oak desk is fair game and it fetched $75 recently.

Issleib said the downside of the enterprise was the fact that many of the items for sale were designated to the Community Thrift Store as bequests by people who died of AIDS. It is fitting then that the bulk of the money raised eventually reaches charities that are supporting people with AIDS.

"They want their belongings to go to the right place," Issleib said, adding, "It's real hard on us, it's so sad." ●

Rabbi Kahn at MCC On Freedom Day

Rabbi Yoel Kahn, spiritual leader of Congregation Sha'ar Zahav, will be the guest preacher at the Lesbian and Gay Freedom Day Celebration at Metropolitan Community Church of San Francisco.

The service will take place after the parade at 7 p.m. at the church at 150 Eureka Street, between 18th and 19th streets. A reception will follow.

Special music will be provided by the church's two choirs. New singers who would like to sing with the gospel choir must attend the 5:30 p.m. rehearsal that day.

Rabbi Kahn's presence continues the MCC/SF tradition of hosting significant spiritual leaders from many backgrounds. Speakers in the past year have included Adrienne Rich, Fr. John McNeill, Judy Grahn, Z. Budapest and Pat Bond.

For more information contact the church's pastor, Rev. Jim Mitulski at the church office, 863-4434. ●

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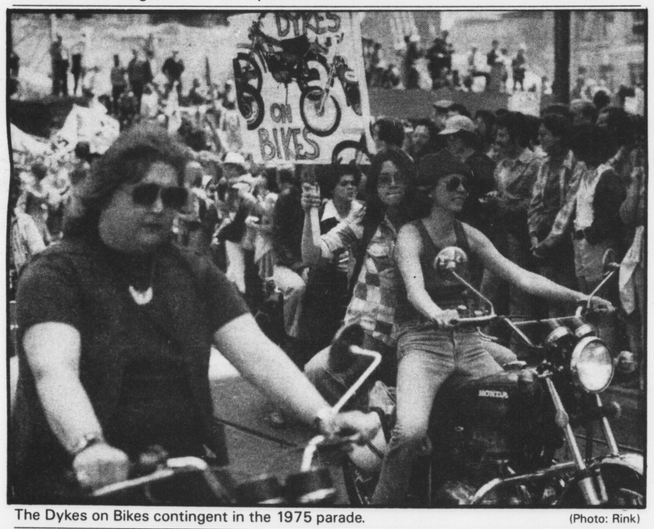
A women's contingent in the 1978 parade. (Photo: Rink)



The Dykes on Bikes contingent in the 1975 parade. (Photo: Rink)

Women in the 1974 parade. (Photo: Rink)

History

(Continued from page 1)

spilling into the street, and grew until more than 2,000 people filled Christopher Street from Greenwich to 7th Avenue. The peaceful crowd became violent after police provocation, and gay rage erupted for the second night.

When the final tally was in, there were only four reported injuries and 17 arrests, but gay people had made one hell of a statement to the world. More than just a single event, Stonewall was a symbol of events occurring from coast to coast. The movement sprang up simultaneously across the nation, as gays began bursting out of their closets. We turned our "shame" into pride.

PROCLAIMING PRIDE

In 1970, New York, Los Angeles, and Chicago gays held parades the last Sunday in June to commemorate the riots. In San Francisco, 20-30 people, mostly hippies and drag queens, marched down Polk Street to the Civic Center on Saturday, June 27. Two hundred people assembled at a "Gay-In" in Golden Gate Park on Sunday. The police made six arrests on ludicrous charges.

One San Francisco resident at the time did not participate because "I did not think a riot should be memorialized."

In 1971 Boston joined the cities celebrating gay pride, but no observance was held in San Francisco. Thirteen marchers led by Rev. Troy Perry marched from Oakland to Sacramento for a rally on June 25 to support Willie Brown's consenting-adults bill.

Christopher Street West was San Francisco's first official gay parade in 1972. (There was a previous parade called the Age of Aquarius Parade on Folsom Street.) The 1972 parade was organized by Rev. Ray Broshears, Rev. Bob Humphries, and H.L. Perry. Some 50,000 spectators lined Pine and Polk streets as 4,000 marchers and dozens of floats went from Bank of America headquarters to City Hall. Then-Sheriff Richard Hongisto rode in the parade and was the first politician to do so.

A few minor incidents occurred as several people stole the microphone from Rev. Broshears at the rally after the parade. He regained control by leading a chant against Mayor Joseph Alioto, who had refused to proclaim Gay Pride Day.

The Gay Freedom Day celebration the next year had a similar turnout. People lined Post Street as Paul Brown of the Naked Grape marched by, wearing only a few grapes. Men clad only in towels rode in the bathtub on the Folsom Street Barracks float. Many men walked arm-in-arm, marching under community banners for the Haight and Eureka Valley. Three thousand people packed Marx Meadows in Golden Gate Park after the parade. Another 186 attended Rev. Broshears' rival Festival for Gay Liberation at the Civic Center.

The 1974 theme of "Gay Freedom by '76" was adhered to by few floats on the shortened parade route. Most of the floats represented bars and clubs. One float showed a lavender eagle in a gilded cage with the caption: "Gay Rights, Only a Bird in a Gilded Cage." This parade was criticized for being too much of a party and losing sight of the serious goals of the movement.

In 1975 San Francisco's parade became the nation's largest, attracting 82,000 participants. For the first time, women and gay professionals were present in substantial numbers. The Board of Education's nondiscrimination policy, issued in May, might have been a factor. Doctors, lawyers, gay fathers, lesbian mothers, gay business people, and gay teachers all marched in the parade.

Bay Area Gay Liberation (BAGL) was the largest contingent, and Empress Doris was a big hit, riding on the back of an elephant. As with past parties, nudity was prevalent at the celebration in Marx Meadows afterwards.

CITY'S LARGEST PARADE

Mayor George Moscone first proclaimed June 27, 1976, as Gay Freedom Day in San Francisco. Proclamations have been issued ever since. As the parade of elaborate floats and colorfully but scantily costumed marchers proceeded down Market toward the Civic Center, the mercury soared to 94 degrees.

Both the Chronicle and Examiner combined coverage of the parade with the Interfaith Bicentennial Parade, held the same day. With mild understatement, the Examiner noted: "The crowds attracted to the different parades and the costuming were different." The bicentennial theme was seen throughout, as marchers were dressed in red, white, and blue, and several people came dressed as the Statue of Liberty.

Gay parade officials estimated 120,000 participants. The Examiner reported: "The five-year event has surpassed the Chinese New Year's Parade as the city's largest."

The wild celebration in Marx Meadows afterwards, with rampant nudity, provided footage for Anita Bryant's anti-gay campaign in the spring of 1977. Michael Thompson, her spokesman, said, "Thousands of homosexuals recently staged a bizarre gay pride parade in San Francisco, then held daylight orgies, with no arrests by sheriff's deputies, in Golden Gate Park."

Miami voters that year overturned their gay-rights ordinance. The Examiner reported the spontaneous reaction from the gay community with this headline: "5,000 Furious Gays March Through S.F." Gays marched through the streets for five nights in a row in protest. Organizations formed overnight to respond to the attack on our rights. The movement was ignited again.

On June 23, 1977, just days before the parade, Robert Hillsborough, a gay gardener, was murdered by four teenagers. City flags flew at half staff, and the mayor offered a reward for the capture of his attackers. Violence was expected to mar the parade, but the headline in the Saturday evening Examiner read: "Four Seized in Gay Killing." No violence occurred.

The 1977 parade was the first of the huge Market Street parades with more than 200,000 people. The Los Angeles Times estimated 375,000. Anita Bryant's victory in Miami caused a massive opening of closet doors, and many more professional gays joined the ranks of marchers. Even a contingent of Straights for Gay Rights marched to make clear that not everyone supported Bryant.

Richard Locke observed: "The difference between the earlier parades and now is that then gays marched in the parade and straights watched, and now straights are in the parade while gays watch."

The most dramatic entry in the parade was photographed by Time magazine, UPI, and many others. Five marchers carried pictures of Stalin, Hitler, Anita Bryant, the KKK, and Idi Amin. In memory of Robert Hillsborough, marchers placed flowers and wreaths on the steps of City Hall as they passed by.

"Gay USA," a documentary movie, was filmed, compiling footage of the 1977 parades in five cities.

An even larger parade in 1978 received $10,000 in city funding for the first time. Supervisor Harvey Milk rode in the parade as the city's first openly gay elected official. The crowd roared its approval as Jon Sims and the Gay Freedom Day Marching Band made their debut.

The focus of the parade that year was the Briggs Initiative (Prop. 6) to ban gay schoolteachers in California. Signs against the initiative appeared throughout the parade.

Harvey Milk spoke at the Civic Center rally and gave his famous speech about the gay kid in Altoona, Pennsylvania.

About the Briggs Initiative, Harvey said, "I'm tired of all the silence from the White House. Jimmy Carter, you talk about human rights—in fact, you want to be the world's leader in human rights. Well, lead!" That was Harvey Milk's last parade.

The tenth anniversary of Stonewall in 1979 attracted fewer people than earlier parades. Signs condemning Dan White were seen frequently because of his assassination of Harvey Milk and George Moscone the previous November. The White Riots preceded the parade by one month, and violence was expected, but no violence occurred. The Dykes on Bikes received resounding roars from the crowd at their first appearance in the parade. Market Street was lined with rainbow banners for the first time.

NEW STRUGGLES

In 1980 carnival rides appeared in the Civic Center, the only time they did. San Jose gays made a dramatic statement on their float, with six gay men and women tied to crosses: "Where were you, San Francisco?" The San Jose and Santa Clara County gay rights laws were defeated a month before the parade.

With 250,000 people, San Francisco's tenth annual parade in 1981 was the largest gathering of lesbians and gay men in the history of the human race until last October's March on Washington surpassed it with over 500,000. The name of the event was changed to International Lesbian and Gay Freedom Day, and the marching fee was abolished that year. Five of the city's 11 supervisors rode in the parade. The carnival atmosphere of the previous year was absent as the speakers spoke about the dangers of the New Right.

The 1982 parade was struck by tragedy when Darryl Kevin Anderson was crushed by a float and killed. This was the first and only accident in the history of the parade. The Gay Olympic Games Flag Corps marched to publicize the upcoming Gay Games I. Although community awareness of AIDS was growing, there was little or no mention of it in the parade that year. This was the last time that AIDS would be ignored by the parade.

AIDS was the major focus in 1983, as a contingent of 20 people with AIDS led the parade, which was dedicated to them. One gay men dressed as a ballerina carried a sign which said, "A Leaper, Not a Leper."

The Examiner article was titled: "200,000 Defy AIDS Phobia at Gay Parade." News accounts printed all over the nation mentioned AIDS. UPI ran a photo of the People With AIDS Alliance.

The first nationwide parade theme was used in 1984: "Unity and More in '84." Although AIDS was once again a recurring theme throughout the parade, a major focus was on the upcoming march during the Democratic National Convention. Three "Dianne Feinsteins" rode in the parade, as if to make up for the fact that the real one never did. Gus Newport, mayor of Berkeley, is the only mayor who has so far ridden in the parade.

The Chronicle reported that the parade is "as traditional in San Francisco as a Thanksgiving Day parade in more staid locales."

The parade route was slightly altered, starting in 1985 due to the erection of the statue of Simon Bolivar in United Nations Plaza in 1984. Since that time, the floats could no longer enter the Civic Center through United Nations Plaza and have been rerouted to 8th Street.

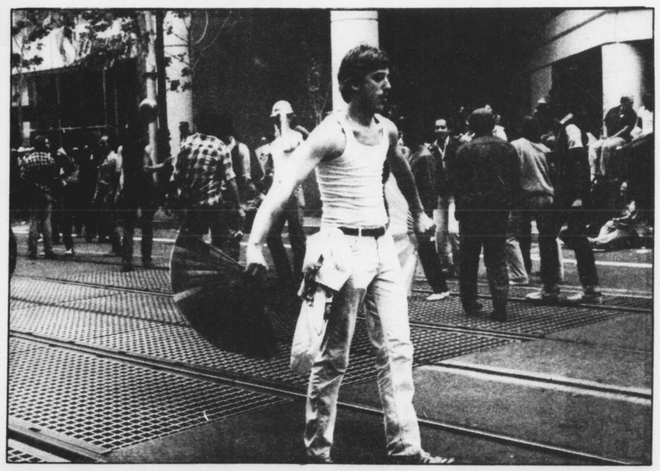
Just a month before the 1986 parade, four attacks were made on our community. The LaRouche initiative (Prop. 64), which would quarantine people with AIDS and people who test positive to HIV, qualified for the ballot. The U.S. Supreme Court ruled in the *Hardwick* case that gay people have no right to privacy in their own bedrooms. Gov-

(Continued on page 47)

RIGHTFULLY PROUD JUNE 26 1988

Cheerleaders in the 1974 parade. (Photo: Rink)

A parade contingent from 1974. (Photo: Rink)



A Trocadero fan dancer in 1979. (Photo: Rink)

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Action Group Plans FDA Protest

Rally, Demonstration Set for Monday

by Dennis McMillan

On Monday, June 27, at 9 a.m., the day after the parade, AIDS Action is planning to march on the Food and Drug Administration at the Old Federal Building to demand an emergency meeting with the agency. They will demand access to all promising treatments for AIDS/ARC. Sponsored by the AIDS Action Pledge and the ARC/AIDS Vigil, organizers hope the demonstration will attract hundreds of protesters.

Terry Beswick, of AIDS Action Pledge and director of the Healing Alternative Foundation, commented, "We're tired of our friends having to smuggle drugs from Japan, and we're tired of hearing stories all across the country about people not having access to aerosol pentamidine, a treatment for PCP. This is outrageous."

According to Beswick, the foundation recently received a letter from the FDA to their supplier of germanium, an immune booster available in any health-food store, telling the supplier not to sell germanium to Healing Alternative any longer.

The foundation makes no claims about the efficacy of any drugs they supply to people with AIDS. It exists only to provide the cheapest treatments available. Since less than half those who try AZT (the only FDA-approved drug) can tolerate it, there is a crucial need for alternative medicines.

The foundation also has a national underground network that is able to get dextran sulfate to some people—but only to those who can afford it; and still the supply is extremely low because Japan has now restricted export of the drug.

The protest group will make the demand that people with the formal consent of their doctors will have access to all alternative healing drugs which have shown promise.

Beswick said that he expects the president, having only a few more months left in office, will just file away the AIDS Commission's report stating that AIDS is a public health emergency. The purpose of the upcoming protest will be to bring public attention to the report and insist on federal action on its recommendations.

The group says it will operate on a nuisance level, breaking up into various affinity groups similar to the method they used at the Burroughs-Wellcome protest in February. They plan on engaging in nonviolent civil disobedience.

The group is asking for an appointment with George Miller, regional director of Health and Human Services, which oversees the FDA and the NIH. The protesters will then demand action for complete access to AIDS treatments.

Anyone who wants to join in the action or just be a supporting bystander should meet for a pre-protest rally around 8:30 in the morning at 50 United Nations Plaza, the site of the ARC/AIDS Vigil. ●

Muni Routes Changed

The 1988 Lesbian/Gay Freedom Day Parade will begin at 11 a.m. Sunday at Sanchez and Market Streets. The parade Safety Committee has released the following information.

The entire north side of Market Street will be open for spectators between Sanchez and Duboce. The parking lanes on both sides of the street will be open for spectators between Duboce and Octavia.

Parade officials are strongly suggesting that people do not drive to the parade area. Muni Metro will begin operation on Sunday morning at 9 a.m.

Muni will do extensive rerouting of its lines on Sunday. Among the lines to be rerouted are the 6, 7, 8, 19, 21, 24, 26, 37, and the 71. Service on others may also be affected. Muni advises that extra cars will be in service on the Muni Metro. The changes will take effect at 9 a.m.

Muni also plans a Lesbian/Gay Freedom Day Shuttle. It will run from Stanyan and Haight, down Haight to Divisadero and over Divisadero to Castro. It will run from 9 a.m. till early afternoon.

Market Street from Castro to Larkin Street will be closed to all traffic. Van Ness and Church Street have been designated as open intersections and are the only two streets where vehicle travel will be allowed to cross the parade route. These intersections are expected to be extremely congested. Golden Gate Avenue and Sixth Street are being encouraged as an option for traffic moving toward the Van Ness and Market Street intersection.

The special needs viewing area is at Fox Plaza at the corner of Larkin and Market. There will also be a special needs viewing area at each stage. Special needs corridors run on the south side of Hayes and the east side of Polk to the Celebration area. They will also be throughout the Celebration area in Civic Center. There are no special needs corridors from Muni/BART stations to Civic Center. ●

Names Project to Launch Balloons

The Names Project will be sponsoring a memorial balloon launch at the conclusion of the celebration of Lesbian/Gay Freedom Day.

At exactly 6 p.m. on June 26, thousands of balloons will be released from the Names Project booth at Civic Center, each carrying the name of someone who has died of AIDS.

Names can be added to the balloon launch at the Names Project workshop at 2362 Market Street, or during the celebration at the Names Project booth. Donations are encouraged but are entirely optional. Proceeds raised from the balloon launch will help support the costs of the Quilt's return to Washington, D.C. on Oct. 8, 9, and 10. ●

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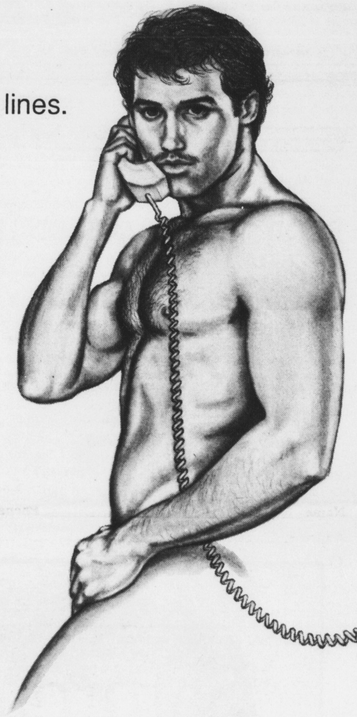

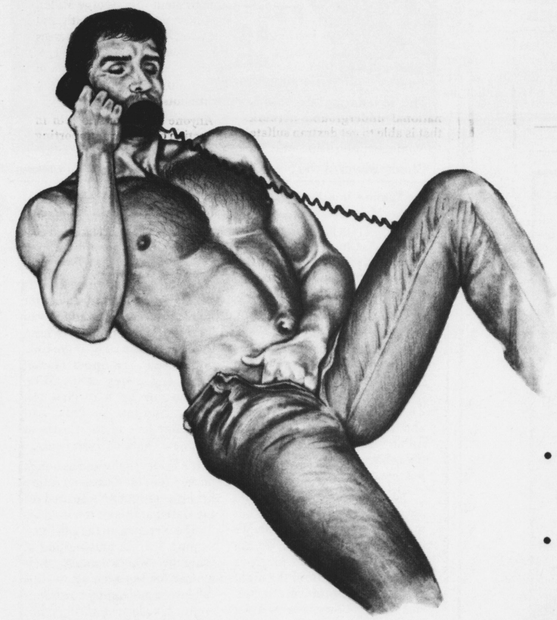

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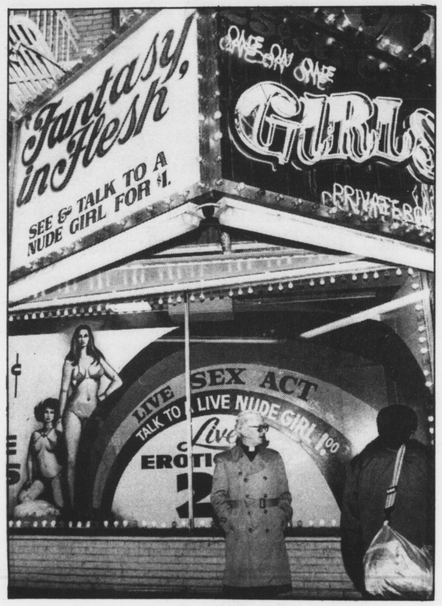
Minister of the Streets

The Tenderloin Is His Church; A Bar Stool Can Be His Pulpit

by Mary Richards

You can see him wearing his clerical collar, walking the Tenderloin late most evenings and in local gay bars. His name is Charles Lewis, although he prefers to be called simply "Chuck." His ministry is the streets of San Francisco.

Sometimes he sits with someone through the bleak and lonely night, awaiting the dawn of a day that person did not plan to live through. Women come to him with their children, and, if he can, he makes sure they are sheltered. Gay men and lesbians tell him their troubles and their fears. He means different things to different people, but mainly he is just *there*. He can be reached, and he can be touched. He *is* the San Francisco Night Ministry.



Chuck Lewis of the Night Ministry. (Photo: PhotoGraphics/Darlene)

It all sounds very official, yet Chuck is anything but that. He loves to make jokes and speaks with a tinge of irreverence when discussing the bureaucracy of churches and their hierarchy. He has consistently worked within the Lutheran ministry to gain acceptance and respect for the gay community. Since his arrival in San Francisco in 1964, he has been a tireless supporter of the rights of the disenfranchised.

The best way to get a true picture of the Night Ministry is to follow the minister on his rounds of the city. His work begins when he unlocks the door to the office and checks his answering machine. Calls begin to come in soon after his arrival at 10 p.m. He speaks to one woman in deep trouble: She is the battered survivor of a marital dispute who is seeking refuge for herself and her family.

Rhoda, as we will call her, has quite a brood to protect: two 19-year-olds, a 3-year-old, and a baby of 3 months. She has found a temporary haven for the younger ones, and she and one son are calling from a BART station in the Mission. It is the Friday night of the Memorial Day weekend, and a cold rain has descended on the city. As Chuck soon discovers, all the shelters are filled and even his influence cannot produce a spare room during the holiday.

While Chuck waits for Rhoda to return his call, Martha Wood, who is coordinator of volunteers for the Ministry, comes into the office to begin her evening's work, which will continue until 2 a.m. Martha answers the phone and talks to whomever is calling. As she gets organized by the phones, she speaks about her volunteers.

"We do have volunteers who are on the phone," she says, "but we're not exactly a crisis line. We help in times of crisis. We are here for people who are lonely or awake in the middle of the night and who have problems or worries that keep them awake. We're here to listen, sometimes to provide possible directions to go in."

You can tell from speaking to Martha that she's a down-to-earth person and not one given to sermonizing. "We're certainly not here to judge," she adds, "and we're not full of mysterious wisdom—but sometimes you can hear things when people are talking."

Her volunteers, she believes, "are not just people who have the time, they're people who are concerned about others and who want to do something that has some meaning in their lives." Those same volunteers also get calls from other crisis switchboards, referring people from hospitals, shelters, and from the police. The San Francisco Night Ministry is one of the most-used telephone numbers in the city.

Although Chuck cannot find shelter for Rhoda and her son, he has made arrangements to meet them and give them money for fare back to the East Bay.

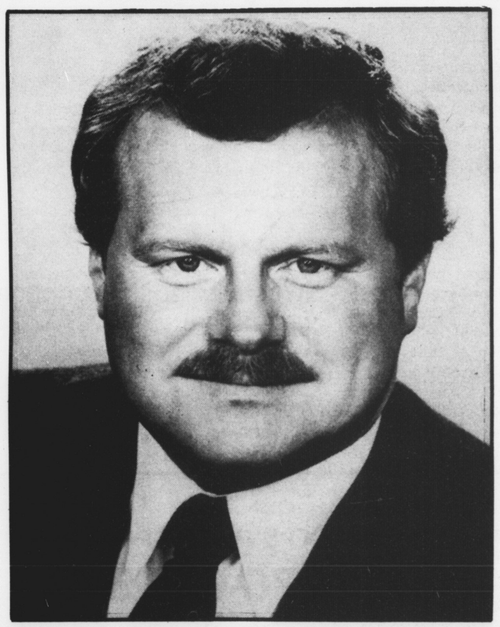
Chuck usually begins his evening in the Tenderloin and, after 11:30 or so, brings his ministry to local gay bars. Monday evening finds him at the Gate or the Kokpit; Tuesday, it's upper Market Street and a stop at the Mint; Wednesday he may visit the White Swallow on Polk; and Thursday he's in the Castro at Elephant Walk or Twin Peaks.

It's Friday night, and although he may visit the Castro on future Fridays, tonight he's headed for the Galleon. It isn't too long before he is settled on the sidelines, sipping a drink and smiling at the singers who accompany their pianist for the evening. In this fun-loving and lightly boisterous crowd, his clerical attire stands out.

A good-looking, casually dressed man approaches him, and they engage in serious conversation. Soon another man joins in their talk, and the three men converse for some time. The first man, Chuck says, "showed me his identification—he's a Roman Catholic priest who has been living with a lover for the past few years. He's under extreme pressure right now by some member of his hierarchy to break up that relationship. He's going through a very intense personal struggle."

Chuck believes that, in an instance like this, the church is contributing to the promiscuity that it accuses gay people of having. "I don't think gay people are more promiscuous than anybody else," he says firmly. "The

(Continued on page 39)



In solidarity. . . Let the power of Lesbian and Gay Freedom Day 1988 bond our community in purpose and spirit!

SHERIFF MIKE HENNESSEY

Convention

(Continued from page 2)

up—floor fights or whatever."

"Everyone is really expecting a very high visibility from the gay and lesbian community at both of the conventions," said Robert Bray of the Human Rights Campaign Fund. "The media center will focus and centralize communications for gay and lesbian issues. It'll keep gay and lesbian visibility in front of delegates and the media."

HRCF will bring in politicians and southern civil rights leaders, including Coretta Scott King, to explain gay and lesbian rights to the media. "The momentum in Atlanta is still there from an HRCF fundraiser in April," Bray said. "The fundraiser was a who's who of the civil rights movement. Six hundred fifty people attended. The speeches, contributions, and reactions were extremely positive. When we get to the convention, the civil rights leadership is going to be behind us."

Gays and lesbians attending the convention will be hosted by LEGAL—Legislate Equality for Gays and Lesbians, a Georgia activist group. Spokesperson Lee Harrington says the group is planning a welcome dinner on Friday, July 15, with Congressman Barney Frank. On Saturday night, GAPAC—the Georgia Political Action Committee—will host a cocktail party.

The two Georgia groups are staging a major rally on Sunday at 2 p.m. called "Stop AIDS, Stop Violence, Stop Discrimination—This Is America!"

Harrington said the Sunday rally "will not include civil disobedience," although, he said, "it sort of depends on the political atmosphere; plans could always change."

The demonstrations at this year's political conventions are not as extensive as those in 1984, but a gay presence is planned nonetheless. (Photo: Rink)

Since LEGAL and GAPAC are not planning civil disobedience, groups from New York are, according to Martin Hiraga of ACT UP, ACT NOW, and the Gay and Lesbian Freedom Ride. "LEGAL and GAPAC have kind of nixed civil disobedience," he said, "so we've decided to do an action. All members of the ACT NOW network are invited."

"A kiss-in and sodomy protest at the capitol building in Atlanta on Tuesday is a project we're taking very seriously," added ACT UP and GFR's Neil Broome. "After all, where did Michael Hardwick live?"

After both the Democratic and Republican conventions, the Gay Freedom Ride will travel the South, visiting lesbian and gay organizations; sponsoring demonstrations at the offices, businesses, and homes of those who oppose the lesbian and gay struggle for civil rights; and registering gay and lesbians to vote.

The group plans to visit Montgomery, Birmingham, Nashville, Lexington, Louisville, Knoxville, Jackson, Memphis, Little Rock, and Baton Rouge, in addition to Atlanta and New Orleans.

"Our presence in the South demonstrates our refusal to remain invisible and silent," said Broome. "When we remain in the closet, we perpetuate and strengthen the hatred, violence, and discrimination against us."

When asked if he were concerned about violence from Deep South homophobes, Broome replied, "If you're only in town one day, it doesn't give the psychopaths enough time to organize."

Another group hoping to impact the convention is Washington, D.C.'s OUT—Oppression Under Target. "At this point," said spokesperson Linda Royster, "OUT is not sure whether we'll be participating in the ACT UP action on Monday or planning other actions on different days. We're sort of running short of people who can take time off from work that week."

San Francisco's Mobilization Against AIDS will be in Atlanta all week, according to spokesperson Paul Boneberg. "Our prime objective," he said, "is to force the candidates to discuss AIDS treatment issues. The most important thing to be addressed is an alternative to the projections of death put forward by the Public Health Service."

MAA, according to Boneberg, believes the mothers of people with AIDS can play an important role at both conventions. "We're having the mothers write to the wives of the candidates, asking to meet with them. Then, at that meeting, the mothers will ask to meet with the candidates themselves. A mother-to-mother appeal is hard to refuse," he said.

MAA and a group called March On, made up of organizers of the recent March on Sacramento, are planning a "die-in" Monday from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the "free speech area" cordoned off by local authorities.

A wrench may be thrown into the activists' plans from the hands of the National Supremicist Movement, which includes the Ku Klux Klan. According to Atlanta activist Kathy Willard, the supremicists are the only group to have received public gathering permits so far.

"They have a permit to use the capitol from noon to 6 p.m. on Sunday," Willard said, "and also permits for a parade and for the free speech area on Sunday. They applied over a year ago." ●

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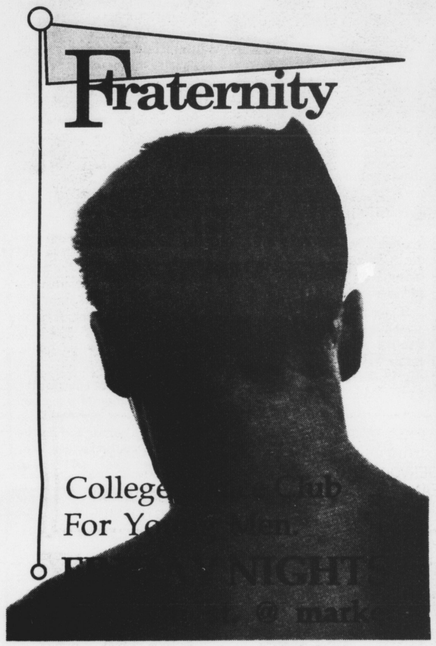

1978–1988

Ten Years After

Polk Had Glitter; Castro Had Clones; And Everybody Had a Good Time

by Allen White

Ten years ago, Polk Street was still the center of San Francisco gay life. Castro was the brash new kid on the block. Polk Street may have been home to the queens, but Castro was spawning clones as gay people began building a new sort of community. Polk displayed the glitter; Castro saw the young professionals in their suits on their way home from the office. And South of Market came alive every night of the week, all night long.

18th and Castro, circa 1983. (Photo: S. Savage)

Ten years ago, a store on Polk Street called Headlines first opened for business. This year the fourth store opened in Emeryville. This success story for "retail entertainment" in a gay environment is indicative of a generation of gay men and lesbians who worked, partied, and developed a community on Polk Street, in the Castro, and South of Market.

When Headlines opened, Polk Street had not yet been eclipsed by Castro as the gay mecca. Halloween was the national gay holiday, and the action was on Polk Street. Amidst the thousands of people out in costumes of every sort in 1978 was a man named John Briggs.

He came to the Polk to stir up media attention. But on a side street, then-Mayor George Moscone told the California state senator he would be arrested if he went into the area. Emotions were high as the gay community galvanized with their leader, Sup. Harvey Milk, to fight back against Prop. 6. Known as the Briggs Initiative, it was the one homophobic action which, more than any other, stirred people to come out of the closet and fight for their rights.

While people walked through the streets, others jammed such bars as the Giraffe and the Polk Gulch. Up the street, David Kelsey played on at the New Bell Saloon. Further up the street was the 'N Touch and the White Swallow.

Across town, a quiet residential distict called Eureka Valley was being quickly transformed into the undisputed gay capital of the world, the Castro. Lines jammed the streets and around the corner to get into the Midnight Sun bar. With their videos, the bar boasted of having too little room. It was located not at its current 18th Street location, but on Castro.

Castro from 17th to 19th streets was one of the most curious assortments of businesses ever created. The bakery—now gone—looked like a quiet little shop, almost out of place, yet with the most scrumptious sweets around.

Harvey Milk was known to take out-of-towners by the Elephant Walk and the Twin Peaks bars. He would tell people that gay people were now coming out. There were windows at the Elephant Walk and Twin Peaks. No longer, he would say, would gay people have to hide in bars that kept them closeted and isolated.

The ultimate gay book store was the Jaguar Book Store. Its back room offered a sense of mystery and sensuality unlike anyplace.

The Castro was populated by small businesses. As tens of thousands of gay people moved in, they discovered a certain quality

(Continued on page 39)

SHOULD YOU TAKE THE AIDS ANTIBODY TEST?

Possible Benefits

- People who get test results usually reduce high risk behavior.
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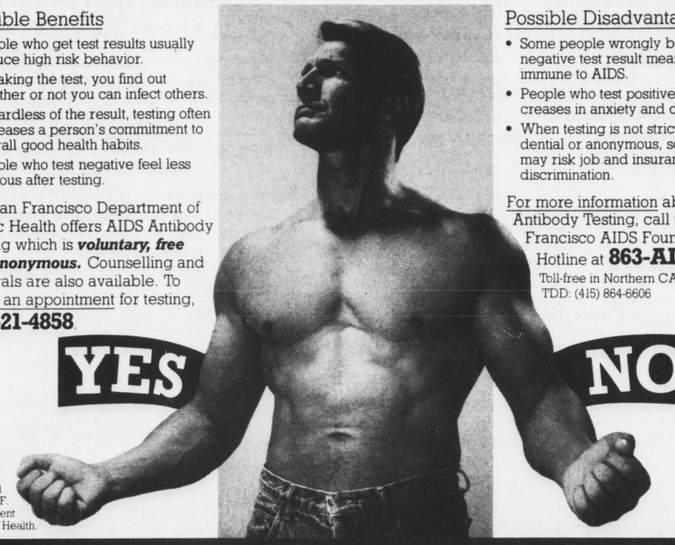
- People who test negative feel less anxious after testing.

The San Francisco Department of Public Health offers AIDS Antibody Testing which is ***voluntary, free and anonymous.*** Counselling 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**.
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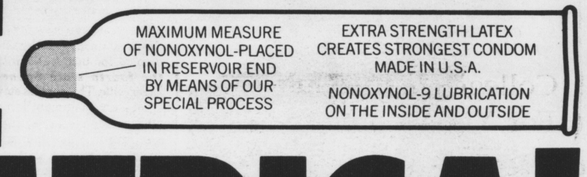

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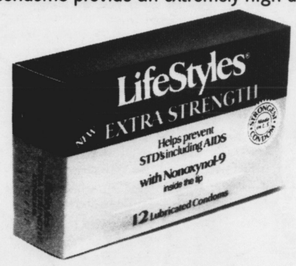

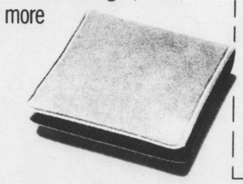

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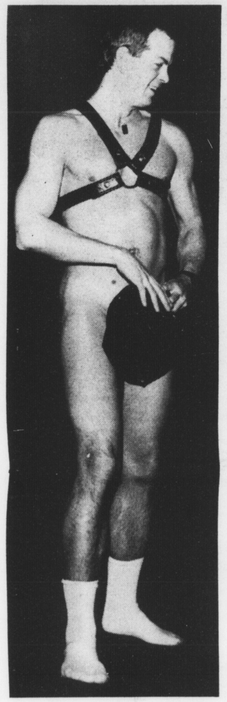
Balloons and Gorillas

Two Gay Businessmen Give San Franciscans Lots of Fun

by Mary Richards

Looking for something different to help spice up a birthday or holiday celebration? Well, John Hedges and Randy Jansen have just the answer for you.

In San Francisco, imagination and energy are the hallmarks of both Hedges and Jansen, two businesspeople who enjoy providing people with surprising and delightful additions to celebrations. Hedges sells balloons with a special twist: They come attached to a cuddly teddy bear. Randy Jansen specializes in bringing a wide variety of characters to your door: gorillas, tarot card readers, strippers, or belly dancers.



Randy Jansen of *Ain't No Monkey Business.*
(Photo: PhotoGraphics/Darlene)

Teddy Ballons began the night Hedges and his lover were on their way to a teddy bear restaurant in the city. Tired of his 15 years as a disc jockey in various bars, John was looking for a new way to do business. His lover suggested a simple but fun idea: Why not market balloons and teddy bears together?

"I thought it was a great idea," John remembered. "I ran a tiny ad in the B.A.R., and boom! In business! It was just phenomenal." They just celebrated their first anniversary in May.

Parties, weddings, and birthdays are all appropriate occasions to include teddys and their balloons. John can make palm trees out of balloons for tropical parties and even a Santa Claus for the holidays. "I've had calls to do dragons," he said. "I haven't had anything yet that I couldn't do in balloons."

John Hedges of Teddy Balloons. (Photo: PhotoGraphics/Darlene)

Teddy bears come in all manner of sizes, from the small 9-inch baby bear to the super-large (but very friendly) 33-inch teddy. "Cuddles," a white bear especially soft to the touch, is aptly named and a great favorite.

John recently ordered T-shirts and jackets for himself and his staff and pointed out that some of his bears wear T-shirts, as well, and can be purchased dressed for the occasion (so to speak). It gives that extra little touch of formality to the present, and the shirts have messages: "Get Well," "Happy Birthday," "Let's Party," or that old favorite, "I Love You."

For a Monday morning perk-up, how about a little brown bear wearing a madras bowtie, sitting inside a coffee mug? Just in case you missed the message, there is a bear picture and the words, "100 Percent Huggable," on the front of the mug.

Part of the fun of Teddy Balloons is setting up the order. One caller requested a teddy ballon with the signature, "Happy 44th Birthday, Love, Bear." John asked the caller, "Are you a teddy bear?" and then laughed: "Well, great! It's nice to have some big quarterbacks ordering balloons!" The caller had told him, "I'm a big, hairy bear who used to be a quarterback for Stanford."

One 44-inch Cuddles and a dozen balloons coming up!

Balloons can be ordered without the teddy, and John and staff have blown up thousands of balloons for local events such as the Folsom Street and Up Your Alley fairs, Golden Gate Business Association, Sutter's Mill and Eagle parties. For New Year's Eve 1988, he says, "We dropped 7,000 balloons five stories down [at the Giftcenter]. I was a nervous wreck, because I hadn't done anything that large."

Randy Jansen of Ain't No Monkey Business met John through their membership in the GGBA. John will need the occasional gorilla or clown to deliver his balloons, and, when he does, Randy is the person to call.

Jansen started his business in October 1986 and now has 45 performers: ten strippers, three belly dancers, one gorilla, fire eaters, clowns, Santa Clauses, singers, and comedians.

One of the characters Randy enjoys performing is a policeman. "Arresting cops are good!" he says with a laugh. "When we do it for men, we charge them with 'assault with a dead weapon,' 'failure to erect a monument,' and 'being a one-minute man.' Then, of course, we customize it and get personal information about the person it's intended for."

Randy has a degree in history and political science, but started Ain't No Monkey Business because, he says, "I got tired of working for other people. I wanted to work for myself. It's three times the amount of work, but 100 percent more satisfaction, and it's a fun business to be in.

"I've always wanted to make people laugh, and I love practical jokes. Now I can make a business out of practical jokes and providing entertainment."

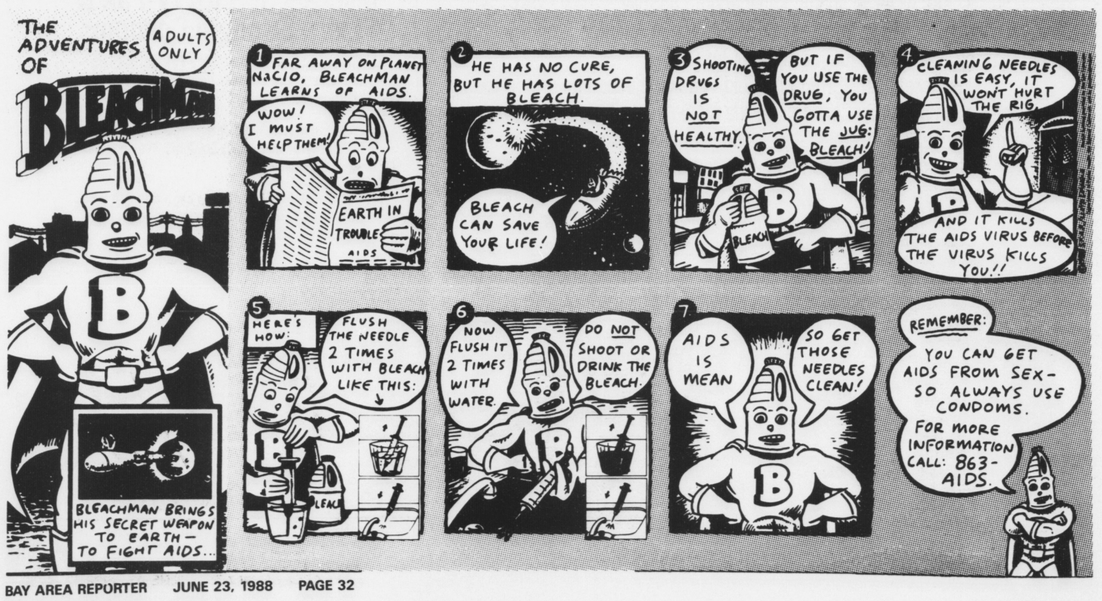
Randy caters to straight and gay clientele and brings fun into anyone's life, whoever they are.

"I own the business, and I'm gay," he said. "We do gay performances—whether it's a singing performance or a gorilla, we do it gay-oriented. We always have gay strippers for gay calls, and I have lesbian strippers, too!

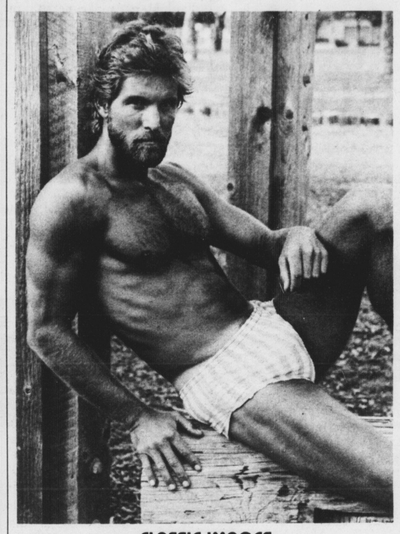
There's quite a turnover in this monkey business, and Randy is always looking for new performers. "The average length of a performer is three months," he says, "although I've had performers for a year and a half now. We treat them well."

So the next time you're somewhere and see a gorilla wearing a tutu and playing a trumpet, you can bet Randy's behind it. The business is fun, but, as he says, nothing is perfect.

"G-strings are so expensive, and people don't realize when they rip them off! It's a standard hazard in the business!" And the worst is yet to come: "I've gone through three pairs of handcuffs this year!" ●



Photography by Balducchi



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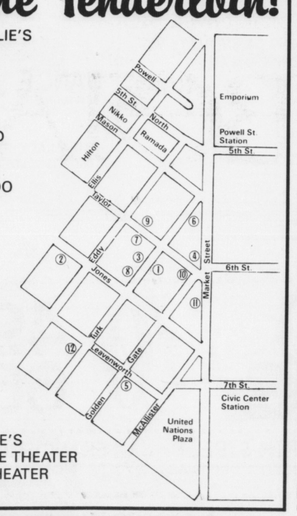
8. SCANDALS
   162 Turk
   673-5153
9. ORIGINAL JOE'S
10. GOLDEN GATE THEATER
11. WARFIELD THEATER
12. Y.M.C.A.

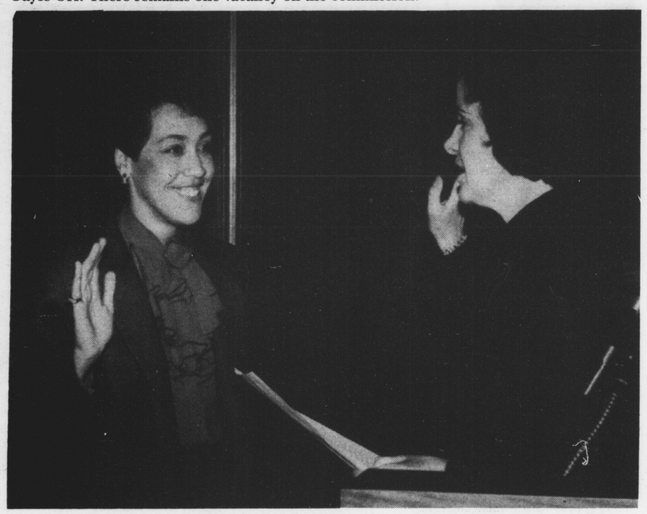


Agnos Drops Owens From Police Board

No Woman on Police Commission; Sup. Britt Defends Mayor's Action

by Allen White

For the first time in almost a decade there will be no gay person on the San Francisco Police Commission. Lesbian Commissioner Dr. Juanita Owens was removed from the commission as Mayor Art Agnos announced his new police commission. Replacing Owens and Dr. David Sanchez are real estate agent Pius Lee, legal advocate Jose Medina and corporate security expert Gayle Orr. There remains one vacancy on the commission.



Mayor Dianne Feinstein swore in Juanita Owens in 1986. (Photo: Rink)

The announcement was met with mixed reactions within the gay community. Ten years ago Mayor George Moscone had promised the gay community he would appoint a gay person to the police commission. Following Moscone's assassination, then new mayor Dianne Feinstein, appointed Jo Daly. In 1986, Juanita Owens replaced Daly on the commission.

Phyllis Lyon, who had served many years on the city's Human Rights commission was very critical of the move. "I think it is crazy that he did not put a lesbian on the police commission. The two lesbians who have been on that commission have done incredibly wonderful stuff. I think at least he should have put a gay man there," she said.

But Sup. Harry Britt took a different position, saying, "It doesn't bother me. It would have several years ago when getting a gay man or lesbian on the police commission was our first priority."

At the time, the placement of Jo Daly on the police commission was viewed as a solid victory for the gay community. In subsequent years it had become taken for granted by many that a "gay slot" had been created.

Britt commented, "You can't start locking in seats. Not in a town like this. This is a town of minorities and we have to take our turns in various spaces."

"The police commission is extremely important to gay people," he explained. "It is extremely important to other groups too. Art Agnos has a constituency that includes an awful lot of different people and we will get our share of the appointments. But you can't pick. You have to put the best qualified people from each constituency in the best place for them."

Phyllis Lyon didn't go along with that. "There is also tradition that that was one of the few lesbian slots." The appointment has made her concerned about other Agnos appointments. "I will be interested in what he is going to do on the Commission on the Status of Women because we have always had one open lesbian slot. I have not a clue as to what he is going to do on the Human Rights Commission."

NO WOMEN

Lyon believes that Agnos not only erred in not appointing a gay person, but also in not appointing at least two women. "There is a line that says you have to have a woman on the police commission. You can have more and George Moscone did that. It seems to me that from what I have been hearing from women on the police commision for years is that they need another woman."

She noted, "Jo Daly and Juanita Owens were not just lesbians, they were women and they were concerned with what happens to women in the police department. They were also concerned about everything else that was going on in the police department. They were not one issue persons but they were persons who looked at that particular issue."

Britt said he had talked to Agnos before the police commission appointment was made. "I have discussed this with Mayor Agnos," he said. "There is no doubt in my mind that he is in the process of appointing far more lesbians and gay men in positions of leadership than has ever happened before. I know what it's like in politics to have to sort out various people for the various seats and we didn't draw that one. But we are going to have some extraordinary people from our community on Art's commissions and I don't think this is a step back at all."

Pius Lee is a past president of the Chinese Chamber of Commerce and a former member of the Human Rights Commission. Jose Medina is executive director of Instituto De La Raza, a legal assistance organization serving primarily the Hispanic community and is a member of the Latino Democratic Club. Gayle Orr is in corporate security at PG&E and is a member of the Black Leadership Forum.

Britt expressed hope for future appointments. "I have no doubt there will be somebody from our community on the police commission while Art is mayor. We are trying to move forward and Art Agnos is giving our community far more opportunity to participate than Mayor Feinstein did at every level," he said. ●

South Asians March In Freedom Parade

To educate and raise awareness, Trikone, an organization for South Asian gays, will march in the Gay and Lesbian Freedom Day Parade in San Francisco, on Sunday, June 26.

