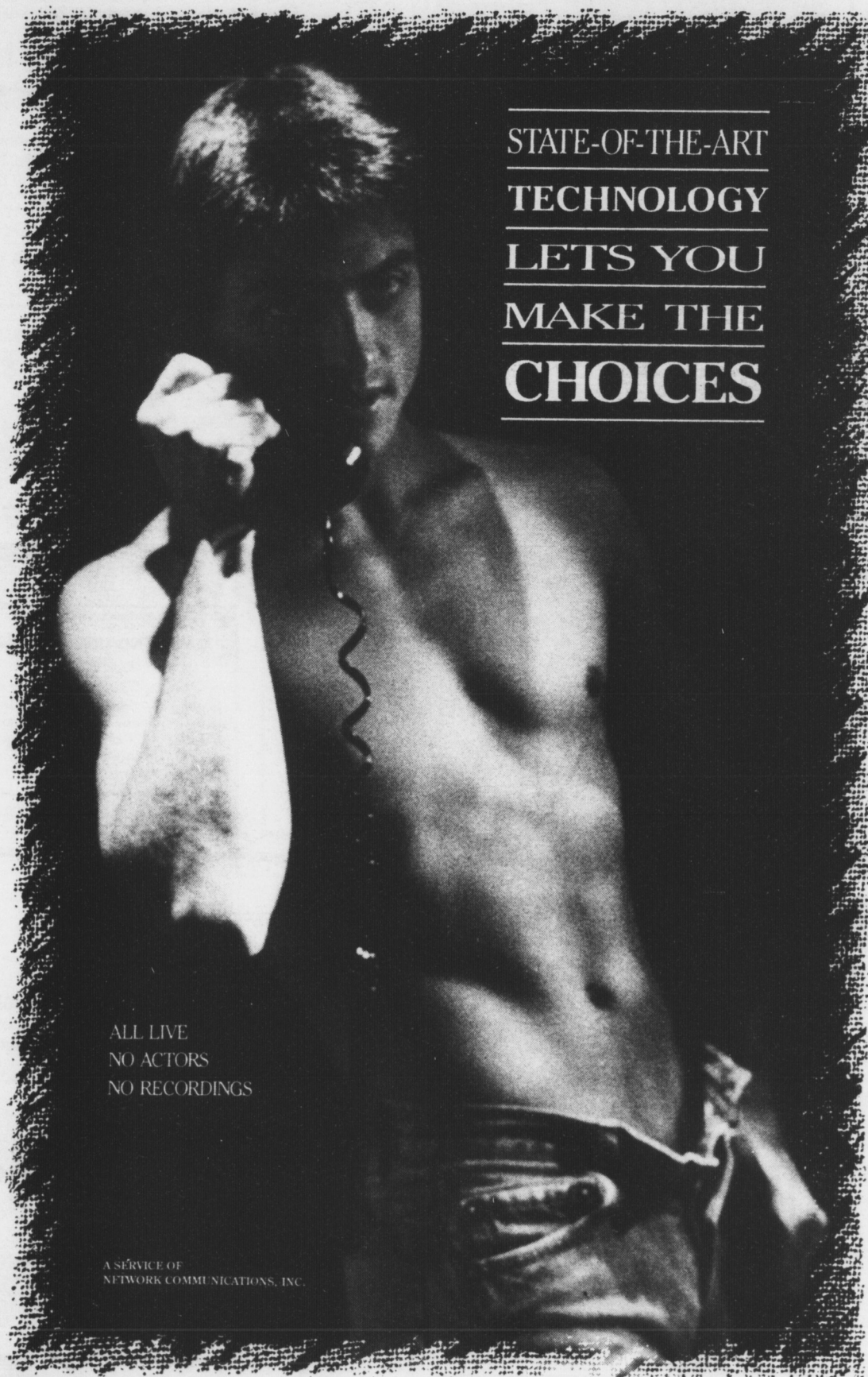


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BAY AREA REPORTER

VOL. XVIII NO. 33 AUGUST 18, 1988

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Prop. 102 Way Ahead Dannemeyer Measure Favored by 72-22 Margin; Van Gorder Urges Gays, Lesbians to Get Cracking

by Allen White

Proposition 102 is supported by 72 percent of the voters, according to a California Poll released this week by pollster Mervyn Field.

"We assume that, to some degree, the results were skewed, yet, nevertheless, the results are so serious that we have a real problem on our hands. It means that people have to take this thing seriously and help us out," said Dana Van Gorder, Northern California coordinator of the No on Prop. 102 campaign.

A huge 72 percent of those polled were in favor of the AIDS-related initiative, 22 percent were opposed, and only 8 percent were of no opinion. That so few people have stated they have no opinion frightens Van Gorder the most.

Van Gorder said that he assumes "they will have access to a great deal of insurance money and employer money because of the benefit to the corporations and insurance companies. We don't know where they have found their money up until now."

He also said that "There has been interest in the gay community in fighting this. Clearly there has to be more interest. Everybody has got to help us fund this thing and write a check and needs to help defeat the thing."

"Up until now, we have only had a plan to raise about \$600,000. Clearly we need to put together an effort as strong as Prop. 64 was, and we will need more money than we have contemplated up until this point."

Proposition 102 is supported

by U.S. Rep. William Dannemeyer (R-CA) of Orange County and Paul Gann, the man who authored Prop. 13 in 1978, ten years ago. Gann is a person with AIDS who contracted the disease through a blood transfusion.

The survey was based on telephone interviews with 809 registered voters and was released in the San Francisco Chronicle.

Van Gorder said, "If the proposition passes, it means any person who has their name on any AIDS test will have their name reported. Anybody who has tested positive in the past will have to have their name reported, and the file will be available for employers and insurance companies. It will also give employers and insurance companies the right to test people, presumably



Dana Van Gorder. (Photo: Rink)

to throw them out of a job or denying them medical insurance.

"It will require everybody to record everybody they ever had sex with, to write it down so they may be tracked and reported. It will allow medical personnel to record the names who simply might be positive for AIDS, presumably so they might be tested for AIDS."

He further noted, "The impact to AIDS organizations will clearly be horrendous. It will close anonymous testing sites. It will close down AIDS education efforts, because anyone who seeks out AIDS information will be suspected of being HIV-positive. It will totally destroy AIDS research efforts. Anyone who is in an AIDS research project will have to have their name reported."

High Flying FLAG

Yes Ronnie, Yes Mommy: There Are Lesbian And Gay 'Feds'. . . And They're Proud, Too!



The Federal Lesbians and Gays in the '88 Parade

(Photo: Photo Graphics/Darlene)

by Mary Richards

Members of Federal Lesbians and Gays (FLAG) recently marched for the fourth year in the Lesbian and Gay Freedom Day Parade. Their experiences weren't much different this time around, either. They

met at 10 a.m., but didn't hit the Market Street crowds until around 2:30 p.m.

Just as was the case in previous years, FLAG members rarely get to see the rest of the parade, yet it doesn't seem to matter. They're

usually last off, but the community comes first with them, and their enthusiasm never wavers.

A rundown of the community involvement of Federal Lesbians
(Continued on page 23)

Castro Blood Unsafe, Says Blood Bank

Irwin Admits Pressure From Day Forced Move to Masonic

by Allen White

The fourth annual Women's Day Blood Drive is being forced out of the Castro this weekend. The drive will be held Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Irwin Memorial Blood Bank at 270 Masonic at Turk. Shuttle buses will take people from the Castro to the Masonic location.

The decision to move donors out of the Castro came in response to criticism leveled at the blood bank by Dr. Lorraine Day, a surgeon at San Francisco General Hospital who said the Castro attracted high-risk donors.

As the controversy has mounted, Irwin Blood Bank staff are now admitting that their blood supply is, in fact, not completely safe. Following meetings with Irwin Memorial executive director Dr. Herbert Perkins, Maurice Belote, president of the Harvey Milk Lesbian/Gay Democratic Club, said, "Dr. Perkins has always been the first to say that the blood supply is inherently not safe. Any time you are dealing with the human blood, there is always great risk, and when a physician is faced with giving a person blood, that physician always considers the risks and the benefits."

Irwin director of operations Vince Yalon said, "Even the slightest suggestion that the blood bank might be compromising the safety of community blood supplies is enough to warrant a change in perspective. In this case, it meant changing the location of the blood drive."

Sylvia Ramirez, an Irwin spokesperson, said, "To appease Dr. Lorraine Day and to try and work this thing out, we decided to move the site of the blood drive out. We didn't think it would make the blood safer, we just thought it would calm her down while we had a chance to get our
(Continued on page 3)

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

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

What is Positive Action treatment?

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

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

What does the Positive Action treatment consist of?

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

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

How effective is this treatment?

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

What risks are entailed in the treatment?

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

The Positive Action HealthCare Staff:

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

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

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

For more information or an appointment, contact Positive Action HealthCare

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Blood

(Continued from page 1)

act together and go back and talk and reason with her."

She was listened to, says Ramirez, "because she is chief of orthopedic surgery at San Francisco General, and she uses the product we collect, and because we just couldn't ignore the suggestion that we might be compromising the blood supply. To have a physician with her credentials out there telling people that blood is unsafe and that we are collecting from unsafe donors in an area that is perceived as the highest HIV-positive district in the city, that is going to carry a lot of weight. What Dr. Day is saying is that we are holding it in an area where people could walk in off the street, people who might be at risk for AIDS, it might be an invitation for people who are at high risk for AIDS to donate."

Ramirez justified the change in location, saying, "You know, sometimes we do things that have no scientific basis. We are responding to a person who has kind of an irrational fear, and we are responding to them. Sometimes you have to do things that don't make a whole lot of scientific sense."

Concerning the blood supply from Irwin, she added, "There is no 100-percent testing for AIDS or hepatitis or anything. We can say that we have tested it to the fullest of our ability. I don't think anyone knows the answer to that question. We have had two cases [of people getting AIDS] in the United States. That is not to say that we will never find out. People who have been transfused don't get AIDS right away. It may take several years."

'POLITICAL, NOT MEDICAL'

Lenore Chinn, the coordinator of the blood drive for the Milk Club, said, "I have done this since 1985. They have flatly stated that the Castro is no more or less safe than anywhere else in the city. Because we are more educated on issues related to AIDS, and the kinds of drives we have been having, it is conceivable the location is more safe."

Chinn continued, "The reason is political, rather than medical. They feared a media retaliation by Day, because she apparently threatened to bring this subject up over and over again until she gets her way."

The controversy has devastated this year's blood drive. Chinn said, "My initial reaction is really to blame Day for this, because, thanks to her, it just set a series of events in motion which we are not able to turn around in time. There has been so much confusion as to if we were even having a blood drive that we are not getting the calls we should. I am angry because we are not going to fulfill the number of credits that we would like to see to maintain the services we have."

Belote added that "The issue is too important, and the service we provide the community is too important. Each week we receive letters from grateful people who saved hundreds of dollars on their medical bills by getting blood credits from us. We supply a service to people with AIDS by the blood credit system, and we provide a system for the blood supply system by attracting new donors."

Belote labeled Irwin's actions as "absurd." He said, "It is impossible to start differentiating between the Castro and other neighborhoods."

He continued, "So, besides not basing their decision on any



Boarding the bus from the Castro to Irwin Memorial Blood Bank. (Photo: Rink)

medical proof, they're stuck with a policy they could simply not enforce, and they are going to waste time enforcing some ridiculous policy, instead of attracting new donors and old donors to giving blood and keeping the blood supply safe."

Dr. David Werdegard, the San Francisco director of public

health, has come to the support of the Milk Club Women's Day Blood Drive. He said, "I commend the Arm in Arm Blood Drive and the effort of the Harvey Milk Club. Lesbians have been shown to be an exceedingly safe source for blood. When they participate in this kind of effort, they provide a valuable community service."

Belote said the Milk Club is planning several efforts to force Irwin to change its policies. "If, in the end, their decision goes against having blood drives in the Castro, they are going to be hit by two sides, it seems to me."

"On one side is the medical community, which is going to review whatever policy they draft — and it's very apparent the thing is just a joke, because it is impossible to define a neighborhood such as the Castro, and it's impossible to eliminate certain donors within a neighborhood."

"On the other side, they are going to hear from us, because we are sure to file an official complaint with the Human Rights Commission, and they will investigate whether there is some kind of discrimination. It seems the only ones they are going to please are the far-right extremists that, I guess, are encouraging Loraine Day to do what she is doing. We would want to talk to people who have represented us in the past, like National Gay Rights Advocates, that finished representing us in a case against the Post Office," Belote said.

Chinn is angry because of the need to secure credits of blood for people with AIDS. "Ultimately it hurts them as much as it hurts us, because there is a shortage of blood donors; and unless a miracle happens, there will be

'... sometimes we do things that have no scientific basis. We are responding to a person who has kind of an irrational fear, and we are responding to them. Sometimes you have to do things that don't make a whole lot of scientific sense.'

—Sylvia Ramirez, Irwin Memorial Blood Bank

a shortage in our donors this year."

Members of the Milk Club emphasized that a blood drive is still going on. They need blood this Saturday. Chinn said that only women are eligible to donate blood. She said there is a desperate need for blood. The need is so critical for people who have AIDS that she is hoping people will look beyond the controversy and go to the blood bank location at 250 Mason on Saturday to give blood.

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S.F. General Starts Trials On New AIDS Treatment

Drug rCD4 Could Be a 'New Direction in Therapy'

by Dennis McMillan

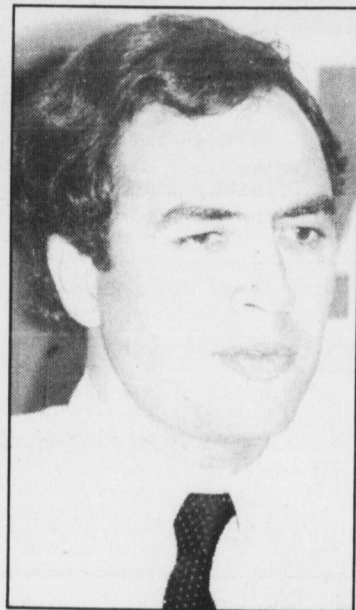
San Francisco General Hospital Medical Center has announced the beginning of clinical trials of a new potential AIDS drug known as "rCD4." It would introduce a novel approach to the treatment of AIDS, intended to slow the cellular spread of HIV and inhibit infection of healthy cells that have been recently exposed to the virus.

The combination of letters and numbers, sounding like a character from the *Star Wars* movie, stands for the recombinant (or genetic recombination) soluble CD4 protein that is normally found on the surface of the T4 helper cells, those most vulnerable to attack by HIV.

Phase I of the trials will take approximately six months, to be administered to approximately 50 AIDS patients and symptomatic ARC patients with low T-cell counts. The studies are being carried on simultaneously at S.F. General, Harvard-affiliated New England Deaconess Hospital in Boston, and the National Cancer Institute (NCI) in Bethesda, MD. If the first phase is successful, phase II will then take over for up to three years.

Thus far the Genentech-developed protein has been tested on laboratory animals to establish a safe dosage range for human use. Side effects are unknown, but the substance is said to be nontoxic.

The drug is not a vaccine in the ordinary sense of the word, that being the stimulating of the body to produce antibodies to a virus. There is, however, the possibility of using rCD4 to prevent infection immediately following exposure to the virus.



Dr. Paul Volberding. (Photo: Rink)

In S.F. General and Deaconess, the patients will be given intravenous injections daily for the first week, followed by three shots a week for 12 weeks. In NCI, the patients will be continuously fed rCD4 by drip IV. In all cases there will be close monitoring.

Patients taking AZT will not be allowed in the study. AZT works by interrupting viral replication inside the cell, whereas rCD4 acts

like a decoy, blocking the virus from entering the cell and tricking the HIV into attacking it instead of white blood cells.

Dr. Paul Volberding, director of S.F. General's AIDS clinic, has been working with Genentech for six months prior to the upcoming six-month trial. Volberding said rCD4 isn't a breakthrough. "But there is excitement because it represents a new direction in therapy."

He does not anticipate a need of any more volunteers at this time.

A study by Genentech and Harvard researchers was published in the December 18, 1987 issue of *Science Magazine*, reporting that the protein prevented more than 99 percent of cells from being infected in the laboratory samples, neutralizing HIV activity.

The media offices of S.F. General are hoping to see results within the first few months of testing.

There are several unknowns surrounding rCD4, including if and when it will be approved by the Federal Drug Administration, what the cost will be, when will it be available for marketing, and how efficacious (or dangerous) it will prove to be in humans. •

Chicago Cares!

Windy City's Work With Names Project Draws Praise

by Allen White

The pride of personal ownership of the Names Project quilt was certainly evident in Chicago. Omission of the city in a recent B.A.R. story signaled letters from the midwestern city, and an investigation shows the city was one of the most successful display sites in the country.

As with all cities where the quilt visited, a host group was organized. In many of the cities, this quickly became one of the most vibrant AIDS organizations in their area. Across the country, they started workshops where people could visit and make panels.

As the quilt visited each city, new panels were displayed with the touring display. The many panels were then sent on to San Francisco for inclusion in the upcoming display in Washington, D.C.

In Chicago, the local people created 315 new panels. They were added to several thousand which were displayed July 9, 10, and 11 at the city's Navy Pier.

The display in Chicago was presented differently than in almost any other city in the country. Tour manager Jack Caster said, "It was almost like two displays. It was a long narrow pier. It was like a long tunnel with the panels hung on each side. The panels were laid at angles in diamond shapes. It was a zigzag pattern."

Names Project spokesperson Danny Sauro said, "The display was so large that upon entering you could not see the end of the display."

Chicago was viewed as one of the most successful of the more

than 20 on the national tour. Sauro said that over 25,000 people saw the quilt during its three days in the city.

Equally as impressive was the \$52,000 which was generated for direct care to people with AIDS in the Chicago area. Sauro said there was a direct mail appeal and several supermarkets tied in with the visit of the Name Project quilt donating a percentage of their gross to AIDS organizations attendance. "They were the second best money-raiser. Boston was first," Caster said.

