

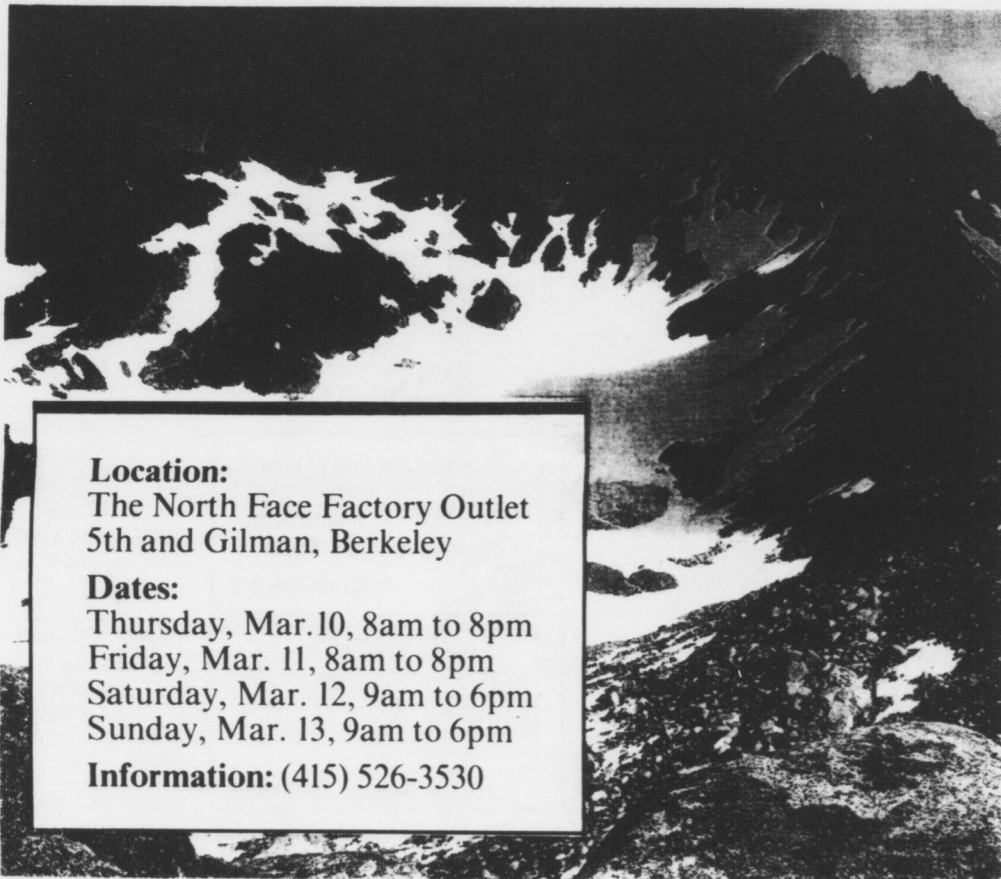
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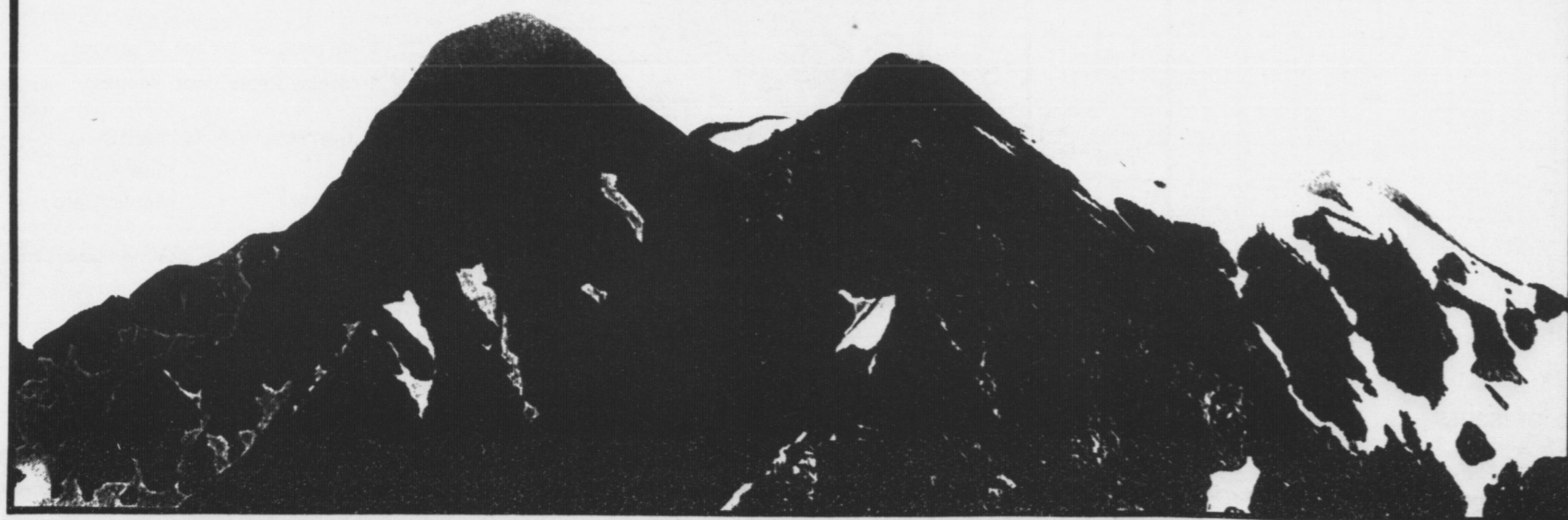
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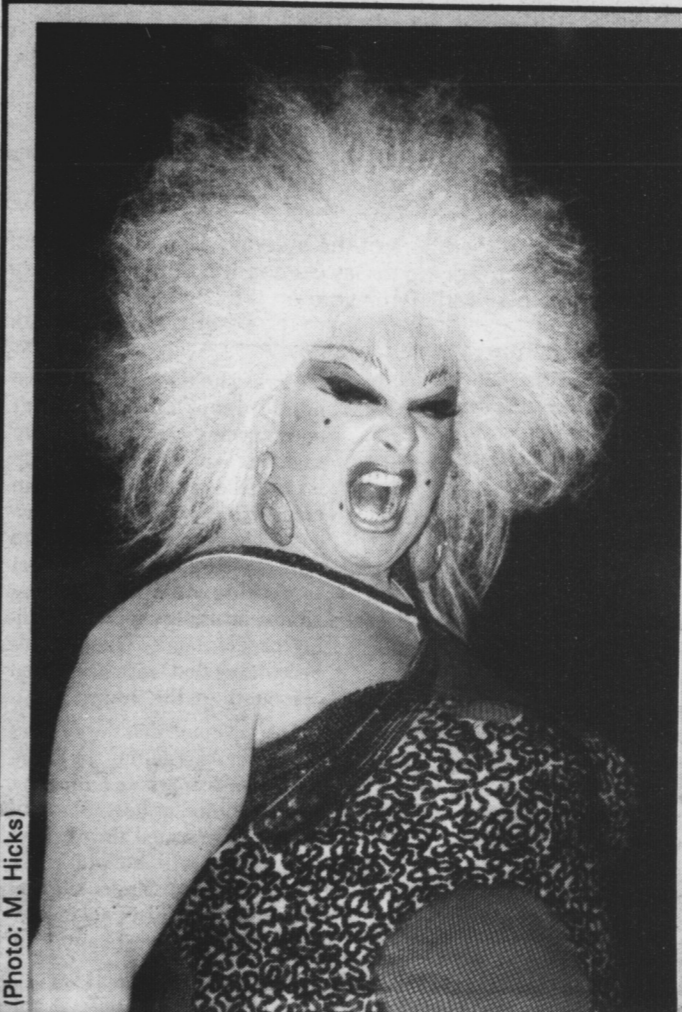
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(Photo: M. Hicks)

Death Claims Divine in L.A. Heart Attack Believed To Be Cause

by Will Snyder

Famous for grossing out his audiences with his outrageous performances, Divine—born Harris Glenn Milstead—died in his sleep Monday, Mar. 7 in his hotel room in Los Angeles. He was 42 years of age. Divine was an internationally known cult movie star with a strong following in the gay community for his drag comedy films and notorious roles.

(Continued on page 12)



(Photo: Rink)

Olympics Resolution Survives Heated Debate

Supervisors Approve Bid For 1996 Games If USOC Agrees To Five Demands

by Allen White

The San Francisco Board of Supervisors voted Monday night, Mar. 7, to welcome the United States Olympic Committee to San Francisco for the 1996 Summer Olympics provided that the USOC supports five gay rights proposals. The vote was 6 to 5 and came close to midnight at the conclusion of two hours of tense and sometimes heated debate. Voting for the amendment proposed by Sup. Harry Britt were Supervisors Richard Hongisto, Wendy Nelder, Carol Ruth Silver, Doris Ward and Nancy Walker.

Sen. Quentin Kopp, who wants the Olympics here in 1996, may next attempt to place the issue before voters in the June 7 primary election. Kopp needs four members of the Board of Supervisors to place an initiative on the ballot.

Countering Britt's resolution was a second resolution proposed by Sup. Tom Hsieh. The Hsieh resolution was similar but the references to gay concerns were softened to the point that many believed it had no "teeth."

Sup. John Molinari voted for Hsieh's proposal, saying he believed the Britt resolution would "close the door" to any further chance for the Olympics coming to San Francisco. In addition to Molinari, Sups. Bill Maher, Willie Kennedy and Jim Gonzales supported Hsieh.

Nelder and Hongisto passionately stated that the issue was being made by Britt's opponents because they placed economic issues over human rights issues.

"I would rather have one Tom Waddell than ten Olympics," said Hongisto. "To hell with the Olympics," the visibly irate supervisor stated. Hongisto continued, "In the early 70s when I ran for sheriff, the gay community was there for me. They have been with me every time and I'm not going to let them down now."

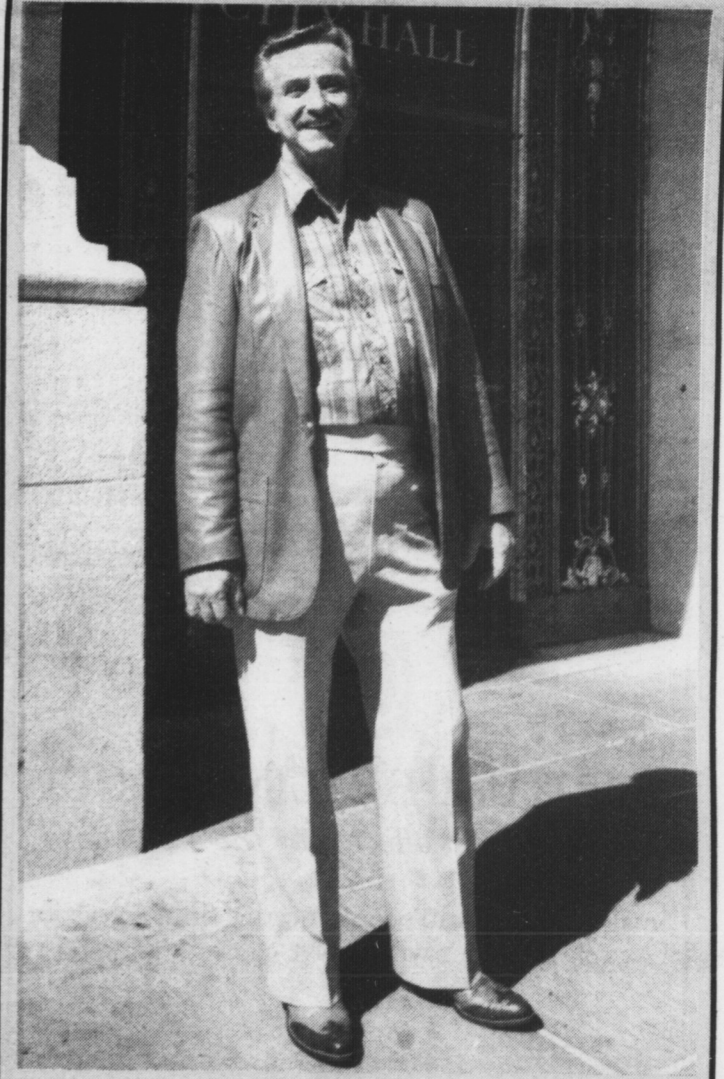
Britt's proposals have been incorporated in a letter sent by Mayor Art Agnos to the United States Olympic Committee.

The proposals call for the USOC to issue a public statement affirming a policy of nondiscrimination on the basis of sexual orientation. It also calls for the USOC to select an amateur athletic association as a voting member of its executive board, to give consideration of financial support to lesbian and gay athletic organizations, and to support an amendment to the Amateur Sports Act which would permit the use of the name "Gay Olympic Games" by its organizers. It also calls for the U.S. Olympics Committee to support a reform of the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Act which now prohibits lesbians and gay men from entering the United States.

(Continued on page 2)

Judge Nixes Palimony Millions

Reverses Jury's \$2.3 M Award; Living Together Not a Contract



Jim Short

(Photo: S. Savage)

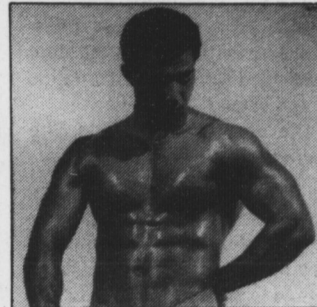
by Ray O'Loughlin

Last week Jim Short was on his way to becoming a millionaire. This week, he fears he may soon be joining the ranks of the homeless. His new fear comes as the result of Superior Court Judge Morton R. Colvin overruling a jury's award last September of \$2.3 million in real estate which Short says he had shared with his former lover Charles Gale. Now that the tables have turned and Gale has been declared the winner of the suit, Short also faces liability for all legal costs.

(Continued on page 2)

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Olympics

(Continued from page 1)

KOPP OUT

Throughout the day, Monday, Jack Davis, chief of staff to state Sen. Quentin Kopp attempted to block the supervisors' vote. Davis continually derided the gay community for its passion on the issue. Speaking to the press, the gay Kopp aide repeatedly implied that AIDS funding might be in jeopardy if the resolution were to pass.

According to Britt's aide, Jean Harris, Davis "looked at me and said, 'If you people don't go with Quentin on this, AIDS issues and any other issue that is important to our community is not going to be supported for a long time.'"

Gay Games counsel Mary Dunlap said, "He is entitled to his opinion. What he is not entitled to do is to go around threatening the AIDS budget based on Harry Britt's vote on the Olympics."



Shawn Kelly (with glasses) poses with fellow members of the steering committee of Team San Francisco, the umbrella organization for athletes going to Gay Games III in 1990. Kelly resigned his position in Sup. John Molinari's office over Molinari's vote on the Olympics (Photo: A.J. Balderson)

That's just behaving like a thug. I don't care if it's a gay thug, a straight thug, that's thuggishness and I don't think that kind of political thuggery is going to be rewarded."

Bill Paul, president of the Stonewall Gay Democratic Club said, "I think Jack Davis has been very destructive on this issue."

As Kopp mounted a campaign to trivialize the gay issues, he was being challenged on several fronts. Tom Powers, a Contra Costa County supervisor and a member of the Bay Area Sports Organizing Committee sent a letter of support to Agnos.

While Kopp stated that the Agnos letter to the USOC misrepresented the Feb. 26 meeting between Olympics officials and gay representatives in Agnos' office, Powers said, "I believe your letter accurately describes the major points on which we agreed at last Friday's meeting."

Powers continued, "As the secretary for BASOC, I firmly believe that we must present a bid to the USOC that represents efforts to develop consensus

around a bid that all communities in the Bay Area can support and promote."

Another who was supporting Agnos and Britt was John Boesch. Boesch is the executive director of BASOC. Against Davis' mutterings of being "disappointed in the gay community," Boesch was saying he was "optimistic."

Boesch said he was optimistic because Mayor Agnos was talking directly to the United States Olympics Committee. It was his belief that Agnos could create a climate that would allow open discussion of the issues.

NAME CALLING

Of all the people who met with Agnos, only Kopp has questioned the mood of compromise that existed. Mary Dunlap commented, "I have come to question what Quentin Kopp's real motivations in this matter are. He and his representatives have been so two-voiced saying one thing in the mayor's meeting and another thing in other meetings."

"He may be doing a twist on homophobia which says blame

the gay community when the economic opportunity you want doesn't come your way," Dunlap said. She said she believed Kopp is using the gay community as an excuse because he will not be successful in bringing the games to the area. "I don't think you get something done by running around insulting people and calling people names. Quentin has been doing that since he opened his mouth on the subject."

Dunlap noted that the chances of the Bay Area getting the Olympics in 1996 are viewed, by many, to be minimal at best. She, and others, have stated they believe the games will be played in Athens, Greece. She noted that the games were just held in California only four years ago.

Harry Britt was elated at the passage of his resolution. He particularly gave credit to Mayor Agnos for his courage in backing the legislation. He noted the tremendous amount of "heat" that elected officials have seen in the last few weeks. All the supervisors have been deluged with mail on the subject.

Judge Colvin. "Short did not give up a career or devote himself exclusive of Gale to any particular endeavor during their relationship."

The judge ruled that Short's understanding of the couple jointly owning property and even Gale expressing to friends that the two were co-owners, was not sufficient evidence for Short's claim.

Colvin said in his ruling that the jury's earlier verdict in the case was only "advisory." The jury had awarded Short \$1.7 million plus \$500,000 in punitive damages.

At the time of the jury's verdict, one juror, who preferred not to be named, told Bay Area Reporter that it appeared to the jury that "there had been a financial relationship between the two gentlemen and various financial arrangements as they transferred property back and forth over 20 years."

Although the jury decided that Short was legally entitled to compensation, the judge had to rule separately on the issue of equity in the joint ownership of property. Since Colvin held that Short was not entitled to equity, the jury's verdict could not be upheld, he said.

Church To Ordain Gay Seminarians

Finding a Congregation May Be Difficult

by Gregory Douthwaite

Three gay students at the Lutheran seminary in Berkeley have been recently certified for ordination. Church officials said that as long as the men do not engage in homosexual acts, they can be ministers. But under Lutheran rules, seminarians are not actually ordained until a parish offers them a ministry. Finding placements for the gay students may be difficult, said the president of Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary, Gary Pence.

"There are many congregations that are sensitive and sympathetic who nonetheless would be reluctant to call a pastor who has admitted a homosexual orientation," he said. "There's clearly an ambivalence in our constituency."

Gay seminarian Jim Lancaster has already given up on finding a job in the Lutheran church. When he graduates next May, he plans to become a minister in the Metropolitan Community Church. "My gifts are really more for my own people," he said.

Lancaster, 25, said it is "highly unlikely" that the other two openly gay seminarians will find placements. "They might find a congregation somewhere, but not in the near future," he said. "The Lutheran church is still having a difficult time placing women."

The other gay seminarians realize the difficulty of finding placement for an openly gay pastor, Lancaster said. Nevertheless, they felt the need to be honest about their feelings.

"I could not be a pastor in the closet," said Joel Workin, 26. "This is the Gospel to me. Being gay is a gift from God. It's from coming to terms with that that I came to know what it is to be hurt, abused and oppressed, and to know what it is for God to love me as I am."

Seminarian Jeff Johnson, 25, decided to come out during the March on Washington last fall, which all three participated in. "I felt a strong call and gift from God for the ministry," he said. "I found I had just as strong a call and gift from God for being gay."

The Lutheran church has ordained gay men and lesbians before, said Jim Lokker, who is himself an openly gay assistant pastor at St. Francis Lutheran Church on Church Street in San Francisco. This is just the first time that the information has been widely publicized, he said.

Publicity is being done by a group called Lutherans Concerned, said Lokker. The national group has about 1,000 members who are working to improve com-



Seminarians Joel Workin (top), Jeff Johnson (middle), and Jim Lancaster (bottom) (Photo: S. Martin)

munication between the church and gay people. Lokker is the group's western regional director.

Lokker said he was pleased that three openly gay seminarians had been certified to be ordained. "It's a sign that there is much more openness in the church than there used to be. But we have a long way to go. The

church still has a lot of weird hang-ups about sex."

Lancaster said he thought it was illogical for the church to require gay ministers not to engage in sex. "The whole celibacy thing is ridiculous," he said. "It's like saying it's OK to be left-handed, but don't write with your left hand."

Orange County Group Hosts Lesbian Conf.

The board of directors of the Elections Committee of the County of Orange has announced that ECCO will sponsor a one day California Lesbian Leadership Conference on April 17. The purpose of the conference is to provide an opportunity for lesbian leaders throughout the state to meet, discuss and strategize around lesbian issues. The theme of the conference is "Putting Lesbians In Power."

The conference will be divided into two major sessions. The morning session is designed to provide an opportunity for the women to have roundtable brainstorming sessions on broad subject areas. The participants will be asked to strategize in their subject area around the conference theme.

The afternoon session will be workshops presented by women from across the state. The conference is open to all lesbians currently or previously involved in running organizations—regardless of the size of the group.

"We see this as a small but logical step in addressing the political issues facing the gay and lesbian community," said Pat Callahan, ECCO co-chair. "The California lesbian community is diverse, strong and has incredible knowledge and talent. We are looking forward to bringing these women together to share ideas and actively plan how to develop more leadership by putting lesbians in positions of power. The board of directors is very excited about this conference."

The conference is scheduled to be held in Irvine. For more information call (714) 962-5780.

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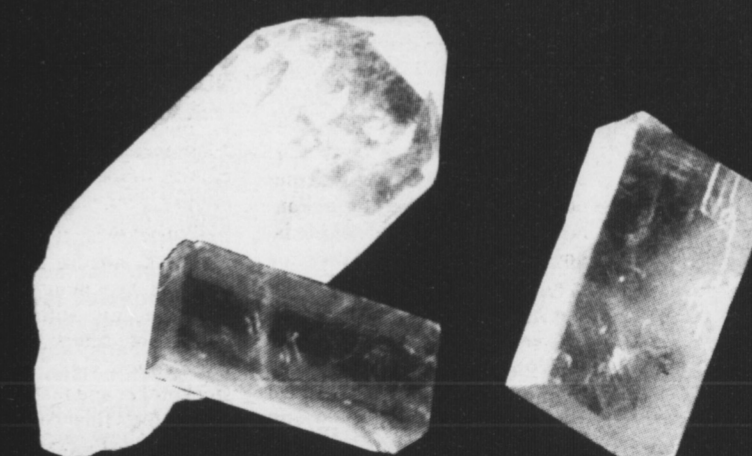
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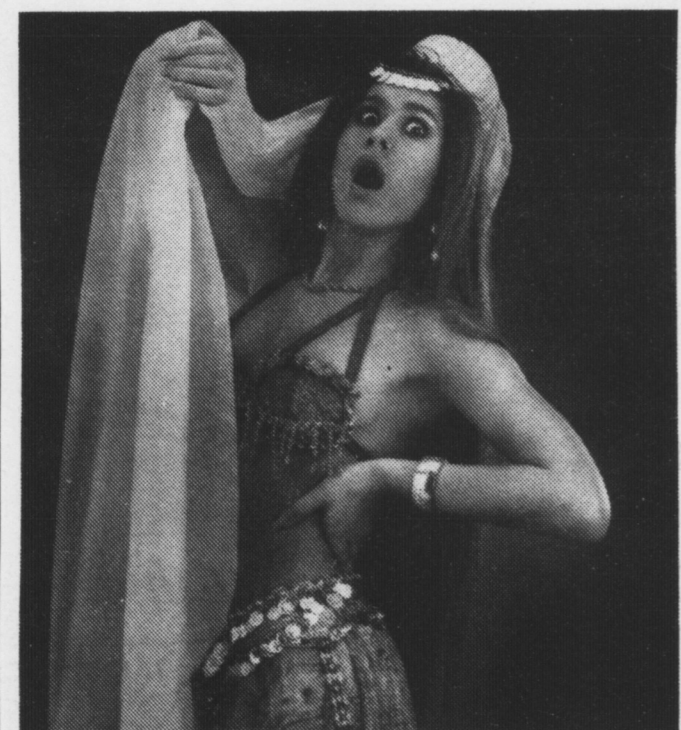
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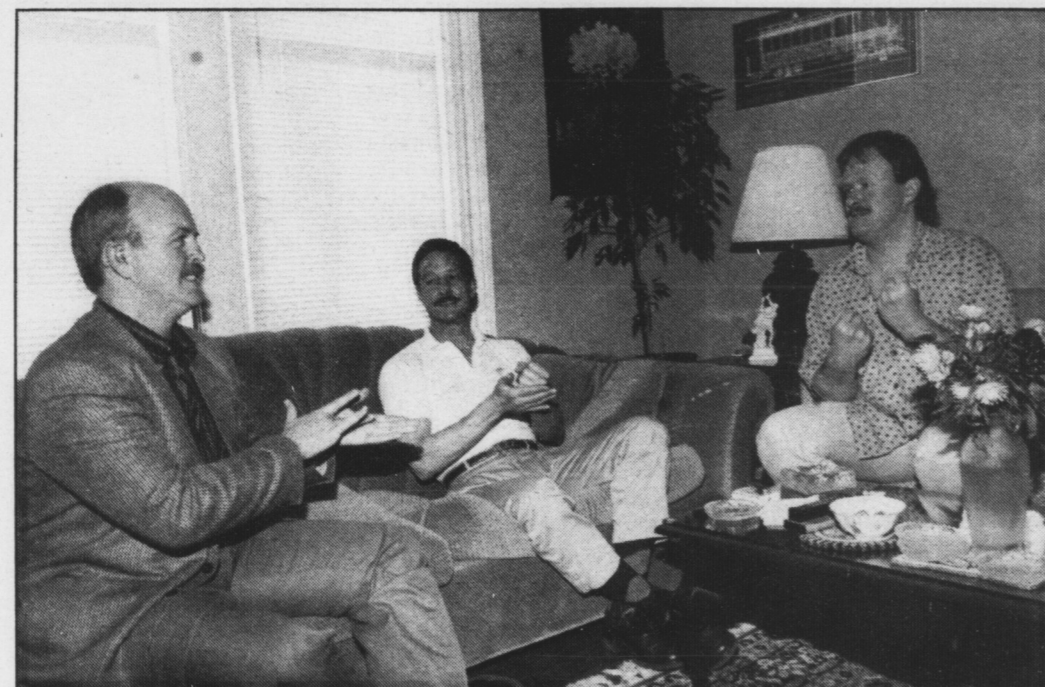
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Rainbow Deaf Society Begins AIDS Service

To Provide Interpreters For Counseling, Education

by Mary Richards

The first organization for gay deaf people is about to launch another first for San Francisco and for the nation. The Rainbow Deaf Society has announced that it will begin a special service for deaf people who have AIDS. The ambitious plan calls for providing interpreters to help individuals deal with medical problems and to conduct community education programs for the deaf.



Members of the Rainbow Deaf Society sign what they hope to achieve at their March 27 fundraiser: (l. to r.) Don Bangs signs 'money'; Tony Gayle signs 'help'; and Jovan Ryg signs 'support' (Photo: Photo Graphics/Darlene)

Committee member Don Bangs described the catalyst for his involvement with deaf gays and AIDS. Three years ago he was living in Los Angeles and met a deaf man who had been diagnosed. "There were many things that influenced that man's life," Bangs says, "that should not have happened to him."

"First of all, he didn't understand AIDS. I would get brochures and give them to him and he couldn't read them. A lot of deaf people have reading difficulties because they don't have the same exposure to English that hearing people have. What's the virus? What does immune mean? They don't understand that," he said.

"The second problem we had was that there was no support. Doctors would come in and give him the basics with no interpreters, no communication. He didn't know how to deal with the medical situation. And that's not a strange thing, that happens many, many times with deaf people.

The RDS AIDS Service Fund will attempt to alleviate similar problems in San Francisco by providing the opportunity for people to participate in needed services such as: (1) training: workshops for HIV-positive, AIDS and ARC groups; (2) referral: diagnosis and screening; medical assistance (including psychologists and social workers); interpreters; hospice care; medical treatment; (3) TDD services: phone contact for the deaf; (4) support services: practical and emotional; and (5) counseling.

Implementation of these plans will not happen overnight, and regardless of the enthusiasm of RDS members, unless the community supports the fledgling fund, it may not happen at all.

There are 12 people on the fundraising committee, and Tony Gale is one of them. "Another

goal for the AIDS Service Fund," he explains, "is to invite two or three physicians, someone who specializes in AZT, and someone who specializes in holistic medicine, to give a presentation so that deaf people can attend these workshops and get information to find out which is the best method for them to live with."

In order for the RDS AIDS Service Fund to invite hearing people to make presentations, they will need interpreters, either funded or on a volunteer basis. The subject of interpreters, they say, is a complicated matter.

SEARCH FOR FUNDS

Don Bangs comments, "The federal government and state have regulations. The service has to be accessible to the handicapped, which means that any agency that receives federal funds has to provide interpreter services."

That may be true in theory, but RDS members have had problems in the past. Although they have been helpful to the deaf, both the San Francisco AIDS Foundation and the AIDS Emergency Fund were called disappointing in the final analysis. Bangs says that the AIDS Foundation provided \$500 to PWA's for interpreting services. Interpreters charge anywhere from \$25 to \$45 an hour.

"Five hundred dollars will last maybe 20 hours at the most," he claims. "After that, what do deaf people do? They can't go to meetings anymore."

Committee member Jay Wilson speaks about his experiences with the AIDS Emergency Fund, which is not city or state funded. They did assist with funds for a time, but then called Wilson to advise him that they could no longer afford to pay for an interpreter at Davies Hospital. Wilson says, "they felt that there were other people who had more of an emergency and needed that money."

Strapped for money and facing an increase in cases, city and state-funded organizations, as well as those who depend solely on the community for support, have to set priorities for their limited allocations. Realizing the difficulty in competing for that money, RDS hopes to provide a balance of services for the deaf through their AIDS Service Fund.

"I think it will be wonderful for the deaf," says committee member Jovan Ryg, "and people will understand that the deaf have their services. They'll know where to go and won't have to depend on so many groups. Now we can just go to one center and get in contact with whatever we need. That's the best way."

Primarily a social group in the past, the organization now has tax-exempt status and is changing its focus. The Rainbow Deaf Society in San Francisco was the first group for lesbian and gay deaf people in the nation. Now integration with the hearing community is a goal. After months of planning, a successful fundraiser for AIDS services will go a long way toward the realization of that goal.

In the following weeks flyers will be distributed throughout the community advertising the fundraiser. It will be held from 1 p.m. to 6 p.m. (Sunday, Mar. 27 at the San Francisco Hearing Society, 20-10th St.) The program consists of featured speakers, the San Francisco premiere of a videotape on AIDS for the gay deaf, and an exciting slide show of the historic National March on Washington. A minimum donation of \$10 covers the cost of admission, food and beverages, and four interpreters will be available to assist hearing people in communicating with RDS members and friends.

(Special thanks to Jay Wilson for his interpreting services for this article.)

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EDITORIAL & OPINION

Monitoring The Monitor

If the Christian Science Monitor ever feels the need to demonstrate that it does indeed cover the gay and lesbian community, they can point to their March 3 edition. In that issue the Monitor devotes a good bit of its front page and half of its back page to the efforts of 22 gay men and women. When have you ever seen a nationally distributed newspaper give a sizeable chunk of its front page to a gay group?

The Monitor is the news organization that produces *MonitoRadio*. *MonitoRadio* has been under criticism since it fired a lesbian reporter in 1986. In San Francisco, *MonitoRadio* has become the focal point of the ongoing tug of war between the lesbian and gay community and public broadcaster KQED. KQED-FM is one of two publicly supported radio stations that broadcast *MonitoRadio*. The other is KALW, the radio station of the San Francisco Board of Education.

When reporter Christine Madsen sued *MonitoRadio*, she lost. The court ruled that the Christian Science Monitor was not really a newspaper, but an arm of the Christian Science Church. Hence, to require it to obey any antidiscrimination law would violate separation of church and state. The State of Massachusetts was powerless to do anything.

And now the Monitor, to show us just how accurate that court opinion was, has displayed the gay community on its front page. Of course, there's a catch. The people featured are actually "ex-gays," those who have struggled with the demon and found their way out of homosexuality and made "a change." Change to what, the lengthy article didn't actually say. Presumably, it was to blissful heterosexuality, complete with station wagons and orthodontist bills.

Now, I agree, finding 22 "ex-gays" is newsworthy. The Monitor is paying us a compliment by default—they could find only 22. Ex-gays are news sort of like finding a fish that rides a bicycle would be news. It would catch your attention, but you wouldn't take it seriously.

If the activities of 22 "ex-gays" are notable, how much more notable is the struggle of 23 million lesbians and gay men to achieve justice under the laws of the U.S. that proclaim so loudly equality and freedom for all. When will we see such an article in the Christian Science Monitor? Don't hold your breath.

Is it news that the Monitor seeks to report or are their pages given to promoting a certain religious view and lifestyle? Wanna put some money on it?

So, the Monitor found some fish who ride bicycles and interviewed their trainers, the church people who counsel "dissatisfied homosexuals." The article talks about various church "ministries" who claim to have "helped multiple thousands." No actual statistics are presented to back up the extensive claims made in the long article.

What we have in the Christian Science Monitor is a moralistic diatribe masquerading as news coverage. Without telling readers that the entire premise of what they're reading is dubious, the Monitor sneaks in an opinion piece attempting to undermine our civil rights and promote the newspaper's religious convictions. How can one believe anything in a publication that runs so outlandish a story?

More important, why are city money and school board funds going to support this religious institution, no matter how indirectly? Yes, we do have an issue of separation of church and state.

The Real Victim Stood Up

The Alameda County District Attorney's office could use some lessons on how to handle gay bashing cases. Unlike most DA's who prefer to simply overlook cases of assaults on gay people, the Alameda DA went so far as to prosecute a gay man for assault when he fought back and actually injured his assailant.

Sloppy police work was compounded by stupid prosecution in the case of Curtis McDowell. McDowell was attacked last June by a gang of teenagers. He was beaten and partially stripped. In the fracas, he managed to cut one of his assailants before escaping and calling police. But Oakland police arrested him in the attack and bought the story of his attackers as to who was the victim.

Common sense would have dictated that the case against McDowell was flimsy. Instead, he was charged with a felony and put through the ordeal of a trial. Fortunately, the jury saw through the prosecutor's weak case and voted to acquit McDowell. This judicial exercise, however, cost the taxpayers of Alameda County approximately \$50,000.