The Trikone contingent will march with the larger People of Color contingent made up of other Asians, Blacks, Hispanics, and Native Americans. After the parade, Trikone volunteers will run their own booth at City Hall Plaza to distribute literature and answer questions. ●

Watkins Report Helps Federal Legislation

by John Ward

How much of the report of the Presidential AIDS Commission is adopted by President Reagan remains to be seen. But there is no question that the report will have great influence on Capitol Hill and in the elections, lobbyists agree. "I am hesitant to say it will roll back Helms," said Jean McGuire, executive director of AIDS Action Council, "but it goes far beyond anything we could have hoped for. We intend to use it aggressively on the Hill."

"The antidiscrimination pieces will be very helpful in the House," said openly gay Rep. Barney Frank (D-MA), who has beaten back efforts in the Judiciary Committee to omit AIDS from antidiscrimination protection. "I plan to thank Watkins on the floor. I admire what he is doing."

"It is a tremendous boost in the right direction," said Tom Sheridan, lobbyist for the Child Welfare League. "The moderates and conservatives look to him."

The release of Commission Chair Admiral James Watkins' draft came at a time when a flurry of AIDS bills are awaiting congressional action. An HIV testing and counseling bill is before a House committee while a Senate version awaits committee action. A bill penalizing housing discrimination against the handicapped is scheduled for a House floor vote while a Senate version is in committee. A bill banning handicapped discrimination in jobs, housing, and public accommodations is scheduled for hearings in both chambers this summer.

It also came at a time when the AIDS battle has formed clear lines in Congress with both sides so honing their parliamentary skills that a stalemate looms.

Antidiscrimination was removed from the House HIV testing and counseling bill (HR 3071) by sponsor Rep. Henry Waxman (D-Hollywood) before it was considered by the subcommittee for fear it would be amended out. But such protection remains in the Senate bill (S 1575), sponsored by Sen. Ted Kennedy (D-MA).

"It is too early to tell what effect Watkins will have but we couldn't have a clearer statement," said a Kennedy staffer. According to Kennedy's office, the Senate GOP is fairly unified in opposing the antidiscrimination protection. "Creating a new protected class gives them problems," a staffer said. "They view it as gay rights."

Expected soon is a House floor vote on the bill penalizing housing discrimination against the handicapped, the Fair Housing Act (HR 1158). Amendments are expected to remove HIV-related bias from protection, amendments which were beaten back in Judiciary Committee after they were introduced by Rep. Bill Dannemeyer (R-Anaheim).

"Sure [Watkins] will help," said a staffer for Rep. Don Edwards (D-San Jose). "We are always battling the Dannemeyer types." However, AIDS is not expected to be the centerpiece of the floor battle, the staffer said.

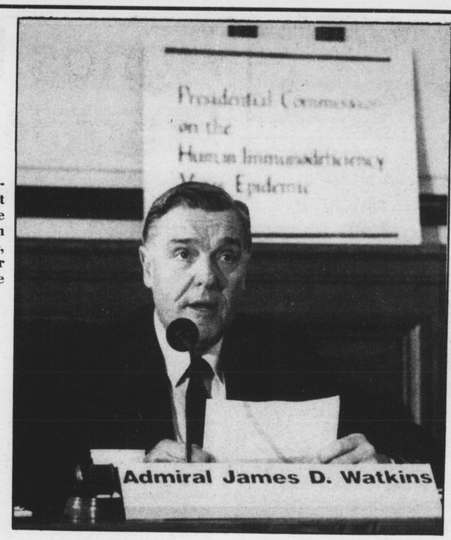
CONTROVERSIAL

Bipartisan support may push through the Disabilities Act, which bans handicap discrimination in jobs, housing, and public accommodations, said a staffer for House Majority Whip Tony Coelho (D-Modesto), who is sponsoring the House version of the bill (HR 4498).

August hearings are scheduled for both it and the Senate version (S 2345), sponsored by Sen. Lowell Weicker (R-CT).

Considered by many interviewed on Capitol Hill and in the AIDS community to be the "gutsiest" of Watkins recommendations is that giving the Surgeon General emergency public health powers. But implementation of that recommendation by President Reagan is given little hope. The full commission even deleted the point from its final report.

"It is much too controversial in a bureaucratic sense," said Jeff Levi, executive director of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF).



(Photo: S. Savage)

Also given little hope is that Reagan will listen to Watkins and issue an executive order banning HIV-related discrimination.

Regardless of how many of Watkins' recommendations are adopted, the impact of his draft is illustrated by the reaction from Dannemeyer, the most vocal AIDS right-winger in the House. Paul Mero, spokesperson for Dannemeyer, said he was afraid the report will restore antidiscrimination protection to Waxman's HIV counseling and testing bill now before committee.

"Who knows the minds of men," Mero said. "Any of the AIDS special interest groups could have written this."

But both sides of the debate expected the full commission to adopt Watkins' draft with only modest changes. And that is what happened at their meeting June 17. The commission backed the antidiscrimination plan, but held out for reporting of HIV test results to health officials, contrary to Watkins recommendations.

The report should also further push AIDS as a subject to be dealt with seriously by the president and congressional candidates and in the party platforms, agreed NGLTF spokesperson Urvashi Vaid and AIDS Action Council's Jean McGuire.

"This will help us discount the natural tendency not to raise AIDS as an issue," said McGuire. "It will be tough to totally ignore us now." ●

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DEATHS

Jon "Jay" Merriman

Jay left this life peacefully five minutes after midnight, April 16, at Coming Home Hospice, holding the hands of his friends Kathryn and Gordon. He was 43.

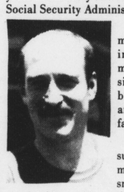
Born in Philadelphia, he lived most of his life in Houston and San Francisco. A quiet and private person, he was active in the Monday and Wednesday night bowling leagues, and represented Hawaii in the first Gay Games. As a travel agent, and earlier working for United and Continental Airlines, Jay enjoyed extensive travels throughout the world.

His positive attitude was an inspiration to those who knew him, and he will be deeply missed. He is survived by his brother Dorian Johnston and sister Barbara.

Contributions in Jay's memory may be made to Coming Home Hospice, 115 Diamond, San Francisco 94114. ●

Nicholas (Nick) Stevens

Friday morning, June 17, our friend Nick passed from this life. He was a native of Rhode Island and had made San Francisco his home for the past 12 years. he was a government employee, serving four years in the Navy and 14 years with the Social Security Administration.



Nick will be missed by his loving family, his mother Esther, sister Florence, brothers Peter and Jimmie, and father Tony.

Nick's pleasures in life were movies, music, smoking cigarettes, drinking coffee, and a good game of pinball.

A special thank you to the staffs at U.C. Medical Center and San Francisco Hospice for the care and support Nick received in his final months.

Memorial donations may be made to either the S.F. AIDS Foundation or the Shanti Project.

A gathering of friends will take place Saturday, June 25, between 2 and 5 p.m. at his home. For further information call 864-0662.

From all your friends in San Francisco, goodbye Nick, we'll miss you! ●

William Baden Meyer
May 25, 1932-June 4, 1988

William (Bill) Meyer passed away peacefully in his sleep Saturday, June 4. Thankfully, Bill apparently died of natural causes.

Bill lived a full and active life, even though it was cut short so unexpectedly. Those who were fortunate enough to know him have truly lost a great friend. Bill always surrounded himself with the finest of friends. Loving, giving, and caring were all emotions Bill knew well.

A successful business man, Bill created quite a name for himself in the silver and militaria worlds. While Bill did not actually die of AIDS, the AIDS Emergency Fund was his favorite charity. Therefore, his friends request that in lieu of flowers or other gifts, memorial contributions be made to this worthwhile organization. ●

René Jan Balzouman

René Jan Balzouman died peacefully of complications resulting from AIDS at sunrise on June 15, 1988, in the Pacific Prysbyterian Medical Center, where he had worked as an AIDS patient care volunteer for more than 18 months. He would have been 36 years old next month.

Present at his side were his lover John Ungaretti, his parents Jan and Dée Balzouman, his sisters Hedy Yamashita and Ciska Crane, his brother Paul, and several dear friends.

He cared passionately about people and about the world's affairs and follies, and was loved by so very many for his gentleness and concern. We will miss his smiles and calm reassurance. He was not in pain, and assured us at the end that he would watch over us all. We are in very good hands.

Donations in his memory can be made to the PPMC AIDS Patient Care Volunteer Program, Pacific Presbyterian Medical Foundation, 2340 Clay St., Room 425, San Francisco, CA 94115. ●

Alyson

(Continued from page 14)

AIDS benefit only to find out that a disappointingly small percentage went toward AIDS work," said Sasha.

And he remembers what it was like when he was young—when he thought he was the only gay person in the world. In 1982 he started a free pen-pal service for gay teens that is used by 3,000 teens today.

With 120 titles under his belt, Sasha isn't about to stop publishing. The press is doing so well that Sasha can spend more time looking for authors to write the nonfiction books he'd like to print.

"In the past couple years, I've had the time to sit back and look at what I think we should be doing," said Sasha. "When I was much busier, it was a case of just selecting from the manuscripts that came in."

His publishing house plans future books on Leonard Matlovich, thrown out of the military for being gay, and Harry Hayes, an early pioneer of gay rights who was thrown out of the Communist Party in the 1930s for his sexuality.

Over the years, as the press has made enough money to sustain itself, Sasha has been able to give more time and energy to one-time projects like the AIDS book and to being an activist.

"I do think I might live to see the day where nobody attaches any real significance to whether you're gay or straight or what," said Sasha.

But until then, he plans to keep publishing. ●

Publishing

(Continued from page 14)

sales doubled, and it made a respectable 15-percent profit.

In addition, Frederique Delacoste set up foreign sales for three of Cleis' recent books. *Sex Work* will be distributed by Heyne Verlag, one of West Germany's largest publishers, and two books also are off to Britain.

"We're really doing very well," said Delacoste, owner and editor at Cleis.

Like any business owners, publishers have to worry about sales. But by becoming sound financial ventures, they create a solid foundation for a community based on ideas as well as sexuality. In the end, that benefits everyone.

"I sometimes wonder what difference it really makes," said Alyson.

"But then I stop to think what it would be like if there were no gay newspapers, no gay books or bookstores. ●

Friday

(Continued from page 9)

Building next Wednesday, June 29, to kick off Sup. Harry Britt's reelection campaign; entertainment, hors d'oeuvres, no-host cocktails, 5:30–7:30, $25 or $35 contributors choice (621-6164 for info).

This is Gay Freedom Day weekend. The parade will be followed by the B.A.R.-sponsored "Let's Dance" Tea Dance at the Giftcenter Pavilion, a benefit for the AIDS Emergency Fund, the Tavern Guild's Circus-Circus at 240 Golden Gate Avenue, a benefit for the Godfather Service Fund and the AIDS Emergency Fund, and a host of other happenings. ●

Agnos

(Continued from page 12)

Agnos. "What the real cost comes to isn't a matter of money. It's the loss of valued San Franciscans—people we love."

Ever the optimist, Agnos thinks the city will rise to the challenge.

"I believe San Francisco will be remembered not for its losses, but for its contributions to the AIDS crisis," said Agnos. "We are a model for AIDS care and caring. People from all over the world come here to find out what we've learned and how we're coping.

"I think we will always be on the cutting edge of this epidemic. We're demonstrating that now, and I expect it will only be more true as the crisis deepens." ●

Milk

(Continued from page 4)

I call upon all minorities and especially the millions of lesbians and gay men to wake up from their dreams, to gather on Washington and tell Jimmy Carter and their nation: "Wake up. Wake up, America. No more racism, no more sexism, no more ageism, no more hatred, no more!"

It's up to you, Jimmy Carter. Do you want to go down in history as a person who would not listen, or do you want to go down in history as a leader, as a president?

Jimmy Carter: Listen to us today, or you will have to listen to lesbians and gay men from all over this nation as they gather in Washington next year.

For we will gather there, and we will tell you about America and what it really stands for.

And to the bigots, to the John Briggs, to the Anita Bryants, to the Kevin Starrs and all their ilk: Let me remind you what America is. Listen carefully.

On the Statue of Liberty, it says, "Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to be free. . ." In the Declaration of Independence, it is written, "All men are created equal, and they are endowed with certain inalienable rights. . ." And in our national anthem, it says, "Oh, say, does that star-spangled banner yet wave o'er the land of the free. . .?"

For, Mr. Briggs and Ms. Bryant and Mr. Starr and all the bigots out there, that's what America is. No matter how hard you try, you cannot erase those words from the Declaration of Independence. No matter how hard you try, you cannot chip those words from the base of the Statue of Liberty. And no matter how hard you try, you cannot sing "The Star-Spangled Banner" without those words.

That's what America is.

Love it or leave it. ●

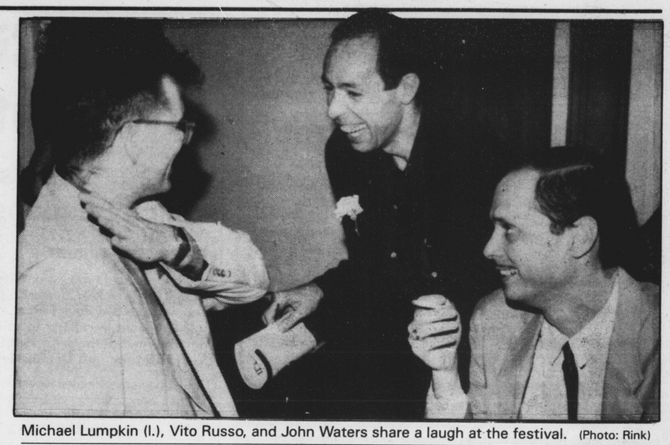
—Courtesy the Estate of Harvey Milk

Epstein Named to Panel As Film Festival Opens

Agnos Praises Oscar-Winning Gay Producer

by Allen White

The International Lesbian/Gay Film Festival kicked off its 12th season with a trendy opening-night cocktail party and season's first presentation at the Castro Theatre. A surprise for the capacity audience was the first appearance ever by a San Francisco mayor. Art Agnos announced the appointment of Academy Award-winner Rob Epstein to the Mayor's Film Advisory Council.



Michael Lumpkin (l.), Vito Russo, and John Waters share a laugh at the festival. (Photo: Rink)

The Lesbian/Gay Film Festival begins its current run with a line-up of many firsts for the city and the country in gay films. Frameline Director Michael Lumpkin said, "Our reputation around the world is growing. More and more films are choosing to premiere at our festival."

Agnos clearly was pleased with the night's activities. "I want to thank Michael Lumpkin for giving me the opportunity to be the first mayor in the history of San Francisco to open this festival, and it's about damn time," he said.

Agnos used the appearance as an opportunity to announce the appointment of Epstein. "One year before this festival began in 1975, a group of six filmmakers brought out a film which broke the silence, *Word Is Out*," Agnos said. "With its showing, *Word Is Out* certainly got the word out.

"One of those filmmakers is an Academy Award winner, Rob Epstein," Agnos added. Epstein won an Academy Award for his film, *The Life and Times of Harvey Milk*. "San Francisco is going to honor and use that talent," the mayor said.

The board is an advisory bank of experts for the Mayor's Film Office. It facilitates efforts to bring more film business to San Francisco.

Supervisor Harry Britt was also in the audience and praised the appointment. "Rob is one of the great success stories. He started off as a gay activist very much involved in gay politics, with a lot of integrity and a lot of intelligence. He had the foresight to be with Harvey Milk as a reporter, a filmmaker, and as a friend. He is a person of enormous character, and everyone who knows him is inspired by him. He will do a great job."

Epstein is the first San Francisco filmmaker appointed to the advisory council by Mayor Agnos. He is currently working on *The Names Quilt: A Patchwork of Lives*, which will be aired on national television.

CLAIMING IDENTITY

The remarks of Agnos served to set the stage not only for the film festival, but for the several days of Lesbian/Gay Freedom Week in San Francisco. He praised the festival for making a "major contribution to the fundamental right and need we each have. The right of each person to claim their own sense of identity and be part of a community. That has never been a right freely granted to lesbians and gay men."

As the audience responded with applause and rapt attention to his remarks, the mayor said, "The fight for those rights has been waged by activists, writers, artists, everybody in this audience. And you all use the same weapon that this festival uses. You have made your lives, your very selves visible through film, through writing, through politics, through community action, through your everyday work in your lives.

"You have made your voices heard, to understand what each of us must understand, that silence is aquiessence to an act of indignity," Agnos added. "Silence is always an ally of the powerful over the vulnerable. And this is the one message that confounds that power. When conscience speaks, the silence is broken. As mayor of San Francisco, I believe it is not just my duty and my obligation to support the dignity of lesbians and gay men, but that history will record that it has been my privilege."

That the mayor of San Francisco would present such extended remarks to this audience indicates a certain maturing for the festival. That process is making the festival unique and respected throughout the world. According to Frameline's Lumpkin, "It's special because it's another year and we have more filmmakers coming in from other countries and more guests. The films are changing, the type of films that are accepted by gay audiences are changing."

Britt said, "The 12th year really makes me feel old. Some events, after four or five years, lose some of their specialness. The quality has gone up every year. I think the people standing in line tonight are just as excited as the first bunch 12 years ago."

In fact, the opening night was just the first of many times over the weekend when lines stretched down Castro and around the corner as hundreds waited to participate in the festival.

The 12th annual Lesbian/Gay Film Festival continues through Sunday night with presentations at the Castro and the Roxie Cinema. ●

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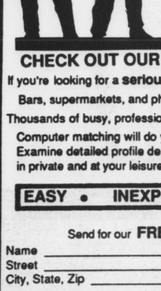

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Report Cites Rise In Violent Attacks

S.F. Ranks First in Bashings; Police Response Improves

by Gregory Douthwaite

Violence and harassment of lesbians and gay men reached record levels in 1987, according to a new report by the National Lesbian and Gay Task Force. A total of 7,008 incidents, ranging from name-calling to stick-throwing to murder, were documented in the group's third annual Anti-Gay Violence, Victimization, and Defamation Report.

Cities across the nation reported increasing anti-gay violence. The Philadelphia Lesbian and Gay Task Force showed a 39 percent increase, the New York City Gay and Lesbian Anti-Violence Project noted a 14 percent rise, and San Francisco's Community United Against Violence showed 11 percent more victims.

San Francisco documented more gay bashings than any other city in the nation: 238 of the nation's 835 assaults occurred right here in the gay mecca. Assaults requiring medical attention rose a startling 23 percent here.

"Even in a relatively tolerant city such as San Francisco, lesbians and gays contend with a frightening rate of violence directed against us," said CUAV director Beverly Mesch.

"Because we refuse to hide in our closets, we are facing nationwide terrorism to beat us back in," said CUAV community organizer Lester Olmstead-Rose. "Unfortunately, the violence is as bad or worse in San Francisco as everywhere else."

The high visibility of our community may be part of the reason for the number of assaults here, said Olmstead-Rose. "Being open and visible when there is a backlash, we are more vulnerable," he said. The solution is not to go back into our closets, he said, but to educate people, end homophobia, and "demystify homosexuality."

In a survey of anti-violence groups, more than a third (36 percent) said that anti-gay violence had increased last year, while only 9 percent reported no increase.

From North Carolina came the largest number of reported incidents: almost 2,000, mostly harassment complaints. North Carolina also reported the highest number of police-related incidents (45) and the largest number of arsons and bombings (3).

New York State reported the highest number of gay-related homicides (20), Pennsylvania reported the most vandalism (108 incidents), and California reported the most physical assaults (317).

The total number of incidents reported rose 42 percent, from 4,946 in 1986 to 7,008 in 1987. Part of the increase was due to increased reporting: 64 groups in 32 states filed reports last year, compared with 41 groups in 27 states the year before.

The report said anti-gay violence is caused by the unfounded and longstanding notion that gay people are "sick, sinful, and predatory," and by the perception that gays are easy targets—unable to fight back and unwilling to risk exposure by reporting crimes to the police.

AIDS has exacerbated anti-gay violence, according to 63 percent of the groups surveyed. Reference to AIDS was made in 15 percent of incidents, including 5 percent of the physical assaults.

"While the extent to which AIDS has contributed to anti-gay violence remains unknown, there is little doubt that the increased visibility of gay people as a result of AIDS has made them more vulnerable to discrimination and violence," the report said.

The 22-page report gave examples of different types of anti-gay violence, including assaults, murders, bombings; attacks by organized hate groups, family members, and police; defamation by rock stars, billboards, and TV commercials; and AIDS-related incidents.

ASSAULTS

Reports of assaults rose 14 percent last year. The 835 reported assaults included attacks with weapons ranging from eggs to axes.

• At a gay march and rally in Dubuque, Iowa, last September, about 200 anti-gay hecklers threw garbage, sticks, and eggs at about 30 gay activists. Four hecklers were later identified and charged with disorderly conduct.

• In Philadelphia in March, a man who tried unsuccessfully to pick up a lesbian at a local bar dragged her out onto the sidewalk and beat her up after she told him her sexual orientation. The victim required attention at an emergency room.

HOMICIDES

Reports of gay-related homicides dropped 20 percent last year. Sixty-four murders apparently motivated by anti-gay prejudice were reported, including nine in San Francisco.

• Last July, a heterosexual male tourist was stabbed to death South of Market because he was mistakenly perceived to be gay. The victim was called a "faggot" and a "fruit" before he was killed.

• In Pennsylvania in December, a gay man was murdered by two men who asked him for a ride home from the bar where they met. When the victim first entered the bar, the men were overheard saying, "Look at that fag. Fuck fags. I hate fucking queers." The man's body was found the next day with his throat slit and multiple stab wounds.

HATE GROUP ACTIVITY

The Ku Klux Klan and neo-Nazi groups have targeted the gay and lesbian community for crimes ranging from harassment to murder.

• In North Carolina, White Patriot Party leader Glenn Miller declared war on so-called enemies of the white race. He assigned points for murdering people: one point for "niggers," five points for "queers," and ten points for Jews.

• Also in North Carolina, three men with ties to the White Patriot Party entered the Shelby III gay bookstore in January. They shot four customers and an employee in the head, then set the store on fire with gasoline canisters. An informant said their motivate was to "avenge Yahweh on homosexuals." Two of the men were later convicted of first-degree murder.

Beverly Mesch (Photo: Rink)

VIOLENCE BY FAMILY MEMBERS

While most anti-gay violence is perpetrated by strangers, it also occurs among those who know each other, sometimes intimately.

• In San Mateo, the parents and grandparents of a young man wielded golf clubs and an axe in a frenzied attack against him and three friends as they were attempting to remove his belongings from his grandparents' house. Screaming anti-gay epithets, the parents battered their son's car, smashing windows and denting the exterior. When one of the young man's friends attempted to intervene, he was severely beaten.

POLICE ABUSE

Reports of police-related incidents declined from 410 in 1986 to 217 in 1987. Complaints of police mistreatment ranged from the offensive wearing of rubber gloves to brutal assault.

• In Houston last June, police raided a number of gay bars. One officer asked a man, "Are you queer?" and then beat him, while other officers referred to patrons as "AIDS-infected faggots."

The raids came days after the Supreme Court struck down a local ordinance banning persons from challenging police abuse and misconduct while it was occurring; the ordinance had been used against gay people.

DEFAMATION

Inflammatory remarks by leaders in religion, government, and entertainment reflect and reinforce demeaning attitudes that lead to anti-gay violence, says the report.

• Outside the town of Chehalis, Washington, a billboard depicts a large figure of Uncle Sam with his arms outstretched over the words, "AIDS is a miracle disease. It turns fruits into vegetables." The billboard is believed to be owned by local members of the ultraconservative John Birch Society.

• In a magazine interview, Adam Horowitz, lead singer of the rock group Beastie Boys, said, "I hate faggots," and described gay people as child-molesters and psychologically sick people. After a flood of outraged calls, CBS Records made a

(Continued on page 47)

Coits

(Continued from page 19)

again, but right now we have a whole club working, and it's wonderful having this type of support and effort by a group. That's one reason I've stayed as a Coit, because I like people. We party a lot, we have a good time, but when it gets down to getting the job done, it's wonderful working with a group of people having the same goal."

One of the major goals of the group is to raise money. Ski-Dazzle, their ski jaunt to the mountains, does just that. This year $550 was donated from the trip to the AIDS Emergency Fund.

Women as well as men are always invited to share in the fun when the Coits plan an event, and women are also eligible for membership. "Ten years ago," Chuck says, "we changed our constitution from 'any male over 21' to 'any person over 21.' "

Rumor has it that there is a woman currently up for membership. The group has been generously supported by various women in the community throughout the many years the Coits have enlivened San Francisco society.

In 1967 the first Cotillion Ball was held at Russian Hall, and for the next seven years it was the major drag ball in the city.

Chuck describes how the Coits organized it: "We were actually a debutante ball," he says. "We had rules that you had to wear white. You could wear pearls or diamonds, but you were not allowed to wear glitter on your dress. You were coming out, and we were presenting you to the gay community for the very first time in drag."

Many members of the Coits have been emperors and empresses in the Imperial Family of San Francisco, and, as Larry says, "there has always been a working bond between the Emperor and Empress Council and the Coits, a supporting situation where we would support either the coronation or their fundraisers, and vice versa."

The Coits' anniversary celebration is almost upon them, and, with 600 people invited, they'll need support from every section of the community. Larry explains what the anniverary means to him: "I want the community to celebrate the community's longevity," he says. "I think we need to have a longevity factor, and I think we can establish that so that the younger kids know it's something we've been working on for 25 years now.

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1978–88

(Continued from page 30)

that reminded them of being back home in the Midwest. Over the years, that would change.

Star Pharmacy at 18th and Castro would become another in the chain of Walgreens stores. Paperback Traffic, everybody's favorite place to check out people and books at the same time, closed, and Crown Books pushed out one of three laundromats in the area to become another chain operation.

Headlines moved to the Castro in 1979. Later the thriving business took over what was the Castro Garage, which became their current locale for this experiment in retailing.

In 1978 it was said that a person could eat, shop, bank, do their laundry, and even see their lawyer and then go to church without ever having to communicate with a straight person. The Castro had become the ultimate gay ghetto. Some described it as heaven; others, decadent; and others thought it was sick. What nobody questioned was that it really was a place where people could be free. For the next decade, gay men and lesbians would refine that responsibility and develop a thriving and viable community.

As people overnight were identified as Castro clones in one part of town, they strived to be real, honest-to-god butch men in another. The area was South of Market, and it was as unique and as much a community as the Castro.

The gay bars spread out down Folsom and Harrison, each with its own personality as long as it was leather. The emphasis was on sex, and it manifested itself in many ways. The bike clubs immediately identified with Febe's. It was one of the oldest of the leather bars, and it gave off a bizarre kind of distinguished respectability.

For many, the most incredible bar was at 8th and Bryant, the Boot Camp. If the walls could talk, the Boot Camp story would be probably the most salacious. After it lost its liquor license, it continued the craziness as a private club.

And there were the baths. The Barracks, the Slot, Ritch Street, the Club Baths at 8th and Howard, the Glory Holes, and the Caldron were just a few of the places. Their business was sex, and their patrons offered it in every description that could be imagined. They represented an era, and their presence is as much a part of San Francisco's gay history as the churches and possibly more important. The AIDS crisis knocked them off the map, yet their contribution to a sexual movement is undeniable.

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Ministry

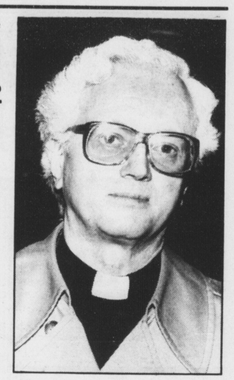
(Continued from page 28)

church refuses to allow any kind of bonding and to recognize that there are certain gay people who want to live in committed relationships. By refusing that, it forces them into a promiscuous lifestyle that would not otherwise be."

Is ministering to gay people any different than ministering to straight people? "On one level, I would say no," Chuck stresses. "The color of pain is all the same, and it doesn't matter whether you're straight or gay or black or white."

Having said this, he remembers a sermon when he preached to his parishioners that "we're all born free, and we need to realize this freedom." He recalls that, after his sermon, a young black woman approached him and said, "You know something, I think that what you just said is bullshit! We're not born free—we have to claim our freedom every moment of our lives, and the minute we stop, somebody's going to take it away from us."

Ministering to gay and straight people, Chuck points out, is different in one respect. "Gay people," he says, "to a large extent have undergone oppression that many people don't know about. And if you happen to be a woman, it's doubly so, because you're oppressed as a woman as well as being oppressed for being a lesbian. The church has denied people their rights and privileges simply because of who they are."



Charles Lewis
(Photo: PhotoGraphics/Darlene)

He says, flatly, "I refuse to accept that."

It's 2 a.m. and, after dropping Martha, his volunteer, home, Chuck is ready to call it a night. He feels good about the people he has touched and what it may mean to them. He explains now what it means to him.

"I really think that if you leave the church," he says, "then the church will ignore you—and the church, whether we like it or not, is a powerful institution. If it's to be reformed, it has to be reformed by the people who stay inside and do that.

"You can stay outside, and you can throw stones at those stained-glass windows all you want, and they'll just put up plexiglass. But if you're on the inside, they have to listen to you," he says.

"It takes a lot of work, it takes a long time, some 25 years in my case, but the church is listening."

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Fresno Campus Group Sees Funds Slashed

Student Senate Cuts Budget, Says Gay Group 'Immoral'

by Jay Newquist

A request for funds by a gay and lesbian student coalition at California State University at Fresno was vetoed last month on the grounds the group's sexual orientation offended prevailing moral standards. The 40-member Gay and Lesbian Student Alliance (GLSA) was told by the head of student government that he would not approve funds because their "moral behavior was not acceptable."

Ivan Vincent, a graduate student and GLSA member, said the ACLU had entered the dispute to try to overturn the budget decision made by Associate Student Body President Mark Astone.

"We're shocked and angry, but we kind of laugh now because this is so typical of the way he (Astone) has dealt with gay and lesbian issues," Vincent said.

"This is a real hot item, and no one wants to defend us. This right-wing zealot is worse than any young Republican."

Vincent said the Cal State Fresno administration had not lifted a finger to help and was looking the other way. "No one wants to take a stand, no one wants to get involved in this area," he said.

"They're sitting on their hands."

The university has previously ruled the GLSA has a right to exist, according to Vincent, but otherwise the Alliance has to fight its own battles.

Vincent said the GLSA found out about the denial of their $2,500 budget request after classes ended in May. He explained that Astone had the authority to deny funds that were approved by the student senate.

He added that Astone made it his moral prerogative to fight the existance of the gay and lesbian coalition because he views their sexual orientation as "not normal."

The GLSA asked for a special meeting of the senate to try to overturn Astone's veto, but there wasn't a quorum and the veto stood.

"Astone has used these tactics before. He's sexist, elitist, and a real frat guy," Vincent said.

He recalled the Associate Student Body president also tried to slash the budget of the student newspaper from $70,000 to $20,000, but the higher figure was reinstated.

BOGUS CHARGES

Astone also based his condemnation of the gay and lesbian group on charges of financial mismanagement and an inability to bring speakers to the campus.

Vincent said Astone's allegations had no basis in fact for the morally-motivated criticism and in fact the GLSA has been active in the free speech movement since it was founded last year at Cal State Fresno.

They routinely provide gay and lesbian speakers, Vincent said, and they distribute AIDS education materials and condoms from a permanent on-campus booth.

It looks bleak, however, for the life expectancy of GLSA without a budget.

Vincent reported that although Astone graduated this month, the incoming Associate Student Body President was another homophobic fraternity man struck of the same cloth.

The GLSA will try to secure funding from the new president and senate, which would likely be slashed from $2,500 to $800 in across-the-board university cuts. Vincent said the GLSA merely expects equal treatment, including a reduced budget.

But money wasn't the point. "They're trying to put us out of business," he said. ●

East Bay Democratic Club Lauds Activists at Anniversary Banquet

In lieu of a June meeting, the East Bay Lesbian/Gay Democratic Club held its annual dinner June 12 at Berkeley's Mandarin Garden restaurant. About 40 EBL/GDC members and friends gathered to celebrate the club's sixth anniversary.

EBL/GDC president Bob Kegeles recounted the club's accomplishments over the past year, including support of several successful candidates in the June primary elections. In addition to club member Albert Lucero, who prevailed in his bid to attend the Democratic National Convention as a Jackson alternate, club-endorsed candidates included Mary King, elected to the Alameda County Board of Supervisors, and Jennie Rhine and Jeff Tauber, elected to the Berkeley and Oakland Municipal Court benches.

Both Kegeles and club vice-president Phyllis Zusman were elected to the Alameda County Democratic Central Committee.

Singled out for special recognition were one lesbian and one gay man, honored for outstanding service to the community. Former club president and Peralta College Board Trustee Tom Brougham, recipient of a club award in 1987 upon becoming the East Bay's first openly gay elected public official, made a surprise award presentation to club activist Lana Hameister for past service as a club officer and as treasurer of the Campaign Against the LaRouche Measure.

Lana Hameister accepting an EBLIGDC Community Service Award from Peralta trustee Tom Brougham.

EBL/GDC vice-president Phyllis Zusman profiled the accomplishments of Brian Cross, honored for his efforts as the Alameda County Health Department's AIDS Coordinator and as chair of the Alameda County Community AIDS Advisory Committee.

The dinner ended on a traditional note, with EBL/GDC founder and past president Armand Boulay cutting the first piece of club birthday cake.

EBL/GDC takes a summer break before gearing up for this fall's election efforts. Tentative activities during the summer, however, include the club's annual yard sale and a cocktail reception to benefit the club's political action fund, the Campaign for Equality.

For more information about EBL/GDC, call Bob Kegeles at 528-0166. ●

Come Out, Come Out, Wherever You Are!

National Coming Out Day Set for October; Celebrations to Mark 'Taking Next Step'

Jean O'Leary and Rob Eichberg

On Oct. 11 this year, it is hoped that hundreds of thousands of gay men and lesbians will paticipate in a bold, new national campaign, "National Coming Out Day '88: Take Your Next Step."

"This is a grass-roots project designed to include everyone in our community. National Coming Out Day will build individual self-esteem and commitment, energize our local communities, and increase our national visibility and strength," announced Jean O'Leary, executive director of the National Gay Rights Advocates. NGRA will co-sponsor the event with the Experience Weekend.

National Coming Out Day '88 is jointly supported by major national gay organizations and will enlist the active support of more than 8,000 local and state gay/lesbian groups across the country, as well as the community's local and national media.

"A National Coming Out Day is an idea whose time has come," declared Rob Eichberg, founder and key spokesperson for the Experience Weekend. "As last year's March on Washington showed, this is a community that is growing and thriving. We are determined to bring that spirit home—to show our strength, our rich cultural diversity, and our boundless creativity and vitality—even in the face of the AIDS epidemic."

The National Coming Out Day campaign will encourage every individual to "take your next step" on Oct. 11, wherever it is on the coming out continuum.

"Everyone can participate," NGRA's O'Leary explained. "One lesbian might find the courage this Oct. 11 to come out to her son's PTA. A gay man might choose to engage in civil disobedience for the first time. A teenager might finally be able to admit to herself she's gay.

"There are countless ways to be involved," continued O'Leary. "Our job as campaign coordinators will be to encourage widespread participation from every corner of our community and our organized movement and to act as a clearinghouse for the hundreds of innovative ideas this campaign will engender."

Although details of the National Coming Out Day campaign will evolve further as the broader community gets involved, three basic steps have been outlined, explained O'Leary and Eichberg:

(1) People will be encouraged to fill out a commitment card affirming their decision to "take the next step" on Oct. 11.

(2) People will participate on Coming Out Day in "whatever way you choose—telling a friend, going to your first gay political meeting, putting a photo of your lover up at work—whatever is *your* next step."

(3) People will be encouraged to attend a Coming Out Day party the evening of Oct. 11 to share with others "your Coming Out Day story—whether at an intimate dinner party, rap group, or a large community town-hall-type meeting."

NGRA will track the development of many of these Coming Out Day stories and plans to collate them into a commemorative book and video about this important day.

National Coming Out Day emerged as one of four consensus projects from the "War Conference," a gathering of 200 gay and lesbian leaders in Virginia in late February. Each project will be supported by all organizations, with key sponsorship by one or two groups.

Other projects are the formation of a national emergency response network to link all organizations and provide the means to pressure elected officials; a national voter registration drive; a national media and public relations campaign to promote our visibility as a multicultural, diverse community; and an annual conference of gay and lesbian activists open to all.

COUNTDOWN BEGINS

In order to help facilitate National Coming Out Day, NGRA and the Experience Weekend will provide several organizing tools to local groups and individuals, including:

- A basic coming out kit.
- A list of resources to help plan local campaigns.
- A list of national slogans, old and new, such as "We Are Everywhere!" and "Silence = Death."
- Commitment cards and certificates of participation.
- Buttons, bumper stickers, T-shirts, etc.

In addition, NGRA will act as a national clearinghouse, soliciting ideas for slogans, a National Coming Out Day song, Coming Out Day party ideas, etc. A special fund has been earmarked for this project; contributions may be sent to National Coming Out Day '88 Campaign Fund, c/o NGRA, 8380 Santa Monica Blvd, Suite 202, West Hollywood, CA 90069.

As part of Campaign Countdown to Oct. 11, NGRA will seek endorsements from celebrities, civil rights, professional and edu-

(Continued on next page)

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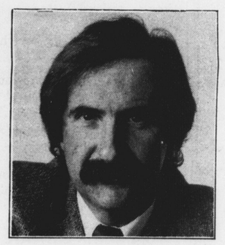

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LIX NATAL DAY CELEBRATION
(A "How Old?" Nose)

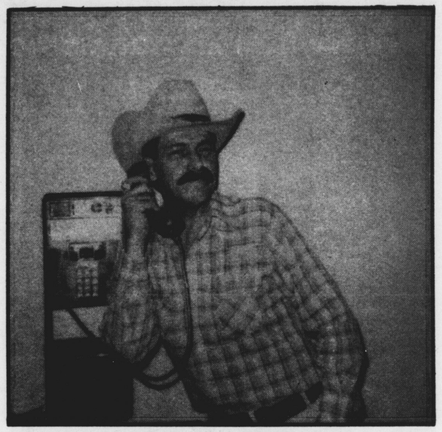
Ed Paulsen's annual birthday celebration was a huge success at both Big Mama's and Turf Club. The latter lent its C/W band *Wildfire* for the occasion and its toe-tapping sounds were enjoyed in two bars on the same Sunday, June 12. Special drink prices were in effect at both bars, and it was good to see, once again, the parading of customers up and down Mission visiting the two places.

When *Wildfire* finished its last set at Big Mama's, the crowd seemed to move in mass down the street—just in time to catch the final few renditions of a very talented vocalist, Michael Callery. The likes of his Irish tenor hadn't been heard in Hayward for many a moon, and I'm sure that we'll all hear a lot more from this adroit and cute young man.

Nine huge trays of "finger-licking" food were served at each establishment. According to Ed, at Big Mama's the customers were gracious in their eating but at the Turf Club they really know how to chow down! The food was catered by Miguel's of Hayward, and was really something else.

Villain Al made sure that everyone entering the front doors received a ticket good for the drawings of various and sundry prizes. By golly Miss Molly, I won $25 worth of drinks at Big Mama's. I guess some good luck had rubbed off on me. George was standing next to me and just a few drawings before, he had won a nifty beach towel!

Many provocative and funny cards, plus several nice presents were given to the man being honored. Probably one of the best presents, if you will, was the absence of Little Mother. She was probably basking on some beach (or bitch?) in Hawaii at party time.



Ed got a 'happy birthday' call from Little Mother—collect from Hawaii.

COFFER CONTINUATION
(A "Way to Go!" Nose)

Saturday, June 11, Tim and Fina hosted a fantastic Out of Depression/Back to Pride fund-raiser at Big Mama's. Proceeds from the event were divided between the Hayward Float Committee and BASH. The festivities opened with Sister Lushes Lashes, of San Francisco, at 8 p.m.—sharp! Now there's a first, for either side of the Bay!

A really wonderful buffet was donated by Contemporary Designs and Mark Reid's Hair Salons. A tip of Nez's nose for their generosity.

The actual show started at 9 p.m. with Empress IX Tootsi, followed by Fina, Raven, Morgan, Heather, and Timmy. A total of $946 was raised. Chairperson Sandy said that for this particular fund, it was the most money raised in one night, and very close to their goal of $5,000. The 50/50 raffle was won by Jim Peck, who received $305.

Tim and Fina thank everyone who helped and supported them in making the affair a great success. And they extend a very special *thank you* and *love* to their sisters in Oakland.

YULETIDE IN ESTIVATE
(A Perspiring "Ho-Ho-Ho" Nose)

Ed Paulson and the Spoiled Brat present their second annual Christmas In July Auction and Food Drive on Sunday, July 17, starting at 3 p.m. It is a benefit for East Bay Assistance Fund and AIDS Food Bank. The food donation barrels will be located at various East Bay bars.

Some of the auction items already received include: an executive Drexel desk; two seven foot matching Drexel bookcases; a complete set of Lennox ovenware, dishes, and serving pieces; antique Cranberry Glass; a 5'x 9' hand-tied oriental rug from mainland China—never walked on! (Is this the famous flying carpet?); lots of antiques, original art, and silver pieces. Visa, Master Card and American Express will be accepted at this auction. All items must be paid for in total and removed from the Spoiled Brat immediately after the auction is over.

Far too often people become over zealous, bid for items, promise to pay and pick-up at a later date, and the items wait and wait. It's a shame some have to "show off" eliminating legitimate buyers with cash who would really appreciate the purchase.

More auction items are needed, so please contact Ed Paulson at 881-9310 or Spoiled Brat at 782-2728.

Something new this time around: a $100 prize will be awarded to the bar or organization with the best decorated *full* food barrel. The operation word here is FULL!

HELICONIUS SHENANIGANS
(A Spectrometer Nose?)

An update of entertainers for Little Mother's Look To The Rainbow, Sunday, July 10 at the Spoiled Brat: Eric Hernandez of Surprise Package Stripping Telegrams (he's also a member of the San Francisco Men's Night Out Parties sponsored by Emperor Steve); vocalist David Canfield accompanied by Al St. Clair—who will perform also; Joseph Duncan, a Butterfly Follies Fan Dancer; and featured dancer Kele.

David Carney and Pat Montclaire have purchased tickets. Perhaps the San Francisco Entertainer of the Year (Community Awards) can be persuaded to do a cameo part.

Nova has promised me that final details for the party bus from Church Street Station to the Spoiled Brat will be available for the next column. Anyone in San Francisco interested in information or tickets can contact Nova Lei at 255-1927.

Other entertainers and personalities previously announced included: Manuel Oliver and Nova Lei, M.C.s; Emperor and Empress Carlos and Tootsi, host and hostess; Momi Starr, playing sing-along piano plus special guests including Derek of Church Street Station; Sandy Sorrelles, Alexis of Town & Country; Lady Johnny and Kawika presenting the Polynesian Revue; and Nova Lei presenting the all male ensemble The Butterfly Follies.

The $20 admission includes your first cocktail, one raffle ticket, buffet, and entertainment. All proceeds will go to East Bay Assistance Fund and Bay Area Sheppard House.

OLLA-PODRIDA
(A Medley Nose)

Morgan and US#5 are the latest to resign from the Court. As I heard it, they asked for time to reconsider, but before they could give their final decision, their resignations were accepted. What's going on?

Very big onions to a certain person who took it upon himself to order a marker for Fat Fairy's grave—a marker in red, yet, and not with the anticipated memorial message! He knew very well there is a money-raising raffle for that very purpose. Mama Chuckles and Sam were somewhat chagrined when that person presented the bill for said grave marker . . . It's a real "headshaker" if I ever shook one. *Non compos mentis* notwithstanding, that person is also *Persona non grata* in a couple of watering holes around town.

It's that time of year again. Dean Snow will present his famous 10th Annual Bastille Day Party at the Turf Club on Thursday, July 14. *Bravo!* Band will be playing throughout the evening. This group really packs them in, so I suggest an early arrival. As always, you can expect the unexpected at one of Dean's shindigs.

Speaking of the Turf Club, you'd better sit down for this one! Guess who's now manager of this "world famous" bar? (Drum roll, please . . .) None other than Frumpy! At least as of 6-17-88, that is. Seems he "celebrated" a little too much the night before and came in for only two hours the next morning. He went home with a hangover instead of a trick! Frumpy back at the Turf Club? That damn pendulum does swing both ways, eh what?

Shame, shame, Ray-Ray! Don't you know that *unknown* tricks who arrive on motorcycles sometimes leave with the trickee's car? Glad "they" found it for you in San Francisco. Er . . . what about the night's receipts? Did "they" find them too?

Some people are always in search of themselves. Some people are always in search of other people. Some people just always search for things about which to write a column. I can smile at that! Love, Nez ●

Come Out

(Continued from previous page)

cational organizations, as well as religious, business, and political leaders. The support and active participation of families and friends of gays and lesbians will be encouraged through a parallel media campaign to reach the heterosexual community.

Essential to the fullest participation of the gay and lesbian community will be the involvement of the gay media and all of the 8,000 groups across the country.

For information, write NGRA at 8380 Santa Monica Blvd., Suite 202, West Hollywood, CA 90069, or call (213) 650-6200. ●

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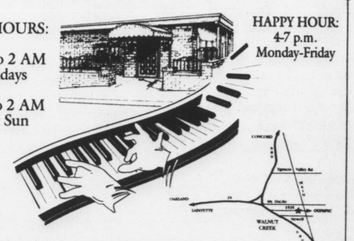
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A New Definition

Activist Says It's Time to Quit Fighting for Narrow Concerns

by Rex Wockner

University of Chicago alumnus Darrell Yates Rist went off to the Big Apple and made a name for himself as a gay activist. He was one of the original founders of the Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation (GLAAD) and has been a frequent contributor to the Advocate, the New York Native, and the Village Voice.

Now Yates Rist has a new book on the way, called *Heartlands: A Gay Man's Odyssey Across America.* A series of nonfiction stories exploring rural gay America, *Heartlands* is currently being exerpted in the Advocate. Yates Rist spoke recently about his experiences during two years of cross-country research.

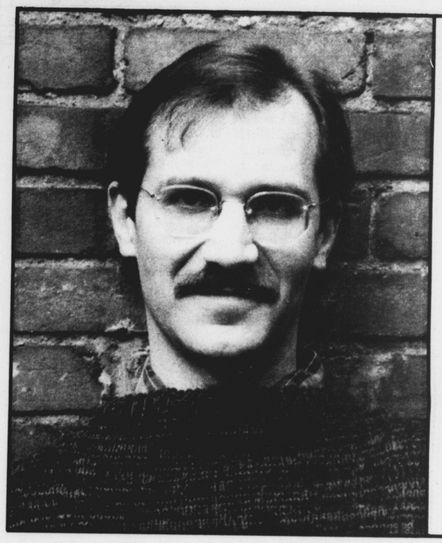
Rex Wockner: You've written a new travel book of sorts. How will it differ from Edmund White's classic *States of Desire: Travels in Gay America*?

Darrell Yates Rist: Well, Ed and I are interested in very different kinds of people. Ed's interest then—and I think it continues to be—is in the urban gay environment, the ghetto, what we call the cultivated, liberated gay man. My interest has always been in what I think the majority of gay men are: people who, even if they live in the city, don't fit the stereotype. They're not the ghetto queens or the ghetto clones. I'm particularly interested in men in small towns and rural areas and in the Midwest.

I think, secondly, they are going to be very different books in terms of approach. If anything, Truman Capote's nonfiction novel is the model for this book. It's a narrative; it's an epic. The stories are absolutely true; they're based on greatly detailed notes from sitting and spending time with people from all across the country. But they're written as short stories.

The other thing is that, while interviewing is one of the techniques that I used, outside of a certain sort of acculturated gay man in urban areas, you don't get people typically to talk about their homosexuality in an academic way—people who can define themselves for you, tell you who they really think they are.

I'm not particularly interested in who people think they are anyway, but in who they really are. So I went alligator trapping with an alligator trapper in New Orleans. He did not talk about his homosexuality at all, other than in references to this hot man or that hot man and what he does on Saturday night. His life is his alligator trapping. What is it like for a gay man to live isolated, outside any kind of what we call "gay community," in the bayou of Louisiana, in poverty, and trap alligators for a living?