People working with the Names Project were most impressed with the number of volunteers who worked on the July presentation. There were over 1,300, one of the largest numbers in the country. Jack Caster commented, "The organization was incredible. I was really pleased." He also observed, "They were also very successful at bringing in minority communities."

Caster said the volunteers averted what could have been a

Join the Movement Against Prop. 102

The campaign to defeat the Dannemeyer AIDS Reporting Initiative is in full swing and has opened its office at 10 United Nations Plaza, Suite 410, in San Francisco. Anyone interested in volunteering, or in having a house party for friends to raise money for the campaign, should call 621-4450. •

Names Project Benefit Cancelled After Only 100 Tickets Are Sold

by Allen White

Partygoers arriving at the Giftcenter last Saturday night for the planned "Care to Dance" event were greeted with a hastily-drawn sign stating the event was cancelled. Friday afternoon the event was cancelled with only about 100 tickets sold.

"Care to Dance" was to have been a spectacular dance party to benefit the Names Project. It was presented to the public as an event in the ten-year San Francisco tradition for which the city is unique. There would have been five hours of dancing, with entertainment designed to fit the dance party format.

Produced by a group called Designing Men, they hoped to raise over \$30,000 at the benefit. To raise this type of money, they had priced the tickets from \$25 in advance up to a hefty \$100, which included admittance to an advertised "celebrity cocktail party."

The party was a dud, though not unexpected by those in the area who regularly present these types of mega-parties in San Francisco. "The main reason for cancellation of the show was lack of ticket sales," said co-producer Jeff Hocker.

In what could be an understatement, Hocker said, "Ticket prices were a little high." In fact, it was one of the highest-priced dance parties at the Giftcenter in recent years. Hocker said that only about 100 tickets were actually sold.

The failure of the show is a dramatic example of the high risk involved in presenting these types of events. Costs can easily skyrocket into the tens of thousands of dollars. High production costs have resulted in cutbacks in the number of mega-parties being presented in the city.

Sanford Kellman, the I-Beam's owner, has pulled back from presenting as many as five or six events a year, to just two in 1988. In 1987 there was no gay day tea dance at the big venues.

This year the AIDS Emergency Fund utilized several creative fundraising concepts to present the party which saw hundreds of people fill the Giftcenter after the Lesbian/Gay Freedom Day Parade and Celebration. Ticket prices were half what was being charged last Saturday night.

Kellman is still expected to hold on to the spectacular and successful Halloween and New Year's Eve events. As successful

Victim Alert

Community United Against Violence has received several reports from victims and witnesses of robbery/assaults near Collingwood Park. Most of the attacks occur from midnight through 3 a.m.

Victims are attacked from behind and wallets are taken during the course of the attack. Other reports indicate that the attacker will first ask for money or cigarettes and then proceed to attack the victim.

If you are near Collingwood Park use caution, carry a whistle, and report any incidents to the police and/or CUAV. Contact Randy Schell at 864-3112. •



This was *not* the scene at the Giftcenter.

(Photo: Rink)

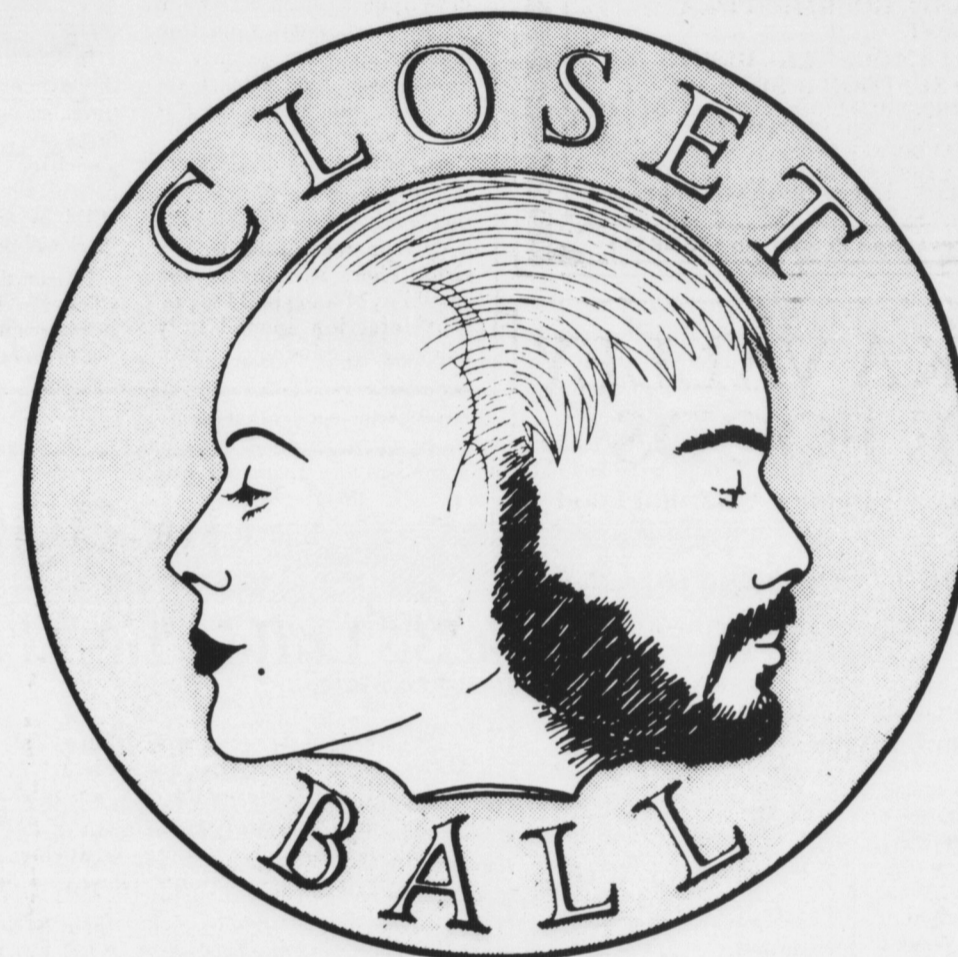
For the Names Project, cancellation of the event means projected donations will not be seen. "We were shooting for a \$30,000 donation to the Names Project, which was feasible if we had sold 2,000 tickets," Hocker said.

Names Project spokesperson Danny Sauro said, "We were terribly disappointed. It seemed very promising, a fundraiser as well as a fun evening."

Hocker believes one reason for their failure was the large num-

ber of charity events presented each week in the gay community: "The Names Project alone has four benefits this month." Undaunted, Hocker said, "We are considering rescheduling it in September at the Galleria." •

Robert Michael Productions Presents



1988

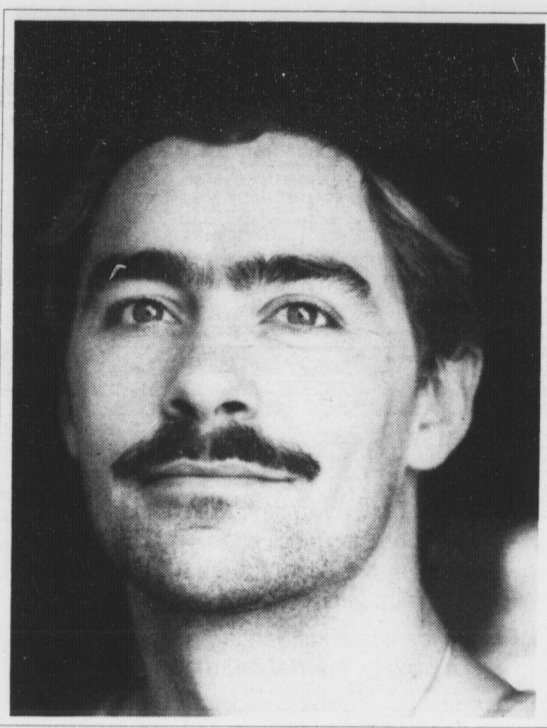
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LETTERS

Secrecy Is The Thing

★ I was appalled to read Mr. Tolson's letter in the Aug. 4 B.A.R. As a member of a 12-step program, I have a few comments on it.

First of all, if anyone in a 12-step gathering related this information to Mr. Tolson, they have broken with one of the basic program concepts, namely privacy. That is their mistake. Tolson's was to announce this publicly. It is in bad taste, and makes public an organization that is founded on anonymity. I certainly hope no one ever repeats a story Mr. Tolson has told in secrecy, because he would not appreciate hearing about it in the media.

Second, nothing which takes place under the aegis of a 12-step program is public, including anything having to do with Living Sober.

Third, how dare Mr. Tolson presume to tell people how to make amends. The 12-step recovery is about assessing for ourselves where our responsibility lies, and we strive to overcome the influences of people like yourself, who attempt to dictate personal ethics. As a therapist, I would hope Tolson was above such vindictiveness, judgements, moralizing, etc. His letter to the B.A.R. is damning to his career as a therapist, at least among the 12-step community, as whatever tacky comment someone may have made, or as damaging as ripped-down posters.

Marjorie S. Oakland

The Mayor Responds

The following letter was sent to Dr. Herbert Perkins, executive director of the Irwin Memorial Blood Bank.

★ I would like you to know that I fully support your decision that Irwin Memorial Blood Bank should conduct blood drives in all areas of the city, including in the Castro, using the full array of safeguards which have been developed.

When I served in the California State Assembly, I was impressed with your professionalism and dedication to those in need of safe blood transfusions. I welcomed and appreciated your assistance and support for my legislation, which put into place the first requirement for testing blood for HIV antibodies. As you know, we drafted that legislation to provide state-of-the-art public health guidelines to protect all the public.

I have discussed the concerns raised about the current blood drives in the Castro with Dr. Don Francis, who is serving as a special consultant to me on AIDS. He concurs that the public health is well protected with the safeguards that have been in place.

In view of the objections raised, it is important to note that the first line of public health defense has been the extremely strong level of cooperation from the lesbian and gay community that no one possibly infected should donate blood.

In addition to this very successful self-deferral program, the blood supply is further safeguarded by an intensive interview at the time of donation, when an option to discretely withdraw or earmark a donation for research rather than human use is provided.

A battery of tests also is applied to blood donations, including tests with the most sensitive assay test available for HIV and additional tests for markers to the hepatitis B virus, which often appears in those with HIV infection.

The level of volunteerism from the lesbian and gay community to combat the HIV epidemic has saved lives in our city. Indeed, they have carried much of the burden for educating the rest of the city about risk and safeguards.

In view of that record, I am dismayed by proposals that imply that groups which have performed such a public service are unreliable in serving the larger public health needs.

In the past, Irwin Memorial Blood Bank has performed its important role in our community with dignity and professionalism. I know you will want to continue to place your focus on genuine public health concerns, and to add your voice to those supporting a public health rather than a political or public relations response to the epidemic.

If there is any assistance which you believe that I, as mayor, might provide to your organization in meeting its public health goal, please call on me.

Art Agnos
Mayor, San Francisco

Abuse By Negligence

★ The Names Project benefit at the GiftCenter scheduled for Aug. 13, tickets for which sold at \$25, was cancelled without notice.

The real damage done by this is not the hundreds of ruined evenings, nor the hundreds of tedious refund requests nor required of would-be patrons, nor even the hundreds of wasted round-trip taxi fares. The real damage is that all future entertainment-

based benefits will now be hampered by an additional layer of suspicion and mistrust, and thus only the most heavily publicized events—those giving the greatest implied assurance that they really even happen—will be attended by numbers sufficient to make any money for the causes they aim to help.

According to telephone communications the night of the event, the cancellation apparently went into effect 33 hours before the event was to begin. Yet no advance notification was ever provided to ticket purchasers, or even to the Names Project. (Posters advertising the event were still in store windows two days after the cancellation.)

The GiftCenter has never really been a pleasant place to dance anyway: It has a too-hard floor, bad ventilation, overpriced drinks, long lines, rude bartenders, and a generally exploitative attitude. Most of the people who bought tickets to the benefit probably knew all that, but we went anyway—only to be turned away by a cardboard sign.

It is already obvious that getting my \$25 back is going to be a long and obnoxious process, and that many people are going to write it off as too difficult. That means a lot of people are going to lose \$25, and probably none of those lost monies will end up at the Names Project. This abuse-by-negligence is the worst kind of profiteering, and those responsible should be exposed and censured.

Randy Wellington
San Francisco

Let Them Play Solitaire

★ How many martyrs will it take to change present politics of drug companies' patent holdings? I suppose it will down to who can afford treatment and who cannot. This is capitalistic America. What will a cure cost me?

I hate like hell to go out like this. Each day my energy dims. When I realize medicines exist to abate this illness, I cringe in agony because I cannot afford them, cannot attain them. Slow suffocation, but there's enough strength in this papermate to strike my lowest vengeful blow.

My manuscripts took hours to burn. Nine years of musical striving, critiqued as unpublished genius, given reverently to the burn barrel.

The writers' strike is nothing compared to the void gays could create if we closed our spiritual lips. What a fumbling, hopeless mess the absence of our romantic power would create.

This inflammatory letter is meant to reach our artists' fullest attention. Gay writers must react—we hold the very world in our palms. No cure...no dreams. Let the heteros eat solitaire.

D.F. Watson
Chico

LETTERS

Time Will Tell

★ Regarding the flood of negative publicity about U.S. Sen. Pete Wilson appearing in the Bay Area Reporter, including T.J. Anthony's latest try at satire in the Aug. 11 issue, a couple of observations.

T.J. Anthony's political activities have shifted, over the months, from successfully organizing local opposition to the Bork nomination (CRIR and I supported Anthony in that effort) to conducting a personal vendetta against Pete Wilson.

Leo McCarthy, Wilson's opponent this fall—the same Leo McCarthy who fired Steve Krefling from his staff for publicly supporting Harry Britt's campaign for Congress, doesn't have to make any commitment to our community as long as Anthony engages in his negative campaign against Wilson. Without such a commitment, what can we expect from McCarthy, should he become elected?

Regarding the D.C. civil rights vote, in which religious institutions were exempted from the gay rights ordinance (and I have discussed with Wilson's staff my disagreement with his vote), it should be pointed out, in all fairness, that A.B. 1—Art Agnos' perennial gay rights bill—also had an exemption for religious schools and day-care facilities. Furthermore, Agnos' bill didn't include protections against discrimination in housing or public and private accommodations and services. Did any gay Democrat ever question Agnos on that fact? Certainly not, T.J. Anthony!

Finally, Anthony blasts Wilson for arguing that the AIDS provisions in the new Federal Fair Housing Act provide coverage for all gay men (whether infected or not), yet that is exactly the point Art Agnos used to sell his A.B. 3667 two years ago. A.B. 3667 attempted to place into state law rulings of the federal court that stated that individuals infected or diagnosed with a contagious disease were in fact disabled, as defined under the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and that they were to be protected from discrimination in employment, and that individuals perceived to be infected with a contagious disease—e.g., members of a high-risk group (gay males)—were likewise covered under the federal definition of "disabled." Did Mr. Anthony ever question or protest Art Agnos' interpretation of that law?

Hopefully, with my letter, the dialogue of the senatorial campaign this fall will look at the entire record of each candidate in the proper context, by extolling positions and votes on substantive issues with which we are in agreement and criticizing those with which we are not in agreement, and not by dwelling on a few negative votes on symbolic or moot points. Time will tell—right, Mr. Anthony?

Christopher L. Bowman
San Francisco

Sour Grapes to Old Wine

★ While the juxtaposition of letters between mine and Martin P. Routhier's brought a chuckle, nonetheless Routhier's letter far more dramatically demonstrated the point than Hippler or I alone could have. I do not know what was in Mike Hippler's mind at the time he wrote his article, but I suspect that Routhier, far from refuting Hippler's claims, merely underscored them; certainly he did mine.

Where Hippler—and I—are talking about facets of life and survival beyond partying, Routhier cannot seem to stop doing his hair long enough to hear what Hippler was saying. Where Hippler was talking about the larger society, Routhier could not see beyond another night at The Box. And as for leaving "the fruit on the vine," I want to know just how wrinkled it has to be before it's "ready"?

I am 47 years old, and comfortable with that—especially in an age when so many will never make 40. As an independent consultant, I have not, for the past 13 years, been subject to employment discrimination laws. And, as a PWA, I am not looking for a job.

On the other hand, there are Routhier and the younger generation (Who are these people?) partying at The Box; a younger generation who is not as likely to be "established," who is more in need of a job than I, and who is in a more direct line to lose it all than I. Just coming onto the scene, and into the market, the "young" are not likely to be well connected, or well established, or have the reputation or the wherewithal to be self-employed. In other words, they need jobs.

The Dannemeyer initiative on the November ballot allows insurers to test for HIV, and employers to discriminate against those suspected of being HIV positive. The Dannemeyer initiative also requires doctors to report any person they believe to be HIV positive, so that refusing to take the HIV test is no defense against the belief of HIV infection. And, once "believed" to be infected and reported to the various health agencies, you will be subject to all the various discriminations man can dream up against one another, including having the health agencies tell your employer.

As Routhier sneers at "those who believe they made gaydom possible for us all," he makes it obvious that he, and those for whom he purports to

Committed

★ On Sept. 13, 1984, a brief description of the San Francisco Men's Health Study (SFMS) was published in the Bay Area Reporter. In that statement, the position of the investigators and their sponsoring agency regarding confidentiality of records was set forth. Specifically, it was stated that "our contract with the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Disease, National Institutes of Health, specifically forbids releasing participants' names to any outside group—not even to the sponsoring agency. We cannot and will not provide names or other identifying information about our participants to anyone outside our staff."

We, the undersigned principal investigators, unequivocally reaffirm our commitment to the maintenance of the confidentiality of the records and identity of the participants in the San Francisco Men's Health Study.