The county would have better spent that money on instructing their prosecutors on how to recognize and prosecute gay bashing. Then, maybe, they'd have the know-how to fight the real crime in their streets and real victims would be protected by the law instead of harassed by it. ●

OPINION

Taking More Power Over The Epidemic

by Sup. Harry Britt

Since our community first faced the AIDS epidemic we have worked together to pressure government at all levels to fund research, education and treatment at the highest levels possible. Were it not for the fact that gay men and lesbians have used our own power to create programs to deal with AIDS, very little would have been done to respond to this epidemic.

For years we have had to pressure the state and federal governments for more spending for research and education. The response has been only adequate. But we no longer have to rely upon elected officials to bring about a massive increase in spending for AIDS programs in California. The lesbian and gay and AIDS activist communities have been presented with the incredible opportunity to exercise our own power to place the AIDS Research Tax Credit Initiative on the ballot in California this coming November.

If we succeed in this task we will have created \$180 million dollars in spending for AIDS research over the next three years.

If we succeed, we will have created a powerful tool to defeat the greatest threat to our work to stop AIDS to come along to date—the Danmeyer AIDS initiative. If this horrible initiative is qualified for the November ballot, we will see all anonymous testing for AIDS eliminated. The names of every person who has ever tested positive for the HIV virus will be reportable to the state. Employers and insurance companies will be allowed to use the HIV antibody test—presumably to allow them to discriminate against those who test positive. And California will establish contact tracing to find the sexual partners of people who test positive.

The AIDS Research Tax Credit Initiative provides us with the opportunity to present the voters with a real and productive way to respond to AIDS, rather than the repressive measures suggested by simple-minded politicians.

Finally, the AIDS Research Tax Credit Initiative will allow the gay community to stop a history of victimization by the initiative process in California. We have successfully defeated threats to our rights on two occasions. Now we have the historic opportunity to press the voters to respond to the positive presentation of our issues.

The AIDS Initiative Committee has formed to collect, before May 15, the 600,000 signatures required to qualify the initiative for the ballot. The same committee must raise the \$750,000 required to fund the signature gathering as well as defeat Proposition 69—the LaRouche initiative in June.

To date, the committee is getting only lukewarm financial and volunteer support. Perhaps it seems as though the job of collecting 600,000 signatures to qualify an issue for the ballot happens by magic. But it does not!

Each of us is carrying a huge emotional and financial burden as a result of the AIDS epidemic. Dozens of projects are competing for our time and resources. And each of us is doing a heroic job of responding in the face of these unprecedented challenges.

I urge each and every one of us to make a personal commitment to qualifying the AIDS Research Tax Credit Initiative. Each of us can collect signatures from friends, family, and co-workers. Many of us have time to volunteer to collect signatures, evenings and on weekends, at theaters, bars and stores. Additionally many of us can write a check of some amount to help.

The AIDS Research Tax Initiative represents an opportunity we absolutely cannot afford—personally or politically—to slip by. The additional support it provides for research could make a vital difference to the search for a cure. The AIDS information it produces could save many lives. The civil rights protected from Danmeyer and Dolittle, can free each of us to secure AIDS testing and medical care without fear of the loss of a job or insurance.

If this chance to take greater control over the AIDS epidemic and our lives slips by us, we should not expect that government will pick up the pieces. We will have sent it a powerful and damaging message.

The AIDS Initiative Committee is located at 10 United Nations Plaza, San Francisco, 94102. The phone number is (415) 621-6164. Please contact the committee as soon as you can to offer your help. ●

LETTERS

Building Walls

★ There seems to be a lot to worry about these days. The George Smoot trial, increased homophobia, the Olympics, AIDS, the elections, on and on. Sometimes it seems overwhelming. But I'm not so worried about these things. I know, like all our battles gone before, these too shall pass. But there is something these days that is worrying me a great deal. Something much more fundamental. And that something is our attitude, an emerging attitude that seems to be developing in the community.

This new attitude wants to exclude, instead of embrace. It wants to be defensive, instead of open. It is an attitude of building walls around ourselves, instead of tearing them down. And while this attitude isn't new, it has manifested itself in the debate over the Olympics.

I know as well as anyone that we have been burned recently. We have been burned a lot. And we have been burned really bad. We have been burned by everyone, from the Supreme Court to our next door neighbors.

So now San Francisco has the chance to host the Olympic Games. Our reaction is a natural one. No! These people hate us. We don't want them here. They have hurt us, hated us, and tried to destroy us. We don't want them. We'll show them by not letting them come here.

You got us, we'll get you. This is the attitude I see. If you don't like us, then we won't like you. We'll exclude you. We won't let you come to our city! This is a child's attitude. Like two children fighting over who's better and more right, we snub andicker. But this time, it's for real. This is the big league.

Should our attitude be one of exclusion, or one of embracing an opportunity. The Olympics in the Bay Area! It is an opportunity to have the whole world at our doorstep. It is an opportunity that not too many people are ever afforded. It is a huge opportunity to teach the world in our city. It is an opportunity to love—the world, to educate them and show them how to love—not hate.

We have the opportunity to do what we, the gay community, does best. To love, be understanding, and be compassionate. We can show the world, and the Olympics just how to do these things. And I am not talking about having to prove ourselves. We don't have to prove ourselves to anyone. I'm talking about giving these people the chance to learn.

Let's show the world that we throw the best parties, by welcoming them with our best wishes. Let's put a lesbian and gay man on every street corner, armed with literature and understanding. Let's welcome their company and money into our restaurants and clubs. Let's have our city honor gay and lesbian athletes—while the Olympics are here!

In the end, it is not the gay community that lost a court decision. It was the Supreme Court, the Olympic Committee, and society. They all lost the opportunity to learn, understand, and love. It may feel like we were the ones who got burned. But like a phoenix, we must rise up in hope, not in hate. Otherwise, we will have defeated ourselves, and they will have really won.

Walt S. Chambers
San Francisco

Reprehensible

The following letter was addressed to the Hon. Daniel Weinstein, Judge, Juvenile Court, San Francisco:

★ This letter is in response to the decision which you handed down on Feb. 24. There are few among us who would disagree that the senseless murder of George Smoot was indeed a tragic event for all concerned. Many lives have been literally wrenched apart.

As a long-time friend of Mr. Smoot, I must tell you that his absence has filled me with grief and bitterness. He possessed one of the most crisp, literary minds to have ever graced my emotional landscape. The void created by the loss of such friendship and talent leaves nothing but unyielding despair.

But more unyielding were the insensitive and provocative remarks which you have made in the course of your decision. I feel compelled to respond to those remarks and express my displeasure with hearty ill will.

What exactly did you mean by suggesting that Mr. Smoot's conduct was "reprehensible"? We, (the gay community) would like to know, and believe we have the right to know, just exactly what constituted "reprehensible" conduct. Was it the fact that Mr. Smoot was under the influence of alcohol? Or was it perhaps that you believe the young man's testimony? And based on that testimony, you chose to label Mr. Smoot in such an unseemly fashion. To make such a remark about a dead man, unable to defend himself, is in my estimation, mean spirited and irresponsible. I consider such a remark unworthy of the bench, especially in light of such one-sided and questionable testimony.

Stephen W. Caldwell
San Francisco

I Am Trocadero

★ This letter is directed first and foremost to Trocadero cardholders and guests, the San Francisco gay community, and, finally, to the many thousands of supporters who for the past decade have supported this internationally known and respected place of entertainment known as Trocadero Transfer.

For the past ten years, "The Troc," as it has been nicknamed, has supported, supplied, facilitated, donated to, sponsored, co-sponsored, produced, and funded as many gay-oriented events as possible because of three basic facts: (1) my love for the city and my affinity for the community; (2) my creation, Trocadero Transfer; (3) my gay old self.

I have tried to step back and let others operate, represent, and even speak for me. Most of the events and productions which account for 90 percent of what is produced at Trocadero, from concept to finish, are presented by me.

The fact is black and white: I am Trocadero and have been since Sept. 7, 1977, when I signed the lease. I am extremely proud of what I have done or have tried to do in order to ensure the longevity of such a well respected dream. Some people say I leave myself open to criticism when I write. Well, who else can say what is, or is not, correct or stand up to countless punches and ten years of idle gossip?

I must say that it amazes me what I hear about me. It cracks me up! I'm beginning to hear voices, you know how that is, saying "Collier, enough of the bullshit, get on with it!"

"Right on!"

With the high cost of San Francisco living, lack of attendance for the past two-and-one-half years, health crises, the steadily rising cost of liquor, labor, serving products, utilities, loan payments, and taxes, need I go on? The heaviest burden of all was that out of 6,300 invitations, only 1,000 attended our 10th Anniversary Celebration Weekend. Bingo. The alarms finally registered.

What were my options? At that point they were almost nonexistent. Close entirely, subtle the building and take a hike, or keep the faith, revitalize myself, restructure current venues and get on with the program. I've done just that.

I have begun renting out Troc's space on Fridays to another promoter, Brit Hahn of City Nights. Their venue is called Club X and is doing well. I put in a small kitchen which will be serving lunches, Tuesday through Friday, beginning in March, and will have food service available on the evenings we are in operation and for catered affairs.

On Feb. 4 I entered into an agreement with Dr. Sanford Kellman to rent the Troc on Saturday nights beginning April 9th. His club will be called Bolt.

Over the next several months Trocadero will begin new and exciting venues Mondays through Thursdays and/or will be available for special events, benefits, or long-term rentals as the community requires.

I do not have the complete details as to the venue which is to be presented, but I am sure it will be enjoyable and in good taste. You may still contact 495-0185, the hotline number, for updates and information, or call the office between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. Tuesday through Friday for rental information.

In closing, to some of you this is selling out; to others no worse than killing something. But to me it is a rejuvenation of business, dreams, and a life that can still be enjoyed but on a limited basis. After all, how can you sell or give away your child.

With love and respect to all.

Dick Collier
San Francisco

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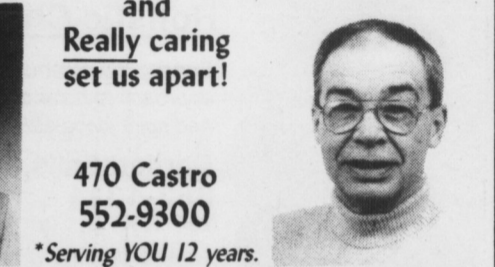
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LETTERS

Thanks

★ I would like to thank the Bay Area Reporter readers who voted me Cable Car Awards Photographer of the Year.

Rink Foto
San Francisco

Remember

★ Gore says he wants to ban anti-gay discrimination. Have we already forgotten that a year or two ago he wanted to ban "obscene" lyrics in rock and roll albums? It was Al Gore and his wife Tipper who were behind the Congressional "obscenity-in-rock-and-roll" hearings. Remember? Rock and roll was destroying "family values"?

The man is no friend of freedom of speech, and his support for anything but heterosexual families is in serious doubt. A community that is rightly outraged by the FCC's action against Pacifica Radio's Jerker broadcast cannot seriously consider Al Gore.

How quickly we forget.
Nobody yet running deserves my support.

Mark Pearson
San Francisco

Police Harassment

The following letter was sent to Mayor Art Agnos:

★ Mayor Art Agnos:

In your search for ways to trim the current San Francisco budget deficit, might I suggest a moratorium on police harassment of the patrons of the city's many gay establishments? Earlier this evening I witnessed an SFPD sweep of the sidewalk in front of the San Francisco Eagle bar at 12th and Harrison which involved at least two police cruisers and a van and the five or more officers who arrived in them and netted the city nothing more—to my knowledge—than a handful of parking citations and an untold load of bad feeling.

It has been a longstanding tradition that motorcycles of Eagle patrons may be parked on the sidewalk in front of the bar. The sidewalk is sufficiently wide in this area that such parking does not curtail free passage of pedestrians and those who park there are sufficiently careful in doing so that they do not cause or threaten physical harm to anyone.

While I realize that it is illegal to park on any sidewalk, I also know that this law has not been enforced in this area in the five years during which I have been an Eagle patron. Enforcing this law now—without warning and in the fashion—seems to me to be a poor public relations move on the part of the Police Department, a waste of tax dollars which could doubtless have been better spent preventing or investigating crimes which do endanger citizens of the city, and an embarrassment to you as mayor.

I would appreciate an investigation by your office of this matter and await any response you might care to provide. Many of the gay and lesbian citizens of this city helped to elect you, sir. We do not expect and will not accept harassment from your police force now. Particularly not in view of your assertion that many more vital services may suffer budget cuts in the months to come.

Thank you for your attention.

John Dibelka
San Francisco

Profits Above Rights

This letter was mailed to the Golden Gate Business Association:

★ As a co-founder and former owner of Superstar Video, I refuse to join the Golden Gate Business Association (GCBA) because your organization is too politically conservative and more representative of downtown business interests than the lesbian and gay community. Your recent actions have reinforced my belief.

In spite of the fact the United States Olympic Committee sued our community to prevent it from using the word "Olympics" and placed a lien on the home of Gay Games founder, Dr. Tom Waddell, I understand that you are urging the 535 members of the GCBA to support efforts to bring the 1996 Olympic Games to the Bay Area. Your action is an insult to all lesbians and gays who seek equal treatment under the law. Your stand places business profits and regional prestige above human dignity.

I am urging gay owned businesses who are members of GCBA and disagree with that position to withdraw their membership from the organization. I urge lesbians and gays to withdraw their economic support from businesses that display the GCBA membership sticker in their window. It is time for the community to flex its economic muscle on the side of human rights.

Raymond Tobler
San Francisco

Blaming the Victim

★ Without a vaccine or cure in the foreseeable future, many are looking hopefully at "alternative therapies." Do so carefully.

My roommate has AIDS encephalopathy, a neurological form, which makes walking difficult. Yet at a "breathing seminar," he was encouraged to jump! And he was assured that he could, if he really wanted to. When he declined (to prevent severe and permanent damage) he was pressured by members of the "group," and enrolled for private sessions by the group leader. He was accused of "choosing to have AIDS," "causing your own illness," and further, if he didn't "start acting well, would soon be leaving the planet."

Blaming the victim is a very convenient denial mechanism. As it makes the well among us feel more powerful, it is sadly becoming fashionable. It is, how-

Chronicle Obits

This letter was sent to the editor of the San Francisco Chronicle and Examiner:

★ Last week you ran a very nice obituary for my colleague, Rev. Michael William Click, an Episcopal priest who died of AIDS. For that I thank you.

Apparently it is still your policy not to run the name of the lovers of deceased homosexual persons. It is particularly sad in Click's case as his lover is a retired San Francisco police officer also dying of AIDS. He was generous enough and caring enough to support Michael financially and personally for the last four years. They lived together and cared for each other in a most holy and familial way.

In my parish we have many gay and lesbian persons who have been in long-term relationships. One couple for 20 years, another 15 years, another 12 years. Neither church nor state recognizes, officially, the status of these wonderful relationships. Perhaps the fourth estate can find room in its heart to do so by at least mentioning the name of loving partners in obituaries.

I hope you will find a way to change your policy so that the names of lovers can be added to those of parents and other family.

Robert Warren Cromeley
San Francisco

Research

★ I have begun a research project on the origins of the gay male leather/SM subculture in the U.S. with the intention to write a socio-history within the next 2-3 years. The history and reasons for existence of the subculture should be documented before those of them involved have died.

If you were involved in gay leathersex and associated (bike) clubs during the 1950s and before 1970, I would like to interview you. All names will be kept strictly confidential. Please contact me at P.O. Box 11536, San Francisco, CA 94101.

Stuart Norman
San Francisco

Happy Thoughts

★ My gay brothers, as one observer in this beautiful city, I can see the fear, hurt, loneliness and anger in your heart and eyes. Why have you managed to isolate yourself from the friendship and love that you're capable of giving and very much desire to receive?

You must believe that disease and health, like other circumstances, are rooted in thought. The people who live in fear of disease are the people who get it. Strong, pure and happy thoughts build up the body in vigor and grace. Living life continually in thoughts of ill will, cynicism, suspicion and envy, can only confine you in self-made prison hold.

But, to think well of all, to be cheerful with all, and to patiently learn to find good in all-such unselfish thoughts are the very portals of life.

Yes, we have lost many wonderful, good friends, lovers, associates and even family. We have to rebuild our community, let's not just accept. Asian, Mexican and Latinos into our community, and then reject, expose and underestimate what black gays have, and can contribute to our community.

Politics will not open as many doors for us as in the past, because most of our groups spend so much time fighting among other organizations in our own community, instead of uniting together.

Many Thanks

This letter was sent to the Cable Car Awards Board of Directors:

★ We are so pleased that the Bay Area Women's Philharmonic's concert with Mary Watkins was awarded the Outstanding Event in the Women's Community. Unfortunately, due to illness, we weren't able to thank you in person and thank the lesbian and gay community for all the support you have provided the Women's Philharmonic over the past seven years.

We are indeed honored to be the recipient of the Cable Car Award and with the community's continued support, we hope to keep the Women's Philharmonic growing even stronger artistically and building a national reputation for the music of women composers.

Thanks again for this prestigious award.

Miriam Abrams
Executive Director
Bay Area Women's Philharmonic
San Francisco

LETTERS

Early Lesson

★ In Steve Warren's (3/3) review of John Waters' *Hairspray*, he notes the linkage between one oppressed group (the fat) and another (blacks). As a regular on the Buddy Deane Show between 1959 and 1962, I witnessed and experienced another form of linkage.

While Waters accurately portrays the local fame that Committee (called Council in the film) members experienced, with little girls asking for our autographs at school or in shopping centers, a large population of macho neanderthals decided that any guy who liked to dance, much less dance well, must be a faggot. It was quite common for a girl to ask for our autographs while her "man" yelled "faggot" to us. When the pressure to integrate the show began around 1962, "nigger lover" and "faggot" were used interchangeably by the more acceptably masculine members of Baltimore's teenage male population.

It was an early lesson for me in discrimination and bigotry. How some gays and lesbians can also be racist, sexist, anti-Semitic or otherwise discriminatory against other minorities has not made sense to me since those good ol' Buddy Deane Days.

Paul A. Walker, Ph.D.
San Francisco

Dweebs

★ Now that all you dweebs (*sic*) at the Buena Vista Neighborhood Association are satisfied with the final stages of destruction of the park, I trust you will be working on the big increases in crime and vandalism in the neighborhood. You've really got your priorities in order!

Ned Tuck
San Francisco

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Stuart Norman
San Francisco

Neutral

★ To clear up some major misunderstanding in the community regarding the Golden Gate Business Association and the Olympic issue, I feel it is imperative to clear up the confusion that surrounds this issue.

The Golden Gate Business Association has not taken a position in favor or against the proposed bid, but instead has chosen to remain neutral with no recommendation to the Board of Supervisors regarding any decision that will be made by the board.

This is the official stance of the Board of Directors of the Golden Gate Business Association.

Rod Palmer, President
Golden Gate Business Assn
San Francisco

Sexist Liturgies

★ Gay Bay Areas of all religious affiliations or lack thereof should rejoice that the Integrity Christians of the San Francisco Bay Area are totally committed to the just struggle to eliminate from the liturgical worship of the Christian church the centuries-old accumulation of deeply sexist masculine-dominated images and concepts within the communal language of the Mass, of the Judaeo-Christian scriptures, and of the hymns.

At the choral eucharist, which the Integrity Christians and their gay and non-gay friends celebrate each Sunday at 5:30 p.m. at the Episcopal Church of St. John the Evangelist in San Francisco's Mission district, the worshipper vividly experiences a public worship of God whose beauty and solace are heightened intellectually and emotionally by its inclusiveness.

The elimination of sexism is a central issue of social justice and, let's face it, we gay men are also in need to recognize the sexist attitudes and behaviors we have accumulated from the cultural sexism embedded in Western Civilization.

Integrity/San Francisco Bay Area needs to be saluted for the leadership they have taken to cast out the social and hurtful evil of sexist language from the public worship of the Mass. Let's hope other liturgical Christians follow their example.

James F. Gibbons
San Leandro, CA

Happy Thoughts

★ My gay brothers, as one observer in this beautiful city, I can see the fear, hurt, loneliness and anger in your heart and eyes. Why have you managed to isolate yourself from the friendship and love that you're capable of giving and very much desire to receive?

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Miriam Abrams
Executive Director
Bay Area Women's Philharmonic
San Francisco

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It's No on 69

The Secretary of State's office in Sacramento goes with the book and thereby was forced to assign No. 69 to the proposition put on the June ballot by followers of Lyndon LaRouche that would declare AIDS virus carriers contagious, report them to the health authorities, forbid them from food-handling and teaching jobs, and require possible quarantine.

March Fong Eu says they are well aware that "69" is a euphemism for an oral-sex act. But according to the secretary's office, "The law requires that we number initiatives in the order that they qualify for the ballot, and the LaRouche AIDS initiative was the 69th."

There will doubtless be a lot of snickering and public smirking between now and June 8th, but its a definite NO on 69 this year.

GOP U.S. Sen. Pete Wilson formally kicked off his re-election campaign this week and why is it that the incumbent Republican already looks so much better than Democrat Leo McCarthy?

The Vermont state Senate this week passed a gay rights bill that would ban discrimination in housing, jobs, and credit based on sexual orientation. The proposal faces a second Senate vote and must pass the state's lower house.

President Ronald Reagan's AIDS Commission, once called incompetent, badly managed and biased toward a conservative agenda, is now being hailed as an important vehicle in the fight against the deadly disease. Many of the panel's former critics are giving most of the credit to the commission's new chairperson, retired Navy Admiral James D. Watkins, who recently called for the federal government to immediately provide \$2 billion to battle the crisis. California Rep. William Dannemeyer, who is a senior member of the House subcommittee on Health and the Environment has suddenly become the most outspoken critic of the Reagan Committee, a sure sign they must be doing something right.

Assembly Speaker Willie Brown, who this week broke the all-time longevity record as Assembly leader by surpassing the record held by the late Jesse Unruh, received some \$120,000 last year in speaking engagements alone. Brown's 1987 honorarium figure tops the previous year by nearly \$30,000. The flamboyant Speaker also picked up another \$24,189 in "gifts," including paid trips to Japan and Australia. Brown is



Willie Brown says, 'No On 69' (Photo: Rink)

paid an annual salary of \$37,105, plus perks that include \$75 per day while the legislature is in session, the use of a state car, gasoline credit cards, etc. He also enjoys a "lucrative" private law practice.

In Sacramento this week, Brown, noting the record length of his Speakership, said the secret of his longevity was that, unlike his predecessors, he was not using the job to seek higher office.

Brown pointed out that "Jesse Unruh was a candidate for anything that was open that was more important (in his mind) than the speakership. Bob Moretti couldn't wait to run for governor, and Leo McCarthy was a candidate for almost anything that was open beyond the speakership."

Brown added, "I am not a candidate for governor, or any of those things. My goal in life is really to be Speaker as long as the house will have me."

With the kind of big bucks Willie Brown pulled in last year—more than \$161,000 in gifts and speaking engagements alone—it is certainly not difficult to understand why the guy wishes to remain Speaker as long as he can.

If you have noticed that many of the same houses in the 16th Assembly district that showed Agnos signs in their win-

dows during the mayoral campaign now are displaying Burton signs, it is because (according to Roberta Achtenberg supporters), John Burton's campaign workers have been calling up those Agnos supporters and identifying themselves as "Art Agnos workers"—something that Achtenberg supporters say smacks of "dirty tactics." The implication is, of course, that Mayor Art Agnos, who is supposedly neutral in the Achtenberg-Burton Assembly race, has endorsed Burton. This campaign could get a little mean before it's over.

With this week's Super Tuesday leaving the Democratic presidential race in disarray, California's June 7 primary, which many thought would come too late to make a difference, now looms as very important in determining who the Democrats will nominate against the GOP's probable standard-bearer, the anti-gay George Bush.

One of the most respected AIDS support groups anywhere, the AIDS Emergency Fund, held a dinner Sunday night to honor its many volunteers, including last year's honorary chairpersons, Sharon McNight and Mr. Marcus. AIDS Emergency Fund raised nearly half a million dollars last year to help those who have the disease, and Sunday's dinner introduced this year's new co-chairs, three of San Francisco's best—Louise Molinari, Bob Ross and Danny Williams.

Everyone who knew Jerry Burns, the Chronicle editor who passed away this week, will surely miss the man. I was privileged to know Jerry and he was one nice man and the finest in the business.

Dianne Feinstein has to be pleased with the early California Poll that shows her leading such statewide heavyweights as John Van de Kamp and Gray Davis as the possible Demo gubernatorial favorite for 1990.

Over 70 gay men have signed on as sponsors of the March 23 fundraiser/reception for Assembly candidate Roberta Achtenberg (Men Coming Out For Roberta!) being held at Sutter's Mill; no-host bar, \$25 donation (337-2061 or 553-8843 for info).

News you need to know. Only in Bay Area Reporter.

Winnow Named Head Of Gay HRC Unit

Jackie Winnow, long the lead person in the Lesbian/Gay and AIDS Unit of the Human Rights Commission, has just been named as the coordinator. She will answer directly to Grant Mickins, executive director of the agency. She becomes the first lesbian or gay coordinator of the unit and the first gay member of the management team of the commission.

When Winnow began with the commission seven years ago, the HRC had a half-time CETA funded Lesbian/Gay Liaison position. Through her direction and perseverance and with the support of Mickins, the unit has expanded to include three full-time professional staff people—Eileen Gillis working on sexual orientation discrimination complaints, Norm Nickens on AIDS/ARC discrimination complaints, and Winnow on Lesbian/Gay and AIDS/ARC issues, staffing the Lesbian/Gay Advisory Committee, and administration. Additionally, there are a cadre of legal and social work graduate interns, as well as numerous volunteers.

Winnow has been instrumental in making the unit a model of its kind throughout the country in the areas of lesbian, gay and AIDS/ARC rights. She has been a prime mover in the recognition of the needs of lesbian health care. She was the coordinator of the Human Rights Commission's AIDS Discrimination Public Hearings in 1986 and Race Discrimination in Gay Businesses in 1984.

"Since I began in 1980, the Unit has grown tremendously due to the urgent needs of our

community and the Human Rights Commission's commitment to the struggles for lesbian and gay rights. The challenges keep on growing and changing and with the talent and dedication of the staff of the unit, we will continue to expand to meet those challenges. This appointment solidifies the commission's respect for the lesbian/gay and AIDS/ARC community by ensuring that the unit is managed by one of its own with direct access to the top," said Winnow.

"No person could be more qualified and more deserving than Jackie Winnow to head this important unit of the HRC. I am confident she will continue to give the community that high level of attention and concern she has so effectively displayed in the past," said executive director Mickins.

The commission investigated 181 sexual orientation and AIDS/ARC discrimination complaints in the area of employment, housing, and public accommodations, gave innumerable amounts of technical assistance, took strong positions concerning Prop. 64, mandatory AIDS testing, Delta Airlines, the U.S.S. Missouri, and lesbian health care in 1986-87.



Jackie Winnow (Photo: W. McEthern)

Mike Hippler

Going To The Chapel

Ordinarily I don't ask my boyfriends to marry me after three-and-a-half months, but this one, Mark, was leaving for a new job in Chicago in a week, and I had to think of some way to bind him to me. Besides, we were spending the weekend in South Lake Tahoe, skiing with my sister and her husband, and I was inspired, not only by the magnificent mountain scenery, but also by the multitude of pre-fab, no-gab wedding chapels. "If ever there was a place to pop the question," I thought, "this is it."

Suspicious that he was being used as fodder for yet another newspaper article, Mark was less than enthusiastic about the prospects of getting hitched, but at least agreed to tour the chapels. We chose as our first stop Love's Wedding Chapel on the Nevada side of the border. We were drawn primarily by the white dove and cross featured on the brightly lit road sign—but intimidated by the group of good old boys drinking beer in the dimly lit parking lot.

Fortunately, one of the local boys proved to be an employee of the place as well as an affable and eager source of information. Ushering us past the sign in the foyer, "Rice is sold in the Flower Shop," he showed us the chapel, where a ceramic Jesus welcomed us with open arms in front of an altar covered with plastic flowers, bedecked with candy-cane ribbons, and bordered by electric candelabras.

The minimum fee to exchange vows in this bower of bliss, explained our host, Scott, is \$55, which includes the minister's fee—"although you can go as high as \$300 for the deluxe wedding ceremony, which includes flowers, pictures, a videotape of the proceedings, and tips." There is an additional \$27 fee for a license, which must be obtained in Reno, Carson City, or the county seat at Minden. "But although you have to go to the courthouse," continued Scott, "there is no blood test or waiting period required."

When Mark asked, "Do you ever marry gay people?" Scott looked surprised for a moment but quickly recovered and replied, "We don't allow it here." He pointed out that gay marriages are not legal in the state of Nevada, although he did not know whether or not they are specifically illegal. "In any case," he said, "the minister sets all the rules."

The minister, as it happens, is a certain Rev. Love, and he has owned and operated Love's Chapel as a family business for more than 20 years. Exactly what kind of minister he is remains a mystery to Scott: "Protestant, I believe."

According to Scott, Love's is the only independent wedding chapel in South Lake Tahoe. All the others are owned by a rival minister who buys off the legislators of both states and screws his secretaries—"or they don't work for him."

Warming to his subject, Scott also told us that there are more chapels in California than in Nevada because the others don't require a separate trip to the courthouse. But the documents these chapels issue are just common-law marriage certificates, said Scott, "which are basically worthless.



Or you can make your own wedding (Photo: Rink)

They aren't recognized by insurance companies or Social Security. And because no records are kept, you can get married as many times as you want. All the bigamists go there."

Thanking Scott for his time, Mark insisted we inspect at least one chapel on the California side—to verify Scott's charges, if for no other reason. The next morning, therefore, we stopped at Wedding World, right next door to Chapel of the Bells and down the street from Amour du Lac. Parking the car next to a bed of pink plastic poinsettias planted at "Ye Olde Outside Chapel," we entered the "Swiss Chalet Wedding Chapel" and introduced ourselves to Mary, the receptionist.

Unlike Scott, Mary was a no-nonsense functionary with the sense of humor of a fire hydrant. She was, however, well-versed in California marriage laws. (Mark later described her as an "indomitable bachelorette" as well as a veritable "spitfire of legalese.") Mary immediately took issue with Scott's assertion that the marriage licenses issued in California were either invalid or inferior.

"He told you that because we don't require a trip to the courthouse for a license, that puts the chapels in Nevada at a disadvantage. The reason they can't do the same is that the state legislatures are afraid organized crime will move in and take over the chapels in order to launder illegal profits from the casinos."

Responding to Scott's other charges, Mary claimed never to have heard of the minister who supposedly has a monopoly on the California chapels, and suggested we contact the county courthouse for further information.

Getting back to the basics, Mary continued that at Wedding World licenses cost \$41 and the chapel rents for \$36 to \$100. There is also the minister to consider. "We don't like the word 'fee,'" said Mary. But according to a sign on her desk, "A donation envelope will be passed at the conclusion of the ceremony."

The minister who performs services at Wedding World is the Rev. Blaine Bender, a "Christian" minister who was ordained in the RLDS faith in 1936. "He is a Reformed Latter Day Saint," noted Mary. "He is not a Mormon." While Mary seemed to imply by this that he is not a self-righteous reactionary, neither is he a trail-blazing reformer. Like Rev. Love, he has not as yet performed a gay or lesbian marriage—at least not at Wedding World.

This does not mean Wedding World has not been the site of homosexual matrimonials. "We do not provide them with docu-

mentation," said Mary, "for the ceremony is not recognized by the laws of the state or the eyes of God, but we do occasionally allow them in the chapel to exchange meaningful vows—to reaffirm their love and devotion. This has happened twice since I've been here. Both ceremonies were performed by the previous minister, a Wesleyan Methodist. Why do you ask? Are the two of you contemplating?"

"We're thinking about it," Mark answered.

"Then would you like to see our chapel?"

"Yes, but first we'd like to check on the baby, who's asleep in the car."

The baby was my nephew, who we were watching while my sister and her husband skied. We did not explain this to Mary, however, who, for all I know, may have assumed this was a shotgun marriage due to the kid. Whatever she thought, Mary only smiled and said, "How nice. How old is he?"

"Two years," said Mark.

"Eighteen months," said I.

"Hmm," said Mary.

The chapel was a barren, utilitarian affair, with fake stained glass behind the pulpit, metal folding chairs, and the ubiquitous plastic flowers. Aghast, Mark and I quickly made our excuses and beat a hasty retreat. Resisting the urge to inspect any more chapels, we drove back to the city and temporarily abandoned all thoughts of a High Sierra alliance.

"Tell you what," concluded Mark a few days later. "You find an Elvis impersonator for a minister, and I'll go back. Otherwise, it's ta ta Tahoe."

"And nay to the nuptials?"

"You got it, honey."

Mark, I have decided, may not deserve me. Sometimes he ain't nothing but a hounddog.

'Chicken Soupers' Deliver Passover Meals to PWAs

Home delivery of Passover seder dinners for people with AIDS and ARC is now being organized by the Community Chicken Soupers. The goal is to make sure that every person with AIDS or ARC has a traditional Passover meal even if illness precludes cooking or visiting with friends and family.

Any person with AIDS or ARC will be welcome to have a seder dinner at home at no cost. Please call (415) 928-4194 and leave a message if you or someone you know would like a Passover meal. Food orders should be received by March 15.

Social service agencies are especially encouraged to call if they know of people who would like the meals.

The Community Chicken Soupers are an ad-hoc community group, most Jewish and or gay or bisexual, who wanted to make sure everyone could have a Passover dinner.

Volunteers are needed to solicit food donations, prepare and deliver the meals and to make telephone contact with people who request meals. Please call 928-4194 to volunteer.

The Community Chicken Soupers was created to feed the spirit and the stomach of Jewish people with AIDS. It was started in mid February by Arlene Krantz and Emily Rosenberg, both members of Congregation Ahavat Shalom.

