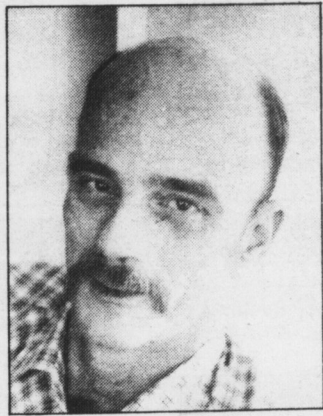


Why Support John Burton?



"John Burton stands accused of being partial to special interests. And if women, blacks, Hispanics, Asians, lesbians, and gays—everyone who has faced a struggle—are special interests, then perhaps John is guilty of that charge. But let me just say that I might not be where I am today were it not for John Burton's special interest in promoting the rights of all Americans."

—Barbara Boxer
U.S. House of Representatives



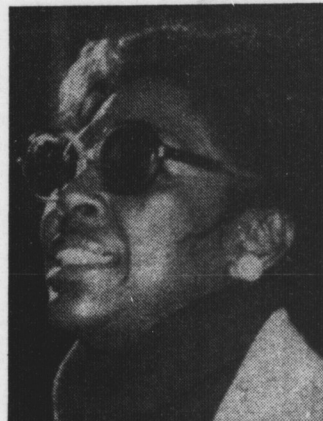
"The impending costs of AIDS services during the next several years are staggering. After working with John Burton for many years, I am convinced he can be the best advocate for San Francisco in obtaining the financial support we need so desperately right now."

—Jim Foster
S.F. Health Commissioner & founder of Alice B. Toklas Memorial Demo. Club



"We cannot afford to wait until after a June runoff to fill this seat—after the key decisions for the legislative year will already have been made. The crises facing San Francisco and our community demand immediate attention. Electing John Burton to the Assembly on April 12 will send our most experienced and committed ally to Sacramento."

—Rick Pacurar
Former President, Harvey Milk Lesbian & Gay Democratic Club



"Being an activist for a community is important, but being an activist for all communities is imperative in the diverse 16th Assembly District. John Burton has shown a unique ability to understand which people were most in trouble and how to bring together a coalition effective in dealing with their troubles, be it the problems of the AIDS crisis or the desperate situation in the Bayview. John turns talk into action by bringing people into the process."

—Doris Ward
S.F. Board of Supervisors



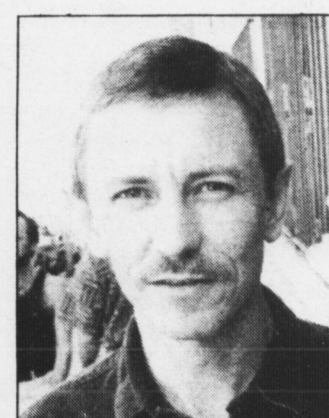
"John has been there for me as a woman, a nurse, a lesbian, and a feminist long before it was popular to fight for my issues. John worked for reproductive freedom before abortion was legal; John was a leader in the battle to ratify the ERA; John was one of only two members of Congress to speak out against the McDonald Amendment which barred legal service moneys for distribution to lesbian and gay organizations. Now he has my support."

—Catherine Dodd, R.N.
Sect'y, Demo. County Central Comm., former Co-Chair of AIDS/ARC Comm. of the Golden Gate Nurses Assn.



"I have worked on AIDS public policy at the local, state and federal level for over five years. We now have 142 AIDS bills pending in Sacramento alone. John Burton has the political skills and experience to fight the many battles ahead."

—Dr. Steve Morin
President, Calif. Psychological Assn.



"As a person with AIDS, I trust John Burton's years of legislative experience and ability to bring more state funding to San Francisco to fight AIDS."

—Larry Francis



"People issues are the kind of issues that you know I care about. And I know from my many years of working with John Burton that he cares deeply about them, too. John has been able to organize people to support ideas long before they become part of the popular rhetoric. And most importantly, he knows how to succeed in turning those ideas into action."

—Nancy Walker
President, S.F. Board of Supervisors

**"It's great to fight for people...and win."
—John Burton**

Paid for by Burton for Assembly • (Organizational titles for identification purposes only.)

Photos by Rink

BAY AREA REPORTER

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Kopp's Gay Advisors Threaten to Walk Out

Accuse Kopp of 'Generating Hostility' With Olympics Ballot Initiative

by Ray O'Loughlin

Saying that they had never been consulted on the Olympics, the majority of state Sen. Quentin Kopp's Gay and Lesbian Advisory Committee has threatened to resign if Kopp continues to back the city ballot initiative on hosting the 1996 Summer Olympics. That measure, scheduled for the June 7 primary election, would welcome the Olympic games to the Bay Area. But Kopp's committee called it a "referendum" whose only effect will be "generating hostility toward gay and lesbian San Franciscans."

In a letter dated April 4, 12 members of the committee told Kopp, "We strongly urge that you withdraw your support for the Olympics referendum. In the absence of such a decision, we cannot in good conscience continue in affiliation with your office."

Kopp's chief of staff Jack Davis denied ever seeing the letter or knowing about the committee's dissatisfaction with Kopp's stand on the Olympics. He refused to discuss the situation.

In their letter, the group stated that they supported "the official city policy inviting the Olympics to San Francisco under terms which promote fellowship among all our citizens."

"We are disappointed that you have not worked more towards reaching a community-wide consensus in this matter," they said.

The letter pointed out that the

(Continued on page 2)

AIDS Toll Now Tops Vietnam War

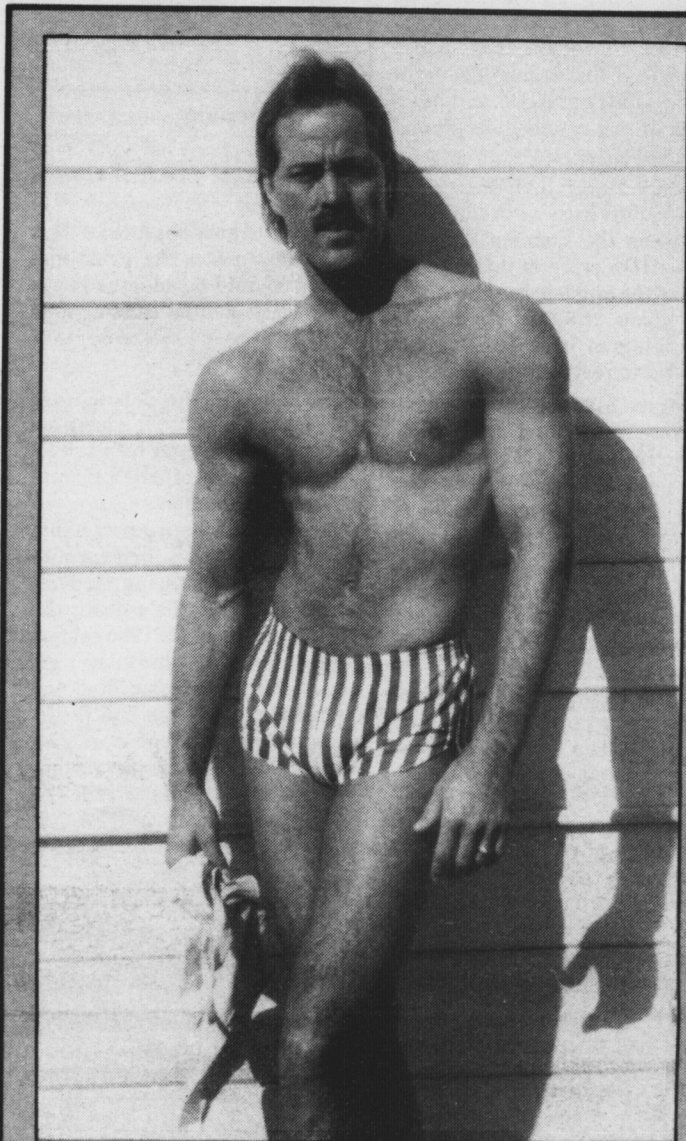
Federal Inaction Blasted; Anti-Gay Bias Blamed

by Allen White

The federal Centers for Disease Control reported on April 4, that the number of Americans diagnosed with AIDS is now larger than the number who died in the Vietnam War. The CDC said that 58,270 Americans have now been diagnosed with AIDS. In the Vietnam War 58,132 Americans died or are listed as missing in action.

Tristano Palermينو, a person with AIDS who was arrested last year at the White House said, "It just angers me that the war on AIDS has been so poorly fought. Our federal government and Ronald Reagan continue to deny that there is a major problem."

(Continued on page 2)



Hotenuf4U?

S.F. Trojan football player Phil Parker took advantage of the warm weather to do some sunbathing on Haight Street. (Photo: S. Savage)

Bowling for Titles

New Royalty Crowned in the Midst of Gutter Queens

by Allen White

Empress Lily Street and Emperor Steven Rascher lured over 200 people into the Japantown Bowl last Sunday, in a sweltering 88-degree heat, to bowl for titles and see the two receive their imperial crowns.

The afternoon began with the formality of actually crowning the two new titleholders. The festivities were held together by Empress Ginger. Ginger is to the Imperial Court what Barbara Walters is to television. Looking like Lucille Ball after a hard night with Desi, the Empress was totally in control of an event that appeared the personification of organized chaos.

It was a remarkable change for a tradition of emperors and empresses that extends back over two decades in the gay community. For most of the years, the successful titleholders held their investiture with much pomp and a flurry of ceremony.

The primary purpose of the ceremony is to officially crown

the newly elected Emperor and Empress of San Francisco. In turn, they take the event to give out their seemingly endless array of titles and state proclamations.

The Emperor and Empress named the members of their cabinet and gave it the name of "The Court of the Shaky Quake Empire or It's Not Our Fault."

This year the ceremony included the presentation of a land grant to the retiring Empress, Tina Tanner. Holding up a proclamation, the newly crowned Lily Street stated that Tina Tanner "has become too accustomed to minks and sables, limousines and planes, diamonds and pearls; it is our judgment that she should acquaint herself with the solid earth."

She was then given a plot of land in Golden Gate Park and decreed to receive 75 cents on the Tuesday of each month to attend the meetings of the Council of Emperesses. Empress Johnny then named Bill Chapman as Kaiser of the Passageway be-

tween San Francisco and Alcatraz, using a toilet bowl plunger as a scepter.

Phoebe Planters took over for the afternoon of bowling for titles. Planters' duty was to carry out the desire of Lily Street and Steve Rascher to "get a little camp back into this whole thing." The titles were given out on the basis of bowling scores. Throughout the afternoon, any persons unhappy with their scores could invest \$10 and try to better their scores. Imperial Gutter Slut of Market Street, Imperial Chambermaid were some of the titles on the block for proficient bowlers.

BIG FEET

Alexis, one of those who chose to become a dag queen in the Sunday afternoon heat, declined to bowl because she worried she might become a "slut." A more enthusiastic Lucille removed her high heels and was prepared to win. "I want to be a gutter

(Continued on page 16)



Lily Street crowned Princess Vinnie at 'Bowling for Titles.' (Photo: S. Martin)



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Harry Britt (Photo: Rink)

AIDS Toll

(Continued from page 1)

He continued, "I consider it murder. Based on what we know he didn't do and based on what he is continually refusing to do, Ronald Reagan is getting away with murder."

Mayor Art Agnos said, "The similarity is that both death tolls could have been limited with enlightened federal policy, the Vietnam War in foreign policy and domestic policy in AIDS education."

According to Paul Boneberg, director of Mobilization Against AIDS, "When you look at the effort the United States made to get in the war and then get out of the war in Vietnam and compare it to the effort against AIDS, it shows you the immorality of the government and the immorality of the nation as a whole."

Bill Paul, president of the Stonewall Gay Democratic Club called it a "historic catastrophe." "As the numbers increase in the epidemic the value of each life decreases. Each individual inevitably becomes devalued. We are in the midst of a historic catastrophe and it has come on so slowly that the numbers have lost their shock value. So when we reach a milestone, like when we reach the number of those killed in the Vietnam War, it should be a time to stop and

Kopp

(Continued from page 1)

original intent of the referendum —to persuade the U.S. Olympics Committee to consider San Francisco as a host city in 1996—was no longer feasible. The USOC has nominated Atlanta and Minneapolis as hosts for the 1996 games.

"It is now clear that your referendum can have no practical impact," said the letter.

"What this referendum will do, however, is deeply divide San Francisco and to serve to excite negative feelings toward the lesbian and gay community."

The group called the ballot initiative an "exercise in civic divisiveness."

"This referendum can no longer do anything positive to help San Francisco or to serve its people. It can only serve to inflame hostilities between our citizens."

According to the letter, Kopp never consulted his own advisory committee on the issue of the Olympics. "We respect your right to take a position some—or all—of us might not agree with. However, we must insist on being queried by you when an issue of such import to our constituency comes before you."

The letter signers requested a

think of the magnitude of this tragedy. I think people lose the sense of shock and outrage," he said.

"I think that the reason the number has gone over the numbers in the Vietnam War is that there has been no national leadership," said San Francisco Health Commissioner Jim Foster.

"Remember in World War II when President Roosevelt brought together all the people from the public and private sector and said we all have a common enemy. The country was unified," said Foster. "This is no less of a struggle. If we would have done that we might have not only wiped out AIDS as a problem in this country but around the world."

Sup. Harry Britt had views similar to Foster's. "A similarity between the Vietnam War and the AIDS crisis is that in both cases the problem has been there because the politicians in Washington have failed to respond to real problems."

Britt blamed the poor response to AIDS on anti-gay discrimination. "Apparently millions of gay people can die and it will not penetrate Ronald Reagan's consciousness at all," he said. "As in Vietnam many of the people who most suffered were people that Ronald Reagan didn't see as part of the American family. As long as the political leadership of this country defines gay people as non-citizens they are not going to spend taxpayers' money on us."

Britt noted that "Our community has primarily wanted to put our energy into protecting and supporting ourselves and to take care of people with AIDS. But we have had to put a lot of our energy and some of our money into fighting the political battle around AIDS. Clearly the political system, as with the Vietnam War, will only respond when there is a massive outcry against the unnecessary suffering. Our community has done that for some time. Even in the most conservative circles I have seen a sense of outrage and an insistence of a protest, including civil disobedience, against the

meeting with Kopp to talk about the matter.

According to Greg Day, chair of the advisory committee and a signer of the letter, Kopp never paid attention to his committee. "We were supposed to be a resource, to serve as advisors to him on issues of concern to the gay and lesbian community," said Day.

"It was intended to give him more direct contact with the community. But it was never utilized," he said.

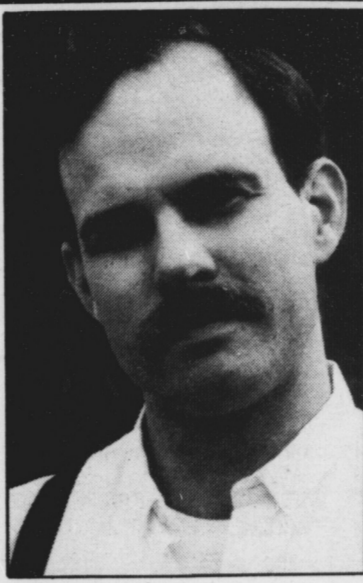
The committee met only three times since it was formed in early 1987 and never had regularly scheduled meetings.

"Each time we met," said Day, "we asked to be kept up on what was happening. But that never happened."

He said that Kopp was "not used to having advice from the community. Being an advisor to him is virtually impossible." Day cited the Olympics and last year's battle in the Legislature over bills by Sen. John Doolittle as examples of Kopp acting on his "personal feelings at the time."

According to Day, the committee met with Kopp after he had voted for one of the Doolittle bills, but by then it was too late.

"If you have to read about these things in the paper, it's too late to give advice," said Day.



Paul Boneberg

Reagan lack of action against AIDS."

Mayor Agnos observed, "This certainly makes the point that AIDS should be an issue in the 1988 Presidential campaign as Vietnam was in 1968. So far it has not been."

It's not in the debate, said Boneberg, because it's more acceptable to have gay men and IV drug users die of AIDS than to have college students die in a war. "What is happening now is that people with AIDS, their families and friends are saying we don't accept this person's death the same way people in 1966 said we don't accept the draft that's going to send this guy over and return in a body bag. You're seeing the people most at risk becoming militant, just as they did in 1966, going to jail," he said.

Sonoma Battles AIDS Initiatives

The Willows Resort will be the site of the Guerneville kickoff on Tuesday, April 19, 7-10 p.m., of the campaign against the three AIDS initiatives facing California voters this year.

Pat Norman, national co-chair of the 1987 National March on Washington for Lesbian and Gay Rights, and Georgia Prescott, longtime Sonoma County community activist, will be the featured speakers. Adam Richmond, co-founder of Forward Together, will be the MC.

The event is a fundraiser for the Sonoma County-based Oh No, Not Again Committee, which is organizing opposition to the three medically unsound initiatives which severely threaten civil rights.

The three different AIDS initiatives are Prop. 69, LaRouche II AIDS Initiative, June ballot; Danemeyer/Gann AIDS Initiative, November ballot; Block Mandatory AIDS Testing Initiative, November ballot.

The Oh No, Not Again Committee is supporting the AIDS Research Tax Credit Initiative, which will create a state funding source for AIDS research. This initiative will appear on the November ballot and is currently in circulation for signatures for qualification.

Suggested minimum donation for this special event is \$15. Tickets will be available at the door. The Willows will donate the full price of your room to the Oh No, Not Again Committee for the evening of April 19. Rates are from \$47-\$67 per night. For reservations, please contact the Willows at (707) 869-3279.

For other information on this event, please call Adam Richmond, event coordinator, at (707) 579-9347.

Fundraising Ideas Sought

People with creative ideas for raising funds to help nonprofit groups dealing with the AIDS epidemic can send those ideas to the Good Ideas Project for AIDS Funding, which is cosponsored by the S.F. Business Times and the S.F. Chamber of Commerce.

A list of the best ideas will be published in the *Business Times* in May and given to local AIDS groups. Creators of the ten best fundraising ideas will receive certificates of merit from the S.F. Board of Supervisors at a City Hall ceremony in mid-May.

"Over 70 percent of the funding for AIDS groups comes from private sources," said Robert Zelman, founder of the Good Ideas Project. "We want to get people in the Bay Area, and especially in the business community, involved in brainstorming solutions to this problem."

"In the next five years, studies show, the number of people in the Bay Area who have AIDS will quadruple. Quite simply, money is needed now," Zelman said.

Fundraising ideas should be submitted to the Good Ideas Project for AIDS Funding, 1550 California St., Suite 6176, San Francisco, CA 94109. Deadline for entries is 5 p.m. on Thursday, April 21.

The Good Ideas Project is a group of concerned business people whose purpose is to focus the Bay Area's creative energy on social issues such as AIDS, hunger, and the homeless.

For more information, call 776-8029.

Youth Switchboard Open 10 Years

The Gay Area Youth Switchboard achieved its tenth year in operation, serving the San Francisco Bay Area communities and abroad. The gay switchboard is a pioneer program forming the original community switchboard concerning sexual minority, homeless, and runaway youth/young adults.

Since its inception, the switchboard has assisted thousands of callers providing information and referral, as well as providing information about community events and places of interest to sexual minorities; referrals to related services; crisis and supportive peer counseling for those in need; and sensitizing and educating the public.

The switchboard is often the first resource for individuals who are confused about their sexual identities; for many, it is their first contact with the gay or lesbian community.

You can help the Gay Area Youth Switchboard meet its goals by contributing. Basic operating expenses are covered by individual donations. Further support is possible through United Way's Donor Option plan or account No. 92 at the Community Thrift Store. When donations are made, the donor chooses a nonprofit group which receives credit for the sale of their donation, and the donor gets a receipt.

Make your tax-deductible contributions payable to GYCC/Capp St. Foundation, c/o P.O. Box 846, San Francisco, CA 94101.

Burton Wins Assembly Seat
Achtenberg Gets Respectable 36 Percent of Vote

by Wayne Friday



John Burton (Photo: Rink)

Former Congressman John Burton, first elected to the Assembly in 1964, where he served for 10 years before going to Congress, yesterday won back that seat in Sacramento by defeating attorney Roberta Achtenberg in the Democratic primary. Because Burton received more than half of all votes cast—he received 52 percent to Achtenberg's 36 percent—he avoided a June runoff for the seat and will take office today in the state capitol.

Burton will complete the final months of Mayor Agnos' term in the 16th District and could face Achtenberg again in the June primary for a full term. The Burton win, added to the victory of Nancy Pelosi to Congress last year and Art Agnos' win in the November mayoral race, left little doubt that the Brown-McCarthy-Agnos-Burton Democratic machine is alive and well in San Francisco.

After Agnos' election to City Hall in December, Speaker Brown, Pelosi, and others chose Burton as the party's candidate to take the Assembly seat. Despite a spirited and well-run campaign by Achtenberg, the director of the Lesbian Rights Project, the money Brown and others put into the Burton campaign proved no match for the likable attorney. The Achtenberg

campaign raised and spent around \$200,000, compared to a reported half a million spent by the Burton forces.

Achtenberg said Tuesday night that she will oppose Burton in the June primary, but some of her backers were saying privately that they doubted she would be a candidate.

In other elections, Attilio Grillo, a gay man, lost a bid for a seat on the Sausalito City Council; Jean Grace, the candidate backed by outgoing Mayor Clint Eastwood, was elected mayor in Carmel; actor/singer Sonny Bono was elected mayor of the resort town of Palm Springs; and a plan to build a stadium for the Giants in East Palo Alto was threatened when the two strongest supporters of the plan lost their council seats.



Roberta Achtenberg (Photo: Rink)

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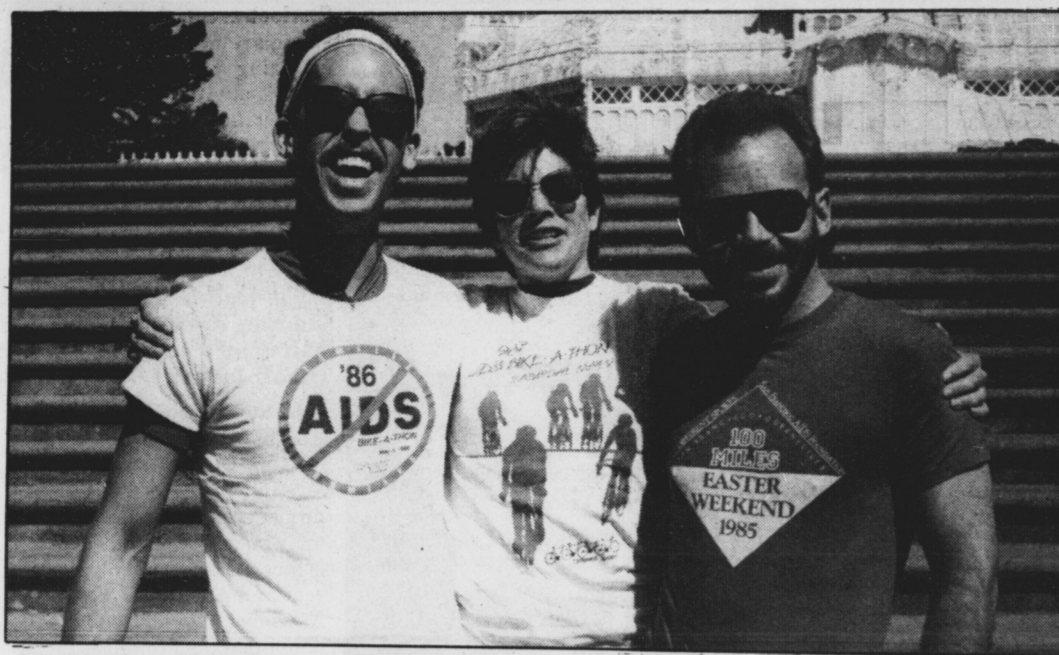
R E T A I L E N T E R T A I N M E N T !