By their participation in the San Francisco Men's Health Study, more than 1,000 San Francisco men have made important contributions to our knowledge of the modes of transmission of the AIDS virus (HIV), its prevalence in the population and the sharp decline in its spread among homosexual and bisexual men in San Francisco (first observed and reported from the SFMS), its clinical manifestations and their rate of progression, and its infectivity. These findings have been useful both locally and nationally in the development of strategies for the control of the AIDS epidemic.

Nevertheless, much remains to be learned before this terrible epidemic is brought under complete control. The SFMS can continue to provide important information to contribute to this objective. This requires the continued maintenance of the confidentiality of the records and identity of the participants. We are absolutely committed to this end.

Warren Winkelstein Jr., M.D., M.P.H.
Professor of Epidemiology/UC Berkeley
James A. Wiley, Ph.D., Associate Director
Survey Research Center/UC Berkeley
William Lang, M.D.
San Francisco Children's Hospital

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Michael Ward D.C.

The Politics of AIDS

The other day, a friend of mine who is a reporter for one of the local TV stations told me that he had been given a chance for a 15-minute interview with John Dukakis, the son of the presidential nominee, and asked me for suggestions of topics he should ask the young Dukakis about. I replied, "AIDS."

I suggested, "Get the guy to tell us what his father will do as president about the AIDS crisis." The Democrats have chosen the

Dukakis/Bentsen team, and, tonight in New Orleans, the Republicans will name George Bush as their party standard-bearer. As far as I am concerned, the only real issue for us in the presidential election is AIDS. All else is secondary.

When we are being threatened with a disease that could destroy us as a community, suddenly issues such as Central America, abortion, jobs, national defense, and the like become somehow meaningless. A few years ago, we

were in a war in Vietnam that drove a president from office and literally tore the country apart. Never had an issue such as Vietnam polarized the American people. The issue crippled the country for decades to come.

Yet more people have, to date, died from AIDS in America than were lost in the jungles of Vietnam, and we have an administration that clearly doesn't give a damn.

I would like to put those gay and lesbian political activists who will be taking part in the coming presidential election on notice that we want them to make AIDS the issue in this election. When gay and lesbian activists like Harry Britt, Carole Migden, and the leaders of the Milk and Toklas and Concerned Republicans get the opportunity—and they surely will—to discuss the issues with those in the Bush and Dukakis campaigns, they should forcefully make AIDS the issue.

Over and over, these people should demand of the Bush and Dukakis campaigns that adequate funding—all that is necessary—be promised for AIDS research. For my vote, nothing else at this time really matters.

When I was a kid, polio was the AIDS of the day. If you contracted polio, you either died or were left crippled. The president of the United States, Franklin D. Roosevelt, even contracted polio, and the search for a cure was on.

Everyone knew then that the answer was research money. The only way to find a cure is to provide money, all that is needed. When they went after the answer to polio, the government and private corporations poured millions and millions of dollars into the cause. Every university, college, hospital, and research facility that had anything that even resembled a laboratory was provided with funds—all that they needed—and the result, as we know, was that a bright scientist from San Diego, Jonas Salk, came up with the answer.

Today there are an average of four or five polio cases annually in the western world. The disease was eradicated because the necessary research money was provided, and I am convinced the same can happen in the AIDS crisis. Money for research is the answer, and I challenge all in our community to make that the criteria of how we vote in November.

Whenever the president of the Toklas Club gets the opportunity to discuss the campaign, the issue should be AIDS. Whenever Harry Britt gets to speak with



Harry Britt. (Photo: PhotoGraphics/Darlene)

anyone in the Dukakis campaign, the issue should be AIDS. Whenever Brian Mavrogeorge or Chris Bowman get the ear of Bush operatives, the issue must be AIDS.

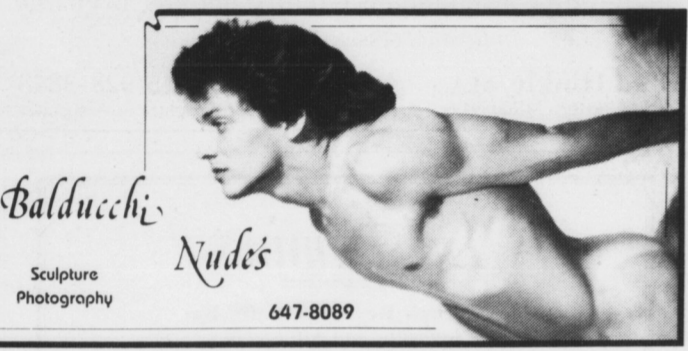
If these people don't make AIDS their agenda, then they don't deserve to be our community leaders. Important as they may be, don't talk to me about day care, the environment, housing, minimum wages, or U.S.-Soviet relations. The issue I want to hear about is AIDS!

Like too many of us, I know someone who dies of this deadly disease every week, and I am so damned tired and sick of it that there is no other issue for me that I care about. I firmly believe that if we get this government to provide us with the necessary research monies, a cure to this disease can and will be found.

Neither Michael Dukakis nor George Bush deserves our vote unless he promises to make such funds available.

It is said that neither presidential candidate pays much attention to the party platform once the convention is over, and let's hope that is the case, because the conservative wing of the Republican Party firmly took control of their platform this week. The result is one of the most dogmatic, right-wing platforms the party ever adopted.

(Continued on page 19)



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By growing up in a dysfunctional family, we inherited ineffective and destructive patterns which we continue to replay in our daily lives. Becoming aware of the influence of these embedded feelings and patterns of the past will enhance our ability to be successful and energetic about life and to feel good about ourselves and our relationships.

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Life at the Closet Door

MOM—YOU'RE TAKING MY BEING A LESBIAN WAY TOO HARD!

THESE DAYS A LESBIAN CAN LEAD A FULL, NORMAL ADULT LIFE. I'M SURE DEAR. =SNIFF=

IT'S JUST... I'D ALWAYS HOPED I'D HAVE GRANDCHILDREN TO COMFORT ME IN MY OLD AGE...

ASK FOR ACCEPTANCE... SETTLE FOR GUILT

Second Marine Sentenced for 'Indecent Acts'

A U.S. Marine Corps judge has sentenced Drill Sgt. Cheryl Jameson, 26, of California, to one year in prison and a dishonorable discharge for engaging in "indecent acts" with two other female Marines at the U.S. Marine Corps Recruit Depot at Parris Island, South Carolina.

Jameson is the second female Marine at Parris Island to be court-martialed on charges related to homosexuality in the last two months. Military Police Cpl. Barbara Baum, 23, of Indiana, was convicted June 9 on charges of sodomy and "indecent acts" with another female. Both Baum and Jameson received the same sentence.

The court martials of Baum and Jameson are part of an ongoing investigation by the Marine Corps into gay activity among female Marines at Parris Island, the only Marine Corps base used to train female recruits. Six other female Marines at Parris Island have either been given administrative discharges or are awaiting the findings of their own court martials or preliminary hearings.

Major Bob McLean, a spokesperson for the base,

said Baum and Jameson have already been transferred to a military prison at the U.S. Marine base in Quantico, Virginia. He added that Jameson could have received a maximum sentence of 22 years and Baum could have received a maximum sentence of 38 years.

The investigation into allegations of lesbian activity at the base began last October, according to McLean, and are still under way. Although he said he could not reveal how many more women are under investigation or how many more may be charged, a number of persons monitoring the investigations report that as many as 15 to 30 women may eventually be prosecuted.

A local newspaper in South Carolina reported women saying that they believed the investigations were triggered by a report from the Department of Defense's Advisory Committee on Women in the Services. That report, delivered to U.S. Marine Corps Gen. Anthony Lukeman, reported numerous complaints about lesbians at certain Marine bases.

—The Washington Blade

Special Visa Card Donates to AmFAR

Empire of America Federal Savings Bank, the bank that took over Atlas Savings and Loan when the nation's first gay bank was seized by federal officials several years ago, has launched a special Visa credit card in Los Angeles with a percentage of its proceeds designated for the American Foundation for AIDS Research (AmFAR).

For every consumer who subscribes to the card, which charges rates of 13.9 percent and 16.9 percent, depending on the type of account, Empire will donate \$5 of the \$25 annual fee and 0.25 percent of each dollar charged on the card to AmFAR.

Empire of America's new card will be test-marketed to a list of pre-approved consumer in Los Angeles before introducing it nationwide.

—Update

Mass. Foster Policy Attached to Budget

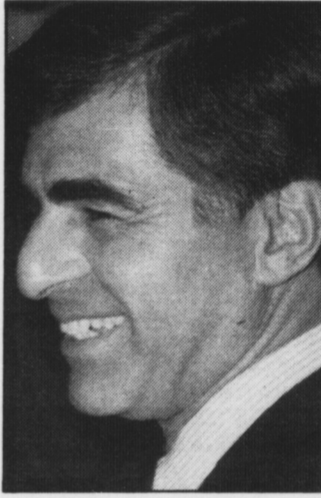
In an amendment to the fiscal year 1988-89 Massachusetts state budget, funding for the Department of Social Services is linked to that agency upholding what critics charge is an anti-lesbian and gay foster care policy, first implemented three years ago by Gov. Michael Dukakis.

At an open meeting held recently at Boston City Hall and facilitated by members of MASS ACT OUT and the Gay and Lesbian Defense Committee, members of the gay community decried what they see as continuing bigotry from the governor and his allies and its implications for the upcoming presidential election.

All of those present condemned what some saw as Dukakis' implicit approval of the amendment, and many of those in attendance urged people not to vote for either George Bush or Michael Dukakis.

The fact that the policy is now included in the budget means that it must be enforced for the entire fiscal year. Prior to the budget amendment, the governor could have reversed the policy at any time.

—Bay Windows



Mass. Gov. Michael Dukakis. (Photo: Scott Martin)

Mike Hippler is on vacation. His column will resume upon his return.

Frisch

GOOD MORNING WORLD, I'M 40 TODAY! I THINK I'LL GO OUT AND PICK UP A BOTTLE OF FORTY YEAR OLD COGNAC AND A PAIR OF TWENTY YEAR OLD CUBS TO HELP CELEBRATE!

AUG 18

Frish 1988

Repeal of Oregon Gay Rights On November Ballot

A ballot measure to repeal the gay rights executive order issued last year by Oregon Gov. Neil Goldschmidt has qualified for the November ballot. The initiative would also outlaw the issuing of other gay rights orders by other members of the executive branch.

The campaign for the initiative is being coordinated by No Special Rights, part of a fundamentalist Christian organization called Oregon's Citizens' Alliance (OCA) that has wrested control of the state's Republican Party from moderates. OCA plans to raise \$600,000 for the campaign, and Oregonians for Fairness, a coalition of groups fighting the initiative, hopes to raise \$400,000.

Although it is the first time that gay rights has come directly before the voters of Oregon, opponents to the ballot measure are optimistic. Portland's daily newspaper reported last year that 58 percent of voters agree with the executive order.

So far, the campaign tactics of OCA indicate that the campaign will be ugly. A copy of an essay originally appearing in the Boston-based Gay Community News is being circulated throughout Southern Oregon. The essay describes a fantasy to "do in" straights, and proponents of the measure say it proves that gays recruit children.

—The Montrose Voice

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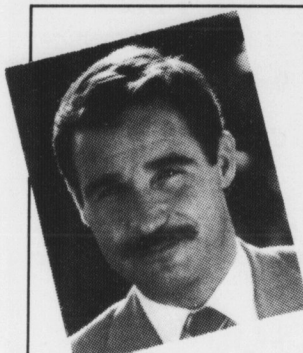
Appeals Court Backs FCC on Indecency

Judge Says Gov't Lacks Justification For Change in 'Safe Harbor' Time

by Miranda Kolbe

The United States Court of Appeals upheld the Federal Communications Commission's definition of indecency on Aug. 1 against a challenge by a coalition of 17 broadcasting and free-speech organizations. However, the court also ruled that the FCC apparently changed its "safe harbor" time in which indecent language could be safely aired from 10 p.m. to midnight without substantial justification.

Broadcasters have argued that is too vague, and, consequently, the FCC definition of indecency they are forced into a position of

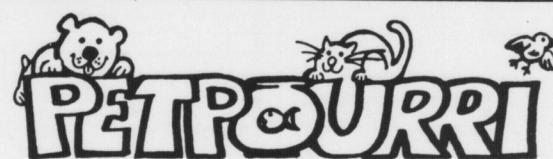


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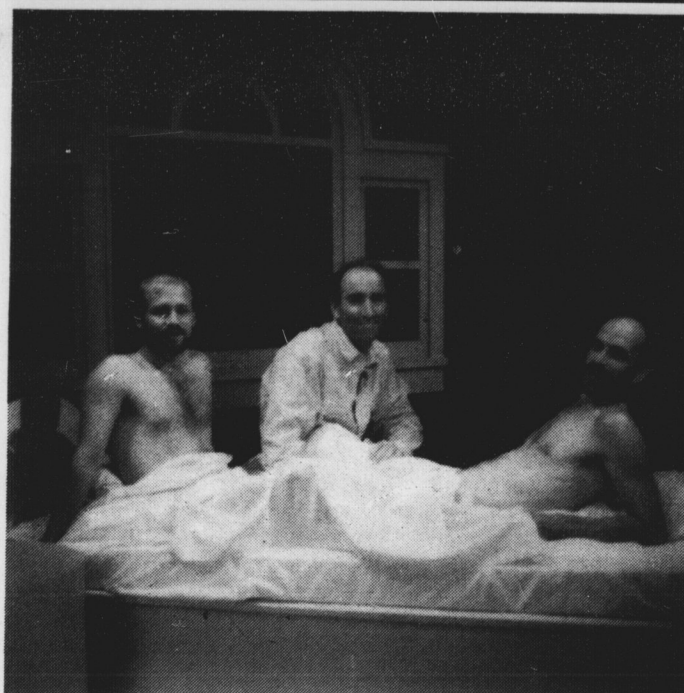
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If the Theatre Rhino production of *Jerker* went on the radio, would the FCC pull the plug? (Photo: Savage Photography)

self-censoring material which may not be considered indecent in order to avoid possible fines or loss of license. The FCC defines indecency as "material which is patently offensive as measured by contemporary community standards for the broadcast medium, sexual or excretory activities or organs." The FCC has consistently refused to offer examples of what might or might not be considered "indecent."

David Salmiker, executive director of Pacifica Foundation, which was cited by the FCC for its airing of a portion of the AIDS-related play *Jerker*, described the ruling as "a big blow to all of us... It implied that there is a national standard of what constitutes indecency, and it gives the FCC the power to decide what it subjectively describes as patently offensive as a description of sexual activity."

The court's determination

able in the household. [The FCC's guidelines] could, then, mean that indecency could be banned during the working hours, when parents aren't available, but could be aired in the early evening, when parents could supervise their child."

The court ruling stated that "the FCC must endeavor to determine what channeling rule will most effectively promote parental—as distinguished from governmental—control."

UNCLEAR

It is possible, however, that the FCC could maintain its midnight standard after holding more open and comprehensive hearings on its safe harbor policy, Salmiker said. It is unclear how a court would rule should the FCC hold to a midnight rule harbor.

The Court of Appeals' decision in this case continues the legacy of earlier decisions in suggesting that broadcasters must be allowed to air indecent material during some designated "safe harbor."

This decision could affect an appropriations bill sponsored by Sen. Jesse Helms (R-NC), which attempts to prevent radio stations from airing sexually explicit broadcasts at any time.

Ed Baker, staff attorney for the American Civil Liberties Union, commented that "Helms' bill would go beyond FCC past and present regulations and what the Court of Appeals has said. The best reading of court law and the FCC's guidelines would indicate that both groups would view a total ban of indecent material as unconstitutional."

"However," Baker added, "the court has never faced the issue directly."

Helms commented to the Senate, "Garbage is garbage, no matter what time of day or night."

made no allowance for the social or artistic merit of a program. Consequently, Allen Ginsberg's "Howl" could potentially face the same threat as, perhaps, *The Morton Downey Jr. Show*.

However, the three-judge panel also ruled that the FCC's hearings on its safe harbor policy did not offer ample justification for the time change. Broadcasters have argued that the listening audience drops off significantly after midnight, and, therefore the midnight standard will effectively bar adults from access to indecent material.

Indecent speech is a protected category under the First Amendment. The FCC's mandate is to assist parents in regulating their children's listening habits. Consequently, according to Salmiker, "programs require warnings, and indecent speech should be limited to times when adults are avail-

Agnos Aide Predicts 'Gradual AIDS Therapeutic Progress'

But, He Says, 'Virus Will Be Around A Long Time'

by Jay Newquist

Dr. Donald Francis, the newly-appointed AIDS consultant to Mayor Art Agnos, predicts no great breakthrough on the horizon to quell the epidemic.

"There will be gradual therapeutic progress, but the virus will be around for a long time," said the infectious disease specialist. "People with AIDS are living longer, healthier lives with the intervention of drugs, but the death curse won't stop."

"Our own job is to care for them the best we can."

Francis will continue to advise State Health Director Dr. Ken Kizer on AIDS issues while he works one day each week for the City of San Francisco. His main task is to work with the private sector to broaden its response to the AIDS crisis.

He also hopes to unite under one roof all people with differing areas of AIDS expertise to make the system function better, including the exploration of better funding and meeting patient needs faster.

"San Francisco is a star, everyone concerned about AIDS is looking at us as a model, but we can do better," Francis said, indicating he is an optimist despite his belief the epidemic will get worse before it gets better.

Francis said he strongly believed there lurks within the American character the need to reach out to help people, from pennies for AIDS to the Coast Guard that rescues someone on a rubber raft in the ocean.

"We have to find a way to provide access to AIDS drugs to all those who want them despite the expense," he continued, estimating that if Congress can rightly spend \$3.9 billion to rescue farmers from the current drought, then the federal government could ante up a similar amount for AIDS.

Francis comes from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) in Atlanta where he became assistant director of its hepatitis and viral enteritis division in 1978. He studied biological sciences at UC Berkeley, earned an M.D. from Northwestern and his Doctor of Science from Harvard.

Francis, 45, is somewhat controversial—at least to Clark Taylor of the local Institute for Advanced Study of Human Sexuality.