'What is it like for a gay men to live isolated, outside any kind of what we call "gay community," in the bayou of Louisiana, in poverty, and trap alligators for a living?'
—Darrell Yates Rist

I went to school with school teachers; I went to the factory with factory workers; I fed pigs and cows and horses; I went to dungeon parties with guys that were into S&M, drag parties with people that were into drag; I did what people did. I went to church with a *lot* of people—lots of prayer meetings—and had a spirit channeled by a psychic in New Mexico,

RW: Was the alligator trapper the most far-removed from what we call the gay community of anyone you contacted?

DYR: No. I went to visit a man who lived 157 miles down a dirt road past Fairbanks, Alaska. It's the last road in Alaska; there's nothing above Fairbanks. He was married. He'd had sex, he said, with everyone in his community of 50 people. It's a fishing village on a river. His identity was as lost as the town he lived in. Does that mean that he was unhappy? I don't think so at all. He lived in an environment in which no laws were really exercised except by agreement among this community, where you could change who you were almost daily. I sometimes think he's the freest of all of us.

RW: Is he labelable? Does he even belong in the book?

DYR: He is a man who has enough homosexual desire that he pursues men with some frequency. I think there's a real problem in the book—as there is in life—in knowing what we mean by "gay." We've used the word "gay" to shut a lot of people out of this community, to shut out bisexuals, or people who actually enjoy having sex with both men and women, or whose sexual pleasure may have been the greatest with men but whose affectional needs were met best by women, or vice versa. The convolutions and revolutions of identity are endless, and we haven't accommodated that in this movement.

When I asked about someone being gay once in New Mexico, a man said to me, "Why do you use that word? It's a meaningless term; it's a term of privilege. It's a label that you can put on yourself if you have enough economic independence and enough education and enough privilege in this society that you no longer need the structures that you grew up with. A lot of the people I live around," he said, "don't have that privilege. They may have sex with men, they may even fall in love with men, but they are not 'gay.' "

RW: What do you think about that?

DYR: I think "gay" is a very problematic term. I think we have to start thinking about freedom. That sounds like a flip thing to say, but I'm tired of our fighting for narrow concerns. It puts us in a trap of definition—and we define ourselves very narrowly—and then we only care for ourselves.

If we're black, we can't just care about the liberation of blacks, etc. We say this in our gay movement; we go to rallies and say we've got to believe in everyone's freedom, but we don't really believe it worth shit. There needs to be a revolution in the way we feel and the way we think. Then this movement would shake America, because we would enfranchise all the people we've pushed out.

We are ashamed of the drag queens; we don't want them in the parade. We're ashamed of the leathermen because they're sexual radicals and they're a threat. We don't let dykes out at all because we don't really believe women have an equal place in this society any more than straight men believe that. Part of the evidence is in our organizations, where women have subservient roles, where blacks are nonexistent. Don't tell me we can't get blacks. It is simply not true. Blacks will be a part of this movement when we care about their issues. Until then, they won't, with very good reason. And until they are part of this movement, this movement is worth nothing.

It's the same thing with American Indians, Asians. We have to start inviting people back into this movement. What will happen then? Who knows? We've never experienced such a society. The gay movement is one where we have tried to lock most people out, especially now with concern over AIDS.

You go to Oklahoma, and you stay with a farmer, and you realize that this farmer and his lover—who have never been outside of Oklahoma—are not concerned about AIDS. But they *are* deeply concerned about keeping the family farm. The extent to which these men can live freely has a lot to do with their economic well-being. We've got to see that all the issues we think have nothing to do with the gay community have something fundamentally to do with the way gay people are allowed to see their lives in this country.

Blacks seem to see this. Black leaders understand that economic issues are very important. Jews seem to see this as very important, but gays—what are we fighting for? What is it that we want? I'm not any longer so interested in ordinances and laws that tell me that I can't get fired, because ultimately that's very unsatisfactory. I don't see it helping the people who really need to be helped. Because I'm an upper-middle-class white man with a very good education, I really don't have to worry that much about losing a job. I have mobility. I can go someplace. What we've got to be more concerned about are the blacks and the Puerto Ricans in Chicago and in New York, the disabled, in addition to PWAs, who have a lot of difficulty being who they are as homosexuals simply because they don't have economic freedom.

RW: Did you envy at any point men like the farmers in Oklahoma, for whom the farm was more important than their gay identity? As an urban, educated, gay-movement, white male, did you long at any point for such a life?

DYR: I long for a life where homosexuality makes no difference. And some of these people come closer to that on their farms or in Tupelo, Mississippi, than I ever have living in a big city. I left Chicago for many reasons, but one of them was certainly that I was fleeing again. Back in the late 1970s and even into the early 1980s, Chicago was not the bastion of gay politics and gay energy that it is today. I needed more freedom. And I fled to the wrong place. New York insists that you be *more* concerned about that identity that labels you and narrows you.

•

Yates Rist expects to finish writing *Heartlands* this fall and to see it in bookstores by February. So involved in writing is he that he missed the closing of the Saint! ●

Joie de Vivre

When Living It Up in Paris, Nothing Else Seems to Matter

by Mary Richards

Some people are born with it, and some people never do get it. The ones who have it seem to enjoy the smallest pleasures of daily existence, are perkier for longer periods of time, "just say no" to depression, and generally make all our lives a bit sunnier. Gary D'Alois has it, and it translates from the French as the "joy of living."

"I love life," he says. "I really have a damn good time. I love people I meet, I love breathing, I love music. I love my five senses. As long as I can have one little minute a day that makes me happy, then I'll fight off the bad stuff. And when the bad stuff comes, you bend with it."

The bad stuff has entered Gary's life, and it's called AIDS. But the good stuff has always been there, and he has been sharing that with the people of San Francisco since 1975, when he arrived here from New York.

A successful cartoonist, Gary published a book of his work back in the 1970s called *The Closet*. His cartoons appeared in Blueboy, the Advocate, and in local gay publications. Not one to shy away from crowds, he has waited on tables, he says, "in hundreds of bars and restaurants. You name it, I've worked there. Rendezvous, Buzby's, Kinmo's, Fife's, Drumms, Casa de Crystal, Church Street Station, Alfie's, Dreamland, Leticia's, Belden 22, Hamburger Mary's."

Gary was diagnosed with pneumocystis 18 months ago, and he no longer holds down a steady job. During these last months, he says, "I've had a really good time! I've been to Paris, Hawaii, back east, and up and down the coast. I didn't just sit down and die. I didn't think I had to."

The trip to Paris occurred as part of an experimental program for the hormone drug DHEA. For an eight-week period, from October to December last year, Gary was part of that program and lived in the City of Light.

It was an experience he will never forget, he says.

Two days before he left for Paris, he stopped taking his regular medicine, AZT. He had been warned about the possible side-effects of such a decision. "I closed my eyes, and I ran," he says.

Gary D'Alois (Photo: Photo Graphics/Darlene)

"The only thing that I really knew was the fact that it [DHEA] wasn't going to kill me right away, and that was the bottom line. I wasn't afraid of going off AZT or of the boomerang effect. I didn't believe in that, and eight weeks wasn't a long time to put my life on hold."

GOOD ENERGY

The Paris project, unrelated in any way to the research going on at the Pasteur Institute, was headed by a man from Ireland. There were ten people in the study. The airline flight, hotel accommodations, and food were all paid for by the project, with the provision that Gary continue on the drug DHEA while he lived in Paris. There, he discovered, things were a little more casual than the care he was accustomed to in the U.S.

"We went once a week to this little laboratory," he says, "and this woman poked my arm. Here we're used to things being bright and professional looking with the vacuum tubes they put the blood in. There, they stick a needle in your arm with an open-ended tube, and they just pour it into these vials. The woman who did the work had no gloves on—and I couldn't say anything to her because I couldn't speak French!"

Gary expected lots of paperwork to be involved in the project, but that never materialized. Once a week he and the other men in the study met with a doctor to report any problems. Ill and weak when he arrived in Paris, Gary's health gradually improved.

Soon, he says, "I really started getting energy. Let me say for the record, I'm thinner now. I was a svelte 215, and I lost 30 pounds—that's a whole pregnancy! I was losing weight very slowly, and yet I had all this energy, so I didn't feel bad. You know something, they don't have any diet food in Paris: no Diet Coke, no Equal, no Sweet and Low, nothing! It's butter, bread, and sugar for days, dessert and more bread."

"I was running around town all day," he claims. "I was never in my hotel. When you're looking at the Eiffel Tower, nothing else seems to matter. When you're eating French bread and losing weight at the same time, how can life be so bad?"

Gary's energy level continued to climb as his dosage increased from two pills a day to five, and gradually he began to socialize with the gay men of Paris.

Parisians are a slender lot, and Gary claims his shoulders were an especially big hit. "I had the biggest shoulders there," he says with a laugh. "Everybody kept saying to me, 'Dynasty? Crystal?' I said, 'No, these are really my shoulders, they're not padded!"

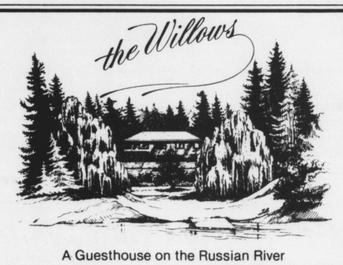
LOVE THIS LIFE

Gary believes that the French think Americans take everything too seriously, including AIDS ("SIDA" in French). Safe sex, he says, is not widely practiced. Although he was hesitant to be critical of his host country, "My experience was that they just don't give a damn. In some ways, I think they treat it like a cold. They have sex pamphlets and literature on AIDS, but they still screw around. There's a lot of street stuff—picking people up in alleyways," says Gary.

"Their attitude is if they die, they die. They don't like to talk about it, and if they do, it's very off the cuff. I met some Germans and Australians, and they said the same thing about the Parisians—that they just don't care."

One of the reasons that Gary may be doing so well physically is his mental attitude toward his condition. "I don't treat AIDS as a disease," he maintains. "It's a syndrome, so I take each thing as it comes along. I have been very lucky, I've been healthy in a lot of ways. With all the pain and suffering and heartbreak that can come with it, life is still, to me, worth living. I think that's very important for anybody's whole outlook on life and the picture of how they deal with disease.

"Things do have to change in your life, but no matter how sick or unsick you are, you have to love this life. I love this wonderful place—it's great, it's crazy, and it's fun. If you think something's going to work for you, it's going to work. You get rejected, but you get rejected in life for other things, too. I just surround myself with lots of good energy and good people." ●



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Two Galleries in Sacramento

Like MGM, Himovitz Believes in 'Ars Gratia Artis'

by Dell Richards

SACRAMENTO—For Michael Himovitz, 39, art and homosexuality are inextricably linked. Both were forbidden subjects in his family; both were unacceptable as a career or a lifestyle. As a child, his desire to be an artist had to be kept away from his family, carefully hidden as part of his own secret world.

From the age of five, Himovitz knew he wanted to be an artist. He dreamed of joining the ranks of famous painters, of being part of Parisian cafe society. But he had to keep his dream secret.

The son of hard-working, Rumanian immigrants, his family left Los Angeles when he was less than a year old to try their luck in the fields of California's Central Valley. Hot and dry in the summer, desolate any time of year, acres of cattle stretch in every direction as far as the eye can see.

It wasn't a particularly good place for an artist to grow up. But it was a good place for his family.

"My father came over to the promised land," Himovitz said, "and got everything that was promised."

The family started with 20 acres of cattle near his grandparents' ranch—the American dream of working the land and making it pay.

"I grew up on a ranch with cattle and horses. We did the branding of the cattle and the dehorning—the whole works," Himovitz said.

His brothers also were living out the all-American myth. One was a high school football star, the other on the high school national forensic team.

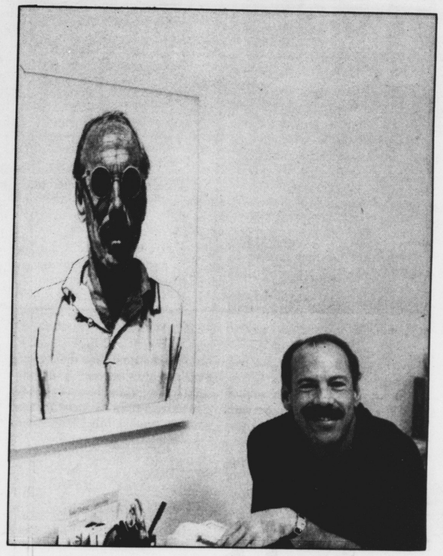
By the time Himovitz got to high school, his father was the vice mayor of Hanford, the local town. Known for his civic-mindedness, his father raised money to build a Catholic hospital—even though he was Jewish—and housing for local minorities. He was also an honorary member of the Knights of Columbus, as well as the Kiwanis.

"I had a real heavy shadow to live with," Himovitz said. "I had all this stuff I had to live up to, and all I wanted to do was art."

INVITED TO STUDY ART

Although he had to study his craft on the side, Himovitz did find kindred spirits in the barrenness of the Wild West. "There was very little art or music at home," Himovitz said, "but the community had its grouping of it."

Taking anything he could get, he joined the Junior Art League and everything else he could find. He wasn't near a big city, but he was talented, and he learned his lessons well. So well, in fact, that when it came time to go to college, he had an invitation to study art at the Royal Academy in London.



Michael Himovitz with a portrait by Julia Couzeus. (Photo: D. Richards)

But he turned it down. He was young and impressionable. And he was still trying to fit into the family mold and be an acceptable member of the team.

"I wasn't allowed to go to art school," he said. "It wasn't in the stars. I had to go to a *real* school."

He did manage to spend a summer at the University of the Americas in Mexico City, however, taking art courses.

"I got out," he said. "I lived there for four months, and I was having an adventure—I was away."

In Mexico City he realized he had to study something artistic. When he enrolled at the University of Arizona, he signed up for architecture—something his family would agree to, but a course that also allowed some creativity.

After a few months, however, his burning desire to be an artist took hold of him. Switching to the fine arts program, he began to study painting. And for the first time in his life, he was happy, really happy.

Soon after he graduated, however, family pressure began to pull him back to the fold. His father wanted to retire. The one brother was in the Navy; the other already had his own firm. Himovitz went back home to take over the family construction business.

Although he and his father were at opposite ends of the spectrum politically, they shared some common beliefs. Working hard for the family and for the community was one of them. Like his father, Himovitz also got involved with civic organizations, but in his own way—in art.

"I got back into the art league, into the theater group, and into the symphony. I helped start a civic ballet company," Himovitz said. "I didn't single-handedly bring art to the community, but I tried to refurbish it."

But, living so near his family, the price was too heavy. Being in the same town was too claustrophobic, too stifling. He had to deny too much of himself.

Eventually he realized he had to get out. Although he still wasn't ready to take the plunge and move to one of the major-league art cities, he did move to Sacramento. Sacramento was the capital of California and the only outpost of civilization in the Central Valley—the area Himovitz knew. There he opened his own construction business. And he began collecting art.

HAPPINESS IN THE CLOSET

But collecting wasn't enough. To the outside world, he was successful, but inside he was miserable. He began to withdraw, to isolate himself in a self-imposed cocoon. As the months went by, he came more and more depressed.

"I hated what I was doing at work," he said. "And I was so depressed, I didn't even want to try to fix it."

Nine years ago, when the building recession of 1979 hit, Himovitz decided to take action. He turned his construction office into a gallery. Two years later he threw away his contractor's hat for good and became a full-time art dealer.

"It was the perfect time to close up and go through the whole emotional metamorphosis associated with the death of a business and the beginning of a new one—one which was still being kept secret from my family," he said. "If they knew at all, they thought it was a hobby."

It also was time for him to come out of the closet—as a person for whom art wsa the central core of his existence, and as a homosexual.

"My happiness had been in the closet," he said. "Because the things that made me happy were things I was told you got to do after you did everything else—if ever."

(Continued on next page)

Himovitz: 'You've Got to Love Your Work'

by Dell Richards

SACRAMENTO—For almost 20 years, Michael Himovitz has run a business. First he ran his father's construction firm. Then he opened up his own.

During that time, he counted his income in six figures. Today his income is much smaller. But he's doing what he loves—running art galleries.

"I'm not in this to make a quick buck today and get out," Himovitz said. "I'm trying to create a way of living."

For Himovitz, being a success in the construction business was taken for granted. It was what his family had done, what he had expected when he was growing up.

But realizing he could succeed at a business as out of the ordinary as an art gallery was a giant step forward. Knowing he could be good at what he loved was an important mental step he had to take before he found his full potential.

"If it's not going to be me, it's going to be someone else. So why not me?" he said. "I had to realize I deserved it as much as the next person."

Like many professional people, he sets goals in five-year intervals. One of his goals after starting Himovitz/Salomon—his first gallery—was to open a second location. This past year—seven years after he opened his first gallery—he achieved that.

However, the second gallery doesn't compete with the first. It offers a different line of art by featuring drawings which are much cheaper than paintings.

"I have artists whose paintings sell for $3,000 to $4,000," he said. "But the drawings may go for $500 to $700."

Himovitz found another niche for art, but he's not just doing it to push anything he can.

"Drawings are as important as paintings, sometimes more important," Himovitz said. "It's the first draft, the birth of the creative spark."

Selling drawings also is part of an educational process—creating a market for art in middle America. Artistically, Sacramento is still a small town, although it's the capital of a state whose economy is the sixth largest in the world.

"That's another reason for the second gallery—to start that educational process," Himovitz said.

Like any consultant, becoming a recognized authority was essential for Himovitz' success. To achieve that, Himovitz had to build up a stable of clients through a massive public relations campaign.

Because art is so much a part of the jet set, being seen at social and charitable events went hand-in-hand with the job. Sipping champagne and hobnobbing with the wealthy may sound like fun, but for Himovitz it isn't pure pleasure.

Like most small business owners, he averages a 50- to 60-hour work week. In addition to the 40 hours put in during the day, he also goes to openings, auctions, and other social events at least three evenings a week.

"So much of my time doesn't look like business because of the nature of who the clientele are—going to dinner parties, art openings," Himovitz said. "People say to me, 'That's not business, that's fun,' but I'm out working. I may not make a sale that day, but you bet I'm building up my clientele."

Like a politician, Himovitz has had to get "name recognition" in the community.

"I go through a lot to make sure everyone knows who I am," Himovitz said. "I never go into a restaurant without talking to at least four people."

But there is a limit. All the public relations in the world won't do any good if there isn't a profit at the other end. Time is money, and Himovitz has to be careful how he spends that precious resource.

"I don't have any time to waste. If it isn't profitable or pleasurable, I don't do it."

Part of the process for Himovitz was learning to trust his own judgment and having the courage to stand by it. Over the years, he's had to drop artists whose work didn't sell to make room for ones who did—without lowering his standards. ●

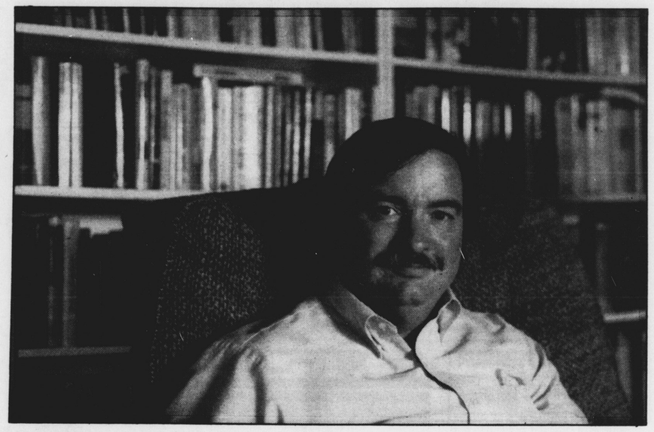
RIGHTFULLY PROUD
JUNE 26 1988

In Sacramento

Primary Goal Is Quality Schools

Gay Man Sets Good Example While Fighting for Education

by Dell Richards



Gary Miller (Photo: D. Richards)

Gary Miller's phone rings constantly. But by 6 p.m., he is screening his calls. Constituents, friends, and even the curious call, greeted by an offbeat message he changes every week.

Today it's George Burns on the answering machine. At first you think you have the wrong number, then you recognize the gravelly voice and deadpan humor—and realize it's a joke.

Clearly Gary Miller isn't your typical politician. He's got a wry sense of humor, an easy-going style that creates an instant rapport with voters—and he's gay.

Elected to the Sacramento school board in November, Miller, 39, is the first openly gay person to be elected in California's capital city. Miller is one of four Robla district board members—at the elementary school level.

A founder of gay democratic clubs in San Francisco and Sacramento, Miller doesn't hide his sexual preference.

In 1981 he ran for the city council on an openly gay ticket. Miller thinks he lost for two reasons: The winner spent $30,000 to his $10,000, and he aimed too high.

But it broke the ice. It was "the first time a gay person was considered a serious candidate," said Miller.

Realizing there were better ways to enter the political arena than aiming for the top, Miller lowered his sights.

"People should start at the bottom and move up—gay or otherwise," said Miller. "School boards are a good place to start, and there are lots of other elected offices.

"Another way to start is to get appointed to city and county positions."

Miller was learning how to play the game. He had strong opinions on education and knew a number of school board members through his political connections. Through them, he knew what the job entailed—low pay and lots of work.

A CREDIBLE CAMPAIGN

Because of the low visibility, people didn't spend a lot of money on the campaign.

"It got me thinking that if I put on a credible campaign, people might take me seriously," said Miller.

And, by then, he'd also learned to wait for his turn. He planned to run to make a name for himself so the voters would take him seriously the next time.

But his timing was perfect. Voters were angry with the educational system—and took it out on the incumbents.

"I didn't feel that I had a chance to win this time, but the two challengers beat the two incumbents," said Miller.

That general dissatisfaction means Miller is going to have to work hard to keep his seat when the term expires in four years. But he isn't afraid of the challenge.

Already Miller is battling the two major issues facing students today—the AIDS crisis and the dropout rate—and making a difference.

Thanks in part to Miller, the Robla schools were among the first in the nation to provide AIDS education at the elementary school level.

"Education is the only weapon we have now," said Miller.

With a dropout rate that ranges from 40 to 75 percent in many cities, keeping kids in school is another challenge school boards face. Miller believes in education because it's the only way to get a job that pays enough to cover the rent.

Miller knows from experience. For the past three years, he's counseled hundreds of unskilled, undereducated people who are trying to find jobs. He matches them with employers who are willing to spend extra time and money on training.

"Most people on welfare really don't want to be there, but they are caught in a bind," said Miller. "They don't have the skills or the education to get the jobs that are necessary to care for a family. We need to make sure people stay in school."

As a job-training counselor for the federally funded Private Industry Council, Miller has seen the painful effects of dropping out firsthand. He tries to set an example to the unemployed people who come through his office and stresses the need to go back to school.

EDUCATIONAL QUALITY

Making sure people graduate with basic skills, with reading, 'writing, and 'rithmetic, is another priority, Miller asserts, the very minimum a school should provide.

"People also are falling through the cracks," said Miller. "Many people in high school can't even write a simple sentence, can't spell, and don't know correct punctuation."

Although it isn't part of the job, Miller attends local PTA meetings. Miller wants his constituents to know him as a person, as well as a gay man.

"The more I get to know them, the less being gay will be an issue," said Miller. "I think it's important for any gay person to get to know the person first, and then spring it on them.

"What's going to happen in four years, I don't know," he said. "It could be used against me. But I'm hoping that I can prove myself in that time and that it won't be an issue."

Miller also is hoping that gay parents and teachers will support his campaign. To that end, he recently helped found a gay educators group—teachers, administrators, and counselors from the elementary to the college level—to network and brainstorm on issues.

But by his very presence at school board and PTA meetings, Miller hopes to set an example of how rarely gays fit the stereotypes.

"Polls show that if you know a gay person, you are more inclined to believe that they should have equal rights," said Miller. "I assume that everybody is going to be supportive until I find out otherwise."

Although he didn't become a cause celebre, being gay caused Miller some problems during his campaign. One school board member went door-to-door telling voters that Miller was gay and asking if they wanted to have a homosexual on the school board.

Since his election, however, that same official has tried to mend fences and work with Miller.

Miller got into politics the way most people do—very early. In 1960, in the sixth grade, he was rooting for John F. Kennedy for president. By high school, Miller was fighting for civil rights for everyone—including his own.

On the campus, teens were calling him "queer" and "faggot." Even then, he said, "I was so naive, I didn't know what that meant exactly, but I knew there was something wrong."

BIAS IN MECCA

By graduation, Miller knew what it was that made him different. But, afraid of being thrown out of the house and not getting his diploma, he kept it to himself. A devout Methodist who would later become a Quaker, it was only with the help of two college ministers that he finally admitted to himself that he was gay.

Oddly enough, Miller experienced little overt discrimination at Central Methodist College in Fayette, Missouri. His life changed drastically, however, when he moved to San Francisco in 1970. There he faced job discrimination for the first time in his life.

Although San Francisco would later become a gay mecca, at that time Miller "would be given a choice of resigning or being fired. It was one of the first times I had experienced discrimination."

That experience hurt deeply and made Miller realize what upfront gays had to fight in the job market. A lobbying job with the Friends Legislative Committee finally allowed him to be open.

A founder of the Alice B. Toklas Lesbian and Gay Democratic Club in San Francisco, Miller had worked behind the scenes for years. But lobbying pushed him nearer the spotlight.

When transferred to the state capital, Miller began to see local politics as a stepping stone to higher office—even if you're gay. Looking at the broader picture, he became active in local Democratic politics and is the county's central committee chairman today. He also worked on Jesse Jackson's presidential campaign this year.

Instead of playing down his homosexuality, he has used it to his advantage. In 1978, when angling for an appointment to the Sacramento Human Rights/Fair Housing Commission, Miller's being gay was a definite plus.

During his ten years there, he proved to politicians and public alike that he was a responsible and efficient public servant. He also proved that he wasn't going to let being gay stand in his way.

From that appointed post, the school board was an attainable goal.

Whether talking about his beliefs or his sexuality, honesty is the central part of Miller's life. It's only when asked about his future political plans that he becomes cagey.

"That was one of the criticisms leveled against me," Miller said of the school board race. "But the voters aren't going to elect me to something up the ladder if I don't do a good job here."

If he does do a good job, "perhaps they should elect me to something higher up the ladder," he said with a smile. "That's how the game is played." ●

Himovitz

(Continued from previous page)

At the same time, he also left his wife and began to explore his sexuality.

Since then, he hasn't looked back. Even with the AIDS crisis looming over his head, he is more certain than ever that he made the right choice.

"I'm going for broke," he said. "I don't know if I'm going to be here tomorrow—let alone my friends or my partner. If I fail, I'll at least know that I tried. Because I don't know that I'll have another 40 years."

But the good thing is that he's not failing. For the first time in his life, he is working in the only profession he ever wanted to be part of. He isn't getting rich, but he is making money.

So much so, Himovitz recently opened up a second gallery to sell drawings and works on paper. But more importantly, he loves what he's doing.

Today both of his galleries—Himovitz/Salomon and Himovitz/Jensen—are bringing world-reknowned artists to Sacramento and helping local artists make a living through their art.

Violence

(Continued from page 38)

$2,000 donation to the New York City Gay and Lesbian Anti-Violence Project.

• Kellogg's began airing a cereal commercial in which cowboys ask a male cook what's for breakfast. When he replies, "Nut 'n' Honey" (the name of the cereal), they draw their guns, apparently because they think he called them "honey." Despite protests from the gay community, Kellogg's continues to air this offensive commercial.

Over 1,000 incidents were related to AIDS, sometimes adding to the suffering of those living with the disease.

• In the San Fernando Valley, a number of gay men and lesbians received mail with a large, printed message on the outside of the envelope that read: "AIDS TEST RESULTS: Personal and Confidential." Inside the envelope was a note typed: "POSITIVE, YOU BUM." ●

History

(Continued from page 25)

ernor George Deukmejian once again vetoed money for AIDS, and the U.S. Justice Department ruled that employers could fire people with AIDS if they feared that the disease could be spread in the workplace, even though the best medical evidence indicated otherwise. These four events were reflected in the parade.

History will be made at this year's parade when Art Agnos becomes the first San Francisco mayor ever to ride in the parade. This is also the first time since 1977 that the parade route has changed significantly, with the parade starting in the Castro and ending in the Civic Center.

The parade marches from our past and into our future. It is a mirror reflecting our struggles and triumphs of the times and our strength to face the many challenges put in our path.

Most of us like what we see in the mirror, and we celebrate our energy, creativity, uniqueness, the joy of being alive, and, most importantly, who we are. ●

Hippler

(Continued from page 10)

cally aware and mature. We played a critical role in the last mayoral election. No one wins without the lakefront [gay] vote, and mainstream politicians are beginning to realize the significance of this. More importantly, the gay community is at last advancing candidates of its own for office.

"In 1987, for example, an openly gay man, Ron Sable, ran a highly publicized campaign for alderman. He lost—but his candidacy galvanized a sizable portion of the community. Eventually we will have both—a rights ordinance, as well as openly gay or lesbian elected officials."

According to a gay professor at Northwestern University, "The very idea that we should model ourselves after San Francisco or any other city is condescending and absurd. We have our own agenda here and are capable of carrying it forward in our own fashion. In fact, I would not be surprised to see Chicago taking the lead in many areas of gay concern in the very near future. The important thing to remember, though, is that we each have a voice—and, above all, reasons to be proud. Our Human Rights Ordinance will soon be one of those." ●

Events

(Continued from page 3)

Congregational Church, Post and Mason streets, starting at 8 p.m. Featured this year are the Lesbian/Gay Chorus of San Francisco, the San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus, the S.F. ARC/AIDS Theatre Group, Men About Town, Menage, Fiddlestix, and Jennifer Berezan. Tickets are $14 and $10 at the door and $2 less if purchased in advance at Headlines.

Saturday there is a wide variety of events scheduled to celebrate gay freedom in San Francisco. Physique '88 is going to be one of the spectacular events of this weekend. It is the competition for the National Gay and Lesbian Bodybuilding Championships. It starts at 7 p.m. at Mission High School. Tickets are $10 to $15 and are on sale at Headlines and, if available, at the door. Be advised that are almost sold out. They will also have the preliminaries starting at 9 a.m. at Mission High School, with tix at $5.

Gay comics take their best shot Saturday at 8 p.m. with *Can't Keep a Straight Face* at the Victoria Theatre. It is always one of the best shows of San Francisco's Gay Pride Week. It stars Tom Ammiano, Suzy Berger, Doug Holsclaw, Laurie Bushman, Kelly Kittell, Jeanine Strobel, and Karen Ripley. Tickets are $10 and $12 in advance at Headlines.

The Bay Area Career Women's *Puttin on the Ritz* is back for the fifth time. It's one of the events of the year for women. The location is the Giftcenter on Saturday night, starting at 8:30 p.m., and the dress is optionally formal. Cost is $35 if you're not a BACW member, with tickets on sale through BASS.

Women on motorcycles, Dykes on Bikes to the world, get together on Saturday for a beer bust and bike washing at Olive Oyl's. Call 621-7020. Olive Oyl's is also the place for The Rack, a social event for leather women, starting at 8 with tickets priced at $7. Olive Oyl's is at Pier 50.

The Girth & Mirth Club celebrates gay pride by eating at an afternoon BBQ picnic at Windharp Hill, across from Candlestick Park, at 3. Call 334-5971 for information.

A Closer Look With David Lamble is part of KQED's gay pride activities. The radio phone-in show features gay therapist Don Clark, atuhor of *The New Loving Someone Gay*. The show airs at 88.5-FM on Saturday at 1:30.

In addition, the International Lesbian/Gay Film Festival continues with presentations at the Castro, including a tribute at 3 p.m. on Saturday to parade Grand Marshal James Broughton. Videos and film are also presented at the Roxie. Check at the theaters for full schedules.

The Truth Is Bad Enough continues through Saturday night at Theatre Rhinoceros. It is the autobiographical, one-man show starring Michael Kearns. He recalls his recovery from alcoholism and sexual compulsion, brought on by his career as the "Happy Hustler." It's also a musical, sort of. For information, call 861-5079.

Puttin' on the Glitz continues at Sutter's Mill, with tix at $10 and shows every night through the weekend. Call 788-8379 for reservations. ●

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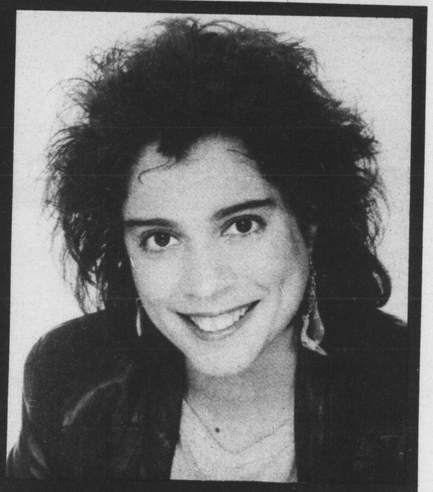
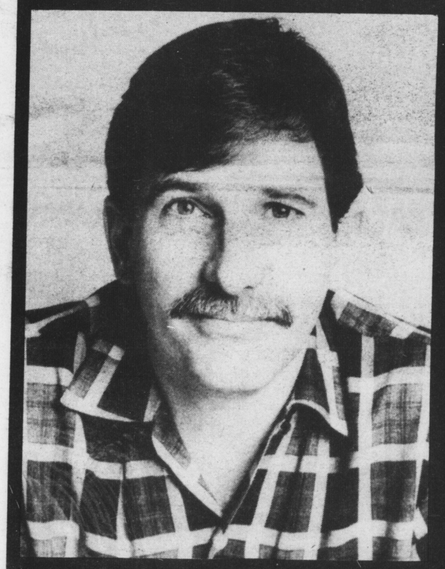
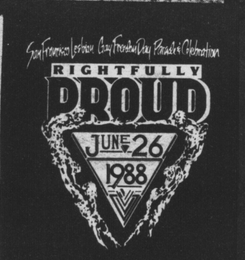






Contents

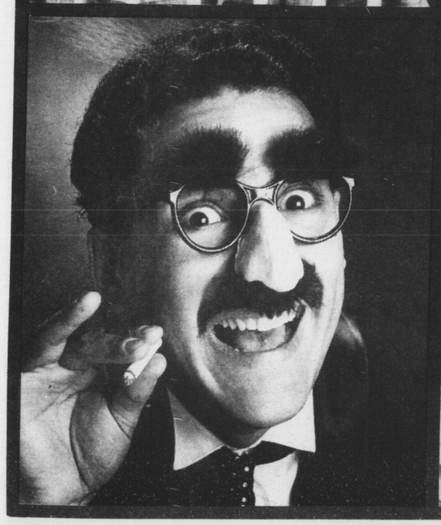
The Good Old Days Relived: see page 50.

Reflections on Rhino: see page 52.

Marga Gomez Has a Lot To Be Proud Of . . . see page 54.

And So Does Joseph Taro: see page 56.

There's Nothing Like the Blazing Red-heads: see page 58.



Sex, Drugs, and Disco

The 'Good Old Days' Are Relived in 'Tribal Rites'

by Allen White

Sex, drugs, and disco were a way of life for the many who partied on Saturday nights to the San Francisco disco sounds of Patrick Cowley, Sylvester, the Boystown Gang, and Frank Loverde in the late '70s and early '80s.

It is lovingly remembered in a new paperback, *Tribal Rites* by David Diebold. This is a very special book for those who weren't there, and even more special for those who were.

The 200-plus page book is a look back at the people and a musical product that simply was never quite duplicated anywhere in the world. It is also a look at the local club scene, the mega-parties, and many of the people who created San Francisco's entertainment scene.

This book is a compilation of interviews with the people who created an era. Though the cloud of the AIDS epidemic hangs over the book, there is a serious attempt to reach back in time and grasp many wonderful memories.

Sylvester playing the City Disco in 1975.

The book relives those marathon nights of dancing at the City Disco on Kearny, Dreamland, Oil Can Harry's, the Endup, the I-Beam, and the Trocadero Transfer. Author Diebold talks to the D.J.s, managers, and the party producers. He allows them to discuss the production values, the management, and the music.

Central to the book is the music. Casey Jones talks of Patrick Cowley and the San Francisco sound he created.

"It was a druggy sound," he says. "It was an 'up' sound. The whole scene in San Francisco at the time pretty much revolved around 'up' drugs. The entire gay disco scene has, in fact, since the mid seventies been influenced by music which would complement their drug highs."

Bill Motley, the force behind Moby Dick Records, is painted in less than flattering terms. Yet, he is acknowledged as "a major force in San Francisco music." Producers John Hedges and Leo Frappier also are given space in the book.

The superstar of the era is unquestionably Sylvester. David Diebold got the artist to talk about his career. It may be worth the price of the book to read Sylvester describing his early days.

The disco diva goes back to the days of the Cockettes, the Palms on Polk Street, and The Cabaret at City Disco. At the time, the D.J. at the City was Marty Blecman, and Patrick Cowley was the light man. Blecman and Cowley would later form Megatone Records. Sylvester relates how he got together with Tip Wirrick and wrote "You Make Me Feel Mighty Real" and "Dance Disco Heat."

"The next thing I knew," Sylvester says, "within seconds it seemed, we had this record—*the* major record of 1979, 1980. To this day I'm still getting checks on that record! It completely disrupted my whole life. We went from this little pop band to international stardom. There was no place that we went where there weren't thousands of people waiting to see us. Gold and platinum records and T.V. shows and concerts and millions of dollars—I just couldn't believe it!"

Though Sylvester rates the most space, there is much to be written about the many others: Paul Parker, Lisa, Frank Loverde, The Boystown Gang, Linda Imperial, to mention a few. Together they gave a certain definition to the many records created during the past decade in the city.

Patrick Cowley (l.) with Sylvester.

Tribal Rites takes a look backward to the mega-parties. The book has reproduced the original invitation to the "Stars" party. It was staged at Pier 19, on San Francisco's waterfront. The night was May 27, 1978. Rod Roderick said, "A friend of mine from back east once commented that he finally realized the difference between the two coasts. In New York they did things with a silver spoon and in San Francisco they used a goddamn shovel."

Ken Crivello remembered, "The invitations went out in a #10 can with labels on them and inside was a T-shirt and a poster giving all the credits. Then you had to go and buy your ticket, and when you did, they took your picture and put it on a card.

Then there was "Abracadabra" at the Japan Center Theatre. Rod Roderick said, "We had the orchestra platform raised out of the floor in the middle of the party with twenty-four little Japanese high school girls doing an elaborate fan dance that just blew the crowd away."

Gary Roverana and David Bandy joined together on Aug. 19, 1978 to produce "A Salute to the Men of San Francisco." Don Miley described the night, saying it "was quite an event with Sylvester and Loverde performing. He (David Bandy) really started a whole era in partying for the community."

Sanford Kellman, the I-Beam owner, took over the Giftcenter and presented "A Mid-Summer's Night Dream Party" to begin several years of parties at that location. Trocadero Transfer's Dick Collier collaborated with John Vukas to present the "First Encounter" party at Moscone Center.

"I basically followed the building of Moscone Center from the day they dug the hole!" said John Vukas. "I worked out permits, contracts, and everything else for three years to make that happen, and I'm the only one who has thrown a party there." (The statement is true.)

Ken Maley, a public relations type, proved this generation could and would go anywhere to put on a party. On May 31, 1980, thousands gathered in the Muni Metro Station at Castro and Market. It was days before the trains were to be put into regular service. Partygoers were taken by train to the Van Ness station. Sylvester was the star, but behind the scenes the cast of characters included Bandy and Roverana, Randy Schiller, Jim Rivaldo, Dick Pabich, Howie Klein, Larry LaRue the Fire Chief, and civil rights attorney Matt Coles.

Talking about the clubs, Rob Kimbel remembers, "The hot bars were The Cabaret on Montgomery, The Rendezvous on Sutter Street, The Shed and The Mindshaft on Market. I was only eighteen and we were using 45s. I left the city until I turned twenty-one and then returned to spin at the Endup. Tom Sanford heard me playing and asked me if I wanted a job at the City Disco. I worked there from 1977 to 1978 exclusively, until I started working one night a week at Trocadero, which had opened in December of 1977. After that, the Music Hall opened on Larkin Street, and I played there one night a week."

The book concludes with many of the players discussing very openly the role of drugs in the dance era. It is honest and never apologetic.

Looking to the future, Megatone Record boss Marty Blecman says, "No matter how they try to tell us that disco is gone, it's just not true. Call it other names if you want, but people want it and the clubs are still here. There's a whole new breed of people out there; young people who want to dance . . . and there always will be."

Tribal Rites is priced at $13.95 and is on sale at Gramophone on Polk, Walt Whitman, and Electric Dream on Market, Butch Wax on 18th Street, the Record Rack, A Different Light, and The Love That Dares on Castro. ●

This Year's Festival Finale —Already on Video!

by Steve Warren

Lois Weaver, Peggy Shaw, and Deborah Margolin in *Split Britches.*

God, but we're diverse! After the Parade and Celebration Sunday, hundreds of thousands of us will disperse. Some will go to work, some will go dancing, some will go to church. Some will go home to consummate newly made or renewed friendships. Some will return to real life in the cities they came here from.

And a few hundred of us will crowd into the Roxie Cinema for the last three shows of the video portion of the 12th San Francisco International Lesbian and Gay Film Festival. (The film programs conclude Saturday night at the Castro Theater.)

Unlike many of the film and videomakers who have contributed to this year's Festival, I'm an old-fashioned boy. I like a story line, production values, and other things they consider outré, passé, or "On my budget, no way, José!" I'd rather watch a well-made PBS tape of an old-fashioned lesbian love story than a Minnesotan's home movies of demonstrations and drag shows. If this makes me part of the *derrier garde,* I'll just guard my derriere and move along.

People who produce subjective art have to expect subjective reactions, and I'm not one to invent an artistic rationale for someone not being able to keep a camera in focus.

I previewed most of this year's videos at home on a TV screen not much bigger than my dick (and I'm not bragging). Blowing them up on the Roxie screen could bring out some details I missed, but it's as likely to magnify flaws as virtues. Of course the collective viewing experience adds another dimension that can make the worst tripe pleasurable.

So saying, I should add that the overall quality of the videos is higher than that of the films I've seen in this year's Festival.

Here's the video schedule, with comments:

AIDS Video Symposium, Friday, 11 a.m.-7 p.m., Roxie: Of this baker's dozen videos concerned with AIDS, some offer general information while others are aimed at educators, health care professionals, social workers, women, or specific minority communities. The average gay person in San Francisco is beyond most of these, but you may enjoy being patted on the back by Linda Hunt's beautiful narration in *Fighting for Our Lives—Facing AIDS in San Francisco,* a record of the city's response to AIDS. There may be more of Randy Shilts on the tape, however, than you care to hear. *'Til Death Do Us Part* is a rap musical by the Everyday Theater Youth Ensemble of Washington, D.C., which preaches against drug use and unsafe sex. It seems to be trying to cover so many bases that the intended audience will tune it out, but I don't know I'm not a black teenager. I'm not Hispanic either, but I suspect the locally produced *Ojos que no Ven (Eyes that Don't See)* will be more effective, taking a soap opera approach to dispel AIDS myths and dispense AIDS prevention information. *Reframing AIDS* is a very British approach to the problem, taking on classism, racism, and sexism as well as disease. New York's "Women and AIDS" segment of the *Living with AIDS* series also addresses feminist and class issues in a study of women working with

(Continued on page 70)

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Second Decade

Theatre Rhinoceros Begins Its 11th Year in Business With National Acclaim and a Promise for More Excellence

by Will Snyder

In the Summer When It's Hot and Sticky. (Photo: Savage Photography)

Some interesting things have been happening to Theatre Rhinoceros in the past few weeks. One thing was so positive that Bette Rhino had a right to be proud. The other thing was much more subtle.

The outward pride comes from Theatre Rhino's triumphant presentation of *Quisbies* at Washington's Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts. The reviews were outstanding for Leland Moss' play. The audience loved it. The rumor was that an impressed board of the National Endowment for the Arts is ready to send more grant money for future Rhino projects.

That's the public relations splash for the decade-old San Francisco gay theater company. Something a little more subtle occurred during Rhino's past season and especially the season finale. It may signal the theater's maturity as it enters its second decade of operation.

That subtle something was Doug Holsclaw's witty and touching play, *In the Summer When It's Hot and Sticky.*

The subtlety of *Hot and Sticky* comes from the depth Holsclaw gives to his straight characters. Whether the character is the endearing Dolly, an off-Broadway bathroom attendant; Dolly's son Bobby, a widower who remarries; or Bobby's daughter Colleen, who has trouble adapting to the remarriage, we get to *know* these people as well as we do the gay characters like Kevin, a Columbia journalism student, or Tony, the pre-Stonewall queen. Dolly, Bobby, and Colleen interact with Kevin and Tony throughout the play. It is important that we get to know more about them than their names.

Because we see the strengths and weaknesses of these characters (instead of *just* their weaknesses), we get a much more realistic play. Not all straight folks are Snidely Whiplash types, and when one meets Holsclaw's Dolly, with all her wisdom and warmth, we *know* we have a friend.

Dolly (played perfectly by Priscilla Alden) is the kind of person who is life's contrast to the Falwell-Robertson gang. Many of us have worked with Dolly somewhere. Many of us have lived next door to Dolly and have shared a snort of root beer with her on the veranda on a hot, sticky, summer night.

Dolly might be the symbol of the kind of character we are going to run across more often on Rhino stages. Rhino director Ken Dixon cautioned that "we are never going to get away from our community," but "we woud like to see less ghettoization." In other words, he wants more diversification.

This happened to a certain extent with the inclusion of more women and more minority themes this past year. Dixon compared Rhino to a theater in the East Bay.

"The Lorraine Hansberry Theatre is doing something similar," Dixon said of the Berkeley-based theater. "They used to have just black actors and actresses, but now they are including some whites, Hispanics, etc."

Many gay plays in the 1970s were apartment plays with "coming out" themes. "This was necessary at the time," said Rhino publicist John F. Karr. "Gay theater needed to have the room to explore the world of gay creativity." But now, Karr added, it is time to expand "to the world at large."

Both Karr and Dixon pointed out that Rhino's 1988-89 season will feature a wide variety of topics. The play schedule will be announced soon.

The schedule will include works by David Mamet, Jane Chambers, and Terrence McNally. The themes will include witty gay theater people, "old maids," AIDS, and even Moses. Karr and Dixon said the quality of the presented works will be of the highest kind. The schedule, they said, represents the progress of Rhino as well as the higher expectations the company has set for itself.

According to Dixon, the expectations are higher because of Rhino's experiences in Washington with *Quisbies.* The daily papers in Washington joined the gay press in glowing reviews of Moss' play. Not only is the possibility strong for more NEA grant money, but Dixon said an NEA staff person approached him about Rhino touring the nation with a production.

"Now the ante on the theater is up," said Dixon. "I expect the [theater] staff to change its expectations of what it presents to the public.

"It puts us," he added, "in a different realm."

Theatre Rhinoceros' beginnings wouldn't have indicated its current status. In August of 1977, artistic director Allan Estes and administrative director Lanny Baugniet put on a production of Doric Wilson's *The West Side Gang* at a South of Market bar called the Black and Blue. No orchestra seats were sold that night.

"They were very clever then," mused Karr about Estes and Baugniet. "They couldn't afford a building then, so they got off cheap."

The next year, however, Rhino did find its own pond in which to put on plays. It was the Goodman Building on Geary. That sufficed until the theater found its current location at 2926 16th Street, just off South Van Ness Avenue.

The 16th Street location has a main stage and a smaller studio stage. The two stages are necessary because the theater is obviously busy, putting on eight plays a year and attracting well over 30,000 patrons (a stark contrast from 1978, when Rhino drew roughly 700 paying customers).

In the course of one decade, the theater has achieved not only a devoted local following, but national acclaim. And it is possible that more of the nation might soon see a touring Rhino in areas of the United States where the company's earlier "coming out" themes are still painful topics.

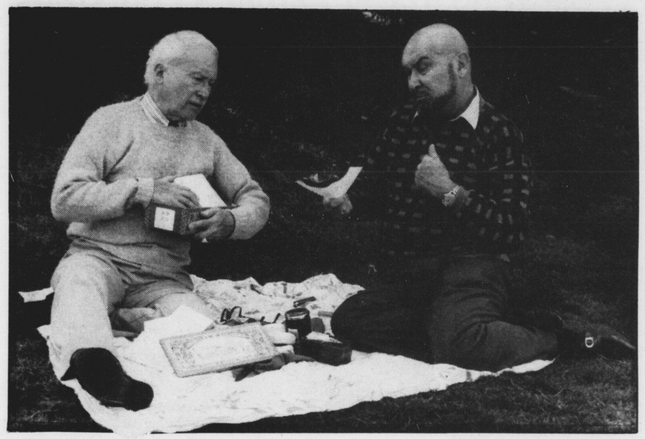
You've come a long way, Rhino. ●

See Rock City. (Photo: S. Cohen)

RIGHTFULLY PROUD JUNE 26 1988

A Theatre Rhino Star

Coffman Continues to Disperse Joy



Robert Coffman (l.) with Nello Carlini in *Poppies.* (Photo: Max)

by Will Snyder

Robert Coffman has a merry face, a merry voice and a merry heart. For years, he has brought much joy to many people. The ways he has brought that joy would be enough to get him a series on television.