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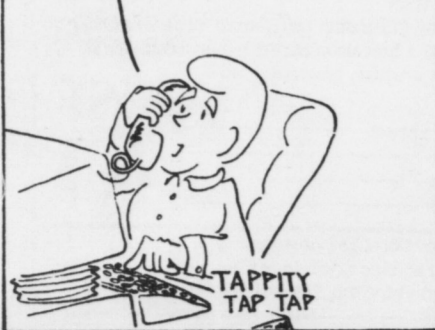
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 "What you have done is truly a national model for compassionate care."
 —Surgeon General C. Everett Koop, March 4, 1987

Dear Friends:
 One year ago this month, Coming Home Hospice opened its doors to people with AIDS and other illnesses. Your support and love made this possible—and is needed to continue to provide direct care. Join us this month as we celebrate the spirit that is Coming Home Hospice.
 Saturday, March 12. Dedication of Steve Silver's Beach Blanket Babylon Hospice Garden. Ceremony at noon, buffet luncheon and tours 1 - 3 p.m. Michael Ashton from Beach Blanket Babylon will be providing the music as we celebrate our staff, our volunteers, and our supporters. Please call us to reserve a space for luncheon.
 Saturday, March 12. The Watering Hole Saloon, 1145 Folsom, sponsors a benefit raffle and party 4 - 8 p.m. No cover, free draft beer.
 Saturday, March 19. Garage sale to benefit Coming Home Hospice, noon - 5 p.m. on Diamond Street near 18th. Call to donate items.
 Saturday, March 19. The Royal Marquis and Marquessa de Castro de San Francisco sponsor an "Evening of Nostalgia" at Kimos, 1351 Polk. 8 p.m., \$4 donation at the door.
 Sunday, March 20. Anniversary Celebration Mass at Most Holy Redeemer Church, 100 Diamond Street. 10 a.m.
 For more information, or to make a donation, please call 285-5615, ext. 250.
 Sincerely,
 The Staff & Volunteers at Coming Home Hospice
 Coming Home Hospice is a program of Visiting Nurses and Hospice of San Francisco

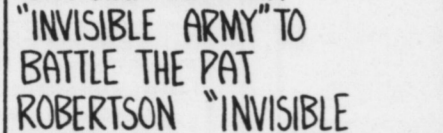
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(Photo: S. Savage)

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Divine

(Continued from page 1)

Publicist Peter Haas told the Los Angeles Times that the 300-pound star "apparently had a heart attack because of asphyxiation—it had something to do with his weight problem."

Divine was a favorite in San Francisco, not only for his movies but also for his numerous stage appearances. One of his friends, B.A.R. columnist Mr. Marcus, remembered Divine as a man who didn't fit the stereotype of an aloof star.

"Offstage he was real shy, real quiet, not at all like he was onstage," said Marcus. "He always seemed more interested in what others were doing than anything else."

Marcus said he remembered the first time he ever saw Divine. It was typical of the kind of role Divine became famous for during a 20-year career in show business. "He was in a play at the Kabuki called *The Heartbreak of Psoriasis*," said Marcus. "He played a housewife who won some sweepstakes. He was always having the sweepstakes people bringing pounds of butter to the house."

Was Divine's appeal limited to those who followed the drag scene? Not according to Mr. Marcus.

"I know of a lot of South of Market leather guys," says Marcus, "who thought he was heaven."

Divine was in Los Angeles to appear in the Fox Network television show, *Married ... With Children*. He was to have played "Uncle Otto," another indication that he was broadening his appeal as an actor. Until 1985, when he played a crime boss in the financially unsuccessful *Trouble In Mind*, Divine had always played transvestites in the movies.

But that film marked the start of a slow change: Divine wasn't afraid to try the mainstream route. With longtime friend and collaborator John Waters providing the script and direction, Divine starred in the recently-released *Hairspray*, a PG-rated comedy set in Baltimore in 1962. Divine not only played long-suffering housewife Edna Turnblad, but also redneck station manager Arvin Hodgepile. Early box office returns and critical reviews were excellent (the film received four stars from the San Francisco Examiner).

Another indication of Divine's branching out was his interview last week on the *Larry King ... Live* talkshow on Cable News Network. His appearance prompted gushing phone calls from men who love dressing in women's clothes.

However, the mainstream wasn't where Divine made his fame and fortune. Call him Edna Turnblad (*Hairspray*) or Francine Fishpaw (*Polyester*). Or, take deep delight in his role as the dance hall girl in *Last in the Dust*, a takeoff on *Duel in the Sun* and *Destry Rides Again*, with its delicious advertising line: "He (Tab Hunter) rode the West. The girls (Divine and Lainie Kazan) rode the rest."

In 1972, Divine played a transvestite who became famous for eating doggy do-do in *Pink Flamingos*, probably his most famous role. For years, the gossip mills indicated that Divine did consume that less-than-divine menu. But when he was asked by a caller on King's show as to the authenticity of the "food," he wouldn't say.

It was, after all, dinner time in certain portions of the nation. ●

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Brewer's Apology Averts Boycott

CHICAGO—An apology and a retraction by the Detroit-based Stroh Brewery Corp. has averted a planned boycott by Chicago gay activists. The Coalition Against Media/Marketing Prejudice (CAMMP) was angered by a Jan. 26 article in the Wall Street Journal in which a representative of Stroh's advertising agency said he was surprised that some beer companies advertise in the gay community.

"Beer imagery is so delicate that getting associated with homosexuals could be detrimental," Michael Lesser of the Lowe Marschalk agency was quoted as saying in the Journal.

CAMMP demanded that Stroh's place ads in the Wall Street Journal and in Chicago and Detroit gay papers disavow Lesser's remarks. The group also demanded that Stroh's place additional ads saluting gay pride week and help fund the Gay and Lesbian Press Association.

Stroh's promptly sent a letter to the Journal disavowing Lesser's remarks and placed an ad in

a Chicago gay newspaper apologizing for the misunderstanding.

"We have communicated our displeasure to Mr. Lesser and have admonished him that any further incidents by him or other members of Lowe Marschalk agency which denigrate the gay and lesbian community or any other group of people will have serious adverse effects on the relationship between our companies," said Stroh's in its ad.

The brewer also promised to "continue to adhere to [our] strict policy of non-discrimination for any reason, including sex, race, religious belief, age and sexual preference."

Speaking for CAMMP, Arthur Johnston said, "We are pleased to announce a satisfactory resolution to our public awareness campaign launched in response to comments attacking the gay and lesbian community."

—Gay Community News (Boston)



Larry Tighe

Gay Republican Runs in W. Va.

WHEELING, W. VA.—Gay activist Larry Tighe has filed as a candidate for Ohio County magistrate. Tighe, 38, is running as a Republican for one of the four positions in the county. Each term is for four years. In the 1970s, Tighe ran as a Democrat for the state's House of Delegates. He ran as a Republican in 1984 for the state Senate. He is also running as an uncommitted delegate to the Republican National Convention this year. He is running unopposed in the primary to be held May 10.

duties as supervisor. According to Hyatt attorney Andrew Meyer, the company "tried to find a way to reasonably accommodate Cain's abilities and inabilities."

Cain was offered a staff attorney's position in Washington but he refused to take it. The staff attorney job pays about half the

salary of a supervisor.

Cain and his doctor maintain that he is capable of performing his former duties despite his illness.

—Philadelphia Gay News

City To Require Health Badges For Food Workers

HARRISBURG, PA—City health officials here are beginning to enforce a long-ignored 1946 ordinance requiring food handlers to wear a health badge while working. The law demands that employees, managers and owners serving food or beverages obtain a health permit to do so.

The applications now being sent to all restaurant and bar employees in Harrisburg inquire into personal sexual history and asks if an individual has ever had any sexually transmitted diseases or is a carrier of any communicable disease. All applications for the permit are to be reviewed by the city health commissioner. There is no provision for confidentiality.

The Harrisburg City Council passed a measure on Feb. 23 that requires the 42-year old ordinance be enforced by requiring annual health permits be issued before anyone can serve food or beverages.

According to Leonard Davenport, a health code enforcement officer, employees without the health badge will be fired from their jobs. But he denied that the primary concern was with AIDS. "I've received a lot of calls from people who think it's being enforced because of the AIDS virus. It's not because of that. I consider hepatitis more of a threat than AIDS," he said.

Davenport said he would refer an application from someone who is HIV-positive to the county health officer. At present, he said he had five such applications.

—Philadelphia Gay News

PWA Charges Hyatt With Bias

PHILADELPHIA—A Pennsylvania man with AIDS is charging that after his diagnosis Hyatt Legal Services tried to transfer him to another city and to a lower position. Clarence Cain, now residing in Washington, D.C., has filed a discrimina-

tion complaint with the Pennsylvania Human Relations Commission. He had worked for Hyatt as a regional partner in the Philadelphia office.

The company claims that Cain would not be able to fulfill his

Florida Seeks Quarantine Power

MIAMI—Officials with the Florida Department of Health and Rehabilitative Services have announced that they are seeking to quarantine certain HIV-positive individuals, making Florida the first state to officially propose such a measure. The state agency is proposing that Florida spend \$1.1 million on a facility to quarantine 22 adults at A.C. Hospital in Lantana. Another facility would house six juveniles in an Orlando hospital.

According to The Weekly News, a Miami gay newspaper, the detention plan was made possible by a 1986 revision of the communicable disease law which gives the state the authority to isolate those deemed a public risk. Individuals may be placed in quarantine if a judge determines that he or she poses "a threat to the public health" by either engaging in unprotected sex or by sharing needles for drug use.

At present, officials are saying that the deten-

tion measure would be applied to prostitutes only. But it is feared that that is only the first step to quarantining other groups later. In the last year, Florida has quarantined a sexually active Pensacola boy and three prostitutes with AIDS in Orlando, Miami and Fort Lauderdale.

Under the proposed quarantine law, anyone would be allowed to report to local health officials those believed to be spreading AIDS. Health authorities could then force the person to undergo HIV testing and investigate whether or not that individual engages in promiscuous sex or is a drug user.

State Sen. Jack Gordon of Miami Beach said he believed the measure was "undoubtedly necessary" but wondered if the state could legally initiate such a law. "Carrying AIDS is not a crime," he said. "How can the state hold them?"

—The Weekly News

Nevada Requires HIV Test For Boxers

LAS VEGAS, NV—Nevada boxing regulators, fearful that fighters may contract AIDS in the ring, ruled Feb. 12 to require mandatory annual AIDS tests for boxers.

The Nevada Athletic Commission voted unanimously, according to Associated Press, to require fighters to show they tested negative for the AIDS antibody before entering the ring.

"I think it's only reasonable and prudent that we protect anyone fighting in this state from contracting AIDS in the ring," Dr. Charles Ruggieri, a member of the state's medical advisory board, told AP.

Commissioners said they may require semi-annual or quarterly exams in the future if a need for them is shown. Presently, an annual exam is required.

Ruggieri said the virus could be transmitted by open cuts on a boxer. He cited the example of a head butt in which blood from one boxer mixed with blood from another.

New Jersey now requires the use of plastic gloves by cornermen as a response to the AIDS problem. But commission member Duane Ford called the New Jersey measure a strictly cosmetic attempt to combat the problem.

A Quarter Century of Commitment...



John Burton (left) holding Congressional hearing on Gay Civil Rights bill. (Photo: RINK)

...And Results

For over 25 years John Burton has served the lesbian and gay community as one of our strongest advocates by

- Initiating legislation leading to the decriminalization of sex between consenting adults in the Assembly.
- Speaking out against antigay violence in the early '60s before other politicians joined our struggle.
- Co-authoring the original Gay Civil Rights bill in Congress.
- Being the first member of Congress to hire openly gay staff to work on issues important to our community.

John was among the first city leaders to understand the serious threat of AIDS in the early '80s and will make the AIDS crisis his top priority for action in the California Assembly. And he has the experience and skills to act on that commitment now.

"It's great to fight for people . . . and win."

—John Burton

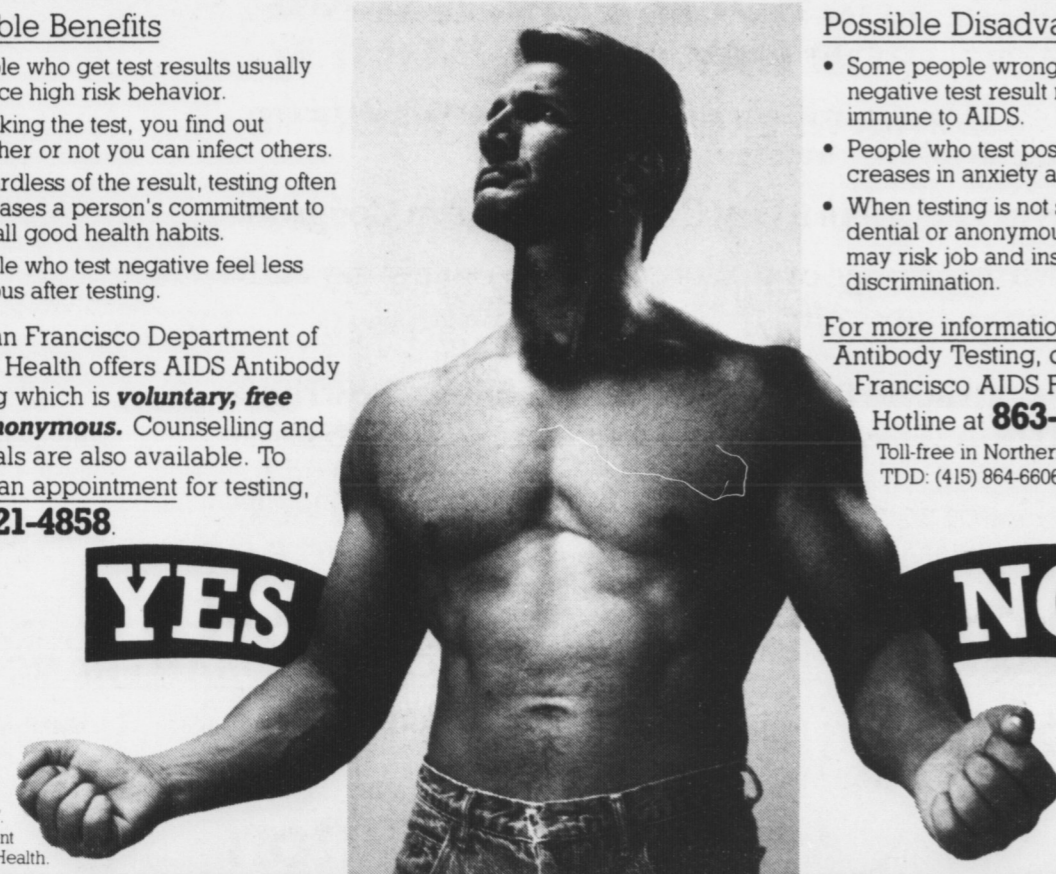
Paid for by John Burton for Assembly

SHOULD YOU TAKE THE AIDS ANTIBODY TEST?

Possible Benefits

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

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



Funding for this message provided by the S.F. Department of Public Health.

GET THE FACTS. CONSIDER YOUR FEELINGS. THEN DECIDE.

Possible Disadvantages

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

For more information about AIDS Antibody Testing, call the San Francisco AIDS Foundation

Hotline at **863-AIDS**

Toll-free in Northern CA: (800) FOR-AIDS
TDD: (415) 864-6606



Open Hand Launches Expansion Beyond SF

Project Open Hand has announced the acquisition of new kitchen facilities for its meals delivery program which may be expanded to the Bay Area. Director Ruth Brinker praised Chevron USA for their grant of \$125,000 that went for a down payment on the new building.

Project Open Hand, the first and only service of its kind in the nation, prepares and delivers meals to people with AIDS and ARC who are home-bound. The new headquarters and kitchen facilities will enable the service to expand its deliveries to Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin,

San Mateo and Santa Clara counties.

Brinker announced Mar. 8 that Project Open Hand has made a down payment on a building at 2720 17th St. in San Francisco thanks to the contribution from Chevron. She unveiled architectural drawings of the remodeling



Ruth Brinker and a chef prepare food for delivery for Project Open Hand

of the 5,000 square foot headquarters and kitchen facility.

In a unique demonstration of public-private cooperation, Mayor Art Agnos announced a \$50,000 grant from the city to permit Open Hand to purchase kitchen equipment for its new facility.

Brinker said the new facility will allow Open Hand to expand its capacity to cook more than 2,000 meals a day.

"This is both a very happy and very sad day for us," Brinker noted. "We are excited about our new home, but the sad reason we had to find a larger space is because the number of AIDS and ARC clients is growing and we need the expanded kitchen space

to cook for them."

Currently, Open Hand feeds almost 350 people daily in San Francisco who are too ill to cook for themselves.

Brinker said the target date for Open Hand to move into the new facility is July 1. Until the move, the group will continue to operate from the kitchen of Trinity Episcopal Church in San Francisco while its new home is refitted as a working kitchen.

Open Hand's new home cost \$545,000. Brinker said the organization needs continued funding to pay for the building and to finance the cost of constructing and equipping the new kitchen facilities.

"We have taken the first step to help Open Hand purchase a new home," said Bill Steele, Chevron's public affairs manager. "We hope others will join with us in contributing to this outstanding organization."

Brinker noted Chevron gave the first major corporate donation to Open Hand and is a national leader in the corporate fight against AIDS. She said the group is seeking donations from other major corporations and grants from foundations.

Founded in late 1985, Brinker started the program after one of her friends died because he was too weak from AIDS to cook for himself. "I decided that no one should go through that," she recalled.

Brinker began Open Hand by cooking and delivering the food herself. As her client list increased she found she needed additional help, such as chefs, kitchen helpers and sandwich-makers.

Since then, Open Hand's volunteer staff has grown to 200 people who traverse San Francisco with deliveries of a bag lunch and a hot dinner meal.

Eighty-five percent of the meals delivered by Open Hand are free to recipients who through their illness have exhausted their financial resources.

Project Open Hand's annual budget comes from private donations and fundraisers. Donations for Open Hand can be sent to 1668 Bush St., San Francisco, CA 94109. For more information or to volunteer, telephone 771-9808.

Kennedy Bill Faces Helms' Challenges

Comprehensive Federal AIDS Bill Due For Senate Vote Soon

by Miranda Kolbe

The Federal AIDS Research, Information and Care Act (S. 1220), termed "the most comprehensive legislation yet to deal with AIDS," is expected to come to the U.S. Senate floor during the week of March 14-18. Reported out of the Committee on Labor and Human Resources with unanimous support, Sen. Edward Kennedy's bill provides for comprehensive education, care and treatment for people with AIDS, ARC and HIV, AIDS research, and access to voluntary and confidential HIV testing.

Sen. Jesse Helms (R-NC) proposed several amendments to S. 1220 which will be heard along with the bill this month. The first amendment prohibits the use of federal funds for AIDS education materials which "directly pro-

mote homosexual sexual activities." This amendment, which has received wide support in the Senate, is expected to be successful.

Its original form, Helms' amendment sought to bar all educational materials which "indirectly encourage" gay sex. However, Sen. Kennedy successfully struck those words from the amendment. Kennedy suggested that informational material on risk reduction might be interpreted as indirectly encouraging homosexual sex.

Other amendments proposed by Helms include prohibiting people who test HIV positive from working as food handlers within the federal government; mandatory testing and reporting of applicants for marriage licenses, prisoners, and people entering hospitals and mental institutions; and mandatory contact tracing.

Helms also wants to make it a federal offense to donate blood, semen, or organs if the donor is knowingly HIV positive, has had homosexual sex, been an IV drug user, has immigrated from

Haiti or Central Africa, has received clotting factor concentration as a hemophiliac, or has had sexual intercourse with anyone falling into the above categories since January, 1977.

'STILL NOT ACCEPTABLE'

Peri Jude Radecic, a lobbyist for the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, suggested that Helms' education and testing amendments are those most likely to succeed in the Senate. She added that although Helms' education amendment has been watered down, it is "still not acceptable to the lesbian and gay community. We wouldn't accept legislation which targeted communities of color in the same way . . . and we won't accept this targeting of the lesbian and gay community."

Helms pointed out that 24 states and the District of Columbia have laws outlawing sodomy. He asserted that the Senate should prevent federal funds from being used to encourage "illegal and immoral behavior." Helms added, "The only way to stop AIDS is to stop the disgusting and immoral activity that continues to spread the disease."

Both the NGLTF and the Human Right Campaign Fund are concerned that senators may be willing to support Helms' amendments in their eagerness to speed along enactment of S. 1220. The Human Rights Campaign Fund has begun a campaign to run an advertisement in gay community papers nationwide. They ask readers to support S. 1220 without restrictive amendments.

The NGLTF is asking people to write letters to their senators supporting Kennedy's legislation. Letters should be sent to NGLTF at 1517 U St., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20009.

Achtenberg Hits Burton On Tactics

Accuses Opponent of Using Agnos' Name; Debate Set For March 22

by Dennis McMillan

Assembly candidate Roberta Achtenberg has accused her campaign opponent, John Burton, of "stooping to dirty tactics." Burton phone-bank members were misleading voters to believe that Mayor Art Agnos, officially neutral in the race, was backing Burton.

In Achtenberg's opinion these telephone tactics "imply that they [Burton workers] are calling with some authority on Art's behalf, or as if John were the choice of the Democratic Party." She called the tactic "unethical."

Achtenberg promptly sent a letter to the mayor complaining of shoddy tactics, informing him that his name was being used without his permission. Agnos replied that no one has the authority to use his name. He said he wishes to remain neutral in the race.

A letter (complaining of the tactics) sent to Burton received the reply that Achtenberg was operating on misinformation.

One caller reported to Achtenberg that a phone-bank worker had called her saying, "I was one of the people on the Agnos campaign. Did you support Art? We who worked for Art feel very strongly that John Burton is the best candidate."

Another described what he had heard from Burton headquarters: "I'm calling from the Art Agnos for Mayor campaign. Art's seat is open now. Do you know about the special election on April 12? I'm calling to ask you to vote for John Burton."

Other callers complained that they heard Burton phone workers saying they were calling from the Democratic party, urging them to vote for Burton.

Burton campaign manager Richard Ross said, "Why would we need to do that? I don't understand the logic of it." He further added, "If it had been happening, you'd have heard from a hell of a lot more people than Roberta Achtenberg."

Tim Johnson, aide to the mayor, commented that these accusations were the "first formal complaint we've received during the campaign about the use of the mayor's name from either side. We've had informal complaints since the beginning of the campaign," he added.

Larry Tramutola, field director for Burton, admitted that the workers were making such statements, but only to activists, he said, who they thought already knew that Agnos was neutral.

Tramutola then accused Achtenberg of using the same tactics in calling friends who

were precinct captains and area coordinators from the Agnos campaign and saying, "We're working for Roberta. Would you do the same?"

Debra Chasnoff, Achtenberg's press secretary, responded to the charge. "There is a big difference in calling someone you worked with, and using phone banks to call residents in the district," she said.

Achtenberg is hoping for a more severe public reprimand of Burton by the mayor.

A POSITIVE MESSAGE

Achtenberg's "new politics" attempts "to stress the highest ethical standards in government, from campaign financing reform to increased requirements of disclosure for those who are lawyers and are in the state legislature."

She further commented, "John said that he is going to continue to take \$2500 a month from PG. and E. I think people deserve representation by people who they can feel are serving public interest and not special interest groups."

Concerning the recent debate challenge, Burton has now accepted and will debate Achtenberg under the auspices of the League of Women Voters on March 22.

Achtenberg is quite hopeful about the outcome of the Assembly race. "I have a very large group of committed voters," she said. "There is a huge group of undecided voters. And the vying will be going on with the undecideds."

Explaining her hopefulness, she added, "I think that our message has much more appeal to people, and is an affirmative, positive, forward-looking message."

Summing up her reaction to gay participation in her campaign, she said, "The response from the lesbian and gay community has been overwhelmingly positive, and I think the more that people realize that my election to state Assembly actually can happen, the more that energy for it to happen is unleashed."

The special election for the 16th Assembly District seat is April 12.



Roberta Achtenberg and Richard Hongisto at the Harvey Milk Club's fundraiser for Roberta's Assembly campaign at Kassman Piano (Photo: Rink)

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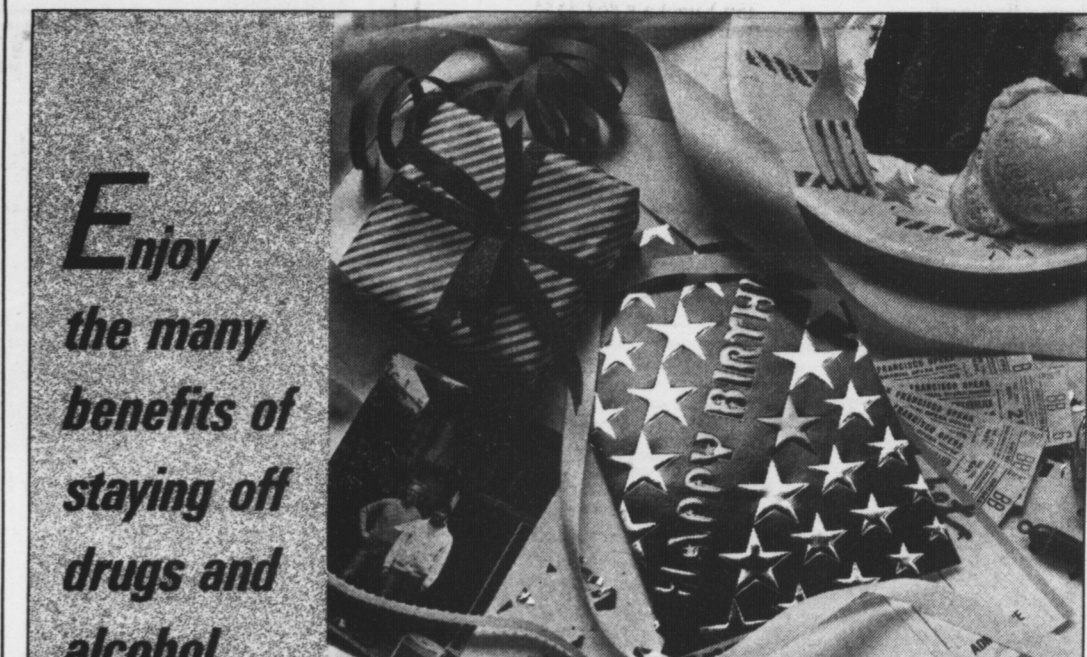
Gay Republicans Form Statewide Coalition

The Log Cabin Republican Club of Los Angeles has joined forces with the Log Cabin Clubs of Orange and San Diego Counties as well as the Concerned Republicans for Individual Rights in San Francisco to form the United Republican Clubs of California (URC).

The first statewide federation of regionally based gay and lesbian political organizations was officially established with the

ratification of the coalition's bylaws and the election of governing officers on Jan. 24.

K. Martin Keller of San Francisco was selected to chair the newly-formed federation of gay and lesbian conservatives in California, with John McFarland of Los Angeles voted vice-chairperson, Richard Reinisch of Orange County appointed secretary and Susan Jester of San Diego chosen as treasurer.



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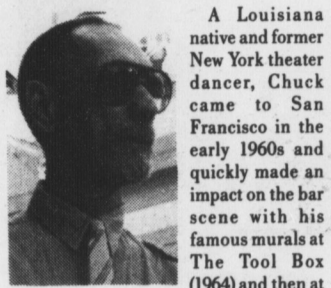
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DEATHS

Chuck Arnett 2/15/28-3/2/88

Chuck Arnett, well-known artist and long-time San Franciscan, died peacefully at 12:45 p.m. March 2.

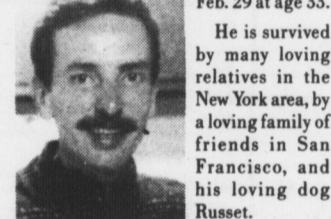


A Louisiana native and former New York theater dancer, Chuck came to San Francisco in the early 1960s and quickly made an impact on the bar scene with his famous murals at The Tool Box (1964) and then at The Stud (1968). He continued his bar associations with The No-Name, The Red Star and The Ambush. His work in recent years has been less public.

His extraordinary talent and forceful personality left lasting memories to all who were fortunate enough to know him.

Josef Bronkhurst

Josef Bronkhurst, son of the late Frank C. and Anne M. Bronkhurst and partner of the late Gerald A. Lyons, died in his San Francisco home Feb. 29 at age 33.



He is survived by many loving relatives in the New York area, by a loving family of friends in San Francisco, and his loving dog Russet.

Donations in Josef's memory may be made to Coming Home Hospice or Open Hand.

Michael Creelman

Michael died in his native New Zealand Feb. 12. His parents and Bud, Sue, and Charles, three of his AIDS volunteers who had become close and loving friends, were at his bedside when he passed on. Even at the last hour Michael retained a sense of humor and a smile. Michael believed strongly that a person never truly dies. Energy cannot be destroyed, only transmuted and changed. This one lifetime of his was just one more on the path homeward, Godward. The soul is eternal.

During Michael's four years in San Francisco he never fully lost his "Kiwi" charm and sense of propriety. His friends will remember his trademark expression, "Yeth thar" and penchant for garlic concoctions. Michael was a triple Sagittarius through and through; he liked fast motorcycles, meeting people and parties, could talk up a storm, and could never get around to buying new shoes unless someone got them for him.

His work as a friendly and demanding gym instructor at the Body Center gained him the respect and friendship of many of his clients, as well as the results his methods produced on his own terrifically handsome body. He loved San Francisco, and one of his hopes and wishes had been to somehow return and see his friends before he died.

Michael, I love you and will miss you. You're in my heart.

Hugh Richard Noell 1956-1988

Rick died peacefully Jan. 15 after a long struggle with AIDS.

At his best, Rick was loving, generous, and talented—qualities which won him many friends—qualities which shall be sorely missed.

He had an unparalleled zest for living, yet faced death with bravery and a dignity which awe'd those whose lives he had touched. At his request there was no memorial service.

Rick loved old records, animals, thrift shops, and garage sales, and good times with friends. His quick and unusual sense of humor was openly displayed, and gladdened the hearts of all who knew him. He also enjoyed the outdoors, and spent many happy times in Yosemite Park and in the forests around his native Twin Harle.

Coming Home Hospice should be commended for the care and support given to Rick, his family, and his friends. We are ever grateful.

Rick, it is so difficult to say goodbye. You were unique, and the memory of you shall ever live in our hearts. You have touched the lives of many people. You will be loved "Always and Forever."

David Cox

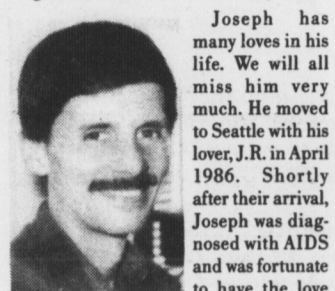
David Cox died at 4:45 a.m. Feb. 25. He was loved by all his friends and loved ones and we all will miss him very much. He was a very nice person to get along with. We all loved him very much and he will be in our hearts for a long time.

For further information, please call David Drennan at 776-4385.

Joseph F. Landolfi 6/2/1938-12/18/87

After a year and a half struggle with AIDS, Joseph left this world. Now he is out of the pain he endured throughout his illness.

Joseph was born in New Jersey, spent one and a half years in a monastery, and lived in New York City while before moving to San Francisco in January 1981.



Joseph has many loves in his life. We will miss him very much. He moved to Seattle with his lover, J.R. in April 1986. Shortly after their arrival, Joseph was diagnosed with AIDS and was fortunate to have the love and support of his newfound friends Bill Kennedy, David Willett, Andrew Bates, and Richard Wooden. Many thanks to the nursing staff (5th and 8th floors) of Swedish Hospital. Joseph is survived by his lover J.R., whose life he enriched more than words can say, and by his sister, his brother, and his mother.

Danny Perez 1955-1988

Daniel Howard Perez was admitted to the hospital in South Lake Tahoe Jan. 6 with double pneumonia. However, Jan. 7, Danny unexpectedly died from an aneurysm.

Danny had been a resident of San Francisco for the past 13 years, and had only recently moved to Tahoe for a new job. He is survived by his loving parents Daniel and Stella Perez of San Bruno, CA and by his brothers David and Mark.

He will be greatly missed by his friends Richard Deal, Rusty Guyett, and John Roedel, and his many other friends in the gay community.

Jerry Ho 1/21/50-2/10/88

For information to attend mass on March 17, please contact MJ at 563-3741. Those wishing to make donations in Jerry's memory are requested to do so to the following: Open Hand, Shanti Project, Most Holy Redeemer, SFGH Ward 5A, Hospice, VNH, Asian AIDS Project.

Obituary Policy

Bay Area Reporter publishes obituaries as a free community service. Obituaries are accepted until 5 p.m. Monday for Thursday publication. We ask that you keep them under 200 words.

AIDS Fund Honors Volunteers, Donors



Outgoing AIDS Emergency Fund Honorary Co-Chairs Mr. Marcus and Sharon McNight receive a hand (Photo: S. Martin)

The AIDS Emergency Fund named their new honorary co-chairs for the 1988-89 campaign last Sunday night, March 6, at a gala dinner and awards ceremony at the Culinary Arts Academy.

Outgoing co-chairs Mister Marcus and Sharon McNight were honored for their leadership during the past year and presented with crystal heart-shaped mementos and lots of praise before the glittering audience that was composed of royalty, politicians, leather people and the general community, including corporate donors.

Several individuals and groups were honored for their fundraising activities during the past year

by board president Hank Cook and other directors. Entertainment was provided by Sharon McNight and the cast from *Jule!* after a sumptuous buffet.

Among those honored for their efforts were the Aid and Comfort banquet, the AIDS Walk, Alan Winthrop Farr, the American Management Association, Bill Wolf, the Castro Lions, Coming Home Hospice Bingo, the In Memory of Friends concert, the SF Eagle, Sanwa Bank of California, photographer Scott Martin and the Splash Dance Raft Trip.

Also recognized for outstanding contribution from volunteers were Ray Burke, Duane Fortier and Fred Skau for the Pennies

Project. Alan Selby received recognition for his fundraising efforts and Walter Mellon, one of the original founders was lauded for his long-time association with AEF.

Louise Molinari, wife of Sup. John Molinari, along with B.A.R. publisher Bob Ross and comedian Danny Williams will assume the honorary co-chair duties.

The AIDS Emergency Fund, providers of grants to people with AIDS, raised nearly a half million dollars during 1987-88. Over 100 benefits are planned in the next 12 months and the new co-chairs are charged with raising \$800,000 for the organization.

Gay Awareness Week At UC Berkeley

UC Berkeley's Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual Awareness Week, sponsored by the Gay/Lesbian/Bisexual Alliance (GLBA) will be March 14-18 on the Berkeley Campus, and it promises to be something special.

This has been a year of renew-

ed vigor for the GLBA, and Awareness Week organizers say it will show.

This year's Awareness Week offers many perspectives on homosexuality: academic, political, and social awareness will be discussed and celebrated through

film, video, panel discussions, a rally, a talent show, a comedy night, and a dance.

All are welcome at the events; all events are wheelchair accessible. Updated information will be available by calling the GLBA's office at 642-6942.

Smoot's Killer Ordered Held

Sentencing Set for March 25

by Jay Newquist

The fallout over the George Smoot killing continued to rain down last week as a Juvenile Court judge abruptly reversed himself and ordered the 17-year-old youth, who was convicted of manslaughter, to be held in custody. The McAteer High School student, who was previously allowed to remain at home last month, will be held at the Youth Guidance Center until he is sentenced on March 25.