"Francis presents himself in the light of a pseudo liberal who believes that less money is needed for AIDS because fewer gay men are being infected, Taylor said. "We still need the support

and we are far, far away from doing without."

Francis said he himself is tested regularly because his laboratory work brings him into repeated contact with the AIDS virus. He said he wished to safeguard his family.

He favors mandatory testing only for blood banks and the military where he said sex for the latter was often typified by "a six-pack and 12 sexual partners."

Taylor continued that Francis' appointment to Gov. George Deukmejian's Commission on AIDS made Francis a fixture of the establishment and that "someone was needed as a counterbalance."

The mayor's office credits Francis as one of the first to recognize that AIDS was caused by a sexually transmitted virus. Francis moved to Berkeley in 1985 as the CDC's AIDS advisor to Kizer. The federal government will pay Francis' salary for his work in San Francisco.

Lesbian Couple Fights For Insurance Benefits

Partner Denied Coverage, Using Rights Law in Complaint

by Dennis McMillan

A Madison, Wisconsin, lesbian couple who were denied health insurance extension have filed a formal complaint with the state Personnel Commission. Such denial is not only unfair but illegal, say attorneys representing the women, in the one state that has a statute specifically barring discrimination based on an employee's marital status and sexual orientation. Jerri Lynn Phillips, a state employee who wanted to add her partner of five years, Lorri Tommerup, to her group health insurance plan, was refused on the grounds that the couple is not legally married.

Tommerup does not have health insurance because she has left her job to attend graduate school.

Wisconsin is the only state in the U.S. to have an antidiscrimination law concerning sexual orientation. The closest equivalent is the District of Columbia and some case law that has developed under civil rights acts, such as in California.

In addition, since the employer involved is also the state government, it is therefore subject to the constraints of the Wisconsin equal protection clause of its state constitution.

According to Leonard Graff of National Gay Rights Advocates who is representing the women, these insurance cases are coming up more and more frequently.

"Typically these plans would not cost the employer anything, because the employer only pays for the employee's health insurance," stated Graff. "When an employee adds family to the plan, it is the employee not the employer who pays the additional premium." It makes no sense as to why companies would not extend their coverage, he said.

As a result of the state refusing to cooperate, NGRA has filed an administrative agency action, which is the process they must go through before going to court. If the state Personnel Commission rules against the women, they can then settle the matter in court.

If the case goes all the way through the court system, precedent could be set in Wisconsin allowing for lesbian and gay couples to obtain equal rights with straight married couples in family health insurance benefits.

The ripple effect would be to begin changing the way the private sector handles insurance coverage of its employees. It would also be a validation and recognition of the significance of gay relationships, he pointed out.

The case is now pending before the Personnel Commission, a state agency which administers all the rules and regulations regarding state employees. The state of Wisconsin contends that the agency has no jurisdiction to hear the case, claiming that the case ought to be heard by the courts.

"What they're really trying to do is deduct the issue," Graff commented. "They feel it is controversial and they do not want to handle it."

Known technically as "exhaustion of administrative remedies," the law states that complainants must go through proper channels, in this case the commission, as a forum to adjudicate their dispute.

Concerning strategies planned for the case, Graff stated, "We intend to have the most vigorous representation for prosecution of

this claim that we can. We have some highly skilled attorneys who have done a tremendous amount of research."

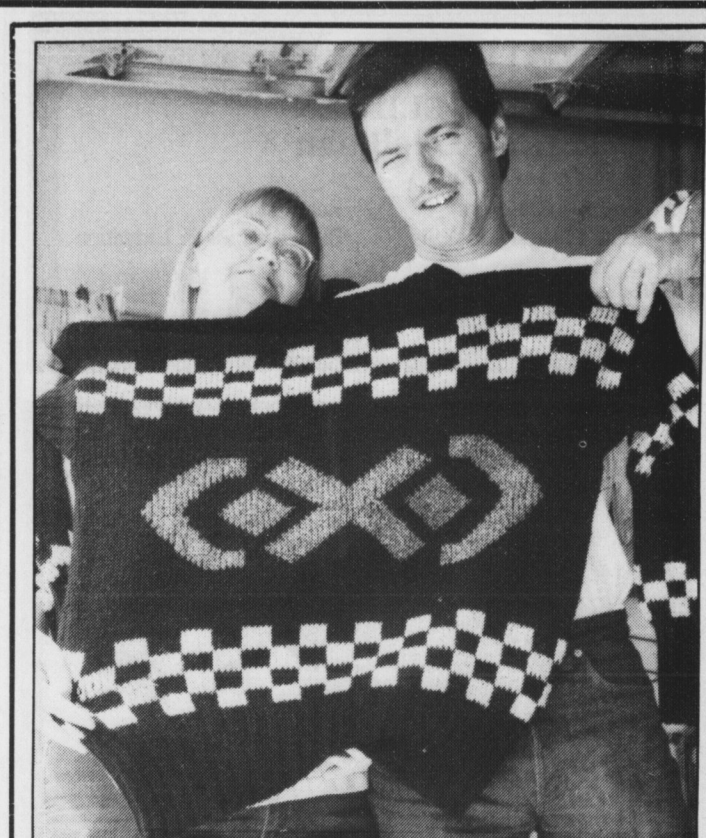
Should the case reach an appeals court, NGRA plans to recruit other organizations for assistance, filing *amicus curiae* briefs [Latin for "friend of the court"]—where someone who is not an actual party to the lawsuit can supply useful information for the court to hear].

The greatest obstacle NGRA faces is that of tradition. While there may be no logical reason not to extend the health in-

urance policy, the fact remains that it never has been so extended in Wisconsin or anywhere else.

"There is a subconscious reluctance to be the first one to do something that hasn't been done before," explained Graff.

NGRA is hopeful of victory, believing that the law is squarely on their side. If nothing else, the case would help raise consciousness that long-term coupled homosexual relationships do exist. A win for NGRA would also help to break down the stereotypes and make a stand for equal rights.



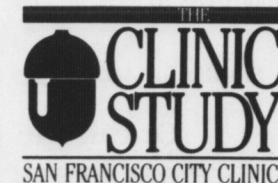
Sister Ruth Hall and volunteer Bob Beyer organize donations for this weekend's garage sale to benefit the Family Link, a nonprofit community service group that provides low-cost accommodations and related services to families and other loved ones visiting San Franciscans with life-threatening illnesses. The sale is Saturday and Sunday, Aug. 20-21, at the corner of Hayes and Baker streets. (Photo: Scott Martin)

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**Don't Know What To Do Tonight?
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Chicago Diocese Expels Gay Group

Church Takes Over Dignity Mass for Gays, Lesbians

by William Burks

Cardinal Joseph Bernardin of Chicago broke his longstanding public silence about Dignity's Mass here May 15 when he announced that the Archdiocese of Chicago will take over sponsorship of the Sunday night liturgy. At an unannounced "private" meeting following Dignity's weekly mass, Rev. John Flavin, pastor of St. Sebastian's Church, where the Mass has been held for 16 years, told 200 Dignity members that he and other priests will assume responsibility for the Mass for the gay and lesbian Catholic community.

Bernardin had planned to attend the meeting and make the announcement himself. But bad weather delayed his return to Chicago.

"It will be the responsibility of the pastors to ensure that everything connected with the Mass, and any events which might take place before or after the liturgy, be in accord with church teaching and discipline," Bernardin's announcement said.

The meeting was to include "appropriate" questions by Dignity members for the pastors or the archdiocesan representative, according to Dignity/Chicago officers who moderated the proceedings. But, instead, lesbian and gay Catholics lined up at two microphones for more than two hours to express anger, pain, and sadness over their experiences in the church and the Vatican's position in its most recent statement condemning homosexuality.

"You should not be asked by anyone to be less than who you are, no one has the right to ask that of any other person," the Rev. Michael Place, archdiocesan theologian, responded. "Each of us are, in our own ways, struggling to be followers of the Lord and be decent human beings, to love and be loved, and that's what these pastors are about, and that's what this ministry is about," he said.

Dignity members referred often to specific texts in the Vatican's 1986 letter, challenging the clergy to state how the new ministry would conform to the letter's instructions. The clergymen attempted, at times, to gloss over the harshness of the Vatican document's tone and specific instructions.

St. Sebastian's Father Flavin said that "many of us were disturbed at that document" and said gay and lesbian dances, which have held in the parish school hall, had never been "near occasions of sin," in his judgment.

Bernardin said everyone who had attended the Mass in the past were welcome in the future, and those who have had a leadership role on the liturgy planning committee were welcome to continue in that role. Some officers of Dignity/Chicago have said they will participate in the liturgy and "monitor diligently to see that this accepting atmosphere remains a viable part of the Sunday night liturgy."

But many Dignity members appear unwilling to participate in the archdiocese's liturgy. At a general meeting at the end of May, members were scheduled to vote whether to continue attending the St. Sebastian Mass or to move to a non-Catholic church for its Masses. One participant in the May 15 meeting at St. Sebastian's Church said he would not participate in the archdiocese's liturgy.

He asked if the archdiocese were prepared to accept civil disobedience such as Dignity/New York has performed at St. Patrick's Cathedral.

The archdiocese's move will affect Dignity/Chicago's financial status. The offering at the Sunday night Mass has gone to Dignity, out of which it paid a fee for use of the church. During the past three months, Dignity's income was more than \$6,000 from its Masses at St. Sebastian. At the new Sunday night Mass, only checks made payable to Dignity put in the offering baskets will go to the local Dignity chapter.

Despite doubts about the archdiocese, gays and lesbians at the meeting expressed trust of the six pastors who will have immediate responsibility for the Sunday night Mass. The Association of Chicago Priests, a clergy organization independent of the archdiocese, recently honored the pastors for their outreach to the gay and lesbian community and their ministry in the AIDS crisis.

A priest involved in one of the first ministries to gay and lesbian Catholics said, "The archdiocese should be given the benefit of the doubt" as it establishes the new ministry. The Rev. Robert Nugent, SDS, continued, "I would think Dignity should at least cooperate and promote discussion of the issue."

'Prejudice Reduction'

Jewish Group Produces TV Specials On Bigotry; Gays Included in Focus

by Allen White

Bigotry and prejudice against gay men and lesbians will be part of an impressive new effort announced last week by the Anti-Defamation League (ADL) of B'nai B'rith in San Francisco. It is called "A World of Difference" and is curiously described as a "prejudice reduction project."

The project, which has been several months in the making, was coincidentally timed in the same week the national Jewish community was being bombarded with anti-Semitic rhetoric from right-wing Christian fundamentalists who were unhappy with the film, *The Last Temptation of Christ*. Lew Wasserman, head of Universal Pictures, which distributes the film, is Jewish.

Though the sponsoring organization is Jewish, its first major efforts will be television specials which will focus on Bay Area immigrants and a second show on Hispanics.

Richard Hirschhaut, the area director of the "World of Difference" effort, said there will be emphasis throughout the year on issues of concern to the gay and lesbian community. He said there is a group representing several Bay Area organizations which will meet several times a year for the purpose of developing strategies in the battle against prejudice.

He said that representatives from Community United Against Violence will be included in all the meetings. He said that he attempted to gain involvement from other gay organizations, but said he received no response. One of the organizations which did not respond to the invitation to participate, he said, was the Golden Gate Business Association.

The project will include \$1.5 million in television time on KGOTV. Groups like Atari, Safeway Stores, and the Koret Foundation have also pledged their support to develop specially produced materials for Bay Area classrooms. Spokespersons for KGOTV said they expect a portion of the money will be earmarked directly to fight homophobia.

"A World of Difference" is being brought to the Bay Area by the ADL after several successful efforts in Boston and other cities on the East Coast. Hirschhaut, who will direct the campaign, said, "A World of Difference" involves a serious and sustained application of time and resources, a blending of media and education, in the fight against bigotry and for harmony.

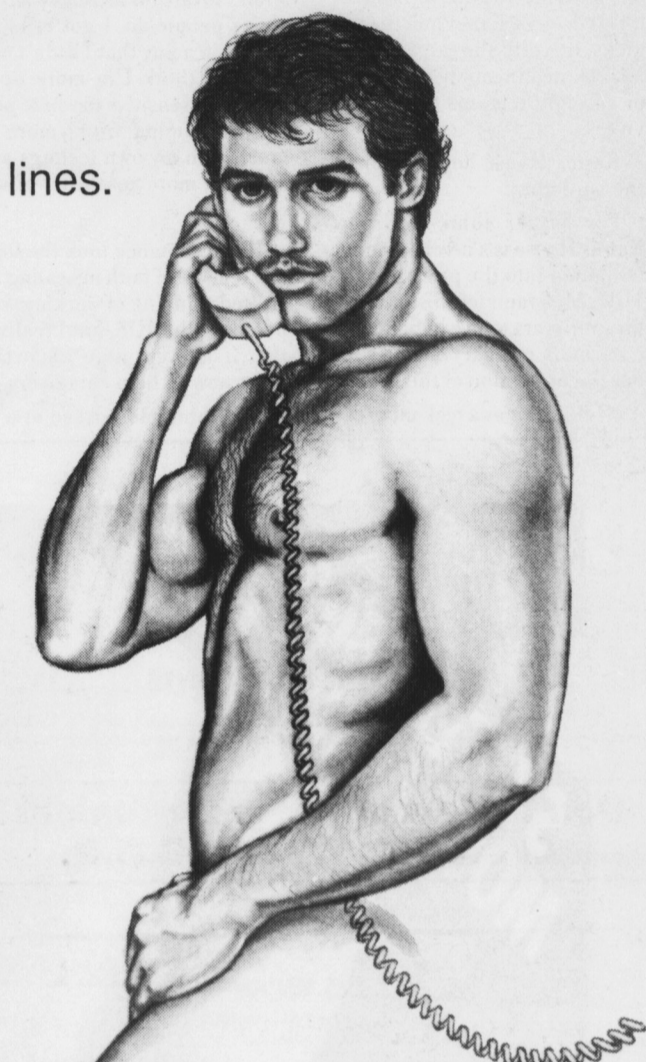
If successful, this could be one of the most comprehensive anti-prejudice campaigns ever mounted in the Bay Area.

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'Retreat, Renewal, Refreshment'

Kairos House Offers a Quiet Place for Caregivers

by Mary Richards

In the war against AIDS, there are the fallen and those who remain. Who takes care of the ones who care? Where can those who no longer have their friends to confide in go to share special time with, to live out the life they thought they would share?

The ones who remain fall into nebulous categories. Some count their losses. Some only lose the one most precious person in their life. It doesn't matter how the loss looks, it is still the same. Pain is not counted in numbers. Shadow or sunlight remains for the survivors.

Kairos House hopes to bring the sunlight.

For Father John McGrann, Kairos House is a new beginning. Ordained into the priesthood in 1967, McGrann left his ministry for four years to live in San Francisco as an ordinary citizen without the protection of the church.

"I think it was a real important

part of my journey," he says, "to be away from the position and the security that the priesthood also offers. To fare for myself, to struggle as people do. I got to know people in a way that I didn't as a priest. I think I'm more open now, more sensitive to where people are coming from, more in touch with my own feelings and my gifts, more accepting of myself."

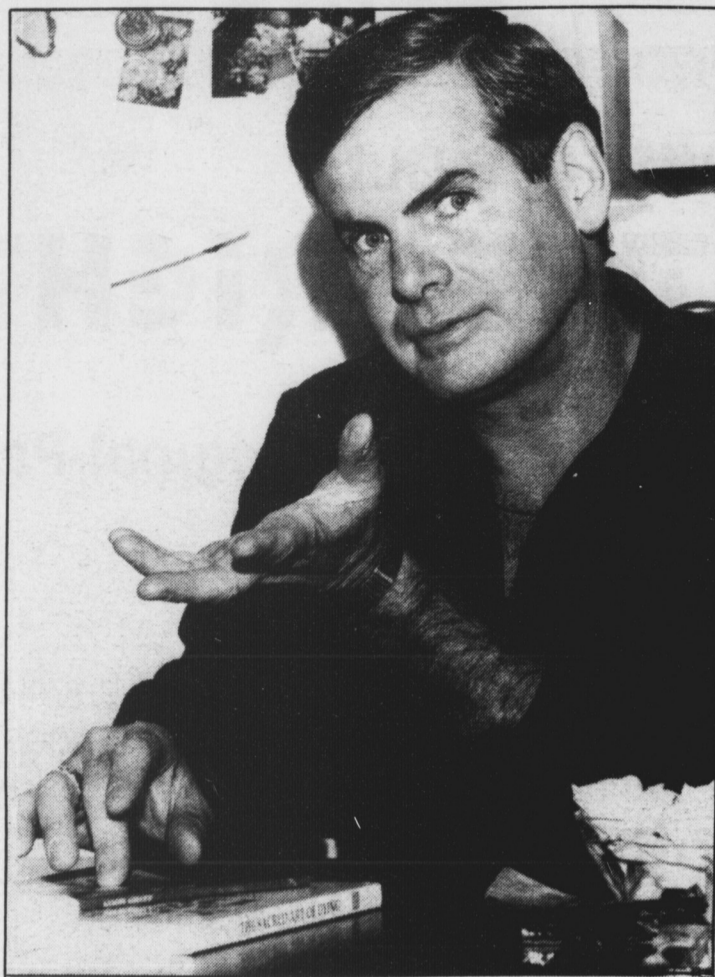
His acceptance took the form of a renewal of faith in healing. "I started thinking of working with people with AIDS, but I realized that it is even more important right now to help caregivers."

McGrann had worked at a re-

freshment house called Kairos, the Greek word meaning "the center point, the right time, the moment of life." This is the time for the caregivers who cannot turn away, but who need, as he explains, "retreat, renewal, and refreshment."

NO JUDGMENT

The home of Kairos House seems to offer these qualities. Situated close to the Castro, its simple rooms are beautifully decorated with donations from friends. Here, the choice of religion knows no meaning. The home welcomes Buddhist as well as Protestant, and the agnostic as well as the believer find common ground.