Coffman currently is co-starring in Doug Holsclaw's *In The Summer When It's Hot And Sticky* at Theatre Rhinoceros. His performance as Tony, the outrageous, aging, sometimes drag queen, may well be one of the reasons the play's run was extended one week through this Saturday night. His character is the type that the main gay character, Kevin (played by Doug Huttleston), feels is a denigration to the modern gay man because of his effeminacy and low sexual morals. But by the end of the play, Kevin realizes what the Rhino audience already has realized: Tony is a neat, lovable guy who just has trouble meeting the right man.

Coffman brings believability to that role through the lovable way he realizes Holsclaw's writing. At one performance of *Sticky,* he was clearly one of the favorites of the audience.

This is the second superb performance of the season for Coffman. Earlier in *Poppies,* he played an aging Englishman who, on the eve of World War III, goes to the top of a London hill for a last picnic. While there, he recalls a lover of five decades ago, who goes off with the Royal Air Force to fight Nazis over Dresden. This play is in sharp contrast to *Hot And Sticky,* and Coffman is able to convey the anti-war sentiment of *Poppies* brilliantly.

The joy Coffman has brought to theatergoers this year is an extension of what he has done in some form for most of his life. Many years ago, he was a disc jockey in an Arizona copper mining town in a time when his show was probably the only entertainment for the miners and their families. He also performed in children's theater programs. And, he did the kind of social work which has provided homeless youngsters with new homes and new parents to help rebuild their lives.

The road to social work came because trying to get a steady job as an actor in the 1950s was difficult unless you were a Brando. "I had been with this traveling children's theater troupe," Coffman explained. "We traveled around the country, putting on plays like *Sleeping Beauty* in elementary school auditoriums. It was a great experience and the pay wasn't really that bad for the time ($35 per month), but we did have to pay for our own hotel accommodations and food, so it was tough.

"I was running low on money and I didn't have the heart to ask my parents for help because they weren't that well off," he continued. "So, I took a job in New York with the city's Department of Welfare as an investigator in a daycare division."

Thus, Coffman began a 30-year career which led to radio and television shows which helped make the public aware of the problems of parentless youths.

"I had a weekly radio show called *Children Can't Wait,* Coffman recalled. "It dealt with adoption, child care, foster care and day care. We were on the city station, WNYC, which later helped get us into a monthly TV format.

"When we were on television," Coffman beamed proudly, "we were able to place about 45 or 46 kids out of the 60 we interviewed on the air."

After he retired from his job in NYC's Welfare Deparetment, Coffman and his lover, Arthur Bamberger (they've been together for 38 years), packed their bags and came to live in San Francisco. It was meant to be a nice, quiet retirement, but Coffman discovered that once you're an actor, you're always an actor. He received his impetus from Charles Gillman, the late owner of the Walt Whitman Bookshop.

"Charles was always pushing me to do readings from Truman Capote at Whitman," said Coffman. "Finally, I did, at Thanksgiving and Christmas times. Later on, Charles heard that Theatre Rhinoceros was putting on a performance of *Dear Love of Comrades,* a play about Edward Carpenter, the English counterpart of the gay American poet, Walt Whitman. He urged me to try out for the role."

Ah, but there was just one hitch to the role. "The people at Rhino told me that this was a part for a *young* Edward Carpenter," said Coffman with a chuckle. "But all was not lost. They gave me a part as a publisher who meets with Edward Carpenter and tells him that he won't publish his work.

"I was in one act for about ten minutes," added Coffman, "and it was a beginning."

Since *Dear Love of Comrades,* Coffman has appeared in nine more Rhino productions up through *Hot and Sticky.* He's won Bette Rhino awards for his acting in *The Enclave* and his writing (with Holsclaw) in *The AIDS Show.* He has been a delight whenever he's hit the stage.

Perhaps Coffman's greatest personal triumph came when *The AIDS Show* was brought back east for a run in New York. Coffman, who says that he never talked about his homosexuality during the many years he worked in the Welfare Department, invited his former colleagues to the play. Acting was something he had wanted to do so much while he worked in New York, but he was always reluctant to accept offers from gay theater groups for fear of losing his job. Now, there was nothing to lose.

He told his friends, "There may be some language you may object to. If you feel queasy about certain sexual connotations and don't want to show up, I'll understand. We can all meet later."

But all of his friends showed up. "And they all loved it," said a beaming Coffman.

It was a fitting scene. Robert Coffman is a man who has brought much happiness to many. Maybe his friends felt that it was time to return some joy. ●

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Willy Would Be Proud

Comedian Marga Gomez Is Following in Her Father's Footsteps

by Dianne Gregory

I think Willy Chevalier would be proud of his daughter. She may not have turned out exactly as he might have envisioned, but she continues to make her mark on the world in a field as cutthroat as they come—standup comedy.

Willy Chevalier was a standup comic, too. He mostly entertained between films in a New York movie house, but the best work he ever did was his part in the creation of Marga Gomez.

If he thought about it, he probably envisioned Marga in a typical (or atypical) nuclear-family setup, certainly not as a standup comic in San Francisco and a lesbian, to boot. But I think he would be proud of her, or he ought to be.

If he could see the way Marga handles an audience—from the boys at the S.F. Eagle to the prisoners at the county jail, from the women gathered at the Southern Women's Music Festival to the cabaret mavens gathered in the Venetian Room for the Gold Awards, from the comedy-crazed hets at the Other Cafe or the Holy City Zoo to the Levi Strauss Christmas party or the Black & White Ball—he could see how she has taken his legacy and run with it, run with it all the way to Bay Area Gold Awards' entertainer of the year.

And you know Marga's not going to stop there. In the fall she will appear on nationwide television in *Comedy Tonight* and the *Good Time Cafe*, and after that, who knows?

Marga Gomez at the Eagle. (Photo: R. Pruzan)

Marga Gomez at Art Agnos' inauguration party. (Photo: PhotoGraphics/Darlene)

Like everything that's worth it, Marga's success has not come easily. Arriving in San Francisco 12 years ago "to be a hippie," Marga has lived the hand-to-mouth existence of a performer ever since, although she has gotten to where she doesn't need a day job. She started out with the feminist theater group Lilith, and later moved on to Les Nickelettes. In 1982 she tried out standup comedy at the Other Cafe, even though "I had no idea what I was doing." Then came the Valencia Rose, "where I felt comfortable right away," and her collaboration with Monica Palacios.

But it wasn't until the Baybrick Inn started featuring comedy after the demise of the Rose in 1984 that Marga feels she really started to take off. "The Baybrick was really where I learned to be a comedian," she says, and along the way she has made us laugh at our foibles and at our predicaments with her wry wit.

Now she is starting to get recognized on the street, although she is embarrassed by it. "I feel like I have to make it exciting for them," she says.

Still, it's difficult for Marga—or anyone in her position—to reconcile being an upfront lesbian and a successful comic. She doesn't do her gay material in front of non-gay audiences, and much of her success stems from her Hispanic material.

"I was free to do whatever I wanted [on *Comedy Tonight*]," Marga said, "but I can't seem to find a way to make the gay material accessible [to non-gay audiences]. Just coming across as independent is a big thing."

Marga Gomez in 1987. (Photo: Rink)

Marga walks a fine line: She doesn't hide her lesbianism, and she doesn't lie about it. She simply tries to find the common denominator with each of her audiences. She talks about what makes us all human.

"I perform what's going on in my mind and in my heart," Marga said. "I want to do a show that's worth doing."

But what most endears Marga to us is that she gives so much of her time and her humor in raising funds and spirits to help in the fight against AIDS. "It's hard to do comedy in a nightmare," she says, but she's out there doing her best at nearly every opportunity.

So, Willy Chevalier, wherever you are, your gap-toothed daughter is doing you proud. ●

Marga Gomez at the 1988 Cabaret Gold Awards. (Photo: J. Dusch)

John Karr

For Our Birthday

Is it symbolic, I wonder, that the White House is literally wrapped in white shrouding when Theatre Rhinoceros arrives in Washington, D.C. to present the AIDS-themed play, *Quisbies*? We're not expecting Ron and Nancy to actually come and see the play, but did they have to hermetically seal their house against us?

Turns out the White House facade is being replaced, and the wrapping contains the debris from sandblasting. The White House is still open to the American public, even if its chief resident is not open to the needs of a lot of that body. Maybe Ronnie should have his facade replaced—or would that reveal an uncontainable amount of debris?

The Theatre Rhinoceros presentation of *Quisbies*, as part of "The San Francisco Festival" at the Kennedy Center, fills the air with a high grade debris—confetti. (I'm making the trip as the Rhinoceros publicist and the play's sound designer.) The chance to perform *Quisbies* in Washington has, in effect, made its initial San Francisco engagement a workshop, and playwright Leland Moss has made some telling changes. The play is tighter and more focused. It is greeted by critics of the mainstream press as an impassioned, meaningful, and entertaining play, and is embraced fervently by the audiences which nearly fill the 500-seat Terrace Theatre for the three-night run.

There is one strange element, though. A few people, some community leaders and friends we particularly want to see the play, are hesitant to attend. They fear it will be too much. We explain the idea of it is to help them cope. Turns out, though, that *Quisbies* might stir up more fears than it allays. Washington is over a year behind San Francisco in the course of the AIDS crisis, and for many the play is not a soothing of trials, but a prediction of horrors to come.

It's a feeling many San Franciscans have learned to deal with—and, as we shall see, which some have denied. In Washington, the realization that what we'd intended as catharsis could have a scary flip side colored my visit. Making the rounds of the national monuments, I was duly impressed. Their size, classic designs, and earnest statements had the planned effect. Taking them as marks of our nation's majestic and sincere attempts at creating a civilized society, they made me proud to be an American. Until I remembered their flip side. The current President isn't proud I'm an American. Other than making a few insincere remarks, he's done little to protect me and the thousands in my tribe from a deadly disease.

That knowledge strengthens the meanings of *Quisbies* for me. In its newly written conclusion, a speech as stirring, direct, and visionary as the best of Clifford Odets, author Moss impels us toward tomorrow.

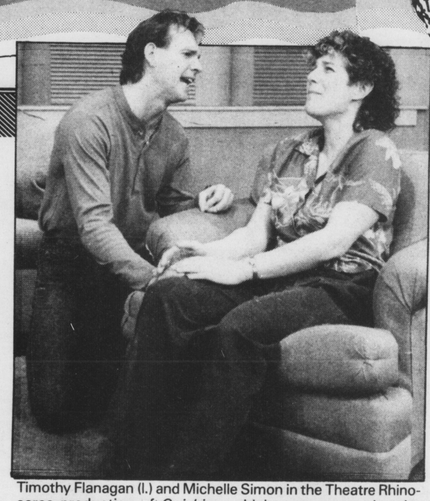
"We've been through the looking glass and back," he says. We have faced death—we are facing death—and that has changed our lives forever. It has brought about a revolution of caring and compassion. We have found hope and love and value in our living and our dying and are not the self-absorbed creatures that we were. "The whole world looks to us for guidance," Moss concludes, "whether they want to admit it or not. If only they will hear . . . if only they will hear."

As AIDS creeps into the lives of so many others beside gay people, we could tell them so much. We could tell the President so much, if only he could hear through his fear of us.

That's why I was struck so deeply by the slogan on one of the federal buildings in Washington: "The Past Is Prologue," A simple statement. History not only repeats itself, but is a guide to the present. Why can't the caring and love we have learned be transmitted through the President to everyone still at risk of AIDS?

Perhaps because we cannot hold the lesson ourselves. All around me during this

(Continued on page 57)



Timothy Flanagan (l.) and Michelle Simon in the Theatre Rhinoceros production of *Quisbies*, which went on to play the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C. (Photo: Savage Photography)

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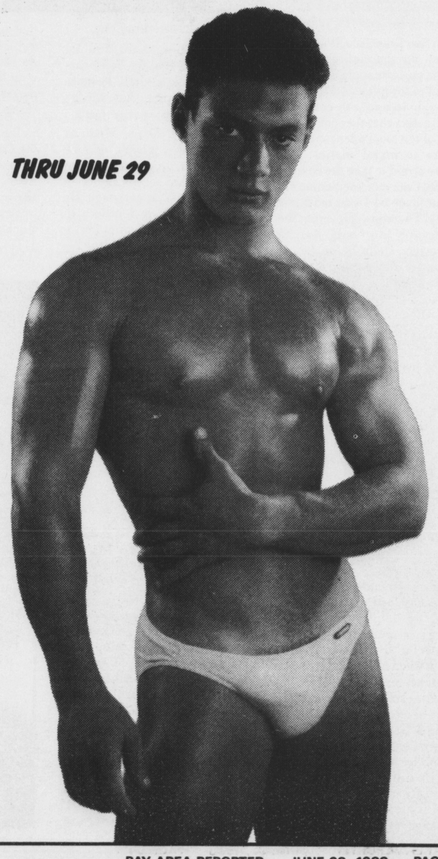
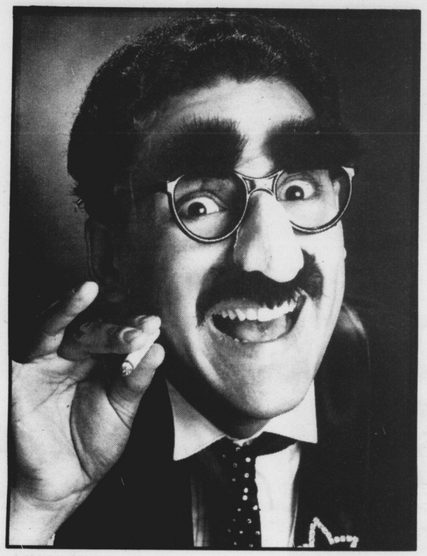


Audience Pleaser

Joseph Taro Comes Singing, Dancing And Producing Into Your Heart

by David Perry



"I'm known as an audience pleaser," says Joseph Taro. "I do not go out to please any of the critics. F--k 'em."

Surrounded by four walls of posters from the shows he has produced and appeared in, and lounging under a mobile of cardboard whales, singer/actor/dancer/producer/Shanti staff member Joseph Taro doesn't seem worried. In a town where cabaret is more talked about than touted, Taro *is* cabaret.

"It [cabaret] doesn't exist anymore in San Francisco," he says matter-of-factly. "It only exists in the minds of the singers around who want to sing in what they feel is a cabaret setting. That could be the living room outside of this door, or the postage stamp stage at the Galleon, or the Venetian Room stage, any state college, or even street theater."

Fannies, 1177, Cats, N'Touch, Big Mama's (Hayward"—Taro rattles off the names of cabaret venues that have met their demise in the last few years.

"In San Francisco, it's too expensive for the club owners to gamble on new people. Even with the out-of-town talent they bring in, they have two or three nights that are dark that they could give some of the local talent some exposure to major cirtics. But they're afraid to take the chance. 'Oh my God, can Joe Schmo fill up the place so I can make my money.' The irony of it is that the people they [do book], Andrea Marcovicci, Della Reese, Lainie Kazan, are only getting 30 or 40 people a night. I don't call that good for a so-called name person. Cabaret can be the icing on the cake [here]. It used to be the other way in the old days."

Why does he stay?

"I love San Francisco."

Taro leans back and offers a grape. When you ask for water in his home, you get Calistoga. He speaks in dulcet, well-modulated tones in sentences liberally peppered with "incredible," "fabulous" and "diva." Phrases such as "there are no schools for living" roll off his tongue effortlessly. Listening to him speak is like a verbal massage—comfortable and well-rehearsed. Instead of slaps to the back, he delivers punchlines. There is no doubt he loves the biz of show biz. He is intensely quiet, except when he laughs—which is a throaty explosion. More aggressive are the eyes and the body, which lean forward like little Joel Grays. He smiles a lot through teeth so white that they cry out for a toothpaste commercial. Even at home, he looks ready for his five minute call, a Broadway baby ready to pounce. His is an almost hypnotic persona, and a somewhat unsettling one.

"People talk about 'finding themselves.' It's so California cosmic, but it's so vital," he nods. "It's something that you've really got to do."

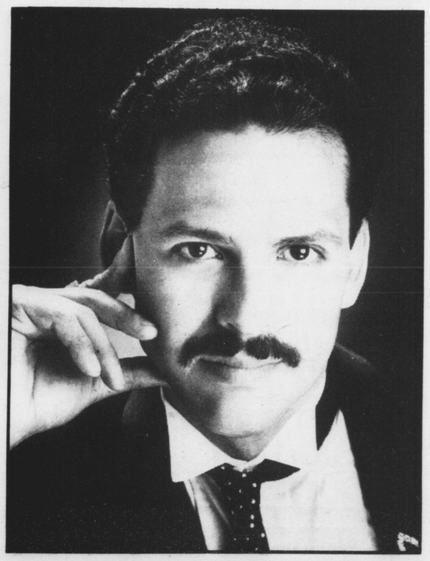
Born in St. Louis, Missouri (*Misery,* baby, misery. A nice place to grow up, a great place to escape"). Taro set his sights on the stage from an early age. He studied theater at Southern Illinois University 25 miles northwest of St. Louis, commuting between home and school every day. Between his junior and senior years, Taro visited New York "to get a preview of coming attractions."

"At that time I was paralleling who I was as a human being. I was coming out. That was in 1968. A great time." He adds with a laugh, "I'm an oldy but a goody. I'm 37 years old and not afraid to admit it. F-k those divas who are afraid to admit their age. You should be proud of your age. Show your vintage."

After eight years in New York as the "typical actor/waiter/temp person," Taro moved to San Francisco. That was four and one-half years ago.

"I guess I got tired of living in a city filled with so many contrasts—so incredible yet so scummy. I played New York vampire for eight years. I sucked everything I could out of that city. I like clean air. I like to breathe. I've got bad allergy problems. My priorities changed. I didn't feel I had to prove to myself anymore that to 'make it' meant necessary what I originally thought to 'make it' was. In [New York], 'makin' it' means getting into that one percent that does Broadway, or television, or the soaps. I do believe in luck, but I don't want to wait around for it. In the meantime, I feel that I have something to give back."

Taro received an "Outstanding Cabaret Performance" nomination at the 1988 Cable Car Awards for his work throughout the year. As a performer, he has appeared at Mame's, Raggs, Buckley's, The Valencia Rose, 1177 Club on Nob Hill, Cats, and the Venetian Room. He produced *A Whole Lot of Bessie in Me,* which was nominated for a Gold Award in 1985; *Dinosaus Surviving the Crunch,* starring comedian Sandy Van, the TV parody *Queen for a Day* at the Music Hall Theatre; and *It's Fascination* with Dan Fludd at Theatre Rhinoceros. He has been a copy editor, a bartender, a singing waiter, a proofreader, and a cruise ship performer. What does he call himself?



"I would say I'm an entertainer," he says. "When I perform I draw on everything I know."

Presently, much of Taro's energies are focused on his work with the Shanti Project.

"That is my primary work," he explains, "not only as a moneymaker but also for what I believe. Living in San Francisco, I am more politically and socially conscious. It's part of my life and my work. It does parallel the work I do in the theater."

Describing himself as a "secretary," Taro's work for Shanti has lead to his involvement in their public education and fundraising activities. He has produced several cabarets to benefit not only Shanti, but Project Open Hand, and the AIDS Emergency Fund. Most recently, Taro produced *976-DIVA* ("an outrageous musical comedy marathon") which netted $1,100 for the Shanti Project.

"I get off on doing these sorts of things," he says. "The talent is out there, and they love doing it. It blows me away, the incredible amount of talent here in San Francisco that I never realized until I moved here. The singers, the dancers, the actors, the comedians. The comedians here are *incredible.* I mean, I never dreamed of producing other people. Now, I'm a producer. In New York it was me, me, me, me."

He pauses, glancing towards his postered wall. "I get really turned on by talent. Some people get turned on by booze. Talent makes me high, and that's how I continue to grow. Because there are not a lot of ways to grow [as a performer] in San Francisco unless you go out there and surround yourself."

Later this summer, Taro will be appearing in Palo Alto's TheatreWorks production of *Dreamgirls* ("one of the few hip white dudes in it") and possibly planning a new cabaret extravaganza.

"I have a real risky show I'm just dying to do next year," he says angling forward. "I'm going to call it *Bitches' Brew.* I want one woman, a tall blonde Amazon, and three men (in drag) and create a singing group out of them to do 50s and 60s numbers. I mean, I want people who can chirp. Who can sing. I'm not saying drag is real popular now, but it always is if it's done well," says Taro. He plans to cast himself in *Bitches' Brew.*

"I mean, I do believe drag is an art form if it's done well."

Taro, though well-known within the gay community, has yet to carve a niche within the mainstream audience. However, he doesn't seem real concerned about it. Recently he even resigned from Actors' Equity [The professional actors' union] so he could work in more amateur productions.

"The unions won't let you perform in nonunion productions without their royal a-- permission. It's so ironic, here's a union that exists to [help you] when you're working. But they don't do anything [to help] you create work. I can't even do a reading in the basement of Theatre Rhinoceros because if they found out about it, I'd be fined. That type of union situation, I don't need. Equity's only good if you work in Los Angeles or New York. I can make more money now doing non-Equity theater."

Whatever he does, Taro tries to make his life a cabaret.

"If you can do cabaret, you can do any medium," he states. He adds philosophically. "Cabaret is not an end. It's a means to continue." ●

RIGHTFULLY PROUD JUNE 26 1988

John Karr

(Continued from page 55)

month when we celebrate Gay Pride, I have seen instances where even the immediate past is not enough of a lesson. And it scares me. I'm scared by the 23-year-old who was interviewed in the B.A.R. on June 2 as a representative of a new generation of gay men. This blithe child was timorous enough to allow his name to appear with his shameful statements. Like many young men, he came to San Francisco because it is the legendary place for gay men to gather. But he didn't find the legendary mecca. "The Castro," he complained, ". . . is depressing. Everything is so political . . . revolving around AIDS."

Now I realize gay boys just wanna have fun, but this bubble is really off the planet. Although he admitted that some knowledge of contemporary reality is "enlightening," he stated that "trying to do something . . . just brings to mind what's going on. That, for me," he concluded, "is not mecca."

Well, girlene, it hasn't been mecca for any of us for some time now. Life just isn't a cabaret anymore, and might not ever be again, unless our past is your prologue. Disease and Death may not be trendy in your circle, but only when you admit to them and integrate them into your life will you be able to take pleasure in and be part of a community created for you by a now-gutted generation of gay men to be the mecca you came to sponge off.

"The Past Is Prologue" is also all I can advise my friends who are embracing the undeniably enticing trend toward the revival of "back room" sex parties. An adult six years into AIDS can hardly claim ignorance, and being a consenting adult having consensual sex will hardly protect one from a virus. These parties not only encourage unsafe sex, but seem to have put the word out that pre-80s sex is back. It shouldn't be.

Some of us have made the personal decision that cocksucking is okay. But the AIDS brochure recently sent out by Surgeon General Koop has requalified cocksucking "with someone who engages in anal sex" as Risky Behavior. In other words, although some fellatio may be acceptable, you still have to know your partner and his activities well. How well can you know your partner in a back-room environment?

Gay Pride month is hardly the time for us to forget our past, especially a past so recent. The sex clubs of the '70s did not create AIDS, but they sure fostered it. I see no reason for *that* prologue to be played out twice, because we know the results. I urge partygoers to use caution.

"My god," concludes the character Michael in *Quisbies.* "We are such a beautiful people, brave, defiant, holding the mirror, leading the way."

The Theatre Rhino cast of *Quisbies.* (Photo: S. Savage)

But only when we're alive. For this Gay Pride Day, I wish everyone a remembrance and knowledge of our past, that they may take pride in our astounding history, and that it may lead them to a long, and very gay, life. ●

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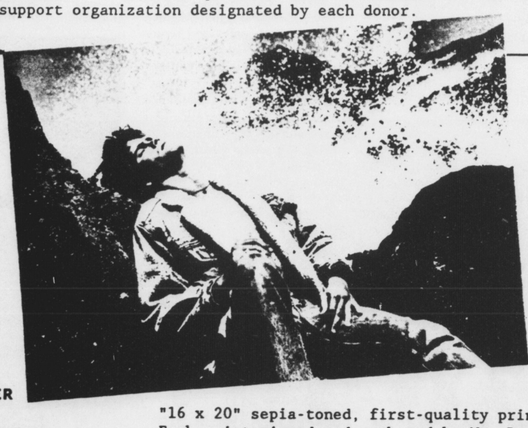

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There's Nothing Like It

Blazing Redheads

Deborah Hungerford on keyboards. (Photo: PhotoGraphics/Darlene)

by Dianne Gregory

There's nothing like it. A rare warm summer day in the sunshine of the back patio at El Rio, with the Blazing Redheads wailing away and the sultry bodies of many women swaying or dancing or whatever to the music. There may be something that transcends that feeling of eternal summer, but I couldn't tell you what.

Even if the fog comes rolling in and the wind whips down Mission Street at gale force, the Redheads' music makes me think of the days when Baker's Haulover was happening in Miami or even of certain wharfside bars in Nassau. They describe their music as "funky jazz with a touch of salsa," but I guess it's the rhythms that remind me of the Caribbean. Whatever it is, I am transported.

The Redheads are composed of seven women musicians—and not a true redhead in the bunch—who got together 2½ years ago to do a benefit. All had been members of various bands around town—Swingshift, Group Sax, Sabrosita, and Leopard Set—but when they got together, something special happened, and they were a hit with the audience that night and with every one after that.

Now they have an album out on Reference Records, simply called *Blazing Redheads,* which has already sold 5,000 copies, more than any other title on the label.

The album has also been selling well on the Redheads' six-week tour—which has taken them from Atlanta, Georgia, to Bloomington, Indiana; Asheville and Durham, North Carolina; Miami, Florida; and New Orleans, Louisiana—where they have been playing to sold-out houses. It is also being played on KJAZ and KBLX.

All the songs on the album are original music, written by Susan Colson (electric bass), Deborah Hungerford (keyboards), Donna Viscuso (alto sax, flute, and harmonica), Klaudia Promessi (tenor sax, soprano sax, and flute), and Michaelle Goerlitz (timbale and percussion). Other members of the band include Danielle Powers (drums and percussion) and Judy Groboyes (conga, percussion, and timbale). Viscuso and Promessi came from Group Sax, Colson and Powers from Swingshift, Goerlitz from Leopard Set, and Groboyes from Sabrosita. Hungerford has joined Rami since the album was recorded.

Michaelle Goerlitz on drums. (Photo: PhotoGraphics/Darlene)

"Alive, searching, raucous, quirky, exploring: The Blazing Redheads play Latin jazz that jumps out from the undulating rhythm section and grabs you," writes Jeanne Carstensen on the album jacket. "A smooth yet driving beat. A horn section that sails from a bebop soulfulness to a sometimes piercing abandon."

And it's true. From the first song on the album, "Paradise Drive" by Susan Colson, to the last, "My Picasso" by Michaelle Goerlitz, the music takes wing.

Hungerford has the most songs on the album with three, "Cienega," "February Song," and "Santa Fe." While "Cienega" and "Santa Fe" have that salsa beat that makes you want to get up and dance, "February Song" begins and ends with ballad-like music that reminds me of "The White Cliffs of Dover" somehow. In between, there is a jazzy beat, and when the sax comes in over the flute, it all comes together.

Colson checks in with two songs, "Paradise Drive" and "Sea Level," a dreamy song in which the flute soars *a la* Tim Weisberg, only better. Viscuso also has two songs on the album, "In Search Of" and "Get Down (And Stay Down)," both of which have the driving beat and grinding sax that go beyond salsa or jazz into the realm of funk. Goerlitz has "Mozambo" and "My Picasso." "Mozambo" starts out as if Sistah Boom was sitting in on the set, the percussion is so mixed, and then the horns come in, and the beat settles into a salsa rhythm, and they're off again.

"Final Segment" is the only contribution by Promessi, and it's somewhere between dreamy and swing. The flute soars on this one, but then the sax comes in, and the pace picks up to where you just gotta dance.

Dancing is a big part of what this music is all about and a big part of why the Redheads aren't stuck in the "women's music" category. It is so much more universal than that. The Bay Area women's community may have witnessed the birth of the Redheads and helped the band along its way, but, with their first album and tour, the Redheads have a chance to turn the masses into fans.

If you're already a fan or think you might be one, take note that the Redheads will be back in town Aug. 4 to play the Great American Music Hall. ●

The Blazing Redheads played to a sold-out house at their album release party at Great American Music Hall. (Photo: PhotoGraphics/Darlene)

Billy's Someone to Bragg About

Rising British Star Takes Gay Rights on Tour

by Rex Wockner

British post-punk, "urban folk" rocker Billy Bragg takes gay rights and AIDS rights issues to the stage every night he plays. It is, he says, part of a broader commitment to fundamental human rights.

During his recent "Help Save the Youth of America" tour, Bragg reached out to such groups as ACT UP and Chicago for AIDS Rights (C-FAR), as well as voter registration activitsts and the Democratic Socialists of America. In Chicago Bragg announced upcoming C-FAR demonstrations during his concert and set up a literature table for the group in the lobby.

Bragg has played Moscow, Managua, and other politically correct gigs. In a "postcard" from Managua to the British magazine Time Out, he said, "I've learnt a lot, not least that they don't really seem to like my music all that much. I mean, being a one-man proto-punk folk singer with a guitar who sings out of tune is all right if you've seen the Clash, but if you haven't, it's just a one-man proto-punk folk singer with a guitar who sings out of tune."

New York's Downtown magazine simply called Bragg "an ideologically sound, cockney-voiced Bruce Springsteen, a post-pop/punk minimalist." Much of Bragg's material is political and social commentary, with some room left for love songs. His most recent LP is *Talking With the Taxman About Poetry.* A newer EP features live recordings of six songs from the current tour. Singles from both discs are on the current British charts.

Billy Bragg. (Photo: A. Boot)

Bragg's "thick-as-mud cockney accent," as the Chicago Sun-Times called it, made transcribing my high-quality tape difficult. Unlike most British singers, Bragg's accent is also acutely present to American ears when he's singing. In the basement of Cabaret Metro on the north side of Chicago, Bragg was asked how it came to be that a radical AIDS groups would be leafletting the people attending his concert.

"We first contacted ACT UP in New York," Bragg recalled. "That happened through a fellow I met who worked for the Nicaraguan solidarity campaign. This time, when we were coming over for the new tour, this chap said, 'I'm working with ACT UP now; would you like some input?' We said, 'Yeah, that'd be great.' So that's how we met up with ACT UP activists in the first place. They distributed a thousand condoms from the stage in New York City.

"Then we went on to meet with various ACT UP-type groups in Boston; Northhampton; San Francisco; Champaign, Illinois, surprisingly enough—'G-CAP, the Gay Community AIDS Project,' it's called there—and also Seattle. Some are very much like ACT UP, with the Silence = Death approach.'"

Taking gay and AIDS activisim on tour in America, Bragg says, is merely an extension of what he's been doing in England for years. "I went to the lobby of Parliament on a very cold morning this February with five or six hundred other people," he said, "and we queued to lobby our MP's about how we felt about Clause 28. Before that, I did some stuff with Gay's the Word bookshop; they were having problems, kept getting busted for obscenity.

"As far as I'm concerned," Bragg continued, "it's a fundamental human-rights issue, not a gay or straight issue. I've been talking about these things here since the second show, when somebody showed me a copy of Rolling Stone that said 75 percent of Rolling Stone readers found homosexuality unacceptable in their friends and workmates. I was so outraged by it that I've mentioned it every night from the stage.

"I also have a song on the new album called 'Tender Comrades,' which explores male bonding when young men are inducted into the [armed] forces. The reason they risk their lives for each other on the battlefield is not because they feel patriotic or believe in the cause. It's because they care about each other, they love each other in a much deeper way than their recruitment sergeant could ever imagine.

"[The song is about] the contrast between the ultra-homophobic atmosphere they're trained into and the reality of being under pressure and having only the guys you're stuck with. I was in the British army for three months. The techniques of male bonding tried to pull us together spiritually, but within a very homophobic atmosphere. For anyone to actually show real caring and emotion was quite frowned on. I've been singing this song every night since I saw that article.

"One night in Seattle," Bragg remembered, "I did an announcement for a stop-the-war demonstration at a local military base, and I also sang 'Tender Comrade.' Afterwards, a guy came up in the street outside, with one of those haircuts that you seem only to be able to get from the military establishment in this country, and he said 'Tender Comrade' was the truest song in the entire set, and he gave me a big hug.

"It's great to meet people from the gay community who come along. Someone in Boston threw a thing on the stage after I'd done 'Tender Comrade' that said, 'Thanks for doing one for us queers,' which I was really proud about. But to have a *soldier* come up and say 'Thank you very much' is something else."

Voter registration activists, AIDS activists, and socialists (the three groups who were given tables outside his Chicago concert) have something fundamental in common, Bragg believes. "The fight against the forces of the right wing in this country—a fight that's represented by ACT UP and by DSA—is something we struggled long and hard with in our country," he explained. "I certainly feel an affinity with anyone who tries to be a socialist in this country and with anyone who tries to broaden people's awareness about what AIDS is, rather than the scare-mongering stuff that's coming from the right wing and the pathetic underfunding that's coming from the central government.

"In my country," Bragg continued, "the gay issue—and, through that, the AIDS issue—is only asked for comment on bands that are openly gay. But the rights of gays is not just an issue for gay people. It's an issue for all of us. I don't say 'gay rights.' It's fundamental human rights. People's sexuality is their own right. Government has enough control over us without controlling our sexuality, particularly at a time when, because of all of our concern about AIDS, we should be encouraging people to be *more* open about their sexuality." ●

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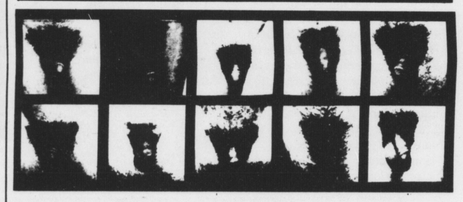

DICK (A FILM)

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Jo Menell, BBC documentary filmaker (recent credits include: "Haiti, a Democracy," co-produced and directed with Jonathan Demme; "Bob Marley" released thru Channel 4 in England; and "Prison Rodeo, Oklahoma State Penitentiary")

B.J. Sears, film editor (recent credits include: sound editing on "Amadeus"; and picture editing on "The Unbearable Lightness of Being")

Paul Latoures, still photographer, (work has appeared in: Fortune, Time, Focus, Parenting, as well as other national magazines)

If you can't make it to the "DICK" photo booth after the parade but would like to be a part of the film, call 330-7505 to set up a photo appointment.

RIGHTFULLY PROUD
JUNE 26 1988

BOOKS

A Stirring Book for Our Community

The Homomonument
by Pieter Koenders; Aannemingsbedriff Buitenhuis b.v.; $19.95; 64 pages

by Mark I. Chester

An unusual book, found among A Different Light Bookstore's enticing collection of books with gay themes published in Europe, is *The Homomonument* by Pieter Koenders. It records the reasons and effort behind the creation of a monument in Amsterdam to honor the homosexuals persecuted and exterminated by the Nazis during World War II.

This oversized paperback, written in Dutch, has an accompanying English translation on its opposing pages. Because the monument itself, with an eye on history, uses the inverted pink triangle as its basic architectural form, *The Homomonument* begins by notating the history and use of the pink triangle, first as a Nazi symbol of identification and oppression, and later its reinvention as a symbol of gay liberation.

With a nod toward Richard Plant's *The Pink Triangle*, Koenders presents general background on the use of the pink triangle by the Nazis, with additional information relating to the Nazi occupation of the Netherlands. He notes that the destruction of Nazi archives and the suppression of information about homosexual oppression makes it hard to know the basic details and the actual numbers that were involved.

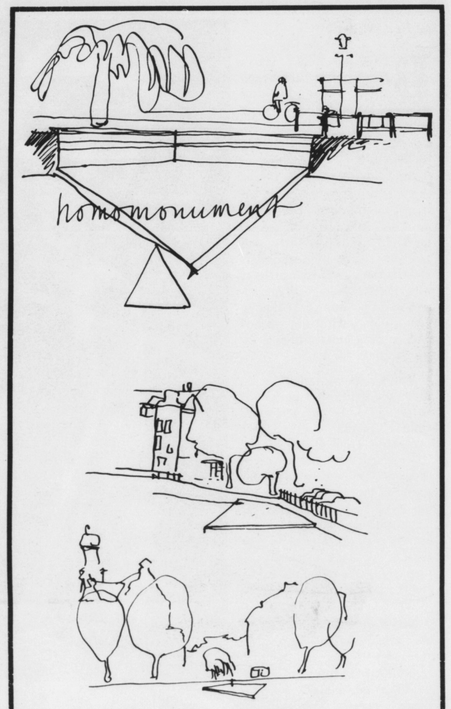
The most fascinating part of *The Homomonument* traces the development of a Dutch movement, mostly within the gay community, that demands that the Nazi persecution of homosexuals be somehow acknowledged and memorialized. Koenders finds the first call to action in a Dutch gay magazine as early as October of 1946, "If the correct information concerning these camps and the number of homosexuals who have been eliminated is still not known, it is only because no one has ever dared to stand up for them, because many people, also those in the allied countries, have not condemned these actions in their hearts."

Political actions, such as gay attempts to lay wreaths in memory of homosexuals at World War II memorial services, resulting in protests and arrests, eventually led to the creation of a $200,000 monument in Amsterdam. The artistic design of the monument, the raising of monies, and its actual construction constitute the last half of the book. It is of special interest that the scope of the monument was increased to memorialize the persecution of homosexuals from all eras, in addition to serving as a symbol of the continuing struggle for gay liberation and emancipation.

The book does have me slightly confused. Not all the Dutch text is translated into English, and, in a weird turnabout, it presents photos of everything from the street before the monument was built to small lighters sold to support the monument, but no photographs of the dedication of the monument or of the finalized monument itself. It is an unfortunately glaring omission.

Still, the book should strike chords in every gay man and lesbian. Pink triangles abound in our community as a symbol that we shall never forget. Whether the cry is "never again" or "silence equals death," we are bound to our brothers and sisters across the seas.

Every day is a battle and struggle so that the words on a plaque memorializing gay deaths in Mauthausen concentration camp will never again be a part of our present: "Beaten to death, ignored out of existence." ●



'Auto-Erotic' Means More Than Just Backseat Love

Sexual Landscapes: Why We Are What We Are, Why We Love Whom We Love
by James Weinrich; Scribners and Co.

by Frank Howell

I recall once, reading in a survey of sexual knowledge among American teenagers, that one student believed the term "auto-erotic" referred to having sex in the back of a car. Such is the state of our sexual ignorance that we should not be surprised that sex researchers have always been suspect in the eyes of a sex-guilty public.

James Weinrich, an assistant research psychologist in the department of psychiatry at the University of California–San Diego, hols a playful, relaxed view of human sexuality. He surveys the whole broad spectrum of human behavior, from homosexual cavorting among Jamaican lizards to transvestite ecstasy in straight men.

As a sociobiologist, he views the erotic landscape somewhat differently than the typical moralist. He feels that any sexual action is innocent until proven guilty. He asks why a particular sexual lifestyle has been a success, rather than a failure.

Item: In studies comparing gays and straights, Weinrich notes that gays have sexual relations that are the equal of conventional sex because gays frequently communicate more effectively with their mates.

Item: Bisexual yearnings are much more are among men, but not among women.

Item: Heterosexuals and homosexuals are more alike than different, but they have many communication problems. Gays possess a strong sense of identity because they are keenly aware of how different they are from the rest of society.

Item: Drag queens appear to act in a fairly similar manner in cultures throughout the world.

Item: In studies of sissy boys, tomboys, and straight children, it was found that the average gay child is not a sissy, but is simply *nonmasculine.*

Item: Homosexuality may run in families, especially in the case of males. In many studies, 25 percent of the gay males have brothers who are also gay. The rate among lesbians was much lower.

In spite of hardships due to public prejudice, an amazing amount of research has been accomplished. Sexologists utilize such exotic devices as a plethysmography and penile strain gauge in the labs to measure the amount of sexual arousal among males to various kinds of stimulation, such as pornography. Vaginal plethyismographs are also used with women.

For example, much has been made of whether or not pornography causes child molesters to commit sex crimes. Our sexolo- Diego, holds a playful, relaxed view of human sexuality. He surcreased in Denmark when pornography was legalized. Such molesters can even be psychologically tamed via the use of erotic materials, thus preventing further incidents. Many of the sexual seductions of young girls are actually carried out by carnally frustrated straight men, who return to normal when a heterosexual outlet is finally found.

Weinrich offers much in the way of anthropology, psychology, and biology when addressing many of the puzzling sexual issues of our time. ●

Neurotic Passions Aflame

Children in a Burning House
by Douglas Soesbe
Knight's Press; $7.95

by Marv. Shaw

The house might as well be all Hollywood, as Douglas Soesby sees it. And the ones with the torch are those desperate for whatever their neurotic desires crave. The most desperate are those wanting love terribly but screwed up with grotesque self-concepts and driven into disrupting, self-defeating acts.

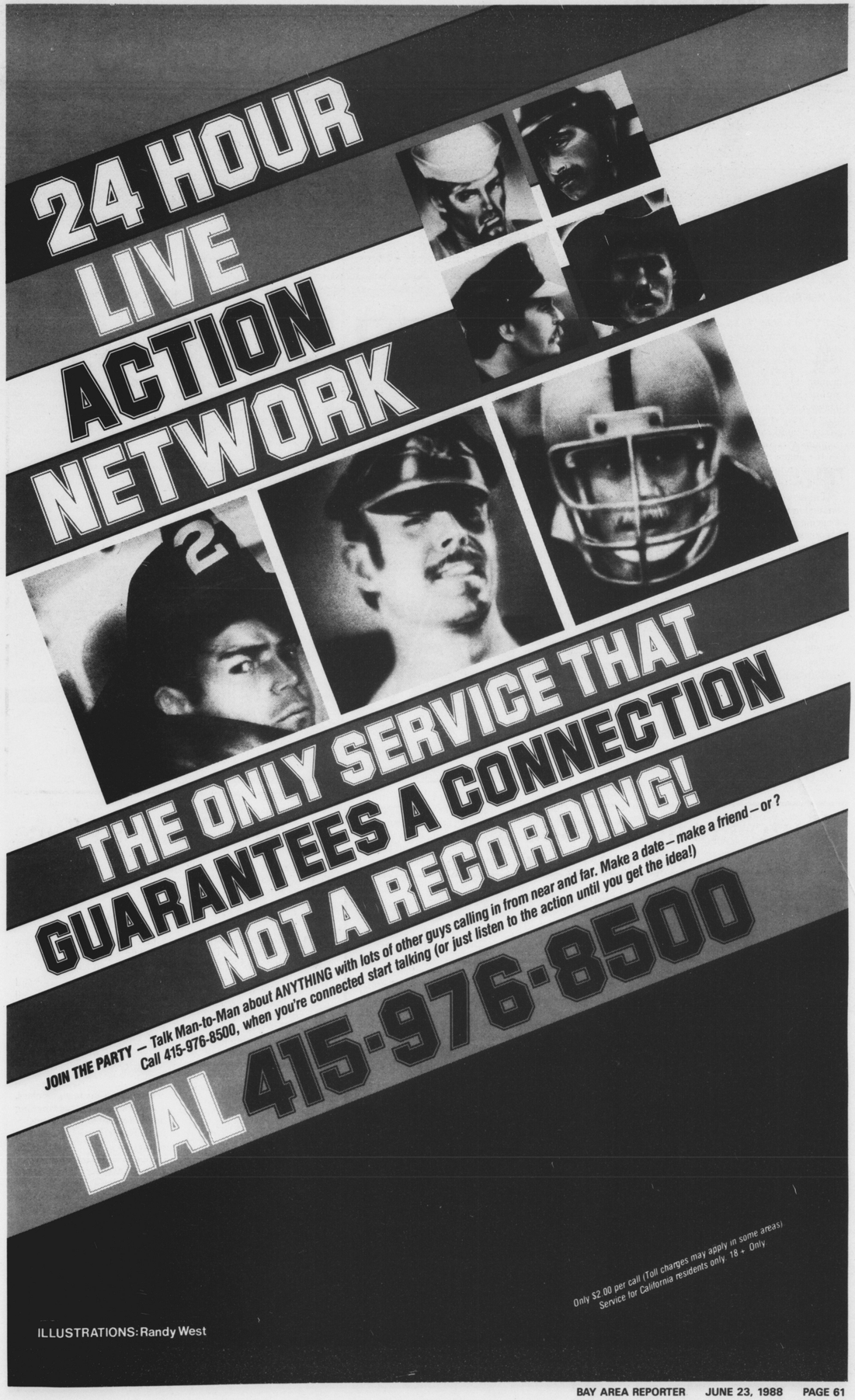
Soesbe grabs the reader on the first pages with the narrator-protagonist waiting for the police to arrive. He has just killed the man whose mystery and beauty have been tormenting him for months. Then the bulk of the novel is a long flashback to the beginning, the revision of an impossible script by an obsessed producer, who has contracted with an aging former movie queen to star. Anna Lang's glamorous screen persona dazzled the childhood of Norris Manning, the screen writer years before.

Into the mix go Diana, a loopy costumier from Manning's college days; Kip, a grubby hustler; Jerret Nicholson, the fat, coarse producer; Andre, a rising concert pianist; and Richard. Andre's clinging, suffocating lover. Influencing them all is the stunningly handsome but sinister Christopher Danner, a high-priced hustler who thinks he is about to become a movie star.

The action really moves, and the author often shows how well he knows the atmosphere of Hollywood, whether it be a huge, chaotic party, the Polo Lounge, or a seedy gay club. Soesby is a story analyst for a film company, and according to the jacket blurb, ". . . a true fan of Hollywood, immersing himself in the movies, collecting old films, and reading Hollywood history."

The trouble is, the reader can see that these enthusiasms have impelled Soesbe to become a borrower. The screen writer Manning is an amalgam of Nathanial West's Todd in *Day of the Locust* and the character William Holden played in *Sunset Boulevard.* Anna Lang is very like the older Sarah Bernhardt, with her prosthetic leg. Producer Nicholson is a drearily recurrent cliche. These and others create a dragging sense of deja vu, as if the book were a late-night rerun on TV.

But if these familiars mean Tinseltown fascination to you, *Children in a Burning House* could be just your entertainment. ●

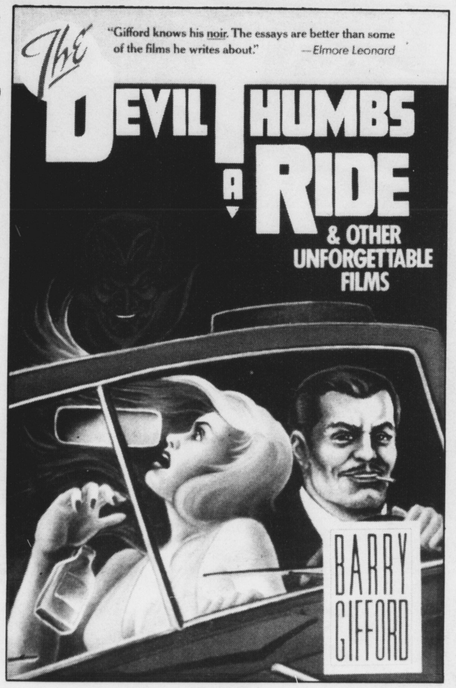


BOOKS

Film Noir in Grabowskiville

The Devil Thumbs a Ride
by Barry Gifford; Grove Press; $7.95

by Will Snyder



". . .The setting is a beanery near a missile base owned by [Keenan] Wynn. [Lee] Marvin is the short-order cook, [Terry] Moore is the Tomato, and [Frank] Lovejoy, as usual, is the humorless Fed out to uncover the spy. As Lovejoy goes through his 'Meet McGraw' [a private-eye show Lovejoy starred in during the 1950s] routine, Wynn works out with weights, Moore displays her lovely breasts in a sweater, and Marvin grunts and leers and makes unwholesome suggestions to her. It's as if William Inge were forced by the government to rewrite some Chekhov play, but set in McCarthy-era America, and he took twenty Valium, washed them down with Old Crow, and dashed it off as the drug grabbed his brain and put him in Palookaville."