Bike-A-Thon Thrives With Volunteer Staff

From 62 Riders in 1985, Bike-A-Thon IV Aims for 1500 Riders

It was the 1982 Gay Games that inspired a group of cyclists to create Different Spokes, a gay and lesbian recreational bicycling club. Two years later, club members posed the question: "What can we, as a gay sports organization, do about the AIDS crisis?"

Different Spokes members Michael John, Bob Humason, and Tom Walther responded by launching in 1984 the first pledge ride to raise money for AIDS. The following February, the San Francisco AIDS Foundation invited Different Spokes to organize a pledge ride in conjunction with Volunteer Appreciation Weekend at the Russian River.



Cyclists Kerry Kelly, Suzanne Frank, and Bob Humason display three years of AIDS Bike-A-Thon history on their T-shirts. (Photo: L. Smith)

Early in the morning of April 6, 1985, after weeks of preparation, 62 cyclists, none of whom had ever bicycled 100 miles, started out from under the marquee of the Castro Theatre, pedaling over Mount Tamalpais and up Highway 1 to Guerneville. As dusk enveloped the road, the last cyclist, 65-year-old Gene Howard, pedaled to the finish.

Tom Walther remembers that first Bike-A-Thon as a "spiritual experience, a combination of the physical exertion, the issue of AIDS, and that I collected \$1,500 in pledges. And at some point I just burst into tears as I was pedaling along."

The ride netted \$30,000 for the S.F. AIDS Foundation. At the time, it was the single largest fundraiser for AIDS.

The first AIDS Bike-A-Thon had a bonding effect on the original organizers. As the weary recovered from the grueling ride to Guerneville, Walther, Humason, and four other Different Spokes members—Michael John, Mike Reedy, Jim King, Bob Munk—decided to do it again the following year.

Determined to better the event and make it more accessible to riders of all levels, a 25-mile San Francisco loop was added to the Bike-A-Thon. The organizers interviewed AIDS agencies from all over the Bay Area and established criteria for beneficiaries.

Bob Humason, who chairs the 1988 AIDS Bike-A-Thon beneficiary relations committee, explains, "We decided to try to help smaller agencies, so we opened up the Bike-A-Thon to any agency fitting certain criteria. Our criteria state that the beneficiaries must be nonprofit, charitable organizations which supply direct care for AIDS patients." In 1986, eight AIDS care facilities from three Bay Area counties were chosen as beneficiaries.

As the Bike-A-Thon gained its first bits of press in the early months of 1986, the volunteers quickly realized that they were dealing with a rolling snowball. Walther remembers, "The event expanded and expanded, and we didn't really know where it was going. Hamburger Mary's donated food for the finish line buffet; Cala Foods supplied food for the rest stops; Headlines gave T-shirts; copying was donated; and it just went on from there. We were thrilled at the response."

The event culminated on May 3 as 600 riders took off from the Eureka Valley playground. After the fatigued cyclists returned to the playground and the pledges were counted, the all-volunteer AIDS Bike-A-Thon had raised over \$225,000—again ranking as the largest fundraiser for direct

care services for people with AIDS.

Humason said, "What makes us unique is that we have no paid staff. We are the only fundraiser, along with the Gay Run, that guarantees that the pledges go directly to the beneficiary and not to administrative costs. We remain the only fundraiser with beneficiaries outside of San Francisco proper, and our operating costs are nominal—\$10,000 to \$20,000, which is amazingly low for an event of this size." Administrative costs are met chiefly by the \$10 rider registration fee.

The 1987 AIDS Bike-A-Thon followed the successes of the two previous years. Goods and services were donated en masse, and people of all kinds volunteered to work on the Bike-A-Thon. At the request of many cyclists who felt

the 25-mile route too short and the 100-mile too long, a 60-mile San Francisco and Marin route was added. As the accomplishments grew, so did the amount of work required to keep the Bike-A-Thon on its feet.

Walther defined it as a "learning experience which we are trying to perfect all the time." And without a doubt, they are perfecting it. In 1987 the AIDS Bike-A-Thon collected \$325,000 for 11 Bay Area beneficiaries.

The 1988 AIDS Bike-A-Thon, sponsored by Different Spokes, is scheduled for Saturday, May 14. This year's goal is to have 1,500 riders raise \$500,000 for 15 direct-care beneficiaries in seven Bay Area counties. As in the previous three years, all funds raised go directly into services for those with AIDS.

AIDS BIKE-A-THON IV SPONSORED BY DIFFERENT SPOKES REGISTRATION FORM

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LAST NAME FIRST NAME

ADDRESS

CITY ZIP

HOME PHONE BIRTHDATE

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My T-Shirt Size is: S M L XL

My Registration Check is Enclosed for:
 \$10 \$20 Other \$ _____

I won't be able to ride, but enclosed is a contribution for \$ _____.

Please Make Checks Payable To:
GGBA FOUNDATION/AIDS BIKE-A-THON

Registration fee is tax-deductible and is the main income for the administrative budget of the Bike-A-Thon. This allows 100% of all pledges to go to the beneficiary agencies.

Mail completed form and check to:

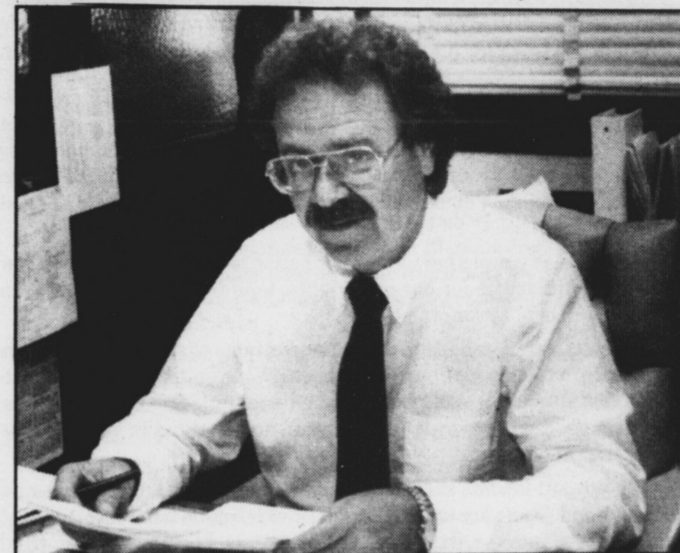
Different Spokes/AIDS Bike-A-Thon IV
P.O. Box 14711
San Francisco, CA 94114-0711

AIDS Funds Safe From Budget Cuts, Says Yockey

New Federal Dollars Expected; CUAU Threatened With Cuts

by Ray O'Loughlin

San Francisco's budget deficit crisis has come home to the gay and lesbian community. One city-funded agency learned that it may be on the chopping block. Community United Against Violence (CUAV) faces the possible loss of all its \$124,600 in city funds, nearly half its total budget. But it looks like AIDS services would face no cuts as Mayor Art Agnos struggles with a \$172 million shortfall in city revenues.



Deputy Mayor Sam Yockey (Photo: S. Savage)

Deputy Mayor for Finance Sam Yockey told Bay Area Reporter that no cuts were envisioned for city-funded AIDS programs. Yockey said he expects to have federal funds pick up a greater part of the tab so that local revenues can be used elsewhere or to finance expanded AIDS services. "We're optimistic that we'll get federal funds to pay for some in-home care," Yockey told members of The Alliance, a non-partisan gay and lesbian political action group. "That will free \$10 million that has come from the city general fund."

In order to use federal funds for in-home medical care, Yockey said a special waiver was needed. Federal money now goes only for hospital care. San Francisco has developed an extensive system of home and hospice care that is now not eligible for federal support. He said he was confident of getting the waiver.

Yockey promised cuts of up to 20 percent for all city departments. But, he said, "I do not see any cuts in AIDS health care. If anything, it needs to be expanded."

At present, the city of San

Francisco spends \$19 million on AIDS programs.

Finances were less clear with regard to CUAU. According to a March 21 memo from District Attorney Arlo Smith, the anti-violence agency was listed among programs that could be dropped entirely.

Smith said that he was not recommending any cutbacks in CUAU's contract with the city. "I haven't recommended we cut CUAU," Smith told B.A.R. "I've only pointed out what may happen, what would be the possible effects of the budget cuts. These are not recommendations in any sense," he said.

He said other programs were also listed without making any recommendation for cuts.

CUAU is a contract agency that monitors anti-gay crime, assists victims of crime, and works on police-community relations. It is under direct control of city management. "We're getting a lot of conflicting information," said Beverly Mesch, newly appointed director of CUAU.

"It's very difficult to know what is happening at this point in time," she added.

The loss of city funds would represent a 50 percent reduction in the agency's total budget of \$223,000. That could paralyze the organization that employs eight people. Mesch said she hoped for a smaller decrease in city money. "We will deal gracefully with the same percentage of cuts as other city agencies," she said.

Speaking for the mayor's office, Scott Shafer said that CUAU "is not one of the first things we'd look at for cuts" in the DA's office.

Although no final decisions have been made for any department, said Shafer, "we would

first look at cuts that do not have an impact on services. Obviously, taking \$124,000 away from CUAU would very seriously impact services."

Each city department head has been asked by Agnos to draft budgets showing 5, 10, 15 and 20 percent reductions in funds. "We're asking real basic questions such as what is the service provided, why is it necessary, is it required by law," said Yockey. He said that Agnos wants to make cuts on the basis of "good policy" and not just go after specific line items, such as the CUAU grant.

According to Arlo Smith, the list he sent to the mayor's office represented programs not required by law.

Smith also proposed a different method for balancing the city budget. He said he would prefer cuts in departmental budget funds and leave it up to managers to decide how to spend the money they get. Rather than slashing programs, he said not filling staff vacancies would save the city money.

Smith said he hoped to maintain the contract with CUAU, which he called "vital to the community."

'GOING TO BE PAINFUL'

Yockey said that the mayor's staff was "building a budget that cuts into services in every department." He added that that included the police and fire departments.

He said that Agnos expects also to raise city service fees, such as parking garages, the hotel tax, and the business payroll tax, none of which require voter approval.

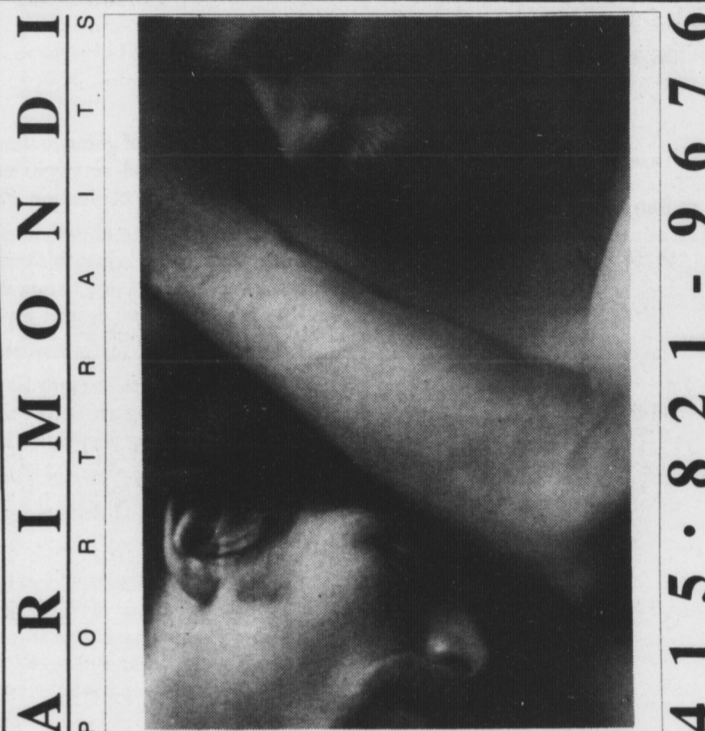
"It is going to be painful," said Yockey, "but we're going to do it all in one year, we're not going to rob from the future to use funds now, and every element of the San Francisco family will be forced to do some belt-tightening."

As part of solving the budget crisis, he outlined plans for

"bringing some efficiency" to city agencies that he described as a management nightmare. He also envisioned efforts to increase state funding for state mandated programs, such as welfare.

"We need a permanent solution," said Yockey. "We can't be all things to all people. We have to ask what does San Francisco want to move forward on."

A balanced budget for the city must be prepared by June 1. Agnos' office plans to announce a draft plan in early May.



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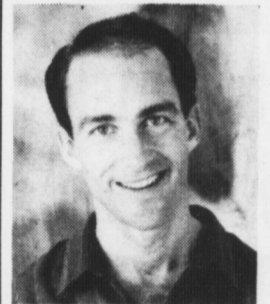
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EDITORIAL & OPINION

Afraid to Shop

I am terrified of going to the supermarket these days. I walk into one and find myself very agitated, close to the feeling I used to get when I would go to confession. Father, forgive me, for I am about to sin. It's not a feeling of delicious anticipation, looking forward to committing the sin. It's just this terrible sense that I am about to do something very wrong. I don't know what, and I may not know why, but I fear I'll make a mistake despite my best efforts.

I am afraid I'll buy a boycotted product.

There have been so many boycotts of late, I can't keep up. It seems that the first thing anybody thinks of is a boycott every time they see or hear something they don't like or is any way homophobic.

It used to be just orange juice. I could handle that, though I loved my morning OJ. I'm glad it's over. (At least, I think it's over.)

Then there was the Coors boycott. I went along with that, too, even though it was my favorite beer, and I have been known to sneak a few now and then since. I'm not sure if the Coors boycott is over. It seems to be a case of "the boycott is dead, long live the boycott." As one reason for the boycott is dropped, a new one is put up in its place. If it isn't labor disputes and anti-gay employment practices, it's the Coors family's hefty support for Right Wing politics.

Currently I am told to boycott a number of nasal decongestants (Burroughs Wellcome) that I depend upon to breathe during allergy season; a number of breakfast cereals (Kellogg's); the San Francisco Chronicle and Examiner; KQED-TV and radio; Time, Newsweek, and Cosmo-politan magazines; and, of course, the Olympics. At first we were boycotting Visa because it supported the U.S. Olympics Committee. People said use MasterCard. Then somebody asked why MasterCard didn't include any AIDS charities in its donor plan. They said we should boycott MasterCard. Some people wrote florid, indignant letters.

Boycotting Cosmo is my favorite, because it is the one that I have been completely successful at. I have never in my life read a copy of that magazine—not even when Burt Reynolds was in it. I decided to make that boycott retroactive.

The most current boycott is against Kellogg's cereals. One of Kellogg's products is called Nut & Honey. Their clever commercials play on the words, rendering them into the phrase, "Nuttin', honey," in a series of odd situations. One scene shows a grizzled chuckwagon cook saying "Nuttin', honey" to a platoon of armed cowboys who react

predictably by putting their guns to cookie's head. Apparently the expression of even mistaken endearment among males is a capital offense.

Now I fully agree that the vignette is offensive. But I confess, in these days of daily outrages, my sense of outrage has grown just a bit jaded. One has to prioritize outrages, there are so many. Any one stupid little commercial just doesn't make it. In fact, I even snickered a bit at it.

Does anybody really think Cosmo, Burroughs-Wellcome, Kellogg's, or any other gigantic, remote corporation is going to notice or care if every single gay and lesbian consumer stops purchasing their products? I don't see any of them even bothering to issue a perfunctory press release to make amends for their alleged offenses.

Don't these people have anything better to do? If they raised a few dollars in the battle for our civil rights, wouldn't that be better than denying a corporation a few cents?

Boycotts were intended to be demonstrations of strength. Nowadays they seem to be revelations of weakness. We don't know what else to do, so we stamp our collective feet and swear off this or that. It's an act of rage, but is essentially powerless, and nothing is more useless than impotent rage.

If a boycott is to be successful, it must be targeted, organized, and maintained. None are today. People throw boycotts like confetti—just toss the idea into the air and see where it lands. Like the boy who cried wolf, if we ever need to have a real boycott, nobody will believe us.

My big fear is that some group will research one product and find a network of interlocking corporate directorships. Then they'd stop us from buying anything.

This may sound harsh, but what if we boycotted boycotts? •



OPINION

Respect All Life

Part II

by Sally Miller Gearhart

O riginally the AIDS research initiative, in three specific parts of its detail, had proposed the use of laboratory animals. When the statewide committee set to work to ready the initiative for the signature-gathering campaign, some animal rights activists from the lesbian and gay community challenged those specific recommendations for the use of animals.

The committee responded immediately: It deleted those three references and sent the entire initiative back, yet again, through all the red tape of the Office of the Secretary of State for a final approval. Thus what is before us is a proposition that has within it no reference whatsoever to animal use and, even more important, a proposition from which any such reference has been deliberately and laboriously deleted.

The fact that so much effort went into this changing of the language testifies that we do not, by this initiative, intend any AIDS research that uses animals. Those efforts allow us as voters to expect that the board administering the funding will steadfastly refuse to fund any such research.

Our task when the initiative passes will be to remind the board and the Legislature of the clear intent of the proposition. Between now and November, our task is to educate ourselves, medical science, and the pharmaceutical industry about our needs as a community stricken with AIDS and about our desire not to exploit other species in helping ourselves.

A s a strong political entity in this state and in the nation, our lesbian and gay community is in an almost unique position. The epidemic has touched our lives more deeply than it has touched any other organized group, and as a result we have been and

will continue to be forced to deal with medical institutions on a large scale. We've discovered, over these years, some of the miracles of medical science and some truly sensitive, caring, and intelligent practitioners of it.

We also know now how self-aggrandizing and with what questionable ethics medical science can operate. We have seen that the pharmaceutical industry can be competitive, profiteering, and exploitative to the disadvantage of those they purport to help.

Many of us, most particularly women, have over the centuries increasingly mistrusted the foundations of western medical practice. We have wondered about its obsessive drive to rid humankind of death and "imperfection" at any cost. We have questioned its human chauvinism, its invasive techniques, its disregard for process, and its often arrogant disrespect for the intelligence and dignity of the individual patient.

B ecause we are now making large and justified demands upon medical and pharmaceutical institutions, and because we are a gentle, angry people, lesbians, gay men, and feminists can have a tremendous influence in the changing of current scientific practices, particularly those that encourage useless, redundant, and inhumane animal protocols.

Even as we fight for our own lives and the lives of those we love, we can teach medicine and industry that the methods by which they accomplish their goals have values in themselves, that there is an ethic to the "how" of science as well as to its "what."

So I call upon all of us to join forces with animal rights activists and to make the next decade more than just a battleground for our rights, our dignity, and our health. It can be, as well, a time for our expression of concern for all of life, whatever its form. •

LETTERS

Willie Brown Responds

★ Recent commentaries in the lesbian and gay media suggest that I have abandoned my support for equal rights and civil liberties, particularly as regards the lesbian/gay community and AIDS. Nothing could be farther from the truth.

Let me assure you, I oppose mandatory testing for AIDS. I voted against Assembly Bill 2319 as it was amended on the floor.

I didn't "allow" AB 2319 to pass in order "to defuse" a challenge to the Speakership, as has been suggested. Once members had agreed upon a course of action, nothing could have derailed the moving of an AIDS testing bill.

A large part of my early legal practice was devoted to defending prostitutes in court. Since AB 2319 deals with mandatory testing of prostitutes, it would seem at cross purposes for me not to support their civil liberties now.

I don't believe any individual or group honestly can challenge my commitment to equal rights for everyone. However, it might be valuable to recall a few facts for those who are unfamiliar with my past record.

• I was the author of the legislation which eliminated criminal penalties in California for sexual activities between consenting adults (AB 489, 1975)

• I obtained the first public money in the nation (\$2.9 million, 1983) for research by the University of California into the AIDS virus.

• I am the author of AB 4475 (1988) which would create AIDS demonstration projects in 10 counties where testing could be done on a voluntary, confidential basis to try to reduce high-risk behaviors among those who test positive for the AIDS virus.

• My Southern California regional office organized and provides support to the Black Los Angeles AIDS Commission.

• In 1987, I convened a Committee of the Whole to allow United States Surgeon General Everett C. Koop to address the full Assembly on AIDS and the vital need for AIDS education.

• Just last week, I convened a panel of seven recognized experts for an extended briefing on AIDS for Assemblymembers in both the Democratic and Republican caucuses.

• I am the floor author of AB 87, the AIDS omnibus legislation dealing with education, services and facilities. It promises to set the goals for AIDS policies in the state.

• I have appointed W.J. Brandy Moore to the California AIDS Advisory Committee which advises the governor and the Legislature on AIDS policies. Mr. Moore is a knowledgeable activist committed to resolving the AIDS crisis in the most reasonable and the speediest manner possible.

My door remains open to the concerns of the lesbian and gay community. Your guidance in these and other matters always has been and continues to be welcome.

My hope is that no group will delude themselves into disregarding my past commitment and its meaning for our common success in the future. I am convinced that your concerns about mandatory testing and AIDS are the same as mine. More than that, I am convinced that by working toward our common goals of ending this epidemic and developing solutions to our common problems, the Office of the Speaker can be of even greater benefit to every Californian.

The Speakership is as important to the lesbian and gay community as it is to all other California communities. It is an office of public trust. And I will not abuse that trust placed in me by the people of California and by my colleagues in the Assembly.

Willie L. Brown, Jr.
Speaker of the Assembly

Heart and Soul

★ It is unfair when judging Mr. Marcus' true age, face, and body, not to mention the fact that his face contains one of the most wonderful souls in all of San Francisco, and the body houses a heart so large and sweet that there is not a gay charity whose coffers have not been enriched by its generosity.

The recent 50th (?) birthday dinner for him raised almost \$6,000 with proceeds to benefit the AIDS Emergency Fund. Let's have another 50th for him next year, and the year after, and the year after. And if Daddy Marcus ever chooses to be 35, so be it!

Keith Reiter
San Francisco

Thanks

★ On behalf of the Board of Directors of International Ms Leather, Inc., I would like to thank and congratulate all of those people who made March 26 the spectacular evening that it was.

Leonard Whitney
San Francisco

Ed. Note: Can anyone join?

Ray O'Loughlin

It takes scores of dedicated people to produce an event such as this, and all of them perform tasks as a team to create the web of support that keeps everything moving smoothly.

The tasks and the people are too numerous to individually name, but they include the person who gave up Saturday nights (too many to count) to hand out flyers that promoted our events, to the person who was on hand to greet people at the GiftCenter with a smile and plenty of positive attitude.

A special thanks to Arnie Ertola, John Keenan, Joanne Totah and all of the staff at the GiftCenter Pavilion. They believed in us and were always there to ally our worst anxieties, of which there were plenty!