Father John McGrann of Kairos House. (Photo: PhotoGraphics/Darlene)

"It's a place of unconditional love and nonjudgment and letting people be where they're at," says Father John. "We have a Jewish symbol in the prayer room, an eastern symbol and a Christian symbol. We offer eastern meditation. We want people to feel that they're accepted here if they have faith—or no faith."

The brochure for the project describes that it offers, in part: traditional and nontraditional interfaith approaches to inner growth and healing for people affected by the AIDS crisis; support groups and learning opportunities for the caregivers of those with AIDS/ARC, to include the medical and nursing professions; a place for private prayer, quiet time, and memorial services; individual support and spiritual guidance; meditation and spiritual healing groups.

Kairos House is just beginning, and how long it lasts will depend on the faith of a few volunteers. Freshly ground coffee, weekly flowers, and housekeeping are donated. In one of the rooms, a bulletin board displays the names of people who have each committed \$25 a month for a year toward rent. Future plans include an expanded resource library of books, tapes, and videos, and McGrann says that, eventually, "I want to be able to pay professional people (to be on staff).

"It's important to me," he stresses, "that we have people offering help here who are qualified, have experience, and who have taken care of people with AIDS themselves. We meet once a month to talk about ourselves and pray together."

In July, professionals in various fields offered evening workshop opportunities in subjects such as faith-sharing, spiritual guidance, east-west meditation practices, and therapeutic massage.

Donations of items for a large sidewalk sale, to be held the last weekend of August at Kairos House, are a current priority, and a fundraiser auction for the organization is planned for October in the Green Room of the War Memorial Building. For further information on the project, contact Father John McGrann, Kairos House, 114 Douglass St., San Francisco, CA 94114, (415) 861-0877.



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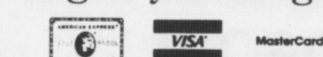
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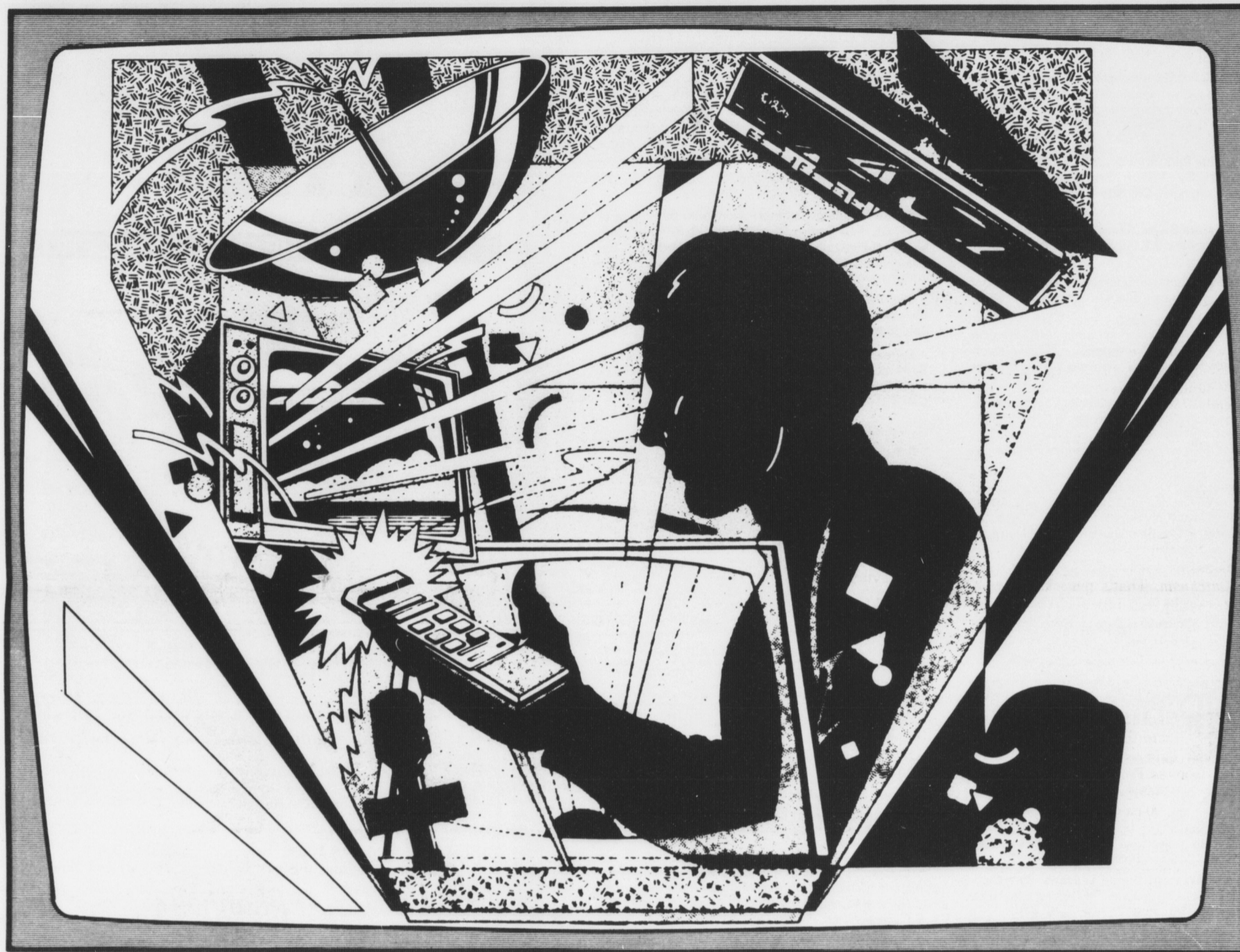
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BAY AREA REPORTER ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Wil-burrrr!

Just Think of the Fun If We Took Over TV



by Dennis McMillan

The Writers' Guild strike has finally ended, and along with its finish comes the hope for new beginnings in programming after 22 weeks of tired reruns on TV. The new season preview has been delayed to mid-October, although there had been talk of possibly recycling old scripts in order to turn out new shows for the fall.

This writer, not a member of the guild, has a suggestion to expedite the process, saving TV situation comedy fans a fourth excruciating viewing of *Alf*, the adorable muppet alien getting amnesia again. Yawn.

Why not take old scripts from 1960s sitcoms and recycle them with gay themes and characters?

For instance, *The Beverly Hills Nannies* might begin with the theme song: "Come and listen to my story 'bout a man named Jed/ A poor mountain queer, barely kept his sisters fed/ Then one day he was shootin' at some food/ When up through the ground came bubblin' lube/Grease, that is... Texas Crisco... slippery gold!"

The all-new, all-gay *Gilligan's Island* could open with its title character saying, "Gosh, Skipper, it isn't so bad being marooned here. This way you can wear your uniform 24 hours a day, and no one will suspect your sailor drag fetish. Ouch! You didn't have to hit me with that coconut, Skipper, master, sir. Better cool it here comes multimillionaire homophile Thurston Howell the Third."

Thurston interrupts, "Harrumph. Can you boys stop that tasteless S&M long enough to help me unpack all my silk polo shirts and suede 501s? Oh, dear, I'm afraid my Louis Vitton suitcase has leaked and gotten water stains on my diamond-studded lamé jockstraps. Oh, Mary Ann, can you help me?"

"You think you've got troubles? Gilligan has stolen all my lingerie and dresses for a drag routine, and I haven't a thing to wear to the Natives of Sappho twarming and feminist potluck tonight!"

Reminiscent of the good ol' days when Reagan's attorney general wanted a pornography commission to dictate our tastes, the familiar jingle might be slightly altered to: "A horse is a horse, of course, of course/ And no one can talk to a horse, of course/ That is, of course, unless the horse/ Is the famous Mr. Ed... Meese/ People yakkity-yak a streak/ And waste your time of day/ But Mr. Ed will never speak/ Unless he can censor away..."

Mr. Ed says, "Wil-burrrr, I promise not to chew up your porn magazines again if you'll just unlock this barn door."

Wilbur replies, "No, Mr. Ed Meese. People are tired of you censoring anything you think is erotic and could somehow lead to violence."

made an ass of yourself, Mr. Ed Meese."

Petticoat Junction would open with the Bea Benadare character discovering Uncle Joe in the girls' closet. When she demands an explanation, the venerable old boy stomps his feet and cries, "You wear the train engineer uniform! It's my turn to wear the petticoat!"

And think of the madcap scrapes Ricky Ricardo and sidekick, life companion Fred Mertz could get into on the *I Love Ricky* show.

Not to mention *The New Honey-mooners*, where Ralph Cramden and Ed Norton (the ultimate master/slave couple) become domestic partners. After lots of hilarious squabbling ("One of these days, Norton, bang... zoom... to the moon"), Ralph embraces Ed and coos, "Baby, you're the greatest!"

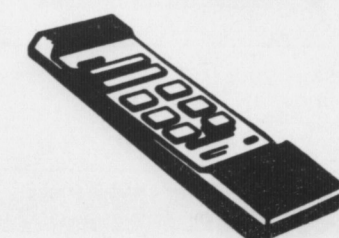
What about a revised *Andy Griffith Show* where Andy Taylor keeps throwing his lover, Barney Fife, into a jail cell, handcuffing him and

playing "the sheriff and the deputy" scenes? Meanwhile, Aunt Bea goes off with her Mayberry ladies' auxiliary and motorcycle club, gradually looking more like a combination of Eleanor Roosevelt and Gertrude Stein as the series progresses.

And just imagine the possibilities in the gay rewrite of *My Three Sons*. Most likely every one of us male viewers has had fantasies about Robby. Would you believe... Uncle Charlie?

Would you believe a gay Maxwell Smart in *Get Tasteful*, with the Chief as his lover/master/interior decorator? The couple occasionally gets together with Agent 69, and... well, you get the idea.

Now that's entertainment! ●



MUSIC

Gay Men's Chorus to Celebrate 10 Years of Music Making

by Philip Campbell

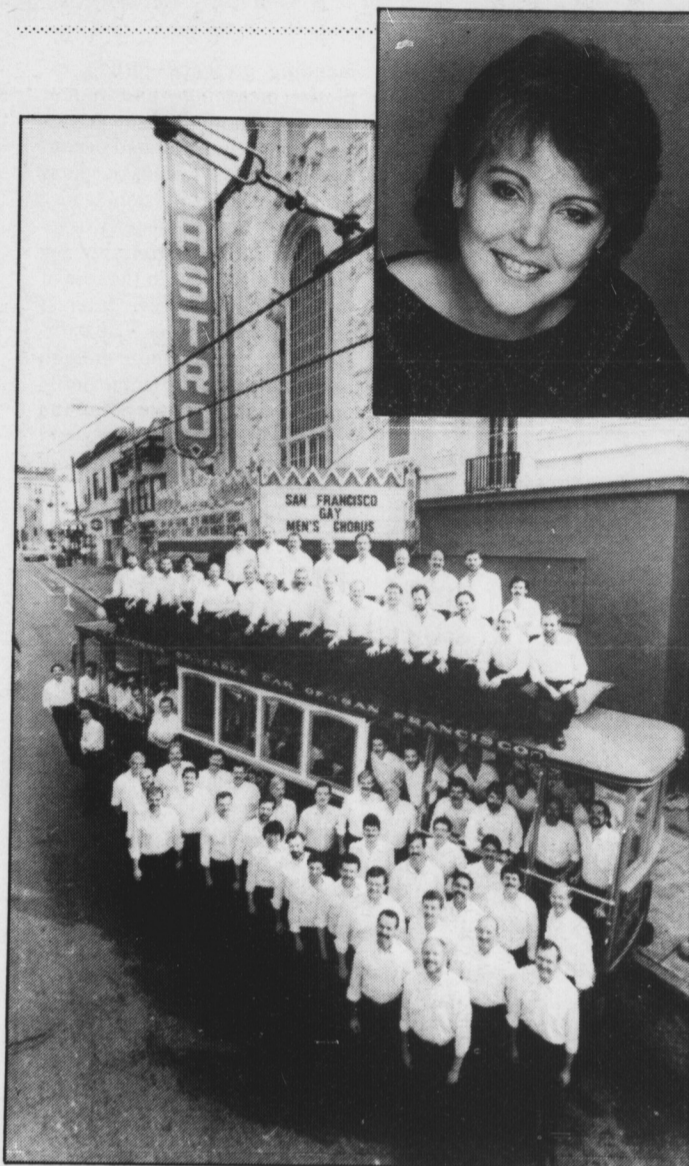
It hardly seems possible, but the San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus is ten years old! On the other hand, as good-will ambassadors and a shining example of community pride, it would be difficult to imagine city life without them. It has been an incredible decade, and the chorus has been with us every step of the way, from the carefree party days through Anita Bryant and now, perhaps most importantly, in the time of our greatest crisis.

Saturday, Aug. 20, at 8 p.m. in Louise M. Davies Symphony Hall, the chorus will celebrate its landmark anniversary with a gala concert to benefit the Names Project. Special guest artist Weslia Whitfield, local cabaret favorite and frequent performance associate, will join the 100-voice aggregation, along with popular subgroups Men About Town and the Chamber Singers, for an evening devoted to musical memories of songs which, over the years, have become closely associated with the chorus.

Musical Director Gregg Tallman promises plenty of surprises, including selection from *Faust* and *The Flying Dutchman*, as well as a trip *Into the Woods* with Stephen Sondheim's latest Broadway musical.

Continuing its tradition of artistic growth and risk-taking, the chorus will appear this season in the San Francisco Opera productions of *Parsifal* and *The Flying Dutchman*. That's remarkable, but hardly surprising for a group that has cut its teeth on performances with such legendary stars as Barbara Cook and Charles Pierce.

Half of all the net proceeds from ticket sales to the gala will be donated to the Names Project, helping to fund transportation of the awesome 10,000-panel quilt to Washington, D.C., for display on the Capitol Mall Oct. 7-10.



The S.F. Gay Men's Chorus celebrates its tenth anniversary Aug. 20 at Davies Hall.

Weslia Whitfield will join the SFGMC at Davies Hall Aug. 20

In an unfortunate conflict of timing, the newly formed Golden Gate Men's Chorus, formerly the Dick Kramer Gay Men's Chorale, is also performing the night of the 20th at Metropolitan Community Church. That concert will be performed one other time, however: on Sunday, Aug. 21, at 2 p.m. in Star of the Sea Church, 4420 Gearv Blvd.

Rhino Taps Bahara For Finance Director Role

Blaise Bahara has been appointed to the position of finance director with Theatre Rhinoceros, succeeding Michael Zimmerman, who served four years and retired to pursue playwriting. Bahara is the first woman to hold the finance director position with the theater and reflects the theater's continuing expansion in the women's community: The current Theatre Rhinoceros staff of seven includes three women in full-time, key positions.

Bahara has worked with Theatre Rhinoceros for 2 1/2 years as the front-of-house director. She comes to her new position with more than seven years experience in theater administration, including work with the Missouri Repertory and the Berkeley Repertory Theatre.

Her financial goals for the theater are concise. "We always hope to keep subscription and single ticket prices as low as possible," she said, "maintaining the theater as one of the highest quality and most economical theatrical options in San Francisco."

Of course, we all wish the new organization a bright beginning, but for those of us who cherish the decade of love and tears and laughter shared with the San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus, it would be unthinkable to miss the special party. Tickets, priced from \$10 to \$40, are available at the Davies Hall box office, as well

as BASS/Ticketmaster and Ticketron outlets, or by calling 431-5400.

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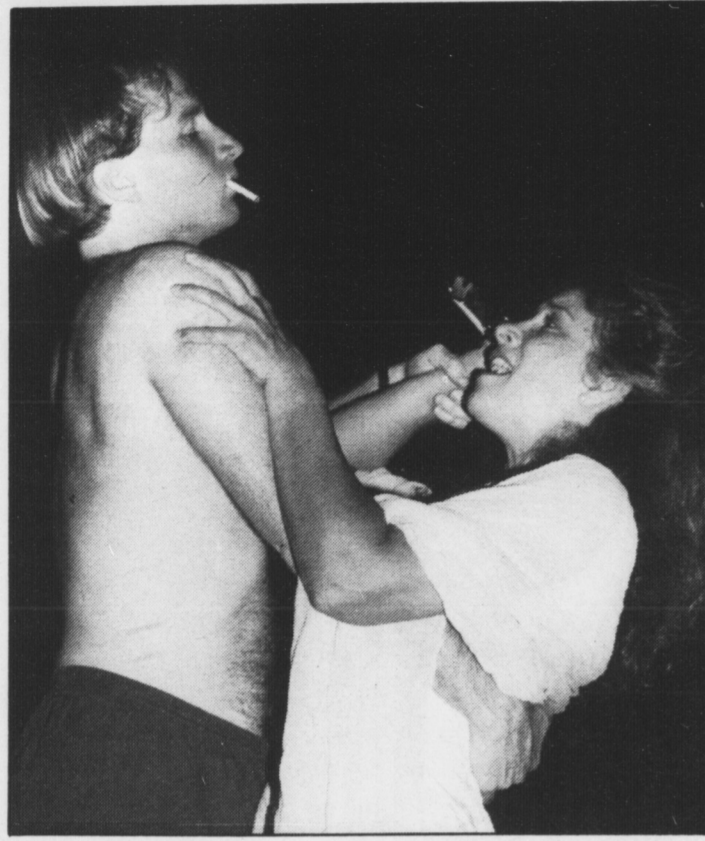
Another Ride on Tennessee Williams' 'Streetcar'

by Ron Larsen

The Stanford Actors Project is a promising new theater company at Stanford University, composed of talented students as well as seasoned professionals. For its premiere production, it is currently presenting *A Streetcar Named Desire*, Tennessee Williams' Pulitzer Prize-winning play about the classic confrontation between the primitive, animalistic Stanley Kowalski and his tragic, neurosis-ridden sister-in-law, Blanche DuBois.