The above paragraph goes a long way toward explaining why Barry Gifford's new collection of essays on film is a gem for film buffs. *The Devil Thumbs a Ride* takes us into the seamy world of *film noir,* and Gifford's essays are perfect bedside companions when turning to the Classic Movie Channel or *Movies 'Til Dawn.*

Gifford insists that *Devil* is not a collection of movie reviews; instead, he says, *Devil* is a collection of film essays. He's right, too. He doesn't go thumbs-up or thumbs-down, *a la* Siskel and Ebert. His copy doesn't come popping out of the book like Rex Reed's eyes.

Gifford isn't writing about Katharine Hepburn or Spencer Tracy or about a Philip Barry play. There are no tuxedos or gowns or proper pronunciations of the King's English. Instead, you read about sleepy-eyed, innocent Robert Mitchum being taken for a ride; Dick Powell finally breaking away from Busby Berkeley to play Philip Marlowe's favorite, uh, dick; Ida Lupino burning her cigarette on a piano top; and Cleo Moore playing her usual hot-stuff blonde.

Dese guys and dames make up Gifford's entertainment woild, and he juices his essays with their language. Maybe a word like "tomato" isn't politically correct, but it is realistic, and it gives the reader the mood of *Shack Out on 101* or *Kiss of Death* or *On Dangerous Ground.* The language, which is so colorful, explains in perfect black and white all the sleaze joints and the double-crosses and the setups that RKO could muster up.

Gifford has enough insights to keep Gene and Roger jealous. For instance, in his essay on *Call Northside 777,* he points out that director Henry Hathaway filmed in glorious black and white on location in the working-class Polish neighborhoods of Chicago. And then Chicago native Gifford follows up with a quote from Chicago Bears Coach Mike Ditka about how his team is made up of "Grabowskis," instead of "Smiths." Forget that the quote might have forced a sly grin from Walter Payton and, instead, relish the symbolism of using this off-the-wall comment. When you see Jimmy Stewart cruising around Grabowskiville, you can almost smell the kielbasa on a hot summer night. Credit Gifford for supplying the mustard and sauerkraut.

So what's in it for gays? Plenty. First off, enough of these films end up in some retrospective at the Castro Theatre. But beyond that, Gifford tells some interesting stories about gay men and lesbians. He points out that John Dall, a gay actor of the 1940s and 1950s (excellent as a gay man in Alfred Hitchcock's *Rope*), was chosen as the lead actor in *Gun Crazy* because everyone knew he was gay in real life, and director Joseph Lewis felt he would convey a subtle vulnerability that would work in the film.

That's not particularly flattering for our community, but it is, again, an honest and sober reflection of the times of the film (1949). Anything less honest would have been like Southern whites and their "help" sittin' down at the same table for barbecue at Tara in 1859.

The gay references are fun when Gifford goes in for the campiness of Clifton Webb and Vincent Price in *Laura,* as well as Webb's great Uncle Elliott in *The Razor's Edge.* Gifford gets serious again (with good reason) when vaguely referring to the unsavory deaths of gay actors Sal Mineo (murdered) and Nick Adams (suicide), who were in *Rebel Without a Cause.*

But this book isn't as much about gay or straight as it is about moody movies, the kind you see on Channel 36 at 4 a.m. If that station's ratings go up while guys and dames are sleepin' it off, Gifford should get a nice fat payoff for his book from the station. ●

Not-So-Innocents Upscale

Forty Ways to Sunday
by Robert McCartney Moore; Knight's Press; $8.50

by Marv. Shaw

Into the international world of the Beautiful People tumble David McCartney and Donald Meier, elegant decorator and extravagant horticulturist, respectively. Mad about each other and mad enough in their tastes, charms, and drives to captivate and exploit the barracudas and butterflies of the *beau monde,* the couple soon find their relationship more complicated than they complicate the lives of others.

The central character is really David, but Donald is a very close second. Sidney and Pola Straight are a fantastically wealthy couple developing a chain of superluxury hotels around the world. The first in the collection is a remodeled and much extended old New York mansion. In its transformation, David and Donald make it breathtaking. Sidney Straight makes it so exclusive that it is known only by No. 19.

As the work on it develops, David is drawn into Pola's life as she splits from Sidney. David surprises himself and delights Pola with his discovered bisexuality. But the radiated consequences disturb many, especially Donald.

As melodramatic as that might sound, the novel is far from the chic anguish of Danielle Steele. The tone is sophisticated comedy, as if Noel Coward were to be updated to the 1980s. Both the narrative/descriptive passages and the dialogue have a brittle, brilliant quality that entertains on its own while limning the characters.

Here's Pola commenting on the numbingly bad taste of her mother: "Well, I'm not a politician. I can't waste my time explaining the mistakes of the previous incumbent." And Pola's aunt musing on her name: ". . . Miss Hecker as always. It has a far, sad knell to it, doesn't it . . . like a line from Emily Dickenson."

Though backgammon is the omnipresent game most of the characters play, musical beds is its alternate. But Moore, true to his adopted elliptical rendering, does little directly sexual depiction. However, the well appreciated quality of flesh, in its texture, smell, and taste, suggests volumes.

There is a measured, graceful air to the whole, as if the cast was doing a quadrille. There is a resemblance to Wilde and to *Les Liaisons Dangereuse,* but without the venom and anomie of the latter.

One aphoristic statement that pops up near the end is "An orgasm is a great way to kill a few seconds." *Forty Ways to Sunday,* though bearing a title that is unfortunately too folksy for its style, is a great way to spend an evening. ●

Out of the Irish, a Gay Son

One Last Waltz
by Ethan Mordden; St. Martin's Press; $7.95

by Marv. Shaw

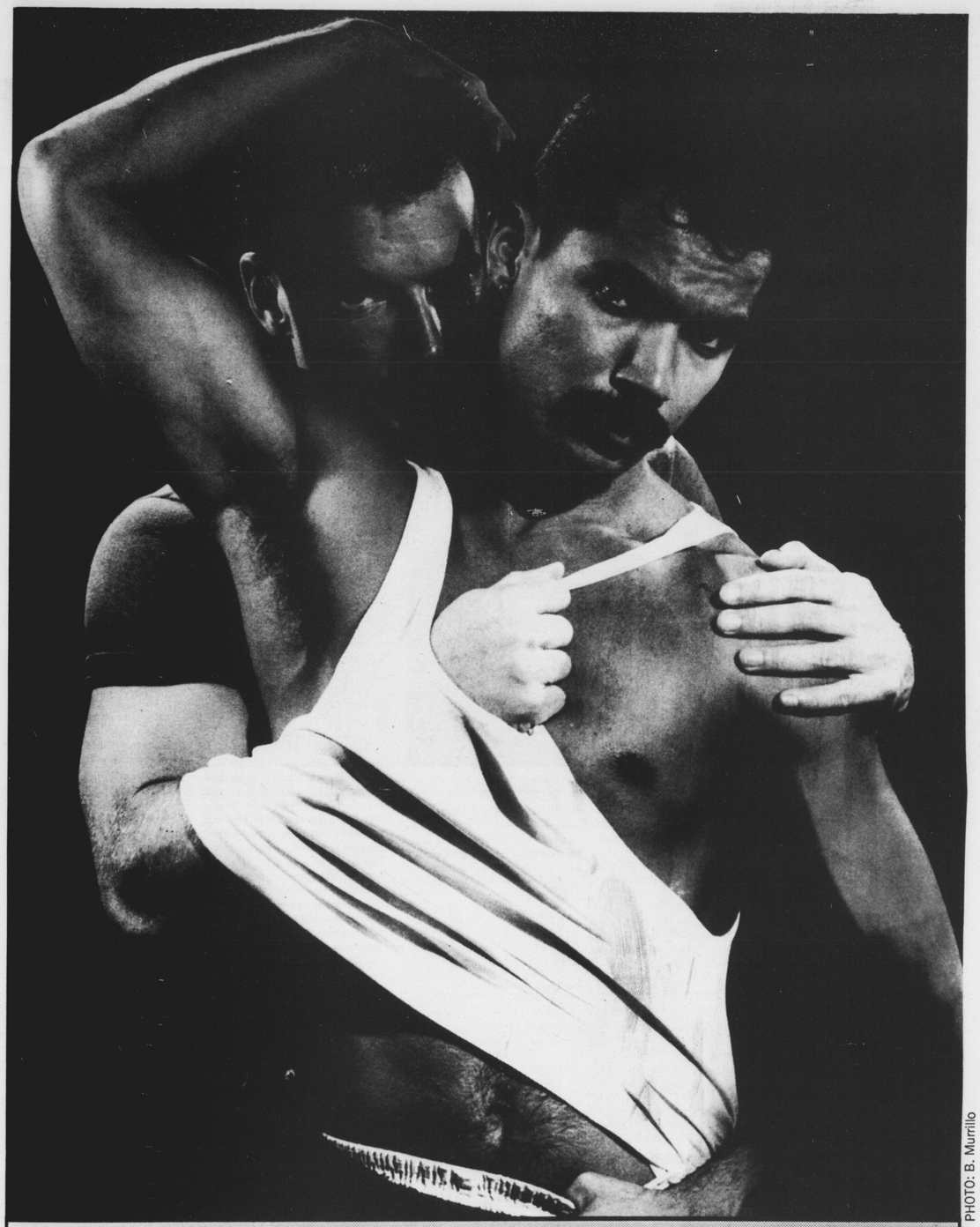
Transplanted from the old green sod to New York, Dublin Johnny Keogh, who relies on his fists and his manly charms, marries Nora Flaherty and sires three sons. Johnny Jr. is also brutally macho and becomes a violent hood. Michael follows his dad into construction, but is guided more positively by his uncle. Daniel chooses words and music—and discovers his gay nature. The time is the mid-50s to the present day.

To parallel Dublin Johnny's life, Mordden uses the old Irish tale of the King of Tara's fate, which is determined by the game he must play with the Witch of Fooley. To the initiate and/or lover of things Irish, this pairing will be an enrichment. To the rest of us, it is merely an irritating conceit.

However, in spite of such twaddle, Mordden makes the rest of his novel highly effective, because he understands the Irish immigrant and his progeny so well. The dynamics within this Irish Catholic, blue-collar brood, with one foot in either culture, are shown with stunningly clear reality.

One Last Waltz takes its place among a growing number of novels devoted to the gay person in his family. Daniel Keogh, gay songwriter of the '80s, is the new companion to David Plante's Daniel Francouer (*The Catholic*), Robert Ferro's Mark Valerian (*Second Son*), and David Watmough's Davey Bryant (*Vibrations in Time*).

It is family first, really, with gay Dan happening along, hardly more significant than the others. There could be a crossover intention here, with straight readers realizing that gay children occur naturally in families, as Watmough, Plante, Ferro, et al., have already been telling us. This saga of the Keoghs might achieve its lasting value in that realization. ●



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BOOKS

The Genius as Sick Loser

Lost Friendships
by Donald Windham;
Morrow; $17.95

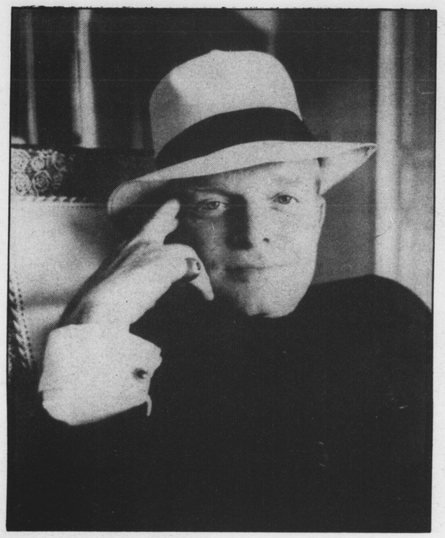
by Marv. Shaw

The star who can't handle success has become the most original myth of our time. The variation ranges wildly—from Elvis through Marilyn and Janis to Windham's major subjects, Truman Capote and Tennessee Williams. Each individual's version has both standard and idiosyncratic components. Each telling tries to get to The Reason.

Windham's subtitle is "A Memoir of Truman Capote, Tennessee Williams and Others." A couple of the "others" are Montgomery Clift, who cracked up on booze and pills, and Gore Vidal, who drove right through to a plateau of steady achievement partly by leaving gay concerns behind.

Windham's own case is hardly spectacular, even though he has racked up ten titles as solo author, co-author, or editor. Though his first novel, *The Dog Star,* won praise from such as Thomas Mann, he still hasn't had the rewards Capote and Williams won. The difference suggests sour grapes, but there is much in this book which denies that too-facile interpretation.

Windham was very close to Capote and Williams—never as a lover, but always as a warm and helpful friend. Truman and Tennessee were never really friends with each other. Windham and Capote were boon comrades, from the latter's first year of success through the great apogee in *Of Cold Blood.* When the stumbles became the disintegration of *Answered Prayers* and continuous alcohol, alienation was inevitable. Not even Truman's lifelong habit of fanciful lying could rescue a friendship in which one friend was witness to the evaporation of creative talent in the other.



Truman Capote

Windham's acquaintance with Williams was actually longer, from the early '40s. Indeed, the two collaborated on *You Touched Me,* a play drawn from a D.H. Lawrence story. The friendship flourished through Williams' best periods, with estrangement widening when Tennessee faltered in his writing, began drawing abysmal reviews (*In the Bar of a Tokyo Hotel*), and became resentful even of Windham's publication of the letters between the two of them.

The greatest value of *Lost Friendships* is the analysis Windham brings to the pathetic crackup of the two geniuses of American letters. But there is a sour-tinged irony there, too, for gay readers and those straights sympathetic to gay welfare. Windham sees Capote as a self-destructive neurotic who always wanted what he didn't have and no longer wanted it once he had it: a perfect example of the pre-disease concept of compulsive homosexuality.

Central to Williams' problems, in Windham's view, was the playwright's inability to really love anyone, an interpretation he tries to substantiate with instances of cruelty toward Frank Merlo and other subsequent "lovers" of Williams. This interpretation, intended or not, confirms the old Berglerian depiction of homosexuality as repetitive attraction/rejection.

As Windham sees both of these supreme artists, cold hollows of insecurity were central in their natures. ●

Chris in Thin Bits

Christopher Isherwood: A Personal Memoir
by John Lehmann; Henry Holt; $16.95

by Marv. Shaw

The personal memoir can take any form its author damn well pleases. That's because it's so personal. While it can always be assumed to be based on recollection, no standard expectations beyond that pertain. Each memoir may find its own form.

There is nothing wrong with the order. It's neatly chronological. Lehmann used his diaries and the letters to and from Isherwood. One can follow the relationship between the two from its Bloomsbury beginning, when Lehmann, in 1931, became the manager of Leonard and Virginia Woolf's Hogarth Press and brought out Isherwood's second novel, *The Memorial.* This professional combination quickly became much more, a warm, durable friendship.

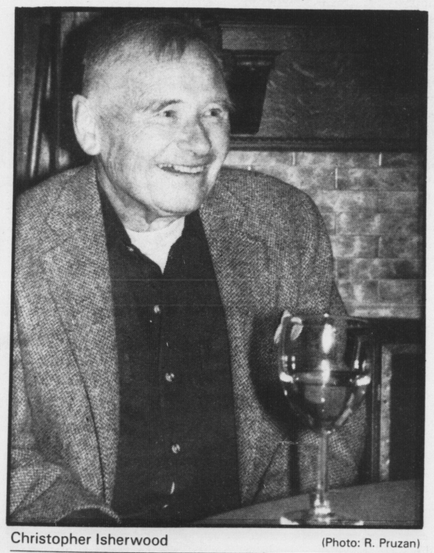
Indeed, the friendship became so close that Lehmann became Isherwood's confidant. Details of "Herr Issyvoo's" life probably not imparted to others were spontaneously and trustingly conveyed to Lehmann. It is highly probable that such parts of his life as the aborted attempts to get Isherwood's German lover Heinz into Britain and the desperate moves the two made from country to country as Heinz's visas ran out would have been known to few beyond W.H. Auden and Lehmann.

And there are engaging snapshots. The sojourn in the Canary Islands, where Heinz tended the house, garden, and animals, while Isherwood worked on the Berlin stories, is a delightful glimpse of domesticity. The Greek island episode, which figures so prominently in *Down There on a Visit,* makes that actual experience illuminate the fiction briefly but interestingly.

But much of Lehmann's reminiscence has been reported by Isherwood himself in his own autobiographical works. The superiority of those accounts is obvious, particularly when the emotional force is realized. Isherwood's dramatization of the refusal of the British immigration authorities to admit Heinz, rendered with heartbreaking bitterness in *Christopher and His Kind,* tells us far more than Lehmann could.

But it isn't just the difference between Lehmann's and Isherwood's depiction of events and people that is the major fault of this work. The disappointment comes from insufficient development. Several times Lehmann refers to one-on-one sessions with Isherwood in which the latter would discourse in great, probing depth on his flights, full of hilarity and insight.

Very, very little of the actual content of those discourses appears. Was that simply a failure of Lehmann's memory? Was there some secretly motivated reticence? Whatever for? Perhaps it was sheer laziness. Whatever the reason, the reader is let down. What could have been the most distinguishing characteristic of the book, that quality which would have made its value remarkable in our efforts to understand and appreciate one of the most honest and courageous gay creators of this century, is missing. Pity. ●



Christopher Isherwood (Photo: R. Pruzan)

Bisexual Romantic Anarchist

Marina Tsvetaeva: The Woman, Her World, and Her Poetry
by Simon Karlinsky; Cambridge University Press; $15.95

by Marv. Shaw

In the continuously turbulent world of the first 40 years of this century, a gifted Russian woman, equally dedicated to her poetic art and her many intense emotional ties, struggled for independence and achievement. Simon Karlinsky tells us her story here in a meticulously researched study that is both sympathetic and unflinching.

Born into a comfortable, academic family in Moscow in 1892, Marina Tsvetaeva showed her poetic abilities very early. Before she was out of school, she had been published. She also experienced in her early years passionate attachments, especially to females somewhat older than herself. In her late teens and early 20s, she had protracted affairs with another poet, Sophia Parnok, and an actress, Sophia Holliday.

But she could and did become passionate about men, too. Sometimes her feelings were channeled through literature, especially correspondence. A notable example was Boris Pasternak, who was to become famous long afterward through his novel *Dr. Zhivago.* But through these many vagrant affairs, she remained loyal to her husband, Sergei Efron.

Efron, a basically ineffectual man, was really sustained by Tsvetaeva during most of their years together. They had three children, one of whom, Adriana, lived after her and worked to rescue her mother's work from the obscurity and condemnation into which it had fallen because of the arbitrary, brutal policies of the political masters of the Stalin era.

Karlinsky, though he mostly eschews polemics, explicitly details the massive cruelties of the

(Continued on page 66)

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George Heymont

Sex Rears Its Ugly Head

Many music lovers wouldn't so much as bat an eyelash if the plot of an opera set in another historical period included elements of rape, incest, lesbianism, cross-generational sex and/or necrophilia. However, when confronted with a genuine depiction of sexual tension in modern-day settings, the very same audience quickly comes unglued. Why should that happen? Because, despite the fact that most of what these people watch on television these days—soap operas, movie reruns, and the evening news—revolves around the harsher realities of sex, drugs, and violence, when such forces are placed in a theatrical setting that hits too close to home, opera suddenly loses much of its appeal to conservative subscribers who are seeking sugar-coated escapist fantasies.

Anatol (John David DeHaan) reminds Erika (Susan Graham) that he never promised her a rose garden in Barber's *Vanessa.*

Alas, not every act of copulation (whether real or simulated) can take place offstage and, no matter how you slice it, the human sexual urge remains a dramatic force which—in addition to inspiring readers, playwrights, and librettists—scores strongest when it can take the reader or audience by surprise. Oddly enough, while those Americans who take great pride in the fact that they have "enquiring minds" can never seem to get enough of sadistic parents who keep mongoloid children locked up in rat-infested cellars (or suburban housewives who claim to have been impregnated by illegal aliens from distant solar systems), the raw passions, perverse ironies, and sexual truths of our daily lives are frequently much too realistic for them to handle.

That's basically why so many people walked out on Stephen Sondheim's *Follies* when it first appeared on Broadway. Why did such supposedly sophisticated audiences similarly squirm in their seats during two recent productions of contemporary operas by American composers? The answer is simple: These people were unable to confront boldly theatrical depictions of extramarital sex, older women getting fucked by young leather studs (the stuff of which so many wet dreams are made), and the glaring tragedy of a young, unmarried, and supposedly innocent girl experiencing a self-induced miscarriage in the snow.

What were they hoping for? Mary Poppins?

I'M JUST A GIGOLO

With their hearts and minds solidly entrenched in Bible Belt morality, it hardly comes as any surprise that so many subscribers to the Opera Theatre of St. Louis were offended by the company's phenomenally successful staging of Samuel Barber's *Vanessa,* an event timed to celebrate the 30th anniversary of this beautiful opera's world premiere. For this landmark production, OTSL's director, Graham Vick, updated *Vanessa* to the period of its composition, thus transforming Anatol into a young rebel following in the footsteps of James Dean while clothing the title character in outrageous Life magazine fashions which quickly gained the envy of every gay man in the audience. After experiencing Vanessa within the intimate confines of the 950-seat Loretto-Hilton Theatre with its thrust stage and three-quarter-round seating, it is difficult for me to imagine how the opera could have stood a chance in the vast reaches of the old Metropolitan Opera House, where it received its world premiere on Jan. 15, 1958.

Vick's reinterpretation of an all too sadly neglected opera, by one of America's greatest composers, scored strongly with those who appreciate the artistic value of good opera theater backed by solid production values. With the exception of one or two gratuitous touches (Did we really need that flashback to a group of tired old men dressed in lederhosen who were dancing a Tyrolean laendler?), the directorial concept crystallized the difference in ages and sexual morals between the opera's main characters, while the production's costume designs heightened the clash between generations. Kevin Rupnik's fashions (as well as his superb unit set) made Barber's opera a much more accessible and dramatically valid experience than it must have been in its original production.

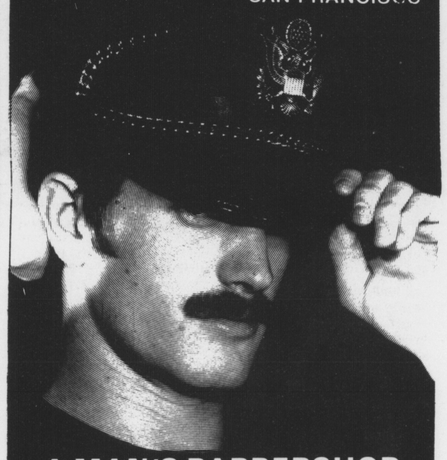
Strong cameos were etched by Elaine Bonazzi as the old Baroness, Richard Stillwell as the Old Doctor, and Michael MacMurray as the Majordomo, while Joseph Rescigno's forceful conducting and Peter Kaczorowski's sensitive lighting helped convey the delicate mood changes which occur so frequently during Barber's score. In many ways, OTSL's production made one feel as if *Vanessa* could well be the operatic equivalent of Joe Orton's *Entertaining Mister Sloane.* Although John David De Haan's Anatol who, shortly after his entrance, suggestively palmed his thighs (stopping within a hair's breadth of cupping his groin) was appropriately youthful, rambunctious, and sexually menacing, it was the two lead sopranos who really ran off with the show.

As Erika, Susan Graham scored one of those phenomenal debuts which rockets a young singer's career into the stratosphere. With a magnificent command of her character in terms of acting, singing and, most importantly, diction, Graham's performance had "A Star Is Born" written all over it. As her aunt Vanessa (a fading aristocratic beauty whose blindingly girlish affection for the son of her former lover prevents her from ever facing love's bitter truths), Patricia Wells—especially when decked out in Rupnik's more outrageous fashions—cut an extremely theatrical figure onstage. Perhaps a bit less vocally sure of herself than Graham (and forced to embody a decidedly less sympathetic character) the soprano was nevertheless a consummate performer, capturing the bitter irony of Vanessa's love and articulating it brilliantly in musical terms.

Incidentally, if OTSL's General Director, Charles MacKay, ever gets desperate for money, he might consider holding a pre-Halloween fundraiser in a St. Louis leather bar. The auctioneer could easily begin by offering up John David De Haan's boots, chaps, chains, epaulets, and

(Continued on page 67)

MALE IMAGE
SAN FRANCISCO



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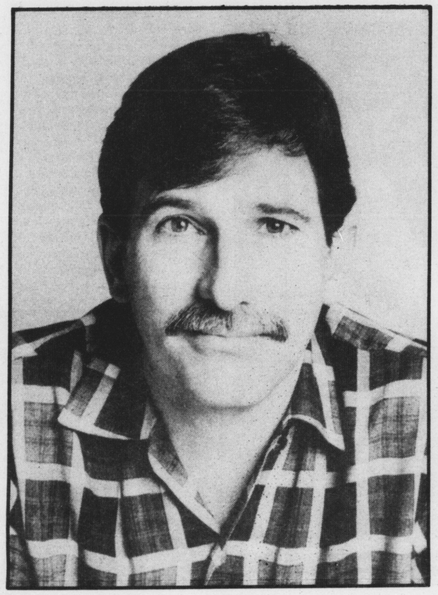
BOOKS

Ice Cold Undercurrent

Nebraska
by George Whitmore;
Grove Press; 153 pages; $15.95

by Paul Reed



George Whitmore, author of *Nebraska*

Nebraska's story begins when the novel's narrator, 12-year-old Craig, is struck by a delivery truck and loses his leg. It's all downhill from there. This poor boy stuck in a tiny town in Nebraska in the 1950s is more or less made an invalid, and from that vantage point we observe the rather mundane comings-and-goings of his family members—including his beloved and much-admired Uncle Wayne, just returned from the Navy, discharged, we come to learn, dishonorably for homosexual conduct.

When news of Uncle Wayne's far-flung homosexuality eventually reaches this isolated Nebraska town, there's quite a stir, including—suddenly—worries that the poor crippled boy (who has spent so much time being attended by Uncle Wayne) may have suffered molestation at the hands of his uncle.

In an effectively chilling scene, young Craig is interrogated by the local judge, eventually forcing Craig to confess, mistakenly, that yes, Uncle Wayne has touched him "down there." The ensuing turmoil lands the now obviously perverted Uncle Wayne in the loony bin, where elctro-shock treatments boil his brain down to basics, to a juvenile mentality.

Years pass, and Craig endures all manner of troubles, including being kidnapped and beaten nearly to death by his own father —rather a stretch of troubles, it seems . . . this poor kid is so battered by life in this book that we eventually lose sympathy. But this scene, of an abusive father who is abusive in the true sense of the word, provides a stark contrast to the supposed "crime" of Uncle Wayne's molestation, real or not.

Finally, Craig, now an adult, sets out for California to see how Uncle Wayne is doing, which is when we discover what the psychiatric treatment did to him. And that is when Craig realizes the shameful role he played in the condemnation of Uncle Wayne, condemnation that sent Uncle Wayne to the asylum.

As the novel closes, we're left with a poignant sense of futility, a feeling of true exhaustion at the sheer volume of misery protrayed in these short 153 pages, as well as a sad understanding of the tragedy America has created in its atrocious intolerance.

Technically speaking, this novel is sound. Whitmore is an accomplished writer credited with one other novel, *The Confessions of Danny Slocum*, several news features on AIDS for the New York Times, and a nonfiction collection of those Times pieces on AIDS to be published next month under the title *Someone Was Here.*

The novel's major flaw is in the development of its narrative voice. The narrative is rendered in the vernacular of a midwestern youngster of the 1950s, which does not make for easy reading with its run-on sentences and lousy grammar, but does evoke a time, place, and character with exceptional clarity. But as the story progresses—and as the young narrator becomes a fully grown man—this narrative vernacular remains unchanged, where, as a reflection of growth and inevitable change, it should have matured, smoothed, outgrown its childish conventions.

For this we fault the author, for the work would have achieved a subtle power had the narrative voice distanced itself from its youthful origins. The chasm between the narrator's mature viewpoint and the tragic imbecility of his uncle's final situation could have thus been rendered shockingly.

In sum, this is not an easy novel to read, to understand, to digest. There's no warmth here. ●

Courage, Caring and Hope

Epidemic of Courage: Facing AIDS in America
by Lon G. Nungesser
St. Martin's, paperback, $7.95 (Stonewall Inn Edition)

by Frank Howell

So much of what we hear about AIDS is a non-stop downer: death, pain, sorrow. But there is another side that displays courage, extraordinary caring, and hope.

Lon Nungesser, who suffers from AIDS, is the author of *Homosexual Acts, Actors, and Identities* and has graduated from Stanford's Psychology Honors Program.

He has brought us face-to-face with the gut-level power of AIDS by talking with a memorable collection of human beings caught in the giant maw of an unseen killer. Some are patients on the hospital ward, others are fighters against the disease. But they are all people of courage.

We meet four AIDS patients. Arthur is a dynamic fighter who is undaunted by his condition. Lance left Cleveland for San Francisco when the local doctors rendered poor service. Bob believes that "AIDS is the gay community's way of being recognized, a protest to being closeted." Finally there is Dan, who continues to have sex with his lover via condoms and who still holds a positive attitude toward his sexuality.

The interview techniques employed by Nungesser grind into our patience at times, since the same questions are repeated endlessly with each interview. But the cumulative effect is potent. Our feelings are drawn out. We care about these people.

We meet people who are extremely interesting. Here are some of them:

- Mark, who talks candidly about sharing intimate emotions (physical affection included) with other males without being sexual;
- Jerry, the brother of a deceased AIDS victim. He is delightfully candid about his disgust for family members who refuse to deal with AIDS on any level;
- Lu, a psychotherapist in the Castro District and a close friend of Gary Walsh, another gay therapist and AIDS victim who encountered Jerry Falwell on a TV talk show.

Armistead Maupin also appears in the book. He believes "Sex was a source of enormous pleasure and comfort . . . that it is no substitute for true affection and love, but could go hand-in-hand with it or be completely separate from it and still be fun."

We also meet Linda, who is a counselor for patients on Ward 5B. She is loving and perceptive about gay men and life in the hospital bed. Linda is especially upset about self-appointed preachers who secretly invade the AIDS ward and rave at the patients and urge them to abandon their lifestyles.

Epidemic of Courage is refreshing and gives us a badly needed antidote to the sense of futility and rage that lies buried within each of us. But time alone will provide the ultimate test of AIDS and how it affects the future of the human race. ●

The Dawn of an Enlightened Era?

When AIDS Comes to Church
by William Amos, Jr.; Westminster Press; paperback; $9.95

by Frank Howell

"There are no throwaway people in the economy of God."

AIDS is so easy to talk about in the abstract. But when we are confronted with it face-to-face, a new dimension enters our lives. We will then realize how fragile human life is. We all feel so terribly vulnerable and helpless in the face of this newest nightmare.

Among many people, this leads to irrational fears and hysteria. Instead of the American public working together to defeat the common enemy, we turn on each other like wolves, in a morass of sexual fascism and breast-beating, exclaiming, "I'm holier than thou!" Some unfortunates are totally rejected by family and friends. Where do they turn to for help, for housing, for medical care?

Frequently the only resource is the local minister. (Far too often, even *they* reject AIDS victims!) Amos, pastor of the First Baptist Church, Plantation, Florida, faces the dilemmas that engulf AIDS families. He relates his experiences with such patients in his congregation and outlines how he learned to cope.

Amos refuses to become bogged down in endless theological arguments about how sexual behavior leads to AIDS and whether or not disease is God's punishment.

He offered support groups, arranged housing, assisted with funeral arrangements, provided medical information, comforted, and counseled.

Much good effort can be sabotaged by those obsessed with visions of heaven and hell. Amos relates the depressing tale of one mother who visited her son each day in the hospital for the purpose of warning him that he must repent and give up his lifestyle or hell would be his destination.

One controversial issue involves whether the funeral for an AIDS patient should be held in a gay-oriented church, such as Metropolitan Community Church, or in a more traditional setting. Amos advises that a minister must tread cautiously in this area and respect the wishes of the family and the dying person.

Hopefully, more churches and pastors will be sensitive to the views of William Amos as the AIDS epidemic continues to ravage the world. Certainly the country has no further use for prophets of doom who hover over a gravesite, eagerly keeping score. ●

Tsvetaeva

(Continued from page 64)

Bolsheviks. It was a reign of extended terror which pervaded the lives of the entire populace. In art, because of the strangling dictates of the reigning policy of Socialist Realism, it forbade any true expression of individualism and stifled experimentation.

Tsvetaeva escaped first to Prague and then to Paris. In each, she was part of an emigre circle of Russian artists. Her life in both places was a combination of struggle to sustain her family and to create. The latter often lost. She had her admirers and her enemies, the former sincerely devoted to her art, the latter often created by the political differences that kept rifts among the exiled Russians.

She is now considered high in the canon of Russian writers of our century. ●

George Heymont

(Continued from page 65)

leather jacket for bids before raising the stakes and moving on to the starkly dramatic ensembles which Rupkin designed for his heroine. Every queen in the audience swore he'd give his eye teeth for Vanessa's Act II ball gown.

MALE CALL

Ever since its 1982 world premiere at the Opera Theatre of St. Louis, I have been a strong fan of Stephen Paulus's *The Postman Always Rings Twice.* Unlike John Adams' *Nixon In China*—whose initial success was bolstered by the fact that its composer's first opera had been co-produced by the Houston Grand Opera, Brooklyn Academy of Music, Kennedy Center for the Arts, and Brussels' Theatre de la Monnaie and was subsequently booked for further performances by the Edinburgh Festival and Los Angeles Music Center Opera Company—Paulus' opera has received separate and unrelated productions from the Fort Worth Opera, Minnesota Opera, and Miami Opera.

That's easier said than done, and not only because of the finances involved. Whenever they choose to produce *Postman,* impresarios take a calculated risk due to the opera's graphic depictions of sex between the two protagonists. Although, when the Minnesota Opera produced *Postman* I was more shocked by the blazing ineptitude of Stephen Wadsworth's stage direction, audiences in St. Paul were genuinely scandalized by the sight of Frank and Cora fucking on the kitchen table.

In March, Miami's operagoers were similarly shocked and titillated by *The Postman Always Rings Twice.* Sheila Porter tells me that on opening night the rate at which the elderly couple sitting beside her downed their chocolates kept acclerating each time Frank and Cora got close to doing "the dirty deed." During that evening's intermission I overheard one woman insist that "Whoever decided to make this into an opera is sick. Do you hear me, Esther? I said *sick!*" And then, at the second performance, in that tender dramatic moment as the baritone lifted the soprano into his arms and carried her off toward the bedroom, a woman seated midway between myself and the composer gasped, "Oy, vey. She's no lightweight!"

Nevertheless, the Greater Miami Opera's production (which used the sets designed by Jesse Hollis for the Fort Worth Opera) once again proved the dramatic and musical viability of Stephen Paulus' second opera. Gerald Freeman directed the work quite effectively, while Richard Buckley did his best to coax Miami Opera's orchestra into the mood of the piece. Although Catherine Lamy's Cora was a more intensely sexual animal than Pamela South's, most people will agree that South—whose characterization really taps into Cora's bitterness—does a much better job of singing the role. Timothy Nolen's craggy features may have brought a more drifter-like image to Frank, but Nick Karousatos' diction and singing proved to be much clearer, an important element in any English-language opera.

Although it has yet to be recorded, Paulus' grandly lyrical score is filled with music which begs to be sung. In 1989, *The Postman Always Rings Twice* will be presented at the Kennedy Center by the Washington Opera, a fact which says a lot about the work's musical strength, dramatic appeal, and basic marketability. Performance dates are on Jan. 21, 24, 26, 30, Feb. 3, 5, and, as far as I'm concerned, anyone who claims to be a serious opera queen should make it his business to be there. ●

March Video Nominated For Best Camerawork

Part of the USA!, the official video of the March on Washington for Lesbian and Gay Rights, was nominated for Best Camerawork in the News/documentary category of the International Teleproduction Society's (ITS) Monitor Awards. The program was selected as one of the five finalists from over 80 submitted in this category.

Part of the USA! was produced by Washington, D.C.-based Girard Video. Camerapersons working on the project include Jacques Girard, Estel Dillon, and Wally Pfister. "We are very honored to have been nominated for this award. This recognition will help bring attention to important issues such as AIDS and human rights," said Jacques Girard, president.

The Monitor Awards is the most prestigious competition for programs produced on video tape. The International Teleproduction Society is an association of video production facilities from all over the world.

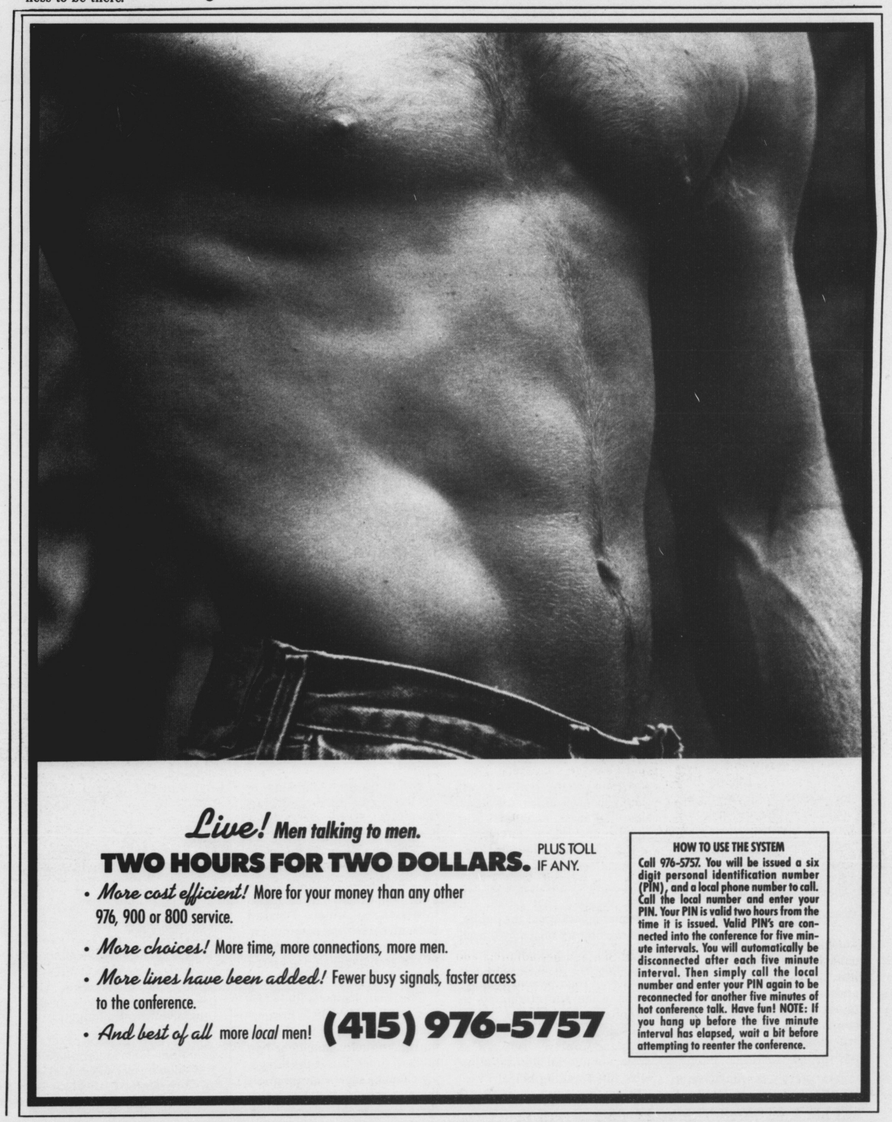
Part of the USA! is available for $24.95 from Girard Video, Box 2000, National Press Building, Washington, D.C. 20045 or call (800) 346-5746. In the Washington, D.C. area call (202) 662-7363. ●

Bean Announces New Interracial Newsletter

Thom Bean, a past chairman of Black and White Men Together (BWMT) and a San Francisco community activist has announced a new, national newsletter for gay men interested in interracial and cross-cultural relationships.

The newsletter, called the Quarterly Interchange, will provide a national forum for men of different racial, ethnic and cultural backgrounds who want to meet. In addition to ad listings, Q.I. will accept contributions—especially having to do with the interracial experience—and print other materials of interest to its readership.

For more information, contact: Quarterly Interchange, P.O. Box 42502, San Francisco, CA 94101. ●



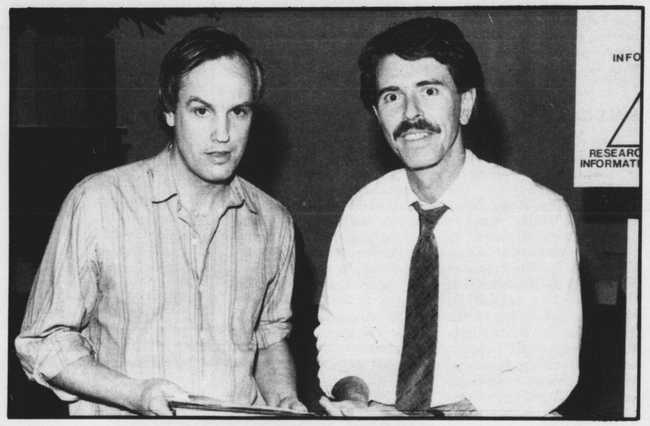
RIGHTFULLY PROUD
JUNE 26 1988

BOOKS

Advice Into Action

Strategies for Survival: A Gay Men's Health Manual for the Age of AIDS
by Martin Delaney and Peter Goldblum, with Joseph Brewer
St. Martin's Press; $10.95

by Marv. Shaw



Martin Delaney and Joe Brewer. (Photo: S. Savage)

Never before have gay men been so conscious of their total health, never before so frightened of that health being violated. The dreadful irony that their sexual liberation contributed to a decimating epidemic has sent thousands into shock. The fright, the shock, and the mysteries of AIDS have bred denial, evasion, desperation, and depression.

All along, the terrible need has been for a comprehensive, practical, positive, no-nonsense volume of instruction that will tell gay men everything they need to know and do in a way that is clear, forceful – and reinforcing of their identities. With *Strategies*, we have it.

These three authorities have laid out a plan which covers the essentials of knowledge and action, from a holistic concept of health through sexual practices, handling stress, substance abuse, social support, excercise and nutrition, and the psychological and political struggles vital to sustaining life. Martin Delaney's background as an organizational and educational consultant to corporations has sharpened his AIDS-activist role as informant, guide, and promoter. Peter Goldblum's and Joseph Brewer's experience in gay psychotherapy has conditioned the presentation effectively for gay men.

The really distinctive feature, however, is the required activity. The absorption of knowledge through reading, while necessary as a base, is often rather passive. These authors urge the reader into action. Appearing frequently are pages that require writing down personal inventory, activity evaluation, projection of life changes, and many more. Don't let the school workbook appearance put you off. These excercises are not mechanics; they are involving activity of a deeply personal kind.

Similarly, a repeated pattern keeps the participant organized for completeness and efficiency. The start is "Where Am I Now?", with the succeeding steps being "Where Do I Want To Be?" "How Am I Going To Get There?" and "Implementing the Plan." Chapter by chapter, the reader is energized by closely linked purposes.

Another reiterated idea is the maintenance of a positive gay identity and a strong gay lifestyle irrespective of the inroads of the disease and the hostility of the homophobes, who would drive us back into the closet and bolt the door. As a matter of fact, at times this repeated warning seems to take first place. While this transposition seems dubious, it must be remembered that the authors emphasize the health enhancing influence of a strong psychological stance.

There is a clear recognition of varying segments of the book's audience: the concerned well, the sero positives, and the patients with ARC or AIDS. Much of the advice applies equally to all three. In some sectors, however, differentiation should be more carefully made. For example, even though safe sex practices are spelled out and insisted upon, the sexual situations of the worried well and those with KS lesions are hardly the same.

A curious omission is the absence of the spiritual. Perhaps the authors consider what they advise psychologically is spiritual enough. Maybe their antagonism to religion precluded consideration of the spiritual in any respect. Still, there is a poignant sense of a resource overlooked.

Some examples are so exaggerated that they lose their effectiveness. For instance, on page 100 the one about Tillie, the once and future Empress, is idiotically gross. Also, the tacky slips into bitch language ("Just who do you think you are anyway, Bernice?") don't help.

But the above cavils aside, *Strategies* is an extraordinarily important book, particularly in its insistence on sensible individual action. ●

Wisdom and Love vs. the Plague

AIDS: The Ultimate Challenge
by Elisabeth Kubler-Ross; MacMillan; $17.95

by Marv. Shaw

"Ultimate" is the stunning key term. It is both a confrontation of the gargantuan, poisonous difficulties that the plague has brought us and the fantastically expanded opportunity to love that it is teaching us. In this, her ninth book since her pioneering *On Death and Dying*, Dr. Elisabeth Kubler-Ross looks unflinchingly at the hideous facts, both medical and social, and lays out details that dismay in their brutality. But she also relates glowingly the ways it has brought its victims and their care givers realizations of the infinite values of unconditional love.

The first realization of "ultimate," of course, is facing the inevitability of death from AIDS. Cancer, for whose victims Kubler-Ross first established her hospices, can now be cured in an increasing number of cases. But while there have been a very few wondrous cases of people surviving for years with AIDS, the almost inescapable demise for most makes us realize it is ultimate indeed.

Consequently, the diagnosis is the death sentence. The reactions of the victims are often the same as that series Kubler-Ross identified in *On Death and Dying:* denial and isolation, anger, bargaining, depression and acceptance. The patient works through the stages, though not always everyone or in that order. The multiple effects of AIDS and its seesaw patterns of recovery and relapse complicate the sequence.

"Ultimate" also means the effects of those not afflicted but related—for example, the parents of patients, who are often deeply shocked, sometimes alienated. The most innocent of the victims, the children, are in a sense, a hideous "last stop" in the headless rush of this plague.

Given the deadliness of the disease, the fear that raises, the abysmal ignorance of the public, and the bigotry raised by the association with gayness, it is no wonder that Kubler-Ross encountered such vehement opposition when she attempted to establish a hospice for AIDS-afflicted infants at her home in Highland County, Virginia. The defeat was a social ultimate of the most discouraging kind.

But a beautiful kind of inevitability gets equal attention from the author. After the nation viewed the hostile reactions of Kubler-Ross' Virginia neighbors, much support poured in through the mails, and volunteers appeared at her home. The doctor's workshops on death and dying for AIDS patients, their loved ones and care givers attracted ever more people. Gradually, places were found for the babies, where they could be given whatever might make their short lives decent.

For us, the gay community of the Bay Area, probably the most rewarding champters are those devoted to "Letting Go" and "The Birth of Support Systems." In these long, moving sections are the personal accounts of various patients and those who minister to them. Pulsing through each is the power of unconditional love and the evidence of self-acceptance and achieved serenity.

The final chapter is like a last hammer blow: "AIDS in Prison," a demonstration of apathy and outright cruelty unmatched in modern times. While the foregoing chapters show some progress, this closer reminds us how much there is yet to do. ●

Gay and Straight *Can* Unite to Fight AIDS

AIDS And The Church
by Earl E. Shelp & Ronald H. Sunderland

by Frank Howell

Epidemics and disease have long been used as an excuse to harass unpopular minority groups. The churches, unfortunately, have always been in the forefront of institutions that persecute gays. VD presents another sterling example of religious belief standing in the way of scientific advance.

Billy Graham, the ultimate 20th Century prophet of fundamentalist dogma opined, (1982) "We have the Pill. We have conquered venereal disease with penicillin. But then along comes Herpes Simplex II. Nature itself lashes back when we go against God."

Ronald Godwin, a mouthpiece for the Moral Majority, declared, (1983) "What I see is a commitment to spend our tax dollars on research to allow these diseased homosexuals to go back to their perverted practices without any standards of accountability."