To the media who covered this night and all that led up to it: your photographs and words do us proud! Without you as historians to document our progress and impact I don't know where we would be.

The entertainment was perfect. Deena Jones once again proves that she is there to support her community in all its diversities and gave one hell of a show. Alder, Joseph Taro and the Sluts from Hell (by way of Seattle), gave life and meaning to the goal of women and men working together.

Our judges, Corona, Pat Califia, Jacquie Collins, Artemis Oakgrove and 1987 International Ms Leather Judy Tallwing-McCarthy were given the most difficult task of the night. These five were asked to be judges because of their continuing efforts to promote and embrace a healthy, positive image of leather-women lifestyles. They truly put their money where their collective mouths are.

Our deepest thanks to The Names Project, Project Open Hand and The Lyon-Martin Clinic for allowing us to be there for you.

We gave a party and you all came! Let's do it again next year. What'a ya say?

Sky Renfro
President, IMsL, Inc.

Outraged

★ International Ms Leather, Inc. has come a long, long way in two short years. From its conception in the hearts and minds of Mistress Kathy, Sky Renfro, and Peter Rath, to its 2nd Annual contest at the GiftCenter Pavilion on March 26, an extensively active and dedicated board of directors have slaved (excuse the pun) to bring this dream to reality.

Before International Ms Leather, leatherwomen were long-overdue for a formal means of organization and representation. There is now a medium for education and promoting a positive image of women in leather.

International Ms Leather is also an avenue for financial assistance for various organizations in our community. This year's beneficiaries are: The Names Project, Lyon-Martin Clinic, and Project Open Hand.

I am outraged to see the front page of the March 31 issue of B.A.R. show a shirtless man, with a comment about the weather! Perhaps my interpretation is incorrect, but the weather is a "filler," not front page material when such a powerful organization has just hosted its major annual event! We are quite fortunate to have the formation and existence of International Ms Leather within our home community. I think this is an outrageous and insulting oversight to omit proper and elaborate coverage of this landmark event.

Ricky Stricko
San Francisco

Sniping

★ There has been a lot of sniping in the gay press lately about Lt. Gov. Leo McCarthy, the Democratic candidate for U.S. Senate.

David Reid sent a letter to B.A.R. all the way from Los Angeles to whine that McCarthy is not addressing the issue of AIDS. The same week Tim Taylor, writing in the Sentinel, complains that McCarthy "just can't stop talking about AIDS" and doesn't take a "well-rounded" view of the gay community.

Perhaps Reid and Taylor could get together for tea and cake some Sunday afternoon and synchronize their gripes about McCarthy. They could even form their own club and call it an Enormous Group of Bitches Against Leo McCarthy, or EGO BALM for short.

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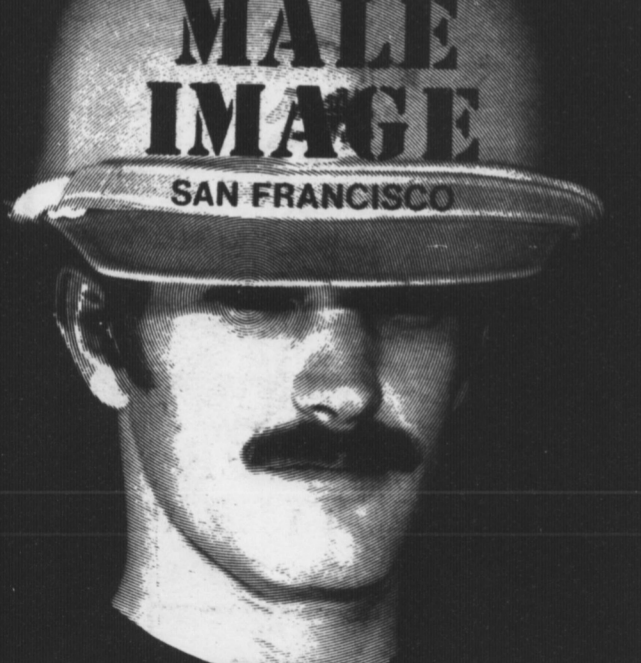
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LETTERS

Dog Face

★ What criteria pits obese, dog-faced, saggy-titted pigs in cow suits against each other?

The Ms International Leather contest should be held in a sewer, where it belongs.

As an intelligent dyke with an active fantasy/sex life, I find the "Mr. Leather" contest much more erotic. At least the contestants have nice bodies and pretty faces.

If these women think being fisted and looking like tubs of Crisco is any reason for entering a contest, they should have their hooves examined!

Loretta Robinson
San Francisco

Not Good Legislation

★ Regarding the Bay Area Reporter's March 31 article "Legislators Offer 82 New AIDS Bills," I must correct a glaring error.

The article addresses AB 2900 by Assemblyman Pat Johnston (D-Stockton) which would permit HIV antibody testing to determine eligibility for health and life insurance. I am quoted as saying that AB 2900 is "good, responsible legislation," and the article further implies that opposition to the bill by the Lobby for Individual Freedom and Equality is based on technical problems.

Let me state for the record that AB 2900 is not "good, responsible legislation," and LIFE fervently opposes its passage; in fact, the defeat of AB 2900 is a high priority in LIFE's 1988 agenda. There is no reason for insurance carriers to be permitted to test, and the result of AB 2900's passage would be to force thousands of people with AIDS, ARC and HIV infection into inadequate or nonexistent medical care.

My reference to "good, responsible" was to the legislator carrying the bill, not the bill itself. While we oppose Assemblyman Johnston's bill, I find Johnston to be a responsible member of the Legislature. Of the five members authoring insurance testing bills, Johnston is the only one who at least was sensitive to the problem of dumping Californians onto Medi-Cal and public health systems. He has linked his bill to another, AB 600, which would create a risk pool for the medically uninsurable.

However, this does not make AB 2900 at all acceptable. AB 600 does not provide any "safety net" and its weaknesses in this regard are not fixable. The insurance companies, especially those selling health insurance, are not suffering because of the AIDS epidemic. Even if they were, they are not in the business to insure only the healthy.

We would greatly appreciate the Bay Area Reporter correcting this issue. If the gay, lesbian and AIDS communities are led to believe that insurance testing is possibly appropriate, then our chances of convincing the Legislature to oppose bills like AB 2900 will be far more difficult.

Rand Martin
Executive Director, Lobby for Individual Freedom and Equality
Sacramento, CA

Ed. Note: We apologize for the error.

Ray O'Loughlin

Easter Lily '88

★ On stage, thanks go to Jon Sugar, C.T. Marga Gomez, and the Dickdorf Girls from Berlin. Behind stage, neighbor Sim Traw and his band did professional jobs while the Western Star Dancers kept the show rolling.

Neighbors like Tom Tripp, Tom O'Dea, Ron, Manny, Karl, Sean, Jeff, Rick, Jim, and many more did what needed doing. Volunteers from heaven got in and got busy. The Castro Lions carried the ball and of course Empress Lily Street worked the stage.

The Grand Ducal and the Imperial Courts both worked through the mist. The Zen Center (and many others) endured graciously several thousand raucous party people.

Much of the afternoon was spontaneous and many people deserve a big hug for another fun-filled event. If anyone didn't have a good time, it wasn't our lack of good intentions.

Thank you each, all and every. In the midst of an epidemic we have again marked a day of triumph over death, neighborhood over loneliness, and joy over despair.

Carl Heimann
San Francisco

Grain of Salt

★ Frequently persons who were never Roman Catholic Christians think of the Roman Catholic Church as a monolithic massiveness wherein everyone blindly echoes mindlessly the thoughts and teachings of the present and past bishops of Rome. This is, and always has been, largely a myth—even before the Second Vatican Council of 1962-1965. In reality very few teachings of the Roman Church have been defined as dogma.

Thus Mike Hippler's funny piece on the protests which greeted Pope John Paul II last September as described in *Fidelity* may be easily misunderstood by non-Roman Catholic B.A.R. readers.

I have never heard of *Fidelity* magazine. It is almost certainly a publication of the right wing of American Roman Catholicism which probably embraces somewhere between 10 and 15 percent of Roman Catholic Americans.

Readers of the Bay Area Reporter need to realize that Roman Catholicism is a complex system which is as much a philosophy of life as it is a theology.

On most questions of morality and of ethics there are several theological or philosophical viewpoints—only one of which might be advanced by the Vatican.

Unlike other Christians, Roman Catholics have learned over the course of centuries to take some papal teachings with a grain of salt. Frankly, individual Roman Catholics—bishops, priests, nuns, and lay persons—often latch onto a particular Vatican teaching to validate their own firmly-held opinions, and otherwise ignore the Vatican.

Since the gay liberation movement is a movement, it will reflect a variety of opinions concerning any subject or action under the sun. Unfortunately nearly everyone will be convinced that his or her opinion is the only "theologically correct" one. Thus some gay Bay Areas honestly thought that Pope John Paul II should have been denied his rights of free speech and free assembly. Others of us thought this was an extremely dangerous position to take in a free society.

Thus it is with the author of the article in *Fidelity*. His opinions are almost certainly representative of the religious right which crosses all Judeo-Christian denominations.

Mike Hippler and B.A.R. readers, however, should realize that this author's opinions do not reflect every official [i.e. Vatican] position on homophile persons, let alone the highly compassionate position towards persons with AIDS or ARC which Pope John Paul II advocated.

James F. Gibbons
San Leandro, CA

Visible

★ I am constantly confronted with questions of why people of color do not take a more visible role in the civil rights struggle of gays and lesbians. I would like to suggest that you as news reporters bear a responsibility for this question.

I am greatly distressed that none of your papers gave coverage to the arrest of about 21 people at the ARCAIDS Vigil demonstration, March 8. Most of these people were people of color. Where were your reporters on this occasion in which people of color wished to declare their solidarity with the rest of the lesbian/gay community in the fight against AIDS. Need I say more?

Rarely, in my 13 years of life in the Bay Area, have I read of the contributions of people of color to our community. Yet, many of us have tried to bridge the gap between an alienated minority and the rest of the lesbian/gay community. So, I am not surprised at the question, "Why don't people of color contribute to the political efforts of the lesbian/gay community?"

Michael Foo
San Francisco

Ed. Note: The Tuesday arrests at the Vigil have been going on for two months. Many people, including the president of the San Francisco Board of Supervisors and others, were arrested without media fanfare. Few people have gotten involved with the Vigil or the civil rights movement because of the promise of personal publicity.

Ray O'Loughlin

Message Clear

★ When I see prominent gay politicians advertising that they are withholding their support from Roberta Achtenberg and giving it instead to the straight candidate for Assembly, the message is perfectly clear. We cannot afford this kind of disunity. It is killing us. It kills us literally in the fact that the government gets away with ignoring the AIDS crisis. It will end up killing us in other ways too.

Frederic Millen
San Francisco

LETTERS

Oblivious

★ Last evening, on one of the radio talk shows, I heard Quentin Kopp proudly proclaim himself as the person responsible for offering San Francisco as the host city for the 1996 (dare I say the word) Olympics. Kopp seemed to be totally oblivious to his profound state of discredit in the minds of a substantial portion of the statewide population. Kopp and Supervisors Molinari, Hsieh, Kennedy, and Maher, all evidently would benefit immensely from a few social ethics courses (i.e. one simply does not invite one to play in one's yard when certain members of one's family have been denied use of one's name).

As far as I am concerned, Kopp and his supervisorial disciples' political careers have ended. Maybe they can get positions on the USOC board, they seem to share an equally dismal degree of social sensitivity.

Jerry R. DeYoung
San Francisco

Nuttin' Honey

★ There are all sorts of stereotypes about gay people out there—that we're impulsive, overly sensitive, ineffectual, unable to mount a boycott, economically insignificant. Up in Kellogg's Land, they apparently think we're just plain stupid.

A few weeks ago I wrote a letter to Kellogg's expressing my disgust with their Nut & Honey cereal commercial. This is the ad featuring various vignettes in which one person asks, "What's to eat?" and another person answers, "Nut & Honey," which is misheard as "Nothin', honey," with situational "comic" results. This culminates in a blatant bit of media fag-bashing, when a cattle trail cook gives the same reply to his cowboy buddies, who snarl in unison and draw their guns on him. You just don't call a manly American cowboy "honey."

The fact that the ad is supposed to be innocent and funny makes it all the more insidious. Joke or no joke, it's the same mentality that gave us the "homosexual panic" defense. And in this case, the message is largely aimed at children.

This is part of the self-serving and absurdly rationalizing reply I received from Joseph M. Stewart, vice president of public affairs at Kellogg's:

"Please forgive the brief delay in our response to your letter dated February 25, 1988. We have been assessing our 'Nut 'n Honey' ad to determine if we overlooked a subtlety in the application of our stringent advertising policy during the creation of this commercial.

"May I begin by assuring you that Kellogg Company has in no way, intentionally or inadvertently, attempted to communicate in a political, economic, or socio-moral position, impression, or persuasion in our 'Nut & Honey Crunch' ad. The use of the response, 'Nut 'n Honey,' by the cook draws a reaction from hungry cowboys who have been working hard and are eager to eat. We believe that in order to interpret this scene as an anti-gay expression, the viewer must first change the era, the scene, and the motivation to arrive at such a conclusion... we hope you will appreciate that we cannot allow ourselves to impulsively overreact to unjustified misinterpretations. To do so would destroy the integrity of our high standards of advertising and more importantly would destroy the trust and confidence of consumers."

In other words: Fuck off. End of dialogue. It's certainly enough to make me lose my appetite. Besides, you know us fags, always "impulsively overreacting." So sensitive. Always imagining things.

I hope readers will take time to drop a line to Mr. Stewart (Public Affairs, One Kellogg Square, P.O. Box 3599, Battle Creek, MI 49016). A postcard will do. It only has to say: "Your Nut & Honey commercial stinks, and so do your excuses. I'm not buying it." He'll get the message.

But don't call him "honey."

Steven Saylor
San Francisco

Bye-Bye, Bea

★ As a grant writer who has raised nearly \$3,000,000 for many AIDS organizations over the past two years, I want to publicly acknowledge the substantial loss the gay community experienced last week when Bea Roman, Shanti's development director, accepted the position of executive director of the National Gay and Lesbian Health Organization in Washington, D.C. It is hard to believe that any organization would let such a valuable asset get away.

It was both a professional reward and a personal honor to have worked with Ms. Roman over the past two years and her contribution to the gay community can never be fully or adequately measured. By my calculations alone she brought in somewhere between \$5,000,000 and \$7,000,000 toward direct services and AIDS education and prevention efforts in this city.

Above and beyond that, she seemed always to be available with a sound, compassionate shoulder for all of us to lean and cry on. Her reputation as an honest and humane individual coupled with her determination to be accessible not only to friends, but strangers in need made the line to her door sometimes very long indeed.

It goes without saying that Shanti will have a difficult time filling her position with someone as qualified, and generous and personally dedicated. Her friends and business associates will be a long time tending the void her absence creates.

Krandall Kraus
San Francisco

In the Way

The following letter was sent to the *San Francisco Chronicle*:

★ Where would we be without you helpfully pointing out how the poor, suffering majority is being trampled by the thoughtless insistence of minorities on attaining their full rights and dignity in our society? Several recent editorial cartoons (the most recent of which, on March 30, depicted Mayor Agnos riding in the sidecar of a "gay motorcycle" which has just trampled the city's Olympic bid) have focused on San Francisco's effort to host the 1996 Olympic Games, an effort which has been thwarted by a few simple-minded people who have been needlessly offended by the kind efforts of right-thinking USOC directors who probably wanted nothing to do to remind these gays and lesbians that they should stay in the closet where they belong, and for heaven's sake, be quiet about it.

Have I come close to your editorial position yet? Your stance upholds and encourages "lowest common denominator" democracy, in which elected officials always side with the position least offensive to the largest number of people, regardless of moral implications.

Why, in your editorial opinion, is it acceptable—in this case even desirable—to ignore the slights and defamations inflicted on this particular San Francisco minority? If the minority group referred to in these cartoons had been blacks, Jews, Hispanics, women, the handicapped, or just about any group other than gays and lesbians, I doubt that you would have printed such a cartoon. It would seem that your editorial opinion favors only the kind of bigotry it thinks it can get away with.

Had this been Montgomery, Alabama a generation ago, I'm sure you would have published cartoons and editorials telling Rosa Parks to go to the back of the bus where she belonged and be quiet. After all, we wouldn't want her rights or her dignity to get in our way, now would we?

Jeffrey P. Goodsite
San Francisco

Goodbye, Old Castro Street

★ I note that Walgreen's Drug Store is currently taking over a third piece of property at Castro and Market. Now they will be to the wall of Phoenix bar. How far will this huge, faceless, out-of-town, impersonal company expand in a largely gay, small-town atmosphere neighborhood? They love our money, but I don't hear of them doing anything for our community. At least a gleam of hope, though: with our low-key boycott of Hallmark's card shop, I'm happy to see that they, at least, folded up and went away.

But the worst blow was my first meal in the "new" Norse Cove cafe, a much-loved, supportive old restaurant. It has just been "renovated" and is a sorry sight, indeed. No more color, no more coziness, no more quaintness. Gone is the counter where one could pick out and order his or her food. Gone are the newspapers one could leisurely pore over. Totally plain walls, a more "yuppier" style, a plastic copy of most other restaurants.

Those on limited incomes, who can seldom afford to eat out, could avoid tipping (since one paid at the cash register and need not feel guilty about not dropping change in the "tips" jar there). No one denies that the purpose of any business is to make a profit. But I don't see how their renovation can bring in more customers; I for one don't feel comfortable nor at my leisure there anymore. Although a boycott of it would, I admit, be fruitless, I do wish we could convince them to return to the old atmosphere, both physically and mentally. They tore it out; it is physically possible to put it back in again.

John Abraham
San Francisco

Ed. Note: Walgreen's has contributed to numerous community groups in the years since its move to Castro. The old Norse Cove may have been cheap, but never was it cozy and quaint.

Ray O'Loughlin

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George Is Mad At Quentin

In Sacramento, they are saying that Gov. George Deukmejian is still fuming over the state Senate's refusal to confirm State Treasurer-designate Dan Lungren. He has all but declared open war on state Sen. Quentin Kopp, who many felt once had a "gentleman's agreement" and supposedly enjoyed a friendly relationship with the Republican governor.

Deukmejian, who has accused the "Independent" Kopp of double-crossing him by once agreeing to support the Lungren nomination, only to switch at the last minute to a "no" vote on the confirmation, was letting reporters know last week that two can play the politics game in Sacramento.

Gubernatorial press secretary Kevin Brett said that Kopp "now has absolutely no influence in the governor's office." He suggested further that Sen. Kopp's legislation could suffer because of his flip-flop on the Lungren nomination. Brett told capital reporters that although the governor "will sign a bill that truly needs to be signed, if there is a close call and someone like Kopp wants the benefit of the doubt from the governor, they shouldn't be surprised if their bills are vetoed."

Kopp, meanwhile, is expected to conveniently switch back to the Democratic fold in time to avoid a primary battle before his next election. Some are predicting that the San Francisco senator has already made his deal with Sen. David Roberti and the senate Demo leadership and it is only a matter of when he will again become a Democrat.

Regarding the Lungren nomination, incidentally, the California state Supreme Court has now decided to decide whether he can take the Treasurer's office.

Former Mayors Joe Alioto and George Christopher, both of whom were Agnos campaign supporters, last week joined with Dianne Feinstein and some 200 labor and civic leaders in asking Mayor Art Agnos to reconsider his position on the USS Missouri. The former mayors claim berthing the battleship would bring 4,000 new jobs to the city. But don't bet that Agnos will change his mind on this one.

The Native, New York City's largest gay newspaper, placed itself at odds with that city's three gay Democratic clubs this week and endorsed Mass. Gov. Michael Dukakis in next week's primary. Dukakis, who has earned the wrath of



Quentin Kopp

(Photo: Rink)

many gay voters because of his opposition to gays becoming foster parents, said through a campaign spokesperson that he has earned the gay paper's support because of his "solid record" on issues of concern to gays and his "first-hand management experience" in the AIDS crisis.

Many gays and lesbians are actively supporting Jesse Jackson in next week's primary. The co-chair of Gays and Lesbians for Jackson in New York City called the Native endorsement of Dukakis a "slap in the face" and proves that the paper and its publisher Charles Ortleb is "out of synch" with its readers.

Former Mayor Dianne Feinstein and state Sen. Quentin Kopp will serve as co-chairs of a cocktail fundraiser for Sup. John Molinari at Trader Vic's on May 5.

BART Director Arlo Hale Smith will be a candidate for supervisor in the November election.

The state of South Carolina this week disclosed its first AIDS quarantine: a Charleston female prostitute who refused to quit. And Florida Gov. Bob Martinez this week asked the legislature to permit quarantine of recalcitrant AIDS sufferers, likening them to "criminals armed with a deadly weapon."

A new poll by UCLA released recently shows that about 70 percent of the 1,100 adults surveyed said they favor the idea of man-

datory testing. Even more would favor testing of drug users and gay men; 79 percent of those asked said they now consider AIDS a health threat to the general population, compared to only 56 percent when the same question was asked in a similar survey two years ago in the L.A. area.

The powers that be at the Toklas Demo Club screwed up last Monday's endorsement meeting with the result that only one candidate for the Central Committee won endorsement (their idiotic rule of a necessary 60 percent has got to go). Toklas members did endorse Jesse Jackson for president in the June primary. Why the continuous rancorous problems at Toklas?

Pat Robertson was telling listeners last week that he has a divine mandate to run for President and will not stop until he is in the White House. Although he admits "it may not be in 1988... but I'm not going to quit." Robertson added that "This is the enterprise the Lord sent me on a year or so ago running for President of the United States. This is His plan for me and this nation."

Former Gov. Jerry Brown, who returned recently from Calcutta where he worked with dying patients at Mother Teresa's clinic, has been meeting with San Francisco officials in hopes of finding an AIDS hospice site before the May visit of Mother Teresa. Brown, who turned 50 last week,

In the April Life magazine Brown tells of his work with Mother Teresa, a story for which he was paid \$10,000 (and donated to the Calcutta clinic. "Often all I could do was sit and hold a hand while a man's breath became shallower and shallower," Brown wrote.

New York City, faced with a financial crunch and worsening parking situation, recently raised their \$40 parking ticket to a whopping \$100, plus another \$125 if the car is towed away (a way for Mayor Agnos to raise badly needed revenues?).

A lot of red faces at a well-heeled \$250 per person fundraiser for Lt. Gov. (and would-be U.S. Senator) Leo McCarthy in Los Angeles last week when the guest speaker, Helen Caldicott, the Australian-born crusader against nuclear arms gave a rambling speech in which she denounced the U.S. as the world's most irresponsible nuclear power and called Russia's Mikhail Gorbachev a "miracle" man whom she compared to Jesus Christ. Before the dinner (which raised \$50,000) McCarthy had praised Caldicott as a "charismatic personality" who has dedicated her life to ending the arms race, but after she

(Continued on next page)

says, "We're still meeting with Mayor Agnos and he's expressed a very positive attitude." He adds that AIDS has struck close to him—he knows of at least one friend and long-time supporter who has died of the disease.