Fasten your seatbelts, because this fast-paced production pulls out all the stops in delivering another bumpy, gut-wrenching ride aboard Williams' *Streetcar*. It is hard not to compare this production with the highly acclaimed Vivien Leigh/Marlon Brando film adaptation or the more recent, much-praised television version with Ann-Margret and Treat Williams. But suffice it to say that, while Stanford's rendition of the play lacks the star power or cinematic fluidity and gloss of its predecessors, it more than adequately holds its own when judged on its own merits.

Reid Edelman's direction is crisp and insightful throughout, and the impressionistic set by Dunsai Dai, a stage designer from China, is simple but effective in capturing the claustrophobia of a grim, two-room tenement in New Orleans. Some of the scene changes are handled awkwardly, with prop people stumbling around a darkened stage in full



Cliff Mayotte as Stanley Kowalski and Any Jackson as Blanche DuBois clash in the Tennessee Williams classic, *A Streetcar Named Desire*, produced by The Stanford Actors Project.

(Photo: V. Hexter)

view of the audience, but this is a minor distraction.

The acting is excellent, for the most part, although one of the supporting players is miscast. As the desperate, world-weary

manding presence—crude, explosive, menacing—and student actress Shannon Jackson gives a sensitive, well-modulated performance as Stella Kowalski, who is torn between her passionate love of Stanley and her sisterly devotion to Blanche. Regrettably, Jay Holland is miscast in the role of Mitch, Blanche's love interest and would-be rescuer. The baby-faced actor looks young enough to be Blanche's son (some deftly applied makeup would help), and his transformation from a sweet and adoring suitor to a bitter and derisive adversary is wholly unbelievable.

The play is definitely the thing, and *Streetcar* remains as compelling now as it was in 1947, when it was first performed. Illusion vs. reality, survival of the fittest, the battle of the sexes and the classes—all these themes and more are explored by Williams, as a faded southern belle fleeing her past steps off a New Orleans streetcar named "Desire" and arrives at her sister's doorstep, only to come face-to-face with her executioner.

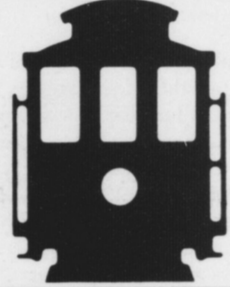
Homosexuality figures prominently in many of Williams' plays, and certainly Blanche is a complex, multifaceted character a great many gays can relate to or at least understand. At once provocative and controversial, poignant and pathetic, she is part sinner and part saint; a neurotic woman with a checkered past who seeks escape in booze, sex, and fantasy; a faded beauty who lies about her age and who thrives on

flattery, however false; a battered survivor who has dealt with pain and death, having made the "long progression to the grave"; a tormented soul racked by regrets and recriminations, who believes that "deliberate cruelty is the only unforgivable thing"; and, finally, a desperate victim who longs to be rescued by a knight in shining armor, but who, instead, is brutalized by a savage foe.

In the end, there is no escape for Blanche but insanity, and even then she retains her childlike faith in "the kindness of strangers." Would that things could have turned out differently for her. . .

The play was poorly attended on the night I saw it, with less than half of the Little Theatre's seats filled. Most unfortunate, because this production is deserving of greater exposure and support. If you're anywhere near Stanford or have a way of getting there, give this *Streetcar* a chance and hop aboard for a ride you won't soon forget.

★★½
A Streetcar Named Desire
Stanford University Little Theatre
Through Aug. 28
Tickets \$10; call 723-4317



Chuck Waltz

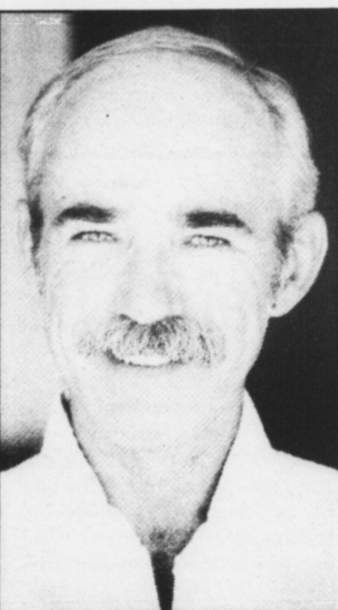
Feb. 1, 1930–Aug. 5, 1988

Chuck moved on to the next level of life on Friday morning, Aug. 5, 1988 at 10:30 a.m. At his side were his loving sister Jean Swanson and his very special friend of 20 years Dick Eckert. Chuck had been ill for the past two years with liver disease and contracted a bacterial pneumonia which his body was too tired to fight, so he chose to leave this life and join the many friends who have gone before him.

Chuck is best remembered for the many contributions of his talents to the San Francisco gay theater. Chuck appeared as a singer and leading man in many of the early Sirlebrity Capades and all-male productions of the late '60s and early '70s. Some of his credits include *Once Upon A Mattress*, *Wonderful Town*, *Light Up the Sky*, *Mame* (1972), and *Plaza Suite*, for which he won the Golden Award for Best Actor of the Year in 1973.

Chuck moved to Guerneville in the late '70s and then on to Los Angeles for 11 years. He had just moved back to his beloved San Francisco in May of this year and was working backstage with *Puttin' On the Glitz* at Sutter's Mill. He loved being around theater people and the music and lights. His twinkling blue eyes and warm sense of humor will be greatly missed by all of those who loved him.

He is survived by his mother of Altoona, Pa., and his sister Jean, loving nieces Bonnie and Cheri, and nephew Michael; as well as dear friends Jack (Nancy), Dick



(Faye), Pat Campaño, John Romero, Rich Cook, Nadine, Maryellen, and many others.

His ashes were scattered in the rose garden of the Santa Rosa Cemetery, as Chuck also loved animals and plants and had the ability to make plants respond and grow and blossom with his gentle touch. A celebration of Chuck's life will be held in early September. For information, call Dick Eckert at 826-1591.

Chuckie, I'll miss picking on you and vice versa, and the love we shared. We will all meet again, but until then I'll listen for your voice on the wind and watch for your face in the clouds. Rest well. Love always, D.

Is Silva a Brazilian-Hawaiian Rick Astley?

'Starfire' Evokes Glowing Embers

by Robert Frank

The dark-wooded Plush Room of the Hotel York in San Francisco was brightened up on Monday night, Aug. 8, by the flashy performance of engaging, energetic entertainer Michael Silva in his *Starfire* concert, a one-time shot that may possibly be repeated sometime next month.

It was an evening of warmth, a good feeling of glowing embers, rather than blazing "starfire." That is not a putdown by any means. The title is perhaps a bit of a misnomer. The evening is still a treat, thanks to the talent of Silva, plus his two backup singers Dann Foster and Cheryl Claiborne, pianist Gary Rowe, and lighting and sound designer and stage manager Leland Albert.

Silva stoked the embers from the very beginning with his mellow, caressing voice on the first two songs, "You Stepped Out of a Dream" and "Bridges." Sometimes his voice was reminiscent of the great Billy Eckstine. His normal-level singing voice is as good as any good, young American pop singer (and better than some), but it really commands more of one's attention when it goes into a deeper, almost groaning, but still mellow, rolling kind of voice. Where does this slender, not very tall, boyish-looking young man get that deep, mature voice? The makings of a Brazilian-Hawaiian Rick Astley?

In keeping with his support and promotional work for homeless youth and victims of child abuse, Silva moved his audience with a poignant, original song titled "Benjamin Had," about the loneliness of a "street boy" in his 20s who had "no one to cook for, to look for, to cuddle up to" when he returned to his room.

Silva, who had spent some of his teen years in Kansas, paid "tribute to my country roots" with Patsy Cline's "Crazy" and a plunkin' ditty, "All My Ex's Live in Texas"—following that, right out of left field, with a comic shtick as a Jewish mother called "Jessie." Silva isn't convincing either as a Jewish mother or Patsy Cline. He was much more at home with and better at relaying the comic story of "Bogotá Colon," who wanted to learn English and act out "Shakespeare."

Silva also paid tribute to his late friend, actor Barry Robins, who had an important role in the Stanley Kramer film *Bless the Beasts and Children*, with his caressing rendition of that title song.

Most of the first half of this eclectic program was semi-serious, maybe moderately heavy, while still warm and engaging, but it definitely livened up when Silva and Claiborne gave us a rousing medley of "Sweet Inspiration" and "Where You Lead." Less effective was their version of "The Time of My Life," the Oscar-winning rouser from *Dirty Dancing*. It's a difficult song to sing, and Michael is living proof of that.

Claiborne was more consistently "with it," having the time News/Opinion/Entertainment. All in the Bay Area Reporter.

of her life and saving the opening number of the second half of the show. She and Silva and Foster struck sparks again later with "He's Got the Whole World in His Hands."

The second half of the show had more fire, with some real sparks, but also a few sputters. Silva's serious rendition of Gershwin's "Summertime" was beautifully done, but the descent into Hispanic camp ("an' de libbin' is issy") didn't work to anyone's benefit. Certain notes in "You'll Never Walk Alone" proved unattainable—Silva seemed exhausted at this point.

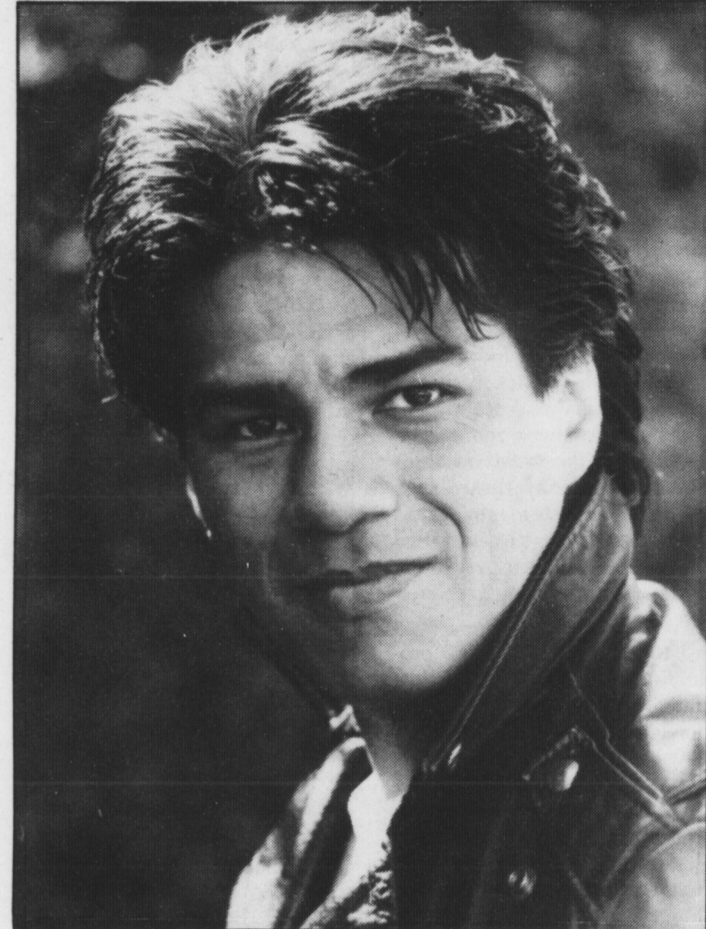
But hats off to Silva for other, more successful achievements, such as his original and unorthodox rendition of Irving Berlin's "God Bless America," in a class with Jose Feliciano's controversial rendition of "The Star Spangled Banner," originally done at the 1968 World Series in Detroit.

And hats must also come off for Foster's compelling, riveting rendition of Duke Ellington's "In My Solitude," a song long associated with Billie Holiday. He seemed to be in a reverie, this exotic, young Peter Lorre look-alike.

One criticism: Silva should have talked more to the audience, at least to give some sense of connection to the songs and the comedy. It was evident he had the love and warm support of the audience, but it still would have been friendlier and closer to have talked, rapped, or bantered between songs.

But that criticism doesn't take away from the fact that *Starfire* is a fine show.

★★★
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Opposite Extremes

All too often, the lure of an expensive production filled with lots of scenery, costumes, and noise deludes theatergoers into believing that bigger is automatically better. Massive spectacles like *Aida*, *Phantom of the Opera*, *Carmen*, *Cats*, and *Starlight Express* are guaranteed to sell tickets simply because the audience feels that it is getting more for its money. Unfortunately, the extra variables which accompany these large productions often mean that many more things can and do go wrong. The results usually compromise the evening's artistic integrity.

I recently witnessed two productions which perfectly illustrated this problem. One was a preview of a new multimillion-dollar musical which, to its backers, must have seemed like a sure sell to British theater parties. The other was a production of Rossini's *The Barber of Seville* that was being conducted and directed by the same person in a tiny theater in Indianola, Iowa.

As I flew across the Atlantic, my hopes ran high for the new West End musical. I also suspected that the quality of opera I would soon find in one of the more remote pockets of the Midwest (like many other things affected by this year's ominous drought) might be less than magnificent. Was I ever in for a big surprise!

SING FOR YOUR SHAVE

For several years, I've wanted to visit the Des Moines Metro Opera, which performs in the 480-seat Blank Performing Arts Center on the campus of Simpson College in Indianola, Iowa. Friends who had sung there raved about the experience, and, as far as I can tell, any opera house which serves hot popcorn in its lobby has to have something special going for it.

Although there isn't much to do in Indianola during the day (and the odor of fertilizer and fresh skunk waft across the highway at night), the intimacy of

DMMO's productions, which take place in a theater about half the size of the auditorium in which Opera Theatre of St. Louis performs, is the company's strongest selling point. Especially since DMMO performs all of its operas in English.

In many ways, the DMMO experience is like having opera performed in your lap. Two ramps lead from the main stage down and around the orchestra pit to a sizable and very flexible fore-stage. The sound in the hall is quite spectacular, and, with the audience seated arena-style in a semi-circle bank that surrounds the performing area, this theater is an absolute gem.

As conducted and directed by Robert Larsen (whose staging only fell short during the ensemble at the end of Act II), DMMO's production of *The Barber of Seville* was most impressive. Singing the first Rosina of her career, soprano Evelyn de la Rosa romped around the tiny stage with a great deal of comedic skill while making the most of the mu-



Kimm Julian's Figaro, Charles Abruzzo's Count Almaviva, and Evelyn de la Rosa's Rosina all conspired to outwit Dr. Bartolo in the Des Moines Metro Opera's production of Rossini's *The Barber of Seville*.

sical ornamentations written for her in this production. William Walker's Don Bartolo was an extremely well-sung and cleanly articulated comic gem.

Although he was not always on solid vocal ground, Kimm Julian's likable Figaro earned the audience's favor with the handsome baritone's resemblance to an operatic cross between Burt Reynolds and Tom Selleck. Gerard Edery appeared as the snooping Don Basilio, while Indianola's veteran mezzo-soprano Anne Larson scored strongly as the maid, Berta.

Although he lent a strong comedic presence to the production, Charles Abruzzo's performance as Count Almaviva was hampered by his extreme nasality. When confronted with the murderous demands of Angelina's big aria, "Non Piu Mesta," from the final act of *La Cenerentola* (this Rossini aria was inserted as a showpiece for the tenor's coloratura skills), Abruzzo was clearly in over his head. Nevertheless, I found DMMO's production of *The Barber of Seville* to be a most enjoyable and incredibly encouraging evening of opera theater which reflected an artistic standard and sense of performance integrity far above the norm.

My initial experience in Iowa reaffirmed a suspicion that some of the best work being done by America's opera community can now be found in places like Chicago, St. Paul, Indianola, St. Louis, and Houston — cities which lie smack in the center of the nation's heartland. But don't just take my word for it. Go see for yourself.

BOMBS AWAY!

How does one compare a small gem like Indianola's production of *The Barber of Seville* with an absolutely monstrous turkey like *Winnie*? I suppose it's best to start off by confessing that, when I first heard that there would be a new musical staged by Albert (Man of La Mancha) Marre celebrating Winston Churchill's life, I thought the show had a distinctly perverse appeal to British audiences.