Earl Shelp and Ronald Sunderland are determined to challenge this medieval thinking in Christianity by leading the movement among certain churches to openly minister to AIDS victims on hospital wards. They have worked at the Institute For Immunological Disorders in Houston, the only medical establishment to specialize in AIDS treatment. They have also coauthored *AIDS, A Manual For Pastoral Care.*

Shelp and Sunderland bring a practical sense of mission to their difficult task since working on AIDS wards. They provide several guidelines for dealing with AIDS patients:

- Courage and patience are necessary. Prejudice is high and ignorance is widespread. AIDS patients must be allowed into the church congregation and not segregated into hospital wards.
- One must adjust to working with the by-products of illness when people are not always able to care for themselves.
- Certain members of the congregation must adjust to life styles that are not familiar to them. There will be controversy over whether one is condoning the ways of gays or drug addicts.

(Continued on page 71)

Festival

(Continued from page 51)

AIDS patients and women at risk for AIDS, especially women of color. There's something everyone should see in the package, but the potpourri approach may make it hard to match the right viewer up with the right videos.

Two More About AIDS, Friday, 5 p.m., Roxie: Two AIDS-related videos of more general interest are being shown as a separate program, but people attending the symposium are free to stay for them. *AIDS: A Priest's Testament* is a moving look at New York's Father Bernard Lynch, who is openly critical of the Catholic church for interfering with his ministry to gays and PWAs. "AIDS will convert the church," he forecasts. "The church will be judged on AIDS . . . If I could take the Pope by the hand for one day. . . he would be converted." The Christ he represents shows through in this man's words and deeds. *Too Little, Too Late* focuses on the mothers of AIDS patients group that grew out of the San Diego AIDS Foundation and deals with families that have lost members to the disease. There are many tears shed, both on screen and in the audience. None are self-pitying tears, but tears of joy at the beautiful expressions of love and support. AIDS has brought out the best in a lot of people. *Too Little, Too Late* shows a little of that, hopefully not too late to inspire others.

'Oliver' in Nick Deocampo's *Revolutions Happen Like Refrains in a Song.*

Revolutions Happen Like Refrains In A Song, Friday, 7:30 p.m., Roxie: Nick Deocampo shows it's possible to do work of professional quality in Super 8mm with no budget to speak of. This last part of this trilogy about the Philippines picks up on Oliver, the drag queen of the first part, and the child prostitutes of the second, and carries them through the revolution. Much of the blame for their poverty is laid on the Marcos regime, but Deocampo admits things haven't improved a year after its ouster.

Lesbian TV Party II, Friday, 9:30 a.m., Roxie: Not that anyone cares what I think about this guaranteed sellout, but I enjoyed a lot of it. *The Bisexual Kingdom* could be the one to upset people this year, because it includes some male-female coupling. It's not very well acted and doesn't quite come off as a spoof of *Wild Kingdom,* but it's got some clever ideas, including a scene where pool players try to come up with a new slang term for women's masturbation. *It's a Lezzie Life: A Dyke-u-mentary* features better performances in its dyke-u-drama look at a day in the life of an almost politically correct lesbian household. In *Evolution of a Sex Life* a Catholic lesbian relates her sexual history against sometimes imaginative visuals. A radical lesbian tries to remake her mother in her own image in *Suburban Queen,* while *Don't Make Me Up* is not an answer to that but a protest against the exploitive images of women in the commercial media. *Iowa* of which Jean O'Leary is president. It should inspire more local It should inspire more local women to watch, if not play, rugby. *All Day Always* is a pleasant, not-ready-for-MTV video of a record by Diedre McCalla. *I Like Girls for Friends* might work if the sound were in synch with the visuals and some more appropriate music than "La Bamba" were played in the background.

Connisseur's Corner, Saturday, 12 noon, Roxie: Most of these six videos are for extremely specialized tastes. More than half the program is devoted to George Kuchar's *Video Album 5: The Thursday People,* which may appeal to the local filmmaker's cult and to his friends, most of whom appear in it. The central event is the death last year of Curt McDowell from AIDS. "He was like a James Broughton with snot in his nose," Kuchar eulogizes. There are two other AIDS memorials on the bill—*Requiem,* which takes a new age approach; and *A Plague Has Swept My City,* an angry poem. In *Hey Bud* a woman is both empowered and aroused by watching a male politician commit suicide on television. It's pure woman-video and I'll disqualify myself from criticizing it. *Scars* features three women and a man who are into "slashing" (self-mutilation) rapping about it. I told you this was for specialized tastes. For the arty crowd there's Gregory Battcock's essay on *Aesthetics and/or Transportation,* which I tuned out except for the cute young man keeping Battcock company in San Juan.

Two From *Six of Hearts,* Saturday, 2 p.m., Roxie: Paul Oremland's *Tall Dark Stranger* and *Andy the Furniture Maker* were unavailable for preview, but you can read the filmmaker's comments in the accompanying interview.

Stripped Bare: A Look At Erotic Dancers, Saturday, 4 p.m., Roxie: They should have allowed the rest of the day and night for the discussion period that follows this excellent documentary about the local sex industry, because some women refuse to acknowledge the right of other women to make politically incorrect use of their bodies. Several of the women who express job satisfaction are lesbian-identified, which will piss some people off even more. Try to keep an open mind and listen to an interesting point of view, even if you don't share it.

Three More For Women, Saturday, 5:30 p.m., Roxie: Save your anger from the last show and let it out here. *Lifetime Commitment: A Portrait of Karen Thompson* is, as the title says, Thompson's story of her legal battle to be with her disabled lover, Sharon Kowalski. She traces the history of their relationship and of the court case, including a warning to others in same-sex relationships about how to avoid what she's going through. *Doctors, Liars and Women* is a bit strident in the New York-feminist way, but shows how an instant coalition formed to "Say No to Cosmo" after a magazine article claimed women were at little risk for AIDS through heterosexual vaginal intercourse. *Kim* is a Puerto Rican lesbian in New York who's not ready for the lecture circuit and isn't helped by poor sound and sloppy, uncreative camerawork. That her charisma manages to transcend the technical mess bodes well if she wants to try for a screen career.

Split Britches, Saturday, 7:30 p.m., Roxie: I don't know how Emma Gay Gearhart and two of her nieces stood each other's craziness for the 17 years they lived together in a Virginia farmhouse. An hour of it was more than I could take, at least the way it's portrayed by Lois Weaver, another of Emma's nieces, and two other actresses. Imagine a surreal, feminist version of *The Waltons.* No, don't, it's too horrible. Of the two short videos on the program, the best thing about *76 Trombones* is that it only lasts three minutes. *Peccatum Mutum (The Silent Sin)* is a sensitive, erotic story of love between two nuns. I didn't care much for the experimental style in which it was filmed, but I liked the punk version of "The Lord's Prayer" behind the closing credits.

Sex And Drag And Rock And Roll, Saturday, 9:15 p.m., Roxie: Although I'm into two of the three elements in the title, I wasn't expecting to be crazy about this package. That's why I try to see everything—I'm always being surprised. The drag turns out to be the best part, in *If They'd Asked for a Lion Tamer,* one of the best items in the entire Festival. It's a profile of new wave drag queen Dave Dale, who performs original comic and musical material, including the best spoof of macho images since the

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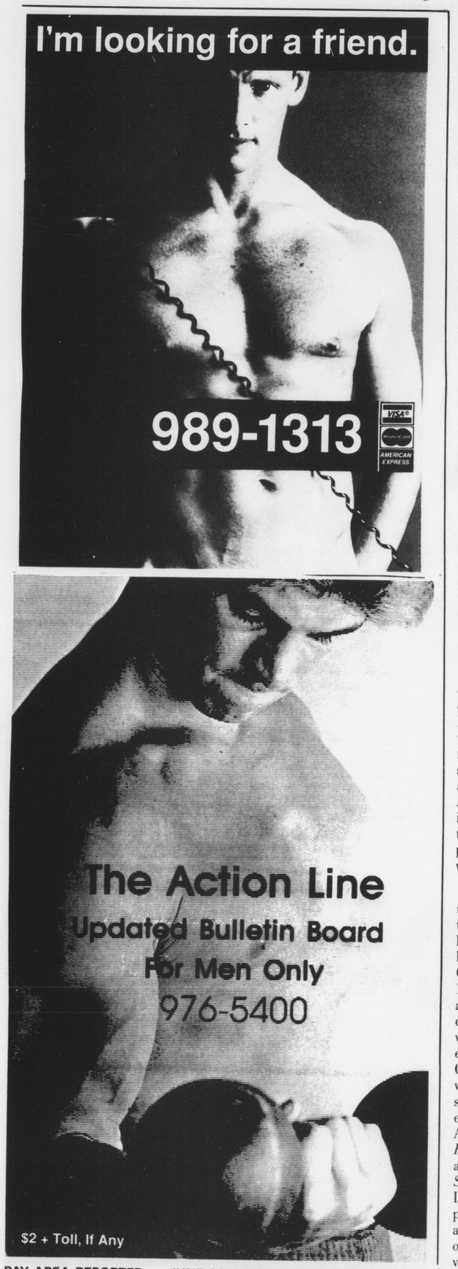

Festival

(Continued from previous page)

Village People, between segments of an interview in which he tells about his life and his sex life, and how hard it is for a drag queen to get laid. *Gentlemen* is one experimental work I liked, a collage of hypno-erotic images in a men's toilet. The John Sex tapes, *Undercover . . . Me!* and *The True Story* are exhibitionistic filler. *Now Playing* is nostalgia for the sexual '70s as a gay man revisits an old porn theater that now shows Hollywood classics. It provides the essential validation that the age of promiscuity did happen, it did feel good, we do miss it, and it is over. All this and Marilyn Monroe film clips, too.

A Queer Kind Of Film, Sunday, 5:30 p.m., Roxie: If these are the highlights of New York's First Lesbian and Gay Experimental Film Festival, I'm glad I didn't have to sit through the rest of it. Actually, I only saw about half of this assortment, and I didn't mind Abigail Child's *Covert Action* too much because I'd already seen two of her other films (including *Mayhem,* which is on the Saturday, 1 p.m. bill at the Castro). You have to see Child's work more than once to begin to make sense of it. She works largely with found footage and sound collages. If you love *Mayhem* you may like *Covert Action,* which isn't as good. In *Razor Head* a tattooed man has his head and body shaved as we watch through a dense filter of arty effects. The Festival's excerpts from *Homosexual Desire in Minnesota* should not leave anyone clamoring to see the rest. While I enjoy seeing other cities' gay pride celebrations for the sense of solidarity it engenders, this is home moviemaking at its worst. The other six items may be better, but I wouldn't rush over from the Civic Center to catch this show.

The War Widow, Sunday, 7:30 and 9:15 p.m., Roxie: The 12th San Francisco International Lesbian and Gay Film Festival ends on a high note with a much-requested, but not previously available, lesbian drama from the PBS *Visions* series. Directed by Paul Bogart, who will direct the film of *Torch Song Trilogy,* and written by Harvey Perr, who will attend the screenings, this is a highly romanticized tale of two women meeting and falling in love during World War I. Bored, lonely, wealthy Amy (Pamela Bellwood) has a husband away in Europe while Jenny (Frances Lee McCain) is a photographer, an Independent Woman whose spirit Amy admires long before she gives any thought to her body. What better way to top off the weekend than with a good old love-conquers-all story?

The Roxie's a lot smaller than the Castro, so get tickets early to avoid disappointment. The Festival box office is in Captain Video, 2358 Market. ●

Unite

(Continued from page 68)

• It is highly necessary that evangelical types of people be restricted from attempting to convert AIDS victims to their particular vision of Christianity. There have sometimes been problems with keeping unauthorized persons off the wards.

The authors emphasize that "Christian masochism" be kept under control. According to Dorothee Soelle, this term is intimately related to "theological sadism." The idea communicated to the patient on many levels is that God is punishing you for your irresponsible behavior and, therefore, you must learn to suffer. For example, the father of a 28-year-old dying man firmly believed that his son's fate was the will of God. The author's firm stand against this sort of thinking can be firmly applauded.

We as gays certainly cannot buy into the total system of ideology put out by the faith of our fathers. But Shelp and Sunderland demonstrate another significant way in whch gays and straights can merge on the gut issues that always seem to divide us. ●

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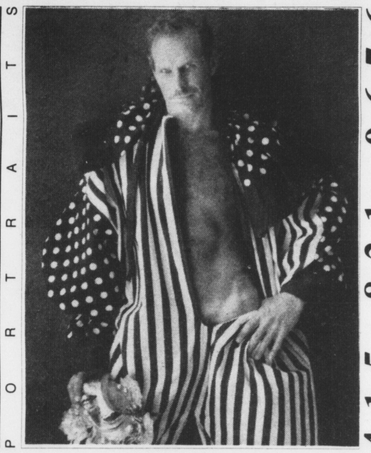

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Hunter Davis plays Olive Oil's June 26. (Photo: I. Young)

FRIDAY 24

- **S.F. International Lesbian & Gay Film Festival:** *A Queer Feeling When I Look at You: Hollywood Stars and Lesbian Spectatorship,* presentation with film clips by Andrea Weiss, 7 p.m., $5, Castro Theatre, 429 Castro St., S.F.; *Anguished Love* and *Automating,* 9:30 p.m., $5, Castro Theatre; AIDS Video Symposium including *AIDS: A Priest's Testament* and *Too Little, Too Late* (5 p.m., $3), 11 a.m.–7 p.m., $5, Roxie Cinema, 3117 16th St., S.F.; *Revolutions Happen Like Refrains in a Song,* 7:30 p.m., $5, Roxie Cinema; *Lesbian TV Party II,* 9:30 p.m., $5, Roxie Cinema.
- **Gay American Indians:** 13th anniversary celebration and benefit, Covered Wagon, 917 Folsom St., S.F., 7 p.m.–2 a.m., $5. With June and Jean Millington, 8 p.m.–midnight; no-host bar, potluck dinner. To benefit Gay American Indians, Indian AIDS Project, and American Indian Pathways. Call 621-3485 for more information.
- **The Truth Is Bad Enough:** one-man show with Michael Kearns, the Studio at Theatre Rhinoceros, 2926 16th St., S.F., 8:30 p.m., $8. The "happy hustler" faces alcoholism and sexual compulsion. Call 861-5079 for tickets.
- **In the Summer When It's Hot and Sticky:** stage performance, Theatre Rhinoceros, 2926 16th St., S.F., 8 p.m., $12. A comic and unexpected circus of romance engulfs a young journalist when he spends an awakening summer at a seaside New Jersey resort; written by Doug Holsclaw and directed by Barbara Daoust. Call 861-5079 for tickets.
- **Puttin' on the Glitz:** featuring female impersonators and cabaret guys, Sutter's Mill, 77 Battery St., S.F., 9:30 p.m., $10, two-drink minimum. Call 788-8379 for reservations.
- **Code Blue:** dance party with DJ Dwana, Metropolis, 1484 Market St., S.F., dancing 'til 4 a.m., $5 members, $6 guests.
- **American Uniform Association:** uniform night, S.F. Eagle, 398 12th St., S.F., 9-11 p.m.
- **Ballroom and Latin Dance Party and Practice Session:** for lesbians and gay men, Jon Sims Center for the Performing Arts, 1519 Mission St., S.F., 9-11 p.m., $5 includes beverages. Call 995-4962 for more information.
- **Lesbian and Gay Families: Looking Ahead:** reception and dance honoring the panelists of the series of forums sponsored by Lyon-Martin Women's Health Services and the Lesbian Rights Project, First Congregational Church, 2501 Harrison St., Oakland, $10-$20 sliding scale (no one turned away for lack of funds).
- **Church of the Secret Gospel:** Friday night social, 746 Clementina St., Apt. 2, S.F., 9 p.m.–midnight. Call 621-1887 for more information.

SATURDAY 25

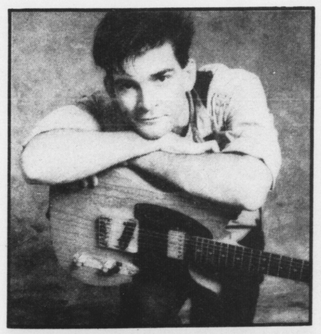
- **Comedy Extravaganza:** featuring members of Can't Keep a Straight Face (Tom Ammiano, Suzy Berger, Doug Holsclaw, Laurie Bushman, Kelly Kittell, Karen Ripley, and Jeanine Strobel), Victoria Theater, 16th and Mission streets, S.F., 8 p.m., tickets at Headlines and at the box office.
- **Physique '88:** second annual national gay and lesbian bodybuilding championships, Mission High School, 18th and Dolores streets, S.F., preliminaries 9 a.m. ($5 all seats), finals 7 p.m., $10-$15. Tickets at STBS, Women's Training Center, All American Boy, and BASS/Ticketmaster (including Headlines). Includes guest posers Kris Brooks, Ed Brown, and Team Sacramento. Sponsored by the Arcadia Bodybuilding Society.
- **Fantasy in White:** dance party, Code Blue at the Metropolis, 1484 Market St., S.F., $6 members, $7 guests. Call 979-5557 for more information.
- **S.F. International Lesbian & Gay Film Festival:** Sapphic Celluloid, 11:30 a.m., $3 (benefit for the Frameline Film Completion Fund), Castro Theatre, 429 Castro St., S.F.; Women's Shorts (including *Negative Man, Shell, Gab, Hazel's Photos, No No Nooky TV, Mayhem, Sometimes . . . A Poem,* and *Separate Skin,* 1 p.m., $3, Castro Theatre; James Broughton 75th Anniversary Tribute, 3 p.m., $3, Castro Theatre; *Wendel* and *Poetry for an Englishman,* 5 p.m., $5, Castro Theatre; *The Days of Greek Gods,* 7 p.m., $5, Castro Theatre; *The Virgin Machine* and *No No Nooky TV,* 9:30 p.m., $6; Connoisseur's Corner, noon, $3, Roxie Cinema, 3117 16th St., S.F.; Two From *Six of Hearts,* 2 p.m., $3, Roxie Cinema; *Stripped Bare: A Look at Erotic Dancers,* 4 p.m., $3, Roxie Cinema; *Lifetime Commitment: A Portrait of Karen Thompson,* 5:30 p.m., $3, Roxie Cinema; *Split Britches,* 7:30 p.m., $5; Sex and Drag and Rock'n'Roll, 9:15 p.m., $5, Roxie Cinema.
- **Puttin' on the Ritz:** fifth annual dance for women sponsored by Bay Area Career Women, Giftcenter Pavilion, 888 Brannan St., S.F., 8:30 p.m.–2 a.m., $25 members, $35 nonmembers. Tickets at BASS or by calling 495-5393; no refunds.
- **Parade Play:** leather and lingerie dance, Olive Oil's, Pier 50, China Basin, S.F., 8 p.m.–2 a.m., $7. Emcee International Ms. Leather Shan Carr, leather and lingerie fashion show, and erotic strip show. Presented by The Rack Productions.
- **Wild Fire Band:** country/western music and dancing, Turf Club, 22517 Mission Blvd., Hayward, 9 p.m., no cover. Also Sunday at 6 p.m.

Jeanie Tracy will play the Giftcenter June 26. (Photo: R. Pruzan)

- **In the Summer When It's Hot and Sticky:** stage performance, (see Friday listing for details).
- **The Truth Is Bad Enough:** one-man show with Michael Kearns (see Friday listing for details).
- **Puttin' on the Glitz:** featuring female impersonators and cabaret guys, 7:30 and 9:30 p.m. (see Friday listing for details).
- **Wayson Jones and Esex Hemphill:** reception for the poet-musicians, Walt Whitman Bookshop, 2319 Market St., S.F., 7 p.m., donation requested. Co-sponsored by Black and White Men Together.
- **Hunter Davis:** performance and album signing, Oberon Sounds, 584 Castro St., S.F., 4-6 p.m., free.
- **American Uniform Association:** dinner. Call 626-4594 for more information.
- **Names Project:** open house and book signing, 2362 Market St., S.F., 9 a.m.–9 p.m. Also June 26.
- **Girth and Mirth Club:** general membership meeting and BBQ. Call 820-2597 or 334-5971 for more information.
- **A Closer Look:** radio on KQED-FM, 88.5, 1:30 p.m. A live phone-in show with therapist Don Clark to commemorate the new edition of his book, *The New Loving Someone Gay.*
- **EastBay FrontRunners:** Lake Chabot run. Take I-580 East to 150th Avenue exit. Turn left at second traffic light onto Fairmont Drive. Continue over hill. Lake Chabot Marina entrance on left (parking fee); free parking on street. Meet at entrance to parking lot. Call 939-3579 or 261-3246 for more information.
- **S.F. Wrestling Club:** workout/open house/potluck, 11 a.m.–4 p.m. Call 821-9721 or 824-7915 for more information.
- **Partners (Scotch Pool):** tournament, Overpass, 482-A Hayes St., S.F., 8 p.m., $7 entry fee includes well drink, beer, or wine. Call 864-6672 for more information.
- **Lesbian and Gay Families: Looking Ahead:** one in a series of forums sponsored by Lyon-Martin Women's Health Services and the Lesbian Rights Project, First Congregation Church, 2501 Harrison St., Oakland, $10-$20 sliding scale (no one turned away for lack of funds).
- **Church of the Secret Gospel:** phallic fellowship, 746 Clementina St., Apt. 2, S.F., 10 p.m.–2 a.m. Call 621-1887 for more information.

SUNDAY 26

- **S.F. Lesbian & Gay Freedom Day Parade and Celebration:** This year's parade begins at Sanchez and Market at 11 a.m. and goes to the Civic Center.
- **Let's Dance:** gay day tea dance, Giftcenter Pavilion, 8th and Brannan streets, S.F., 4 p.m.–midnight, $12 in advance, $15 at the door. With Jeanie Tracy and DJ Mark Watkins. To benefit the AIDS Emergency Fund. Tickets at Headlines.
- **Gay Day Triple Play:** marathon dance party, Dreamland, 715 Harrison St., S.F., 1 p.m. 'til after hours, $15 in advance, $20 at the door. With Nia Peebles and DJs Michael Jorba, Steve Fabus, and Tom Johnson; BBQ. Tickets and BASS/Ticketmaster (including Headlines).
- **Rumors of the Big Wave:** featuring Charlie Murphy and Jami Sieber, Trocadero Transfer, 520 4th St., S.F., 10 p.m., cover.
- **Living Sober:** parade day dance, International Center Ballroom, 50 Oak St., S.F., 4-8 p.m., $6-$10 sliding scale. AA meeting 3-4 p.m.; childcare provided.
- **Gay Day Dance:** Code Blue 2, 16th and DeHaro streets, S.F., starting at 6 p.m., $5.
- **S.F. International Lesbian & Gay Film Festival:** A Queer Kind of Film, 5:30 p.m., $5; *The War Widow,* 7:30 and 9:15 p.m., $5, all at the Roxie Cinema, 3117 16th St., S.F.
- **Puttin' on the Glitz:** featuring female impersonators and cabaret guys, 7:30, 9:30, and 11:30 p.m. (see Friday listing for details).
- **Hunter Davis:** music, Olive Oil's, 295 China Basin Way, S.F., 4 p.m., $5.
- **An Evening With Noel and Cole:** featuring Katibelle Collins and Lauren Mayer, Galleon, 718 14th St., S.F., 8 p.m., $8.
- **David Canfield:** music, Galleon, 718 14th St., S.F., 5:30 p.m., $5.
- **Tom Ammiano and Robert Erickson:** comedy and music, Cafe Sn Marcos, 2367 Market St., S.F., 7:30 p.m., $6.
- **Brasilian Beat:** music, El Rio, 3158 Mission St., S.F., 4-8 p.m., $5.
- **Jones Street Follies:** female impersonation, Black Rose, 335 Jones St., S.F., shows 10 and 11 p.m., $2.
- **Before Stonewall: The Making of a Gay and Lesbian Community:** filmmakers Andrea Weiss and Greta Schiller will lecture and sign copies of their book based on the award-winning film, A Different Light, 489 Castro St., S.F., 7:30 p.m., free. Call 431-0891 for more information.
- **S.F. FrontRunners:** gay day run. Meet at McAllister and Polk at 10 a.m. for a 3.75-mile flat run along McAllister to Market, Kearny, Broadway, Polk, and back. Call 922-1435 or 821-3719 for more information.
- **S.F. Jacks:** post-parade J/O party, 890 Folsom St., S.F., doors open 3-7 p.m., $7.
- **Church of the Secret Gospel:** gay day open house, 746 Clementina St., Apt. 2, S.F., 2-6 p.m. and 8 p.m.–midnight. Call 621-1887 for more information.
- **San Francisco MCC;** worship service with Rabbi Yoel Kahn, 150 Eureka St., S.F., 7 p.m. Reception will follow. Call 863-4434 for more information.



Charlie Murphy and Rumors of the Big Wave play the Troc June 26. (Photo: I. Young)

MONDAY 27

- **Outlook:** join Pat Califia and Will Roscoe, contributors to the national lesbian and gay quarterly, Modern Times Bookstore, 968 Valencia St., S.F., 7:30 p.m.
- **Artists Against AIDS:** exhibition preview, Galleon, 718 14th St., S.F., 7-10 p.m.
- **MacGooch's Drive Thru Cabaret:** with Trisha Gooch and Joe Mac and guest Michael McShane, City Cabaret, 401 Mason St., S.F., 8 p.m., $10. Call 441-7787 for more information.
- **S.F. Spikes:** soccer practice, West Sunset Soccer Fields, Sunset Blvd., Noriega and 39th streets, S.F., 6 p.m. Call 821-4248 for more information.
- **Country and Western Dance Lessons:** Turf Club, 22517 Mission Blvd., Hayward, 7:30-9:30 p.m., free. Also Tuesday and Thursday.
- **Battle Fatigue:** support group for primary-care givers based on principals of attitudinal healing, Rest Stop, 134 Church St., S.F., 5-7 p.m. Call 621-REST for more information.

TUESDAY 28

- **Visions of the Spirit:** screening of the film portrait of author Alice Walker to benefit the Women's Building, Roxie Cinema, 3117 16th St., S.F., 7 and 9 p.m. Plus *Spirit to Spirit,* a film portrait of poet Nikki Giovanni.
- **Bay Area Bisexual Network:** social/discussion, Women's Building, 3543 18th St., S.F., 7:30-9:45 p.m., $2 members, $4 nonmembers. Call 552-5553 for more information.
- **In the Spotlight:** show, B Street, 236 S. B St., San Mateo, 9:30 p.m.–12:30 a.m. The bar provides musical backing tracks and words to all the songs, and you supply the voice to receive a free cassette recording of your performance.
- **Gus Gustavson:** music, Piano Zinc, 708 14th St., S.F., 8:30 p.m.

WEDNESDAY 29

- **Renee Hicks, Karen Ripley, Marilyn Pittman, and Steve Bruner:** comedy, El Rio, 3158 Mission St., S.F., 8-10 p.m., $4 cover; one-drink minimum.
- **Puttin' on the Glitz:** featuring female impersonators and cabaret guys, 9:30 and 11:30 p.m. (see Friday listing for details).
- **Dick Fregulia:** music, Piano Zinc, 708 14th St., S.F., 8:30 p.m.

THURSDAY 30

- **Over Our Heads:** comedy, Palms Playhouse, 726 Road 103, Davis, 8 p.m., $6.
- **An Evening of Performance:** with Ken Dixon, Vicki Dello Joio, and Susan Dambroff, Modern Times Bookstore, 968 Valencia St., S.F., 7:30 p.m., $4-$6 sliding scale.
- **Feathers and Flesh:** show, N'Touch, 1548 Polk St., S.F., 9 p.m., cover.
- **Puttin' on the Glitz:** with female impersonators and cabaret guys, 9:30 and 11:30 p.m. (see Friday listing for details).
- **Estelle Freedman:** author of *Intimate Matters: A History of Sexuality in America,* will speak, Old Wives Tales, 1009 Valencia St., S.F., 7:30 p.m., free.
- **Frameline Presents:** television on cable channel 25, check TV listings for time. With *Testing the Limits* and *Malaysian Series, Parts 1-5.*
- **Electric City:** television on cable channel 6, 9 p.m., featuring Jesse Jackson, Maud's 22nd anniversary, Miss Gay Universe, Gay American Indians, Golden Gate Wrestling with Deena Jones, NAMBLA, and highlights of the Gay Pride Parade.
- **Community Action Network:** television on cable channel 6, 8:30 p.m. Highlights of the Gay Pride Parade will be featured.
- **San Francisco FrontRunners:** run. Meet at McLaren Lodge in Golden Gate Park at 6:30 p.m. Call 922-1435 or 821-3719 for more information.
- **Prostitute Women and AIDS:** public meeting coordinated by the U.S. Prostitutes Collective, S.F. Community College, 33 Gough St., S.F., 7 p.m. Call 558-9628 for child care and more information.

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

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3 EXTRA PERFORMANCES!
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By Doug Holsclaw
Directed by Barbara Daoust
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Must Close Sat., June 25
Theatre Rhinoceros, 2926 16th Street, S.F.

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MUST CLOSE JULY 10!

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—Robert Julian, *Sentinel*

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We need your help with our feeding and community center programs for homeless gays and lesbians. Please support our membership drive. Regular Membership $12, Sustaining $25, Supporting $50, Sponsor $100. Tax-deductible. Gay Rescue Mission, 1080 Folsom, S.F. 94103, 863-4882. Volunteer operated. No slushy expense accounts or plush offices.

GAY FREEDOM DAY
Post Parade Party
A Jack-Off party sponsored by SF Jacks & 890 Folsom

Sunday, June 26
890 Folsom (at 5th)
$7.00 Doors open 3-7 pm.
Bring your own beer in cans. Out-of-town visitors welcome.

This is **guaranteed** to be THE hottest J/O party of the year. Last year we saw hundreds of men, with high spirits and hard dicks, work themselves into a group frenzy. Lots of joyful sex celebration of our gay holiday.

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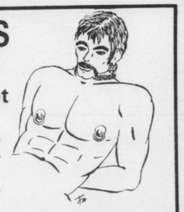


Friday, June 24, 1988
Piercing Clinic at Image Leather
2199 Market St., 4 p.m. to 9 p.m.
Privacy assured.
Call Bob at 621-7551
for appointment.

Saturday, June 25, 1988
Piercing Clinic at Mr. S Leather
227 7th St., noon to 5 p.m.
Privacy assured.
Call Colt at 863-7764
for appointment.

Mr. Marcus

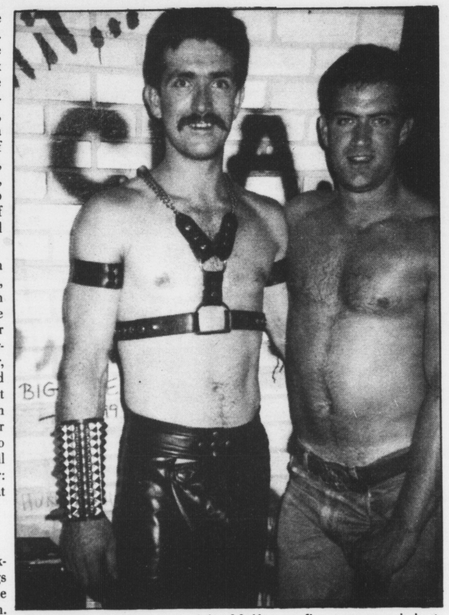
Tidbits & Chunks For All You Hunks

The fourth heat in the marathon search for Mr. Powerhouse took place last Thursday night. Some six contestants tromped to the stage for the judging in leather, attitude, imagination, personality, etc. After all, who wants a titleholder without a sense of humor? It's alright to look hot, sexy, unobtainable, and butch, but personality has a lot to do with it, and last week's crop of contestants were possessed of all those things.

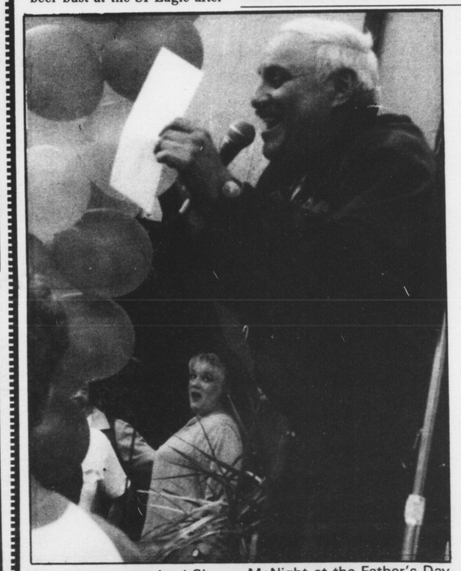
In the end, 25-year-old Don Killam took the winning cash, and will participate along with the other previous winners in the finals, which are scheduled for Thursday, June 30. The runner-up last week was Joe McKeever, who displayed a lot of charm and charisma, besides being a hot man. Joe will also participate in the finals. The ultimate winner will receive a trip for two to Hawaii, and the runner-up will get $200 in cash. Remember: Thursday, June 30, 2200 hours at the Powerhouse!

★ ★ ★

It's Gay Pride Parade weekend. There are so many things going on, you will have a nice array of things to choose from. Friends for Friends is having a beer bust at the SF-Eagle after the parade, but the highlight of the afternoon will be Sharon McNight auctioning off some dozen or so framed and matted (by Grant Minnix) photographs in black and white of former Intl. Mr. Leather Colt Thomas. The celebrated photographer Jim Wigler created this stunning array, each of which was sponsored by a leather daddy selected by John Janesco. In addition, these portraits are available in card sets or individually, and will be on sale by the AIDS Emergency Fund that day. The first six will be auctioned off at 1600 hours and the second set will be auctioned off at 1700. They're autographed by both Colt and Jim, and are one-time, one-of-a-kind, so hasten to get one for your collection. The cards and card sets will be available all over town, including Mercury Mail Order, Mister S. Products (in their new location on 14th & Folsom), Folsom Gulch Bookstore, and in No. and So. America as well as all the ships at sea!



Don Killam (l.), winner, and Joe McKeever, first runnerup, in last week's heat of the Mr. Powerhouse contest. (Photo: Marcus)



Mr. Marcus surprised Sharon McNight at the Father's Day auction at the Eagle. (Photo: S. Martin)

★ ★ ★

Last weekend was fun. The Pilsner Inn hosted a huge crowd almost all day Saturday, at a benefit to help raise money for the Pilsner Penguins to travel to Toronto for the Canada Cup. I asked the astrologer there what my chances were to become the next empress of San Francisco, and she told me Pat Montclaire has it in the bag, so not to bother! I asked about Phoebe Planters' chances, and she said it would be a close vote, as in tight! Time will tell. What would they do if there was a tie?

The GDIs took a huge chunk of the population with them on their annual weekend run, "Jailhouse Rock." The theme proved to be popular, and in the bike club cognoscenti they're already whispering that the GDIs will be strong contenders for accolades at the Motorcycle Awards next year. Everyone had such a good time I couldn't get any dish about who won what or who the new Miss GDI is because they all came back too late for my deadline Monday morning.

The Godfather Service Fund and the AIDS Emergency Fund party and auction at the SF-Eagle was fun. Lots of tourists were in town already for the week-long Gay Pride activities. Hordes of people descended on the Castro for the film festival, and the local pigs had field days all weekend.

★ ★ ★

Lots of benefits, allegedly for AIDS causes. The world's tallest 13-year-old girl, Tatiana, is rightfully proud to announce that as of this date a total of $4,339.25 (to the penny!) has been raised for various AIDS charities with those first Saturday night drag shows at Kimo's. A lot of our drag entertainers put in a lot of time and effort to make them successes, and that's what we like—success!

I would be remiss in my responsibilities to report the news, and therefore it saddens me to see people raising money for AIDS agencies and the agencies never see the money. Right now, Face to Face in Sonoma is somewhat upset that they still have not received a penny from one group up there who advertised 'way back in January that their outdoor weekend in mud was for Face to Face. Some seasoned men into kink, S&M, and other sexual proclivities were turned off by some of the things that took place at that event, but figuring it was for charity went along with it very, very reluctantly. If you advertise a benefit for AIDS or any other worthy cause, the money should go there, or an accounting of why it's not should be forthcoming. We don't need rip-offs in the name of charity that benefit only the producers. That's called fraud—and betraying your gay brothers and sisters to boot. Who needs it?

★ ★ ★

This weekend, a myriad of activities to help celebrate gay pride. Some of you might want to consider: A flawless art show for connoisseurs of erotic art opened last Tuesday at My Place on Folsom. His works will hang until July 4, but I urge you to get down there and check it out. His name is Cirby and his illustrations remind you of A. Jay, Etienne, and Tom Of Finland all in one. You get the impression you've seen it all before at first, but after careful inspection you can see who inspired Cirby. His interpretations are unique, stunning, and exciting. Don't miss this one!

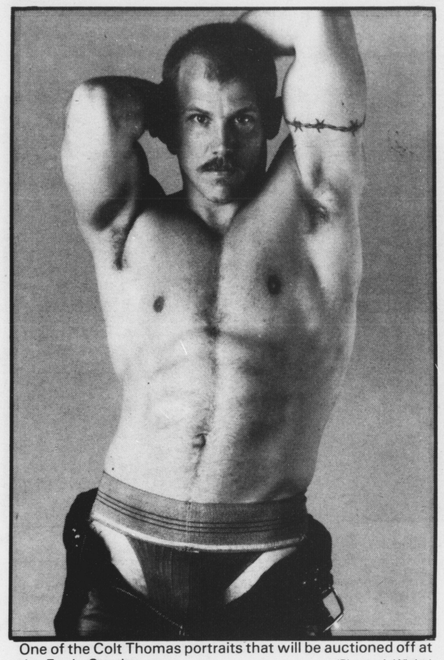
The Bay Area Brigade of the American Uniform Assn. convenes here this weekend, hosting a series of events Friday at the Eagle from 2100-2300; there will also be a uniform dinner on Saturday, so call 626-4594 for details and location. The AUA's midsummer muster will be the Fourth of July weekend, so call the same number for details.

Jim Ward of the Gauntlet in LA blew into town last night and will be holding clinics at Image Leathers from 1600 to 2100 on Friday, and from noon to 1700 on Saturday. Call Mark at 621-6294 for more info. If you just can't wait to get pierced (upper or lower), in between Ward's monthly visits, Colt Thomas at Mister S is adept at piercing too, so give him a call.

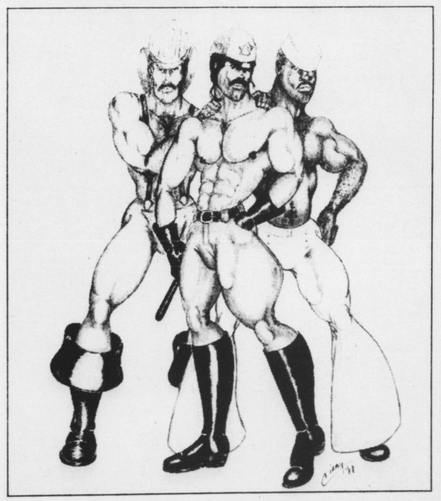
Friday is the premiere party for yet another disco group at 32 9th St. (by Don Spradlin) called Club 900. Admission is $5 with invitation, or $10 otherwise.

Saturday night, the Arcadia Bodybuilding Society has Physique '88 at Mission High School at 1900 hours for ducats from $10 to $15. You can beat that price if you go to the preliminaries at 0900 that morning for only $5.

(Continued on next page)



One of the Colt Thomas portraits that will be auctioned off at the Eagle Sunday. (Photo: J. Wigler)



Ratcliff's Fantasy by Cirby.

THE SOCIAL EVENT FOR LEATHER WOMEN
THE RACK
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Saturday, June 25
FASHION SHOW
EROTIC STRIP SHOW
DANCING ALL EVENING
MC: SHAN CARR, INT'L MS LEATHER
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4TH ANNIVERSARY
FOR 1808 CLUB
AS A LEADER IN
SAFE-SEX PROMOTION
SAT., JUNE 25
8:00 PM
PARADE
RECEPTION
WILL FOLLOW
SUNDAY EVENING
STARTING AT 6:00 PM
SUNDAY,
GAY PRIDE DAY
Valid members patronizing 1808 Club on Gay Pride Weekend (Sat & Sun) will receive a free day pass valid for 30 days.
1808 MARKET ST. (AT OCTAVIA), SAN FRANCISCO

Marcus

(Continued from previous page)

Saturday night Tom Ammiano joins with Suzy Berger, Karen Ripley, Kelly Kittell, and others for a comedy extravaganza at the Victoria Theater for $10 in advance, or $12 at the door. Laugh yourself silly the night before the parade!

Also Saturday night the COITS celebrate their 25th at 240 Golden Gate Ave. ($10 adv.–$12 door), with Bob Cramer III and Char XIII MCing. You can dance to the divine, divine City Swing with the fabulous Gail Wilson. Wear what you want unless you run for Ms. Cotillion there; that demands drag, you know.

Friday night, Tatiana presents a "special" show at the Mother-lode Bar with Sissy Spaceout, Ms Gay California Eva, and a host of others. Lots of entertainment at Esta Noche on 16th Street too, so don't stay home and mope!

Sunday, after the parade, there will be disco parties galore and celebrating in all quarters. Jeanie Tracy will perform at the B.A.R.'s "Let's Dance" party at the Giftcenter Pavilion ($12 adv.–$15 door) for the AIDS Emergency Fund; Trocadero Transfer's 10th Annual Gay Pride Tea Dance ($7 members/$10 gen.adm.); Dreamland Productions' Gay Day Triple Play featuring Nia Pebbles ($15 adv.–$20 door), and a barbecue in the new patio there from 1300 until after hours on Monday! Sanford Kellman's slaves didn't tell me the details, but that hot man from Bronski Beat will be in town at the Music Hall on Larkin. Bernard Jay, formerly Divine's manager, will also be in town. Hi Flame. Remember when Bernard brought Sir Michael Redgrave to your coronation night?

The Eaglettes (David, Terry, and Blair) at the Cal Eagle MC run last week.

There's a whole lot of other things going on, too numerous to mention here, but don't stay home! Celebrate gay pride this weekend. Be proud.

DOT, DOT, DOT DISH!

Heaven forbid! I forgot to mention that barrister Walter Kaplan celebrated his 40th birthday on June 2 and had a nice soiree at MEN headquarters up there in Diamond Heights. Where else for a jewel like Walter!?

Hordes of dudes and dudettes springing for Hawaii this season. Danny Rodrigues of the Powerhouse, always the proper one, went with his latest "squeeze" and the in-laws! While Danny has a natural tan anyway, after his return he looked absolutely "exotic," but we've been through all this before, huh Danny? Steve Iacovino and his squeeze David Morris also traveled to the islands, where on the second day Steve broke his toe and was hobbling among the corals on crutches! Tsk-Tsk, all this and heaven too.

If you're aching to see the video of Intl. Mr. Leather's 10th Anniversary extravaganza, the heads at M.E.N. Video say the one-hour tape will be ready any day now, and you'll be the first to know; it will probably premiere at the SF-Eagle, so watch for announcements.

And what is Mike Polansky doing, trying to sell a new manual entitled "How To Manage A Bay" by Terry Thompson!?!: "Sit on a bar stool with two packs of ciggies and a tall cocktail and give Stella hell all night!" I don't believe it! Hey, they're having a Queen of the Universe pageant at Esta Noche Sunday, July 17, with cash prizes and a trophy. Too bad Joanna Caron isn't here.

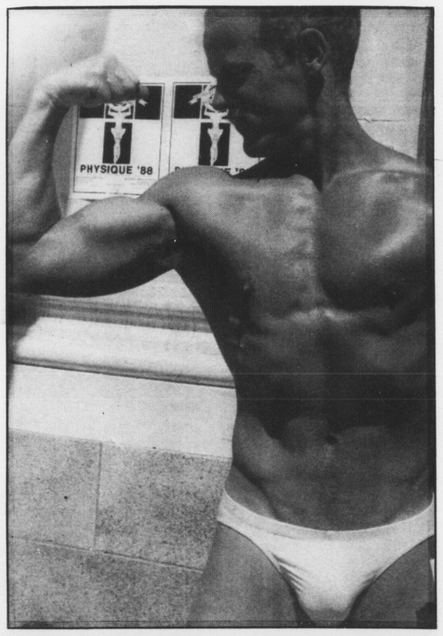
Hey! They raised $7,500 at the SF-Eagle Sunday for the Godfather Service Fund and the AIDS Emergency Fund. A dinner with Sharon McNight went for $450 alone. Sharon and Irene entertained (not together). It was very festive and profitable—a suitable opening for Gay Pride Week as 200 balloons wafted away at the close of the benefit. Many thanks to everyone who participated.

'Til next week then, keep you legs crossed, stay out of the bushes, and wear your rubbers. See you in the parade, and around the campus!

P.S.: Happy Birthday to Mark "Bubbles" Abramson and Rita Rockett, celebrating together at the Transfer Friday night from 2000 hours 'til everyone drops! ●

Mr. S Moves

Mr. S Leathers opened its new location, at 1779 Folsom St. (at 14th), June 21. The phone number (863-7764) remains the same. Alan Selby says to watch for a grand opening sale. ●



Physique '88 happens June 25. (Photo: S. Martin)

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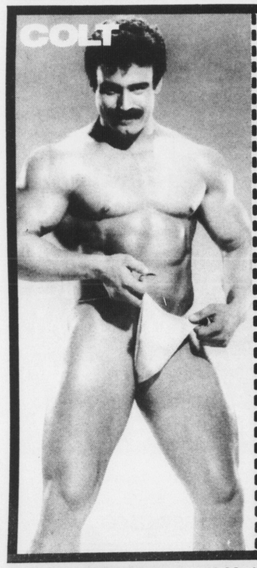

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Sweet Lips

Welcome To Gay Pride Week!

Wayne Friday, Jay Noonan, and yours truly had a great trip to Portland for the 80th Annual Rose Festival. It was fabulous! Of course my publisher, Bob Ross, surprised me and was in Portland when we arrived. He was a perfect host.

My thanks to all the wonderful people who entertained us, especially the Embers/Avenue Bar, The Dirty Duck Lounge, and of course Ray's Ordinary Bar and Grille with the wonderful Lynn Bumpus, aka Lucy. And thanks to Denis Gartner of the Hair Directors for the buffet, drinks, and the great viewing stand for the parade. We'll see you all again for the Coronation in October.

Tuesday the 5th of July is the next Tavern Guild meeting to be held at the popular Mother Lode Bar on Post and Larkin streets at 1 p.m., so come and join in the festivities.

Incidentally, Ginger's Too on beautiful downtown Sixth Street will be serving brunch cooked by Beverly on Monday the 4th of July, so come down and join us for a fantastic brunch.

I would like to welcome all out-of-town visitors to our city for Gay Pride Week, and hope you enjoy yourselves, meet interesting people, and return home with good vibes.

Congratulations to the COITS on their 25th anniversary. You have done a lot for the city while having a good time, and I wish you many more years.

What is this I hear that Rhonda Mae and C.T. are going on People's Court to settle their dispute? This should be interesting to watch.

What is this dirt I hear about going on at the Watering Hole? I must find out more.

Yes, Molly Brown's at The River is still one of the most popular bars to go to when visiting, and they serve a wicked hamburger. Hi Charlie.

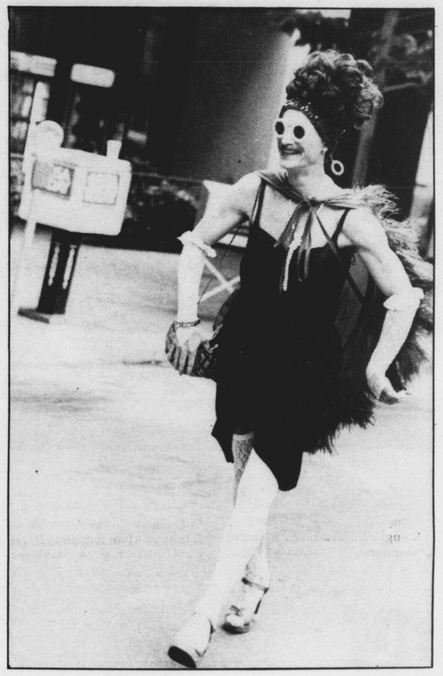
The Gate at Pine and Jones reopens its dining room with Paul in the Kitchen Sunday the 26th with brunch and dinners Tuesday through Saturdays, so remember the dates and give them a try.

Don't forget *Puttin' On The Glitz* is still playing to full houses at Sutter's Mill's showroom at 77 Battery St. Don't miss it, because it is very entertaining.

Yes, Frumpy of Alameda County is still alive and living in Portland and sends his best to all, except me.

Flash: Closet Ball 1988 will be held Saturday the 27th of August at 8 p.m. at the Giftcenter Pavilion, 9th and Brannan streets. For tickets, etc., call 771-5023. And yes, Bob Cramer is in charge of the production.