Why is this man smiling? — Because he's the wealthiest man on the S.F. Board of Supervisors, that's why! (Photo: Rink)

Sticks and Stones

Although most of my straight friends say I don't "act gay" (whatever that means), I still get called a faggot from time to time. Whenever this happens, I am rarely prepared for it. Therefore, my responses are hopelessly inadequate. Whatever I do, I invariably leave the scene pondering what I should have said to the turdiks who call me names.

Momma always said that sticks and stones may break my bones, but... well, you know the rest. Let's face it, though—sometimes names do hurt. Fortunately, it works both ways, and if you are quick or clever enough, it's easy to get the best of people whose idea of a good time is verbal fag- and dyke-bashing.

The easiest response is to return tit for tat by shouting something like "Breeders!" in reply. But it doesn't do a lot of good to fling epithets at one another. Besides, the jerkolas probably don't even know what the term means, and, if they do, why should they care? What's wrong with propagating the species, after all? Where do you think little fags and dykes come from? In any event, this kind of reply is not very original. One might even call it hackneyed.

Equally ineffectual is to feign a lisp, flutter your wrists, and reply, "How can you tell? Does it show?" True, you may surprise the oppressors by implying that you don't consider their accusations an insult. But you also run the risk of confirming the stereotypes they have of us. Irony, however obvious, is not a trait these people seem to appreciate, much

less understand.

More on their level is the response, "Takes one to know one!" But half the point of being gay is being clever and witty, and adopting the manners and logic of a seven-year-old child hardly counts for wit. You might as well respond, "I know you are, but what am I?"

A much better attitude is to assume the pious demeanor of the politically correct and say, "Excuse me, but I believe the proper term is 'gay/lesbian.' Try to remember that in the future." Or you can affect the condescending tone of a schoolteacher: "No, not 'queer'—'gay.' G-A-Y. Even you ought to know the difference, dumbfuck." Good luck with this last response, though. At best it will get you an after-hours phone call from an irate parent. At worst it will get you thrown through a plate-glass window.

Perhaps it is foolish of me, but I am often tempted to reason with my tormentors. I want to say, "C'mon, guys, what's your problem? Why does it bother you?" But if they were capable of rational discourse, they probably wouldn't have called me a homo in the first place. Therefore, I am more likely to resort to humor. "Where?" I will ask when they shout, "Faggot!" It works about as well as reason does, but at least I have a good time.

Then there is the positive approach. When they accuse you of being a pervert, you can always reply, "Sure am," "You bet," or "Thanks for noticing." If all else fails, negativity is acceptable. Simply reply, "Asshole!" Before

you do this, however, make sure you are prepared to deal with the consequences—which means you'd better be able to defend yourself or run like hell. I recommend running.

Of course, you won't always be called a fag or a dyke. Even homophobes are capable of composing variations on a theme, and you must learn to do likewise. Sometimes, for instance, they'll say, "You're queer, aren't you?" Appropriate responses to this question include, "I was the last time I checked," "I sure to God hope so," and "Why do you want to know? Looking for a date, honey?"

Or they might say to the men in the crowd, "Bet you like to suck dick, don't you?" (And to the women, "Bet you like to eat pussy, don't you?") Here you should say, "Every chance I get," or "Well, I sure as hell don't eat pussy." (Lesbians, take note: Your

answer should be, "Well, I sure as hell don't suck dick." Try to get this—pardon the expression—straight.)

Finally, you will sometimes run across the homophobic tease who thinks it's insulting to threaten, "Suck my dick, cocksucker." (Sorry, but there is no lesbian equivalent here. Straight women rarely approach gay women and growl, "Lick my twat, bull dyke.") The range of responses here is absolutely mind-boggling. Most devastating, perhaps, is to answer, "Maybe I would if I could find it," or, better yet, "Maybe I would if you had one." You can also reply, "What's the matter? Can't you get your girlfriend to do it for you? Or don't you have a girlfriend?"

If your persecutor is with another male, ask him, "Why don't you suck your boyfriend's dick instead? I'm sure you'd both enjoy it." Or simply say, "No,

thanks. I'd rather suck my own." If you are feeling particularly vulgar, of course, you can always answer, "I'd rather suck farts in Hell." Once again, though, if you use this approach, see paragraph 8, sentence 4, above: Be prepared to deal with the consequences.

A friend tells me he has yet to be bested in a verbal exchange of this sort, for his tongue is his most effective weapon. Well, I'm pretty good with my tongue, too, as any number of men in this town will tell you. But, as noted above, I'm not always as quick on the draw as I'd like to be.

If you have the same problem, I suggest you cut this article out and carry it around in your pocket as a ready reference guide in times of need. In fact, while you're at it, you might want to clip and save other articles of mine, as well. As far as I'm concerned, that's why God invented scissors.

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Hearing Set For City Funds

Mayor Art Agnos and the Citizens Committee on Community Development invite all citizens to participate in a public hearing to give testimony on and to identify community development and housing needs for San Francisco's 1989 Community Development Program.

Pursuant to the Housing and Community Act of 1974, as amended, San Francisco will proceed with a tentative budget ranging from \$14-\$16 million for the 1989 Community Development Program. Prior to the preparation of this program, the Mayor's Office and the Citizens Committee on Community Development will be holding a public hearing on Thursday, April 21, at 7 p.m., City Hall, so that citizens can present their views on the needs for Community Development Funds.

For more information, please call the Mayor's Office of Community Development at 558-2112.

New Publication For Gay Christians

A new bimonthly newspaper for gay Christians is set to begin publication this spring. The Second Stone will feature news and information from gay Christian groups across the nation, as well as ecumenically approached features and columns. The newspaper will be available nationally by subscription.

For information on The Second Stone, write to P.O. Box 8340, New Orleans, LA 70182.

Historical Society Hosts Mothertongue

The San Francisco Bay Area Gay and Lesbian Historical Society will present "A Dozen Years of Mothertongue" on Saturday, April 16, 1988, at 7:30 p.m. at the San Francisco Women's Building, 3543 18th St.

Members of Mothertongue Feminist Theater Collective will discuss the group's growth from local coffeehouse performances in 1976 to its current place in the Bay Area readers' theater network. Admission is \$5 (free to members of the Historical Society). For more information, please call 552-4929.

Friday

(Continued from previous page) spoke McCarthy was noticeably embarrassed and tried to put distance between himself and her remarks.

Economic reports filed by city officials show Sup. Richard Hongisto to be the board's wealthiest.

Don't listen to the rumors that have Jack Davis moving to San Francisco to run for supervisor.

In case you don't like any of the Democratic hopefuls, you will want to know that Mike Rapp, the lead dancer at Chippendale's, a New York nightclub, is the latest entry in this year's presidential contest.

He is the only one to wear tight leather pants in his official photo. Listed on his resume: "He has dark brown hair, green eyes, weighs 215 pounds and stands six-foot-four-inches tall." Motto: "He wants what you want."

LIFE AT THE CLOSET DOOR

Census May Include Gay Couples

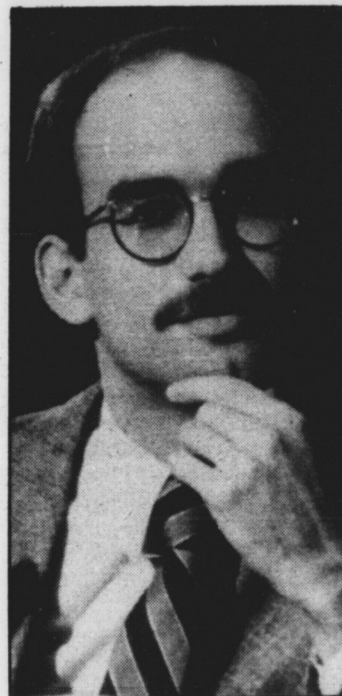
WASHINGTON, DC—The U.S. Census Bureau may take the first step in counting the American gay and lesbian population in the 1990 census. In a proposed questionnaire that the bureau has submitted to Congress for approval, non-related persons living together will be able to designate whether they are in an "unmarried partner" relationship.

Although the new category was added at the behest of demographic researchers hoping to track the steps that heterosexual couples take toward marriage, a

spokesperson for the Census Bureau said that the agency would probably publish data listing unmarried heterosexual and same-sex couples.

Jeff Levi, director of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, was skeptical about the usefulness of the new classification. "It will tell us something," he said, "but I predict there will be gross underreporting."

He said that either gay couples won't feel comfortable answering the question or won't know what the category means. But he en-



Jeff Levi of NGLTF is skeptical about the classification's usefulness.

couraged gay couples "who feel comfortable" with the designation to identify themselves as unmarried partners.

All census information on individuals is kept strictly confidential by law, according to Census Bureau documents. Individual forms are microfilmed and kept under lock and key for 72 years. Employees of the bureau are sworn not to reveal any information about individuals.

In previous censuses, the closest gay couples could get to identifying themselves was to check the box for "partner, roommate." Meanwhile, an unpublished 1970 study done by sociologist Albert D. Klassen, a former associate of the Kinsey Institute, confirmed the earlier estimate by Kinsey, based on 1940s data, that gay and lesbian people make up about 10 percent of the U.S. population. That study has been unpublished because of a dispute over authorship.

—Washington Blade

UCLA Recognizes Gay Fraternity

LOS ANGELES—A fraternity for gay men has been approved by the University of California at Los Angeles. Last month UCLA approved a lesbian sorority.

The 11-member Delta Lambda Phi fraternity was recognized March 31, reported Associated Press.

"Gay people need a lot of support in their college years," senior Jason Howe, president, told AP. "They are trying to come to grips with growing up, getting through college and getting a career. But they also have to come to grips with their sexuality."

The fraternity is a spinoff of a Washington-based organization trying to form chapters at campuses around the country.

"We are trying to encourage socializing outside of the bar environment and its negative emphasis on alcohol and drugs," said fraternity advisor Chris Williamson.

Official recognition means Delta Lambda Phi can use the school's name, meet on campus, and apply for student activities funds, said Chris Fishburn, UCLA's director of fraternity and sorority relations.

And if any straight men apply to the gay fraternity, discrimination laws prohibit their automatic rejection.

—Associated Press

Gay Rights Bring Down Government

THORSHAVN, Faroe Islands—The threat of legalizing homosexuality has brought down the government in this Danish North Atlantic territory. The Christian Party pulled out of the governing coalition over a bill which they feared could legalize gay sex.

Summer elections have also been postponed until November in the autonomous Danish

islands, according to Agence France Presse.

The center-right Progressive Party took the Christian Party's place in a four-way coalition, which collapsed after the Christian Party on March 25 rejected a draft law on equality of the sexes. They fear the bill could lead to gay rights as well.

—Agence France Presse

Pride March Set for Dubuque

DUBUQUE, IA—Lesbians, gay men, and supporters will return to the streets of Dubuque, Iowa, on Saturday, April 30, for the second annual lesbian and gay pride march. Last year's event saw marchers harassed and pelted with obscenities, epithets, and eggs. Dubuque police took no action to intervene while anti-gay counterdemonstrators nearly turned that peaceful pride march into a riot.

"This year will be significantly different," said Ginny Lynns, a Dubuque organizer of the march.

"We're inviting people from the Upper Midwest region to stand with us and show the Dubuque police and city administration that lesbians and gay men are here to stay. We call it the 'Forsythe County' march of the lesbian and gay rights movement because, after racist attacks on black people in the Georgia county, thousands and

thousands of people turned out for a peaceful, but powerful and empowering, march."

After the Sept. 19, 1987, march, organizers met with Dubuque police and city officials to demand protection at future events and to propose anti-homophobia training sessions for officers.

Police Chief John Mauss defended the inaction of his officers, saying, "We don't like egg-throwing, but no one was hurt." Mauss declined sensitivity training even while admitting that police officers had harassed a gay man at the march.

Prior to the 1987 march, organizers asked Mayor James Brady to declare a gay/lesbian pride week. Brady refused, saying that gay rights are a private issue. He also said the only gay people he had ever known were child molesters and that he wouldn't want "to live next door to one." ●

Frisch



FDA Acts Against Drug Maker

Calls Food Supplement a Drug; Halts Production of EL 1020

by Miranda Kolbe

Whether an experimental product for AIDS treatment will get into the hands of those who need it is baffling almost everyone involved in the process, from manufacturers and distributors to AIDS resource groups and people with AIDS themselves. In the case of AL 721 and look-alike products, answers are further obscured by AL 721's double status as a drug in clinical trials at the National Institutes for Health and as a food product marketed and sold by companies across the nation.

According to Ethigen Corp., which holds the U.S. rights to AL 721, this egg-based product apparently reduces the ability of HIV to invade healthy blood cells. It works by softening the rigid cell surrounding the AIDS virus and thus inhibiting the virus's ability to attach itself to and penetrate healthy host cells.

Ethigen claims AL 721 effectively reduces the level of the virus in blood and that researchers have observed improved immune-system response as a result of taking the product. People taking AL 721 have also reported no significant adverse effects.

The NIH's clinical trials of AL 721 are expected to conclude at the end of the summer. However, it may be several years before the FDA grants approval of AL 721 as a drug for the treatment of AIDS.

However, Ethigen is not waiting for FDA approval to begin marketing its product. Instead, like the many other companies presently selling similar remedies, Ethigen will market AL 721 as a food supplement to be sold at health food stores. It will thereby sidestep the FDA's stringent trials. Ethigen plans to begin sales at the end of this month.

"We plan to keep the trials at the NIH separate from AL 721's marketing as a food supplement," said Weingarten. "Those are really two different things."

However, many people involved in AIDS drug networks have expressed doubt as to whether the FDA will agree with Ethigen's line of reasoning.

Last month Houba, Inc., a company in Culver, Indiana, was ordered to stop production of its

look-alike, EL 1020. The FDA claimed that Houba had suggested therapeutic uses for its product, and consequently EL 1020 could no longer be marketed as a food. If therapeutic claims are made, the product falls into the technical sphere of drugs.

Houba is no longer selling EL 1020, but is producing an egg lecithin product, said Dr. George Krsek, president of Houba. Krsek doesn't anticipate another shutdown notice from the FDA, but he can't be sure Houba will be free of future problems with the regulatory agency. "We're always having 'problems' with the FDA," Krsek said jokingly.

Krsek said he thinks Ethigen may be headed for trouble, as well. "Ethigen's situation is different from ours," he said. "Ethigen has already marketed AL 721 as a drug, and it is under clinical trials at the NIH. I think Ethigen may have to divorce itself of the drug being tested and put another company in charge of selling it for them."

Patrick MulCahey, hotline coordinator for Project Inform, also believes Ethigen is walking a tightrope as it tries to maintain that its AL 721 food product is a separate entity from the AL 721 undergoing trials at the NIH. "I wouldn't be surprised if the FDA did act against Ethigen," he said.

Clear labels and avoidance of any indication of medical usage seems to be the most direct path to avoiding confrontations with the FDA, said MulCahey. However, he said, if a product is distributed by AIDS groups, it may be more closely scrutinized, because "PWAs are buying it for one reason and one reason only

—they think it will help them with AIDS."

Other companies marketing AL 721 look-alikes have "been brow-beaten a bit by the FDA," said MulCahey. However, he insisted, "The FDA is not the villain." He believes there are many manufacturers who are not entirely scrupulous. Project Inform has found the following companies' analogues to AL 721 to be acceptable: American Roland, Allergy Research Group/Nutricology, Jarow, Source Natural, Houba, and Global.

Clampdowns on AIDS products are not uncommon, MulCahey said. "Just this Friday the FDA seized a shipment of dextran sulfate as it was brought in from Canada." Used in Japan as an anti-leukemia treatment since 1976, dextran sulfate has had "very good *in vitro* results with PWAs," said MulCahey, "and it's one of the most anxiously awaited antiviral drugs available."

For its part, Ethigen is making no predictions as to potential FDA action against the company. "It would be inappropriate for me to speculate on possible FDA action," Weingarten said. ●

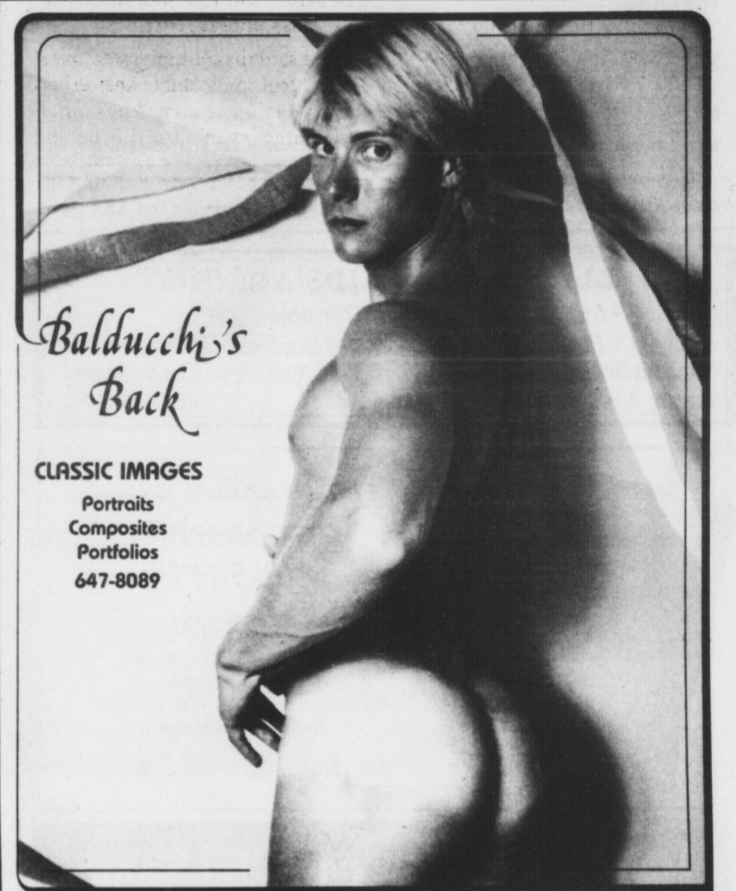
Gay Feds Celebrate 4th Anniversary

In 1984 FLAG, Federal Lesbians and Gays, got off to a shaky start. After an item about the organization's first meeting appeared in Herb Caen's column, the manager of the first meeting site insisted just hours before the meeting was to begin that security guards be hired to handle any violence.

FLAG was apparently found to be harmless, since, over the years, nothing adverse has resulted. In fact, the organization now works

in cooperation with the federal government in several areas.

The group will celebrate its fourth anniversary on Saturday, April 16, with a festive party at the Dolores Plaza Condos Party Room, 1839 15th St., San Francisco, from 8 to 11 p.m. There will be a no-host bar, munchies, great music, and new and old friends. FLAG invites the community to celebrate with them. Call 695-9174 for more information. ●



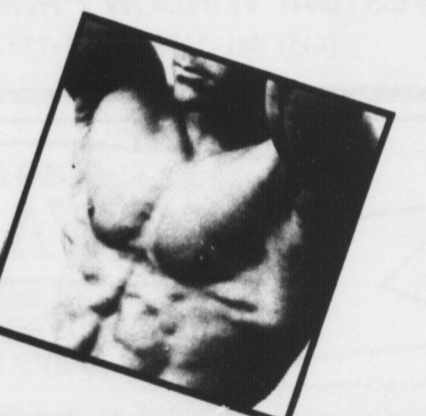
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Operation Concern board members held an open house March 31 to honor Carole Migden, who leaves her position as executive director there after eight years to pursue other career choices. Migden was presented with three plaques, from the S.F. Board of Supervisors, Sen. Milton Marks, and Sheriff Michael Hennessey. (Photo: Rink)

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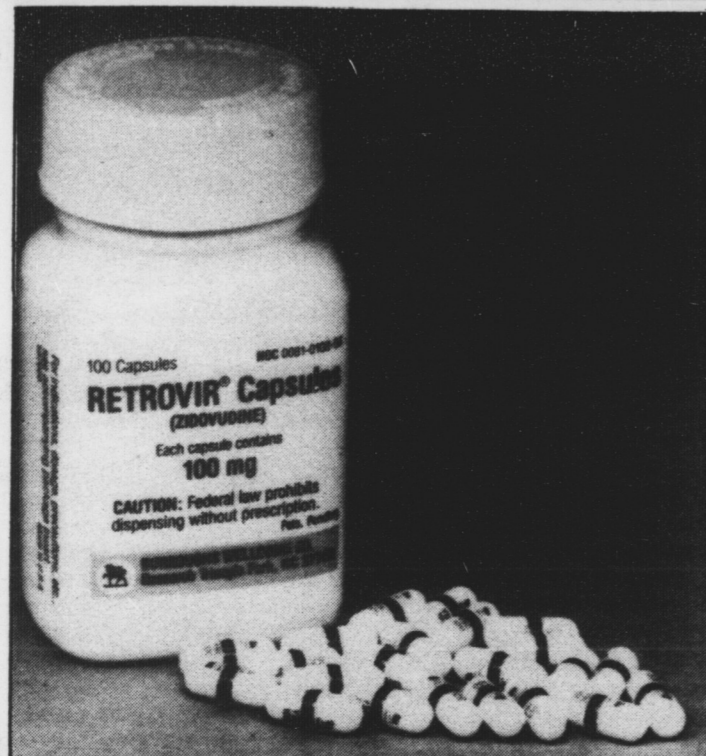
AZT More Available But Warning Issued On Toxicity

by Dennis McMillan

The good news is, California is lowering the income eligibility level for those seeking the AIDS treatment drug, AZT. The bad news is, San Francisco General Hospital is warning people that AZT may be more harmful than helpful for some.

According to a letter from the state Department of Health Services Office of AIDS, the guidelines for income eligibility for AZT have been changed "from 400 percent of the 1987 Federal Income Poverty Guidelines to 727 percent for a family unit regardless of the number of persons in the family."

This means that a person who in income before deductions will makes up to or less than \$40,000 likely be eligible for the AZT pro-



danger of "overwhelming toxicity" and the possibility that it can cause a resistance to the drug's efficacy when the person actually begins to show symptoms.

Since AZT has been approved by the federal Food and Drug Administration for general prescription use, many doctors are prescribing it when their patients test positive for the human immunodeficiency virus. Originally the FDA guidelines recommended AZT only for pneumocystis or severe ARC and a badly damaged immune system.

AZT does appear to help patients with AIDS-related pneumonia or opportunistic infections such as bacterial and fungal diseases in their advanced stages. But, Volberding cautions, the benefits are only temporary. All patients eventually show signs that the disease is progressing. And the drug is so toxic that less than half of the severely ill patients can tolerate it.

gram. The criteria includes income only, which is defined as total cash receipts, money wages and salaries before taxes.

DANGEROUS

But before you make that call, you should be aware of the warning recently issued from the office of the head of AIDS service, Dr. Paul Volberding, in San Francisco General Hospital.

State Health Director Kenneth Kizer said that the eligibility level was increased to allow more AIDS patients to get federal funds for the drug. The state has received \$7.6 million from the federal government to pay for AZT for lower income earners unable to afford the annual cost of \$8,000 to \$10,000.

The client will have to provide proof of income, and income data for parts of a year may be annualized in order to determine eligibility. Other AZT program criteria continue to require a valid prescription from a licensed physician for AZT, and the client must not be eligible to receive AZT from any other third party private insurance, health plan, or Medi-Cal.