The sad reality of this ill-conceived venture (which was written, produced, and whose songs

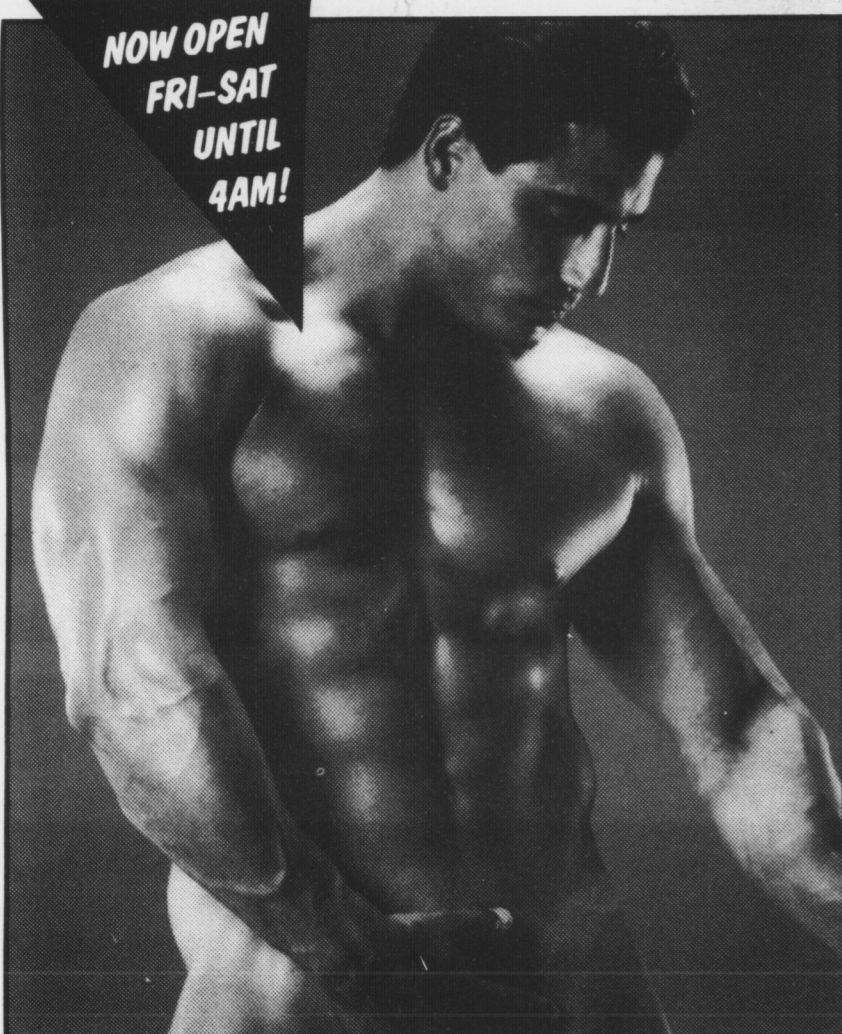
(Continued on page 37)

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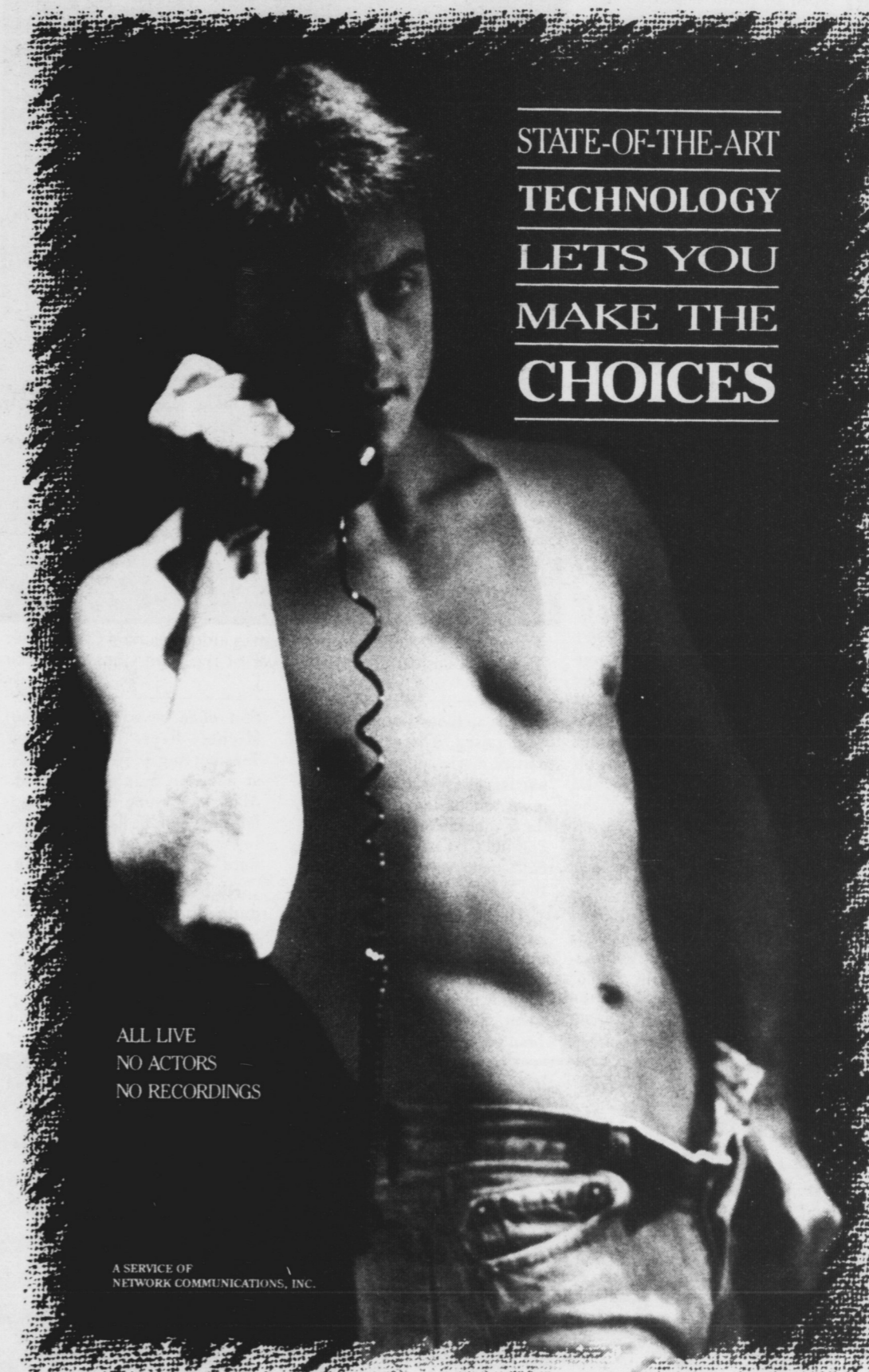
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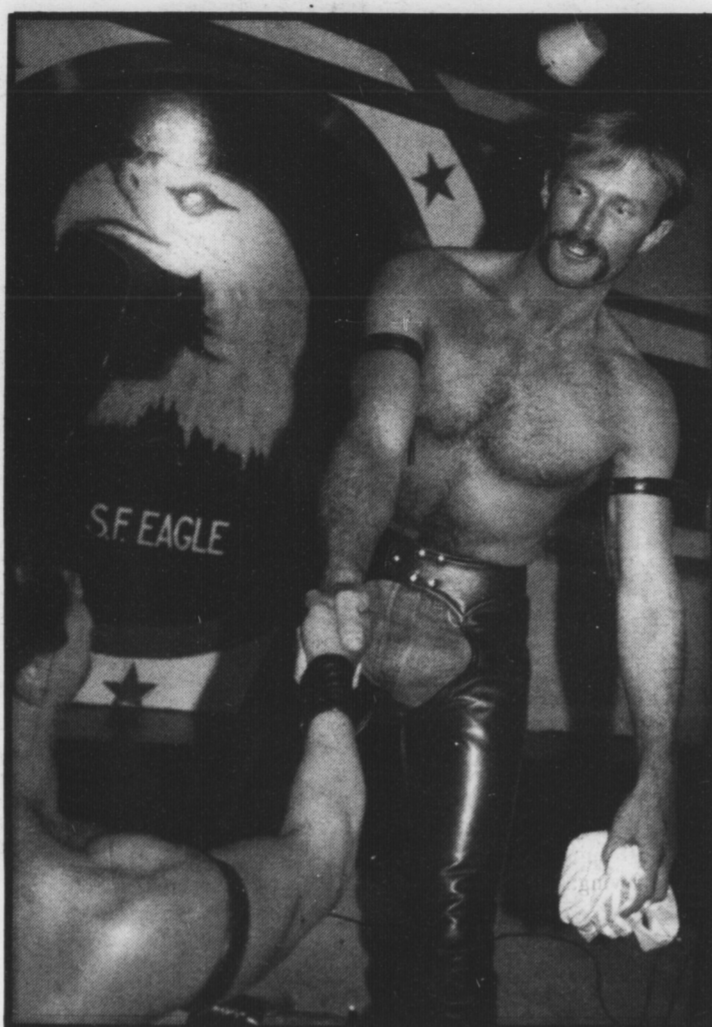
Take your vitamins. Get lots of rest. Plan ahead. Stay on top (always) of things. Be generous with your donations. Have fun and enjoy life.

Judging from the lineup of things headed your way, all of the foregoing suggestions should be taken seriously. Except for last Sunday's dimly overcast sky (with the 49ers losing to Denver, to boot), there was a good turnout for everything on the schedule. Money was raised; egos strengthened, the emperor and empress celebrated their birthdays in a joint celebration at the Mint; the GDI's beer bust was packed to the rafters; old scores were settled (well, almost all); and life moved through the dismal haze.

Last Thursday night, eight of the 13 Bare Chest Contest winners wound up at the S.F. Eagle to compete for the cover of the forthcoming 1989 calendar. Judges Jason Ladd (Leather Daddy), Jim Kahl (Mr. No. Calif. Drummer), James Buhler (Mr. CMC Carnival), Michael Chase, and Mickey Brooks had a tough job on their hands, judging who should be on the cover. The contestants got 10 percent of their total scores added to the judges' scores by soliciting donations for the AIDS Emergency Fund.

In the end, Peter Austin (Mr. December '89) managed to get the bucks that pushed him over the top. When the calendar comes out on Oct. 15, they'll all be there to autograph it and be auctioned off for dinner dates with you! Stay tuned. And, oh yeah, \$560.24 was raised for the AIDS Emergency Fund by the eight candidates for the cover. Great!

Saturday night, Aug. 13, Bay Area Physicians for Human Rights managed to attract almost 400 people to their Casino Night in the East Bay. No one got tossed in the pool, and the 25 slot machines were exhausted by the night's end. Everyone raved about the food, entertainment,



Peter Austin (Mr. December) thanks judge Michael Chase after being chosen to grace the cover of the Bare Chest calendar (Photo: Scott Martin)

and the ambience, so thousand\$ were raised. There were disco parties, movies, plays, and private parties all over the place (too many to mention here). Sunday, the Sombazaar was full of people, and the GDI's run around town culminated with the beer bust at the S.F. Eagle. (Another mob!)

The sad note over the weekend came when it was learned that one of South of Market's most endearing leather men had passed away in his native Chicago at noon. Herbert "Herbella" Hebron was visiting home on a vaca-

tion when he was admitted to Michael Reese Hospital last Tuesday, Aug. 9. He passed away at noon on Saturday, Aug. 13. Almost everyone he knew had talked to him the day he left here, so the shock was intense when the word got around of his passing.

Herb was one of the most-liked dudes in the community. His move to San Francisco was preceded by the reputation of fabulous parties he hosted in the Windy City; the legend continued as he became known and admired here. But Herbert was



Nine of the 13 Bare Chest contest winners competed for the Cover Man position (Photo: Scott Martin)



Jo Leroux (l.) and Dean Ryane were elected Ms and Mr. Vancouver Leather II recently (Photo: S. Dye)

more than a party dude. His deep interest in the community and his monetary and voluntary support were not well-known—he wanted it that way. He gave generously and helped finance some of the most successful fundraisers produced South of Market. He was thoughtful, insightful, caring, and loving; he spent hours in hospitals, comforting his ailing friends. He never forgot birthdays, and more importantly, he never forgot to say "thanks" for courtesies extended. The leather community is left with fond and loving memories of a man who was as comfortable on Nob Hill as he was South of Market. God, we'll miss you, Herb. Where you are now, I know a lot of your brothers are with you. Rest in peace.

Here's something that might interest a lot of you. Walt Nolte has found it necessary to move away from S.F., and he has tons of Robert Uyvari paintings, sketches, posters, and other designs for sale which, as art lovers of the leather lifestyle, you'll all want. There are also watercolors, and many are signed and numbered. If you're interested in obtaining

some, call Walt at 864-7241 for an appointment or showing.

The coming weeks are filled with fun things to do. Things you can enjoy and do a good turn by raising needed funds, as well. They call it painless. For openers: My Place is celebrating its first anniversary tomorrow night, 19 Aug., starting around 1930 hours. There'll be some prizes, as well as the usual champagne and cake. Say "hi" to C.B. and Norman for me!

Friday night, too, another benefit for the AIDS Emergency Fund—it's Tattoo Fetish Night and a beer bust at the S.F. Eagle (\$6), beginning at 2030 hours. There'll be a 40-minute tattoo video, a parade of tattooed "hunks," and a live demo by Mad Dog Tattoo. You will not want to miss this party!

Saturday, 20 Aug., the S.F. Eagle softball team throws it up for grabs with its second annual "Event '88" (this year), with a street fair on 12th between Folson and Harrison and that big parking lot across the street from the Eagle. Steve Tonasco, who's running the whole thing, tells me there'll be two stages (one on the street, and one in the Eagle patio)

with continuous entertainment provided, beginning at 1300 hours.

Just some of the entertainment is E.C. Scott & Co., Rawhide Saddletramps, Bay Area Cloggers, rock band Eloy, Danny Williams, and Renee Hicks. It's a benefit for the Godfather Service Fund, AIDS Emergency Fund, and the CSL Fund for PWAs. There'll be food, drink, games, and lots of fun. After you do your laundry and chores, drop by. The action goes until 1800.

If you have a chance, you might want to visit Macy's (hi, Stephan, where's my video?) to meet Mr. America and Mr. Uni-

verse Scott Wilson and Cathey Palyo, Ms. America, Ms. Universe, and Ms. California. They're both bodybuilders and will be in the Reebok Shop on four at Macy's West Store from 1130 to 1230. Sounds bulgingly delicious.

The Constantines are off on the "Babes in Toyland" weekend run. If you didn't get your application mailed and want to crash the gate, it'll cost you \$90 for all the usual accommodations.

Saturday night, Dowager Empress Sable will be feted at the San Franciscan Hotel, a benefit for the AIDS Emergency Fund. A person who worked hard before, during, and after her reign,

Sable is most deserving of this tribute. Ducats are only \$25, and the ceremony begins at 1930 hours.

Since Lola Lust got burned out of house and home last week, there'll be a benefit at the Mother Lode on Friday, 26 Aug., at 2000, with a show and raffle. Lola was Grand Duchess XIV, so let's show some support for her.

Safe-Sane Consensual Adults (SSCA) is having a one-day conference Saturday, Aug. 27, at MCC (150 Eureka) from 1000 to 1630. Several S/M groups will be represented, including the Knights Templar, S.F. Bondage

(Continued on next page)

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Club Mud's second anniversary party will take place Sturday, Aug. 27, at a Russian River location. Call (707) 869-0546 for more information. (Photo: J. Moss)

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Marcus

(Continued from previous page)

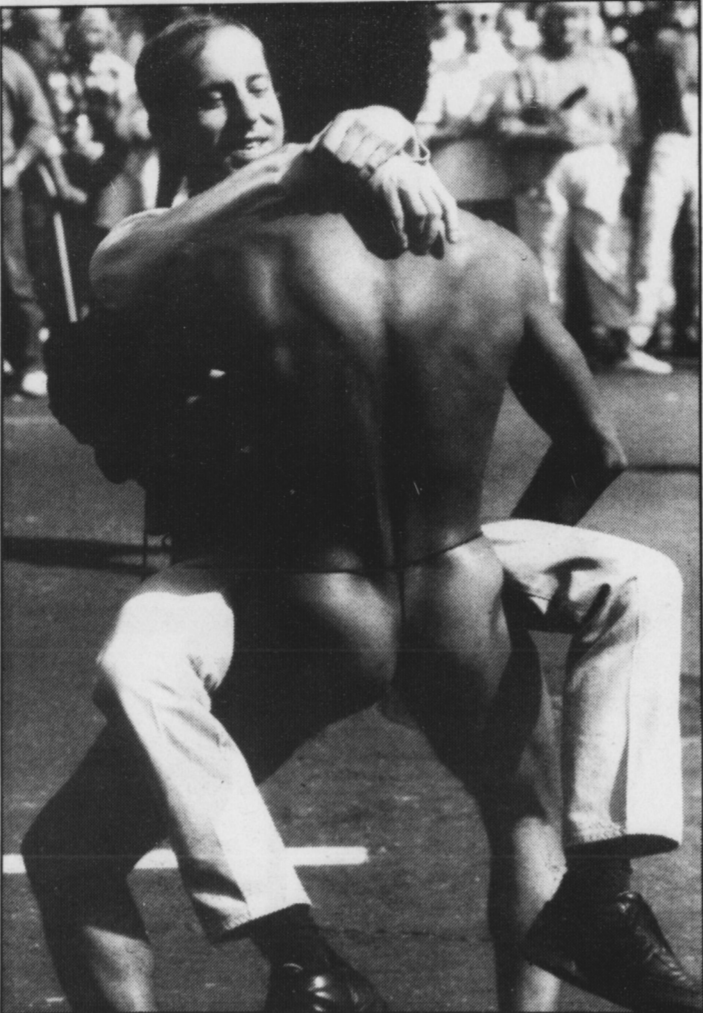
Club, Janus, Outcasts, and the 15 Association, and they'll be discussing important issues for the leather S/M community in helping SSCA formulate goals. You owe it to yourself, as well as to San Francisco Bay Area leather people, to help with your input into this new national organization. If you have any questions regarding this one-day conference, call 931-4484 evenings, Monday through Thursday.

Saturday, Aug. 27, Club Mud will have its last party of the year up at the RushRiv area. They'll have the Tug-O-War, Wet T-Shirt Contest, Mud Wrestling, Auto Tire Scramble, New Levi Shrink Contest, Horse and Rider, and T-Shirt Rip Contest. Located at the base of giant redwoods, with shower facilities and "come what may" (sponsors not responsible for irresponsible sex maniacs), you should inquire by writing to P.O. Box 277, Rio Nido, CA 95471, or call Brother Duke at (707) 869-0546.

Saturday night, Aug. 27, is the Closet Ball Too at the Giftcenter Pavilion, and this year will be a sellout. (Hasn't it always been a sellout?) If you don't have your tickets, you'd better get busy. Call 771-5023. It may already be too late to enter the competition.

The S.F. Bondage Club is holding its monthly party with the Knights Templar for an AIDS charity on Saturday, July 30, at SM House, with the doors opening from 2100 until 2300. The party ends at 0230 Sunday morning, and it'll cost you \$10 (plus BYOB and toys). If you don't know where SM House is located, hang around the Watering Hole—someone there can direct you.

Sunday, Aug. 28, it's the first annual BowWow Beauty Pageant. Contrary to my mention last week, Tim Curry will not—repeat, not—appear as a judge. Cheryl Crane will join Dick Ferris and Sylvester as judges (to name a few), and tickets are available for \$15 to \$50 at Headlines, G.W. Finley, A.A. Boy, and N.Y. Man. It takes place at the Castro Theatre and benefits PAWS, so hurry and get your tickets—it will be a sellout!