The incarceration was ordered by Judge Daniel H. Weinstein following psychological testing of the youth who was himself abused in a locker room hazing incident two months before he killed his gay neighbor on Nov. 28, 1987.

The ruling also comes in the wake of mounting protest from the gay and lesbian community against an alleged sloppy police investigation and complaints of judicial misconduct in the stabbing murder case.

The controversy took the low road recently when the diaries of the 52-year-old Lockheed engineer, containing graphic ads for sado-masochistic sex, were leaked to three local TV stations.

KPIX-TV and KRON-TV did not broadcast the contents of the diaries, but KGO-TV teased its audience with some excerpts on the pretext that "the judge will be able to consider some of this when he determines a sentence."

The videotapes of the receipt of the diaries show the material was provided by an aide to John Burris, the convicted killer's defense attorney.

Burris refused to return telephone calls made to his Oakland law office. He has denied any role in the leaking of the diaries.

The detention of the McAteer student will not alter plans for a March 17 town meeting (7 p.m., Collingwood Recreation Center) for the gay and lesbian community to plan a protest against the handling of the Smoot case.

Bill Paul, president of the Stonewall Gay Democratic Club, has spearheaded the reaction against what he called the character assassination of Smoot.

"We're certainly not interested in punishment for the student. Our main purpose is not to pursue vengeance," he said.

"The decision to release him and then to hold him is rather revealing about the judge's incompetency," Paul continued. "He reversed himself when he felt the pressure. He responded to the heat. It's disgusting."

The gay and lesbian town meeting will have John Wahl and Tom Ammann as moderators. Invited panelists include San Francisco Police Chief Frank Jordan, Pat Norman, the ACLU's John Crew, Bill Paul, Beverly Mesch and Randy Schell of CUAU, Ken Jones, and attorney Matt Coles.

Dr. Martin Rogers, a psycho-therapist, will also participate with other neighbors and friends of the late Smoot.

Pelosi Drafts Home Health Care Bill

Would Bring Federal Money Into Non-Hospital Care

by Dennis McMillan

Rep. Nancy Pelosi introduced her AIDS Health Care Financing Act of 1988, March 9, with the backing of members of the House Leadership Task Force on AIDS. The bill calls for increased state and federal financing of home and community-based health care, and provides incentives to hospital and health care providers specializing in AIDS.

"While we must have more resources directed to finding a cure and a vaccine, it's very important to address the needs of people who have become infected with the virus or who are sick with AIDS or ARC," said Pelosi.

Pelosi thanked Dr. David Werdegard, director of the San Francisco Department of Health, for helping put together the AIDS bill.

Should the bill pass, Werdegard commented that it will establish a coherent means of funding care using Medicare, Medicaid, and private insurance. It will also provide special funding for long-term skilled nursing care and individuals who are HIV-infected but as yet asymptomatic.

Fellow Congressional colleagues who are co-sponsoring the bill include Tony Coelho, Democratic Majority Whip; Steny Hoyer, chair of the Democratic Leadership AIDS Task Force; Don Edwards, dean of the California Congressional delegation; and Rep. Barbara Boxer.

Pelosi pointed out that Rep. Pete Stark is supporting the bill. Considering his past work in medical issues, said Pelosi, "That is a real signal of the credibility and possibilities of success for our legislation."

Pelosi told the Bay Area Reporter that the bill's only real obstacle toward passage is the question of money. "I think that people have recognized that meeting the needs of people who are sick is going to cost. But we believe that this is a very cost-effective bill. By directing funding toward home-based and community-based care, we will actually be saving money."

According to Steve Morin, Pelosi's aide, this bill will be the first-ever Congressional proposal dealing with early treatment of HIV-infected individuals who have yet to show symptoms. Twenty-five million dollars would be set aside for regional HIV-monitoring treatment centers.

According to Dr. Werdegard, the Presidential AIDS Commission appears to have recognized the many areas of weakness in the current national AIDS program, and will hopefully set the stage for this legislation's success.

Morin pointed out that the bill would offer financial assistance to local governments having a disproportionate share of AIDS cases, such as San Francisco, New York, Los Angeles, and Miami.



Nancy Pelosi (Photo: Photo Graphics/Darlene)

Castro/Valencia C.C. Offers Mini Courses

Four mini courses open the week of March 14 at the Community College's Castro/Valencia Complex.

On Tuesday, March 15 a nine-week class will begin, entitled Alcoholism, the Individual and Society.

On Wednesday, March 16, two classes will be offered: Challenges for Women over 40 (Life as Improvisation), and Small Business Bookkeeping.

On Thursday, March 17, the popular Self-Defense training class will open for a nine-week session.

All four classes are held at Everett Middle School, 450 Church Street (between 16th and 17th). All begin at 6:30 and are free.

The Castro/Valencia Complex is a special educational outreach to the Gay/Lesbian community now in its eighth year. For Spring '88 some 80 credit and non-credit courses are being offered at three sites serving over 2000 students.

For more information, call 647-4729.



Jane Wagner, Lily Tomlin, Cleve Jones and friends at the Names Project fundraiser (Photo: M. Miranda III)

Tomlin Honored By City

by David Perry

Flanked by a lobby full of revelers sporting purple and white Names Project lapel buttons, Lily Tomlin and Jane Wagner received the official thanks of San Francisco and the Names Project for their repeated fundraising activities for Bay Area AIDS-related organizations.

The performance and reception fundraiser last Thursday evening completely sold out the 300 tickets donated by Tomlin and the Shorenstein Hays-Nederlander Organization, operators of the Curran Theatre where her show, *The Search For Signs of Intelligent Life in the Universe* is currently playing. \$17,000 was raised to help fund the upcoming national tour of the Names Project.

The Shorenstein Hays-Nederlander Organization was also cited for its donation of six performances, in conjunction with Lily Tomlin, benefitting six area AIDS organizations.

Sup. Nancy Walker, president of the San Francisco Board of Supervisors, prompted laughter with her comment that the decision to honor the creative team of Wagner and Tomlin was unanimous. "We all agreed on this," she said.

"I'm here to thank you for what you do, for us [the City] and for the Names Project," said Walker. "The Names Project is very much a part of us, and when it goes on tour it will give a message to the world that San Francisco thinks it is important."



As people with AIDS look to Shanti, we look to you for support.

The Gay/Lesbian community has created support services for people with AIDS and their loved ones that are a model for our nation and the world. As Shanti volunteers, you have been an essential part of our Emotional and Practical Support programs. Today, as the number of people living with AIDS increases, we

need your help more than ever before. The next *Practical Support Training* begins Friday, April 8th. The next *Emotional Support Training* begins Friday, April 29th.

Become a Shanti volunteer
Call 777-CARE



'To See Their Words Live'

That's The Goal of Filmmaker For His Video About 11 Men

by Mary Richards

On Feb. 6 another video film was made in San Francisco, and although it may seem like many others, it is not. For inside the film lie the words, thoughts and emotions of 11 gay men who died of AIDS in this city. We knew some of them, they were our friends. Some of us shared in the last journey of each man, and perhaps we never thought we would hear them again.

Danny Castelow, who has been a practical support coordinator with Shanti for the last two years, wrote and directed the video film *Beautiful Cathedral*. His goal in doing the film was clear from the beginning. It concerns the people with AIDS he has met. It was, he says, to see their words live, and know that "they're heard by people, and that people can get a sense of their humor and their courage."

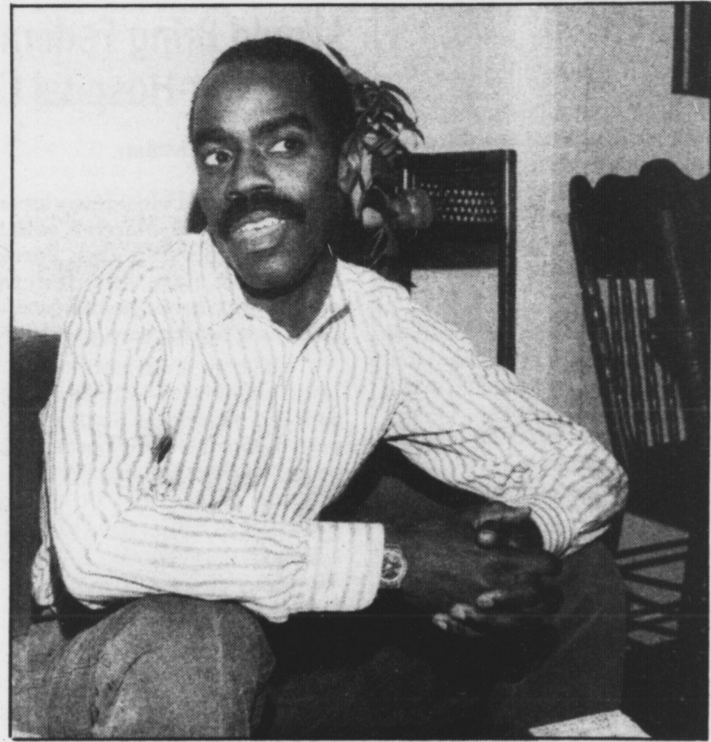
All 11 men who inspired Danny to write the film are integrated into the personality of the single protagonist. He is a man named Eddie, who speaks to us in a monologue from his hospital bed.

Danny knows Eddie quite well. "He taught first grade," Danny says, "and really liked his kids and was devastated to have to leave when he was diagnosed. He gets a lot of support from his lover, although he has problems with his family accepting the fact that he has AIDS."

Steve Abel is an actor who has been a practical support volunteer for Shanti since last January. He was chosen to play Eddie in the film, and says of the character: "He's a person with average needs and expectations, that's kind of what I liked about him."

The film, Steve says, is a memory piece. "He's reflecting on his life. He talks about the issues of a person living with AIDS. They're issues of isolation and estrangement, and things that we have all felt under different circumstances."

"When I read this piece I really liked it and I could see the people who Danny was writing about. And I could hear some of the people who I know, or have known, in what he was saying."



Danny Castelow (Photo: Photo Graphics/Darlene)

"With Steven performing this," Danny says, "the character is likeable." He laughs: "I think if anybody's going to talk for an hour, they have to be likeable!" Steven has made Eddie into a person that on some level, everybody, gay, straight, or whatever, can relate to."

Next autumn *Beautiful Cathedral* will be seen on stage. Danny will perform in his own piece, when it plays to audiences at Northern Michigan University, where he received his B.A. in theatre and was voted outstanding drama student.

Before the piece is performed in Michigan, Danny hopes to complete the video film and make it accessible as a fundraiser for people with AIDS. But in order for him to finish production on the film, he needs help. "So far I've funded it with my own money," Danny says, "and that's been a real challenge."

Although the apartment house that he and his lover lived in was demolished by fire in mid-December, Danny never stopped working on the video project. He recalls that "I didn't even have a second thought about not doing it. We were ready to go at that point."

All of the people who have contributed to the film in one way or another, have done so for minimal reimbursement—and in some cases, none at all. A Shanti client donated the hospital bed used for rehearsals, and Shanti

their support. The people working on it, worked for pennies."

Before the project is completed, \$5,000 will still have to be generated for final costs of filming. Danny, however, is not overly concerned about where the money will come from. "For some reason," he acknowledges, "I'm not that worried about it. So many miracles have happened with this. People have been wonderful as far as donating time and money, cameras and all kinds of things."

At the end of this month selective scenes from the film will be pieced together and then, Danny says, he'll "have a rough cut of the piece. After that point I'm really going to need to find an executive producer to do on-line, which is the finishing of the piece with titles and credits, dissolves and fades."

"My goal is to finish it in the best way I can," he continues. "I'm not really interested in making money off of it. I'd like to see it benefit AIDS organizations, and if there's someone who could see themselves contributing to AIDS in this way as far as assisting us in finishing the piece, that would be wonderful!"

Danny describes the film crew as being exceptional. "I want to say the film and video community has been incredible as far as



Steve Abel (Photo: Photo Graphics/Darlene)

Food Bank Gives Away 20,000th Bag Of Food

The San Francisco AIDS Foundation's Food Bank recently gave away its milestone 20,000th bag of groceries to a person with AIDS. The food program, which started as a Christmas food drive in 1983, distributes over 250 bags of groceries per week to low-income people with AIDS or AIDS-related conditions who need supplemental food.

In the past four years, the San Francisco AIDS Foundation has given away more than 300 tons of

food and household items, worth over a half million dollars. The program is supported entirely by community donations and food drives.

"It's a never ending process," says program coordinator Cary Norsworthy. "We're constantly in need of groceries. A few years ago we were distributing fifty bags of food a month. Now we're distributing that much per day. It seems like if we even stop for a minute, we're going to run out of food."

During the summer, volunteers sponsor food drives in front of local grocery stores every Saturday. Special events, such as the STBS ticket office food drive this past month, have also generated large amounts of food.

The program has outgrown its sixth floor space at 25 Van Ness Avenue, and is moving to larger quarters in April on the first floor of the building. Contributions of food and juices are welcomed. "As long as we're able to get food," says Norsworthy, "there is no reason why any person with AIDS or ARC should go hungry in this city."

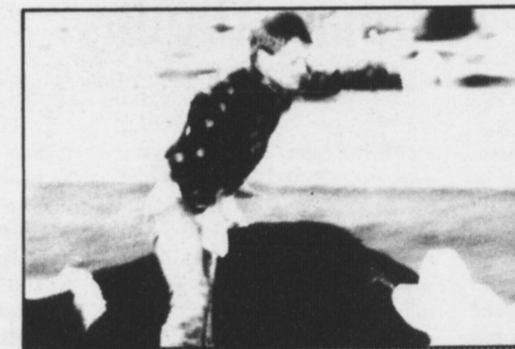
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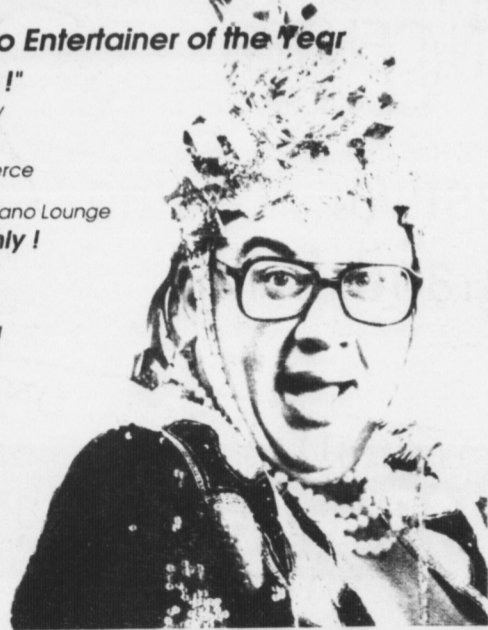
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BAY AREA REPORTER MARCH 10, 1988 PAGE 22

Jury Acquits Bashing Victim

Charged With Slashing Assailant; Prosecution Called Prejudiced

by Gregory Douthwaite

A gay man who slashed a fag-basher was found not guilty of assault by an Oakland jury last week. After only two hours of deliberation, the jury unanimously voted that Curtis McDowell, 19, was innocent.

McDowell and a 16-year-old friend were attacked about midnight in downtown Oakland last June by a gang yelling "you fags" and "you punks," said public defender James Henderson.

McDowell was on the ground, being beaten and kicked, when he grabbed a knife that fell out of one of his attackers' pockets and slashed one in the face, Henderson said.

"You punk, you cut me," screamed Anthony Wright, 19. Wright ran home, bleeding.

But police arrested McDowell, who also ran for help and called police. McDowell was badly bruised and was wearing only a pair of torn bikini underwear and a shirt. His pants had been stripped off by his attackers, he said.

On McDowell's booking photo,

under the heading "characteristics," police had written "queen."

Many jurors said they were "appalled" by this notation, although it is common police practice, said Henderson, who interviewed several jurors after the trial.

One gay juror said he was upset by the way the whole case was handled. "There were strong underlying prejudices in the way Curtis was treated, both by police and in the courtroom," he told Henderson.

The gay juror was upset by the

system that would arrest a victim of anti-gay violence for fighting back. "It could have been you or me," he said. He was also upset by a policeman's speculation that McDowell was intending to rape Wright. He called some of the D.A.'s questions rude and said that when McDowell took the witness stand, the bailiff had rolled his eyes.

District Attorney Mary Finkbonner did not return phone calls to comment on the case.

Jurors apparently did not believe the prosecution's argument that the stabbing was unprovoked. One juror said that the verdict of "not guilty" was ready after only five minutes of deliberation. The jury foreman insisted on deliberating longer, he said.

Some jurors speculated that the motive for the attack, if not random anti-gay violence, was to steal the Louis Vuitton pouches which both McDowell and his friend were carrying. The bags are expensive and very popular, said Henderson.

One juror asked the judge after the acquittal whether the stabbing victim and his gang would now stand trial. He was convinced that the wrong man had been put on trial, he said. ●

Nez Pas

Something To Smile About

PRIMOGENITIVE SOIREE
(A Celebrating Nose)

Mark Friese had quite a birthday bash at the Mint a couple of Sundays ago, and hostess/MC Tatiana just has to be one of the tallest drags in history. I can imagine a duet between her and Amazon of Modesto! Makes one wonder if there is a stage big enough for the both of them.

During the couple of hours my spouse and I were there, we got an all-too-brief exposure to the talents of comedian Marga Gomez—can't wait to see a longer version at Big Mama's 10th Anniversary, Sunday, March 20. Bob Sandner showed up to play a sing-along "Happy Birthday" to Mark, celebrating his 32nd year.

Bob (who is continuing his Tuesday-night stint at D.J.'s in Walnut Creek) introduced us to the newest Emperor and Empress of San Francisco, Steven Rascher

Sometimes it's necessary to go

to San Francisco to hear the latest about one of our locals! Ms. Friday told me he had recently witnessed Little "I Never Cheat On My Husband in Alameda County" Mother taking not one, but two luscious morsels from a bar into the bookstore/movie arcade next door! Wayne had told me one was a Chicano. When I confronted LM about her latest escapade, she informed me she was just doing research on a recipe for a new chili concoction for the next Chili Cook-Off!

If you can believe that, indeed, she was getting culinary information, send a dollar donation to Project Open Hand in San Francisco. If you believe she was doing something else (?), send a dollar donation to East Bay Assistance Fund! There's a third choice: Was Little Mother really

(Continued on next page)

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Nez Pas

(Continued from previous page)

seeking donations for her next auction? If you believe that, send a dollar to both charities!

Anyway, many happy returns to Mark, and may there be a lot more celebrations for such a vibrant go-getter. Read what you will into this: Mark was passing out "The Friese is on for '89" buttons. Let's see, will it be for Emperor or Empress? Or can't it be talked about yet?

UNBESOUGHT CALLOPE
(A Hurdy-Gurdy Nose?)

Once upon a time there was an old church organ. It had been donated to one of Ed Paulson's auctions. Seemingly new life was given to it when it was purchased for \$2,000 (which was to have gone to East Bay Assistance Fund).

Some ill wind blew no good, and the purchasers decided not to honor their commitment. Along came a good witch from the north, Miss Porcine. She would purchase the organ for \$1,800 (which was to have gone to East Bay Assistance Fund). The ill wind huffed and puffed once again, and she too decided not to fulfill her promise.

The little organ that can't be sold now resides in Ed Paulson's garage waiting to be picked up by Little Mother for one of her forthcoming auctions. Hopefully this time those who bid will be sincere and actually follow through with their responsibility.

Ed informed me he has been ailing lately, and must take the time to get his personal and financial life back in order. To be able to do this, he will not be doing any more auctions this year, and must bow out on his offer to help in the '88 Picnic—of, by, and for the people at Fairmont Hospital. I, for one, can only wish him God speed.

GALLIMAUFRY
(A Mish-Mash Nose)

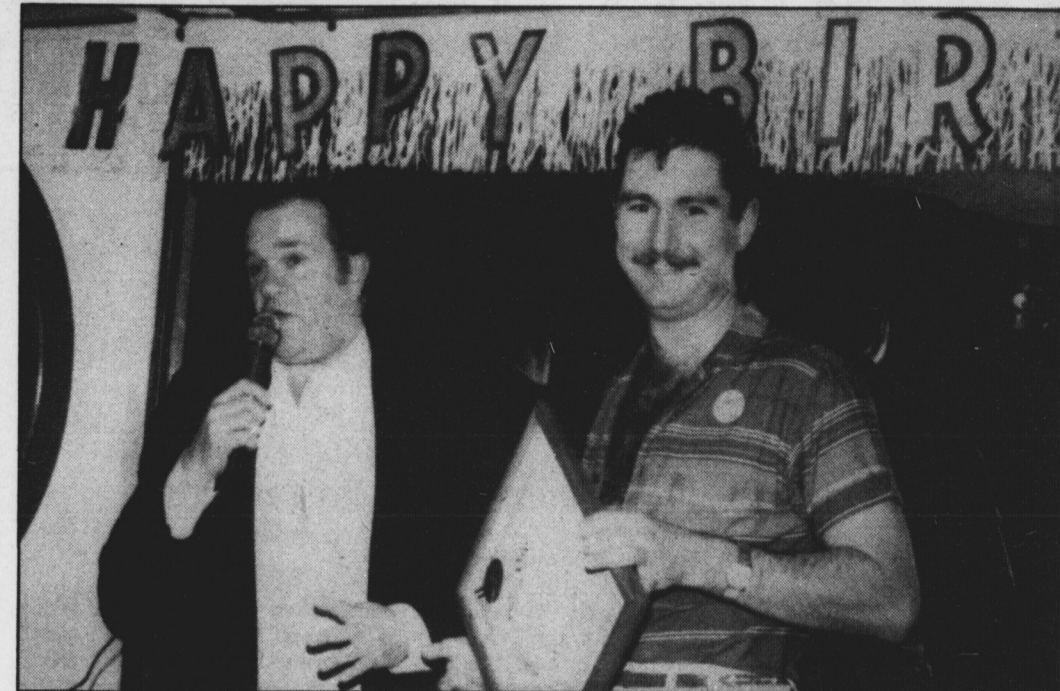
Most sincere and heart-felt sympathy and condolences to Jack Everhart of Cabel's Reef. His lover, Barry, was killed in a motorcycle accident. Please remember, Jack, there are many who share in your loss and your sorrow. Take strength in that.

Ran into Emperor Bobby Pace (I can't remember how many fingers he was holding up, but I think it was six—no, it wasn't the middle one aimed at me!) at Mark Friese's party, and he told me he is hosting an auction, show, raffle, and casino at the Kokpit on St. Patrick's Day, March 17. Proceeds from the benefit will be divided between Coming Home Hospice and Bay Area Sheppard House.

Debbie Dirt wants to know why there aren't any condom machines in all the gay bars in town. Recently she had to go into a straight bar to make her purchase, obviously anticipating some action with her date that night!

Once a month, D.J.'s in Walnut Creek hosts CCC AIDS Task Force Sunday. The first was held at 7:30 p.m. Sunday, March 6. They offer entertainment, two-for-one drinks (available with a \$5 coupon at the door, which is tax deductible), and door prizes from local businesses. All proceeds from the event will ensure that the work of the Contra Costa County AIDS Task Force continues.

D.J.'s grand piano gets plenty of action this month, too. Every Tuesday it's Bob Sandner and every Thursday it's Cynthia By-



Wayne Friday presented Mark Friese with a proclamation from the San Francisco Board of Supervisors on the occasion of his 32nd birthday (Photo: Rink)

thell, both start at 8 p.m. Friday it's John Errea and Saturday it's Momi Starr, both at 9 p.m.

The Imperial Star Empire is publishing a newsletter through the work of Empress IX Tootsi and Imperial Princess Morgan. The format will include articles of interest within the ISE, information about EBAF, BASH, In-Memory Fund, articles about other communities and courts, the ISE Calendar of events, financial reports, special events, Who's Who, letters to and from the Emperor and Empress, and letters to and from the editors. The deadline for contributing to the March newsletter was Feb. 17. I received my copy March 1.

ISE will host a Bingo Night March 17, time and place to be announced. Hope I'll be able to attend!

See you at Bitches in Black? It's this Saturday, March 12, at Bjornson Hall on MacArthur Boulevard, near Fruitvale. Doors open at 6:30, with the show starting at 7 p.m. It's only ten bucks,

and the proceeds go to BASH and EBAF.

Sunday, March 13, there will be a \$5 beer bust at Turf Club in Hayward from 3 to 6 p.m. Included in the festivities will be a 50/50 raffle and special guests. Proceeds go to BASH and ISE, and it's hosted by Fina and Tom.

What's this I heard about

someone spending \$40 for a new chili recipe? Seriously, folks, Little Mother does indeed need salable items for her next auction. She waits and waits by the telephone, but there's never "one more bell to answer." If you have any merchandise—remember, one person's junk is another's treasure—please call her at 562-9826.

Mercy! What's happening? One of the Revolettes mentioned they have been rehearsing for weeks in anticipation of the April Floozie's Day at Town & Country. Countered one of the T&C Dollies, "We're so good, we don't have to rehearse!" I guess we can all be judges Friday, April 1, at Town & Country. Where oh where are the Cockettes when we need them?

Praise be! Different Spokes has selected two groups in the East Bay to be beneficiaries from their AIDS Bike-A-Thon IV, Saturday, May 14. The two are AIDS Project of the East Bay and East Bay Assistance Fund. A tip of Nez's nose for including these two fine groups.

Chatty Cathy celebrated her big 5-0 last Saturday, and invited a few of her 100 closest friends to help. She certainly must get around because half of Hayward and one third of Oakland were represented. Orchids to her for all the good food and camaraderie. Onions to her for forgetting some people drink Scotch!

Sometimes if you think things aren't going according to plan, consider that there never was a plan. I can smile at that. ●

Love, Nez

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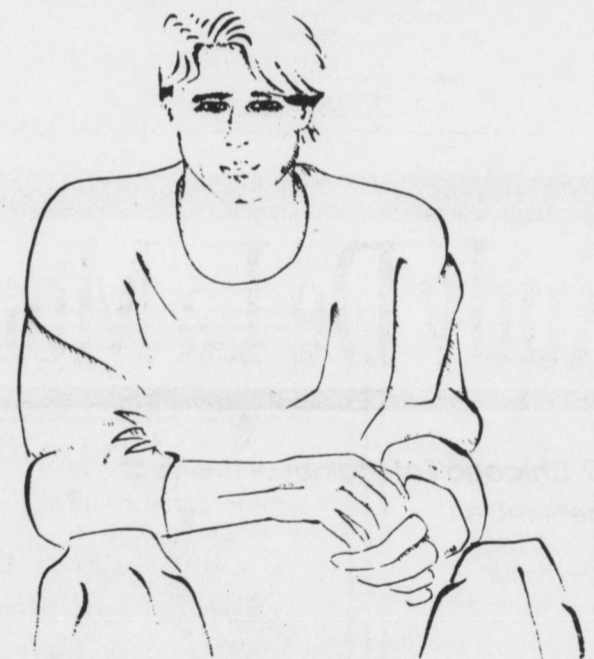


Illustration by Laura H. Young

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BAY AREA REPORTER ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

'To Find Through Fear and Horror'

Author Robert Ferro Tells Why He Wrote 'Second Son'

by Paul Reed

Robert Ferro is coming to town this weekend, making appearances and signing copies of his fourth novel, *Second Son*, just published by Crown Publishers.

Ferro is probably best known for his second novel, *The Family of Max Desir*, which has become a standard gay classic since its publication in 1984.

This newest novel, *Second Son*, is an evocative and uplifting story of a young man with AIDS, who in the course of his illness meets and falls in love with another AIDS patient. In keeping with Ferro's hallmark use of the merging of fantasy and reality, by book's end the men are en route to the hospital for their presumably successful treatments.

It is a delicate and lyrical novel, the culmination of a four-novel cycle that began with Ferro's first novel, *The Others* and continued with *Max Desir*, which was followed by *The Blue Star*. All four novels develop themes of family, sexuality, illness, coping with death, and the thin line between fantasy and reality.

In a recent interview, I asked Robert Ferro several questions about *Second Son*:

PR: What was your intention in writing *Second Son*?

RF: To find a way through the fear and horror we all face—in my own way. I knew only that the two main characters—Mark and Bill—would both be ill and that they must survive.



This projection started as a fantasy—the fantasy of survival in the face of universal disbelief and pessimism—and my intention was to make that fantasy

believable, in order to instill hope into a seemingly desperate situation. I think that as time goes by, months and years, this fantastical element in the novel—Splendor

and the cure—will seem less unlikely.

PR: What did you expect the average reader to come away with after reading this novel?

RF: At some point in the writing I realized that I was writing *Second Son* for people who are infected. And I wanted them not to give in. For the average reader who is not ill I wanted them to see this disease as a human tragedy which must be ended, and which will end—and not as the impenetrable, unsolvable curse of some asshole evangelist.

PR: What difficulties did you face in writing about AIDS?

RF: It took quite some time to whittle things down to something I could encompass. Uncertainty was the biggest problem—finding a way to do it. I had come to the conclusion that most of what was being said and written about the disease was hearsay—which I am as good as anyone—and I felt finally that when decisions had to be made, instinct would see me through, in this case a witch-like, Berdache sort of thing. Very gay. A feeling of self-confidence that my instincts in this, as a writer, were correct. You can't do it without this feeling, though you can still write badly with it. It's a feeling of making the right moral, political, medical, and philosophical decisions along the way.

PR: All your novels deal with themes of sexuality and illness as tumultuous forces in the family.

Do you know why?

RF: I believe that what you call tumultuous forces in the family are on another scale the same as societal forces, even national forces—as if families and states, countries and nations, like individuals, have psyches and personalities that interact.

This is a generational thing, happening over the years, influencing one generation after another. The dynamic of unsolved problems and injustices haunting succeeding generations is, to me, reenacted on a smaller scale within individual families, so that the problems of the family often represent or symbolize the problems of the state.

This is what I tried to show in *The Family of Max Desir* and *The Blue Star*: that we don't get away with anything. We are responsible to each other for our actions, and often those who must pay, do so long after the fact, and for sins committed earlier by others before them. It is a question of the consequences of problems left unattended and unsolved.

Denial has been the major non-medical ingredient in this epidemic, as it is in all such things. "It cannot happen to me. It cannot happen to us. It cannot happen here." Only truth can counter that stupidity. A getting to the bottom of things. And only with truth can we mobilize ourselves, our families, our countries, to fight back and succeed.

(Continued on page 45)

Conversations

Boze Hadleigh Reveals The 'Secret' Movie World

by Will Snyder

It sometimes has been said that a picture is worth a thousand words. Boze Hadleigh found out last year that the lack of a good picture could lead to some confusing words.

So, he put in a good word for a good picture and now more people are reading his words.

The 33-year-old Hadleigh is the author of *Conversations With My Elders*, a book about six gay members of the motion picture industry who have since died. When *Conversations* came out in hardcover in 1987, there was just one problem. The book cover displayed the title and the author's name, but it lacked any kind of art.

Many people got a mite confused.

"The cover was a bit of a problem," Hadleigh said. "The editor (at St. Martin's Press) chose the title, but without any kind of illustration. I heard that some people were dismissing the book as something about church elders."

Now, the book is in paperback as part of St. Martin's new gay-oriented Stonewall Inn series (\$7.95). This time, Hadleigh made sure the publisher didn't make the same mistake. John Fontaine designed a cover which is dominated by a bare-shouldered Rock Hudson.

So much for worrying about talking to Brigham Young.

"I suggested quite strongly that we change the cover," said Hadleigh. "I think people will understand now that this book is not about church people."

SIX INTERVIEWS

What the book is about should interest many gay movie buffs. Hadleigh not only talked with Hudson, but with actor Sal Mineo, photographer/set designer Cecil Beaton and directors George Cukor, Luchino Visconti and Rainer Werner Fassbinder.

His impressions: Mineo was friendly and outgoing. Fass-

binder was the epitome of vulgarity. Cukor, Beaton and Visconti were champions of discretion. Finally, Hudson lacked courage.

"He sold out to Hollywood and he lived to regret it," Hadleigh said of Hudson. "He toyed with the idea of coming out, but I don't think he would have if it hadn't been for AIDS."

"Allan Carr (the theatrical and film producer) offered him the macho lead in *La Cage Aux Folles*," Hadleigh added. "Other straight people like Gene Barry and Van Johnson had played it, but Hudson wouldn't touch the part. He was very conservative and not at all pro-gay rights."

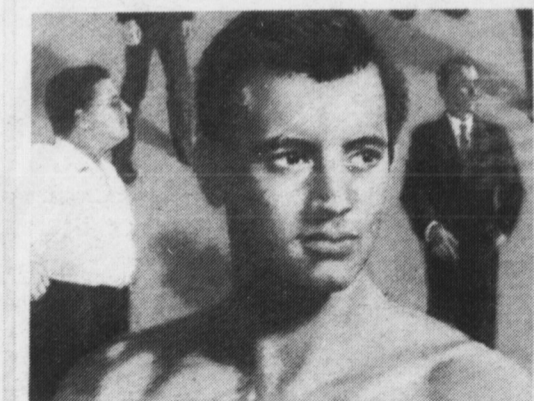
And yet, when one reads *Conversations*, it's hard not to like Hudson, who was quick to poke fun at himself. Hadleigh deserves the credit for being able to draw out Hudson's own putdowns.

Hadleigh's format was, on the surface, a question-and-answer

(Continued on page 45)

STONEWALL INN EDITIONS

CONVERSATIONS WITH MY ELDERS



BOZE HADLEIGH

Detour

Cheryl Crane Gets Rid of 'Emotional Baggage' With Her New Book

by Mike Hippler

"Hey, buddy, wanna meet a murderess?" I was asked recently at a cocktail party.

Believing the inquirer to be joking, I found out otherwise when he introduced me to Cheryl Crane, best known as Lana Turner's daughter, the one who killed—not murdered—her mother's lover, Johnny Stompanato, back in the 1950s when she was just a young girl.

Crane, now in her 40s, recently told her own side of the story for the first time in the current national best-seller, *Detour: A Hollywood Story*. It is a compelling narrative, not only for its drama but also for its candor. In it, Crane tells all, not only the difficult aspects of her life, such as the child abuse and the Stompanato affair, but also the positive aspects—such as her homosexuality.

Crane first realized she was gay at six years old. She didn't have a name for it then, of course. That came later, when, in her early teens, she came across a series of lesbian pulp paperbacks that were popular at the time. "I was living in Los Angeles, and they all took place in Greenwich Village," she recalls, "but it's how I first discovered there were other people like me out there."