Persons who think they are eligible under the new standards may want to contact their local health departments. Or they can call the northern California AIDS hotline at (800) 367-2437, or contact Anna Ramirez-Rude in the Sacramento AIDS Office at (916) 324-8429.

A three-year blind study is underway, involving over 1,300 male volunteers. One-third of the group is being administered high doses of the drug; one-third is being given low doses; and another third is receiving a placebo, or dummy medication that has no effect.

San Francisco General is cautioning individuals who have tested positive to HIV but have not shown symptoms and still want to take AZT, to demand their prescribing physicians continually monitor them for signs of toxic side effects.

Jasperson Loses Case Against Nail Salon

W. Hollywood Man Plans Appeal

by Dell Richards

A gay man who sued a West Hollywood nail salon for refusing him service because he had AIDS recently lost his case. Los Angeles Superior Court Judge Lawrence Waddington said Paul Jasperson had no grounds for suing Jessica's Nail Salon. Jessica canceled a pedicure appointment in July, 1986 when an employee found out Jasperson had AIDS.

As long as there is a chance of infection, Waddington reasoned that the danger to the cosmetologist was more important than Jasperson's civil rights.

"Any risk of death, however minimal, cannot be acceptable or tolerable," Waddington wrote in his 14-page verdict. The 1½-year-old case was decided on March 24.

"I am very disappointed with the verdict," said Jasperson, who added that he plans to appeal the decision.

"It will just take that much longer," Jasperson said.

According to Jasperson's attorney, activist lawyer Gloria Allred, "The issue is whether Jasperson is entitled to the same treatment as everyone else or whether he should be shunned, excluded and treated like a leper."

Jasperson also enlisted the help of the City of West Hollywood—which has an ordinance banning discrimination against people with AIDS. City officials filed criminal charges on Jasperson's behalf soon after the incident.

West Hollywood lost that suit in December. Following the same path, Judge Waddington sided with the nail salon, citing health risks as the overriding factor.

Both Jasperson and Allred contend that manicurists—like dentists and other health service

providers—should wear gloves to minimize the risk of any infectious disease.

"AIDS has a one percent infection rate," Allred said. "Whereas hepatitis B has a 30 percent infection rate and is potentially just as dangerous."

Doctors, nurses and health professionals are urged to wear gloves if there is any transfer of bodily fluids during treatment of a person with AIDS. But cosmetologists are not currently required to wear protective clothing.

"We are looking forward to hearing from the Board of Cosmetology for guidelines on what to do to protect ourselves," Jessica Vartoughian, owner of the nail salon, said by telephone. "Whatever the Board recommends, we will definitely follow."

Allred plans to take the case to the appellate court next, even though she is working on it for free.

"I have been fighting for civil rights for so many years. I have to take the long view," Allred said.

"Going in on a civil rights case, I always tell my clients that where it's a case of first impression—a new type of case—lower courts are rarely willing to give new interpretations to the law.

"This is the first test of the West Hollywood city ordinance—and what it means."

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'Best Female' Was No Lady

by Allen White

A half-dozen bars and the Bay Area Reporter made clean sweeps last Saturday night at the 15th annual Gay Community Awards. The awards were presented at a party given by the Grand Ducal Council at a Golden Gate Avenue labor hall. Cleve Jones was named man of the year, and the Names Project was named best event.

Though Rikki Streicher, Rita Rocket, and Ruth Brinker were nominated for best female, the winner was Empress Lily Street. Lily Street said, "My God, to think I just about beat out Mother Teresa for this award."

Rikki Streicher said, "There are some things I won't do to win an award." Lily Street may be many things, but she is not a female.

Steve Rascher was named male turn-on, and Spike-O-Dyke was named best female turn-on.

In the entertainment categories, Danny Williams was named best male entertainer of the year, and Sharon McNight picked up the best female award. Mark Eastwood and Pat Montclair were both honored as entertainers of



Pat Montclair (r.) at the Awards.

(Photo: S. Martin)

the year for their mime performances.

The Don Baker Memorial Award was presented to Ruth Brinker for her ongoing work at Open Hand.

The San Francisco Eagle was named best South of Market bar of the year, with Terry Thompson winning for bar manager, David Stoll for bartender, and Randy Humphries for barback. The bar also won as most supportive.

In the Polk, Kimo's won as the best bar, and its owner Kimo was named bar manager of the year, with the bar's Marlena also winning the best barback/swamper award. Tatiana's First Saturday at Kimo's was honored as best fundraiser in a bar. Dolly Dale at the Polk Gulch was named bartender of the year in the Polk.

of the year. Castro Station picked up the bar of the year in the Castro, with Jim Baroni being named bar manager of the year, Neil being named best bartender, and Ron Castner being picked as the barback/swamper. The Castro Station's Odis picked up the disc jockey of the year award.

Amelia's won as best bar in the Mission, with Tudy being named best bartender and best bar manager. Salvador from Este Noche won the award as best barback.

The Rawhide II was the winner as best dance bar of the year at the Gay Community Awards.

In the community support category, Headlines was honored as most supportive business, and Mayor Art Agnos won for most supportive politician. The San Francisco C.D.L.s and Gay Games II were also honored for their community support.

Men Behind Bars picked up several awards, including best fundraiser, best set design, and best production review of the year. Best production number by a social organization went to "18 Wheeler" by the San Francisco G.D.L.s. The San Francisco AIDS Foundation "Dress for the Occasion" condom poster picked up an award for best poster.

The Bay Area Reporter was voted best community newspaper of the year. Wayne Friday, Mark Friese, and Allen White were named writers of the year; Friday for non-gossip columnist, Friese as best gossip columnist, and White for event coverage. B.A.R. photographer Rink was named best photographer of the year. ●

The Galleon won for best restaurant and best seasonal decorations at Christmas. Bubbles picked up the best waitress award, and Dixon was named bartender for the area. Barback award in the Haight/Silver Strip area went to Jerry Colletti.

The Transfer was named bar of the year in the Haight/Silver Strip area, and the Mint's Stanley Boyd was honored as best bar manager.

The Kokpit was named best bar in the Tenderloin, with awards going to bar manager Kenny Allison, Bobby Pace for bartender, and Greta as barback

Royalty

(Continued from page 1)

queen," she said. "I wouldn't be disappointed, though, if I won a title as a slut."

Tatiana was bowling "so everybody can see how big my feet are." "They don't have to ask my shoe size, they can see. Big girl, big pumps, what can I say?" She boasted a size 15.

Being on the moderate side, the Chez Mollet's Lenny Mollette said, "I think we shouldn't have so many slut titles, we should have more clean titles."

The Emperor and the Empress threw out the first ball, and their scores reflected a philosophy that playing a game is much more important than winning. Of course, they didn't have to win, because they already won the top of the line.

Tom Roller, San Francisco's Grand Duke, bowled a 16 score and won the title of "Peter Meter of Valencia Street." "I think it's a blast. It's a change, and it's new and exciting." Ron Huberman won the title of "Gentleman in Waiting of Walter Street."

Empress Lily Street also had collected some of the most incredible hand-me-down trophies. These were prizes people threw back. The enterprising Lily Street gave them new titles and redistributed them again on Sunday.

The Empress said some of the trophies to be given out included the "Don't Call Me Before Ten Award" and the "Mrs. Norman Maine Award." "We went all out to get these trophies, some we paid as much as 49 cents for," Empress Lily noted.

The "Don't Hurt Yourself With This Award" went to Pushy Phyllis, another of the former San Francisco Emperesses. For the Sunday event, Empress Phyllis partied in an outfit that looked like Paul Revere in drag and after the ride.

The "You Too Can Be Empress Award" was given out to Ken Wright. Wright, an Emperor, apparently is attempting to figure out what to do to become an Empress. The "This Doesn't Cost \$10,000 Award" was a social statement award for Ron Huberman. Apparently Galleon owner Jerry Colletti was also considered for the award.

Bert West, a manager at Japantown Bowl, looked a little stunned at the dozens of drag queens bowling for strikes and spares. Almost in shock, he murmured, "It's fascinating. I think in this particular circumstance bowling is just an adjunct. Some of the comments our staff have been saying are 'How interesting.'"

Larry Eppinette, who has been participating in all of the investigations, said, "I think it's good. So many people who I had never seen before. Almost every person on their cabinet was a new person to me." About the new Empress and Emperor, he said, "I'm excited about it. They have already been very good."

Also assessing the event was the Baroness Henry Von DieKoff. The Baroness has been around for it all. "One of the people who deserve most of the credit is Ginger. Ginger has held this whole Imperial Court trip together ever since she's been an Empress. Today is a perfect example of what he can put together."

Of the afternoon, Von DieKoff said, "Who would think that you would have a formal investiture in a bowling alley? And it's working far beyond my expectations. I thought to myself, 'That will never go,' but it did. It went beautifully. This bowling thing is something for everybody."

Empress Bella was the first elected Empress and became the second Empress of San Francisco. Looking over the bowling alley, Empress Bella said, "A pizza parlor I thought of, Land's End we thought of, but never here in Japantown, U.S.A." ●

Toklas Club Votes No on Willie Brown

Jackson Endorsed for President; Wharton Not Endorsed for Judge

by Allen White

The Alice B. Toklas Lesbian/Gay Democratic Club has voted not to support Assembly Speaker Willie Brown for re-election this year to the California Assembly from the 17th District. The vote came Monday, April 11, as the club also voted overwhelmingly to endorse Jesse Jackson as their choice for Democratic nominee for President.

Brown received 54 percent of the vote, with 60 percent needed for endorsement. The actual vote count was 61 votes for Brown and 53 votes for no endorsement. The club's political action committee also voted earlier not to endorse Brown.

Most of the voting had been completed when San Francisco Sup. Doris Ward rose to deliver a passionate speech supporting Brown. She said, "Willie Brown, over the years during an entire political career, has been there for the gay and lesbian community. When we look at the whole picture, we cannot afford to lose Willie Brown. We don't want to cut off our noses to spite our face."

The rebuff to Brown by the gay club is particularly noteworthy in view of his introduction and support of AB 489 in 1975. That law eliminated criminal penalties for private sexual acts between consenting adults.

Many stated throughout the evening that Brown was rejected because of his support for John Burton against Roberta Achtenberg in this year's race for the 16th Assembly District seat and his support of Nancy Pelosi against Harry Britt in last year's race in the 5th Congressional District. Others attempted to place the problems of Willie Brown on his aides, who were not adequately communicating the needs of the gay community to the Speaker.

Brown turned out to be one of many who were not endorsed by the Toklas club. Though the club could endorse 10 people from the 17th Assembly District to the San Francisco Democratic County Central Committee, they chose to endorse no one.

The top vote-getter was Richmond Young with 104 votes. Carole Migden followed with 99, Greg Day with 94, Sharon Bretz with 86, and the remaining were not counted because they all received less votes. For endorsement, 107 votes were needed.

Those seeking Democratic County Central Committee endorsements fared almost as bad in the adjoining 16th Assembly District. The sole endorsement was Connie O'Connor with 120 votes, which was more than the 108 needed for endorsement. Following her, but not winning, were Jackie Lewis with 96, Rick Hauptman with 94, Simeon White with 92, and Steve Krefing with 71 votes.

Dave Wharton received only 57 percent, also denying him the club's endorsement in his race for San Francisco Municipal Court judge.

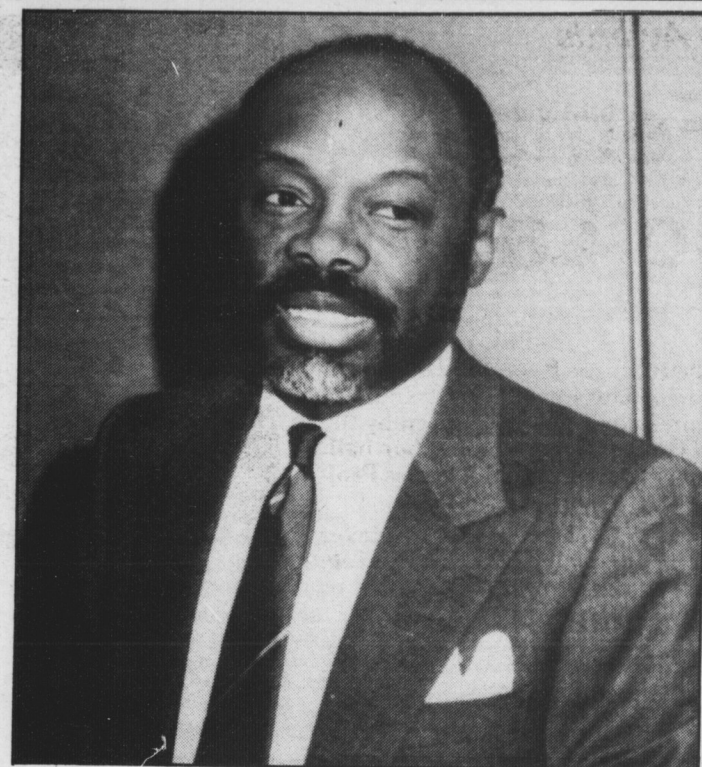
In the race for Democratic nominee for President, Jesse Jackson received 72 percent of the vote and the endorsement of the club. Jackson came in with 121; Gov. Michael Dukakis, 15; Sen. Al Gore, 13; Sen. Paul Simon, 11 votes. There were 9 votes for no endorsement.

Also winning Toklas's endorsement were Nancy Pelosi with 72 percent of the vote; Barbara

Boxer, 93 percent; Jackie Speier, 87 percent; Milton Marks, 89 percent; and Leo McCarthy, 80 percent. Sunne McPeak, who is challenging state Sen. Dan Boatwright in Contra Costa County, received the highest percentage of votes, 95 percent.

A concern was raised when it became known that one Toklas member was distributing a phony progressive caucus slate card.

Toklas president Ron Braith-



Willie Brown

(Photo: Rink)

waite said, "We stopped having it passed out before the meeting began. I don't know how many were passed out. We made an announcement in the meeting that it was not the position of the progressive caucus. I don't think it had that big an impact."

Braithwaite said he thought the outcome of the votes were simply an indication of a fractured vote. All those who did not receive endorsements will be eligible to try again at the next meeting of the club on May 9. ●

Group to Survey Gay Voters

The National Visibility Campaign for the Gay and Lesbian Vote announces what is believed to be the first nationwide survey of gay and lesbian voters. The survey, which launches the National Visibility Campaign's 1988 effort, is called Survey '88. It is to be distributed by the National Visibility Campaign through its extensive network of participating organizations.

Consisting of three questions, the survey will touch upon three general areas of concern:

(1) The voter's willingness to identify himself/herself as a gay or lesbian voter;

(2) The voter's political preference in terms of his/her choice for president in 1988;

(3) The voter's comfort with public identity in terms of wearing a "Gay and Lesbian Vote" button.

Any individual desiring a copy of the survey should send a stamped, self-addressed envelope to Visibility, c/o Eddie Marriot, 330 E. 83rd St. #27, New York, NY 10028. Organizations can acquire information about obtaining quantities of surveys for distribution to their membership by writing to the same address or by calling (212) 737-2319. ●

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DEATHS

Tom Dombrowski

Tom Dombrowski, 37, died at his home in Fremont March 31 of AIDS-related Kaposi's Sarcoma, after nearly two years of battle with the disease.



Tom worked in the computer industry in Silicon Valley for Prime, Hewlett-Packard, and other firms. He was also an active member of the San Francisco Hiking Club and SAGA ski club in years past.

Tom was blessed with a dry wit that gave him the ability to see humor in life to the very end. He was also considerate and generous to a fault. He was a great lover of humankind and of animals. He will be much missed by his mother, Barbara, his sister, Karen, and his many friends in the Bay Area. His two beloved cats, George and Rover, also miss him.

Scott Cochran

Scott Cochran, 33, peacefully died from AIDS in the presence of his loving friend, Chuck Hiehl, on the morning of Feb. 21, at Kaiser Hospital. He was buried near his mother's home in Asheville, N.C.



Scott was born in Washington, DC, Sept. 21, 1954, and was raised in Asheville. After leaving the Navy in 1975, Scott lived in S.F., New Orleans, and Houston. In 1983, Scott and Chuck made San Francisco their home. At the time of his death, Scott was employed as a claims examiner for Kaiser Health Plan.

Scott will be remembered and cherished for his warm smile, sparkling blue eyes, easy-going nature, and love of photography.

In addition to Chuck, Scott is survived by his mother, Mrs. Elaine Moore, sisters Andrea and Tabitha, and brother Gary.

Chuck would like to thank the Kaiser nursing staff, especially Jamie, Peggy and Patrick, for their loving care. Special love for Don, Richard, and Hugh for their comfort.

Scott needed the quiet. Until we meet again, I shall remember you always and miss you.

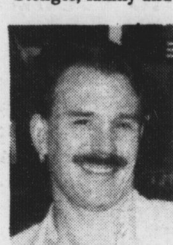
Jeffrey Scot Stoner
May 31, 1965-April 1, 1988

Jeff passed away just before midnight on Good Friday at the Community Hospital in Santa Rosa. After several weeks of AIDS-related complications he succumbed to Pneumocystis Pneumonia.

Jeff is survived by his parents, Ron and Ruth Ann Stoner and Carol Reasnyder, his grandmother; his grandfather, Mildred Richey; two brothers and a sister, all of Portland; and his grandparents, Howard and Ruby Stoner of Visalia.

Your friends in the Bay Area wish you joy and peace in your new life with your Creator, Jeff.

parents, Pat and Doris, his lover Stanley Stenger, family and friends.



Patrick James 'Jim' Souza

July 8, 1955-Feb. 2, 1988

Jim left us on Feb. 2, after a two-year struggle with AIDS. During the course of Jim's illness, he succeeded in fighting off four rounds of pneumonia, spinal meningitis, four blood infections, cryptococcosis, and other illnesses.

Jim was best known to his friends for his "fighter" attitude. Jim never complained about anything and never once feared dying. He became ill only two weeks after we moved in together, and his only fear was being left alone.



Jim's funeral service was held at Trinity Episcopal Church, with a high mass celebrated Feb. 6. A gathering of family and friends was held in the church hall, which was put together by Tracey Laughlin and the Golden State Peace Officers Association.

Jim's final resting was celebrated on Easter Sunday on an apricot ranch near Mount Hamilton, in San Jose, where he was raised. His ashes were spread in all his favorite places on the ranch.

Jim is survived by myself, his lover Andy Gatto, mother Mary Ann, sisters Cheryl and Monica, and brother Keith.

Pookie will be greatly missed by everyone, especially me. Thanks to all our friends who supported me and each other these last two months. My very special thanks to Richard Feigner, Jim's Shanti counselor, who gave many months of his life supporting both Jim and myself.

Donations in Jim's name can be made to the Trinity Episcopal Church flower fund.

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. We reserve the right to edit obituaries for length or style. We cannot publish poetry.

If you wish photos returned, please submit a stamped, self-addressed envelope. Photos can also be picked up at the B.A.R. office Thursday or any working day between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m.

Jose Corrales

Known to many as Earnestine, slipped into one, April 8, at Davies Hospital. Jose spoke many truths through his impersonations and dance. He created magic, not for himself, but for us all.

Jose leaves his partner Riley, many friends, and a spirit of determination that can never leave.

Timothy Ryan Burke
(a.k.a. Bunny)

June 29, 1956-Jan. 30, 1988

On Saturday morning, Jan. 30, in Chicago, Bunny passed through the gates of suffering to a world of peace. He was surrounded by the love and comfort of his

Lobbying To Be Included In Sacramento March Plans

LOS ANGELES—Plans for lobbying the California State Legislature as part of the May 7 March on Sacramento were announced by Keith Malone, Southern California lobbying chair. The May 9 day of lobbying will culminate four days of activities in the State Capitol organized by lesbians, gays, and concerned Californians.

Malone stated, "The March On Sacramento will call attention to important legislative issues before the state government. In particular, an all-out war against AIDS is needed through more funding for research, education, health care and support programs, counseling and anonymous and voluntary testing. Equally important, the marchers are demanding an end to discrimination in employment, housing and public accommodations based on sexual orientation. The day of lobbying will give Californians an opportunity to deliver that message personally to their legislators."

Each member of the legisla-

ture will be visited, with particular emphasis placed on meeting with those elected officials who have not been friendly to the lesbian and gay constituency. "Legislators as a whole are not going to listen to us if they continue to believe that we are located in a few segregated pockets of the state. We must show them that we are everywhere and that every legislator represents gay and lesbian persons," said Malone.

A briefing is planned for 8 a.m. on May 9 at the state capitol, followed by visits to the legislators starting at 9:30 a.m. Any person wishing to take part in this important event is urged to contact Keith Malone at (213)

256-8249 in southern California or the Lambda Community Center of Sacramento at (916) 442-0185 in northern California.

"If you can't be part of the lobbying effort in person, telephone and write letters today. We need to let them know we are here and expect nothing less than equal rights," stated Malone.

The March on Sacramento has already been endorsed by hundreds of state officials, community leaders and organizations plus concerned citizens. Additional information is available by writing: March On Sacramento, 4216 Beverly Boulevard, #286, Los Angeles, CA 90004.

Group Forming For HIV Couples

A support group is forming for gay male couples to address issues surrounding HIV status. Unlike others, this support group is for couples in which each partner has a different HIV status. For ten weeks beginning in May, the group will explore the unique concerns that these couples face.

The group is being formed by Elliott Linwood and Will Courtenay. After receiving their differing test results, Will and Elliott sought the support of a group of couples like themselves. A search through existing resources revealed that there was no such group, and there was clearly a need for

one. Encouragement in the community inspired the couple to start a group themselves.

Will is currently a counselor at 18th Street Services. Although Will and Elliott both have experience facilitating groups, the couple wanted the group as much for themselves as for others. As a result, the two decided to form a group without primary facilitators. Leadership functions will rotate among the couples in the group. For this reason, prior group experience and some leadership ability are required.

Some issues the group will explore include guilt resulting from different HIV status, effects from fear of a change in status, shifting of individual or shared goals and priorities, and underlying

assumptions about sex, love, and AIDS. Group size will be limited to six couples. The group is not open to people with AIDS or ARC.

For more information about the group, contact Elliott or Will at 346-3044.

Clarification

A recent BAR article stated that a \$50 donation to the AIDS Emergency Fund would secure four tickets to a London performance of *Phantom of the Opera*. This, however, is not the case. The \$50 donation will secure the rights to the tickets if the donor will pay the normal London ticket price, roughly \$80 per ticket.

More Than Bearable

Beard Competition Beats the Weather by a Whisker

by Mary Richards

What may have been the first beard contest in San Francisco was held at the Pilsner Inn on Sunday, April 10. Bewhiskered gentlemen from throughout California converged on one of the hottest days of the year to enter the Bear San Francisco competition.

There were sideburns, mutton chops, peach fur, and stubbles, as contestants took to the stage for the judging on categories of Biggest Beard, Silver Bear, Couple or Group, and Bear San Francisco (best beard).

Clark Husemann won by a whisker and was given a trophy, gift certificate, and bouquet of flowers as he stood onstage to the cheers and applause of the crowd, looking every inch the winner of the best Bear San Francisco. "The real reason I've been growing my beard long is because I want to be Santa Claus next year," he said, adding with a laugh, "at the best parties in town!"