Dancing to City Swing at the Dore Alley Fair. (Photo: Scott Martin)

If all this is not enough, head on to Le Salon and buy/rent their hot new release: *Crossfire*. Another great one from Panther Productions, *Le Salon* is first out, and it's a film by Jim West. Ted Truman hangs from a telephone pole while observing Butch Taylor (hot!), Nick Cougar, and Todd Dempsey go through their calisthenics. Hot new Palm Drive Video discovery Keith Ardent gets it on with other than himself in this one. *Le Salon* calls it their best so far this year, and I'm inclined to believe them! Check this one out.

Incidentally, *Le Salon* has donated ten of their latest VHS releases, to be auctioned off at the Leather Daddy's Boy Contest on Sunday, Sept. 4, and the Eagle. I'll be auctioning them off, so be there! By the time this issue of B.A.R. hits the cigarette stands, the applications to enter the com-

petition will be available from any bartender at the Eagle, so if you want to enter, now's the time to do it! Who will be Leather Daddy's Boy VI? Time will tell!

Walt Killeen, who got the Campus Theatre going back in the early days of that movie den, has taken over *Nicodemos' A Taste of Leather* on 6th and Folsom, and they have big plans to outreach to leather-buyers. Tony Lenardi, formerly of Chicago, too, and one of the "stars" at the Polk Gulch, is filtering a lot of his ideas into the place, not to mention Greg Phillips! And speaking of bar stars, Robert Church formally announces his reunion with the staff as an employee again at the Polk Gulch, starting 1 Sept. '88 at 1900 hours with a reunion party, something you all should attend!

What's this I hear about a sex palace opening on 10th Street any day now? I only heard about it, with denials all around, but the Shadow knows! It'll be "private" and "secret," of course, but you know what happens when you tell a queen a secret!

Those new "head-of-your-dick" rubbers, Stubs, are selling like crazy at Mr. S and Mercury Mail Order. Alan Selby and Pat Batt can't keep them in stock longer than three days at a time. At 25 cents a pop, people are buying them by the gross, and the two shops are ordering them by the mega-gross! By the time you read this, they'll be in stock—but not for long!

Speaking of plugs, the Cove, formerly the Norse Cove on Castro, is all-new, polished, remodeled, and thriving. The local dudes are calling it the S&M Cafe because Samantha and Mordechai are the owners! The former cafeteria-style place now has waiters and waitresses—especially Will, the five-year veteran there. The Cove is definitely an "in" place in the Castro.

Speaking of leather, the leather dudes were in an absolute swoon last week when 49ers owner Eddie De Bartolo's new office facility was described as having—are you ready?—leather floors! This I'd expect to see in Rick Booth's pad, but De Bartolo? Hm-m-m-m-m!

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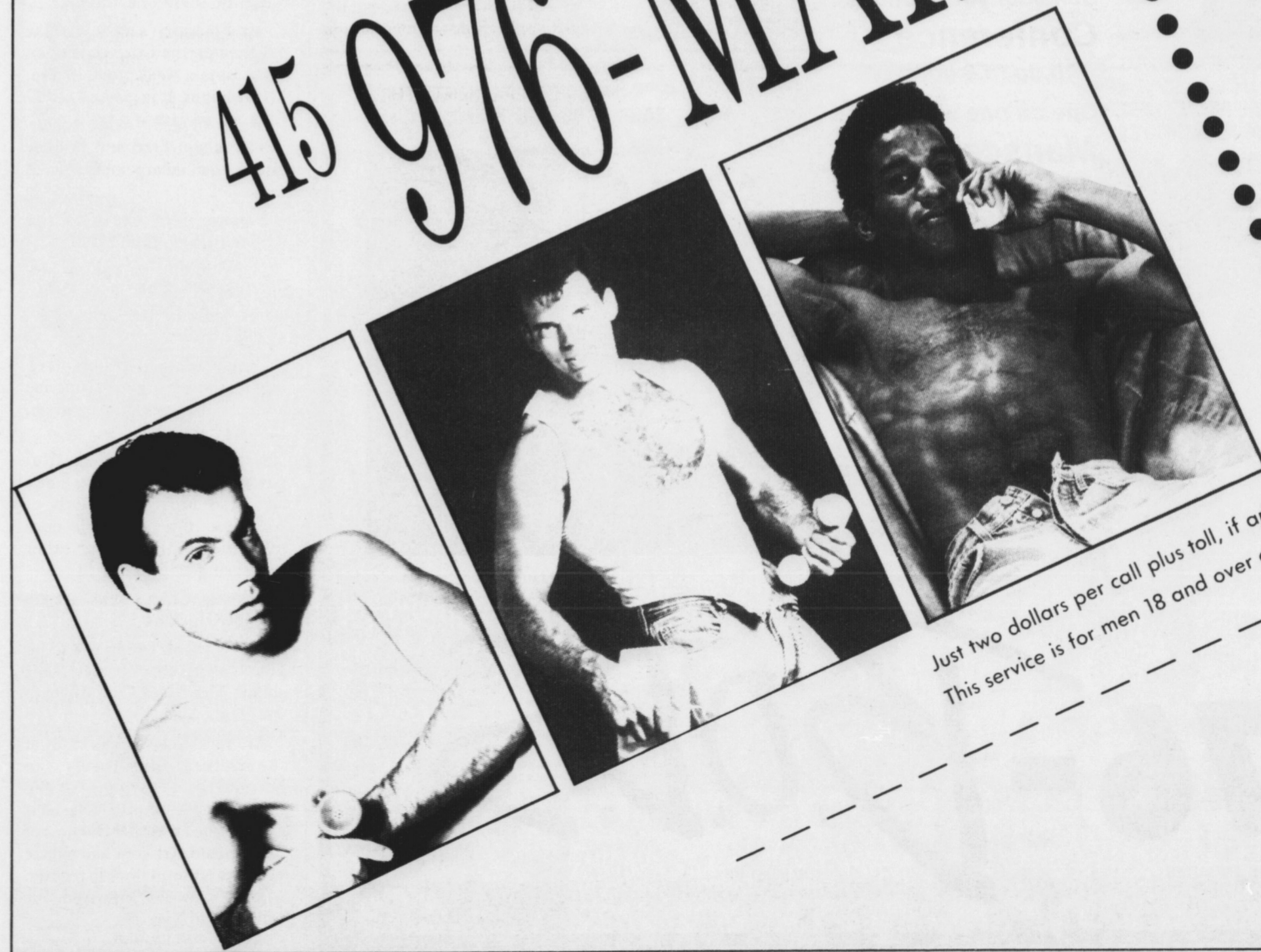
• Jocks

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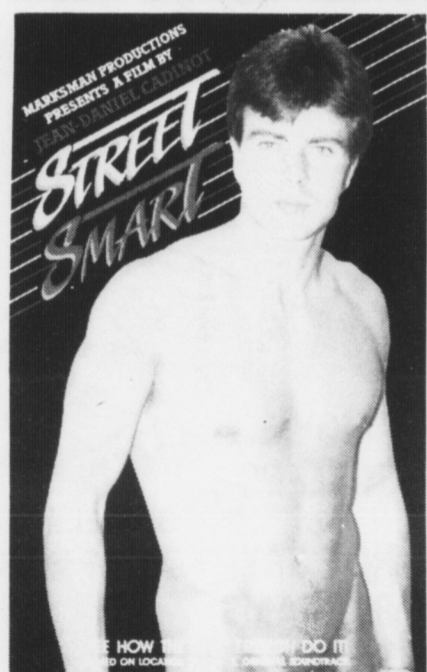
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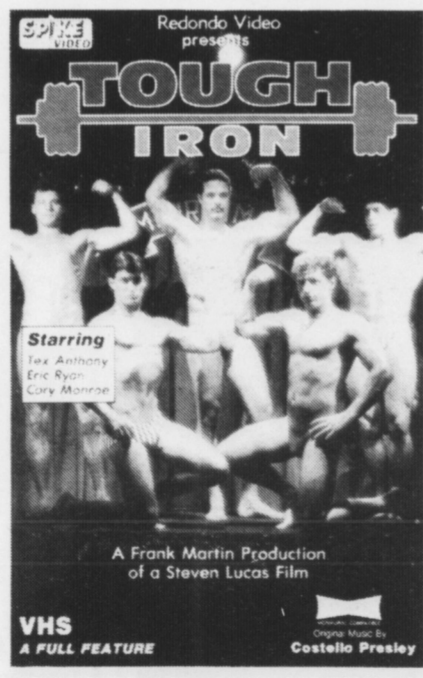
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VOL. XVIII NO. 34 AUGUST 25, 1988

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S.F. Boosts Funds To Parade, Arts

Hotel Tax Funds Jump 25 Percent;
Gay Day Now Top Funded Parade

by Allen White

The gay community is a big winner in the new allocations of the San Francisco Hotel Tax Fund. The Lesbian/Gay Freedom Day Committee will see its grant rise to \$55,000. The Lesbian/Gay Chorus of San Francisco and the Folsom Street Fair become new recipients, each with \$3,000 grants. Each year a portion of the taxes on city hotel rooms are set aside for the Grants For The Arts program. In preparing the 1988-89 distribution, San Francisco Chief Administrative Officer Rudolf Nothenberg chose to give all the small and mid-size groups an increase which averaged 25 percent. Over \$6 million was distributed to 147 arts groups in San Francisco. Of that total, \$154,000 will go to the gay community.

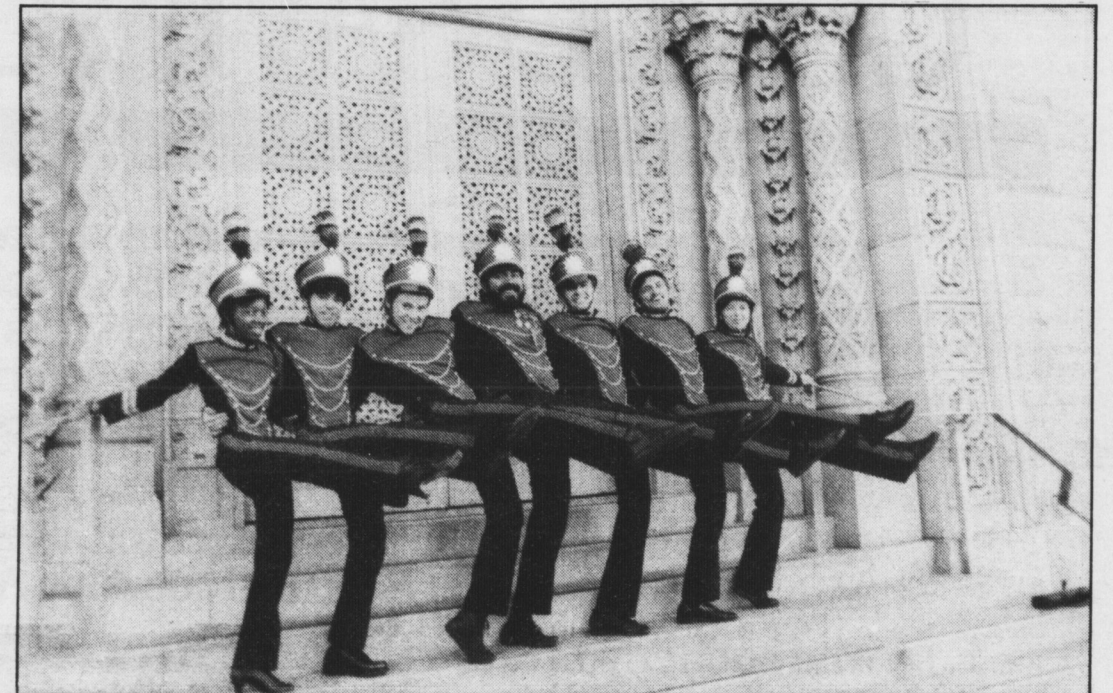
This means that the Lesbian/Gay Freedom Day Committee will see an increase of \$10,000. The group stages the annual gay parade and celebration in June. A review of other grants indicates that the gay parade receives more city funding than any other annual celebration. It tops the Chinese New Year's Parade which will receive \$52,000, the Cinco de Mayo event which receives \$44,000 through the Mission Economic & Cultural Association and the Columbus Day parade at \$37,000.

The Lesbian/Gay Chorus of San Francisco is one of 21 groups funded for the first time. Their \$3,000 grant serves as an acknowledgement that the group is one of the city's important performing arts groups. Under the

direction of Pat Parr, the group has managed to carve out an important role in the gay community. In addition to presenting several concerts each year, the group has distinguished itself by donating their talents to perform at community events ranging from the Bike-A-Thon to the return of the Names Project Quilt.

Another new recipient of funds is the Folsom Street Fair. They will also receive \$3,000. The fair is one of the newer street fairs in the city. It has been successful in reflecting the south of Market culture. The Castro Street Fair receives no funding.

San Francisco's gay theater complex, Theatre Rhinoceros, will receive \$42,000. Frameline which presents the annual Les-



The Lesbian/Gay Freedom Day Marching Band and Twirling Corps is kicking up its heels at the news.

bian/Gay Film Festival in June sees their funding increased to \$15,000 from \$11,500. Golden Gate Performing Arts, the parent organization for the San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus will get \$18,000, an increase from \$13,800.

The San Francisco Band Foundation jumps from \$10,000 to \$18,000. It is significant that the Band Foundation has been moved from the "instrumental music" category to the "multi-arts" section. The move is a sign that the San Francisco Gay Freedom Day Marching Band is only one component of the organization which has a performing arts center and a wide variety of groups including City Swing and

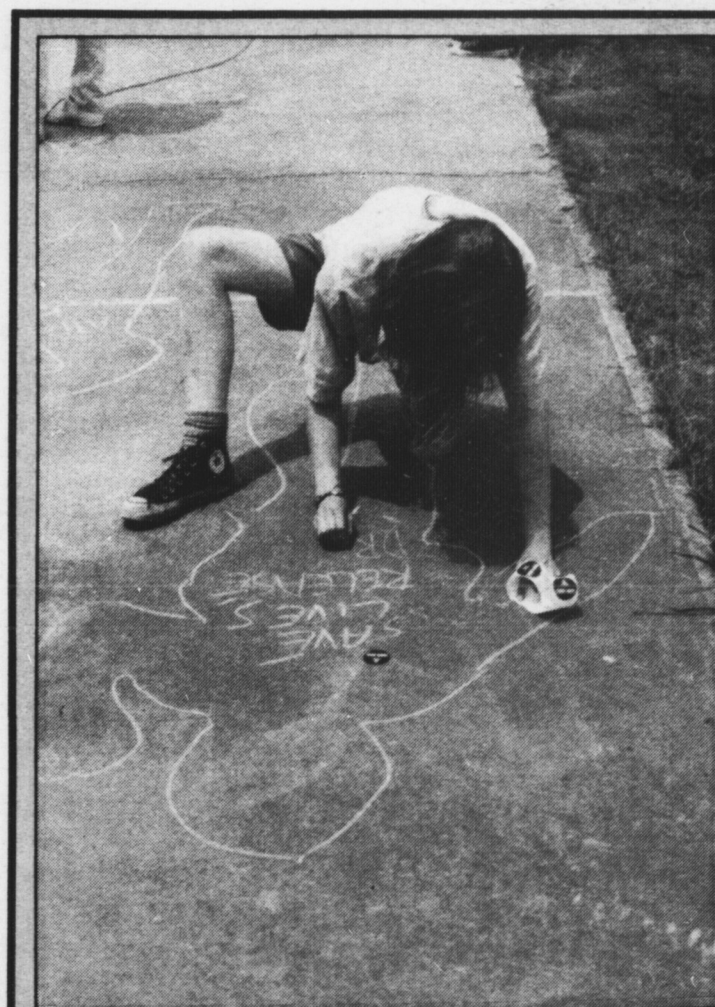
(Continued on page 14)

FDA to Expand Drug Availability

Agency Will Allow Greater Access;
New Policy Calls Placebos Unethical

The federal Food and Drug Agency has agreed to expand the availability of a new treatment for pneumocystis pneumonia and will revise its policy on the use of placebos in drug trials, according to Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund. Lambda representatives hailed the moves as an important step by the FDA toward a more humane approach to new AIDS treatments.

(Continued on page 20)



The Freedom Ride's Die-In in Birmingham. (Photo: R. Wockner)

Freedom Ride

Gay Freedom Riders Travel Through Alabama
To Promote Education and Liberation in Dixie

by Rex Wockner

An arm of the AIDS Coalition to Unleash Power (ACT UP) in New York, the Lesbian and Gay Freedom Ride travels the country with a small quilt from Bailey House—a PWA residence in Manhattan.

The Freedom Ride began at the New Hampshire primary election in early 1988, moved to the South for Super Tuesday week, and then headed to Chicago for the Illinois primary. After a rest, Freedom Riders set out on a second leg from the Democratic convention in Atlanta. A third journey began in August, following the Republican convention in New Orleans.

The Freedom Ride's goals are to increase gay and lesbian visibility, confront homophobia, alert Americans to governmental neglect in the AIDS emergency, promote gay/lesbian voter registration, and urge gay men and lesbians around the nation to come out of the closet. AIDS policies and homophobia, Freedom Riders say, are inexorably intertwined.

During the Super Tuesday leg of the Freedom Ride, activists captured gay/lesbian attention by staging a kiss-in at Jesse Helms' North Carolina office and a gay rights protest inside Jim and Tammy Bakker's Heritage USA theme park.

July 22, 1988

We survived the Democratic convention. We survived getting bashed around by Atlanta police, and we survived waiting for the gay/lesbian caucus to finally decide it couldn't endorse Dukakis just yet.

At 6:30 p.m., Neil Broome, Frank Smithson, and I set off from Atlanta down Interstate 85. Frank and Neil are—until reinforcements arrive from New York—the Lesbian and Gay Freedom Ride. I am the journalist, granted by my editors a few days of participatory journalism. Our goal is to create a public gay presence in

small southern cities, a goal I can't help but contribute to. Our destination tonight: Montgomery, Alabama.

As we roll into town, Frank and Neil pig out on Frosties at Wendy's. Neil returns to the car, fearing Wendy's diners were uncomfortable with his style of fag.

(Continued on page 19)