The Bay Area Reporter is having a Gay Day Tea Dance Party Sunday the 26th from 4 till midnight at the Giftcenter Pavilion featuring Jeanie Tracy, so don't miss this fun event that day.



(Photo: PhotoGraphics/Darlene)

The one and only Cha Cha of softball fame arrives from Houston for two weeks (ugh) on the 23rd. Saturday the 25th the Kokpit at 301 Turk St. is having a party for him hosted by the Queen Mother of All California Ms. Greta Grass from 1 till 5 p.m., so don't miss this one.

Had a nice letter from Virginia, aka John Kehr, and he is happily living back home in Ohio and sends greetings to all, especially Art York.

The Giraffe on Polk Street still has some of the hottest customers in town, and of course one of the bartenders isn't too bad. Yes, I do mean you, Billy. The videos shown there are really outstanding.

Thanks Rey of My Place for the kind words the other day, and you are looking hotter than ever.

Yes, Dolly Dale is back at work at the Polk Gulch Saloon, so Jesse can relax knowing things will again run smoothly, right John?

Hope you all enjoy the Gay Freedom Day Parade and have a safe, sane 4th of July. Enjoy your friends.

Listen, Mike Dooley of the White Swallow on Polk Street, how come I haven't seen you since the Coronation? I hope you enjoyed your vacation to Florida.

Remember to give to the Godfather Service Fund and to the AIDS Emergency Fund, two great groups that are doing a lot for our brothers and sisters in need.

Welcome to Sandra Dee, aka Sandy Director, the Honorary Mayor of Portland, and I hope you enjoyed riding in the parade.

Ginger's Too opens for brunch at 9 a.m. on Parade Day! ●

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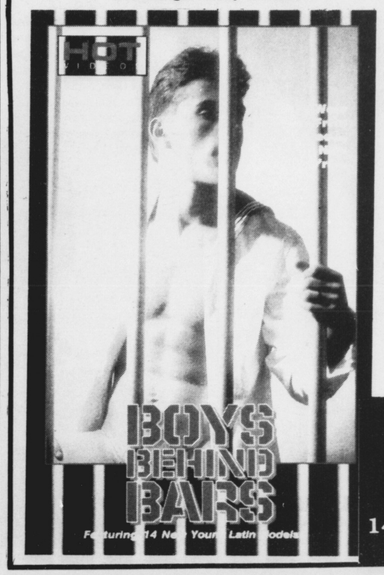

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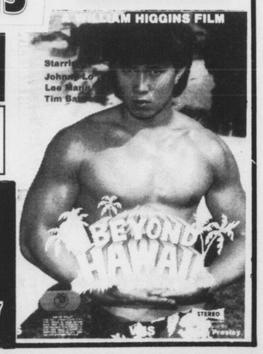


RIGHTFULLY PROUD
JUNE 26 1988

Have You Driven a Ford Lately?

Porno Star Leo Ford Turns Tour Guide in Hawaii

by Will Snyder

Leo Ford at dockside.

Leo Ford. If you follow the world of pornographic movies, the name Leo Ford is one that has meant (and still does) gratification. See Leo and Lance do it, and you will, too. One look at that muscular body, that blond hair, that multi-inch... etc., etc., etc.

Leo Ford.

Rent out Leo Ford for the best in cinematic enjoyment.

You can still rent out Leo Ford in Hawaii. But you won't get groans or moans. You'll still get some great scenery. But it will be on a boat, not a bed.

Ford is living in Honolulu and doing quite well, thank you. He's toned down appearances in porn opuses while toning the tan on his well-muscled body. Along with his lover, Craig Markle, Leo is running a tour guide/recreational business that, in his words, is "booming."

The company is called Pacific Paradise Tours. For prices ranging from $25 up to $150, PPT activities include sightseeing and snorkeling cruises ($45), sunset sightseeing cruises ($30), parasailing ($45), glider rides ($50), horseback riding ($49.95), skydiving ($150), and adventure hikes ($25-$65).

That's a pretty busy schedule of events for anyone, but the 30-year-old Ford grinned and said, "We can handle it. Business has been so good that we're going to be buying one more boat in July."

The story behind how Ford and Markle put together what is now a six-month-old, thriving business is an interesting one. It began in Germany.

"Craig and I were on vacation in Germany, staying on a lake there," Ford remembered. "Craig said something like, 'Leo, why don't we buy a boat?' "

That was the kernel which was planted in Ford's memory bank. The next action took place later, when Ford was in Chicago en route to Los Angeles. "I missed the flight to L.A.," Ford said, "and the airline told me I could catch a flight to Honolulu at no extra cost, and then, later on in the same day, transfer out to L.A."

Talk about a roundabout route. From Deutschland to the Windy City to Paradise, and then back to the mainland... and then, finally, back to Paradise. But there was Leo, taking in temporary tropical rays and talking with Richard Minnick, owner of Hotel Honolulu, a gay hotel near the small gay "strip" near Waikiki.

"I remembered what Craig had said in Germany," said Ford, "and then, all of a sudden, the idea of a tour/snorkel type of business came to mind. Richard said, 'I'll supply the boat,' and that was the start of it all."

The new business seems to offer Ford a complete change of pace from the porn business that made him famous. He said he wouldn't rule out doing more porn ("I did a film last year in New Zealand"), but his focus is much different now.

"I am totally happy out here," he said. "I feel I can make it here. I came to Hawaii to get away from the drugs and the bad influences and the talk about me."

Ford explained that the "talk" about him concerned apparently widespread rumors that he had contracted AIDS. Nothing could be further from the truth, he insisted. "I feel great, and I do not have AIDS."

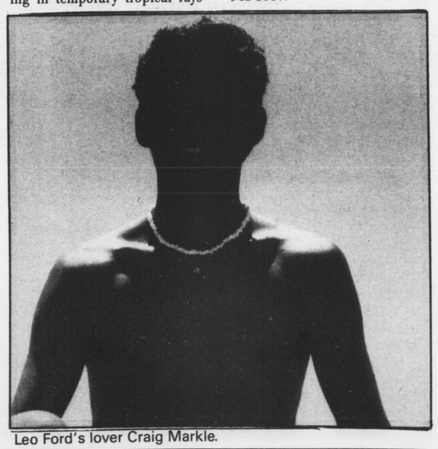
The thing that bugged him about the rumors was the sense of how they spread. "The people who spread the rumors knew people I had worked with in the movies," said Ford, "and they heard things that weren't true and just started talking about me."

That kind of atmosphere helped make it easy for Ford and Markle to seek a new home. Most people don't like living in a vindictive environment.

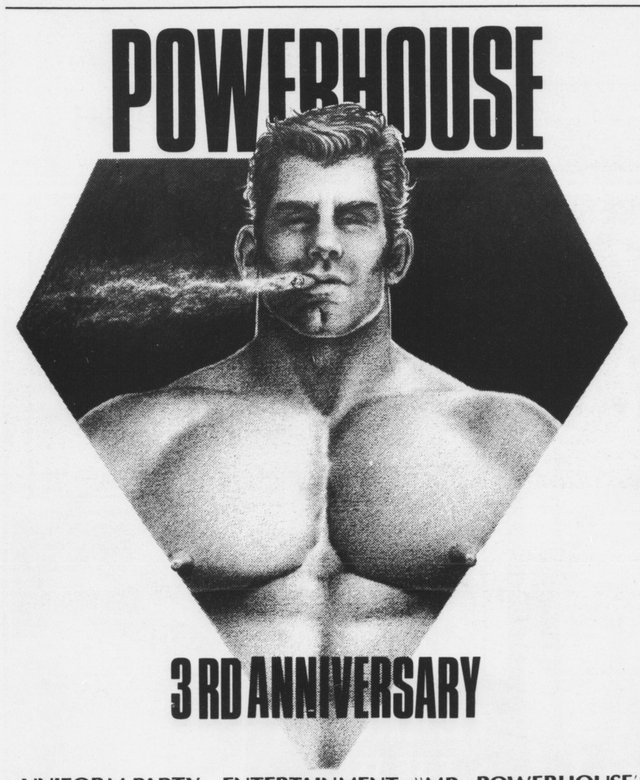
And if one is seeking a different environment, what better place than Hawaii? There's sun. There's sand. There are mai tais.

And if you like tours or snorkeling or skydiving, there's Leo. Have you driven a Ford lately?

For more information about Pacific Paradise Tours, call (808) 941-8687. ●



Leo Ford's lover Craig Markle.



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TUES. JUNE 28th
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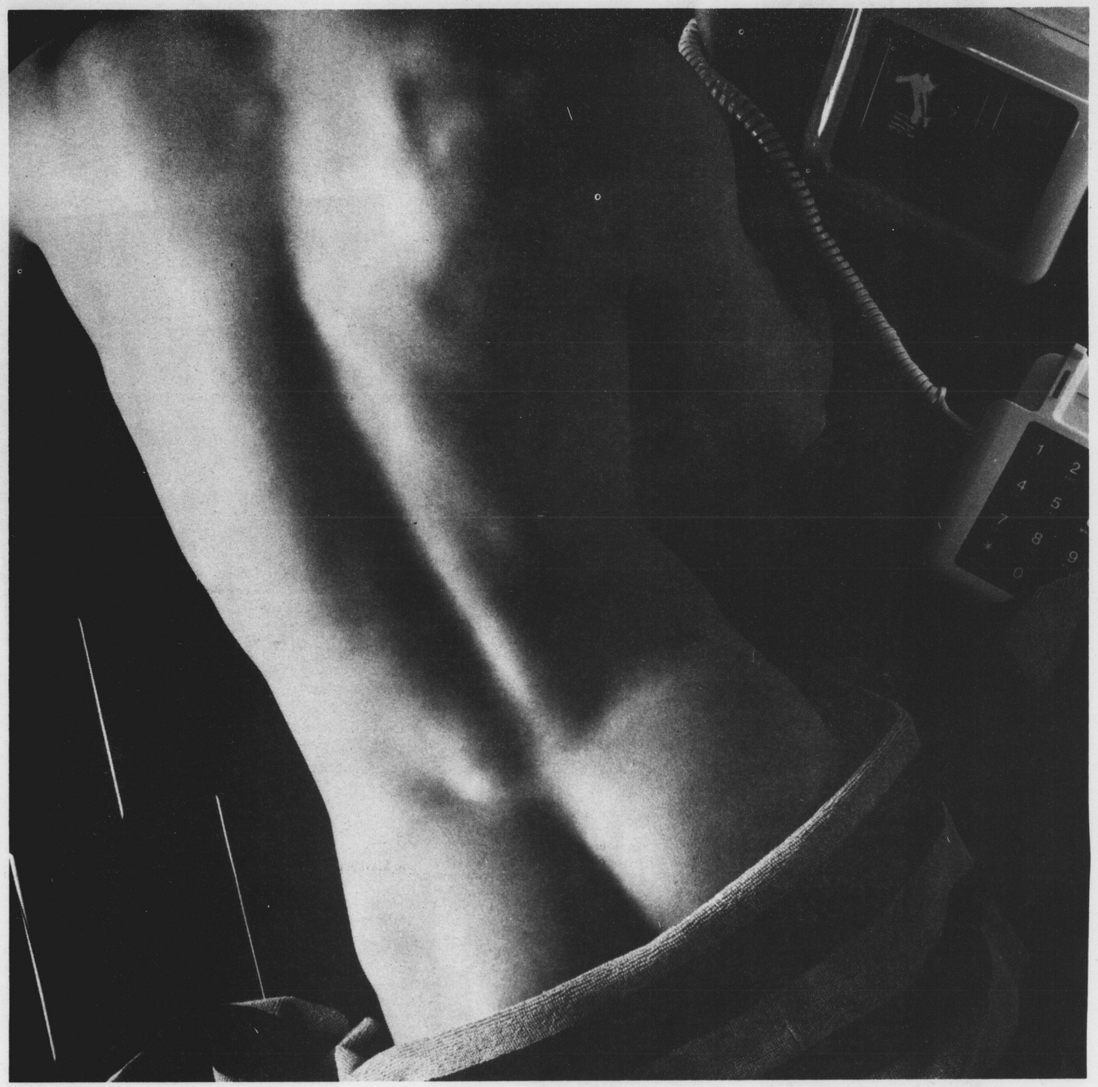
ENTERTAINMENT
WED. JUNE 29th
8:30

"MR. POWERHOUSE"
FINALS: THURS JUNE 30th
8:30



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RIGHTFULLY PROUD JUNE 26 1988

A Dark, Secluded Place

Travelin' Man Wooly Discovers Hernando's and Wolf

by Bob Woolhouse

I used to think that it was just a Broadway song and dance number:

"I know a dark, secluded place,
A place where no one knows your face.
A glass of wine; a fast embrace.
It's called Hernando's Hideaway. Olé."

But Hernando's exists today—not in the Mission district of San Francisco, but in the Torremolinos section of Costa Del Sol.

It was Saturday night in that Spanish resort city. I had checked out all the Spartacus listings, only to find that every gay bar was closed, empty, straightened out, or just nonexistent.

Suddenly, what to my wondering eyes did appear but Mr. All-American Boy sporting white levi cutoffs and a sweatshirt stenciled, "California Colege Restling"—exactly like that. He ambled across the plaza and entered a tunnel beneath the shopping mall. Like Orpheus in the Underworld, he paused and looked back before disappearing.

Intellectual curiosity demanded that I investigate. Walking through the tunnel, I came across two doors opposite each other. One read, "Women's Bar—Recommended by M. Navritalova." The other said, "Hernando's—A Hideaway Bar for Men." Not being a tennis buff, it was an easy decision.

Hernando's door was a cast-iron job with a one-way peephole, like a Prohibition era speakeasy. Just then it swung open, allowing two men to leave. I approached the hunky bouncer, smiled, and simply said, "Castro Street." That seemed to be the right password, rather than something like "Open Sesame Street."

He ushered me into the inner sanctum, locking the door behind us. I wanted to ask where the safe-deposit boxes were.

The place was not so much a gay bar as a gay walk-in closet. A five-stool bar took up two walls of the room. Twelve chairs with tray-like arms for drinks lined the remaining walls. In the center, a young man discoed alone. He had to. There wasn't space for two people to dance at the same time. "Take a number at the bar?" I wondered.

Occasionally during the disco music, the sound of a guitar playing "The Third Man Theme" broke in. It came from a video game that was programmed to go off and draw attention to itself when not in use. This was the only time in recording history that a tale from the Vienna woods drowned out Tina Turner.

Old world charm was provided by the lavatory. It featured two footprints in cement and a strategically placed hole in the floor. When the john door opened, it revealed all things to all people.

Two women customers seemed to take a dim view of this arrangement. Occasionally they would leave the premises and return a few minutes later to join their male friends. Presumably they were using the facilities of the women's bar across the tunnel. Maybe that's what Martina's recommendation was all about.

With some maneuvering, I got a seat next to Mr. All-American Boy. Noting that the bar was decorated with flags from all of Western Europe plus Brazil, Canada, and Japan, I asked the bartender why no United States flag.

In all earnestness, he replied, "We have the English flag, so everything is okay, yes?" Apparently news of the American revolution had not yet permeated to southern Spain.

Turning to the man I had followed, I said, "No American flag. How about that?"

"Nein. Das ist nicht gut," he responded.

Well, so much for the all-American boy theory. And that explains the sweatshirt spelling.

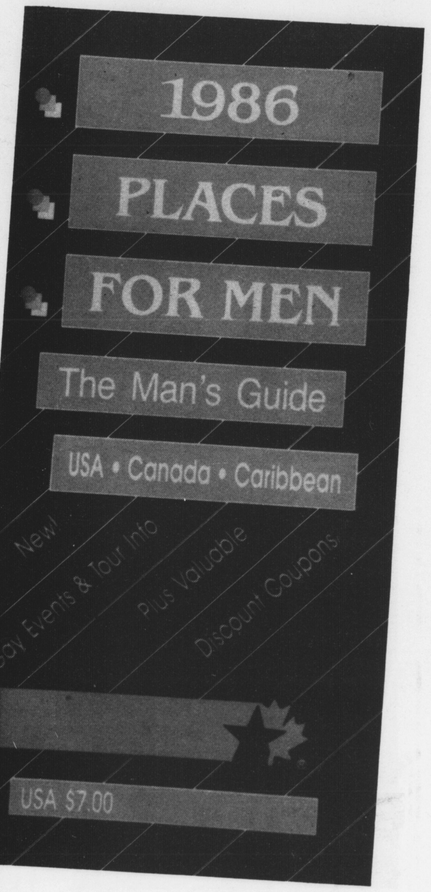
He introduced himself as Wolf. I was going to say that I was "Fox," but thought better of it. We started playing "getting to know you," he in his phrasebook English, me in my high school German.

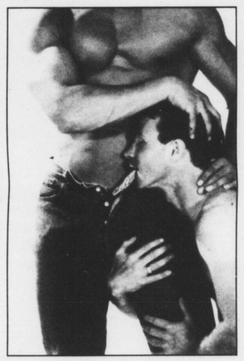
Haltingly, he asked me what part of Great Britain I was from.

"Huh?"

"London, maybe?"

(Continued on page 82)





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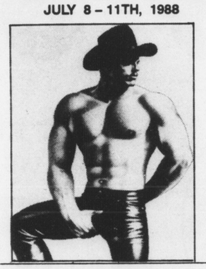

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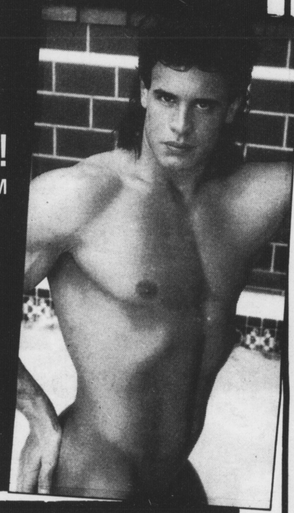

GIANT 12-HOUR VIDEO GARAGE SALE!
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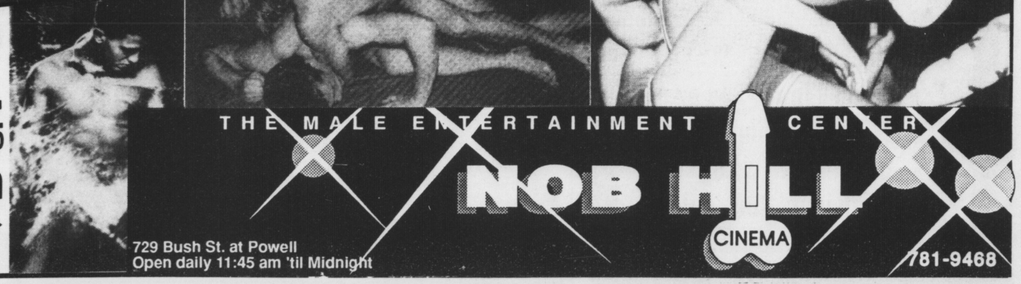

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Open daily 11:45 am 'til Midnight
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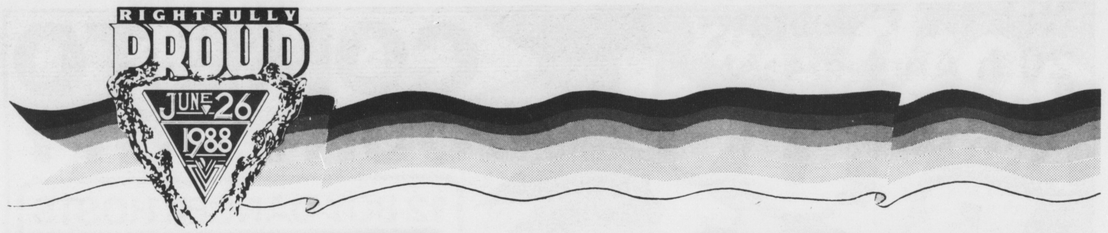

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& REOPENING PARTY
THE NEW

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4057 - 18th St.
sat. June 25
5 to 11pm
nibbles & wine
adult items for sale

Woolly

(Continued from page 80)

Imagine that. He could recognize the language, but not the country of origin. How grand, I thought, to have my Newark, N.J., voice mistaken for Buckingham Palace. Or did he mean sidewalk Piccadilly? Who could tell?

We continued along in this disjointed but friendly fashion. The payoff came when he wondered shyly, "Vould now hew like vis me for kafe to be aus goin'?"

"How's that again?" He repeated the question in even more complex phrasing. Apparently Wolf had memorized most of the right words, but had no idea of how to string them together.

But who could refuse an invitation like that? Besides, what an opportunity to learn more German and help him with English syntax. So off we went for coffee and. . .

During the rest of the night, I must say, he didn't accomplish much in the way of irregular verbs or correct sentence structure. But we did cover virtually an entire semester of "California Colege Restling" instead.

Next morning we exchanged addresses, promising to write in each other's language, since we had cut the grammar lesson. Then we went our individual ways, he to the Algarve of Portugal, me to the Casbah of Tangiers.

Auf wiedersehen, Wolf. Adios, Hernando. ●

BOB DAMRON'S

'85

ADDRESS BOOK

by

Unintentional Truth in Advertising And Other Signs of the Times

by Bob Woolhouse

Lost: Wayward Tom Cat and Lover to Match. Vote for the Candidate of My Choice. Save 20 Percent at Discount Discotheque. Designer Garage Sale of Plumbing Supplies. Gay Christian Fundamentalist Beer Bust. Summer Clearance of Easter Flowers. U.S. Out of North America.

These signs haven't appeared yet around here, but give them a little more time. Castro Street must be the sign capital of California. We have more ingenius messages per square inch than AT&T.

For instance, these actually have cropped up:

"For Sale—Castro Victorian With Pornographic View."

"For Lease—Commercial—Big White Erection on 18th Street."

"Attention! Trespassers Will Be Violated," on a Sanchez Street fence.

"Share the Ultimate S.F. Location—Overlooking 69 Uranus—Off Roosevelt Way."

Business signs having that grab-em-and-grope-em approach include:

"It's Not the Size. It's the Frequency," proclaimed an Upper Market billboard for an FM radio station.

"Nothing Sucks Like Electrolux" came later.

"The Best 12 Inches in S.F.," boasts a 15th Street record shop.

"Men's Briefs Half Off," shouts a neighborhood boutique.

"Castro Screw and Bolt Service" appeared near Church and Market.

"Musculation en Groupe" on Eureka Street turned out to be a massage parlor with classes for men.

For unintentional truth in advertising, the award goes to a Duboce corner eatery with its window sign, "Bacon and Egg and Funy Fish Sandwich." The fish was tuna. The taste was funny strange, as opposed to funny ha-ha.

Another kind of sign is the headline.

Remember when that aggressive discounter, the employer of many gays, advertised, "Shop at Brand X Store, Where People Slave"? One extra "L" makes a hell of a difference.

Then there was the cleaning company that quickly dropped "When It Comes to Service, We Stop at Nothing."

The Examiner runs, "Divorce for Men Only." How could that be for straight men? What would women get out of such a deal?

The unsung hero of headlines is that Chronicle writer with a vision all his own. During the Viet War, when Premier Nguyen Cao Ky controlled the movement of U.S. armed forces in his area, our man came up with "KY Permits Troops to Advance." He followed through with "KY Facilitates Marine Withdrawal." For those, he deserves a Cable Car Award.

All-time champ for message, visuals, and impact, however, has to be the S.F. AIDS Foundation poster, "Dress for the Occasion," featuring you-know-what. Fun signs come, and fun signs go, but this one should go on forever. ●

Nob Hill Celebrates 20th Anniversary

The Nob Hill Cinema celebrates it's 20th anniversary this Sunday (June 26) with a gala affair featuring non-stop onstage performers, a full bar and buffet and the hosts will be 12 of the meatpacker dancers who appear regularly at the Cinema.

A gay-scene fixture for many years, the Nob Hill opened in 1968 as a home for French films, and for a short while housed straight porno. It finally found its niche in the gay film field with the world premiere of the classic *Song of the Loon*. It has been operating continuously as a gay theater ever since.

Most of the now-classic gay porno epics opened at the Nob Hill including Casey Donovan's *Boys In The Sand*, the Gage brothers' famous *L.A. Tool and Die* and Bill Harrison's *Bijou*.

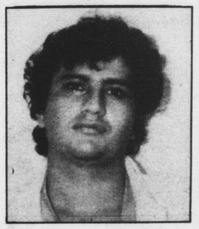
Many of the stars of these classics and other gay films and videos have appeared on stage during the past 15 years, including Casey Donovan, Jack Wrangler and Rick Donovan.

The theater was an extremely popular gathering place in the 1970s for much of the gay community and out-of-towners under the management of the late Clif Newman, who was the first to introduce live stage shows.

Following the opening of the Park theater in Los Angeles and the Park Miller in New York, the Nob Hill was the third cinema in the U.S. to offer a gay film program, considered daring at the time. The Nob Hill has survived those theaters both of which are closed, making it the oldest continually operating theater of its kind in the country. ●

Witness Sought

The Miami, Florida, police department is attempting to contact Hector Durango, whose nickname is "Sopita," a vital witness to a Miami murder. Mr. Durango, a Colombian national, is believed to be residing in the San Francisco area. He is described as being 25 years of age, 5'6", 150 lbs., brown eyes, and black hair. Mr. Durango's native language is Spanish; however, he is believed to speak some English.



Anyone recognizing Mr. Durango or knowing his whereabouts is asked to contact the Miami or San Francisco police or to assist Mr. Durango in doing so. In San Francisco, contact Inspector Ed Erdelatz of the Homicide Detail at 553-1148, nights 553-1071, or Detective Ray Nazario, Miami Police Department, (305) 547-7456. ●

CHICKENS • POLICEMEN • MECHANICS • COWBOYS

FOOTBALL PLAYERS • TRUCK DRIVERS • FIREMEN • CONSTRUCTION MEN

LUMBERJACKS • LEATHER • WEIGHT LIFTERS • MARINES • CHICKENS

SIZZLING HOT MAN-SEX

Tired of the same unbelievable

FANTASIES?

You've **NEVER** had a sex call
this **HOT, NASTY** and **SEXY . . . NEVER!**
Message CHANGES with EACH CALL

213
818
415

976-6328

9 7 6 - M E A T

$2.00 plus toll if any. Must be 18 years of age.

WRESTLERS • FIREMEN • CONSTRUCTION MEN

B.A.R. PEOPLE & PERSONALS

People

Your TRASH is worth CASH for the fight against AIDS.

RECYCLE aluminum, glass and newspapers—money goes to SF AIDS Foundation and Shanti Project.

RECYCLING CENTERS:
Market/Duboce Safeway
Kezar Stadium, West end

INFORMATION: 554-6193
SF Recycling Program,
City Hall

Gay Men's Sketch, $10, Tues, 7 pm, 1229 Folsom, 621-6294. E26

GREEK BOTTOM
needs tops. Call 821-6550, leave message and phone number between 7 p.m.–11 p.m. E25

I need to bond with someone. Tommy, 600 Fillmore #202, S.F., CA 94117. E26

Free Men Hotline, 995-4901. E25

WANTED BY WILD END: HAIRY, TATTOOED MEN FOR DEEP EXPLORING. 626-3047 E25

Paul, I missed you at the Bear Wednesday. Call me. L. E25

Wanted: Sophisticated person interested in bondage and discipline. In S.F. 661-2425. E25

People

*** MUSCLES ***
Bodybuilders—check out new Terry Photo prints & video at "The Magazine," 731 Larkin, S.F. E25

UNCUT RENO, NV, SLAVE seeks black or Asian, any age or size. Master, toys, dirty feet, S&M, B&D, FFA? Will report S.F. (702) 851-2830. E27

Gym body, 5'11", nds cock frm gdlk, hairy, tall WM. 776-7472. E26

MIXED MUSIC
90-minute non-stop cassettes mixed to supply the right atmosphere to your mood or event. For dance, parties, massage or meditation. $25 each. Tom, 285-4196.

Glory Hole Hotline 621-1887 E26

WANTED: HORNY BOTTOMS Tall, masc, PWA top seeks single nymphomaniac HIV+, ARC, PWA bottoms, 21-40, for safe sex. Call only when horny and ready to play. Dave, 775-2507. E26

Young 38 GWM living in Hayward. Basic bottom with odd hours. Before noon or anytime Tue & Wed. I am not femme appearing. Call 537-4587. No phone sex, please. E26

GWM, 46 yrs, 320#, 6'1", vers, wants hot, safe sex WS (daytime best). Suite 120, 2966 Diamond St., S.F. 94131. E25

Male, hairy, would like to meet comp. BB for sensual encounter. 654-1594. E25

CLEAN•ALTER•REPAIR•CUSTOM
LEATHER
THE JACKET SHOP
1795 MARKET at OCTAVIA
621-6672

Downtown Head!!! 771-2154. E27

JOCKEYS, BOXERS HIDING YOUR BIG,
thick dick turns me on. You kick back, relax, enjoy, while GWM, 47, cut big dick, sniffs around, then worships your bulge—makes **YOUR CROTCH TOPS!!** Send a "brief" note to Box 761, S.F. 94101. E28

ASAP Diet Patch
Appetite Suppressant
Application Patch. 30-day supply, $45. Call 653-7077. E25

Good lkg, masc bottom w/gd build needs hung top, any race, with 8+ inches for hot time. Call Doug, 846-4597. E28

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

Your TRASH is worth CASH for the fight against AIDS.

RECYCLE aluminum, glass and newspapers—money goes to SF AIDS Foundation and Shanti Project.

RECYCLING CENTERS:
Market/Duboce Safeway
Kezar Stadium, West end

INFORMATION: 554-6193
SF Recycling Program,
City Hall

Secret Gospel Church
Ancient Phallic Rites of Gnostic Christianity: An orgy of Brotherly Love. Males 18 & older welcome.
Info & Schedule: 552-7339

YOUR WOODSHED OR MINE?
Dad tans bad boys!
18+ hot fantasies—safe sex.
834-9642, 6-11 p.m. & wknds. E26

Chico
From Seattle
Please Call
206-323-4857 E25

LEATHER PLAYROOM
Well-equipped, available weekends—$5 per month! Details: DV85-CP, P.O. Box 27672, Concord, CA 94527. E25

Goodlooking, healthy houseboy, 18-25, wanted. Prefer well-built, hairy. Live-in, no $. Call 861-3717, 10 am–10 pm. E25

Footguys
Check out the fastest growing and soon to be the largest contact group for guys into boots, shoes, sneakers, feet, uniforms, leather, etc. Send SASE to Footguys, P.O. Box 786, S.F., CA 94101. E25

FOLSOM CLUB
A private social/sex club for health-conscious, young men. 890 Folsom, Thurs, 8 p.m. $7.00, clothes check, BYOB. E26

SAFE SEX
at home or office
KINKY KUMPUTER
415-550-7377 24 hrs.
300/1200/2400 8,1,N
Message and File Exchange
No Bodily Fluids!

TOM CASERTA 285-4196
SCULPTURE
BALL SHAVE $10 *BODY WORK $10-$30*
BODY HAIR SHAPED TO YOUR BODY LINES

TALENT NEEDED
Singers/Dancers/General Talent for Benefit.
Call Todd, 626-7008. E25

ARC Support Group
Drop-in ARC support group meets Fridays from 7 pm to 9 pm at Most Holy Redeemer Rectory, 100 Diamond St., S.F.
More info: 863-1581. E25

ASIAN S.F.–SONORA–TAHOE
wanted by gdlkg blond. Visit twice month. Foto—Bx 691303, W. Hlywd, CA 90069. E25

BRINDISI, ITALY
You were caught in a homosexual hunt while stationed at Brindisi by the Air Force at the turn of the decade, 60s/70s. There are things you should know about your accuser, both before and after you knew him. Write: "Truth," Box 5561, Raleigh, NC 27650. E25

Let's Suck Together
Hot daddy type, handsome, horny, and very well hung. 9 thick uncut inches. You do me, and I'll do you. Rob, 567-3941, out. E25

WHERE THE GUYS ARE YOUNG DUDES WITH
HARD RODS JACKING OFF
INSIDE, WARM AND SAFE.
1808 MARKET

B.A.R. PEOPLE & PERSONALS

People

ANNOUNCING
(415)
976-LADS
MESSAGE NETWORK
- The intelligent way to meet new buddies.
- 24 hour service.
- Messages change 3 times a day.
- Your personal message FREE.

$2. & toll if any

HYPNOSIS
Relaxation • Stress Reduction
Habit Control
Sensitive, Certified Hypnotherapist
Reasonable Rates
Sam 863-0212 (10AM-10PM)

BIG COCK PARTY
Lots of big hard cocks live and on video. Tues, Thurs & Sat, 7:30 to midnight, 1080 Folsom. Mandatory clothes check. Over 8" free, others $5 donation. **431-8748**

—GAY SHELTER—
A shared room, all meals and a self-help program is available now at the U.S. Mission, 2 locations: 788 O'Farrell & 86 Golden Gate, or call 775-5866 or 775-6446.

Nudist GWM, retired USAF, wants space for 26' RV where I can live nude all the time. To $300, or I will work nude for space. POB 1426, Empire, CA 95319. E25

Rough 'N Ready
(415) 864-6535
X-RATED
Computer Bulletin Board
A member of BAYOPS

Asian? Slim/young? I'm 29, 6', 170# & gdlkg. 979-4504. E25

BLK PROF MALE
seeks Asian males, any age, for friendship. Write AI, P.O. Box 3424, San Jose, CA 95156, (408) 259-1494. E25

Asian Angel, I have Italian eyes for your heavily derriere. Enrico, 346-5281. E25

BONDAGE
Videos, Photos, Free Catalog
Must state 21, Grapik Art
P.O. Box 460142B, SF, CA 94146
E30

Good Head. No J/O 285-8390 E25

GAY
TELEPHONE
BULLETIN BOARD
INSTANTLY UPDATED
LEAVE ADULT
MESSAGES
SEE IF THERE'S ONE
FOR YOU
(415) 976-6677
$2.00 Plus Toll If Any

People

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED
who are HIV-positive, asymptomatic, or have ARC, for a study of an experimental immune modulating drug being conducted by Dr. Marcus Conant at UCSF. For information, contact Leland Traiman, RN/FNP, or Kathy Labriola, LVN, **753-2304.**

MEGA MEAT
Proud & like to show off your 9"+ in creative, hot, faceless JO solo and/or gloryhole video? Free copy. Send phone/interest/cock shot to: TC, P.O. Box 31724, S.F. 94131. Very exciting!
E25

LIKE BEARDED MEN?
subscribe to *BEAR*
the magazine for
hairy/bearded men
and their fans
1 year subscription: $17.00
For info only, send S.A.S.E. to
C.O.A.
2215 R Market St.
#148 S.F. CA 94114

Young Sex Partner
wanted by generous GWM.
If 18-19, call 282-5028. E25

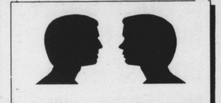
ASIAN CONNECTION
Prof GWM, 5'10", 140 lbs, 39 years young, is interested in meeting you. Have a lot to offer the right person.
I am caring, sincere, loyal, honest and romantic.
How about you? Let's have a heart-to-heart talk.
Rick, 415-254-1070. E25

Gdlkg, athletic, GWM, 5'10", 160#, wants short, sensual, GWM bot for facesitting & JO mtgs. Exchg photos. Box 402, 2215-R Market, S.F. 94114. E26

Spanking and hot ass
play sessions.
Your woodshed or mine.
Trim, masculine guys, 18-40.
916-349-2642. E28

SOUTH BAY MEN
WANT TO
MEET YOU
408-976-2002
$2+any toll

AIDS EMERGENCY FUND
Fundraising, $250 worth of records, tapes, CDs for only $9.98 and help fight AIDS. All kinds of music; your choice of recordings. Make check or money order payable to JNS and send to B.A.R, Box 41.
Also available at local bars and other gay establishments.
All profits benefit the AIDS Emergency Fund.



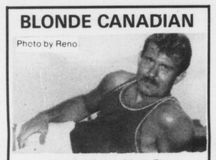
Lonely?
"No matter who you are, there is someone for whom you are the perfect match."
Find that person through the science of . . .
Computer Matching
- Over 1000 San Francisco members.
- No fees exceed $30.
- Guaranteed satisfaction.
- Call for free brochure and application.

ComQuest™
1-800-633-6969
(24 hour answering)

Top Boy Wanted
Bottom Daddy—well built, hung, looks, great tits & ass for your pleasure. Box 42, 2370 Market, S.F. 94114. E25

Massage

BLONDE CANADIAN
Photo by Reno



Put a Smile on Your Face
I am not easy, I am good.
Full massage in the nude
Ron **775-7057** *24 hrs.*
$50 in$65 out

BODY BEAUTIFUL
Cute butch guy, 27, swimmer's build, hairy pecs, gives an ultra-hot massage nude, 5'8", br/bl, muscular and hung. Joe, $45 in/$55 out, 658-0247. E25

Excellent Massage
$25 hr in only
282-7819 E29

Reiki Exchange
282-7819
Richard E29

Playassage
Smooth, defined, nude BB with erotic touch—30y—5'9"—145#—8 cut—callback required—928-5826—$50/60—Ken. E28

Erotic nude dry massage in Davis by BB, 50, 5'10", 43"c, 16"a. Call 6-9 a.m., Norv, $30. (916) 756-8120. B&D, add $10. E27

The trained and sensuous hands of a tall and hirsute Irishman will give you a complete massage you won't regret and will not soon forget. Call Adam, 664-2756. E26

TOM
ADVENTURESOME
Built tight, muscular & hung.
Blond man, 32, 6', 190 lbs.
Very friendly guys
over 30 preferred.
Sensual massage in the buff.
$45 in/$60 out 24 hrs.
567-4572

Massage

TRIP TO ECSTASY!
Full body massage—buns & legs my specialty! Hot man, 6', 160# br/br moust. Call Russ anytime in/out 647-0944. $40/50 cash—add $5 for MC/VISA. Try me!

HEALING ART
For stress relief or personal pleasure. Swedish/Esalen, Acupressure, Shiatsu, Rebirthing Breath, and Erotic Massage in a warm environment with quiet music. By appointment/Nob Hill. **Tony, 415/956-4956**

COMFORT MASSAGE
Massage catering to the elderly, by caring, understanding man who knows your needs.
665-3489. $25 hr. Douglas.
Younger generations welcome.

RELAX!
Sensual Swedish/Shiatsu Massage
You deserve a loving massage
Peter 864-5483

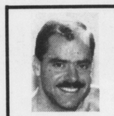
Hot, sensitive man gives erotic, therapeutic massage. N.J., 647-0591, certified. E26

Let my loving hands relax and please you. Shiatsu, Swedish, and erotic massage. All ages. (415) 928-7553. $35 in. E25

Hard Sensual Nude Massage
by Versatile Eurasian
$30 in/$40 out 776-5749
E25

Sensual massage by loving men. James/Peter. 864-5483. E25

Sensuous massage by grad student. 285-0450. E25



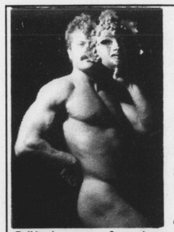
SPORTS MASSAGE
JEFF GIBSON
626-7095 $35
Excellent massage by competitive swimmer and runner. For aches & pains, injuries, or just to relax! These experienced hands have worked such events as the Olympics and Boston Marathon. Certified. Member AMTA.

COMPLETE MASSAGE
Very good-looking and built Florida State Diving Champ, 6'1", 190#, bl/bl., certified.
771-6994

TREAT YOURSELF
Affordable, superb massage. Dalton, E. Bay, CMT, 832-3024
E26

IN MARIN
Strong Hands
Great Full-Body Massage
$35/90 min Greg 927-7605
E30

San Jose—Swedish Massage
$25/1 hr—IN—shower avail.
Anthony, (408) 288-6169
E28



Full body massage. Sensual, complete, relaxing, by nude body builder.
JANOS (415) 861-1167
3 p.m.–11 a.m. • By appointment

Massage

SEVENTY MINUTE
Oil Massage, in the nude plus a complete erotic ending. Mike, handsome 6'—165—35 yrs. Beautiful, athletic build. 45 in—60 out. 863-6947

MUSCLE MASSAGE
A strong Greek man gives a strong and tender massage. Call Jay at 591-7252. E25

S.F., Travel Bay Area
24 Hrs. In/Out Call
ORIENTAL MASSAGE
Complete fullbody by nude, young, gdlk Asian in private. Bob, 387-1192. All ages. E26

DEEP TISSUE MASSAGE
and intuitive energy work
by holistic oriented bodybuilder.
45/90 min.
550-6401, Jim. E26

Beautiful Massage
771-6994

NORDIC MASSAGE
9 AM–9 PM $35.00
Thor 861-4676 E25

Complete Massage
Chuck, 861-5129, 30/in, 35/out, on Castro St. near Market. E27

FULL BODY MASSAGE
Clear, Quiet, Private
$30 Stefen 431-0468 E25

A Nurturing Massage
Swedish / Esalen, Shiatsu
CERTIFIED

NONSEXUAL
Richard Nelson • 641-6171
$30 • 1 hr. • Sliding Scale

IT'S NICE TO BE KNEADED
by an exceptionally good-looking blond gymnast. In/out. 550-6833 Steven $40.

Special Touch
Soothing, skillful massage.
$30 in/$45 out, Richard, 864-5526
E27

Double good-looking Vietnamese massage by medication for those who understand the subtle differences. Call Lon & Nam, 788-0380. E27

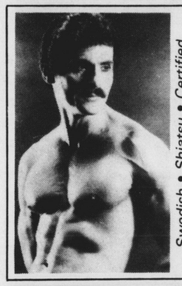
Massage: Full Body
In/Out 24 Hrs Cory 896-5125
E25

"TWICE AS NICE"
Complete Sensual Massage
Michael & Chris 665-4315
E25

EXPERIENCE
for yourself an erotic full-body massage by a very handsome bodybuilder.
Go ahead . . . indulge . . .
$40 in/$50 out.
Daniel, 864-0788

B.A.R. PEOPLE & PERSONALS

Massage



Swedish • Shiatsu • Certified
Alan 626-2843

SILVER FOX
COMPLETE MASSAGE
HANK 415-775-4075

Young Oriental Masseur
Complete Discreet 921-0870
E29

SPANKING OR MASSAGE
or both. $30-50. SJ area.
Discount for Asian/Latin
under 24 yrs. 408-379-2684.
E28

Some men give prof D-tissue stress reducing massage. Others: safe erotic sensual sessions. I do both. Castro. 1½ hr. $40. Hal, 255-2290. E28

Healing Touch
A safe, nurturing massage to relieve stress and tension, by a strong, sensitive man.
Martin 431-6965

"Le Grande Massage"
Totally relaxing, sensual touch.
Alex, 861-1362. 24 hrs.
In/out. PWA discount. E25

Magic Hands, Magic Men
Enjoy sensual massage from a Chippendale-type dancer and/or a hardbodied surfer. We visit S.F. area regularly. Call Van or Bri, (209) 251-3536. E25

Hot Cuban Massage
Treat Yourself
$30 In/$40 Out
Anthony 648-7957

EROTIC MASSAGE
Full body Swedish.
Playful stud loves his work.
Stress-releasing. Safe.
Joe, 346-2921
Available 7 days/week. E26

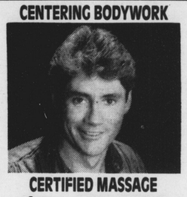
EXCELLENCE
is what I strive to achieve in life, and my complete, full-body, erotic massage is no exception! I'm a well-built, very handsome blond BB. $40 in/out.
Kevin, 864-1190. E25

$15/$35 massage, 771-8042. E31

EXCEPTIONAL
• MAN—MASSAGE •
Very Handsome Blond, Masculine, Nude Ex-Marine
Intelligent, Sensitive Man
• EROTIC DIFFERENCE •
40/55 in/out callback req.
BOB—921-0965

Massage

CENTERING BODYWORK



CERTIFIED MASSAGE
Jim • 564-7796

★★San Jose☆Certified. $20 in/$40 out. Geno, 408 356-7384★
E29

TREAT YOURSELF
Enjoy a 75-minute massage by a caring, experienced professional: traditional Swedish/Shiatsu or non-oil acupressure. Reduce stress and energize yourself. Nonsexual. Certified. $30. **John, 626-1569.**

Warmly, Quietly, Safely
SENSATIONAL!
Certified, 18th & Noe.
And only $40. Jim, 864-2430.
E25

S. Cruz. (In $40.) 408-425-5035.
E25

$40 U/C Latin Massage R/F expert, big men only. 731-0824.
E25

Young masseur who knows what to do. Body Electric graduate. Richard, 668-8309. E25

HOT HANDS
Swedish Hot Oil Massage

Certified/Deep Tissue/Acupressure
Appts: 2-10 pm $40/session
Indoor/Outdoor Massage &
Open Air Shower
JOE 415/282-6929
Off-street parking available

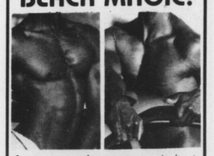
Nob Hill Male
PRIVATE MASSAGE
$75 in only. Tourists welcome.
989-7731. E25

★ COME WITH ME ★
20, 6'2", 190#, athletic and vivacious, green eyes, sandy blond, boyish yet masculine and outgoing, hairy chest, soft, and I do in and out calls. Try me. $110. (408) 998-1858.
E25

TENSION RELEASE
Free yourself from stress and tension. Energetic style of Swedish acupressure. Introductory, $25. Discount PWAs.
Tom, 824-3649. E25

WILLING TO GIVE HIS ALL
NUDE, EROTIC MASSAGE
By Handsome Bodyworker
Call Mark 282-8963
Daily 9 am - 12 am
Body Electric Graduate

BLACK MAGIC!



for a sensual massage • in/out
call **Dick 255-0730**

Massage

AUSSIE LIFEGUARD

Great tan, super body.
Fine, strong hands. Out.
773-9591

RELAX IN CLASS
A RELAXING MASSAGE
by a handsome, masculine blond, 6', 190, beautifully nude muscular body, summer tan.
Firm, Erotic Swedish Massage
Massage Lotion & Table, Hard to Beat It
$45 In/$60 Out 75 mins.
Mike 931-0149 24 hrs.

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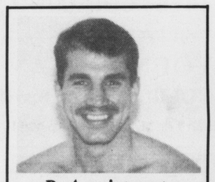

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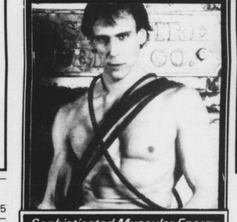

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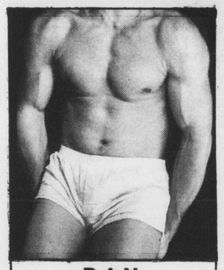
Models & Escorts



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28, 6", 180#, hung long & thick, good looking, sexy & safe.
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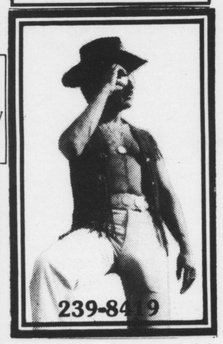

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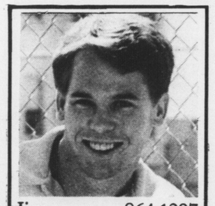

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Models & Escorts

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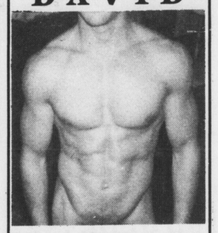

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Thick Cut 8+ Digs French
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BAY AREA REPORTER SPORTS & FITNESS

SOFTBALL

Cassidy's Leads Division #3; Roos Upset Pilsner

by Hal Herkenhoff

Battling the cold winds only San Franciscans can understand, Cassidy's Cabinettes outlasted The Bear, 9–7, at Balboa Field to move into first place in Division #3 in front of the Rawhide Men, who fell to the top team in the league, the Pendulum Pirates.

With a group of pitchers led by Linda Hladek in her debut on the mound, Cassidy's stretched a 6–4 lead into a four-run lead entering the seventh inning, before holding Serena's Bear team to take the division lead for the first time this year.

Terry McCord's Rainbow Roos pulled off another surprise win over a Division #1 team, this time stopping the sleepy Pilsner Inn Penguins, 6–3, the morning after the Pilsner had pulled off a fundraiser. Juan Morales provided the punch with a grand slam to put the Roos into the lead for good and bring the Roos' "recreational division" status for the Dallas Gay World Series into question. Previously, the Roos had beaten the defending champion Endup.