The contest was a joint venture of the Pilsner Inn and Bear Magazine, advertised as "the magazine for hairy and bearded men and their fans."

Woofler had a bare chest and a big beard—the biggest, in fact, in the contest. Bearded since the

age of 16, Woofler came down from the Russian River "just for the hell of it, and it's been a lot of fun." He is the holder of the Russian River Cup, the only canoe race on that particular body of water. Wanderers can join Woofler on the water June 12.

The more mature in the crowd competed in the Silver Bear portion of the program, and Wes was a winner. He belongs to the Roundabouts, which he described as a social club "for big men and men who like big men."

Roberta Achtenberg wasn't one of the tallest people in the crowd, but she was one of the most popular. "For those who love beards, this is terrific," she said. "I think, 'Everyone to her own!'"

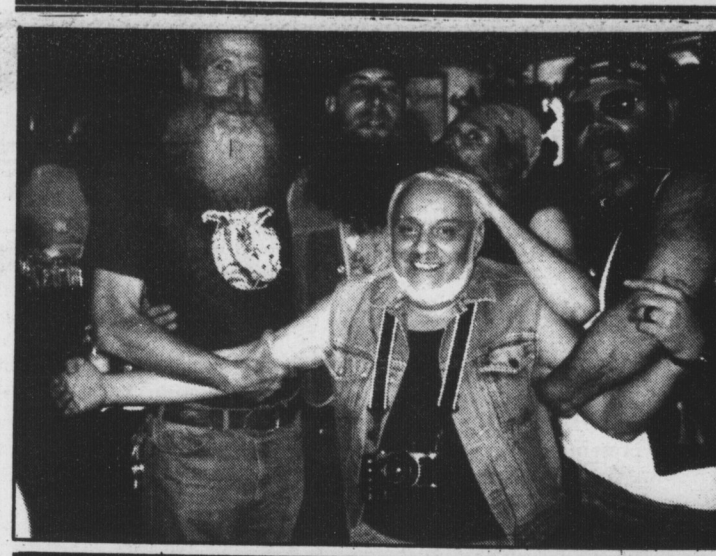
MUST HAVE BEARD

John Muir helped Bear Magazine and the Pilsner organize the event and talked a little bit about history. "Beard contests are a traditional thing in my part of the Midwest, which is North Dakota," he said. For their centennial, they celebrated by passing a law that any person caught on the street cleanshaven can be fined.

"I never heard of anybody being fined," Muir added, "it's just something they do as a matter of course. Then, when they have their centennial, they have a 'brothers of the brush' competition, where people show off their mustaches and beards in the pioneer spirit."

"This is the first [beard contest] that has been held in San Francisco. This is a San Francisco event, and hopefully it will continue. We got about 30 people who were interested in competing. Some straight people did call and say they were going to be here, but other than that I assume most of them are gay."

The contest for best couple or group was all over when Mike, Mike, Rod, and Skip took off their T-shirts on stage. No one could compete with the four



Country and city beards converged on the Pilsner Inn last Sunday for the big Beard Contest.

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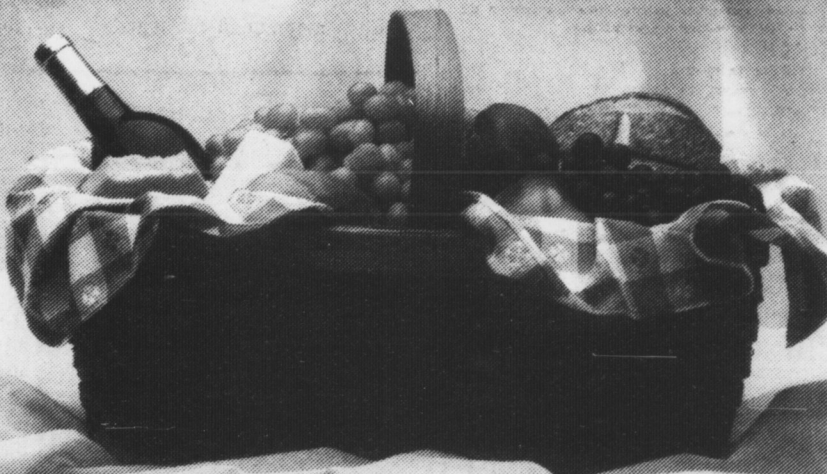
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It Was Just Like the Troc We Used to Know

White Out

by Dennis McMillan

It was the white party to end all white parties. It was billed as "Dick Collier, Jr. and Staff present the Great Gatsby ... An Opulent Affair." It was supposed to be Trocadero's spring party, but it may have been the Troc's swan song. At any rate, the swan was opulent and white.

Rumors have it that the Trocadero is closing. Anyway, it felt just like The Saint, world-famous gay nightclub in New York City that will close on April 30. It was a time to take one last fling there before it's too late.

Perhaps that was the motivation for the unusually packed house at the Troc on April 2. I



know I haven't seen such a crowd since the '70s. It was that wonderful gay spirit of old, where just about everyone dresses up and participates full out. You know, the good old days before AIDS and contras and Proposition 69. Just good ole 69-propositioning. Those carefree days of sudden sexual freedom and experimentation. Very much like the wild and decadent times of Great Gatsby.

The front of the Troc was adorned by a huge white fountain, each tier filled with floating gardenias. Inside the building was graced with gorgeous white lattice work, giving the effect of being in a giant gazebo. Here and there were tremendous white palm trees and white floral arrangements.

On stage were huge, white Doric columns bordering larger-than-life white French windows. Any moment you expected Wendy and Peter Pan (in white leotards, of course) to sail through the windows singing, "I'm flying," whisking us all away to Never Never Land.

Although we already were in Never Never Land, thanks to the incredible light and laser show of Paul Rosenberg. Clusters of spinning mirrored balls reflected green, red, and purple laser beams that showered colored "rain" on the dancers below. Giant mirrors shaped like diamonds revolved suspended above the crowd—diamonds that Liz Taylor would kill for!

Occasionally a green laser would write out the words "love" and "live"—or draw a cartoon of an animated disco dancer on the walls.

Every once in a while the room would light up with brilliant white tubes of light, as a kind of reality check. Then you could really see the dancers and their outfits. White shirt, white 501s, and pearls. White tank top over white shorts. White leather vest and white chaps. White jogging suit with white Reboks. Drag queens in white. Brides in white (both female and male). Cowboys and cowgirls. Sailors. Indians. Cigarette girls. Nuns. All in white. Where was Vanna White and Snow White?

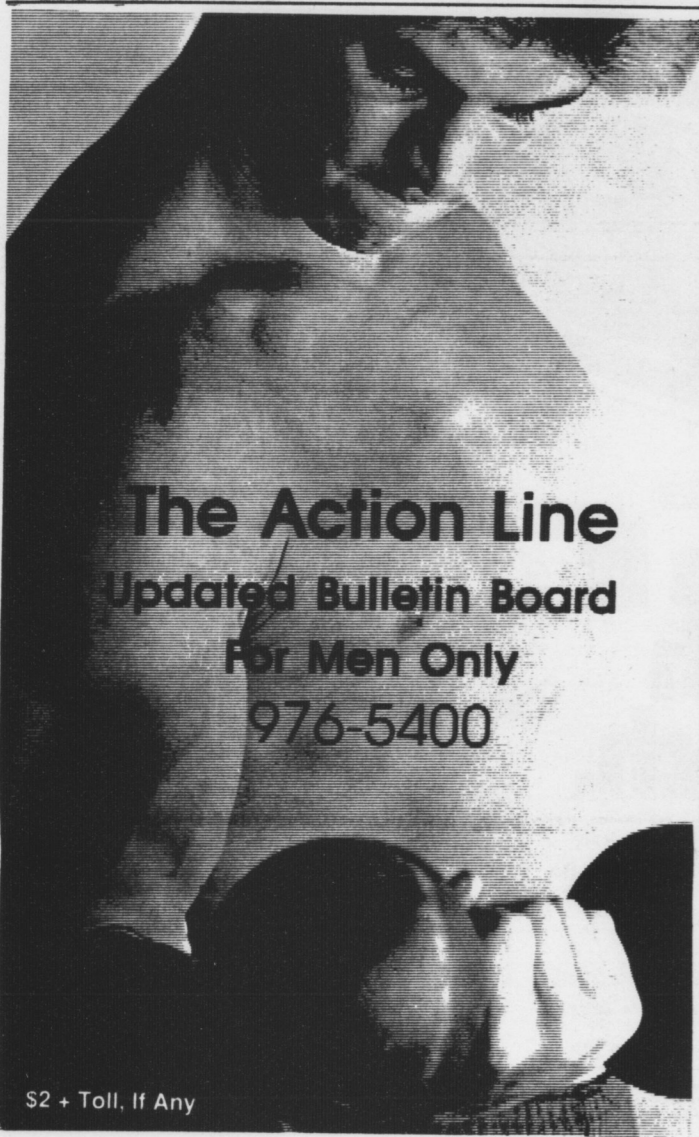
The music provided by DJ Robbie Leslie was from gay disco yesteryear. None of that monotonous MTV music that we've all grown to endure. This was a driving, dancing beat that kept everybody hopping on the dance floor.

And in case you lacked inspiration by the music, you could always gaze upon the videos (black and white, naturally) of the old 1930s musicals—Buzby Berkeley flicks with his fabulous array of hundreds of chorus girls in diaphanous white gowns; Esther Williams water ballet films with her bathing beauties in white-beaded suits diving into the pool; even Judy Garland singing her heart out in white.

And line after line after line of hunky chorus boys in white tuxedos and tight, white pants.

The videos were not the only place you saw tight, white pants, either. The dance floor was packed with its own version of hunky chorus boys. And as the night wore on, the clothes wore off. Soon it was mostly bare chests and shorts.

At 5 a.m. the place was still resplendent with happy, dancing people. But the whites of my eyes had turned blood red, so I knew it was time to retire. Somehow I couldn't help singing to myself on the way out, "I'm dreaming of a white Easter, just like the Troc I used to know ..."



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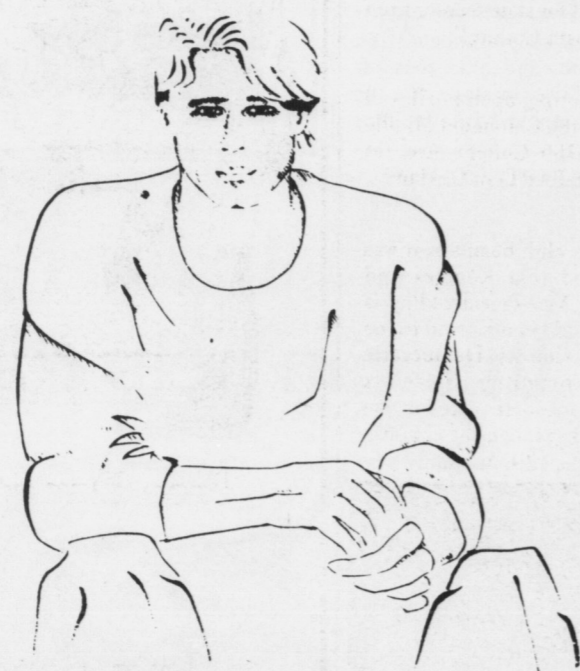


Illustration by Laura H. Young

BAY AREA REPORTER GREATER BAY NEWS

E.B. Demos Quiz Area Legislators

At its March meeting, the East Bay Lesbian/Gay Democratic Club heard local legislators address issues of specific concern to the lesbian and gay community. Appearing at a forum presented in connection with the club's endorsement process were state Sen. Nick Petris (Oakland/Berkeley), Assemblymembers Tom Bates (Berkeley) and Elihu Harris (Oakland), and Alameda County Sup. John George.

Petris expressed optimism that the State Senate would approve AIDS issues this year in a "more sober" manner than it did in 1987, when a spate of bills sponsored by John Doolittle passed the upper house before meeting defeat in the Assembly.

Bates indicated his support for extending employment benefits to same-gender partners of state employees.

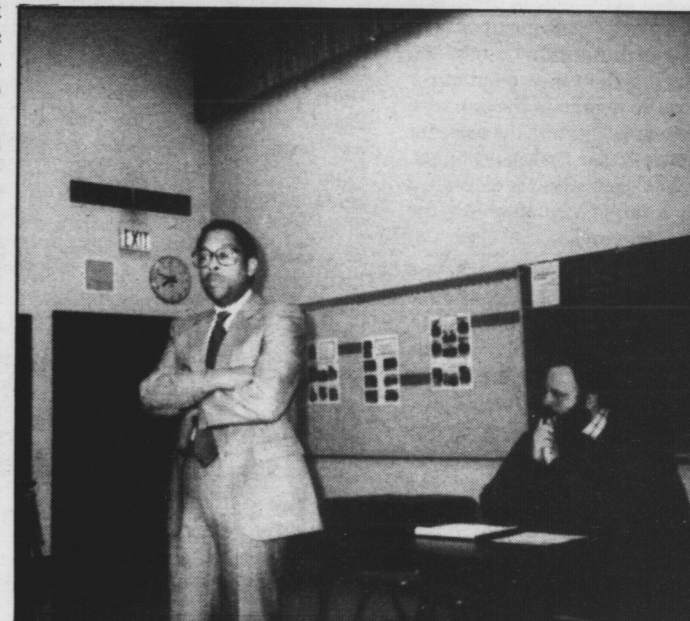
Harris termed the effort to bring the Olympics to the Bay Area in 1996 "more fanciful than real" and expressed indifference toward having the Olympics hosted locally.

George indicated that he would seek improved AIDS services at Highland General Hospital and expressed support for domestic partner legislation on the county level.

Also appearing at the forum was Robert Rios, legislative aide to Assemblymember Johan Klehs (San Leandro). Rios warned that the political climate in Sacramento is such that some weakening of present HIV confidentiality is likely to be passed in the next legislative session. He encouraged grassroots participation to limit such changes.

Following the forum, the club endorsed reelection of the above Democratic incumbents, along with Assemblymembers Delaine Eastin (Hayward) and Bob Campbell (Richmond) and East Bay members of Congress Ron Delums, Pete Stark, George Miller, and Don Edwards.

According to club President Bob Kegeles, the forum was successful in reacquainting local incumbents with views of their lesbian and gay constituents. "It's crucial that we periodically



Assemblyman Elihu Harris addresses the EBL/GDC while club President Bob Kegeles looks on.

focus the incumbents' attention on our issues," he said. "I believe that community meetings like these educate the legislators and reinforce the club's efforts in lobbying for lesbian and gay rights and AIDS funding."

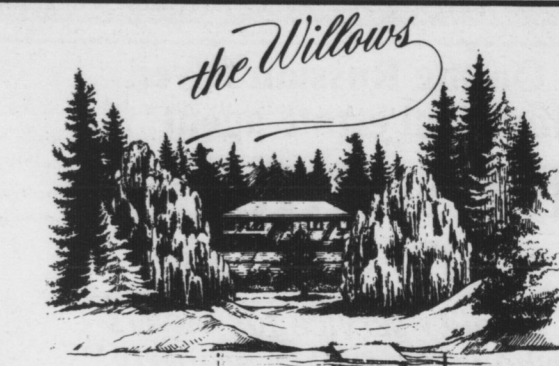
Kegeles noted that EBL/GDC's next meeting, on April 17 at 7:30 p.m., will also be devoted to the June primary. "We'll have representatives of each of the Democratic presidential candidates to speak on lesbian and gay issues," he said. "In addition, there will be a candidates forum for the open seat on the Alameda County Board of Supervisors and for the close race between Sunne McPeak and incumbent Dan Boatwright for state senator from Contra Costa County."

The meeting, open to all, will be held at the Claremont Middle School, 5750 College Ave. (at Rockridge BART) in Oakland.

In other club business, it was announced that Kegeles and EBL/GDC Vice-President Phyllis Zusman had been elected to the Alameda County Democratic Central Committee. Since six candidates had filed for a like number of seats on the committee from the 12th Assembly Dis-



State Sen. Nick Petris (l.) confers with a gay constituent.



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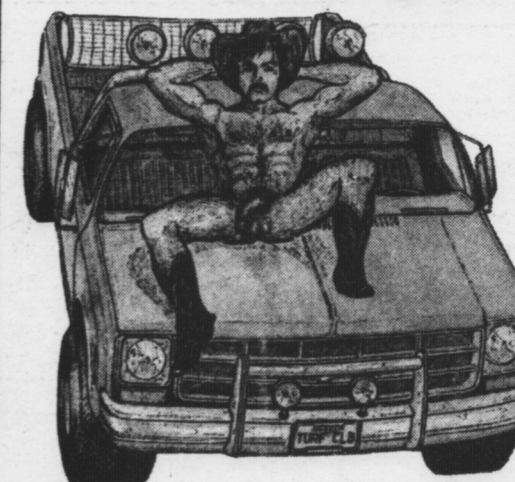
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Nez Pas

Easter Baskets and Bonnets!

**CREEL/CASQUE
COUNCOURS
(A Small-Basketed Nose!)**

Empress IX Tootsi came up with an ingenious way of deciding upon the winners in her recent Basket/Bonnet Contest and auction, held at Town & Country on the Saturday before Easter: sell raffle tickets!

In front of each entrant was a cup, and purchasers of the tickets could place one segment of their duet in the desired container, retaining the other portion for the raffle to follow. The cup with the most tickets won the prize for that particular basket or bonnet. All the tickets were then dumped into a larger container for the raffle drawings.

The results of the ticket counting confirmed that Trampolina (David) had gleaned third place, Suzie's bonnet secured second, and Marge's masterpiece was the crowning glory, if you will!

At the auction, most of the baskets were donated back, to be distributed to AIDS patients. Two, however, were singled out for special delivery. One, crammed with stuffed animals, was destined for Children's Hospital. Another was reserved especially for a resident of BASH No. 1.

The sale of raffle tickets brought in \$95. An additional \$300 was raised during the auction. And with \$30 in donations, the grand total for the evening was \$425. The proceeds went to ISE and for additional Easter baskets for Bay Area AIDS patients.

A "Guess Who? Baby Picture Contest" was to have had its results announced at this function. Alas, the whole thing was cancelled because, according to Tootsi, "Only one person wanted to enter, so we just forgot it!" Proceeds from this contest were to have been the same as for the Basket/Bonnet Contest, but obviously only one wanted to send his/her very best. 'Tis a shame, because it could have been a fun thing.

**GRAMERCY AND ALOHA
(A "Ciao" Nose)**

The occasion was a "thank you and good-bye" time for Jim Houghton. His eight-year association with Big Mama's was officially over. It is time for him to move on to other pursuits. Big Mama's was crowded to the rafters last Saturday night with well-wishers. A huge buffet, prepared by loyal customers, was a feast for the eyes as well as the stomach. But the oxymoron mood of bitter-sweet prevailed—it's difficult to say good-bye.

A very special guest dropped everything "at the last minute" and flew up from Los Angeles to entertain at this special occasion. David Reign has never looked or sounded better. Four selections from a soon-to-be-released album (with Vegas-type big band background) proved that David has the star quality that just might put him on the charts.

Everyone wishes Jim well in the future (Hawaii), and he will be dearly missed on the Hayward strip. Gene Leach knows he has a difficult pair of shoes to fill. Goodspeed, Jim, and thanks for the use of the broom!

And, mercy! Do I stand corrected, or what? Rick is not ex-Mumbles! He is officially the first, only, and still reigning "Mumbles" of Hayward, Califor-

nia, and the universe!

**CANESCENT CRONES
(A Don't Blame Me Nose)**

A tongue-in-cheek new year's prediction became a reality last Saturday when "Witches in White" took to the stage. And quite a stageful it was, too. The size of the audience wasn't shabby, either.

Performing live that night were Janet from Phoenix (Judy Jetson's sister) and Mikki. Lip-synching in the limelight were Tootsi, Roberta D., Tiffany, Raven, Lucille (from S.F., "doing" Tammy Fay), Trampolina, Fina, Empress Rosa Rita, Manuel, Timmy, Heather (U.S. No. 5), Stephanie, Constance d'Horny, Greg C., Greg G., Eddy, and one "with an attitude that matched her gown," Morgan. I don't know how an attitude can be black, gold, lace, net, baubles, bangles, and beads.

Hmmmm? Oh, now you tell me her dress didn't fit! (Do I have to explain that the dress didn't fit and neither did the attitude? Good!)

Raffle tickets were sold for a microwave oven, and Eddy won the prize. Proceeds from the raffle went to ISE.

Little Mother will do Hayward Saturday, May 21! Before you decide to move out of town, this refers to her auction to be held at the Turf Club. She does need items to sell and is willing to pick up and deliver. Contact her at 562-9826 for all the details.

Squelch those rumors! The former owners of the Revol have no intention whatsoever of buying an existing bar. Point of fact, they have no intention of opening another bar at all. The Revol is over; cherish the memories, 'cause there won't be another one. I don't know how the rumors

—Love Nez

BAYMEC Opposed To Olympics In San Jose

Mayor Tom McEnery, a proponent of a bid from San Jose for the 1996 Olympics, met with the Bay Area Municipal Elections Committee (BAYMEC) in late February to discuss the issue. McEnery's office had called BAYMEC several weeks earlier to inform them of the possibility of the bid. When it seemed likely that San Francisco would not be a host city, McEnery invited BAYMEC to meet with him.

As is well known, opposition to the Olympics in the gay and lesbian community stems from the U.S. Olympic Committee's lawsuit against the San Francisco Arts and Athletics use of the name "Gay Olympics." Many other organizations currently use the word "Olympics" as part of their name with no objection from the USOC. When the USOC invoked its exclusive control over the use of the word Olympic, the SFAA changed the name to the Gay Games.

During the hour-long meeting, BAYMEC representatives told the mayor that they believed that San Jose should refuse to submit a bid, citing the discriminatory action against the SFAA. If the mayor could not be dissuaded from making a bid, at a minimum, BAYMEC insisted that language be included that expressed San Jose's strong objection to the USOC's discriminatory actions.

Elizabeth Birch, a BAYMEC board member and a local attorney, wrote a position paper on the

started, but I got the inside poop from both ends of the horse! (Why were they hiding those architect's drawings?)

Bombay's just might have some competition, albeit several hundred miles away. Tony and Ray (Lancers) may open a bar on the island of Maui, if and when financial settlements have culminated in Tony's favor. Hmmmm? What else would Zephyr Jim name his bar on Kauai but Bombay's (as in gin)?

A big "thank you" from D.J.'s (Walnut Creek) and the Contra Costa AIDS Task Force for the great turnout at the first AIDS benefit. The Task Force raised \$1,060 at the door, and D.J.'s donated more than \$450 in free drinks! D.J.'s plans to do these fundraisers the first Sunday of every month (except when holidays conflict), and I am sure the latest one, on Sunday, April 11, was just as successful.

Speaking of D.J.'s, this month their spectacular piano features Bob Sandner on Tuesdays; Cynthia Bythell, Thursdays; John Erreca, Fridays; and Momi Starr, Saturdays.

"TNOAT" is coming! Watch for it this September.

Jim Houghton Zephyr Management presents E.C. Scott and Smoke at the Spoiled Brat this Sunday, April 17, at 6 p.m. There will be a \$2 charge at the door.