When she was 12, Crane fell "in love for the first time" and couldn't wait to tell her mother and grandmother about it. They replied, "Oh how cute, darling, what's his name?" When Crane acknowledged, "It's not a he, it's



Cheryl Crane and her partner at the Cable Car Awards (Photo: Photo Graphics/Darlene)

a she," her family reacted not with horror but with understanding. "Oh, darling, you'll outgrow that," they assured her.

When she did not outgrow it, no one seemed to mind. "I've always been luckier than most in that my family never made me feel it was something I should hide," explains Crane. "Of course, they never talked about it. But I think as I got older, so many really tragic, difficult events had happened in my life that they

were far more interested in making me happy and in supporting me than in anything else. So I never carried around the guilt, shame, or anxiety that other people did."

When people later tried to blame Crane's sexual orientation on those "tragic, difficult events"—specifically on child abuse, Stompanato, or her mother's eight marriages—and said that she hated men as a result, Crane replied that this was

nonsense.

"My response to this last theory is that my father was married six times, so where does that leave me? Hating women as well as men? I'd be pretty lonely," she said. "I try to explain to them that it's something I always was. It had nothing to do with a couple of bad experiences, because I had many good experiences, too. I had a tremendous relationship with my father, and I get along very well with men, both professionally and socially. But men simply don't fulfill other more important needs."

One who did fulfill those "other needs" was the first girl she ever had sex with, an older girl at Sacred Heart Academy, a Catholic boarding school near Pasadena. Other sexual and romantic involvements followed. It wasn't until the late 1960s, however, that she first met the love of her life, a famous young model, Josh LeRoy.

"I had seen her around but didn't really know her. We were at a party at Wally Cox's house, and she was sitting under the table having a conversation with Marlon Brando. I met her then, but we didn't start formally dating until almost two years later, in 1970. There's been no one else ever since."

In the beginning, Crane and LeRoy went through a great deal of adjusting. "I was terribly mixed up when we first got together," she explained. "I had a lot of emotional problems. All those years which I now consider my detour, from 14 to 21, I did all kinds of things to hurt and punish myself. I was carrying so much damn guilt. But Josh helped to change all that. She is certainly the foremost reason for the sanity that I have today."

By the time she began work on her book two years ago, Crane had gotten rid of the "excess emotional baggage" that she carried for so long. "I was happy," she said, "and you can't be happy and be bitter, resentful, and guilty at the same time." She wrote the book, therefore, for other reasons.

"You have to remember that the infamy of the Stompanato happening has followed me all my life. But no one had ever heard from me. Other people had certainly told the story in fact and in fiction many times, and there were dozens of rumors flying about. I finally decided it was time to tell my side of the story. I was tired of reading these versions that weren't true.

"That was how it started. But then, as I began to work, it

became clear that I had to include far more, that I had to go all the way or not at all, to tell the whole story of my life and not just a part.

"It was a decision, however, that had to be made not just by me, but also by Josh and by our mothers. Interestingly, when we talked with our mothers, we discovered that even though they loved us and accepted our relationship, both were carrying a lot of guilt and blaming themselves for our sexuality.

"As a result of the conversation, a major change came over them. They realized that it had nothing to do with anything they had ever done. A great weight came off their shoulders. And for the first time, they were able to talk with other people about it, which gave them a great deal of pleasure. So the book has been a positive thing for them as well as for us."

Surprisingly, the book has been a positive experience for readers as well, in ways that Crane never anticipated. "People have had great sympathy for some of the things I've gone through, and I think that has enabled them to be less paranoid about my sexuality. I've had no bad reactions anywhere. I expected far worse.

"I don't think that the world has suddenly become terribly understanding overnight," she added, "but I do think it's so much easier for everyone if you can be open and natural about what you're feeling. Sometimes we are harder on ourselves than other people would be on us if we gave them a chance. If you feel good about yourself, they're going to react in a more positive way."

So far, although Crane's lover has accompanied her on her book tours and has supported her throughout, she has chosen to remain in the background. "She feels it's my story, not hers," explains Crane. "But the consequences involve us both. Fortunately, like I said, these have all been positive. I don't think there is anything that could affect our relationship in a negative way."

Crane concludes, "What we'll end up doing in the next year or so, I have no idea. We'll certainly get into something. The book has opened many doors and connections to us. Right now we're so involved with that that we can't really concentrate on anything else."

Whatever the future holds, one thing is certain. They'll face it together. After 18 years as a couple, any other alternative is unthinkable.

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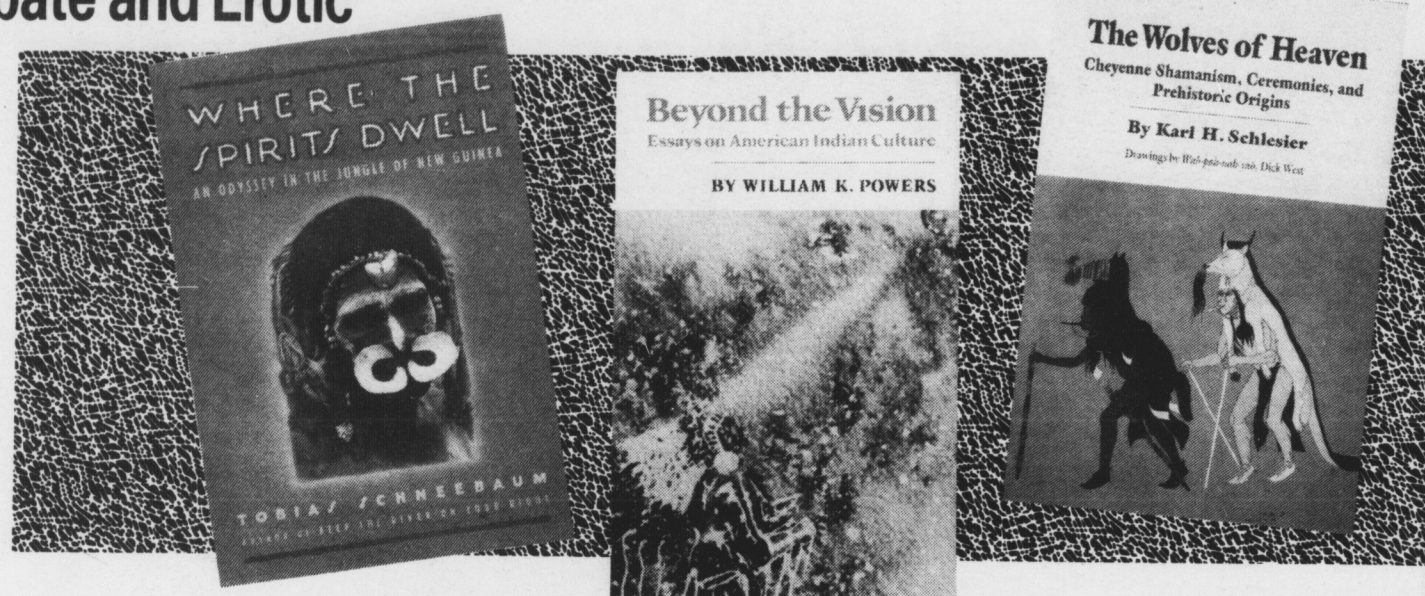
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Beyond the Vision
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The Wolves of Heaven
by Karl H. Schlesier
U. of OK Press, Norman
213 pps., hardcover, \$25.00

Where the Spirits Dwell
by Tobias Schneebaum
Grove Press, New York
211 pps., hardcover, \$17.95



by Joseph Bean

Sexuality, especially homosexuality, used to get a paradoxically loud version of the silent treatment from anthropologists. "Acts are performed in this hysterical trance in-susceptible of description in a Christian's journal," one early scientist wrote of Plains Indians in an all-male ritual. The silent treatment.

That attitude would attract scorn in the modern science of anthropology which has—so it prides itself—become a hands-on, cards-on-the-table affair. So, the contemporary anthropologist has three choices, each of which is represented by one of these three books. Before we begin to speak of the books and the choices the authors have made, though, let's confess that at least

one of these books is not likely to interest you as reading material, another is just barely likely, and the third is going to please many, but not all of you. Still, the lesson you can learn from my reading is worthwhile. Believe me, it is.

First option: The silent treatment can go all the way to complete silence. William K. Powers, *Beyond the Vision: Essays on American Indian Culture*, did this. He avoids mentioning sex or sexuality at all. He does this by presenting what he has to say in a series of scholarly essays on carefully selected topics. His only brush with sex slips in unavoidably, in an explanation of "vocal music."

As he sees it, "vocal music" has its roots in mating calls—very long roots indeed,

stretching back to the pre-hominid mists just outside the garden of Eden. He also, rather gratuitously shares with the reader his conviction that this sex-link to prehistory explains "why even today males dominate the field of music and dance in all known societies of the world."

A little more silence would be a big help!

The second option: An anthropologist can report on sex and sexuality, but do so without too terribly much prodding or thinking. Or, maybe he prods and thinks, then chooses to couch his discoveries in language that sounds unthinking. This option assumes that it is better to be thought stupid than lewd. It does have one very important redeeming value though: It won't upset the ladies at the next fund-raising committee meeting when the Anthropologist of Option Two wants to go back for further studies (and, in the meantime, it will convince them that he is discovering truly unknown and shocking things).

This second choice is the direction that Karl Schlesier chose. His book, *The Wolves of Heaven: Cheyenne Shamanism, Ceremonies, and Prehistoric Origin*, is fascinating reading. The command Schlesier has of his subject is remarkable. His grasp of the intricate interlacing of Cheyenne thought, religion, history, and custom is profound. Nothing, it seems, escaped his notice.

The heart of Schlesier's study is a single ceremony, the Mas-saum, which modern Cheyennes know only if they are very old. It has not been performed since

1927. To write about the Mas-saum, though, necessarily involves writing about the androgynous, often transvestite, sexually "different" shamans. What to do? A respected scientist, the living expert on Cheyennes cannot write pornography.

History and good taste come to Schlesier's rescue. The esoteric society and backward-spoken language of the *hemaneh* (half-man, half-woman) and other shamans still exists "in a much reduced form." So, Schlesier has a "much reduced" authority to cite, if only obliquely, when he claims that "because of their ritual bisexuality they were barred from sexual acts." Good, the Twentieth Century descendants of the shamans—dancers for fairs or whatever—say that they don't have sex with each other, so the "real" shamans must never have had sex at all.

That makes perfect sense, doesn't it?

Nonetheless, Schlesier's book is not just good scholarship—apart from this silliness about transvestite, bisexual shamans being forced to remain celibate even though they also lived apart from the tribe. (So, who could check?) It is also very comfortable reading.

The third option: This is the road least traveled. This is the territory of Tobias Schneebaum, a professional outsider in anthropology. Schneebaum is a hands-on scientist with roaming hands. He's also a lips-on investigator if given half a chance.

In *Where the Spirits Dwell: An Odyssey in the Jungle of New Guinea*, Schneebaum confesses that at least one previous book "had its exaggerations." This book, by bearing that confession, proclaims itself trustworthy. We should believe that everything in these pages is a true account. Well, if it's all true all the time, I know a lot of gay men who'd love to relocate to the Asmat tribe's area of West Coastal New Guinea.

Fully a third of the Asmat-Indonesian glossary in this book has to do with the penis, the foreskin, and the things men can do with these bodily appliances. Reading the glossary alone you would be fully prepared to walk into any bar in the Asmat lands—if there were any—and answer in the local language when asked "What do you like to do in bed?" So you can safely guess that the author-anthropologist is a sex-positive gay man. Besides,

he tells you as much in the text.

Along with lushly descriptive basics and background data, Schneebaum gives you whole persons, lots of them. He can do this only by the agency of direct, personal experience, described from memory and his journals. If there were clothes to be taken off, canoes to be paddled, dances or battles to be done, or mud baths to be taken in an all-male group, the author—all for the sake of his homeside readers, of course—jumped in.

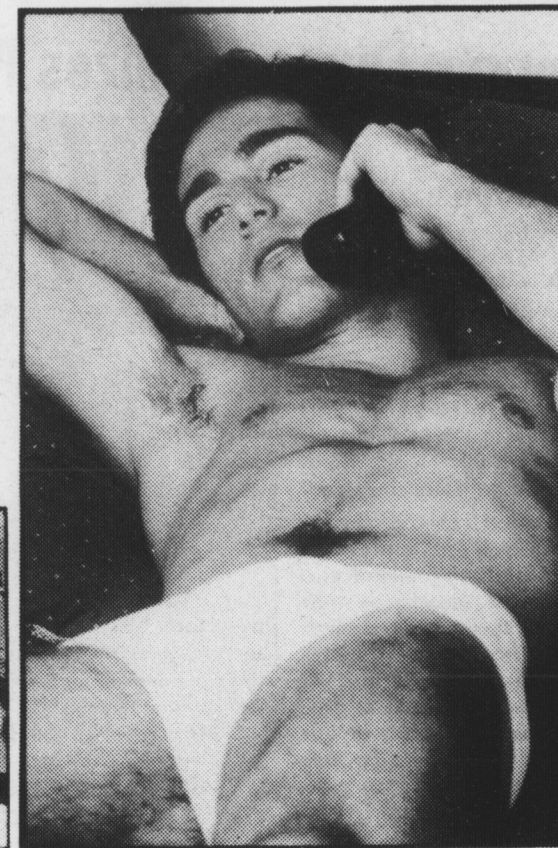
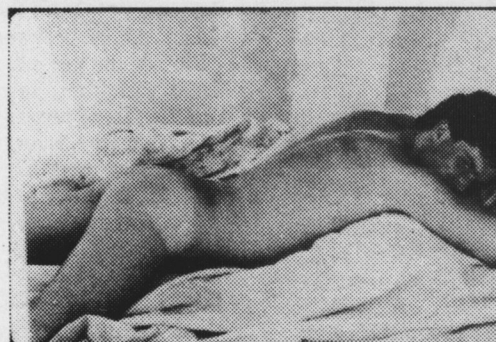
Schneebaum among the As-mats is in a sexual wonderland, despite the fact that the men on every side of him are head-hunters. As a scientist, he keeps records and collects artifacts. As an American Jew, he attempts to match his own spiritual upbringing with the customs of the Asmat tribesmen, and comes up with some interesting points, too. As a gay man, he dives right into the ambisexual reality that the missionary anthropologists before him never mentioned. (Yes, some of them *must* have had some taste of it. But if they didn't want to be set to work scrubbing floors in the Vatican, they knew what *not* to record.)

Why would you want to read these books? Perhaps for the information. And if the information you want has to do with the development of music and dance in the ritual lives of American Indians, go to Powers. The sex-related and gender-specific realities are absent, but the book is skillfully written *around* that omission. Still, this is a book more to be referred to than enjoyed.

On the other hand, Schlesier's book is a good book to read for the sake of its style as well as the information, if you have any interest in Cheyenne history at all. When the sexual misinformation (or homophobia?) surfaces, smile a knowing smile and read on.

And Schneebaum? Schneebaum's book is such a richly romantic, gloriously written book, so warm and intimate, that you'll have to let yourself read it more than once. First, read it just for pleasure. Luxuriate in the vicarious thrills of the virgin forests and the experienced men. Then, cursing Schneebaum for not providing an index, go back and poke through the book for any actual information you need about the modern settlements of Asmat headhunters... if you ever need anything of that sort. ●

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'Going To Seed'

Rhino's Dixon Realizes New Goal With New Play

by Joseph W. Bean

When Eve Powell's *Going To Seed* opens at Theatre Rhinoceros on March 12, the date will incidentally mark Ken Dixon's six-month anniversary as artistic director of the company. It will also be his debut as a director with Rhino. So, as he talked about the upcoming production, he also glanced back on his brief tenure and looked forward to his high hopes for the city's only resident gay theatre company.

"To reflect," he said, "I think that while I didn't pick this season, I'm very proud of what we have done, and what we're doing. The theatre has certainly stretched in many ways this year," he added, referring to the fact that Rhino has been successful both in reviving a trusted piece—Jane Chambers' *A Late Snow*—and in taking a long stride into the avant-garde, Noel Grieg's *Poppies*.

Going To Seed represents another step that Theatre Rhinoceros has wanted to take for some time, and one that especially pleases Dixon. It is a play about the lives and problems of black lesbians. It is an all-female, all-black cast of five in which two of the characters are lesbians. This touches on one of Dixon's hopes for Rhino, but doesn't entirely answer it.

From the beginning, Dixon has had a commitment to the idea of involving and portraying



Angela (Lydia Stewart, r. rear) sneaks her new girlfriend (Donna Michelle) past her grandmother (Sandy Leigh Scott, l.) and mother (Kay Elizabeth Benjamin) in *Going To Seed* (Photo: S. Cohen)

the lives of minority characters: people of color and women. This play does that, but it also reminds the artistic director of another aspect of his dream. "What I want to see come across my desk is a script with white, hispanic, and black gay men in it, where they are relating to each other," he said. Then, glancing across the cluttered theatre toward the half-built set for *Going To Seed*,

he added, "Doing this play has brought that up for me again."

"This play," Dixon reiterated, "is about black people, about women, about lesbians, but there is something I think is more important than all of that. It is about a family, a family of women."

The story involves a grandmother, a mother, two daughters,

al family members no matter what."

In *Going To Seed* the family gets a sort of helping hand in the effort to accept the daughter's lesbian lover. Michele, the character of the lover, has actually been a part of the family's household for a long time because she is the grandmother's favorite radio personality, and her favorite topic of conversation.

"Michele is dealt with," Dixon says, "the way I think a lot of black women feel about Oprah Winfrey, the way a lot of people deal with their favorite soap operas. These people on TV and the radio are real for them. They talk about them like they were neighbors. And that has a lot to do with what is happening in *Going To Seed*."

RALLY OR REJECT?

So, do the family members in the play rally around the lesbian daughter, or do they reject her? We'll have to see the play to find that out. But since the show, according to Dixon, is "a comedy with a serious side," it seems a safe bet that no one ends up too badly bruised by the experiences we will see on stage.

With a more than slightly impish smile, Dixon says, "The actresses have all done a wonderful job of being driven by me." Then he adds, "They were all off book (meaning they had learned their lines) two weeks after the start of rehearsal. So we have been doing this play and working on the family feeling of it since the first of February." That family feeling, as Dixon sees it, is the vital thing about the play.

Black or not, then; male or female; even straight, gay, or uncertain, *Going To Seed* should be a play for everyone. After all, everyone comes from and has had to deal with a family.

Going To Seed runs through April 16. Call 861-5079 for tickets.

BAWNS Presents Gay Spectacular

BAWNS, Black and White and Nationality Supporters, is a new gay men's and women's organization that has formed to support all races and nationalities. BAWNS supports all races and nationalities by sponsoring a large event—dance, concert, contest or any combination—once a month where people can come to meet and socialize. The events will benefit gay activities funds.

At each event, which will be called "The Gay Event Of The Month," BAWNS will donate its proceeds to organizations such as the S.F. AIDS Foundation, PAWS for PWAs, ARC-Aid, and the gay homeless.

Also each month BAWNS will code six tickets that will be on sale at All American Boy and all Headlines outlets. These tickets will be worth \$125. For people who have those tickets, BAWNS will donate \$125 in their name to his or her favorite gay activity fund; at the end of the year the winners will receive a tax deduction.

What makes BAWNS different from other organizations is that it wants to make each event special. BAWNS' event of the month for March is Disco Diva II.

BAWNS tickets are now on sale at All American Boy and all Headlines. Plus, there are six \$125 tickets out there. BAWNS' Disco Diva II will be held March 26 at the Warehouse Cabaret on the corner of 18th and San Pablo in downtown Oakland.

Each month BAWNS will have a buffet with everything up to seafood. BAWNS will also be giving away free photos and if a person's birthday comes on the date of a BAWNS event, BAWNS will give a birthday celebration for him or her during the event. The best news is that BAWNS is now giving away more than 1,000 memberships before May 1. After May 1, BAWNS memberships will be \$25 for six months. So, whomever wants a membership that expires Dec. 31, 1988 should contact Robert Jefferson at 923-9389.

BAWNS introduces "The Gay Event Of The Month" to benefit all races by donating to gay organizations. BAWNS hopes to bring more than 1,000 people to each event, and there are more than 1,000 tickets out there, so get yours now. Don't forget the tickets with the "B" in BAWNS completely black are worth \$125.

Author of 'A Human Equation'

Expect The Unusual From Kenny Fries

by Joseph W. Bean

A Human Equation, which opens at Intersection for the Arts on March 16, is a very unusual play. It is made up of 50 scenes that do not compose a single time-line, at least not in the sequence scripted. It has three characters, and they are all on stage all the time. And, even though the play is by local playwright Kenny Fries, it has reversed the usual course of local/regional opening followed, sometimes, by a New York booking.

But anyone who knows the playwright will tell you, the unusual is exactly what you should expect from him.

Kenny Fries is a very unusual person. He is a playwright who actually holds a degree in playwriting, an MFA from Columbia University. Lots of people earn degrees in playwriting every year, and they go right out and take paying jobs in business or industry, just as a lot of MBAs and English majors write new plays all the time. Many of the people with dormant playwriting degrees really believe that they will write the play that will take the world by storm, or at least knock Broadway's socks off someday.

But Fries is not sitting back hoping his degree will do magic. He hangs in there, writing, always writing, and none too slowly building himself a name and a career in the theatre.

When the planned 1984 New York premiere of *A Human Equation* was postponed, Fries—a Brooklyn native—moved to San Francisco. He wanted to do theatre and write plays, "and to get away from New York's theatre circles of who-you-know," he says. The following year, he was back in New York directing the world premiere of *Equation* at LaMama ETC.

Then, back in San Francisco with a successful four-week production in The Big Apple to his credit, Fries kept writing, and began to insinuate himself into Bay Area theatre events. Even though he doesn't earn a living writing plays—almost no one does—Fries is true to his education and his 'calling.' He works within the theatre community.

INVOLVED

The essential things for a playwright, of course, are the making of new plays, and the arranging of new productions of the completed ones. But there is a lot more to theatre than that, and a

Erotic Auction

Saturday, March 19, the San Francisco Lesbian/Gay Freedom Day Parade and Celebration Committee will present an erotic auction with emcees Karen Ripley and Danny Williams. This fundraiser will take place at the Endup, located at 6th and Harrison, San Francisco. Doors open at 1 p.m. There is no cover charge.

Items to be auctioned off include, but are not limited to, leather items, dinners for two, bar tabs, professional and personal services, works of photography and graphic art, books, videos, and cassette tapes.

For further information call Ricky Stricko at 826-4903.

playwright who sits around waiting either for inspiration or for calls from producers is going to be very bored. So Fries does a little of this, a lot of that, and stays involved on a day-to-day basis.

In fact, Kenny Fries is involved in so many theatre projects in San Francisco, one way or another, that it is sometimes hard to believe that there is only one of him. After about three years as director of Theatre Bay Area's internship program, he has recently been promoted to Director of Theatre Services (audience development, primarily) at TBA. And, having been an instructor on the staff of PlayWorks, also known as San Francisco School of Dramatic Arts, he now teaches playwriting in private classes.

As if he were not already busy enough, Fries is also working on another play, currently titled *Southern Exposure*, which he expects to finish this summer. And, in addition to all his theatre activities, Fries also writes poetry.

His poems have been published in the *James White Review* and Columbia University's *Quarto*. One collection of his poetry has also been published in book form. It is *Night After Night*, issued by Beaux-Arts Press (available at Modern Times Bookstore).

A person with a New York production past, a San Francisco production coming up, another play in the file (which he doesn't intend to revive in the foreseeable future), and another on the way must, at least, be a mature adult. Well, Fries is a mature adult, but at 27 he is not nearly as old as the phrase suggests. And yet he is impatient with himself. "I've been working on this new play for a million years," he says, adding a promise that it will be finished "as soon as I can get away and write."

LIFE WAS TOUGH

You might think that a person with so much going for him in the

usually hard-to-crack world of the theatre must be one of those people who has had everything going his way all his life. That does seem to be the case for many of the ever-present names in theatre programs, but not for Fries.

He was born with "a congenital deformity of the lower extremities" which means, in effect, that his legs are very short and twisted. His disability is just the sort of thing that would have excused most people from bothering to achieve anything, much less all that Fries has done and all that he has mapped out for himself.

Speaking of *Equation*, he says, "It's a bisexual triangle—I used to do that in my writing. Almost everything I wrote for a long, long time turned into a bisexual triangle. It's a very good dramatic device. You have someone in the middle who has to make a choice."

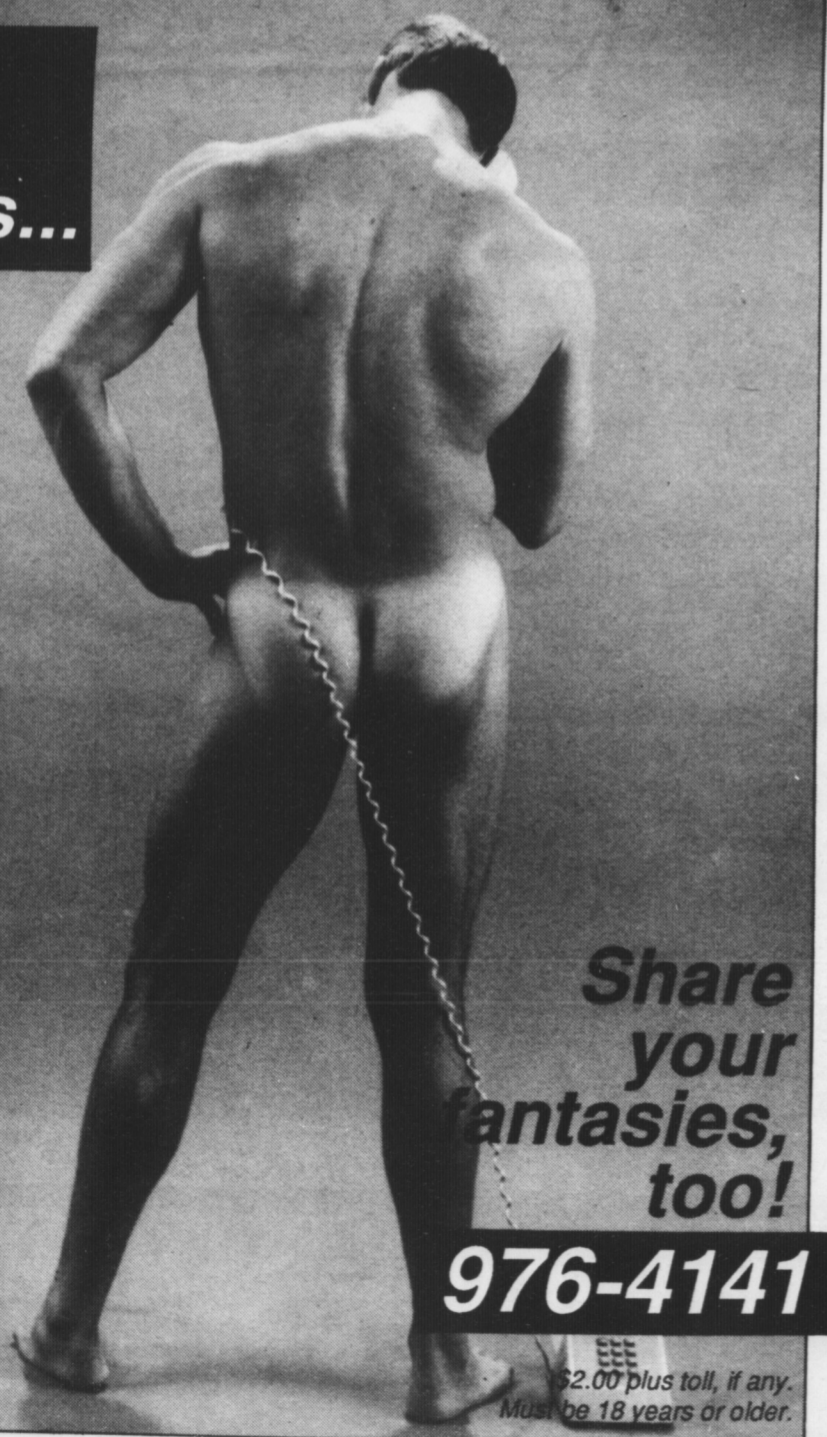
The choice, in this case, is pretty complex because the triangle

involves a male poet, a female painter, and a male graduate student who is, at first, studying the poet's work and in love with him. But the poet is in love with the painter. Then things start to change, death strikes near the triangle, and love continues to flow from point to point, meaning character to character.

"I don't think in 'motivations' when I am writing," Fries says, explaining that he believes his characters say "the only thing there is to say from the feeling at that time." He speaks of himself and his work in the same way, no coyness, no pauses while he plans the right thing to say. If his straight-forward manner is represented in *Equation* as it is in conversation, the play will be very interesting indeed.

Tickets for *A Human Equation*, which plays Wednesdays through Saturdays until April 9, are available at STBS and the Intersection box office at 766 Valencia.

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In fact, one-third of the ballets we are seeing during the San Francisco Ballet's 1988 season are the same ballets we saw last year, sprinkled among some even older revivals and a few contemporary imports new to the company. But it's the repeat performances that have given the greatest enjoyment, even when they've shared the program with interesting, well-rehearsed local premieres.

A perfect example is *Rubies*, a Balanchine/Stravinsky concoction of subtle humor and daunting rhythmic complexity. Last season we applauded SFB merely for its acquisition of the ballet; in performance the dancers bravely assumed their artistic responsibility without quite showing us the ballet's impetus and inspiration. This season I get the feeling the dancers really like the music, and they wear the ballet's zany idiosyncracies like amusing designer accessories made just for them.

Jean-Charles Gil's perform-

ance has become a twinkling commentary on the Americanisms Balanchine included for the original male lead, Edward Villella. (Gil manages to look both witty and comfortably self-conscious, like royalty at play.) His partner, Evelyn Cisneros, has made pedagogic use of her growing Balanchine repertoire, and in *Rubies*, particularly, her dancing reflects comprehension and authority.

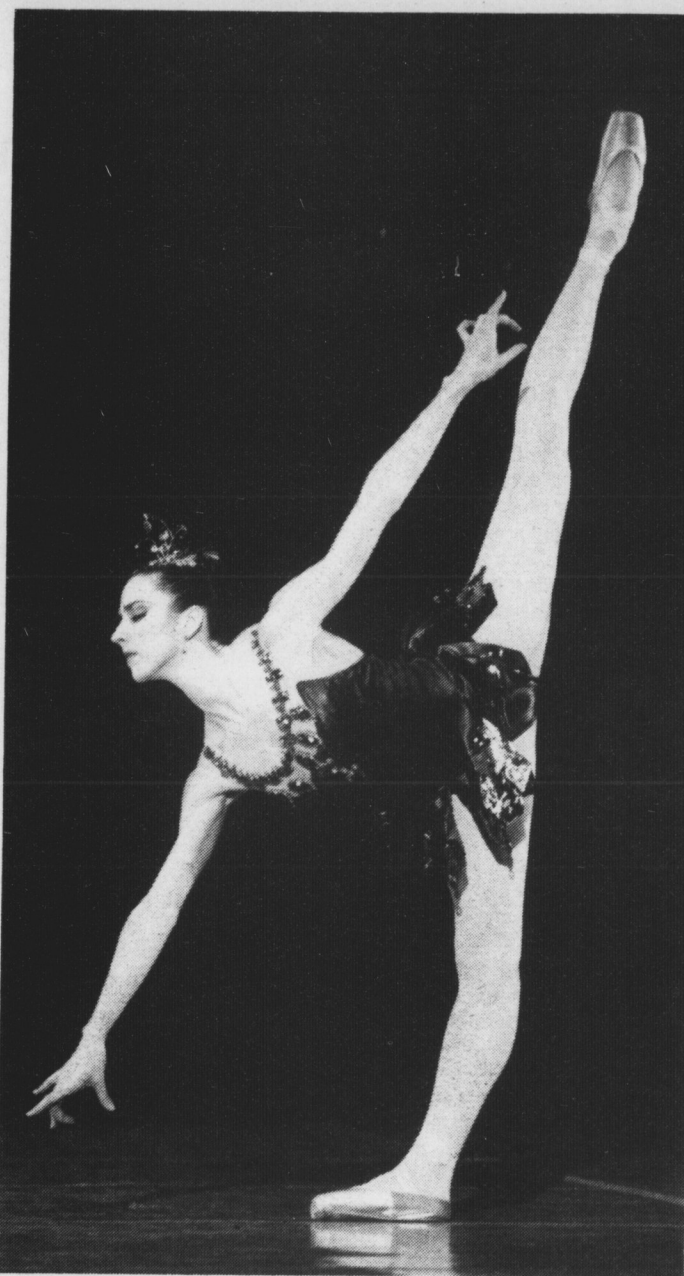
The soloist ballerina role in *Rubies*, made originally for Patricia Neary, is said to be the most difficult role to recast even at the New York City Ballet, where one would imagine a paradigm could easily be found. At SFB, Trace-Kai Maier has achieved such celebrated success in that role that one wonders whether anyone, anywhere, could do it better. She seems to embody all the ballet's cultural matrices: space-age, jazz-age, sportive opulence wrapped up in black velvet, like a window at Van Cleef & Arpels (the Fifth Avenue jewelry purveyor which is rumored to have inspired Balanchine to begin work on the ballet). But it isn't only the principals who are dancing well. The whole company looks more confident.

The two early season premieres serve the dancers simply by giving them a lot to do, and, in the case of Englishman David Bintley's *The Sons of Horus* was first performed by England's Royal Ballet, and the other new work, Helgi Tomasson's *Ballet D'Isoline*, was made for the School of American Ballet's annual workshop in 1983.

A large scale neoclassical kaleidoscope in the style of Balanchine, *Ballet D'Isoline* is perhaps my favorite of Helgi Tomasson's creations. The sugary music, from a late Romantic operetta by Andre Messager, makes me imagine the declining days of the Paris Opera, when rich men went to the ballet to see their mistresses perform. The choreography, though, is better than its score. Happy ensembles block and weave in a sea of cerulean tutus; there's a lively ensemble dance for five men, and a romantic central duet lingers in memory like heavy perfume. There were quite a few pretty new faces in the cast, presumably girls from the school who are being apprenticed in this piece. If they represent the SFB school's current output, future indications look excellent.

David Bintley's *The Sons of Horus* uses a modern commissioned score, orchestrated mostly for winds and percussion, by Peter McGowan. Program notes describing ancient Egyptian deities and burial customs lead us to expect more symbolism than the ballet really contains; the suit of dances has only a vaguely Egyptian motif and no narrative development. But the company looks good in it, particularly Joanna Berman, as Isis, and Lawrence Pech, whose role as the falcon-headed Qebhsuf relies on his strong upper back, spatial command and clarity of attack.