When asked if the designation of recreational v. competitive teams in the Gay Softball League would be irreversible, league treasurer Jack Le Masters said simply, "No." Due to the new segment of the Gay World Series this year, the GSL is facing the difficulty of deciding which teams in the GSL are eligible for this less-competitive, "recreational" division, as opposed to the champion's "competitive" bracket, which is won on the field.

This is the first year ever that has included a less-competitive division at the World Series, and it has been controversial as to which teams are meant to fit into this category. Some say teams must have losing records, while others say it should be the team that best exemplifies sportsmanship.

Meanwhile, the second Division #2 victory over Division #1 of the day was recorded by the Cafe Sn. Marcos, which built a 6–2 lead against the Kokpit going into the seventh, only to see Garry Belcher-Hall's team roar back with three runs in the bottom of the seventh and load the basses before the Cafe defense came up with the third out.

The Endup took quick advantage of the Cafe's good mood by scoring five runs in the first to march out to an 11–3 lead, but then had to hold on to register a 15–11 win over the Division #2 leaders, Cafe Sn. Marcos.

Amelia's is in the running for the women's title.
(Photo: PhotoGraphics/Darlene)

Uncle Bert's racked up its seventh win in a row behind Bobby DeTulio's first career shutout, 8–0, over the S.F. Eagle, and climbed into third place in Division #1.

The Kokpit regrouped for its second game of the day, battling miserable, cold winds to escape with an 8–2 win over the Galleon. Behind Victor Thomas' pitching, the Kokpit took a 4–0 lead into the sixth inning, only to see the Galleon rally to 4–2 in the bottom of the sixth, but the Galleon could not avoid leaving three men on base and, the Kokpit put away the game in the seventh.

Amelia's and Superstar Video, the two women's teams vying for the GSL women's title, each faced The Mint and each came up with the same fate, with Amelia's faring a little better, going down to The Mint 4–3 in the last inning. The Superstar Beaches, defending women's champ, lost 9–0.

Gary Clark's Mint team, winners of their six straight, has now climbed into a third-place tie in Division #2.

No games are scheduled for Gay Pride weekend, and the following weekend will be the 4th of July tournaments in Atlanta, Boston, and Long Beach.

League games resume July 10 at Lang Field (Turk and Gough streets) with the long-awaited rematch between Amelia's and the Superstar Beaches at 12:30. Other highlights include Uncle Bert's v. Pilsner and Cassidy's v. Phone Booth at 2 p.m.

Happy Gay Day, and see you in July for the stretch run into the playoffs.

LAST WEEK'S RESULTS
The Mint 9/Superstar Video 0
The Mint 4/Amelia's 3
Uncle Bert's 8/S.F. Eagle 0
Phone Booth 20/Rawhide Women 2
Cassidy's 9/The Bear 7
Rainbow Roos 6/Pilsner Inn 3
Cafe Sn. Marcos 6/Kokpit 5
Endup 15/Cafe Sn. Marcos 11
Pendulum over Rawhide Men
Kokpit 8/Galleon 2

STANDINGS

Division #1

	W	L
Pendulum	11	1
Endup	9	3
Uncle Berts	8	4
Kokpit	7	4
Pilsner Inn	6	4
Galleon	4	8

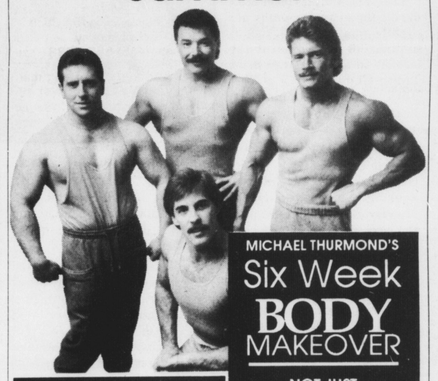
Division #2

	W	L
Cafe Sn. Marcos	9	3
S.F. Eagle	7	5
Rainbow Roos	6	6
The Mint	6	6
Amelia's	6	6
Superstar Video	5	7

Division #3

	W	L
Cassidy's	5	7
Rawhide Men	4	7
Phone Booth	4	7
The Bear	2	10
Rawhide Women	1	10

Let us get you in *hot* shape for a *great* summer



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BOWLING

S.F. Gay/Lesbian Bowling Leagues Welcome You

by Richard McPherson

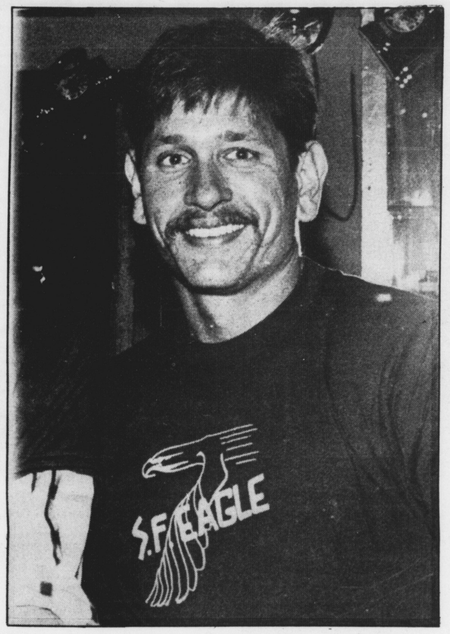
The San Francisco gay and lesbian bowling community welcomes visitors in town this week for gay pride celebrations. At 700-900 participants (depending on the season), S.F. boasts one of the largest organized gay bowling programs in the country, centered out of two of the city's last remaining bowling centers: Park Bowl and Japantown Bowl.

Park Bowl is the hosting house for the country's largest gay bowling league program, followed closely by Japantown's Community League organization. During the winter season there are five evening leagues at Park Bowl, totaling about 100 teams. Sunday evenings at Park Bowl are reserved for the San Francisco Women's Business League (winter season only). This lesbian league boasts 22 five-woman teams, containing some of the country's top averaged lesbian bowlers.

League action still takes place during the summer months, at a slightly smaller scale. Visitors wishing to see some of the leagues in action can visit the Tavern Guild Leagues at Park Bowl and the Community Leagues at Japantown Bowl (upstairs).

Park Bowl (Haight and Stanyan streets, next to Golden Gate Park) currently has four weeknight leagues underway. Monday evening is gay night at the bowl with two leagues bowling back to back: The Tavern Guild (TG Trios (22 teams) at 6:30 p.m. and the Monday TG League (14 teams) starts at 8:30 p.m. (finishing at around 11 p.m.). The Wednesday TG League (20 teams) also begins at 8:30 p.m. and the Thursday TG League (14 teams) at 9 p.m.

Most Community Leagues at Japantown Bowl (Sutter and Webster streets, in Japantown Center) are just getting underway in their summer season. Call JTown Bowl at 921-6200 to find out the days and times of the Community Leagues.



Jeff Hettsmansperger (Photo: PhotoGraphics/Darlene)

Jeff Hettmansperger was the big shooter in the Monday Tavern Guild Trios at Park Bowl, June 6-11, shooting a 692 series on games of 233, 212, 247. For Hettmansperger, a 194 average, this represents a lifetime high scoring effort, and raises his 21-game average to 199. The past couple of years Jeff has averaged in the 170s; a renewed enthusiasm in the sport has caused him to focus more on improving his game and working on his ball(s). This past six months his average has increased over 20 pins, and he didn't even have to stop being a slut to do it! (Jeff says, "Yeh, that's right!")

The same evening, in the same league, Tim Mulvenon, a 172 average, also shot his personal all-time high, a 670. Mulvenon shot games of 203, 232, 235. Tim has recently made a slight adjustment in his game which just may send his average skyrocketing.

"I've changed my style a bit by slowing down my approach," he said. He now appears to get to the foul line with firmer footing and deliver the ball with greater accuracy.

Dick Cavanee (172 avg.) had the high game of the week with a 251, finishing the night with a 625. Five other bowlers shot 600+ series in the TGL: Randy Peterson (175 avg.) 245/627; David Arnold (194 233/621; J.C. Halsead (193) 221, 210/617; Vince De Santis (166) 207, 209/602; Bill Gall (167) 205, 221/615. I asked Bill if this was his first 600 this year. He said, "I haven't had any for over a year!" (Now what was *he* referring to?)

Bowlers shooting 215+ games: Kevin Schwabe (211) 224, Joe Sanders (160) 222; Byron Mathews (182) 219, 206; Mal Garcia (159) 218; Frank Cloutier (174) 216; Peter Bassford (168) 215; R. McPherson (212) 215, 200.

Honorable Mention (160 average and under): Bobby Conlon (160) 214; Clay McDermaid (145) 210; John Wiggins (140) 206; Frank Hecker (152) 202; Ray Padua (154) 201. Congrats to Preston Lasley (149 avg.) on a great night of bowling: 214, 181, 184/579.

The scores were not available this week for the Wednesday league at Japantown Bowl, so we'll catch up next week. Also next week: the final season-ending stats for the Hawaii Vacation League.

The team of Vince DiColla, Ed Hamm and Ralph Osborn emerged as the winners of the No-Tap Trios Tournament held at Castle Lanes on Sunday, June 12. The team won by a narrow five pin margin over second place, with a 2,235 total score (318 handicap). DiColla (168 avg.) shot 239/638, Ed Hamm (161) 238/633 and Osborn (138), the big shooter for the team, with 202, 218, 226 for a 646. First place prize money was $120.

Second place went to Elizabeth Yesowitch, Kerry Robishaw and J.C. Halstead with a 2,230 score. Third place: Randy Poupard, Ken Sayles and Tim Mulvenon 2,202; fourth place: Rob Levi, Tim Mulvenon and J.C. Halstead 2,197.

For Ralph Osborn this is his second consecutive no tap win. Elizabeth Yesowitch and J.C. Halstead seem to be the No-Tap "Hot Shots"; both seem to place in the final standings of every tournament. Congratulations to all winners.

Ninety-three bowlers entered this event which paid out $439 in prize money and raised $450 for the SFNTIT pot and charities.

Well, I can stop my bitching about the lack of attention the Cable Car Awards gives athletes in their awards presentations . . . the Apex Awards have arrived. I dropped in on one of their monthly meetings at the Galleon Restaurant on June 16, and observed that planning for the January '89 event is well underway.

The Apex Awards will be devoted entirely to the recognition of gay and lesbian athletes: the sports heroes, jocks and jockettes and sports contributors. It is hoped that this will be *the* gala annual event for the gay and lesbian sports community.

The Apex board seems to be going all out to insure that the "first annual" will be a really classy, well organized event.

You'll read periodic Apex reports here so that you can be well equipped to submit your nominations, when called upon, later this year.

The Apex Awards committee invites any interested persons to drop by their next meeting at the Galleon Restaurant, 14th and Church, on Thursday, July 21 at, 7 p.m. (they keep meetings short). ●

Park Bowl Tavern Guild Bowling Leagues

Team Standings

MONDAY TAVERN GUILD TRIOS

	W	L
1. Unholy Rollers	20	12
2. S.F. Eagle	19	13
3. Park Bowl	19	13
4. Main Course	19	13
5. Cafe Sn. Marcos	18½	13½
6. Pilsner Pinguins	18½	13½
7. Fart Blossoms	18	14
8. Bobbie Pins	18	14
9. SF Eagle Scouts	17	15
10. Capricorn Coffees	17	15
11. Bowler Types	17	15
12. Peewee's Playhouse	16½	15½
13. Pilsner Pin Pals	16	16
14. Gough Balls	16	16
15. Pet Stop	14	18
16. Stud Puppets	14	18
17. All American	13	19
18. Pig Bitches	13	19
19. Give Me Griefs	12½	19½
20. Play With It Ltd	12	20
21. Inches	12	20
22. Pin Curls	20	22

TAVERN GUILD MONDAY LEAGUE

	W	L
1. Rolo's	17	7
2. What's My Line	15	9
3. Park Bowl	14	10
4. Frantic Finishers III	14	10
5. Pilsner Pinguins	13	11
6. Welcome Home	13	11
7. Roommaters	13	11
8. Wee Willie Kokpit	12	12
9. Pendulum Devils	12	12
10. Lambda Capital	12	12
11. Pet Stop Cockatails	12	12
12. Rawhide II	11	13
13. Castro Station	10	14
14. Jack Trux I	5	19

TAVERN GUILD WEDNESDAY LEAGUE

	W	L
1. Pendulum	24	12
2. Leftovers	23	13
3. Pilsner #1	23	13
4. 9 Eyes Only	21	11
5. Park Bowl	20½	15½
6. Bow-K	20	16
7. Rolo's	20	16
8. Play With It, Ltd	20	12
9. Michael Brunos	20	16
10. Pendulum Pandas	18½	17½
11. Ram's Head Bar	16	20
12. Revenge of Pilsnerds	15½	20½
13. Pils. Pointless Sisters	15½	16½
14. Pils. E-Z Pickups	15	21
15. Pils. Quackers	15	21
16. Schmidt & Schmidt	15	17
17. The Bear	15	21
18. Gutter Girls	12	24
19. DK's Unmentionables	12	24
20. Rams and Ewe	11	25

TAVERN GUILD THURSDAY LEAGUE

	W	L
1. Park Bowl	24½	7½
2. Trax Trash	23	13
3. Play With It, Ltd	22	10
4. Hit Your Mark	21	15
5. Bob, Ted, Carol, Alice	20	16
6. Pilsner 4 Play	19	17
7. Trax	19	17
8. SF Eagle	18½	17½
9. Superstar Video	18½	17½
10. All Da Rite Stuff	16	20
11. Inches	16	20
12. Styles & Staymens	15	21
13. No Jackie	8½	27½
14. Is It Over Yet?	6	30

●

JAPANTOWN BOWL COMMUNITY LEAGUES BOWLING

Team Standings

TUESDAY COMMUNITY LEAGUE

	W	L
1. Pinatration	7	1
2. 501 Blues	6	2
3. Tender Vittles	6	2
4. Mr. G's Parking	6	2
5. Team #3	5	3
6. Lois Lanes	4½	3½
7. That Team	4	4
8. Missing Persons	4	4
9. Genesis	3½	4½
10. Twin Peaks	3	5
11. Brendanettes	3	5
12. Team #13	2	6
13. Ball Babies	1	7
14. Knockers XXX	1	7
15. Beastie Boys	0	0

WEDNESDAY COMMUNITY LEAGUE

	W	L
1. Dead Yuppies	11	1
2. AEF Maulers	7	5
3. Lowest Lane	7	5
4. Play With It, Ltd	7	1
5. Pinheads	6	6
6. Gutter Boys	6	6
7. Men's Rm. Monitors	4	8
8. 69ers	4	4
9. Tidy Bowls	3	9
10. Rumblers II	1	11

HAWAII VACATION LEAGUE

	W	L
1. Urasis Dragon	50½	21½
2. Double Trouble	45½	26½
3. Bowl R Brains	42	30
4. Moby Dick Wailers	40	32
5. Hi Bound	38	34
6. Haleakala Hookers	37	35
7. Hard Times	35½	32½
8. The Eruptions	35	33
9. Lois't Lane	32½	39½
10. Bulldogettes	32	40
11. Earth Mothers	31	37
12. Easy Leis	30	42
13. Ball Busters	28	40
14. Tropical Teezers	23	49

●

(It is the responsibility of the bowling establishment to supply the B.A.R. with league standing sheets.)

POOL

Ducks Greet Wave in City Championship

(Photo: PhotoGraphics/Darlene)

by Lauren Ward

No, it's not about swimmers, these two pool teams, lone survivors of the 32 which began the S.F. Pool Association's spring season, utilize their strokes in a different way, to power spheres into precisely controlled collisions which send them to their intended exit points from the 3½ by 7 foot emerald plane which is the playing field.

The White Swallow Wave, a compilation of members of the teams which won the last two city championships, (plus newcomer, Tony Rios) has had a roller coaster season, managing only a second-place finish in their division and a tie for the league's fourth best regular-season record.

In the semi-finals, the Wave faced the Alamo Square Killer Beez, a division rival whom the Wave had beaten once and tied twice during the season. In their fourth meeting the teams tied again, but the Beez prevailed in the single game tiebreaker.

The Wave evened the series with an easy 9-4 score in the next match and were ahead in the third match, 8-5, when the Beez reeled off three in a row to create the fourth tie between the teams. Rod Cohan of the Beez broke the rack in the tiebreaker and the Wave's Jim Russo stroked out a table run to send the Wave to the finals, 9-8.

Four of the six DeLuxe Ducks remain from the team which won three consecutive city championships as well as being the last SF team to win the West Coast Challenge. Tim Chitwood joined the team last fall and this season, Hugh Fountain was taken under their wings. Hugh responded with his best season ever, finishing second with a 28-3 season record.

The Ducks have been hot all season, posting the league's best record, 167-41, and sweeping all of the major individual tournaments.

Team Captain, E.Z., won the 8-Ball Championship and the AllStar. Lauren Ward won the MVP and finished second in the Captain's Tournament, the Women's WCC Qualifier, and the All Star. Lisa Duncan won the Women's Qualifier and Ron Barulich finished third in the All Star. It was the second time the Ducks took three of the top four spots at the All Star, which determines S.F.'s representatives to WCC's Open Individuals Tournament.

They proved vincible, however, when their division rivals, the Palace Be-Boppers, who had established the league's second best record, 141-63, hosted them in an 8-8 tie and won the tiebreaker to even the semi-final series at one apiece.

The Boppers had reason to be hopeful. Their top-rated player, Tony Annigoni, had been on a five tournament professional tour and was returning in time for the tiebreaking match which was played last Tuesday at DeLuxe.

The Ducks welcomed the opportunity to prove they could beat the Boppers' best line-up and were fired up for the match. They went ahead, 3-0 before the Boppers scored with Annigoni's table run. He would win again in the second quarter but got no help from his mates as the Ducks forged ahead, 6-2, after Lisa Duncan's third win of the match. Lauren Ward then bested Luby Pelletier for No. 7 in the prelude to the main event, E.Z. vs. Annigoni. Tony prevailed in a marathon strategy game and it was Ducks 7, Annigoni 3. Ron Barulich then dispatched Bill von Prillwitz and gave Ward the opportunity to win the match. She delivered on a three-ball runout, sending the Ducks to the finals, 9-3.

The City Championship Series is infused with the nervous excitement generated by all hard-fought sports finals. On a personal level it approaches the emotional experience of a player in the Super Bowl or the NBA Championships.

The Wave came to DeLuxe last Thursday to begin the best-of-three series which determines the championship. They swelled to a 3-0 lead before Ward's defeat of Rick Mariani which sparked a seven consecutive game Ducks rally, which featured two table runs by Lisa Duncan and one by Ward.

Colin Bradley broke the string with a magnificent runout culminated by an 8-Ball bank which screamed into the side pocket. Ward closed out the third quarter with a win over Rios to put the Ducks tantalizing close to the victory at 8-4.

Mariani lead off the fourth quarter with a run from the break and Jim Russo overcame Barulich as the Ducks saw their once comfortable lead erode, 8-6. Tony Rios then kicked in his last object ball and narrowly missed an 8-ball bank. E.Z. treated the crowd to a five-ball runout to give the Ducks the 1-0 advantage in the series.

On Tuesday, June 21, the two teams played at the White Swallow, where the Wave tried to prevent a Ducks sweep. The play continues at DeLuxe on Thursday if a tiebreaking match is necessary. ●

Physique '88 Set for Saturday

With Nearly 50 registered athletes, The Arcadia Bodybuilding Society proudly announces it's guest posers and Masters of Ceremonies for Physique '88.

The finals will take place at 7 p.m. in Mission High School on Saturday evening, June 25. The hosts for the evening will be Rick Brattin and Renee Hicks. Brattin, a former commissioner of the Gay Softball League, is no stranger to the gay community. He has served as master of ceremonies for many of our community's hottest events.

Physique '88 will present an exciting new approach in its guest posing exhibitions. Instead of single guest posers, the routines will be given by a mixed pair, Ed Brown and Kriss Brooks, as well as a routine by the Gay Games II Gold Medal Team from Sacramento, Nitra Allen, Juan Ramos and Mike Ward.

Tickets are still available for both the preliminaries, beginning at 9 a.m., and the finals. Tickets are at STBS on Union Square, the Women's Training Center, All American Boy, and at all BASS/Ticketmaster outlets including, as always, Headlines. ●

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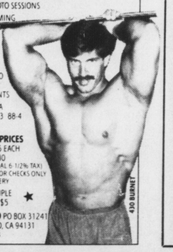

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JUNE 26 1988

We Have a Right To Be Proud of Our Sports

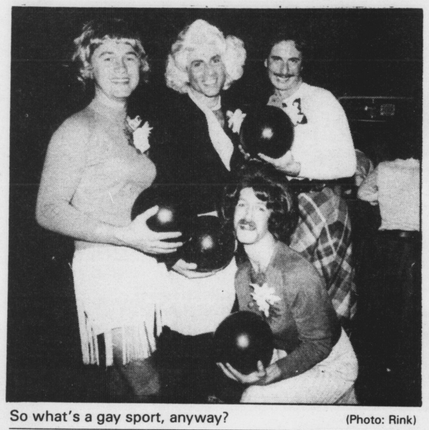
Commentary

by Hal Herkenhoff

There are some people in the gay/lesbian community who doubt the contributions made to the general community by the teams and clubs of the gay sports community. There are some who do not see the numbers of gay and lesbian athletes, who have quietly formed organizations at the amateur sports level and have created viable gay social segments to add to the ever-expanding gay community in San Francisco and around the world.

This time of the year is when all gay and lesbian citizens stand up and declare their pride in themselves and their culture. Gay Pride Week is the time when we take note of the things that make us what we are, not only politically, but economically, culturally, and sociologically, as well.

Much of this information will be news to nongay people, but many in the gay community, too, will be equally uninformed. In the gay community, many people are unaware of many of the sociological effects of the AIDS crisis and the changing patterns which have occurred within the gay lifestyle since the 1970s, including what gay people do with their free time now.



So what's a gay sport, anyway? (Photo: Rink)

If you look back, a few sports were introduced into the gay world several years after the Stonewall riots in 1969 that were credited with beginning the gay movement's drive for social and political recognition. Gay life was branching out into every type of activity.

Just as gay and lesbian political leaders formed clubs to further the political interests of gay people, the gay and lesbian sports leaders began to find ways to improve the situation in sports involving gay people, who were looking to join the new, openly gay lifestyle. The gay sports community was born.

OLYMPICS STORM

Quickly, interest developed in bowling, softball, tennis, and pool. Real momentum in sports, though, began with the 1982 Gay Games I, aided by the political storm caused by the use of the title "Gay Olympic Games." The ensuing attention over the gay civil rights issue provided much-needed publicity for the event, which was to include many, smaller sports that had not been developed at all within the gay community, such as swimming, track, physique, or volleyball.

The success of Games I came from the determination that was forged by 1,300 athletes who found out about the competitions in 1982. Many people coming from homophobic situations in their home cities were able to find their first openly gay society in which to participate. For many of them, the best way to participate was in sports competition, with its wholesome image. There was nothing "queer" about playing in sports, and that reflected the way they thought about themselves.

For them, it was the experience of a lifetime, and they wanted to see it grow for many others to enjoy.

Tom Waddell had proposed that gay athletes existed in every sport and that the gay community has much to gain through participation together in activities such as sports.

With that boost, many sports from Games I organized themselves into clubs and associations such as track and field, road running, wrestling, volleyball, cycling, and physique. Many cities looked harder for their gay/lesbian athletes, and many cities began to find leaders who could form sports teams and clubs.

National sports alliances pulled more athletes and cities into the national gay community. For example, the national gay softball organization unites gay teams from such diverse locations as Birmingham, Milwaukee, Pittsburgh, and Norfolk, cities not otherwise known for their gay activities.

INTERACT AND SHARE

Gay people from different places were being given an opportunity to interact and share experiences with each other. Gay people in sports found that they were not as socially isolated or unacceptable as they had once thought.

Eventually, with the success of the growing gay sports organizations, the commerce involving gay sports became an unexpected force, to the point that Gay Games III in 1990 in Vancouver is expected to bring $10 million into the host city, bringing with it the financial and political support of the city, province, and national governments.

Still, there are skeptics who argue that there is no need for sports teams in the gay context, insisting that the athletes are able to participate sufficiently in the general community and that gay athletes do not exist in any quantity anyway.

But anyone who knows the results of the gay cycling community's fundraising for AIDS can tell you the value and power of gay athletes united as a gay group.

The impact of the sports community on gay life is just now being recognized. Not only are the Gay Games recognized as an unparalleled phenomenon in amateur sports, worthy of national attention, with thousands of unpaid volunteers handling a nonprofit corporation, but locally the impact of the quantity of gay people involved in sports can be seen at such community-wide events as the Cable Car Awards, in some years providing as much as half of the attendance.

THOUSANDS OF ATHLETES

After all, gay bowling in San Francisco attracts 1,000 participants, softball has over 300 members, and even the new swim team has nearly 100 members in its first year. Gay Games II in 1986 attracted 3,500 gay/lesbian athletes in 17 sports from all over the world.

Team San Francisco is unifying the local sports leagues and their members for mutual support, while a sports awards show, the Apex Awards, is planned now for January 1989.

Although efforts by athletes may not affect some gay people's lives, such efforts eventually will help to emphasize many of the positive aspects of the gay experience in a political world that clearly feels threatened by the AIDS epidemic in the gay community.

Ultimately, however, the impact of the gay sports movement will be found in the gay community. The commerce and the interaction between gay communities will help to unify many cities and towns, while the positive self-image that can be found in this emerging gay sports community will surely play a larger role in the future of the gay/lesbian community. ●

Team SF To March In Freedom Parade

Team San Francisco, which was formed last July, will march for the first time in the Lesbian/Gay Freedom Day Parade this Sunday. It will celebrate pride in gay sports and signal San Francisco's already strong support for the 1990 Gay Games III in Vancouver.

Any individual may join the contingent and organized gay sports teams are encouraged to march in conjunction with Team San Francisco. A banner for each sport or group will be in the parade. Those who had marched with Gay Games II in the past are particularly welcome.

The new Team San Francisco T-shirt will be sold where the Team San Francisco group forms between Sanchez and Castro streets. T-shirts, at $10 each, also are available at High Gear and Headlines. ●

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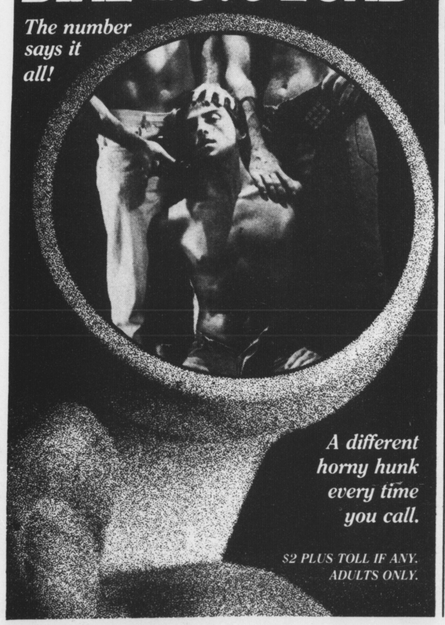

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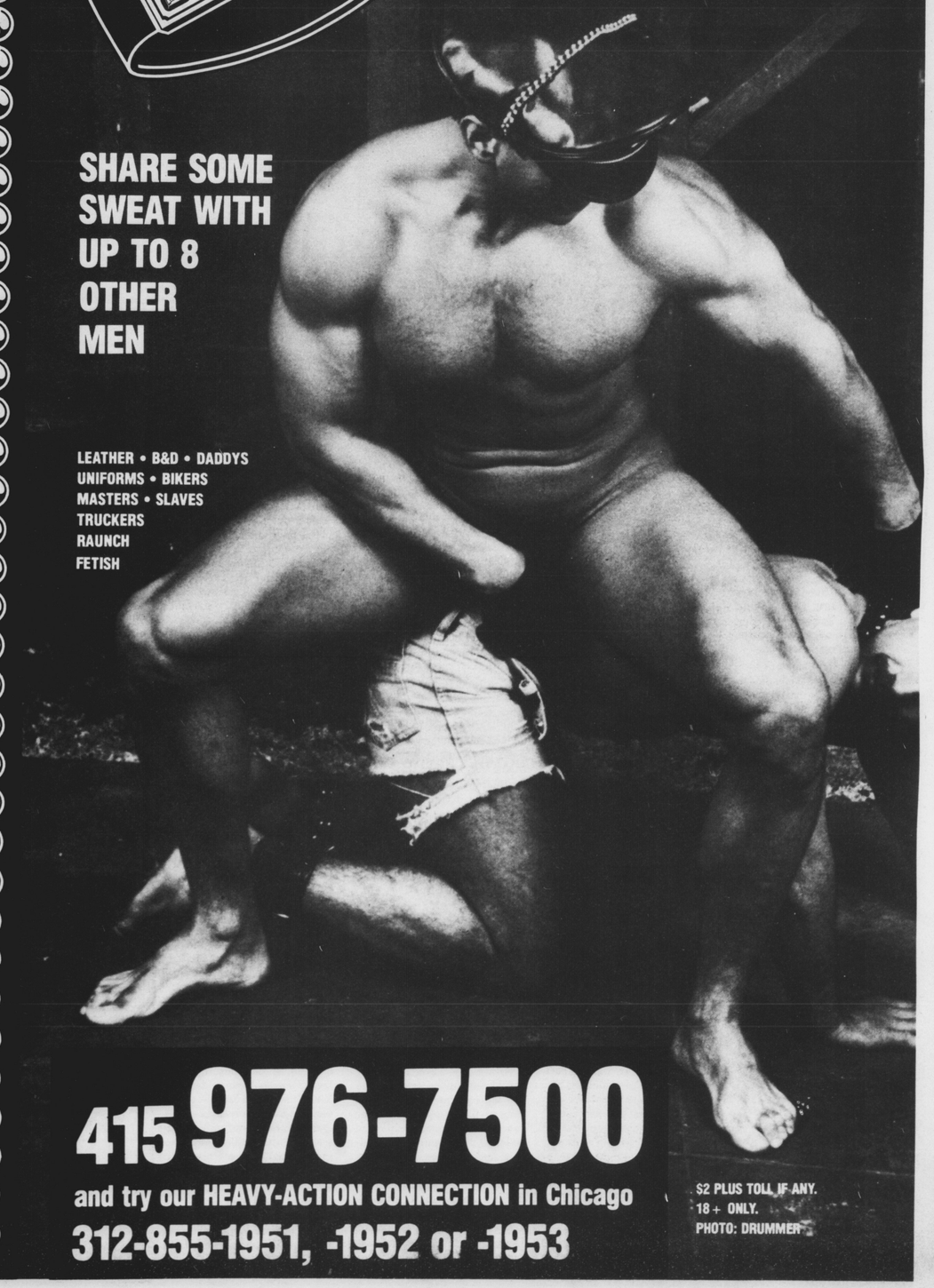

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TENNIS

'88 USGO a Success

Some Great Tennis Chases Away the Rain Clouds

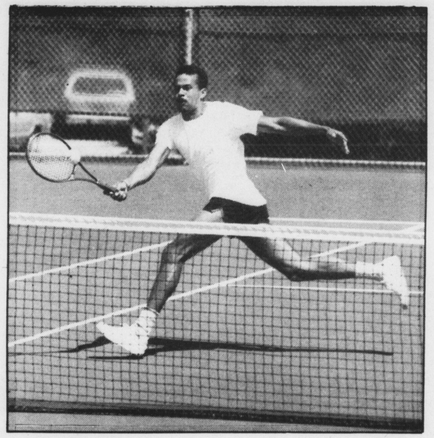
by Les Balmain

Nissley, Jeung, Draper, Almodovar, and Baker may sound like the listing of a new law firm, but those are the names of the 1988 singles champions of the United States Gay Open (USGO). The eighth annual national tennis tournament, sponsored by the Gay Tennis Federation of San Francisco, was played over Memorial Day weekend, May 28-30, at San Francisco City College and the University of California–Berkeley.

On Saturday morning the tournament started under the most miserable conditions. An all-night drizzle the previous evening left the courts sopping wet. They had to be swept and rolled dry in order for play to begin, which delayed the starting time by two hours. Under threatening skies, the tournament directors changed the match format from the best of three sets to a shorter, eight-game pro-set.

With great teamwork on the part of the entrants by their adjusting to the revised match times, the tournament was running along smoothly when, bang, another wrench was thrown into the cogwheels. Damn! It began to rain around 3 p.m., stopping play for the day. On Sunday morning the rain front had passed through, the sun was out, the wind was blowing, and the courts were dry and ready for play.

Using the eight-game pro-set all day, the postponed matches of round 1 and the regularly scheduled matches for rounds 2 and 3 were crammed in and completed. The schedule was caught up. Whew! And on Monday, with a soft sun smiling down and a gentle wind whispering about the courts, the weather was perfect for tennis. The format was changed to the original best of three sets for the semifinals and the finals. All matches on Monday were played at the Channing Avenue Courts at the University of California–Berkeley.



Michael Robinson (Photo: S. Savage)

BEST GAY TENNIS PLAYER

Bill Nissley (Santa Monica), the No. 1 seed, proved the seeding committee correct by winning his second USGO men's open singles championship. He also won in 1986. On the way to his title as the best gay tennis player in the United States for 1988, Bill defeated Jim Winters (San Diego), 8-5; Howard Jacobs (West Hollywood), 8-2; Michael Robinson (San Francisco), 8-6; Paul Papile (Los Angeles), 8-4; and Patrick Loo, seeded No. 6 (San Diego), 6-3, 6-4. In the finals, Nissley downed Rich Ryan, seeded No. 2 (formerly of San Diego and just moved to San Francisco), 6-3, 7-5.

The match was rather like a classic boxing match, with Bill being the stalking aggressor, hitting booming serves and tremendous topspin forehands, and Rich taking the part of the jabbing counterpuncher, responding with sliced cross-court backhands and looping, off-speed forehands to the extreme corners of the court.

The winning difference in the match was Nissley's desire and extra hustle in returning impossible shots that should have been sure winners for Rich. With Rich at the net and in position to make an easy kill for the point, Bill would pull another hsot out of his bag of tricks and surprise Rich with an incredible cross-court, sliced backhand to win the point. Several of these shots just took the wind out of Rich's sails. It was a great final! Rich Ryan has been the runnerup two years in a row. Now that you're a San Franciscan, maybe next year will be your time, Rich.

We had a replay of last year's finals in the women's open singles, but the results were switched. Abigail Jeung, seeded No. 2 (San Francisco), upset Kathleen Jones, last year's champion and seeded No. 1 (San Francisco), in three grueling sets, 6-4, 2-6, 6-3. Being a member of the Gay Tennis Federation, Abigail has been challenging and moving up on the men's ladder all year. She's now ranked No. 17 in the "A" division, which has improved her strength and stamina over last year.

I think that this was her winning difference, in that she had a stronger forehand and her net game showed much improvement in volleys. Kathleen Jones is one of our most talented women and has an overall beautiful game, but I think she ran out of gas in the third set. On her way to the finals, Ms. Jeung defeated Laurie Yamamoto (San Francisco), 8-0, and Barbara Lewis (San Francisco), 6-2, 6-1.

Alma Villanueva (Salt Lake City) took third place in the women's open singles by defeating Barbara Lewis, 6-1, 6-2.

A REPLAY

In the men's 40-years-and-over singles, we had another replay of last year's finals and also a new champion. Don Draper, seeded No. 2 (Dallas), downed Gary Sutton, seeded No. 1 (Lakewood, California), when the first set was tied at 4-all and Gary fell and sprained his ankle and had to retire from the match. These two smooth-strokers looked as if they were in for another three-hour match, but Gary's accident cut it short. Don Draper drew a first-round bye, a second-round default, then defeated Carlos Iglesias (San Francisco), 8-3, and Duane Gabrielson (Kansas City), 2-6, 6-2, 6-4, on his way to the finals.

The women's 35-years-and-over singles was a new event added to this year's USGO. This event had a draw of 11. Carmen Almodovar, seeded No. 1 (Encino), outlasted a gritty Lucy Lim, seeded No. 2 (San Francisco), in one of the longest and hardest-fought finals of the tournament, score 6-4, 3-6, 7-5. To get to the finals, Carmen defeated Deborah Gordon (San Francisco), 8-0, and Virginia Brusco (Daly City), 6-0, 6-2. In another grueling three-set match, Randi Glick (San Francisco) took third place by defeating Virginia Brusco, 6-3, 4-6, 6-3.

Also a new event, the men's "B" open singles was added to the tournament, anticipating a draw of 32 entries. However, the tournament committee decided to let all of the entries play this year and ended up with 54 entrants in the "B" division. The No. 1 seed, casual Joe "Candy" Phillips (Dallas), gracefully made his way to the finals, where he ran into a tornado called Kyle Baker (San Jose), who blew Joe off the court with a score of 6-2, 6-0.

An unknown and unseeded player, Kyle was the new find and sensation of the tournament. Baker is a very aggressive and accurate competitor, with an assortment of lethal shots. His ground strokes are consistent and well paced, and, with a whopping fast serve and crisp volleys, he's a formidable opponent.

PLAY WITH THE BIG BOYS

I think Kyle Baker has seen his last "B" division tournament. He's ready to advance to the "A" division and play with the big boys. Kyle didn't lose a set on his way to the finals. In fact, he only lost 11 games in all of his matches. He defeated Brett Buckius (San Francisco), 6-0, 6-1; Michael Ruiz (San Francisco), 8-0; Kenn Weibel (San Diego), 8-3; Ron Duron (Palm Beach, Florida), 8-4; and Sean Bulmer (San Francisco), 6-1, 6-0, on his way to the finals.

Third place in the men's "B" open singles was won by Dan Harkey (San Diego) as he defeated Sean Bulmer, 6-3, 6-0.

First-round losers in singles were placed into consolation events, and the winners are as follows. (1) Men's open consolation: Scott Williford (San Diego) defeated Greggy McCarty (Hollywood), 6-2, 6-3. (2) Women's open consolation: Michelle McGeoy (San Francisco) defeated Barbara Gilman (San Francisco), 6-3, 6-0. (3) Men's 40-years-and-over consolation: Norman List (San Francisco) defeated Bill Fisher (San Francisco), 6-3, 6-1. (4) Women's 35-years-and-over consolation: Nancy Rupprecht (Albany, California) defeated Katie Deamer (Point Richmond), 6-3, 6-4. (5) Men's "B" open consolation: Tim Neuman (San Diego) defeated Robert Quitiquit (Sacramento), 6-1, 6-3.

The men's open doubles event was planned to have a draw of 16 teams, but it was such a popular category that it was expanded to 32 teams. Not being seeded didn't bother this year's doubles champions one bit. Scott Williford and Jim Winters (San Diego) sailed through their opponents with a steady competence and furious, aggressive net play. They defeated Paul Papile and Joseph Lukito (Los Angeles), 8-2; the No. 2 seeded team of Norm Burgos and Patrick Loo (San Diego), 8-6; the No. 4 team of Rich Ryan and Brad Blume (Houston), 6-1, 6-3; and, in the finals, the No. 3 seeded team of Wade Gilliam and Tony Vanchu (San Francisco), 6-2, 6-4. The finals score looks sort of .opsided, but it was an exciting match to watch, with tremendous rallies fought by both teams.

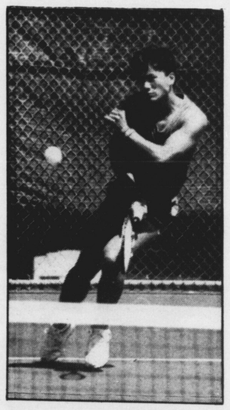
Last year's doubles champs and seeded No. 1 this year, Kerry Mitchell and David Lewis (San Francisco) just couldn't get any steam up and lost in the first round to Jim Kitch and Kenn Waibel (San Diego), 8-3.

STRONG DOUBLES

In the women's open doubles, last year's champions, Abigail Jeung and Kathleen Jones, were just too strong for the field again this year and repeated as the 1988 women's open doubles champions. They obliterated their opposition by losing only two games in the whole tournament. They defeated Alma Villanueva and Sandy Isaac (Salt Lake City), 8-1; Deborah Gordon and Randi Glick, 6-0, 6-1; and, in the finals, Barbara Gilman and Virginia Brusco (Daly City), 6-0, 6-0. The most exciting doubles match was the semifinal upset pulled off by Gilman and Brusco in outlasting the No. 2 seeded team of Claire Potter and Barbara Lewis (San Francisco), 6-7, 7-6, 6-4. What a marathon! And congratulations to Gilman and Brusco for taking second place!

By overcoming the multitude of headaches, tensions, and obstacles caused by the bad weather, format changes, and rescheduling of the tournament, a well-deserved pat on the back goes to all the players and to the tournament co-directors, Rick Raggio and Jeff Greenfield; the seeding committee chairman, Chuck Gee; the scheduling by Chris Walkey; and to all the committee workers: Barbara Gilman, Kevin Liberg, John Burnette, Abigail Jeung, Deborah Gordon, Brett Buckius, Michael Gillespie, Andre Lalias, Tom Kelly, and Michael Strickland.

Despite the beginning difficulties, the 1988 USGO ended as one of the most successful tournaments ever. The spirit of cooperation from all the players and committee workers emerged as the true champion of this year's event! ●



Patrick Loo (Photo: S. Savage)

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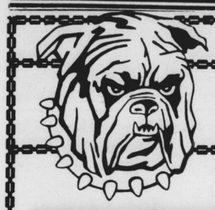

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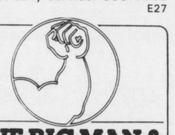

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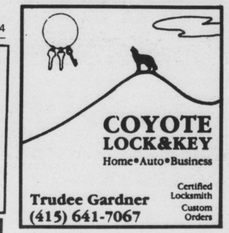

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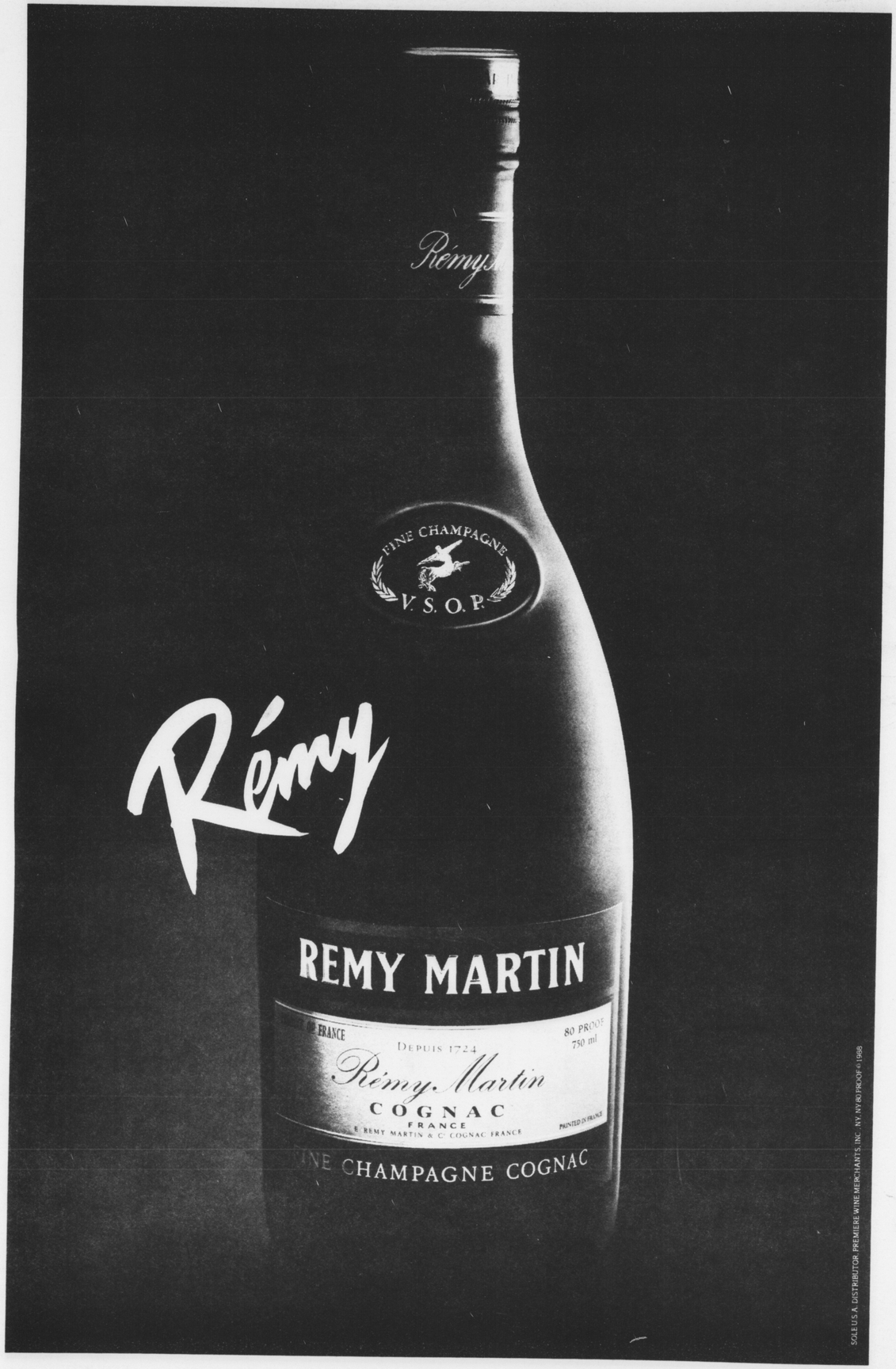

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'Merriest, Handsomest of Parades'

Freedom Day Celebration Draws Festive 275,000

For the full story on the parade and many more pictures, see pages 14 and 15. (Photo: Rink)

An American Hero

Leonard Matlovich Dies in West Hollywood

by Mike Hippler

Leonard Matlovich, the former Air Force sergeant who was the first openly gay man to appear on the cover of Time Magazine, died Wednesday night, June 22, at a friend's home in West Hollywood of AIDS-related illnesses. With him when he died were his parents, a cousin, his roommate, and his best friend, Michael Bedwell. His sister and two nieces had also visited shortly before his death. Matlovich was 44 years old.

The son of an Air Force master sergeant, Matlovich was born in a military hospital in Savannah, Georgia, on July 6, 1943, and raised on a series of Air Force bases around the world. After graduating from high school in England in 1962, he joined the Air Force a year later and spent the next 12 years in the service.

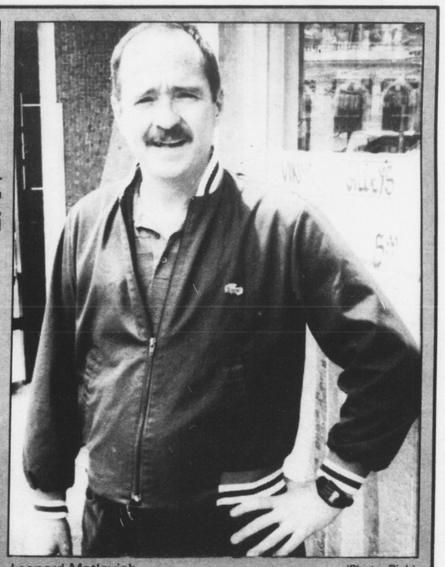
While in the service, Matlovich served three separate tours of duty in Southeast Asia, for which he was highly decorated. For meritorious service performed in Dong Ha, Vietnam, on his first tour of duty, he received a Bronze Star. Four years later in Da Nang, he stepped on a mine and was awarded a Purple Heart. He also received an Air Force Commendation Medal in 1971.

After leaving Vietnam for good in 1971, Matlovich served as a counselor with the Air Force's Drug and Alcohol Abuse Program. He later became a race relations instructor, winning praise from students and supervisors alike for his bold and innovative classroom techniques. It was while teaching race relations that he began to study the problems of other second-class citizens in America, including homosexuals. It was then that he also began to explore his own homosexuality, which he had hitherto suppressed.

In 1974 Matlovich met Dr. Frank Kameny, a gay activist who was looking for a serviceman or woman with a perfect record to challenge the military's policy excluding openly gay people. After considerable deliberation, Matlovich agreed to serve as the gay community's test case, and in March 1975 he delivered a letter to his superior officer at Langley Air Force Base in Virginia, stating, "I consider myself to be a homosexual and fully qualified for further military service. My almost 12 years of unblemished service supports this position."

Both the military and the media response was swift. In May 1975 the Air Force commenced

(Continued on page 19)



Leonard Matlovich (Photo: Rink)

This Paper in Two Sections