Eddie P. can't stand the boredom and just might have a Christmas-in-July auction, after all.

When somebody you greatly admire and respect appears to be thinking deep thoughts, chances are they probably are thinking about what to have for lunch. I can smile at that.

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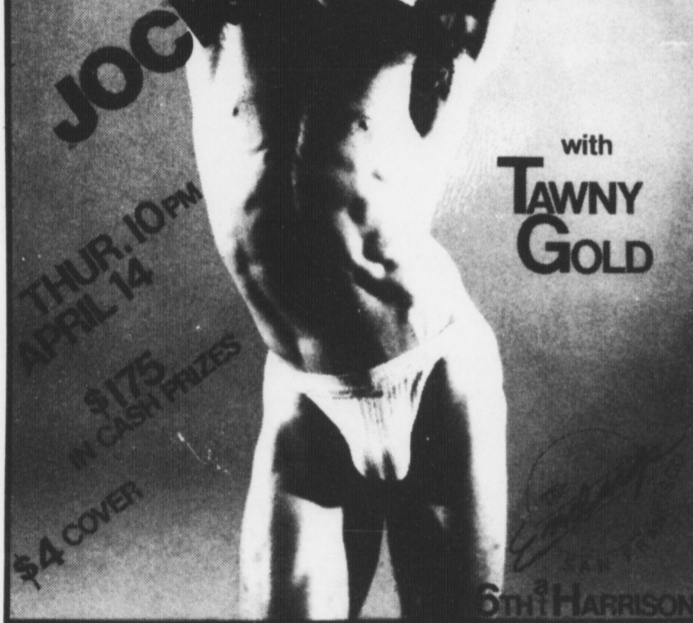
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THIS WEEK

FRIDAY 15

- **A Touch of the Classics:** music with the S.F. Lesbian/Gay Chorus under the direction of Pat Parr, St. John the Evangelist Church, 1661 15th St., S.F., 8 p.m., \$10 in advance, \$12 at the door. Featuring the works of Mozart and Faure. Call 621-3088 for tickets.
- **See Rock City:** stage performance, The Studio at Theatre Rhinoceros, 2926 16th St., S.F., 8:30 p.m., \$8. Written by Demece Garepis; directed by Adele Prandinik. Call 861-5079 for tickets.
- **Going to Seed:** stage performance, Theatre Rhinoceros, 2926 16th St., S.F., 8 p.m., \$12. Three generations of women in a black family find the ties that bind unravelling in this comedy about family life, traditional values, and coming out; written by Eve Powell, directed by Kenneth R. Dixon.
- **Puttin' on the Glitz:** featuring female impersonators and cabaret guys, Sutter's Mill, 77 Battery St., S.F., 9 and 11 p.m., \$10. Call 788-8379 for reservations.
- **A Portrait of Oscar Wilde:** stage performance, Music Hall Theatre, 931 Larkin St., S.F., 8 p.m., \$20. Lighthouse Entertainment presents Steve Alexander's three-act drama on the ill-fated poet. Call 776-8996 for tickets.
- **Club Infra-Red:** dancing, Scooters, 22 4th St., S.F., 9 p.m.-2 a.m., cover. Sound by Randy Schiller. Call 777-0880 for more information.
- **Sing-a-Long:** with Frank Banks on the piano, Belden 22, 22 Belden Place, S.F., 6-8 p.m.
- **Dick Froggall:** music, Piano Zinc, 708 14th St., S.F., 8:30 p.m.
- **Ballroom and Latin Dance Party and Practice Session:** for lesbians and gay men, Jon Sims Center for the Performing Arts, 1519 Mission St., S.F., 9-11 p.m., \$5 includes wine. Call 995-4962 for more information.
- **Black and White Men Together:** East Bay potluck and games. Call 482-3347 for more information.
- **Gay Artists and Writers Collective:** meeting, 7:30 p.m. Call 585-8814 for more information.
- **Hospice Volunteer Team Training:** two-day program sponsored by Hospice by the Bay, Villa Hotel, 4000 S. El Camino Real, San Mateo, Friday 7-9 p.m., Saturday 9 a.m.-5 p.m., \$25 at the door (lunch included). Call 997-0763 or 673-2020 for more information.

SATURDAY 16

- **A Dozen Years of Mother Tongue:** program commemorating the 12th anniversary of the Mother Tongue Feminist Theater Collective sponsored by the S.F. Bay Area Gay and Lesbian Historical Society, Women's Building, 3543 18th St., S.F., 7:30 p.m., \$5. Excerpts from "Loving Women" will be included. Call 552-4929 for more information.
- **Women's Dance at Stanford:** sponsored by the Women's Collective of the Gay and Lesbian Alliance at Stanford, the Graduate Women's Network, and the Women's Center, Old Union Ballroom, Stanford University campus, Palo Alto, 9 p.m.-12:30 a.m., \$3. Call 723-1488 for more information.
- **Club Infra-Red:** dancing (see Friday listing for details).
- **See Rock City:** stage performance (see Friday listing for details).
- **Going to Seed:** stage performance (see Friday listing for details).
- **Puttin' on the Glitz:** featuring female impersonators and cabaret guys (see Friday listing for details).
- **A Portrait of Oscar Wilde:** stage performance, 2 and 8 p.m. (see Friday listing for details).
- **Over Our Heads:** comedy, Mama Bears, 6536 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 8 p.m., \$6.
- **One Night on Belden:** an evening with Karla Agate, Stephen Frugoli, Marga Gomez, Steve Southerland, Erin-Kate Whitcomb, and Aldo Antonio Belle, Belden 22, 22 Belden Place, S.F., 8 p.m., two-drink minimum.
- **Ruth Barrett and Cynthia Smith:** music, Sisterspirit Coffeehouse, 1040 Park Ave., San Jose, doors open 8 p.m., concert begins 8:30 p.m., \$5-\$8 sliding scale. Traditional folk music of the British Isles with dulcimer and guitar.
- **Dexter De Voe:** music, NightBreak, 1821 Haight St., S.F., 11:45 p.m.
- **Seth Montfort:** performs the complete works of Gertrude Stein for solo piano, San Francisco MCC, 150 Eureka St., S.F., 8 p.m., \$5. Including the Song Book and Rhapsody in Blue.
- **Wild Fire Band:** country/western music and dancing, Turf Club, 22517 Mission Blvd., Hayward, 9 p.m., no cover. Also Sunday at 6 p.m.
- **Gus Gustavson:** music, La Piano Zinc, 708 14th St., S.F., 8:30 p.m.
- **AIDS Bike-A-Thon IV:** registration, 18th and Castro, S.F., 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

SUNDAY 17

- **San Francisco Metropolitan Community Church:** celebrates its 18th anniversary with two festival communion services (8:30 and 10:30 a.m., 150 Eureka St., S.F.) and a dinner and show at Sutter's Mill, 77 Battery St., S.F. No-host cocktail hour precedes 6 p.m. dinner, with performance of "Puttin' on the Glitz" to follow. Call 863-4434 for tickets (\$25).
- **S.F. Lesbian/Gay Freedom Day Parade and Celebration Committee:** fundraiser, Elaine's, 222 Guerrero St., S.F., 8 p.m. With Phoebe Planter, Marga Gomez, and Tammy Lynn. Call 864-3733 for more information.
- **Golden State Gay Rodeo Assn.:** beer bust/fundraiser, Turf Club, 22517 Mission Blvd., Hayward, 3-8 p.m., \$5. Call 881-9877 for more information.
- **Dress Up Your Act:** spring fashion show and tea dance to promote safer sex, The Cruiser, 2651 El Camino, Redwood City, 4-7 p.m. Prizes; no-host bar. Presented by the San Mateo Co. AIDS Project. Call 573-2587 for more information.
- **Bare Buns Contest:** hosted by Lucy Manhattan, Club St. John, 170 W. St. John St., San Jose, doors open 4 p.m., contest begins 6:30 p.m., proceeds to benefit the San Jose Gay Pride Celebration. Call (408) 947-1667 for more information.
- **See Rock City:** stage performance (see Friday listing for details).
- **Puttin' on the Glitz:** featuring female impersonators and cabaret guys, 8 p.m., \$8 (see Friday listing for details).
- **Portrait of Oscar Wilde:** stage performance, 2 and 7 p.m., \$18 (see Friday listing for details).

- **Joseph Magdalena:** music, The Galleon, 718 14th St., S.F., 5 and 8 p.m., \$6.
- **Cool Breeze:** music, El Rio, 3158 Mission St., S.F., 4-8 p.m., \$5. Caribe Afric from New Orleans.
- **Jones Street Follies:** female impersonation, Black Rose, 335 Jones St., S.F., shows 10 and 11 p.m., \$2.
- **Faith Winthrop and Gus Gustavson:** music, Piano Zinc, 708 14th St., S.F., 8:30 p.m.
- **East Bay Lesbians and Gays for Jesse Jackson:** fundraiser, Cabel's Reef, 2272 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 3-7 p.m., entertainment, donations appreciated. Call 486-0269 or 532-4336 for more information.
- **AIDS Bike-A-Thon IV:** 25-mile training ride. Meet at 10 a.m. at McLaren Lodge in Golden Gate Park, S.F.
- **AIDS Bike-A-Thon IV:** registration, 18th and Castro, S.F., 10 a.m.-4 p.m.
- **Gay/Lesbian Sierrans:** 7-8 mile hike over Coyote Ridge to Muir Beach. Meet at 9 a.m. at the Church and Market Safeway to carpool. Bring lunch, liquids, and gas donation.
- **S.F. Hiking Club:** birdwatching in Grizzly Island Wildlife Management Area. Call 668-8167 for more information.



Dexter De Voe plays Nightbreak April 17.

- **San Francisco FrontRunners:** Alta Plaza loop. Meet at Clay and Pierce sts. at 10 a.m. for run of up to 3.5 miles around Alta Plaza and Lafayette parks. Call 922-1435 or 821-3719 for more information.
- **Volleyball for All:** volleyball for beginners, Golden Gate Park, S.F., noon to 5 p.m. Sponsored by X-TA-C Volleyball. Call 995-2736 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 DeHarro, 11 a.m.
- **Different Spokes/San Francisco:** decide and ride. Meet at McLaren Lodge in Golden Gate Park, S.F., at 10 a.m.
- **Tsunami Masters Swim Team:** practice, King Pool, 3rd and Carroll sts., S.F., 10 a.m. Call 285-5659 for more information.
- **G40+ Club:** meeting, First Unitarian Church, 1187 Franklin St., S.F., 2 p.m. Bill Ingersoll will share his memories of the tropics, and John McCormick will share his ideas about the Religious Science Church of S.F. (question-and-answer period to follow). Call 552-1997 for more information.
- **Spring Cleaning Garage Sale:** sponsored by Black and White Men Together, 334 Noe St., S.F., 11 a.m.-3 p.m., Call 863-0925 for more information.
- **Healing Your Amuse System:** workshop, Quan Yin Acupuncture Center, 513 Valencia St., S.F., 7-9 p.m., \$10 (one turned away for lack of funds). Presented by the S.F. School of ReMithing.
- **Lesbians Living With Physical Disability and Chronic Illness:** health forum sponsored by the Lesbian Health Organizing Committee, Women's Building, 3543 18th St., S.F., 2-5 p.m., \$5. Call 626-7000 or 558-4901 for more information.
- **Living With HIV/AIDS/ARC:** drop-in group for gay and bisexual men, Suite 505, 2121 S. El Camino, San Mateo, 7-9 p.m. Call 573-2587 for more information.
- **Diablo Valley MCC:** worship service, 2253 Concord Blvd., Concord, 10 a.m. Call 827-2960 for more information.
- **Radiant Light Ministries:** service, Swedish American Hall, 2174 Market St., S.F., 10 a.m. Call 861-1667 for more information.
- **New Life MCC:** worship service, 1823 9th St., Berkeley, 5 p.m. Call 843-9355 for more information.
- **Calvary MCC:** worship service, 2124 Brewster Ave., Redwood City, 5 p.m. Call 368-0188 for more information.
- **MCC of the Redwoods:** worship service, Olive and Throckmorton sts., Mill Valley, 10:45 a.m. Call 388-2315 for more information.
- **Golden Gate MCC:** worship service, 48 Belcher St., S.F., 12:30 and 7 p.m. Call 474-4848 for details.

MONDAY 18

- **Open Mike Variety Showcase:** with Scott Johnston, MC, and Donald Eldon Wescoat on the piano, the Galleon, 718 14th St., S.F., 9 p.m. Call 431-0253 for more information.
- **Country and Western Dance Lessons:** Turf Club, 22517 Mission Blvd., Hayward, 7:30-9:30 p.m., free. Also Tuesday and Thursday.
- **Bay Area Gay and Lesbian Band:** rehearsal, Spoiled Brat, 22648 Mission Blvd., Hayward, 7:30 p.m. Call 558-9693 for more information.
- **Lesbian Agenda for Action:** general meeting, Women's Building, 3543 18th St., S.F., 7 p.m. Dana Van Gorder will speak on the AIDS tax credit initiative. Call 554-5677 for more information.
- **S.F. Jacks:** generic jack-off, 890 Folsom St., S.F., doors open 7:30-8:30 p.m., \$5.

TUESDAY 19

- **Sharon Isbin and Carlos Barbosa-Lima:** music, 530 Valle Vista, Oakland, 7:30 p.m., \$35, \$50, and \$100 to benefit the Names Project, reception to follow. The classical guitarists will perform works from their forthcoming Concord jazz recording, including the music of Gershwin, Bernstein, and Jobim. Call 863-5511 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 p.m.-midnight, no cover. Samba; plus videos from Rio.
- **United AIDS Initiatives Committee:** community meeting, Claremont Middle School, 5750 College Ave., Oakland, 7-10 p.m. Call 843-9316 for more information.
- **S.F. Lesbians and Gays for Jackson:** New York primary night party, Pendulum, 4146 18th St., S.F., or Wild Side West, 424 Cortland Ave., S.F. Call 647-3427 for more information.
- **National Organization for Women:** meeting, Women's Building, 3543 18th St., S.F., 7:30 p.m. Judy Fell will speak on "Music and Feminization."
- **Gay/Lesbian Sierrans:** monthly meeting, Sierra Club, Polk and Ellis sts., S.F., 7:30 p.m. Slide show on Nepal and the Indian Himalayas. Call 776-2211, ext. 6633 for more information.
- **Gay Men's Sketch Class:** open stage night, 1229 Folsom St., S.F., 7-10 p.m. Call 621-6294 for more information.
- **Metaphysical Alliance:** meeting, San Francisco MCC, 150 Eureka St., S.F., 6:45 p.m. Call 431-8708 for more information.

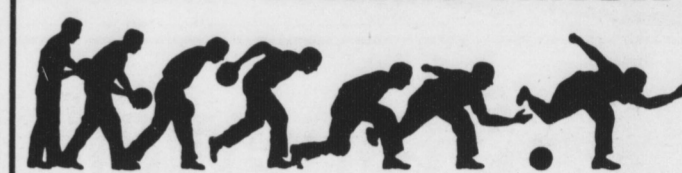
WEDNESDAY 20

- **Leather and Lingerie Dance:** a social event for leather and lingerie dykes, presented by The Rack Productions, Amelia's, 647 Valencia St., S.F., 9 p.m.-2 a.m., \$4. The Whip Drill Team will perform, and the erotic strip show will begin at 10:30 p.m.
- **Cathy Sorbo, Bill Burnett, and Gene Rasmussen:** comedy, El Rio, 3158 Mission St., S.F., 8-10 p.m., \$4.
- **Male Strip Contest:** Bench and Bar, 120 11th St., Oakland, 10 p.m. Call 444-2266 for more information.
- **A Portrait of Oscar Wilde:** stage performance, \$18 (see Friday listing for details).
- **Electric City:** television on PCTV cable network, 9:30 p.m. Featuring health tips, interviews with Art Agnos and Harry Britting, and the Cable Car Awards.
- **Memorial Mass:** for people who have died of AIDS/ARC, Cathedral of St. Mary's, Geary and Gough sts., S.F., 7 p.m., reception to follow. Sponsored by the Archdiocese of S.F.

THURSDAY 21

- **The Zuni Man-Woman: An Alternative Gender Role:** lecture and slide program, New College of California, 50 Fall St., S.F., 7:30 p.m., free.
- **Feathers and Flesh:** show, N'Touch, 1548 Polk St., S.F., 9 p.m., cover.
- **See Rock City:** stage performance (see Friday listing for details).
- **Puttin' on the Glitz:** with female impersonators and cabaret guys, 9 p.m., \$8 (see Friday listing for details).
- **A Portrait of Oscar Wilde:** stage performance, \$18 (see Friday listing for details).
- **Frameline Presents:** television, cable channel 25, 8 p.m. A Plague on You and the final installment of coverage of the 1987 March on Washington will be shown.
- **Golden Gate Business Association:** third Thursday dinner, Mayes Steak and Oyster House, 1233 Polk St., S.F., no-host cocktails 5 p.m., dinner 6 p.m., \$12. Call 441-3651 for reservations.
- **Black and White Men Together:** potluck and games, 1350 Waller St., S.F., 7:30 p.m. Call 931-BWMT for more information.
- **Bay Area Network of Gay and Lesbian Educators:** monthly meeting, 655 14th St., S.F., 7:30 p.m. Call 285-5078 for more information.
- **Gay Artists and Writers Collective:** meeting, 7:30 p.m. Call 585-8814 for more information.
- **San Francisco FrontRunners:** run. Meet at McLaren Lodge in Golden Gate Park at 6:30 p.m. Call 922-1435 or 821-3719 for more information.

JAPANTOWN BOWL



Monday Community League

This league bowls on Mondays at 8:45 p.m. This is the oldest gay bowling league in S.F. League starts on June 6, five bowlers to a team. Cost is \$9.00—80% handicap.

Tuesday Community League

This league bowls on Tuesdays at 8:45 p.m. This is currently the largest gay league at Japantown Bowl and is expected to grow fast. League starts on May 31, five bowlers to a team. Cost is \$9.00—80% handicap.

Wednesday Community League

League bowls on Wednesdays at 8:45 p.m.—always a popular night for bowling. League starts on May 25, five bowlers to a team. Cost is \$8.00 per week—80% handicap.

Thursday Community League

This is the only weekday gay league in the city—bowls on Thursdays at 1:00 p.m. League starts on June 16, three bowlers to a team. Cost is \$6.50—90% handicap.

Friday Mexico Vacation League

This league ends the season with a trip to Mexico as its grand finale. Everything is included in your league fees each week, including the trip. There is nothing extra to pay. League starts on June 24, four to a team. Cost is \$20.00 per week (includes trip)—90% handicap. Trip to Mexico will be in April 1989.

Sunday Reno League

Everyone in this league will go to Reno at the end of the season. Reno trip is included in league fees. League bowls at 6:30 p.m. Cost is \$11.00 per week. League starts on June 19—90% handicap.

These leagues have all been designed for the novice bowler as well as the experienced bowler—they're fun for all, regardless of your level of ability.

The emphasis is on fun!!!

If you wish further information or you want to join any of these leagues, contact: Terry Kaplan, (415) 921-6200.



BAY AREA REPORTER ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Stonewall, College, Love, Etc.

Edmund White's 'Beautiful Room' Is a Moving Saga of Self-Discovery

"I stayed over at Lou's. We hugged each other in bed like brothers, but we were too excited to sleep. We rushed down to buy the morning papers to see how the Stonewall Uprising had been described. 'It's really our Bastille Day,' Lou said. But we couldn't find a single mention in the press of the turning point in our lives."

by David Lambie

The above paragraph neatly juggles images of hope and resignation about a famous night in the history of gay liberation. It was the night of the Stonewall riots in 1969.

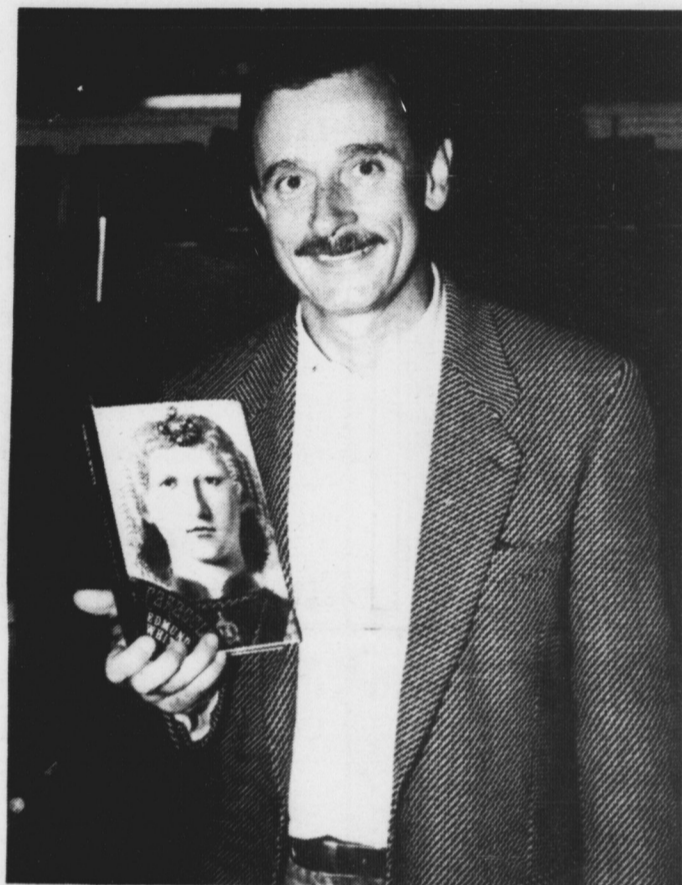
The author of the paragraph is Edmund White, and it is excerpted from his new novel, *The Beautiful Room Is Empty*. Borrowing his title from Kafka and his nameless boy-man hero from J.D. Salinger and Proust, White has delivered on the promise of his 1982 path-breaking, Bildungs-Roman, *A Boy's Own Story*.

Beautiful Room is a moving saga of a young man's journey of self-discovery, beginning in the psychic prison of a Midwestern small-town boyhood and the boy's unrequited love for his Babbitt-like father. It climaxes with the hero in the arms of a Dionysian, older lover-friend after a night of joyous rioting against the New York City cops in the Greenwich Village-located Stonewall Bar. This riot fanned the flames of a new era of gay liberation.

Nineteen years after gay liberation bloomed in the Stonewall, Christopher Lehmann-Haupt, book reviewer for *The New York Times*, finds himself applauding in print the memory of news the *Times* did not consider fit. "Gay liberation has arrived; it is their Bastille Day, and we find ourselves cheering, even in the face of what we know is to come—and what Mr. White must surely write about in another sequel. Such is the subtlety and strength of *The Beautiful Room Is Empty*, that we actually find ourselves cheering."

Edmund White is in turn cheered that the *Times* critic was carried away from his homophobic instincts by the spirit of the book. "I thought that was very shrewd on his part to have seen exactly what I was doing. My strategy was to make the hero so self-hating that even the most hostile heterosexual reader would finally become impatient and want to shake him and say, 'Oh, come on, just get on with your life! Can't you accept yourself?' So it worked on Mr. Lehmann-Haupt."