Pech is that rare sort of dancer whose movement always looks



Tracy-Kai Maier in *Rubies*

organic. In contemporary works he becomes a native inhabitant of whatever world the choreographer has envisioned, and his classical deportment, easily elegant and unselfconscious, could be a model for American men in ballet.

As a soloist, Pech's talent has been too seldom utilized at SFB, possibly because the company now employs almost more middle-rank dancers than it knows what to do with. So far, they're often turning up in principal roles. Another attractive new soloist, Mikko Nissinen (from Finland via several European ballet companies) has made relatively few appearances, though I did see him dance a very fine *Le Corsaire* pas de deux in which he proved the most sympathetic partner SFB has found for Ludmilla Lopukhova. Anthony Randazzo, also new this year, is officially a soloist but has appeared only in principal roles, by virtue of his partnerships with Evelyn Cisneros and Karin Averty.

I saw Randazzo and Averty in

La Fille mal gardee, a ballet even I didn't much want to see again—and ended up thoroughly enjoying. I'd forgotten how hilariously funny it is, how clever Ashton's choreography is, and I hadn't counted on a new cast as engaging as this. As Colas, the poor but handsome farmer, Anthony Randazzo looked exactly right: boyish, wholesome and energetic. Karin Averty was well cast too, but then she seems able to assume almost any role in the repertory, letting her own unique personality fill in any gaps in the coaching she's been given—and making any resulting inconsistency look like a virtue. Such is the strength of her charm.

Averty's leave of absence from the Paris Opera Ballet is for one year, though I can't imagine SFB not offering her the option to stay if homesickness doesn't draw her back to Paris. Meanwhile I strongly urge Bay Area ballet fans to see her. And while you're at it, take a good look at the rest of the dancers at SFB. They're not standing still.

SGLC Plans Spring Concert On March 13

The Society of Gay and Lesbian Composers (SGLC) presents its third annual spring concert on Sunday, March 13, at 4 p.m. at the Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez, San Francisco. A donation of \$7 will be requested at the door.

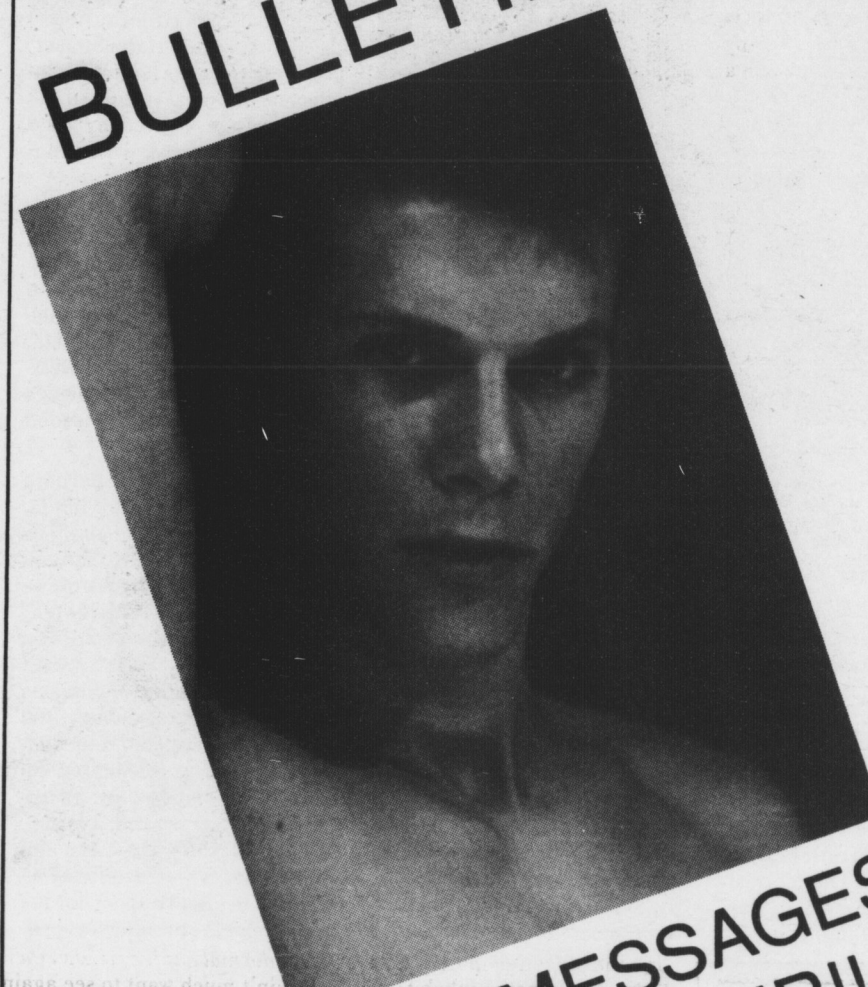
The concert will include several premieres, three of which feature local reed wizard Rach Stzar: *Chromosome* by Matthew McQueen for saxophone and piano, *Time Wears You Down*, a rock song by McQueen in collaboration with Youree Irving, and Louis Sacriste's new *Duo for Violoncello and Saxophone*, the latest in a series for Gwyneth Davis' cello and various companionate instruments.

Other first performances will include Robert Savage's *Amazonian Barcarolle* for four-handed piano, *The Faces of Love: a Cycle of Five Songs* by R. H. Wagner, and Jon O'Bergh's complete *Ghost Poem* for alto, percussion, piano and harmonium, excerpts of which were heard at a previous SGLC concert.

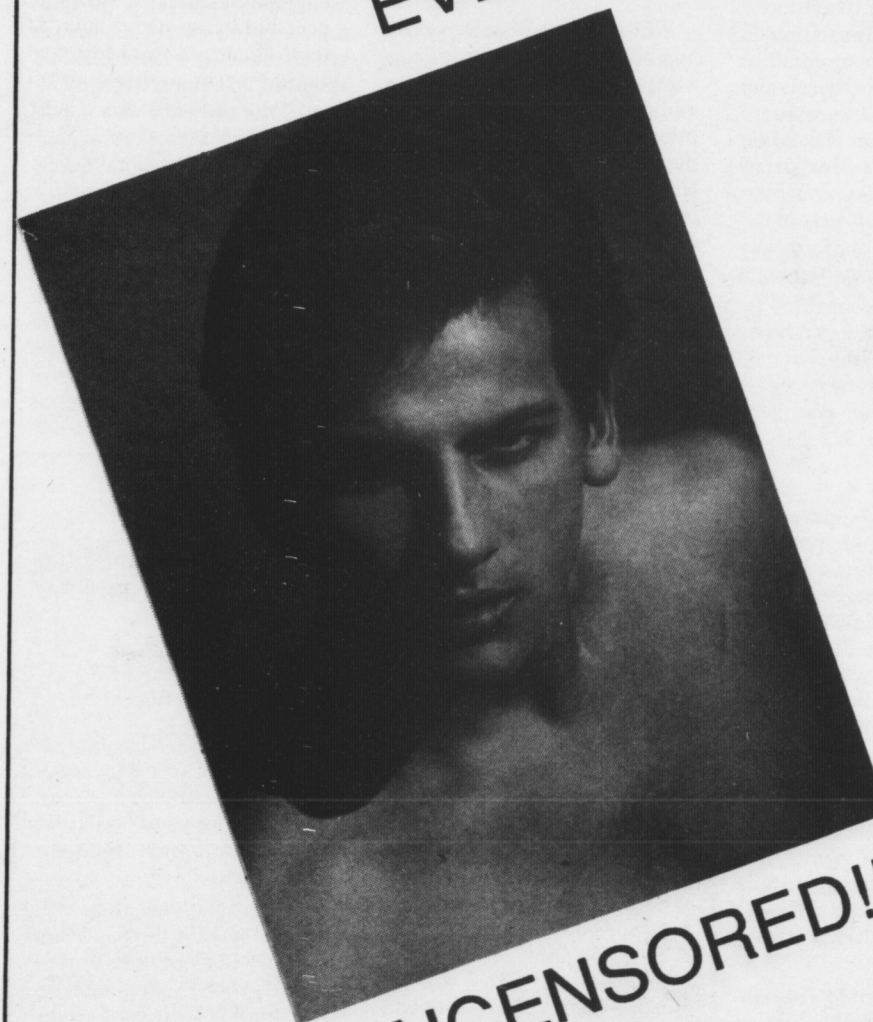
Pianist Seth Montfort will perform three of his pieces, and Stephen Damonte will present his *Rain Quartet* for flute, violin, viola, and the composer on piano.

The Society of Gay and Lesbian Composers meets on the third Thursday of every month. For more information, call 641-8003.

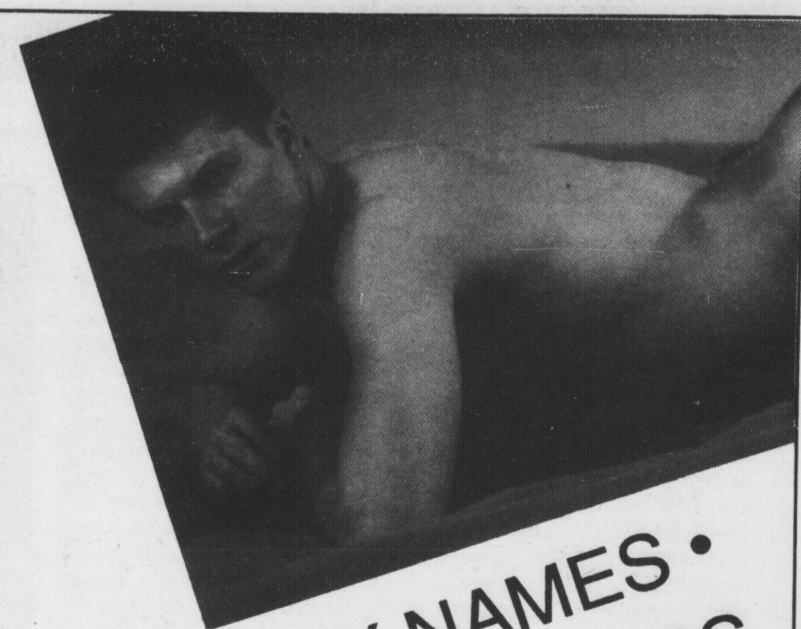
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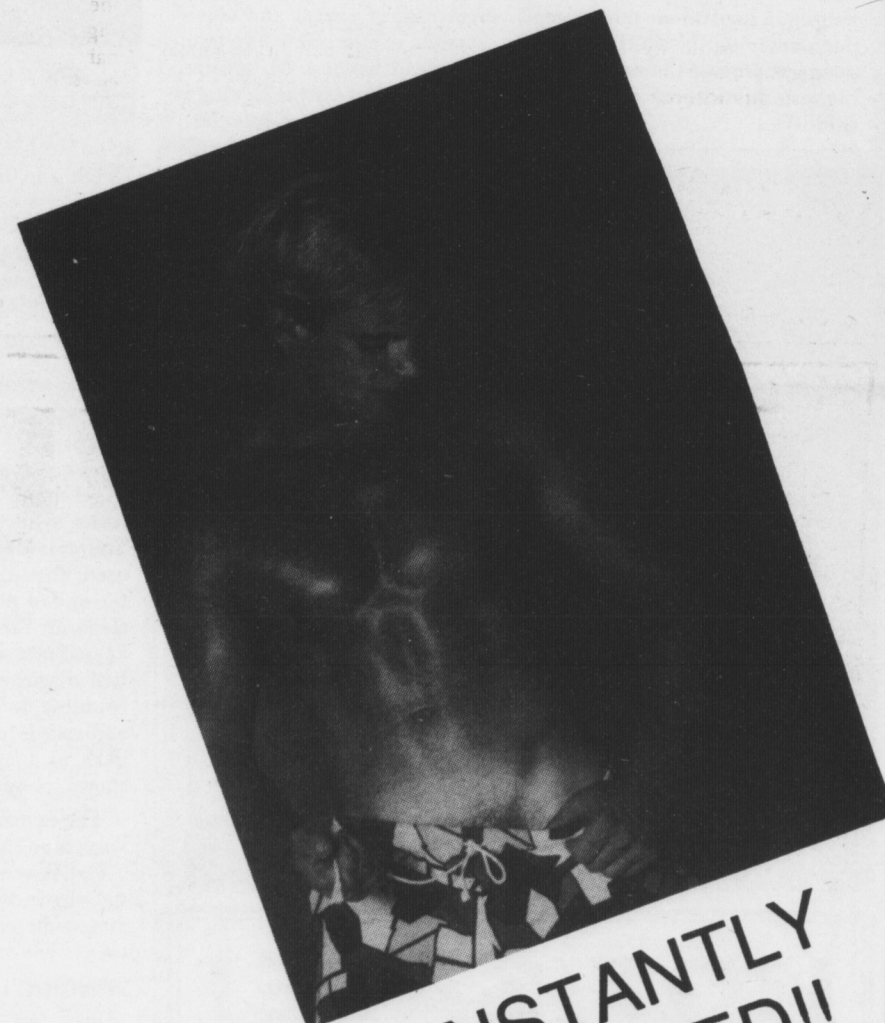
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Going Batty

Communication is the essence of any theatrical enterprise, whether it be comic or tragic in nature. Unlike film and television—which are taped—live theatre is an art form which not only acknowledges the presence of its audience but must constantly struggle to keep the audience involved in the drama at hand. Under ideal circumstances a live operatic performance (which is, after all, a form of musical theatre) has a similar responsibility to keep its audience alert, attentive and entertained. And yet it doesn't happen all that often.

The recent advent of Super-titles has helped to make the operatic experience infinitely more accessible to the public and readers of this column know that I am an ardent fan of the new technology. Rarely do I attend a fully-staged operatic performance that does not benefit from the use of Super-titles. In many ways, these titles have supplanted the need to perform operas (most of which were originally written in foreign languages) in English. In fact, some operas which were written in English are now being performed with English-language Super-titles to ensure the highest quotient of communicability!

Certain works, because of their popular appeal, maintain a fairly steady presence in the repertoire and among these *Die Fledermaus* is a perennial favorite with producers. Why? It is a handsome show to mount, easy to cast, and chock full of familiar tunes. This season alone, Strauss' Viennese charmer is being performed by professional opera companies in Chattanooga, Columbus, Detroit, Hartford, Kansas City, New York, Orange County, St. Paul, San Antonio, Santa Fe, Seattle, Toledo and Vancouver. And yet, how well *Die Fledermaus* will be performed and, more importantly, to what extent audiences might enjoy the piece, will vary widely from city to city.

Because the pacing and panache which are such critical elements of any production's success can vary so widely, one can never be sure what will happen during a performance of *Die Fledermaus*. It's a bit like attempting to cook a soufflé: even an award-winning chef who uses the proper ingredients can never guarantee a total success. Thus, in some cities, this tuneful operetta will be mounted with a great deal of charm and musicianship; in others it will go over like a lead balloon. No greater disparity could exist than what I witnessed in Lincoln Center last



Soprano Barbara Daniels tried in vain to lighten up the Met's dreary production of Strauss's *Die Fledermaus*

Across the plaza, the Metropolitan Opera presented an overblown version of *Die Fledermaus* which died its best to confuse and alienate the audience. Conductor Manuel Rosenthal's tempos were slow enough to resemble funeral dirges instead of Viennese waltzes and, for some perverse reason (perhaps looking for new ways to keep its aristocratic nose out of the Supertitle business) the Met chose to perform Strauss' comic operetta in a hopelessly ineffectual bilingual version whose dialogue was created by Otto Schenk and translated into English by Marcel Prawy.

To have the cast switching back and forth from singing Strauss' music in German to speaking Prawy's translation in what was, for the most part, totally incomprehensible English, proved to be a total waste of everyone's time. I found Otto Schenk's stage direction to be lax, leaden and ludicrous.

Although I enjoyed Barbara Daniels' full-voiced Rosalinda, David Rendall's Alfred and Barbara Kilduff's Adele, Tatiana Troyanos' Orlofsky struck me as being severely misdirected. Baritone Claudio Nicolai's Eisenstein was vocally and dramatically grating. Making his Metropolitan Opera debut as the drunken jailer, veteran comedian Sid Caesar was unintelligible, unfunny and plagued by an extremely poor sound system. Michael Devlin's Dr. Falke and Franz Mazura's warden Frank attempted to offer support but the majority of the evening was really a lost cause.

As is the case with so many recent Met performances, the audience responded enthusiastically to the company's frighteningly high quotient of schlock. Subscribers gushed over Gunther Schneider-Siemssen's gargantuan sets (which are mammoth but effective) and Peter J. Hall's elaborate costumes. Older members of the audience who watch Sid Caesar every week on *Your Show of Shows* during the 1950s dotted on the aging comedian's incoherent mumbling. When the Met's turntable went into action in Act II, one could almost sense the audience shooting its wad in dumb admiration and, at that moment, any doubts I might have had about how well-informed the Met audience is were quickly put to rest.

While Market Beudert was an appealing Alfred, James Billings a pleasingly sneering Orlofsky and Richard McKee a jovial prison warden Frank, I was most impressed by soprano Elizabeth Holleque's performance as Rosalinda. A statuesque woman whose strong comedic skills and solid voice give her an Amazonian stage presence, Holleque has recently been making a name for herself in regional houses. I think she's quite an impressive talent and certainly someone who bears watching.

fall when both the Metropolitan Opera and the New York City Opera revived their *Fledermaus* productions in an attempt to bolster ticket sales. The contrast was not just bizarre; it was downright frightening.

Other than financial resources, why should there be such variance in the quality of production? Partially because different performing editions of *Die Fledermaus* are used by different opera companies. In those situations where the Ruth and Thomas Martin translation is used, the dramatic situation at the end of Act I clearly sets the stage for Rosalinda to make an appearance at Count Orlofsky's ball disguised as a Hungarian countess. In other editions, the audience is left completely in the dark as to why this lady has shown up and who invited her.

The moral of the story? Why stage a work which is subtitled "The Revenge of the Bat" if nobody in the audience understands the motive for revenge?

WINGING IT

When New York City Opera's second string cast stepped into the company's production of *Die Fledermaus* last October, illness forced the talented Robert Orth to withdraw from the role of Eisenstein and conductor Imre Palló's tempos left the rest of the cast gasping for breath. As a result, the performance I attended had a strange imbalance to it. My initial suspicion was that the new set of principals lacked sufficient rehearsal time. Yet, despite the slapdash, instant opera feeling of the performance, the audience had itself a reasonably good time.

Veteran Jack Harrold's hammy shtick as the drunken jailer Froch drew hysterical screams of laughter from one woman in the audience (his wife?) which, as they echoed through the cavernous New York State Theatre became downright embarrassing. Special credit goes to petite Constance Hauman who, on the night of her Lincoln Center debut, suddenly found herself sliding across

A Tuneful Tribute To Tinseltown

Gay Men's Chorus Launches 10th Anniversary Season

The San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus (SFGMC) will launch its tenth anniversary season by presenting a salute to Hollywood's musical heyday in *Take 2: Music from the Silver Screen*, a special spring concert with the Los Angeles Gay Men's Chorus and cabaret star Samantha Samuels, Saturday, March 26, 8 p.m., at Mission High School, 18th and Church Streets, San Francisco.

Highlighting medleys from favorite film musicals, the concert will include songs by Noel Coward and Leonard Bernstein as well as selections from Gilbert and Sullivan's operetta *The Pirates of Penzance* and a tribute to Disney's classic animations.

Conducted by S.F.'s Gregg Tallman and L.A.'s Jon Bailey, the performance will also feature *Men About Town* and *CoLa*, ensemble singing groups from each organization.

Numbering more than 100 singing members, the San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus, during the past decade, appeared in numerous Bay Area civic events and performed nationwide in cities including New York, Washington, D.C., Boston, Seattle, Minneapolis, and Dallas.

Tickets, priced at \$10, \$12, \$15 and \$20 in advance, can be purchased by calling (415) 863-8326, or at the door the night of the concert for \$12, \$14, \$17 and \$22.

BAY AREA REPORTER B. A. R. BAZAAR

Mr. Marcus

All Roads Lead To The Windy City

Those of you who have been wondering if there will be a weekend package "deal" for the 10th Annual International Mr. Leather contest in Chicago the weekend of May 27-30 can rest now, but not for long. The package deal will cost \$425 (double occupancy) or \$525 (single occupancy) for round-trip airfare, reserved seats at the contest, hotel accommodations (Executive House), airport transfers, and a helluva weekend celebration. I don't even want to hear anyone crying to me. The deadline for full payment is 27 April with a 50 percent deposit now!

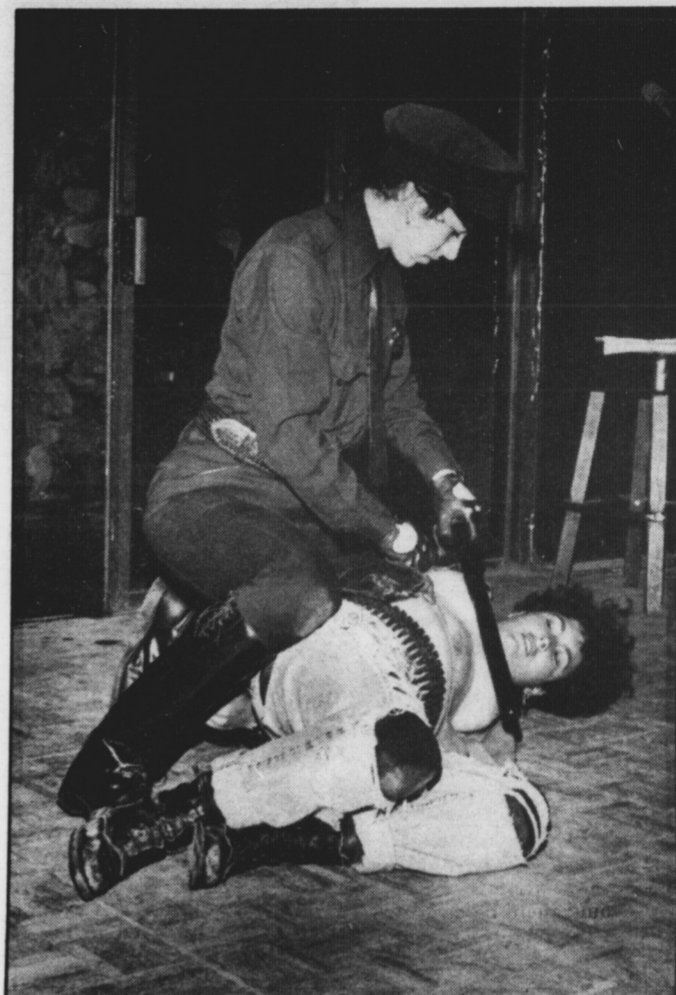
The weekend package in Chicago includes several parties, receptions, reserved seating at the contest, the Black & Blue Ball, and your chance to meet all the hunks in leather from all over the U.S., not to mention all that pulchritude that comes out from the surrounding states of Iowa, Nebraska, Indiana, Michigan, and Wisconsin—all those hot farm boys eager to learn from you city slickers the lore, ecstasy, and wonderment of leather! Put your money where your mouth is: Contact Vern Stewart at The Navigator, 2047 Market St., 864-0401.

Don't Hesitate. Get your buddies together now because the site of the contest this year is not as large as the Park West where it was held in previous years. The demand for tickets will be tremendous for this, the 10th Anniversary of the legendary Chicago leather extravaganza.

The Executive Hotel is quite swank, with views overlooking the Chicago River, and you'll fly on Eastern A/L departing SFO Friday morning, 27 May, and return Monday, 30 May. Don't be left out. This will be the biggie! Needless to say, San Francisco will be well represented with several contestants. Watch this space next week for the schedule of contests to be held here to send our finest to Chicago!

It was a busy weekend all around, and the AIDS Emergency Fund seemed to be in the spotlight in all circles. While the new honorary co-chairs of AEF (Bob Ross, Louise Molinari, and Danny Williams) were being introduced at the kick-off dinner, Ray Chalker and the staff of the Rawhide were hosting the Cattleman's Ball, a benefit for the AEF. Everyone in attendance at the ball was all gussied up with classy outfits galore, and even Bruce from Sausalito was having a ball (or two). Wayne Friday and Ron Huberman were perusing the line dancers, who were putting on a flashy display with their intricate dance routines.

Across Market Street at the Culinary Arts Academy, AEF Chairman Hank Cook was getting geared up for the ceremony that saw the SF-Eagle, the Penny Project, the AIDS Walk, Coming Home Bingo, the Castro Lions,



It was fantasy time at the Endup last week in a benefit for Intl. Ms Leather (Photo: Photo Graphics/Darlene)

many friends are grieving and will have the opportunity to remember him at a memorial service planned for Sunday, March 20, at Unitarian Chapel (Franklin and Geary) beginning at 1500 hours.

Monday, network newscasts and television news shows told of the untimely death of Divine—the cult goddess of camp and circumstance who died of asphyxiation in a Los Angeles lodging house. In his many appearances here, I was fortunate to be a co-MC with Divine at one of Sanford Kellman's Halloween extravaganzas. The star of stage and screen was absolutely outrageous every time out. His strident stage presence belied a quiet, sensitive and caring person who in recent years was rising to a zenith with recordings that are the rage in Europe today. His latest film, *Hairspray*, currently screening at the Kabuki, was the scene last Monday night with a swarm of loyal fans attending one of the performances in mourning garb. May they rest in peace!

But for all the accolades handed out, you the public are responsible for the successes of the AIDS Emergency Fund. Though Sharon and myself are no longer the honorary co-chairs, our commitment is as strong today as it was last February when we accepted the honor. Louise Molinari, Bob Ross, and Danny Williams are equally committed, and this will be a helluva year for AEF!

The community was once again saddened last week. That spritely, talented graphics artist, David Marcum, passed away last Sunday. His

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A likely pair at the Endup fantasy fundraiser March 2 (Photo: Photo Graphics/Darlene)

Marcus

(Continued from previous page)

you can learn the art of posing at the City Athletic Club Sunday, March 13, beginning at 1830 hours. Kris Brooks and Ed Brown will give instruction in compulsory poses and how to develop

a routine, sponsored by Physique '88.

Speaking of posing, this Saturday, 19 March, they're having an erotic auction at the Endup beginning at 1300 hours, and bodybuilders will be there for an exhibition as well as affording you a chance to bid on oiling them down. Danny Williams and

Karen Ripley will M/C, and it's a benefit for the '88 Parade Committee.

Robert Roberts' tattoos (Mad Dog) are on display at My Place until the 14th, followed by Paul Edmonds' abstracts opening March 15. March 29, the popular Jim Leff will have his art on display for two weeks. Remind you of the old Ambush, does it? You bet! Hi C.B.! Is Norman divorced yet?

Friday, March 18, they're having a big to-do at the California Club for Bob Golovich, another community dude who's done so much for various groups and people. It's at the Calif. Club from 1900 to 2230 and it looks like a big turnout.

The Barbary Coasters M/C is celebrating its 22nd Anniversary at My Place March 19 from 1900-2200 while Michael Chase presents a beer bust the same night from 2000-2200 featuring male strip entertainment called "Aint No Monkey Business" (I hope not!), a 50/50 raffle, all for the AIDS Emergency Fund.

You can help Arthur Evans celebrate publication of his new book, *Cod of Ecstasy*, Tuesday, 24 March, at Modern Times Bookstore (968 Valencia at 21st) from 1930 hours.

And Sunday, 27 March, Roger and Debra Greene will moderate a discussion on bodybuilding supplements and (aha!) steroids. They're well-known bodybuilding trainers, and it takes place at City Athletic Club for only \$5.

If none of the aforementioned turns you on, check out *Le Salon's* latest release, *Dirt Busters*, another torso, tease, tantalizing, twisted video featuring some rather beefy monsters jacking, er, uh jizzing it up. It has more grunts and groans than Tina getting in drag. The newest "darling" of the porn circuit, Vladimir Correa, appears in this 90-minute color orgy. It's a good thing he's so young—this dude is on every tube in town. Check it out with your favorite LeSalon clerk—tell them Jeff sent you!

The 15th Annual Community Awards take place April 9 and already the "nominating parties" are in effect. It's a Grand Ducal Council function. After all the nominees are in, you can vote on 18th & Castro at the Hibernia Bank Voting Booth from 0900-1600 that day (April 2). The winners will be announced at 240 Golden Gate Ave. (Don't that hall have a name?) You can buy an \$8 ticket in advance from Kokpit, SF-Eagle, Polk Gulch, Men's Room



Tom Rodgers auctioned off leather at the Eagle for the Castro Lions (Photo: Rink)

or the Galleon. Last chance to nominate is Friday, 11 March, at 1900 hours at Castro Station and 2100 at Francines. Get busy!

And everyone's turned on by the Hair Extravaganza coming up at the Pilsner Inn April 10—especially John Muir. If your pals are sprouting beards all of a sudden, they're probably vying for Best Beard, Silver Beard, Couple or Group, and Biggest Beard (biggest what?) so start growing!

While I'm at it, don't forget the SF-Eagles' 7th Anniversary party coming up April 18 to 20—get those pins out! And hey Bruce Trafficante, where's that three-star pin from the 3rd Anniversary?

The current Mr. CMC Carnival James Buhler was smitten by a dude in Phoenix when he went down there for the rodeo and now plans to continue his education there and possibly marry! With the help of that SFPDDE dude in Alameda, who knows: Fairy tales could come true, it could happen to you, if you're hung, er, uh, young at heart!

And does Deena Jones know that a Men Behind Bars IV video was smuggled into Los Angeles and a big TV producer saw it and is thinking of casting Deena in a cameo role on *Amen*? I didn't think so—let's just say it's "under consideration" accord-

ing to my source!

Get well wishes to Bob Cramer (Emp. III) and John K. Brown, both on the mend from various maladies. Good to see Richard Ruggiero out and about, causing stares and swoons in the Castro last Monday. And apologies to Don Johnson—I goofed again—nobody's perfect, eh Sable Clown?

Don't forget the Sisters of P.I. big basketball game between the Slatmoms (women) and the Hot Shots (men) Saturday, April 2. It's a benefit for the Quilt Tour so get your \$6 advance ticket at Headlines!

See you 'round the campus, stay out of the bushes, keep your legs crossed, and get rid of those pennies. Cans and jars are all over town!

The 'Sketch-Off'

On Tuesday, March 15, the Gay Men's Sketch Class celebrates its first anniversary with an open sketch-off party called, "Beware the Ides of March and the Gay Men's Sketch Class."

The party will be celebrated at 1229 Folsom St., between 8th and 9th Streets. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. and sketching goes from 7 p.m. until 10 p.m. Sketchers should bring all their own materials. There is a \$10 donation. Call Mark at 621-6294 to make a reservation.



Those on hand seemed to enjoy the fantasies at the Endup March 2 (Photo: Photo Graphics/Darlene)

Ten Gallon, White Tie & Tails

Would Norman Rockwell Have Liked This Gay Scene? Probably

by Bob Woolhouse

It was a Norman Rockwell kind of gay bar. If that homespun artist of nostalgic Americana had even portrayed a gay scene, it would have been this one.

The place was the Rawhide II. The event was the 3rd Annual Cattleman's Ball. It was a benefit for the AIDS Emergency Fund.

There was round dancing. There was square dancing. And there was dancing in no known geometrical pattern whatsoever.

At the Rawhide you do not stand at the bar, staring into middle distance. You jump in feet first and keep moving. It's sort of Aerobics Circa 1900.

Let me explain that when you come from Newark, N.J., you don't have much background in the Country & Western way of life. My awareness of that scene was based on *Oklahoma*—the musical comedy, not the state. I thought it was all fringed surreys, ruffled petticoats, and Agnes de Mille ballet.

I wouldn't know the difference between Patsy Cline and Patsy ReKline. If someone said, "Name a country/western star," I would think of Sissy Spacek.

Arriving at the Rawhide in plaid shirt and 501's, I looked more like a Castro slowpoke from the last decade rather than a bunkhouse cowpoke from the last century. I realized that I was wrong for the part. This being the Cattleman's Ball, there were more tuxes and tails than Monte Carlo Night at the Comstock—the club on Sutter St., as opposed to the lode in the Sierra foothills.

Accessories included ten gallon hats and shit-kickin' boots. At least I think they were ten gallon and shit kickin', since I have never heard of any other kind.

Somehow two quart hats and high kicking boots don't sound right.

In such a dance hall setup, of course there had to be women, either real or imagined. They were on hand in buttons and bows, spicing up the scene... the drag kind... the straight kind... and the garden variety, or at least the wheatfield variety of women from the gay community.

There were dance hall hostesses turned out in hoopskirts, draped bodies and bustles, and all manner of dressmaking devices designed to make the human shape entirely different from all original intents and purposes. There were lesbians in full cowboy regalia, looking like Gary Cooper in High Noon.

Among the personalities were a glittering Diamond Lil and a topheavy Dolly Parton.

But the theme of the evening was That's Dancin'. Most of it was the touch variety, where partners actually held onto each other and finished the dance with each other, rather than somebody else or by themselves.

Some duos looked as though they had practiced together for life. Others looked as though they were pumping for oil. Some were Country & Western Astaire-Rogers teams. Others appeared to be ploughing a cornfield without benefit of a horse.

Still it didn't matter. It wasn't a competitive situation. Free



Everyone had a gay old time at the Cattleman's Ball

(Photo: Rink)

form was the keynote. You could do pretty much what you wanted as long as you didn't try to corral the other dancers or cause a stampede.

Suddenly after a signal from the DJ's, dozens of patrons formed two lines facing each other. The lines extended the entire length of the dance floor. From there on, it was a strict routine with definite choreography. The level of competency ranged from perfect unison to utter chaos. It resembled trout time for *A Chorus Line*.

In between all the high falutin' carrying on came the precision dance groups. From the men's community came the Saddle Tramps. From the women's, the South Bay Stompers. They defined what exhibition Country & Western dance is all about.

I could have danced all night, if only I'd have known how. But as Patti Page and the Tennessee Waltz finished the next set, I departed the Rawhide and the Cattleman's Ball.

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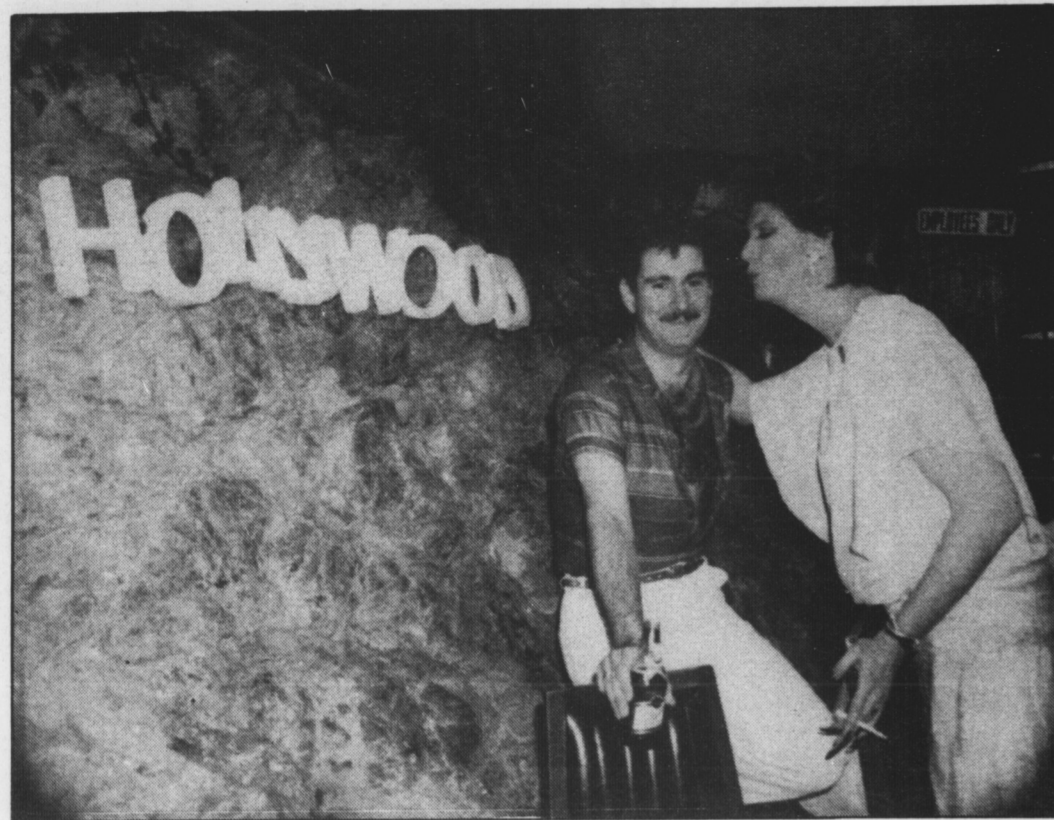
This particular effort might be a little disorganized. However, if I can get the Tavern Guild to the correct location, as opposed to my last effort, and try to get some dates correct, I think it could end up making as much sense as it always does.

I won't even put you through the mental anguish of trying to figure out just what I am going on about, but instead will reveal that yes, I am making an early deadline, due to my journey to Los Angeles, and this way I won't hold up the presses (not that there was a chance that would happen) by turning in some refreshing tea on LaLa Land at the last minute.

So the fate of my latest holiday will have to wait until some other column when I feel you might be in need of some Travelog Tidbits from my Torrid Typewriter.

Thanks go to Danny Williams, Marga Gomez, Scott Johnston, Samm Gray, Mark (Trixi) Luko, Bob Sandner, the lovely Tatiana, and the many wellwishers who joined me for my birthday party at the Mint. Together we raised more than \$600 for Project Open Hand during my idea of a fun afternoon. Thanks also to Harry Britt and the Board of Supervisor's for my Certificate of Honor.

Many parties and much hoopla is occurring at Elaine's on Guerrero near 15th, and Danny, Michael, Mark, Lola, Inga, and many other madcap people are on hand at all times. If you haven't been in Elaine's you



Mark gets a birthday kiss from Tatiana at his b-day party at the Mint (Photo: Rink)

should definitely check it out for yourself, or your next party, as they have lots of space, plus a patio that looks ideal for summertime beer busts and barbecues.

Since this particular column is destined to bounce back and forth, I will bounce ahead to the Tavern Guild, which I erroneously reported was having its last meeting at Gilmore's, when it

should have been at the Gangway. The next meeting, to be held this Tuesday at 1 p.m., will positively be held at Gilmore's, located on your way to the top of Nob Hill at Hyde and California. It looks like there could be another Lips and Ruehl teaming for more of their witty commentary.

Besides wandering to the Southland I do get down the Peninsula for surprise visits to

Brian at the Whiskey Gulch Saloon, which is a right-nice watering hole, and you are most likely to get an earful of the local gossip, which tends to be on the juicy side.

I attended the opening night party for Scandals, formerly the Sound of Music, on Turk Street, and they have certainly done a number on the place. With their staff, sound system, and decor, Scandals looks to be a hit!

Friday night, besides being when the COITS depart for Reno, will be the last two nominating parties for the Gay Community Awards. The parties will be at the Castro Station at 7 p.m. and at Francines at 9 p.m. The Awards & Show will be held April 9, and yes there will be details in a future column.

The Ides of March are upon us, and also an auction that will be held this Monday at the Mother Lode. The proceeds will go to the

AIDS Emergency Fund, and yes you can drop off items, or donations, at the Mother Lode. Your hostesses will be Kristina and Davida, with the head auctioneer being J. D. Killian. A pat on the back to the staff, management, and customers of the Mother Lode for their endless support of the community.

The Gangway always seems to have something going on also, and as of late there is no exception. Sunday brunch is back on the second Sunday of every month, and they will be doing a special birthday brunch for Grand Duke I, Daddy Joe Roland, Sunday the 20th, from 10 a.m. 'til 2 p.m., with a \$1, or more, donation requested for the AIDS Emergency Fund on behalf of the Penny People.

That same Sunday will also be the date for a "Luck Of The Irish" auction at B.J.'s in San Rafael which will feature the Barbary Coast Cloggers at 4:30 and 6 p.m. This party and auction starts at 3 p.m. and will benefit the Marin AIDS Fund. For more info call 454-3722.

Ginger's Too, 43 6th Street, presents an evening of nostalgia and dish with the fabulous Michelle Sunday, March 13, at 7 p.m.; \$5 admission. A portion of the proceeds goes to the AIDS Emergency Fund.

I must admit this will be a short column, even though I could mention that Gary, a.k.a. Beverly, currently of the New Bell, has been seen checking out his new neighborhood of Buchanan and Haight at those ? hours, or I could tell you how many alarm clocks have been bought for Trixi after a recent A.M. mix-up. Yes, this is the same Trixi who is playing piano at the Galleon on Wednesday nights. Or we could take note that a Castro Street clothing merchandiser has sort of not appeared in this column once again. How about Uncle Bert's Village now open for business with some remodeling in its future, and also with Rip Clark on the planks? Or I could just say toodle-loo!

Karl's Calendar

THURSDAY 3/10

Mr. May Bare Chest Contest, S.F. Eagle, 10 p.m.

FRIDAY 3/11

COITS Skidazzle '88, Reno, \$128, for info call 626-4726 or 824-6114.

Nominating Parties for Gay Community Awards, 7 p.m., Castro Station; 9 p.m., Francine's.

Amy Nitrate Show, Mint, 8 p.m., benefit AIDS Foundation.

Chuck Largent Revue, Kimo's, 10:30 p.m., \$5 cover.

SATURDAY 3/12

Golda Leuer's Golden Jubilee Party, Men's Room, 3-6 p.m.

Auction and Benefit Drawing, Watering Hole, 4-8 p.m., benefit Coming Home Hospice, hostess Candi Del Ray.

AIDS Benefit to Ward 5A, SFGH, Loading Zone, Chinese food, donations accepted.

Investiture of New Kupid, Kopkit, 7:30 p.m., food.

Gina's Birthday Party, Kimo's, 8 p.m., no cover, show 9 p.m., M.C. Lola Lust.

SUNDAY 3/13

California Eagles St. Patrick's Day Beer Bust, S.F. Eagle, 3-6 p.m., \$7.

Michelle Show, Gingers Too, 7 p.m., \$5, portion to benefit AIDS Emergency Fund.

TUESDAY 3/15

Tavern Guild Meeting, Gilmore's, 1 p.m.

Leather Drawings, S.F. Eagle, five drawings starting at 9 p.m.

THURSDAY 3/17

St. Patrick's Day Party, Kimo's, party and fun all day.

St. Patrick's Day Party, Trax, all day, \$1 drink special.

O'Muff's St. Patrick's Day Party, Men's Room, 5-8 p.m., corned beef and cabbage.

Emperor IX Bobby Pace's Annual St. Patrick's Day Party, Kopkit, 8 p.m. 'til? show, auction, casino, food, 50/50 raffle. Benefit Coming Home Hospice and BASH.

St. Patrick's Day Party, Mint, 8 p.m.

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FRIDAY 11

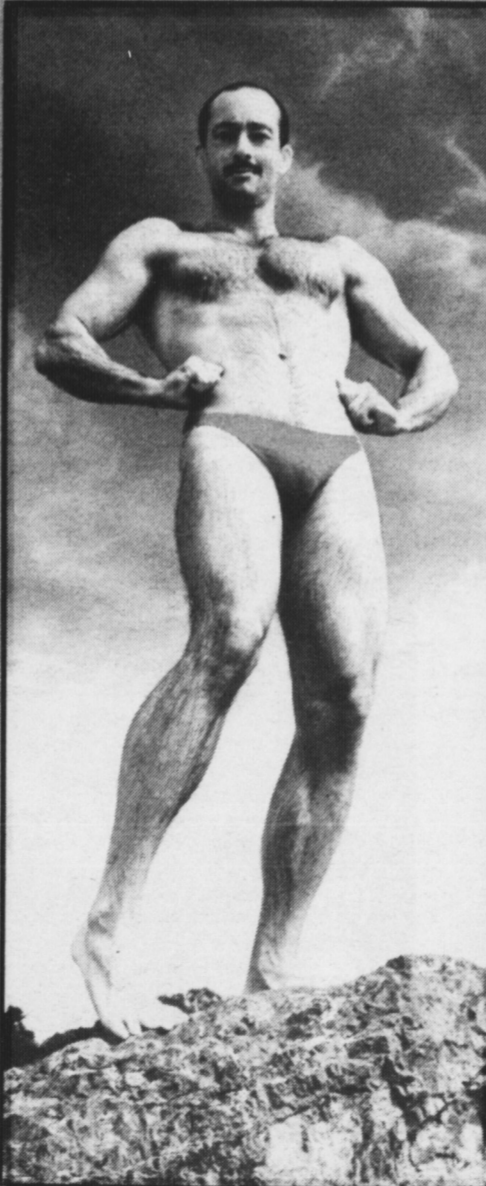
- **In Circles and Talking To The Sun:** musical double bill. The Studio at Theatre Rhinoceros, 2926 16th St., S.F., 8:30 PM, \$8. *In Circles* is the circular play by Gertrude Stein set to music by Al Carmines, and *Talking To The Sun*, about New York, love, and the movies based on the poems of Frank O'Hara with music by Christopher Berg, will have its world premiere. Call 861-5079 for tickets.
- **Puttin' On The Glitz:** featuring female impersonators and cabaret guys, Sutter's Mill, 77 Battery St., S.F., 9 and 11 PM, \$10. Call 788-8379 for reservations.
- **Fools Rush Inn:** stage performance, Studio Eremos, Project Artaud, 401 Alabama St., S.F., 8 PM, \$8. A new play by Joe Besscker produced by J.B. Enterprises and directed by Michael Lilly. Call 626-6715 for tickets.
- **A Portrait of Oscar Wilde:** stage performance, Music Hall Theatre, 931 Larkin St., S.F., 8 PM, \$20. Lighthouse Entertainment presents Steve Alexander's three-act drama on the ill-fated poet. Call 776-8996 for tickets.
- **Seth Montfort:** piano concert of Romantic studies and transcriptions by Chopin, Liszt, Scriabin, Rachmaninoff, Gershwin, and Montfort, San Francisco MCC, 150 Eureka St., S.F., 8 PM, \$5.
- **Betsy Rose:** music, Sisterspirit Coffeehouse, 1040 Park Ave., San Jose, doors open 8 PM, concert begins 8:30 PM, \$3-\$7 sliding scale. Author of *Meg Christian's "Glad To Be A Woman,"* Betsy Rose performs original political, spiritual, and social statements on guitar and piano.
- **Cal vs. UCLA:** women's basketball outing with University of California Gay and Lesbian Association, Harmon Gymnasium, UC Berkeley campus, 7:30 PM, \$4. Proceeds to benefit the UCGALA Scholarship Fund. Call 465-0736 for more information.
- **Stonewall Law Caucus and Lesbians In Law:** present Pat Norman and Janet Ryan speaking about the March on Washington, Moot Court Room, 6th Floor, Golden Gate University, 536 Mission St., S.F., 12:15-1:45 PM. With the videos *March on Washington* and *Meaning of the March: Outcome and Effect*. Also, a representative of the NAMES Project will present a video on the quilt from 2 to 2:45 PM. Corey Weinstein and Priscilla Alexander will speak on Discrimination in AIDS Testing from 3 to 3:45 PM, and there will be a reception for lesbian and gay alumni in the Faculty Room (Room 623) from 4:30 to 6:30 PM (refreshments provided). Part of the 7th Annual Individual Human Rights Week.
- **Black and White Men Together:** East Bay rap, 3135 Courtland, Oakland, 7:30 PM. Call 261-7922 for more information.
- **Fraternal Order of Gays:** game fest, FOG House, 304 Gold Mine Dr., S.F., 8 PM, refreshments. Call 641-0999 for more information.
- **Gay and Lesbian Outreach to Elders:** legal clinic for gay and lesbian seniors, 10 AM to noon, free. Call 626-7000 for an appointment.
- **Life in the Plague Years: AIDS and the Shadow:** monthly lecture series on current issues in men's psychology, 2827-A Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 7:30 PM, \$5. Presented by Gordon Murray; sponsored by the Men's Center for Counseling and Psychotherapy. Call 644-8262 or 644-1778 for more information.

SUNDAY 13

- **Different Spokes/San Francisco:** Gerbode Valley Mtn. bike ride. Meet at McLaren Lodge in Golden Gate Park, S.F., at 10 AM. Hilly, moderate pace; 25 miles. Helmuts requested; rain cancels. Bring money for Sausalito Ferry.
- **Different Spokes/San Francisco:** decide and ride. Meet at 1 PM at McLaren Lodge in Golden Gate Park, S.F. to decide on a ride.
- **Black and White Men Together:** hike at Chabot Regional Park; bring lunch. Call 261-7922 for more information.
- **Gourmet Vegetarian Potluck:** 7 PM in San Francisco. Call 775-6143 for more information.
- **Men Seeking Relationships:** mixer/workshop, San Francisco MCC, 150 Eureka St., S.F., 7:30-10 PM, \$5. Sponsored by the Partners Institute. Call 343-8541 for more information.
- **HIV+ Social Club:** meeting. Call 863-2301 or 285-4942 for more information.
- **Society of Lesbian and Gay Composers:** spring concert, Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez, S.F., 4 PM, \$7. With works by Matthew McQueen, Lois Sacrista, Robert Savage, R.H. Wagner, Jon O'Bergh, Seth Montfort, and Stephen Damonte. Call 641-8003 for more information.
- **T Dance:** Club St. John, 170 W. St. John St., San Jose, doors open 4 PM, wet jockey shorts show 6:30 PM, \$2. Call (408) 947-1667 for more information.
- **In Circles and Talking To The Sun:** musical double bill (see Friday listing for details).
- **Puttin' On The Glitz:** featuring female impersonators and cabaret guys, 8 PM, \$8 (see Friday listing for details).
- **Portrait of Oscar Wilde:** stage performance, 2 and 7 PM, \$18 (see Friday listing for details).
- **Tropical Breeze:** music, El Rio, 3158 Mission St., S.F., 4-8 PM, \$5. Latin, Brazilian, and pop.
- **Caylia Chalken:** music, The Galleon, 718 14th St., S.F., 5 PM, \$5.
- **Here's To The Ladies:** music with Katielle Collins, Kami Herron, and Lauren Mayer, The Galleon, 718 14th St., S.F., 8 PM, \$6.
- **Variety Show:** singing, dancing, comedy, and improvisations, Bench and Bar, 120 11th St., Oakland, 10 PM.
- **Sandy Van and Molly Breen:** comedy, Big Mama's, 22615 Mission Blvd., Hayward, 5 PM.

SATURDAY 12

- **Our Comedy, Ourselves:** celebration of Women's History Month with Diane Amos, Marga Gomez, Kat 'n Jo, and MC Josh Kornbluth, Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez, S.F., 8:15 PM, \$7 in advance, \$8 at the door. Tickets at Aquarius Records. Call 282-2317 for more information.
- **Billy DeFrank Lesbian and Gay Community Center:** 7th anniversary dance, 1040 Park Ave., San Jose, 9 PM-1 AM, \$3. DJ, non-alcoholic refreshments, no age limit. Call (408) 293-AGAY for more information.
- **In Circles and Talking To The Sun:** musical double bill (see Friday listing for details).
- **Puttin' On The Glitz:** featuring female impersonators and cabaret guys (see Friday listing for details).
- **Fools Rush Inn:** stage performance (see Friday listing for details).
- **A Portrait of Oscar Wilde:** stage performance, 2 and 8 PM (see Friday listing for details).
- **San Francisco Hiking Club:** ad-lib hike on Mt. Tam. Meet under the big Safeway sign at Market and Dolores, S.F., at 9:45 AM. Moderate, 8-10 miles. Bring lunch and water; heavy rain cancels.
- **Pool Tournament:** The Overpass, 482-A Hayes St., S.F., 4 PM, \$4 entry fee (includes well drink, beer, or wine), cash prizes. San Francisco Pool Association 8-Ball rules apply.
- **East Bay FrontRunners:** Strawberry Canyon run. From UC Berkeley campus take Piedmont Ave./Gayley Rd. to Stadium Rim Way. Go East (uphill) to N. Canyon Rd. and continue past tennis courts, botanical garden, and Lawrence Hall of Science. Take sharp right to Space Sciences Bldg. parking lot. Mostly flat, 3-4 mile loop. Call 939-3579 or 261-3246 for more information.
- **San Francisco FrontRunners:** Meet at Stow Lake Boathouse in Golden Gate Park, S.F., at 9 AM. No-host brunch follows; beginners welcome. Call 922-1435 or 821-3719 for more information.



The Arcadia Bodybuilding Society will sponsor a posing seminar at the City Athletic Club March 13 (Photo: Savage Photography)

MONDAY 14

- **Robert Ferro:** will read and autograph his new novel, *Second Son*, A Different Light bookstore, 489 Castro St., S.F., 7:30 PM, free. Call 431-0891 for more information.
- **Sunday Afternoon Sketch Group:** drawing class for gay men, 109 Carl St., S.F., 1-4 PM, \$6. This week's model is Scott O'Hara. Call 421-0316 for more information.
- **S.F. Lesbian/Gay Freedom Day Parade and Celebration Committee:** general membership meeting, 1519 Mission St., S.F., 5 PM. Board of Directors meeting 2 PM.
- **Arcadia Bodybuilding Society:** posing class, City Athletic Club, 2500 Market St., S.F., 6:30-8:30 PM, \$5. Call 431-6254 for more information.
- **Skiers and Gay Athletes:** monthly membership meeting, St. John's Church Hall, 5th Ave. and Irving, S.F., 7 PM. Call 928-1736 for more information.
- **Gay/Lesbian Sierrans:** hike to Rocky Ridge. Meet at the Church and Market Pay 'n Save at 9 AM to carpool, free (bring lunch and liquids). Very strenuous, boots necessary. Call 387-8453 for more information.
- **San Francisco Hiking Club:** Geology Beach Walk I: From the End of the L Streetcar to Ft. Funston and Beyond. Meet at Harvey Milk Plaza, Market and Castro, S.F., at 9:40 AM. Wear tennis or walking shoes and bring warm sweater or windbreaker; bring lunch and water (swimsuit and towel optional); rain cancels.
- **Different Spokes/San Francisco:** Two Peaks and a Pond ride. Meet at McLaren Lodge in Golden Gate Park, S.F., at 10 AM. Helmuts requested; rain cancels.
- **San Francisco FrontRunners:** 21st St. run. Meet at 3650 21st St., S.F., at 10 AM for 2-3 mile run around Dolores Park; meeting will follow. Call 922-1435 or 821-3719 for more information.
- **South Bay Lesbian and Gay Volleyball:** open gym, \$2. Call (408) 732-2306 for more information.
- **Gay Volleyball:** Petro Jr. High, 19th and DeHaro, 11 AM.
- **Different Spokes/San Francisco:** decide and ride. Meet at McLaren Lodge in Golden Gate Park, S.F., at 10 AM.
- **Taunani Masters Swim Team:** practice, King Pool, Third and Carroll sts., S.F., 10 AM. Call 285-5659 for more information.
- **Gay and Lesbian Outreach to Elders:** brunch for older gay men (60+) and friends, Francis of Assisi, 145 Guerrero St., S.F., noon to 3 PM, bring food to share. Call 626-7000 for more information.
- **High Tech Gays:** monthly meeting, Billy DeFrank Lesbian and Gay Community Center, 1040 Park Ave., San Jose, potluck 6:30 PM, business meeting 8 PM. The guest speaker will be Ken Heinebach.
- **Community Healing Service:** sponsored by the AIDS Interfaith Network of the East Bay, Lake Merritt United Methodist Church, 3755 13th Ave., Oakland, 3 PM. Call 482-3937 for more information.

TUESDAY 15

- **Roberts Achtenberg For Assembly:** community-wide fundraising bash, Green Room, War Memorial Building, 401 Van Ness Ave., S.F., 5:30-7:30 PM, \$125. No-host bar, hors d'oeuvres, entertainment. Call 921-4469 for more information.
- **Lesbians, Gays, and Human Rights in Latin America:** speakers on Nicaragua, Columbia, Peru, and Argentina, West Madrone Room, MLK Student Union, UC Berkeley, 7-9 PM. Co-sponsored by Coalition for Social Justice and Public Health and Lesbians and Gays Against Intervention as part of Lesbian, Gay, and Bisexual Awareness Week. Call 642-6942 for more information.
- **Robert Ferro:** will read and sign copies of his new novel, *Second Son*, Cody's Bookstore, Telegraph Ave., Berkeley, 7:30 PM.
- **Female Trouble:** film, Bench and Bar, 120 11th St., Oakland, 7 PM.
- **Open Mike Variety Show:** with your hostess Sandy Van, The Galleon, 718 14th St., S.F., 9 PM. Donald Wescoat on the piano.
- **Gay Artists and Writers Collective:** meeting, 7:30 PM. Call 585-8814 for more information.
- **Gay and Lesbian Outreach to Elders:** support group for older gay men (60+), Operation Concern, 1853 Market St., S.F., 7-8:30 PM. Call 626-7000 for more information.
- **The Buddy Connection:** safe-sex workshop for gay and bisexual men, San Francisco MCC, 150 Eureka St., S.F., 7-10 PM. Call 863-AIDS for more information.
- **Leathermen's/SM Support Group:** meeting, Room 204, San Francisco MCC, 150 Eureka St., S.F., 7:30 PM, donation requested.
- **Lesbians, Gays, and Bisexuals in Literature:** with Gloria Anzaldua, Robert Gluck, Judy Grahn, Thom Gunn, and Robert Ferro, 159 Mulford, Berkeley, 7-9 PM, reception to follow. Part of UC Berkeley Lesbian, Gay, and Bisexual Awareness Week. Call 642-6942 for more information.



Diane Amos, Marga Gomez, Kat 'n Jo, and Josh Kornbluth will celebrate Women's History Month with Our Comedy Ourselves at the Noe Valley Ministry March 12

- **Gay Men's Sketch Class:** sketch-off party to celebrate one-year anniversary, 1229 Folsom St., S.F., doors open 6:30 PM, sketching 7-10 PM, \$10. Call 621-6294 for more information.
- **A Portrait of Oscar Wilde:** stage performance, \$18 (see Friday listing for details).
- **Samba Pagode:** music, El Rio, 3158 Mission St., S.F., 9 PM-midnight, no cover. Samba; plus videos from Rio.
- **Gay Artists and Writers Collective:** meeting, 7:30 PM. Call 585-8814 for more information.

WEDNESDAY 16

- **Take Back The Day:** rally as part of UC Berkeley Lesbian, Gay, and Bisexual Awareness Week, Sproul Plaza, noon. With Holly Near, Nancy Skinner, Tom Brougham, and Gwenn Craig.
- **Renee Hicks, Shyama, and Brian Leonard:** comedy, El Rio, 3158 Mission St., S.F., 8-10 PM, \$3.
- **Lesbian Erotica Readings:** with Sandy Boucher, Mary Nordseth, Stephanie Henderson, and Nisa Donnelly in a benefit for Yoni, magazine of women loving women, Mama Bears, 6536 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 7 PM, \$4-\$7 sliding scale. Call 428-9684 or 635-6137 for more information.
- **A Portrait of Oscar Wilde:** stage performance, \$18 (see Friday listing for details).
- **Electric City:** television on Oakland cable channel 35, 10 PM. The Ms. S.F. Leather contest is featured.
- **Ballroom Dancing For Gays and Lesbians:** Studio 204, 3435 Army St., S.F., beginners 8:30-9:30 PM, intermediates 9:30-10:30 PM, \$5. Call 995-4962 for more information.

THURSDAY 17

- **UC Berkeley Lesbian, Gay, and Bisexual Awareness Week:** scenes from Theatre Rhino's *The AIDS Show* followed by a panel discussion on the Diverse Perspectives on AIDS, 159 Mulford, Berkeley, 7-9:30 PM. Speakers include Antonio Leony, Bernie Wagner, and A.J. Williams. Call 642-6942 for more information.
- **Dressed To Thrill:** benefit for International Ms Leather, Club Metropolis, 1484 Market St., S.F., doors open 9 PM, \$5. Dancing, entertainment, and Best Leather Couple contest.
- **Golden Gate Business Association:** third Thursday dinner, Cafe Majestic, 1500 Sutter St., S.F., no-host cocktails 5:30 PM, dinner 7 PM, \$27. Call 441-3651 for reservations.
- **St. Patrick's Day:** open mike comedy/party, 22 Belden, 22 Belden Plaza, S.F., 6 PM, no cover. Buffet; hosted by Albert Lee.
- **In Circles and Talking To The Sun:** musical double bill (see Friday listing for details).
- **Puttin' On The Glitz:** with female impersonators and cabaret guys, 9 PM, \$8 (see Friday listing for details).
- **Fools Rush Inn:** stage performance (see Friday listing for details).
- **A Portrait of Oscar Wilde:** stage performance, \$18 (see Friday listing for details).
- **Bay Area Network of Gay and Lesbian Educators:** general monthly meeting, 655 14th St., S.F., 7:30 PM. Call 285-5078 for more information.
- **Black and White Men Together:** rap, 1350 Waller St., S.F., 7:30 PM. Potluck and games. Call 931-BWMT for more information.
- **Ballroom Dancing for Gays and Lesbians:** Lori Lewis Studio, 3435 Army St., S.F., beginners 7:30-8:30 PM, intermediates 8:30-9:30 PM, \$5. Call 995-4962 for more information.

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Wilde as Living Paradox

Oscar Wilde
by Richard Ellmann
Alfred Knopf; \$24.95

by Marv. Shaw

The man whose greatest achievement was the creation of himself and whose work survived him, as he was sure it would, could still say, "There is something vulgar in success. The greatest men fail or seem to fail." Wilde's persistent consciousness of the contradictions within his own nature never kept him from either the full realization of his art or the self-destructive drives that ruined him.

Ellmann, in 589 pages, demonstrates the central paradox of Wilde in his brilliantly written, exhaustively researched study. And the most important objective in doing it at all is best stated by Ellmann in the Epilogue: "We inherit his struggle to bring together individual and social impulse, to save what is eccentric and singular from being sanitized and standardized, to replace a morality of severity with one of sympathy. He belongs to our world more than to Victoria's."

So Wilde was ahead of his time in his determination to live as he actually was, in defiance of the hypocritical society of the late 19th Century. It is Ellmann's thesis that this determination became the dominant force in Wilde's life in 1886, when at the age of 32, he was introduced to



RICHARD ELLMANN
gay male sex by Robert Ross, a student at Oxford, Wilde's own university.
Not that Wilde's life before

then was obscure. He had thrust himself into the limelight years before when he became the major public promoter of aesthet-

cism, a movement which so elevated art that it became the arbiter of all things both material and abstract. His extensive American tours in the espousal of this philosophy catapulted him into international fame. Though ridiculed by some, Wilde also dazzled many by the sheer brilliance of his verbal performance.
However, his literary production before 1886 was far from its height. The charming fairy story, *The Happy Prince* and some provocative essays such as *The Soul of Man Under Socialism* aside, his major works were two dreary melodramatic tragedies.
Though Ellmann doesn't say so directly, he strongly implies that Wilde's real literary success paralleled his realization of his gayness and his bold public display of it. With the appearance of *The Picture of Dorian Gray* and his captivating social comedies — *A Woman of No Importance*, *Lady Windermere's Fan*, *An Ideal Husband*, and *The Importance of Being Earnest* — Wilde ascended to the zenith of literary and popular success. At the same time, he was embroiled in a rhapsodic but agonizing passion for Lord Alfred Douglas, affectionately nicknamed Bosie.

Bosie, a son of the brutalizing Marquess of Queensbury, was a spoiled, arrogant, wasteful, vindictive youth of some physical charm, who alternately adored and reviled Oscar. Wilde, naturally generous anyway and absolute-

ly besotted with Bosie, lavished money, time, and attention on him, to the point where their affair was a public scandal. Queensbury became the avenging father, and Wilde's fate was sealed.

Wilde's foolish libel action against Queensbury, its failure, the consequent prosecution of Wilde for indecency, his conviction and imprisonment quickly followed. Probably the most telling single portion of the Wildean paradox was this stinging irony, the fall into abysmal disgrace from the pinnacle of fame. The most undeserving of harm were Wilde's wife Constance and his young sons.

All of this and much more Ellmann recounts. Some portions have their own independent excellence, in addition to their place in the whole context. For example, the painstaking detail of Wilde's imprisonment stands by itself as a ringing indictment of penal punishment as the harshest inhumanity.

Some of Ellmann's interpretations sound exaggerated. For example, he states about the publication of *The Picture of Dorian Gray* in June 1890, "After this date, Victorian literature had a different look." Also on the same subject, "... and without Wilde the decade (1890's) could not have found its character."

But perhaps these excesses are merely the natural consequence of a scholar so obsessed with his subject that he got carried away.

J. Edgar Hoover: Truths And Rumors

Secrecy and Power: The Life of J. Edgar Hoover
by Richard Gid Powers;
623 pages; Collier Macmillan Publishers; 1987, \$27.95.

by John D. Dolan

J. Edgar Hoover, director of the FBI for almost 50 years, was an obsessive moralist, a rabid anti-communist, a racist and a bigot who feared any challenge to established authority. He also had what Powers politely calls "a spousal relationship" with Clyde Tolson which lasted until Hoover's death in 1971.

Born in Washington, D.C. in 1895, he was the youngest of three surviving children by 13 years and was the family's "pet." Educated to be a lawyer, he could argue any side of the question and win for the right side with a moral axiom. He was appointed director of the FBI in 1924 at the age of 29, having earlier shown his superiors and our country just what should be done with people he called "dregs," their children "the wretched progeny of debauchery, drunkenness and vice." Frightened of immigrants, disorder and change and reducing all protest to the simplicities of "rebellion against authority," Hoover, a workaholic, made a long career of defending our country against anyone who was aggressively discontented.

Conservative, combative and emotionally constipated, he had but one friend in life. He met Tolson in 1928. Two years later he made his younger and good-looking friend his assistant director, a position Tolson would hold until Hoover's death 41 years later. They never lived together. (Until he was 48, Hoover lived with his mother.)

What can be documented about their "spousal relationship," Powers documents, concluding that it isn't known whether they had "a sexual union" or not. The pertinent passages (pp. 169-173) in this massively detailed book prove conclusively that "a spousal relationship" did, in fact, exist. Furthermore, it was an officially accepted relationship. If you invited Hoover and expected his presence, you included Tolson. For 40 years they took bi-annual vacations together, constantly dined out together (same restaurant, same table) and were driven daily to headquarters by Hoover's chauffeur.

Rumors proliferated, but there was no scandal. When casually referred to as walking "with mincing steps," Hoover quickly acquired "a longer, more vigorous stride." He collected and displayed expensive jade figurines and was sometimes privately called "a fairy," and Tolson his "boyfriend." The sources of these "degenerate" allegations (Hoover's judgment) were tracked down, harassed, intimidated and shut up. Hoover was a pathetic hypocrite.

He was also a hero, beloved by the masses. Some readers may find J. Edgar only repulsive, but Powers, who has written a balanced and informative (if fullsome) book, doesn't scapegoat Hoover: he explains him. As a journalistic investigation of Hoover's career and his barren personal life (there have been others but none this complete), *Secrecy and*

Power has real value. Powers, always illuminating historical facts, insists that without this country's acquiescence to and dependence on the FBI, the institution could never have become the arbitrary and powerfully independent authority it did. Hoover thrived on political hysteria, and was a whiz at contributing to it while mouthing moralistic axioms and showing everybody that without the FBI we were doomed to chaos and destruction.

Powers also traces the origins of Hoover's fixed, schematically narrow ideas, gives him full credit for his organizational abilities and — especially fascinating — shows us how Hoover operated (the job of director is a political one) under nine presidents and 19 attorney generals.

Hoover died in 1971. Richard Nixon, four months before the Watergate burglary, gave the eulogy. Tolson, who died in 1975 is buried a hop and a jump away from his "boyfriend."

Secrecy and Power has a useful index, a fertile bibliography and 16 pages of photographs. It seems perfectly abnormal to me that Hoover and Tolson never slept together. Hoover couldn't have accepted that kind of emotional vulnerability.

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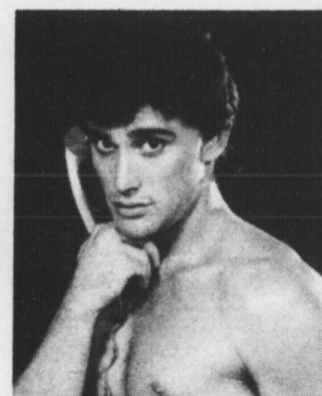
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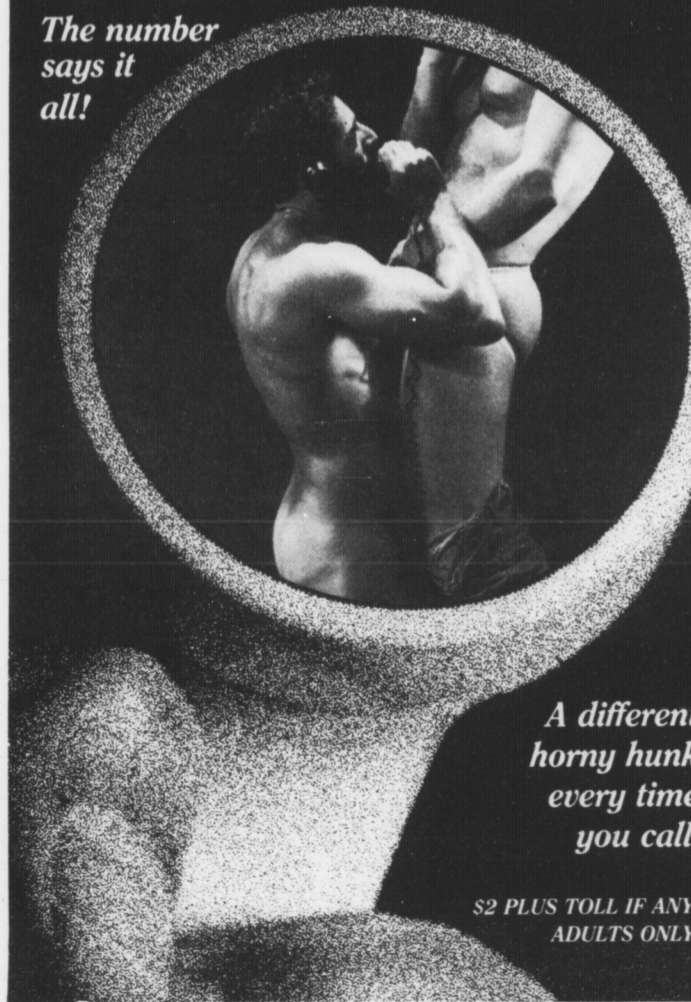
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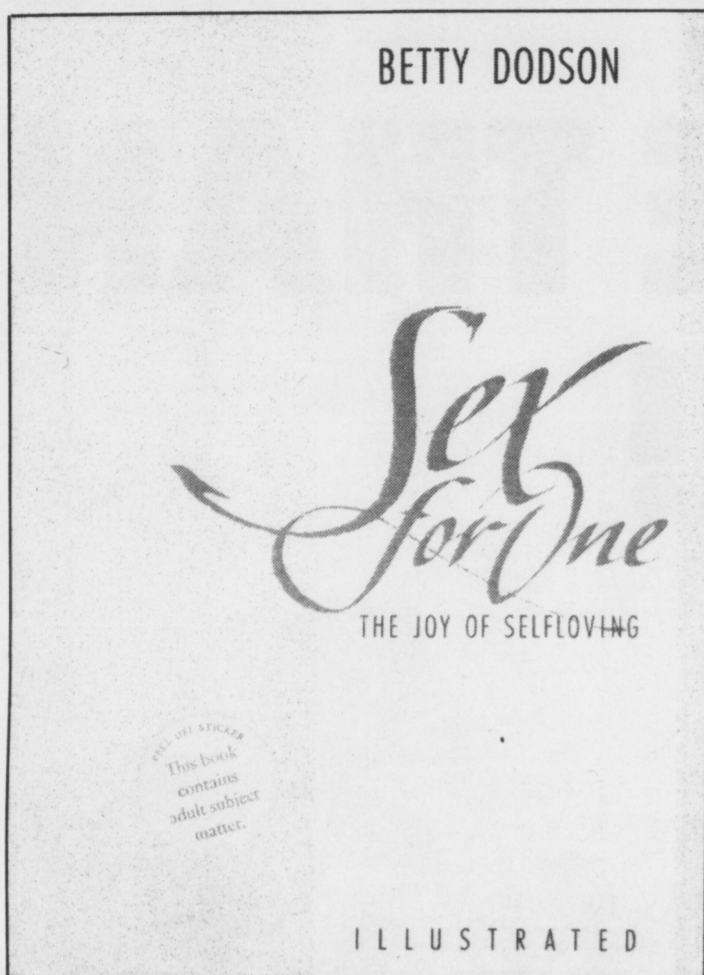
Sex For One: The Joy of Selfloving
by Betty Dodson
Harmony Books; 1987; 15.95

by Frank Howell

In sex education classes around the country, students may be willing to babble on harmlessly about any number of sexual activities, hetero or homo. But when masturbation rears its curious head, an oppressive silence crushes further exploration. The passion of the right hand has remained shrouded in mystery for generations.

A physician in the 1700s published an opinion that self-love of this sort would cause insanity. Since that time "jerk off" has been hidden under a cloud of suspicion and moral condemnation. But as the saying goes, "90 percent of all American boys masturbate and the other ten percent are liars."

In *Sex For One*, Betty Dodson breaks the mold. She extolls the virtues of self-sex. She tells us of a background of sexual repression. But she established masturbation workshops for women who harbor erotic guilt. Groups of women lay about stimulating themselves with vibrators. Gradually they were able to integrate such skin monologues into regular sexual intercourse



with male or female spouses.

Dodson views this often forbidden sexual expression as a normal part of the full range of human love. Most of us were taught that "self abuse" was usually given up after marriage. But Kinsey found that frequently husbands and wives masturbated in secret.

Dodson feels that women are kept in their place by denying them a knowledge of their own bodies and the role played by solitary manipulation. The husband wished to see himself as indispensable to female pleasure. Women learned they could control their own amorous desires.

Dodson does not neglect the male sex. She has also led workshops for males, both gay and straight. One of the side benefits of such a gathering is that males of all sorts learn to understand each other and discard stereotyped modes of thought.

Imagine a room full of straight macho males jerking off with gays! Dodson claims it all works.

In these erotic situations the women would proudly display their various types of vaginas ("Gothic cunts with archways and a Danish modern with clean lines"). In a similar vein the male organ is quite individual ("Baroque cocks with complex folds and veins and Danish modern cocks with clean lines. They come in an assortment of colors: beige,

peach, brown, chocolate, lavender and pink").

The individuals in the workshop report they feel liberated from years of sexual repression and fear. They are now proud of their bodies and self images.

Dodson has worked for years leading these extraordinary sessions and creating artistic drawings of men and women enjoying their biological heritage. Her delightful art work graces several pages of the book.

There can be little doubt that masturbation can enhance millions of lives, especially those who are divorced, aged or widowed. AIDS has certainly forced many gays from the baths and bars. They literally turn to their own bodies.

Unfortunately, self relief can also be regarded as a classic symptom of alienation aggravated by AIDS. Critics may say that gays are afraid of each other and that they are forced to fall back on their own resources, that they are the ultimate in erotic couch potatoes. But gays, like any trapped animal, are geared for survival on their own terms. This may take the form of "jack off" clubs or intimate events in private homes. The innate human drive for warmth and closeness will claw its way into the light. Betty Dodson helps us complete this circle of human yearning for meaning. We must first love ourselves before we can love others.

Practical Pairing

The Male Couple's Guide to Living Together
by Eric Marcus
Harper and Row; \$9.95

by Marv. Shaw

So you and that charmer you met at the Valentine's Day Brunch have had a couple dates—a movie and a run in the park—one really hot roll, and a terribly serious talk after the funeral of a mutual friend. And his image keeps charging into your thoughts at work and on the bus and in the still of the night while you stare into the dark. So, in spite of some doubts, you realize you're not sick, you're just in love. Congratulations, Bunky, but before you make any mad moves, there are 280 pages of advice you should have a look at.

Eric Marcus has put together a comprehensive study on the various aspects of gay male mating. He calls it "What Gay Men Should Know About Living Together and Coping In A Straight World." He's forthrightly subjective about it. Rather than use masses of sociological data in statistical form, he presents the testimony of guys who have formed and maintained relationships. The additional resources—oral and printed stuff from specialized experts and referrals to agencies—serve mainly to back up the related experiences and encourage the reader to get more information from the most authoritative sources.

The result is a work which is consistently close to the reader. The guys speaking, including Marcus and his lover Scott frequently, live as most gay men do. That means that they are urban and middle class, though there are interesting exceptions, even unto one pair of Bible Belt country types. Ages range from col-

lege frosh through late middle age. The unions themselves go from the very early stages through those in their third decade. You'd have to be a rare bird indeed not to find yourself in here somewhere.

What you will find of value depends on what you need now. If you are single and looking, the first two chapters, "Getting Started" and "Getting Along," will grab you the most. Sensitive to romantic inclinations, Marcus still relies on cool, thoughtful process advice in guiding an affair into an actual union.

Once you're really into it, the issues chapters take over: "Monogamy/Non-Monogamy," "Moving in Together" and the like. On the debatable stuff, Marcus is often very frank on his position. For example, he is four-square for monogamy—BUT he realizes that couples have to work out the best modes for themselves and spells out the various alternatives, each sensible in its own way.

"Sensible" is certainly the watchword throughout. The hard-headed advice that accumulates in the later chapters, on legalities, money, insurance and the demanding practicalities, is beautifully explicit. Nothing important is blinked. Even splitting up is dealt with as an unfortunate but sometimes inevitable consequence.

Marcus' book fills a great need. With the candy store closed and maturity directing our life more wisely, we need this advice.

Ferro

(Continued from page 25)

PR: Which of your four novels is your favorite?

RF: This one. You like the best-looking child. *Second Son* is the most solid structurally because, once I got started, I felt more in control than with the others. And you learn a few tricks along the way which makes it more readable. Also, I like it best if there's a reason for a novel, and there's a good one for *Second Son*.

PR: Do you have plans for what you'll do next?

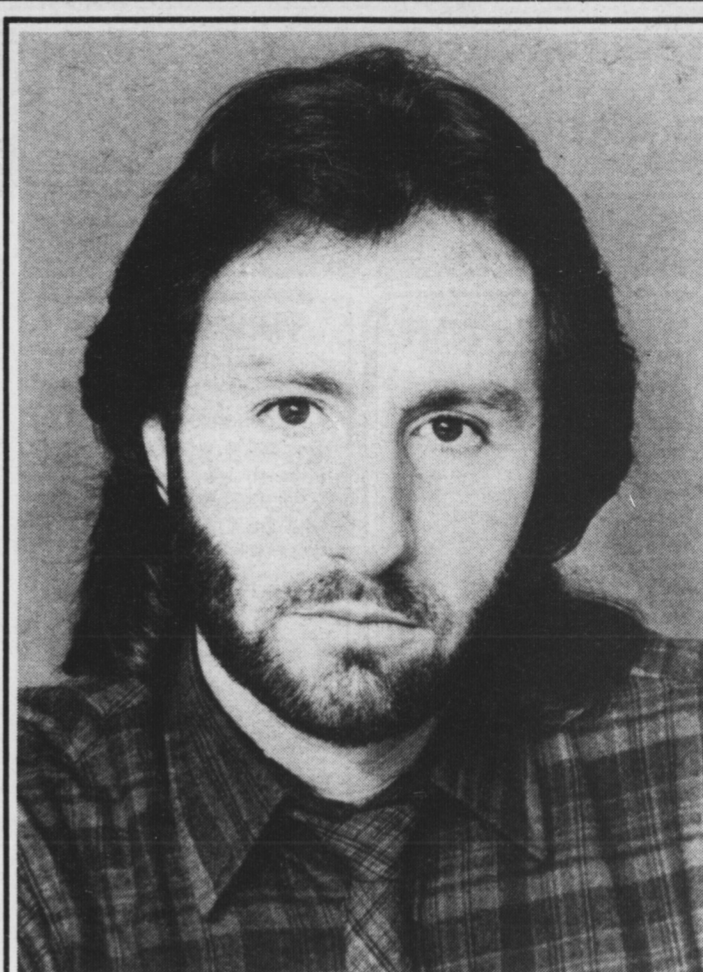
RF: *Second Son* wraps up a cycle of four books, and I haven't decided what comes next. But everything I do seems to lead me to the same territory. It has seemed frivolous to neglect what I know for the sake of change, but I think that staying in this pattern any longer might expose me to serious comment on the platform.

I am still fascinated by the idea of tying Ancient Egypt into the future—there's a lot of this in *Second Son*—and I could probably jump into that. I think the lesson gay writers bring is a need for new myths, new ideas that are centered on gay themes.

PR: Can you say in one sentence what you believe the message of *Second Son* to be?

RF: That belief in the healing power of love is a proper response to catastrophe, and that there can be no survival without hope and an underlying belief in survival.

Robert Ferro will be reading from and signing copies of *Second Son* this Sunday evening at A Different Light Bookshop on Castro Street, beginning at 7:30 p.m. and



"Denial has been the major non-medical ingredient of this epidemic . . . 'It cannot happen to me. It cannot happen to us. It cannot happen here.' Only truth can counter that stupidity. A getting to the bottom of things. And only with truth can we mobilize ourselves, our families, our countries, to fight back and succeed."

on Monday evening at Cody's Bookstore in Berkeley, also beginning at 7:30 p.m. On Tuesday evening he will appear on a panel at U.C. Ber-

keley, discussing gay literature as part of Lesbian/Gay/Bisexual Awareness Week, 7-9 p.m. at 159 Mulford Hall on the Berkeley campus.

Hadleigh

(Continued from page 25)

style, but *Conversations* still read more like a transcript of a conversation, not a strictly staged Q-and-A. Hadleigh not only asked questions, he was asked questions. Visconti, for example, eagerly asked Hadleigh about the latter's night out on an Italian town.

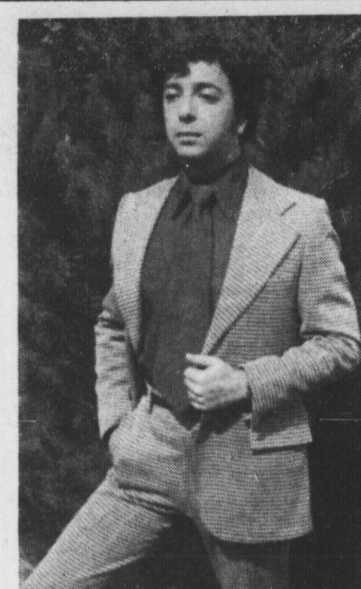
A film enthusiast will get lost in time reading this book. All six men were vital parts of the motion picture industry. Mineo was an excellent juvenile actor who was best buddy to James Dean in *Rebel Without A Cause*. Visconti directed *The Damned* and *Death In Venice* while Cukor helmed *The Philadelphia Story* and *Little Women*. Fassbinder was behind the camera for *The Marriage of Maria Braun* and *Querelle*. Beaton won Oscars for *Gigi* and *My Fair Lady*. Hudson became a matinee idol because of *Magnificent Obsession*.

GENERATION GAP

One of the most striking things about the book is the contrast in feelings about coming out. While the younger Mineo and Fassbinder didn't have any hangups, Cukor and Beaton came from a generation when being gay was something only Hollywood's Inner Circle knew, not the housewives of Cracked Wheat, Nebraska.

And yet, Hadleigh felt pleased with his talk with Cukor, certainly Hollywood's most neglected director at Academy Awards time (his only Oscar was in 1964 for *My Fair Lady*). "I got more out of him than I thought," said Hadleigh. "I had been told not to expect to draw him out because he's always been so discreet."

This was made clear when



Boze Hadleigh (Photo: R. Boze)

Cukor refused to talk about his dismissal as director of *Gone With The Wind*. The long-accepted story was that Clark Gable feared that "Ladies' Director" Cukor would favor Vivien Leigh. The actual story, documented by more than one author, was that Gable had a gay affair in the 1920s with William Haines, a friend of Cukor's who had been a silent movie star before being forced out of acting. Gable was afraid Cukor would spread gossip about him.

One other part of the book deserves mention, Hadleigh's bizarre evening with Fassbinder. After dinner, the two returned to Hadleigh's Paris hotel room to talk some more. The cocaine-ridden Fassbinder invited himself to stay over in one of Hadleigh's twin beds, fell asleep, snored loudly and woke up every time the author tried to turn down the radio.

"He was," said Hadleigh, "a very frightening person."

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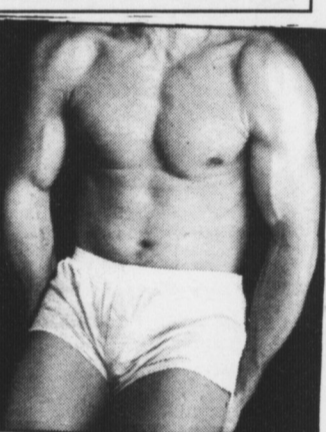
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BAY AREA REPORTER SPORTS & FITNESS

BOWLING

The Straight Truth

40-Year Bowling Vet Lloyd Franklin, Roommate 'Feel Right At Home' In TGL

by Richard McPherson

Lloyd Franklin, at 77 years old, is a San Francisco bowling veteran of 40 years. That in itself is worth special notice. An even more interesting note, however, is that as a non-gay man he has been bowling in openly gay leagues at Park Bowl for 15 years, and has a heart-warming philosophy backing up his reasons why.

Lloyd, a past president of the S.F. Men's Bowling Association, joined the Wednesday Tavern Guild League (TGL) in 1973 to help out a gay bowler whose teammates had quit. He finished out the season and was asked by another bowler to join his team for the following season. He enjoyed himself in the league and liked gay bowlers so he decided to join. "What gay people do is their business," Lloyd said, "they treat me right, they always have. I feel right at home around them."

When Franklin first joined a gay league bowlers he knew from other leagues chided him. "I had plenty of answers for them," he said (most of which wouldn't bear repeating). He did admit that on more than one occasion he would tell them point blank: "Gay people show a lot more feeling and compassion than any of you!" A powerful and potential challenging statement.

"Do you want to know the downright truth?" Lloyd continues, "Gay people seem to be a lot more like human beings than so-called straights. They seem so much more caring." A potent observation.

Feelings like these have kept Lloyd bowling in gay leagues year after year.

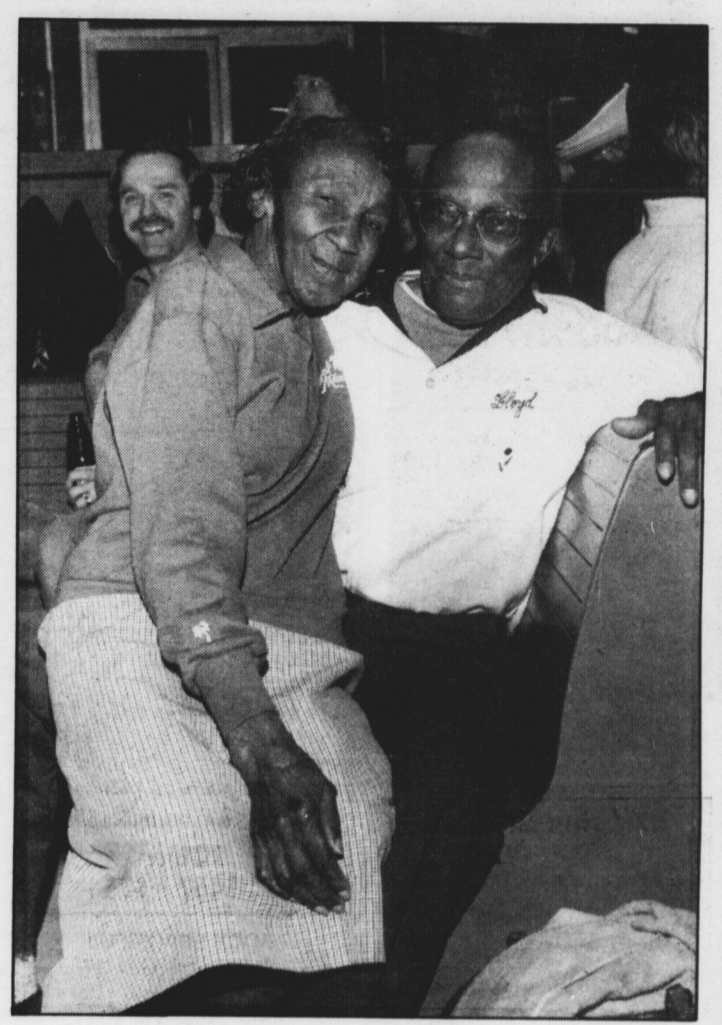
Men did occasionally approach him when he first joined a gay league, wanting to "get to know him better," he said. A polite explanation was sufficient to set them straight, so to speak. "It was okay after that," he said.

Franklin began bowling in 1947 and maintained averages up around the 190s for many years. This was during a time when the sport was more difficult and a 190 average was near-pro status. Lloyd has many bowling achievements to his credit, including five 275 games, a 290 game and a 710 series, which he shot only four years after he began league bowling.

He quickly became a well respected member of the S.F. bowling community and in 1964 was the first black to be elected president of the S.F. Men's Bowling Association, an office he held for two years.

Lloyd has worked at Park Bowl on and off since 1966, offering the bowl the range of his abilities. "You name it, I did it!" he exclaims, "I still work there occasionally."

Now at the age of 77 he still continues to bowl in one gay and



Marion and Lloyd (Photo: Photo Graphics/Darlene)

one non-gay league, but admits he has to take it easier. "I used to use a 16-pound ball, now I use 12 pounds," he said. Lloyd is averaging 152 while bowling for the team "9 Eyes Only" in the TGL.

Franklin was married for five days short of 50 years, his wife passing away in 1983 right before their anniversary. He currently lives a convenient 30 steps from the door to Park Bowl, with his roommate Marion Golden, 76, who helps care for him.

Marion saw that Lloyd was enjoying himself so much in the gay league that she, herself, joined the Wednesday TGL one-and-one-half years ago, beginning her bowling career at the age of 75.

"She got to know some of the gay bowlers in the league," Lloyd says, "and decided to join." Marion was a bit hesitant about joining at first because she felt she wasn't good enough. She was gladly accepted on a team and is now bowling in her third league season with "The Gutter Girls." All she can say is, "I love it!" Golden uses a 10-pound ball and currently sports a 108 average.

The late hour of the league doesn't seem to deter either of them. It's not uncommon for them to still be on the lanes at 11:45 p.m., with energy to spare. Two weeks ago after a particularly late finish Marion was heard to say among a group of bleary-eyed bowlers, "Let's bowl some more

ing to bowl in the TGL as long as they are able. And as long as they are present they will continue to be a welcome addition to the gay sports community.

"They make us smile," a bowler says.

Franklin continues to offer his praise of gays and lesbians: "I think they are very nice people... very nice people."

Lloyd and Marion are very nice people, too.

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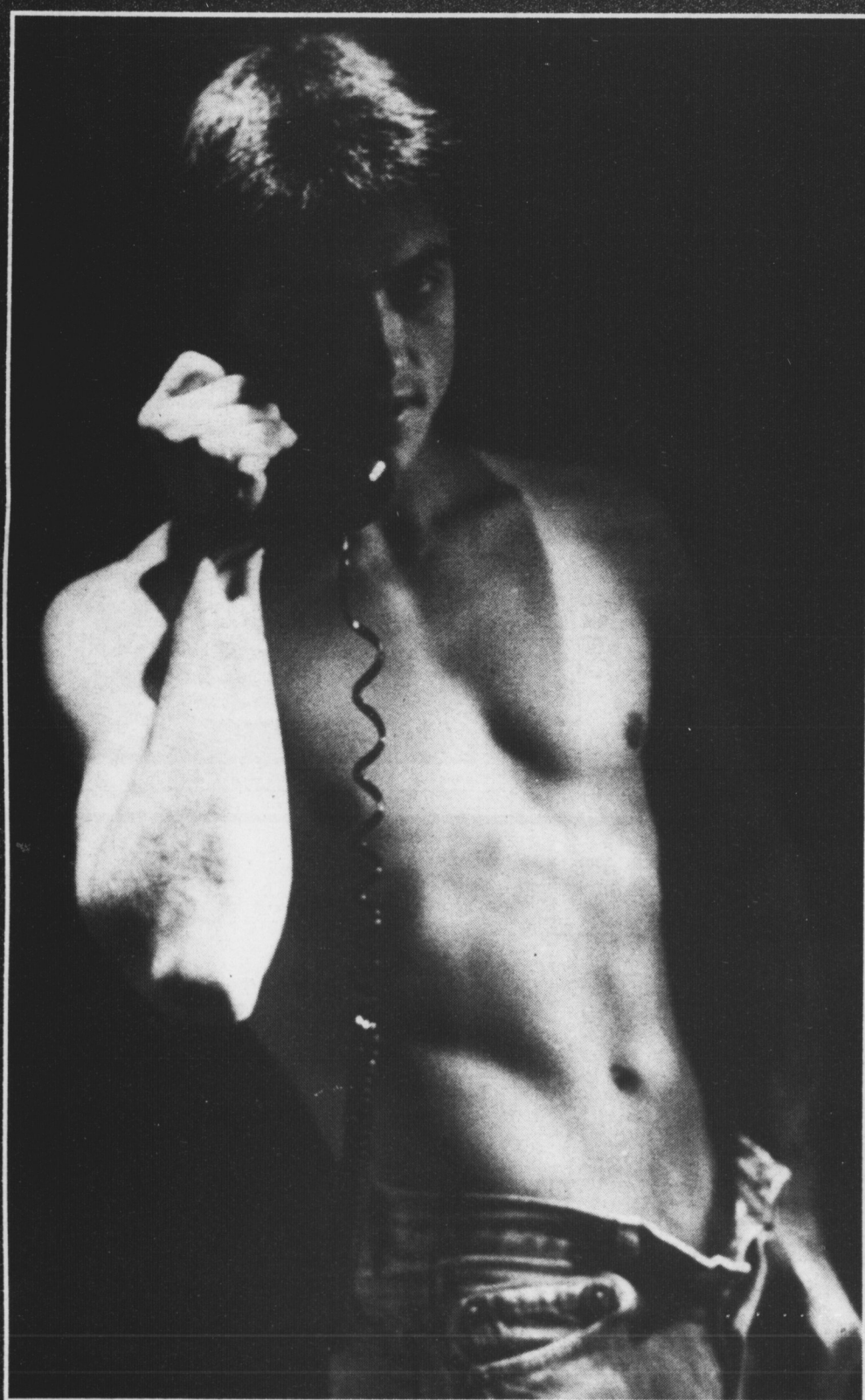
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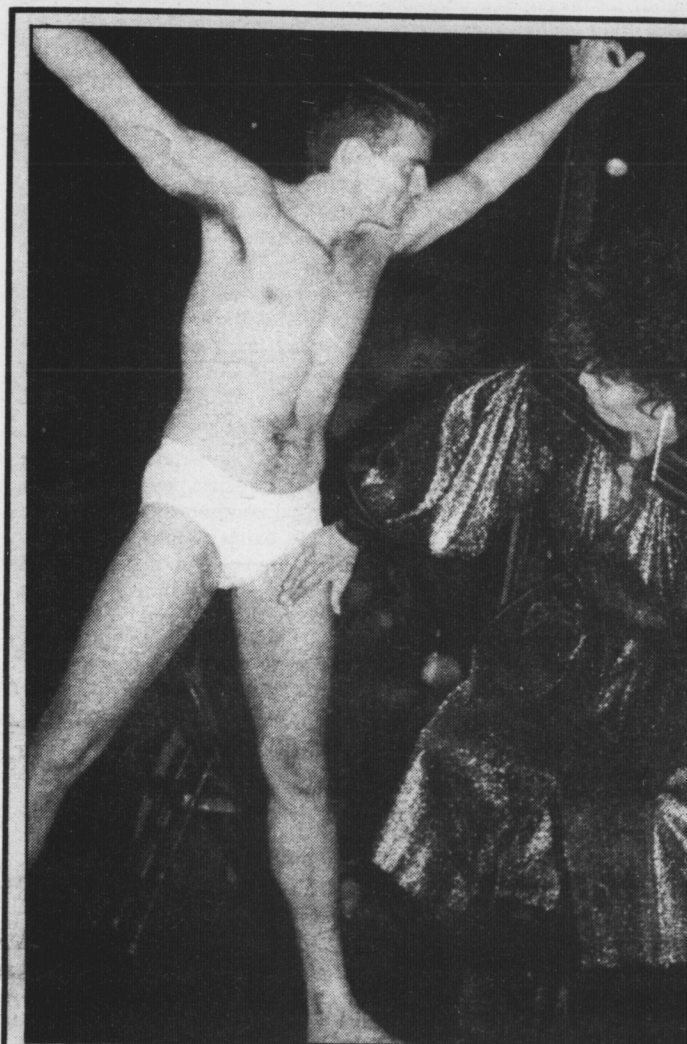
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(Photo: S. Martin)

Today

Water can be revealing: especially when it's applied to jockey shorts. Allen White has the story on the popularity of the Endup's wet jockey shorts contests on page 16.

S.F. man convicted in

cult killing: Greg Douthwaite has the story on page 4.

Brian Mavrogeorge is running for the 16th Assembly District: gay Republican says he'll win even if he loses. See story on page 12.

Toklas Club Raps Kopp on Olympics

Ovation for Sups. Supporting Britt; To Campaign Against Opponents

by Allen White

Six members of the San Francisco Board of Supervisors and Mayor Art Agnos were honored for their stand on the issue of the Olympics last Monday night by the Alice B. Toklas Lesbian/Gay Democratic Club, while several actions were planned to retaliate against state Sen. Quentin Kopp. The club also voted to give Kopp's gay aide, Jack Davis, the Roy Cohn Glass Closet Award.

During this past week, Mayor Agnos has been talking with the U.S. Olympic Committee. Agnos' deputy press secretary Scott Shafer said, "I assure you that conversations about gay rights are taking place in the highest levels of the United States Olympic Committee, and this has never happened before." This has been a cautious optimism which would indicate that Agnos may be reaching areas of com-

mon agreement with the Olympic committee in the area of discrimination against gay men and lesbians.

Supervisors Richard Hongisto, Wendy Nelder, Carol Ruth Silver, Doris Ward, Nancy Walker and Harry Britt were presented with awards of appreciation Monday night. The awards were presented for their courage and for their support of the gay community

(Continued on page 2)

Achtenberg Sues Democrats To Stop Endorsement

'No More Back of the Bus'

by Dennis McMillan

Attorney Roberta Achtenberg, a candidate for 16th District Assembly, filed suit in San Francisco Superior Court against members of the Democratic Party Central Committee to prevent them from endorsing a candidate at the upcoming convention in Palm Springs. Four other plaintiffs are seeking an injunction against the state's Democratic Party and its chairman, Peter Kelly. Donald Cannon, member of the Democratic State Central Committee of California, Russ Fields and Richard Hauptman, openly gay members of the State Central Committee, and Maurice Belote, president of the Harvey Milk Democratic Club, are listed as plaintiffs in the 13-page complaint filed March 9.

"This convention is the very first time in 65 years that California's Democratic Party would be endorsing in a primary race," said Achtenberg press secretary Debra Chasnoff. "The way it's set up to do it right now is unconstitutional. And we're the first people to bring a lawsuit raising that point."

The ramifications go far beyond the Achtenberg contention for a seat in the Assembly. According to the Achtenberg camp, it sets up a precedent to ignore any future candidate who is not a party insider.

"Our beef is not with the Democratic Party or with Peter Kelly, but that's technically who you have to sue to do this," Chasnoff explained.

The way the ruling is set up now would mean the process is actually not democratic (with a small "d").

A letter to Kelly, signed by the state coordinator of the California National Organization for Women and the presidents of the Los Angeles and San Francisco Stonewall Democratic Clubs, Harvey Milk Club, and Alice B. Toklas Club, appealed for a no-endorsement vote from the state convention. They expressed alarm that the party "is being abused in a way which will alienate gay and feminist supporters who have contributed so much to the party in time and money."

According to Achtenberg, "John Burton is trying to put the fix in once again. I won't stand for it, and neither will all those who have fought so long to include community activists in the Democratic Party."

She added, "In this race, John Burton and a handful of party insiders are saying to gay, lesbian, and other minority communities: 'Give us your votes and your money, but don't you dare try to run for political office yourselves.'"

PULL NO PUNCHES

The Kelly letter pulled no

(Continued on page 10)



Roberta Achtenberg
(Photo: Rink)

Kiss Me—I'm Irish

Update Tradition for Leprechauns ... And Other Fine Fairies

by Dennis McMillan

It's St. Patrick's weekend, begorrah! Is everybody ready to celebrate? Have you put up the St. Patrick's tree and trimmed it with lots of shamrocks? Is the mantle hung with care with green stockings, in hopes that St. Pat soon will be there? Have you finished all your St. Pat's Day gift shopping, and have you baked a lovely potato to carve and serve with all the trimmings for your loved ones?

Now perhaps and you'll be a-thinkin' me a mite strange and a wee bit on the eccentric side. But I've every right, I have. Now don't ya know that me first name is "Dennis," and me last is "Mc," and I've got the Irish in me, I have, I do, indeed.

Good God, that's enough accent already!

I'm tired of every year seeing the whole world go crazy celebrating Dec. 25 and Jan. 1, with not much attention to March 17. It's a matter of Irish discrimination, I feel. Or maybe it's just ignorance. So I'm here to educate you and help you make your plans for Erin Go Bragh and the good St. Paddy.

Of course, there are times when my gay self takes over my Irish self and says, "What the hell are you in such a green fervor over this St. Pat character for, anyway? Wasn't he the one who brought Christianity to Ireland and drove the snakes into the sea? And any good homosexual worth his salt knows that the snake is a traditional phallic symbol. So who wants to drive phalluses to the sea, anyway? And did we really need to bring Christianity to a bunch of drunken Irish?"

But speaking of Christianity, a person doesn't have to be Christian to celebrate Christmas, so why should a person have to be Irish to celebrate St. Patrick's Day?

TRADITION

Of course there are all the traditional ways. San Francisco's annual parade commenced on Market Street, marching to City Hall last Sunday. Why not Thursday, on the actual day, you may ask? Well, you know how anxious to party those Irish are! Besides, they'll be too drunk Thursday to attempt any marching. And anyway, they needed to confess all the sins they had racked up since last St. P-Day, so three hours prior to the parade they trotted on over to St. Patrick's Church on Mission Street.

The march included three hours of dancers, pipers, floats, bands, drill teams, baton twirlers, riders and horses. Frank Jordan, police chief and son of Irish immigrants, grand-marched the whole thing. Mayor Art Agnos (a fine Irish name, in a Greek way) and Lt. Gov. Leo McCarthy (note the fine, upstanding "Mc" in his moniker) rode in classic cars. The whole shebang ended up at the reviewing stand in Civic Center Plaza across from City Hall, where the Irish green, white and orange flag proudly waves.

(Continued on page 10)