White makes no secret of the fact that he is the boy or, rather, the boy is his own, thinly disguised, fictional self. He confesses that he did succumb to the temptation to rewrite his own early history just a tad. Noting that his own college career was strewn with literary prizes and that he had a play produced off-Broadway at the age of 22, White says



Edmund White

(Photo: Rink)

he wanted his alter ego to be a little less special so that more readers could identify with him.

He agrees with some opinions that the boy is at times perhaps a bit too sentimental and self-pitying, but he puts up a spirited defense of the emotional "sins" of youth. "I probably spent a lot of time in self-pity and anguish in those years," he says. "If I had represented even a tenth of what I actually felt, it would have been a very depressing and perhaps a silly book."

"But I didn't want to ignore those feelings either," he added. "I feel this terrible conspiracy in the world against sentimentality or self-pity. There is an unrealistic under-representation of those feelings in most fiction. Those feelings are very characteristic of young people. One of the problems of being young is that one has, maybe for hormonal reasons, an excess of love and no proper object for it."

White feels that one of the real problems with AIDS and safe-sex education is that boys in their late teens and early 20s "tend to fall in love every time they have sex. They develop this romantic alibi. 'Since I'm in love, I can do anything in bed, love forgives all,' and therefore they run real health hazards."

Writing about his boy hero in his late teens and early 20s, White made him a little less sweet and naive

undergraduate at the University of Michigan, discovers that furtive sexual encounters can be had in the men's room at the student union, White begins to develop images of sex in the toilets in a manner not unlike those used by Jean Genet to describe anonymous prison encounters:

"Someone with a convict's patience had drilled a dime-size hole in one of the marble slabs in Main Hall. I'd sit on the toilet, suddenly remember the hole was here, between this stall and the next, look up and see a black pupil glossy, quivering. If the eye persisted in its liquid restlessness, at once thoroughly anonymous and shockingly vulnerable, I'd look back toward this live camera, this unseen seer. I stood up to expose my erection. . . The soul and intelligence usually attributed to the eyes had been annulled by this extreme close-up: nothing left but motility. . . Then I exploded, he flushed and shot out of his booth, the door to the hall sighed shut behind him. . ."

The Beautiful Room Is Empty is surprisingly filled with what

would be, in less capable hands, X-rated content. Edmund White manages to use his avuncular older narrator, remembering the boy's story through the prism of adult knowledge and ironic reflection, to drive subtly home his lessons about the ravages of 1950s style-conformity and the wages of repression. "I do feel that the period of my life in which toilet sex was important was precisely the period when I couldn't accept at all my homosexuality. The more I hid this secret sexual life, the more virulent it was!"

Edmund White's accounts of college toilet sex was reminiscent of how strangely religious grown men's sexual rites can be: the toilets and their stalls resembling the Catholic confessional, the communication between two partially concealed bodies oddly like that between confessor and confessee. White notes that, in the pre-AIDS era, the localization of erotic interest was a major theme for gay men who patronized the glory hole sex clubs "in which people would go not for a drink, no liquor was served, but it was really recreating all the conditions of servitude. It was as though you had once been a prisoner and got used to sex in prison, and when you got out you'd build a little jail at home."

A few reviewers have criticized the abrupt way the book winds up at the Stonewall Bar riot. Not too many gay writers have drawn on the events of that miraculous evening. Edmund White feels he's entitled to inspect the ashes of Stonewall.

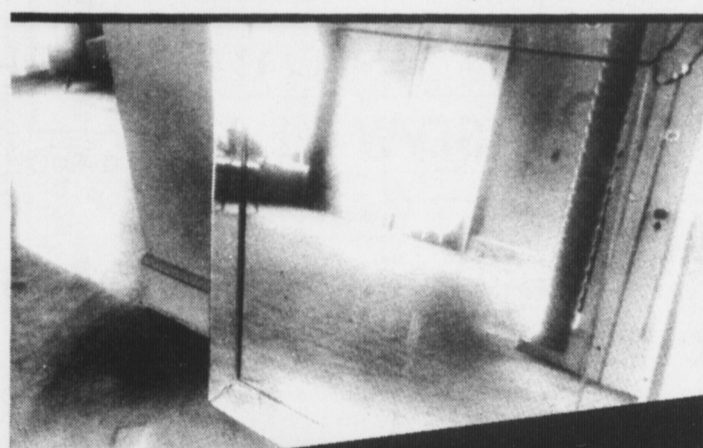
"I was actually there, through no merit of my own," said White. "I was dancing there when the thing started. The person the character of Lou was based on, he and I were great friends, and we ran around for the next day and a half during the whole madness of it."

White remembers Stonewall as "the first funny revolution in history, in the sense that we all had a great time. It was a party."

"We didn't take ourselves too seriously, because it was very hard for us to switch gears and to suddenly think that 'gay is good' could be said in a serious way, as you could say 'black is beautiful.' We felt a lot of rage and frustration attaching to those words, but there was still a tremendous amount of irony and humor about the whole thing."

White explains that the peculiar social milieu that had developed at the Stonewall Bar had a lot to do with the ensuing riot.

(Continued on page 36)



THE BEAUTIFUL ROOM IS EMPTY
a novel
BY THE AUTHOR OF A BOY'S OWN STORY
EDMUND WHITE

BOOKS

A Coast of Many Colors

West Coast Plays 21 / 22
edited by Robert Hurwitz
California Theatre Council, Los Angeles
248 pages, durable cover, \$12.95

by Joseph W. Bean

West Coast Plays has been published more or less regularly since 1977, and the present volume, numbered 21/22, is one of the better ones. All in all, it is a very interesting mix of plays, and it collects characters of all sorts. There are straight and gay characters; Asians, blacks, and fully-melted products of the American melting pot in ages ranging from *tres naive* to worn out long ago.

Just as variety is the spice of theatre, it is also the thing that makes play reading enjoyable. So, if you're a play reader at all, you will appreciate this assemblage of one-man shows, small dramas, and large-cast plays.

Spook Show is the old Whoopi Goldberg. Some say she sold out her artistic and political principles for the sake of a Hollywood career. They will be proven right; this appearance of her one-woman show is the last we see of the spunky woman who shook up Bay Area audiences when she was performing with the Blake Street Hawkeyes here. Just in case we don't get to see the real Whoopi ever again, you'll want to get *West Coast Plays 21/22* to have a record of who Goldberg was before Hollywood had its way with her.

The Dream Coast is very likely the best drama, and certainly it is the best reading, in the book. Stepping has perfectly captured a world of gritty characters who are destroyed by their faith in the Hollywood Dream Machine, and their little knowledge of themselves. *The Dream Coast* is not an upper, it won't leave you feeling good about modern times or life or anything, but you will feel that you've been awakened to realities that are not likely to go away. If forewarned is fore-armed, arm yourself against letting your dreams cost your life by reading *The Dream Coast*.

Life of the Party, as we here in San Francisco are well aware, is one of Theatre Rhinoceros' AIDS plays. If you saw it here (or in any of its other productions around the country), you will probably be eager to read it, too.

It reads well, perhaps it even reads better than it plays, if only because you can slow the action down to think things through and rush it to get on to the next thought. In fact, that is one of the great things about play reading, one of the reasons especially to read plays you have seen. In the reading, you are the director, your fantasy cast plays all the roles, and you may even be the star or subject of the drama yourself. This is a way of making a play particularly relevant for yourself, perhaps even reaching a level of involvement similar to that of the playwright.

The Wash is not a good play. This is a personal opinion, obviously not shared by Robert Hurwitz or the editorial decision makers at the California Theatre Council, but it is an opinion that I developed watching the play when it was produced here. It is also the opinion I would have developed reading it, even if I had never seen it.

While *The Wash* touches on many issues about the assimilation of Asians into American culture—with various opinions and possibilities taken into account—it remains something like a sitcom with soap-operatic pretensions. But, weak as it is, *The Wash* does represent the most recent work of a playwright who has given us some superb drama in the past and is likely to do so again in the future. So, maybe it would be worth skimming just to stay in touch with Gotanda.

America's Finest is extremely strong. Like Goldberg's *Spook Show*, it is a one-performer piece. Unlike *Spook Show*, it is very personal. Where Whoopi challenges societal mindsets and parodies bigotry, Byrnes plunges into the hottest and hardest places in his own life, finding heart and hope, but always only on the other side of a barrier of pain. This is—as one-man shows often are—an excellent piece for reading.

Finally, *Honeymoon*. This is a deep-dark comedy. It is compared to, or at least connected with *The Wash* in Hurwitz's intro-



A scene from the Theatre Rhino production of *Life of the Party*

(Photo: S. Cohen)

duction to the book. But, no two family dramas could be more unlike one another. If *The Wash* is soap opera, and that may be the best label for it, *Honeymoon* is a soap opera in a sense that soap opera is made to help us escape.

Don't read *Honeymoon* unless you are willing to consider the consequences of a loving relationship in a world that never learns to love or to appreciate love. Or, do read it. Read it, and give it room to move your thoughts and feelings, it is a powerful piece of sometimes-funny drama that you will remember and refer to for a long, long time.

There are other things in this book, too. There's an article about Goldberg by Misha Berenson, Leland Moss' program note for *Life of the Party*, an interview of Gotanda by Hurwitz and Richard Seyd. All you come away

with after reading these things is a question: Why don't they just let these plays speak for themselves?

You can fix that easily enough. Read the plays, skip or skim the padding.

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KRON Tackles Lesbian, Gay Domestic Violence

by Will Snyder

The last thing that the gay and lesbian community needs these days is more negative news. But sometimes the news is brutally realistic and cannot be ignored. Such is the case with a piece of news reporting which is scheduled to appear on KRON-TV's 6 p.m. newscast this Friday, as well as a yet-to-be-announced Saturday date on *Cover Story*.

The subject is gay and lesbian domestic violence, something the mainstream news media has rarely touched. The piece, authored by Channel 4's Emerald Yeh, includes interviews with a gay man and a lesbian, both of whom suffered through horrendous physical beatings.

Producer Ed Walsh said that this news segment finally will

make it to the air after the station's news department had a change of heart about running it.

"I first suggested that we do a news piece on gay and lesbian domestic violence a year ago," said Walsh, a 28-year-old native of Boston. "I had seen an article on the subject in Bay Area Reporter and thought it was something we should be reporting on."

"This whole issue is something that I didn't know existed, and I'm gay," Walsh added.

Walsh said that the station finally gave him the go-ahead after he noticed followup articles in B.A.R. as well as in other gay publications. But he found little information on the subject in the

(Continued on page 37)

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MOVIES

'Not Rock's Type,' Piper Laurie Says

by Steve Warren

In 1952 Piper Laurie was in Rock Hudson's arms in *Has Anybody Seen My Gal* and on his arm at the usual round of parties and premieres. Did she know then that Rock was gay?

"I never really thought about it," Laurie says now. "I doubt if the studio (Universal) or anyone were aware during those years. I liked him, and he was terrifically attractive. I liked working and having dates with him, but there was nothing intimate between us... There was no question he had affection for me.

"I just figured the reason he never made a pass at me was that I wasn't his type," the actress understates.

Three Academy Award nominations (*The Hustler*, *Carrie*, *Children of a Lesser God*) later, Laurie is playing one of her campier roles in the new Agatha Christie whodunnit, *Appointment With Death*. Because Laurie's character is established as a former prison matron, and Lauren Bacall and Hayley Mills



Mrs. Boynton (Piper Laurie, c.) rules her family with an iron fist in *Appointment With Death*.

are introduced as "travelling companions," there seems a possibility of a lesbian jealousy angle.

Laurie laughs at the suggestion. "I guess they never thought of that," she says. "Or maybe they did." Of course it would never have occurred to Agatha

Christie. She thought Miss Marple was straight.

"Working with Betty Bacall was such a hoot," Laurie says. Bacall, who has a face carved from stone and the voice that did the carving, is the only one in the cast who matches Laurie chill for chill.

Of three more films Laurie has in the can, at least one, a thriller called *Distortions*, with Steve Railsback and Olivia Hussey, sounds like more of the same: "I play this really campy lady in a bleached blonde page-boy wig. I wear these elegant, elegant, elegant clothes all the time, even when I'm dining alone." ●

Philip Campbell

English Conductors: Hot and Cold

Simon Rattle and the City of Birmingham (England) Symphony came, saw, and conquered an ecstatic audience at Davies Hall early this month, proving once again the importance of charismatic leadership. Sandwiched between two lackluster appearances by another Brit—David Atherton of London Sinfonietta fame—the touring group not only fulfilled the promise of its numerous recordings, but also authenticated the genuine star quality of its gifted music director.

In two weeks of regular subscription concerts, David Atherton could not motivate our own orchestra beyond workmanlike readings of standard repertory items. The real highlight of his visit came from another guest artist, soprano Roberta Alexander, substituting for an ailing Jessye Norman. Alexander's fresh and meticulous presentation of Strauss' *Four Last Songs* made up in tonal purity for an essential lack of power, her lovely carriage and grave concentration adding weight to a delicate instrument. Atherton also displayed sensitivity by thinning down the orchestra texture—ensuring audibility for the vocalist and revealing some problems with balance.

Founder of the pioneering London Sinfonietta at age 23, David Atherton was once the same sort of wunderkind as Simon Rattle today. His reputation led me to expect more adventurous inroads to the scheduled Ravel and Stravinsky ballet scores. Excessive worries over balance and section management blunted the sumptuous sonorities of *Daphnis and Chloe*, *Suites 1 & 2*. The already dry acoustics of Davies didn't help.

Stravinsky's *Rites of Spring* suffered a similar fate the following week. It survived by the sheer force of power inherent in the

writing, but the orchestra's pedestrian response to Atherton's analytical beat failed to truly excite. Strange that a specialist in 20th century music should fail to impart sufficient energy or impulse. Maybe the symphony is experiencing delayed jet lag from its recent Asian tour.

Simon Rattle and his bright-eyed Birmingham Orchestra showed no such signs of weakness. Granted, most musicians on tour are especially well rehearsed and enthusiastic. Still, even with a few flaws (horn cracks, flubbed entrances), the CBSO displayed an exceptional level of spontaneity and finesse. They obviously respect and admire their leader; it showed in every movement of their remarkable concert.

Rattle's choice of material was refreshing without being really offbeat. A delicious Haydn Symphony No. 70 began the evening on a wonderfully cheerful note. The initial darkness of violin tone was a little disconcerting at first—I've grown accustomed to the bright, vibrato-free sound currently in vogue with the "authentic" movement—but I quickly adjusted and marveled at the player's taut control and intense focus. No obvious allowances were made for the dead acoustics of the hall, confirming suspicions that they are ultimately useless anyway. A good, robust performance will defeat all obstacles.

The first half ended with a surprisingly suave rendition of Ravel's *La Valse*. I missed the nightmarish element, so feverishly exciting with Bernstein, but still joined in the hearty ovation. Some audience members were actually moved to stand! It was that kind of evening.

After an uncommonly chatty intermission, the spell remained unbroken through a properly atmospheric *Afternoon of a Faun*

by Debussy. If this were the least perfect performance of the program, all memory of it was subdued by the breathtaking power of Rattle's Sibelius Symphony No. 5.

The 33-year-old maestro has made an international name for himself with the towering works of Sibelius, and anyone who may have had misgivings about the recorded results—his tendency to shift gears too obviously or the underlining of thematic elements—can rest assured that these idiosyncrasies have been solved. Based on this performance alone, Rattle is ready to join the ranks of Sir Colin Davis, Paavo Berglund, and Herbert von Karajan.

The organic evolution of the Fifth, filled with so many turnings, is well within Rattle's grasp. Going for the score's dynamic markings and allowing the great melodies to breathe naturally ensured a coherence even Sir Colin would envy! The playing throughout was sublime, the strings achieving an audible triple pianissimo and horns blaring without a trace of vulgarity.

The CBSO's recording of the Symphony No. 5 is due out this month, to coincide with its first American tour. For those who missed the concert, I urge getting to know CBSO through this amazing performance. ●

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Keith White

Problems and Pleasures at San Francisco Ballet

In a ballet season of rotating repertory, the final few weeks are often the most crucial. By that time every ballet has been presented, and the whole repertory can be seen in perspective. New or elevated dancers may have revealed some of their limitations, and the inevitable tally of injured personnel results in last-minute cast changes that spell interesting potentials no one thought of before.

The tension at the San Francisco Ballet has been especially taut, since, in the midst of rehearsing and performing its rotating, mixed bills, the company is also trying to pull together an expensive new production of *Swan Lake* that will close the 1988 season and for which the nation's most influential dance critics are travelling to San Francisco.

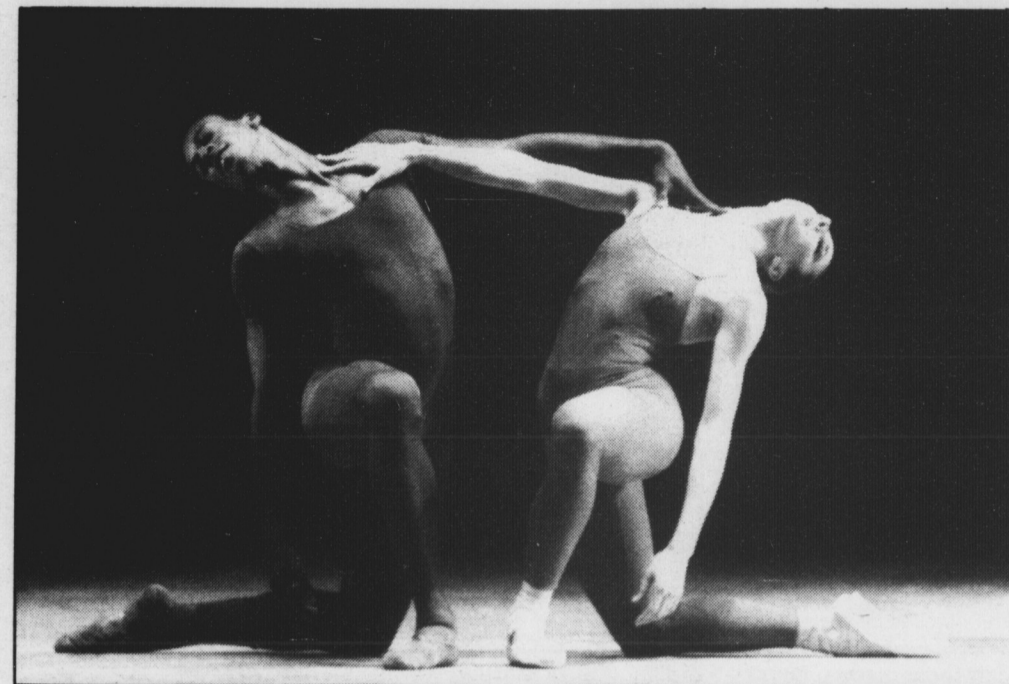
Apart from whatever effect the new *Swan Lake* will have on the company's fortunes, this season will be remembered for the debuts made by new company members and for its revivals, which have proven far stronger than the premieres. 1988 may also be remembered as "the year of the pas de deux." Four stand-alone duets were programmed during the season, two of them on the same program.

The two pas de deux that were new to local audiences were imported from the repertory of the New York City Ballet, of which the San Francisco Ballet's artistic director, Helgi Tomasson, is an alumnus. In fact, of the six imported premieres (the company had no new commissioned ballets in rotating repertory this season), only one, *The Sons of Horus*, did not come from the New York City Ballet or its school. Has Tomasson forgotten his promise not to make of San Francisco Ballet a New York City Ballet-oriented company? Or did his two years on board at SFB give him too little lead time to procure works from the international repertory? And why was SFB company member Val Caniparoli, whose *Narcisse* held its own among last season's international acquisitions, not asked to create another ballet for SFB?

Whatever the basis for selection, all of this season's premieres, including those by George Balanchine, are minor works, in my opinion. However, a minor Balanchine ballet is one thing; a minor Peter Martins ballet quite another.

Thoughtful programming would have made everything look better, but this is another area in which the company's modus operandi has been unclear. Program VII opened with Val Caniparoli's *Narcisse*, to the Debussy *Nocturnes*, and it lulled the audience into a swoon. Upon returning from intermission, we were shown two pas de deux, back to back, neither of which was dynamic enough to refocus our vision. By the time the closing ballet went on (*Theme and Variations*, a masterpiece of structured musicality), the previous selections seemed inconsequential. Presented differently, they would certainly have made a stronger impression.

The other disturbing trend at SFB is an apparent laissez-faire attitude with regard to the male dancing in the company. While SFB's female dancers continue to improve more or less across the board, the male dancing is as variable as it was three years ago.



Tracy-Kai Maier and Christopher Boatwright in Peter Martins' *Calcium Night Light* at SFB.

Those male dancers who are self-motivated maintain themselves or improve slightly. But several of SFB's men are overweight to a degree that would have ended the career of a female dancer.

Even among the upper ranks, few of SFB's men have much dimension, and none of them are so technically prodigious that they can get by without it. Tomasson's answer to the problem has been to hire talented new male dancers, with the apparent hope that they will come to us ready-made, their theatercraft fully developed. But even great dancers want and need good coaching, and there is no experienced ballet master on staff at SFB to cultivate the men.

Injuries have accentuated these trends. New soloist Anthony Randazzo, uninjured and evidently a quick study, has been thrown into almost every lead male role in the repertory. A sunny, uncomplicated dancer of admirable ability, Randazzo hasn't the cool detachment necessary for *New Sleep* or the

exalted melancholy for Jean-Charles Gil's role in *Intimate Voices* (Gil, recovering from neck injuries, is currently appearing only in *Duo Concertant*.)

Karin Avery's inability to appear in *Theme and Variations*, something I'd looked forward to, gave us the opportunity to see Evelyn Cisneros a year after her debut in the role. Cisneros still has that characteristic tension in her head and shoulders—a serious fault in a role this revealing, and an annoying one in a dancer whose artistry is otherwise so highly developed. But Cisneros dances every terrifying step, including the *gargouillades* that Balanchine first put in for Celsey Kirkland and which even Kirkland eventually stopped doing.

Christopher Boatwright took over Jean-Charles Gil's role in *Narcisse*. With a number of changes in the staging as well, it looks like a new ballet, less a star vehicle, its ensembles more coherent, still dreamy, sensuous, and compelling. Boatwright's dancing is as liquid and clear as

the pool in which Narcissus' mythical reflection appeared. But again, this isn't a good opening ballet, and the two left-field

pas de deux that followed it, Ashton's reconciliation pas de deux from *The Dream* and Balanchine's *Duo Concertant*, made the program seem even more derelict.

The Dream pas, which I was surprised to find is not well-excerpted from its complete ballet, was beautifully rendered by Tracy-Kai Maier and Jim Sohm, perhaps the two most consistent performers in the company. *Duo Concertant* (1972), to a prickly, arid Stravinsky score for piano and violin, is one of those pieces in which two dancers stand listening next to the onstage piano and suddenly decided to dance a few steps. Charming as Jean-Charles Gil and Wendy Van Dyck were together, I'm tired of these phony impromptu ballet conceits. But SFB gave us another one I liked even less: *Calcium Night* (1977), the first ballet by the New York City Ballet's artistic director, Peter Martins, set to Charles Ives music that almost no one can bear to listen to.

Rather than blame it all on (Continued on page 37)

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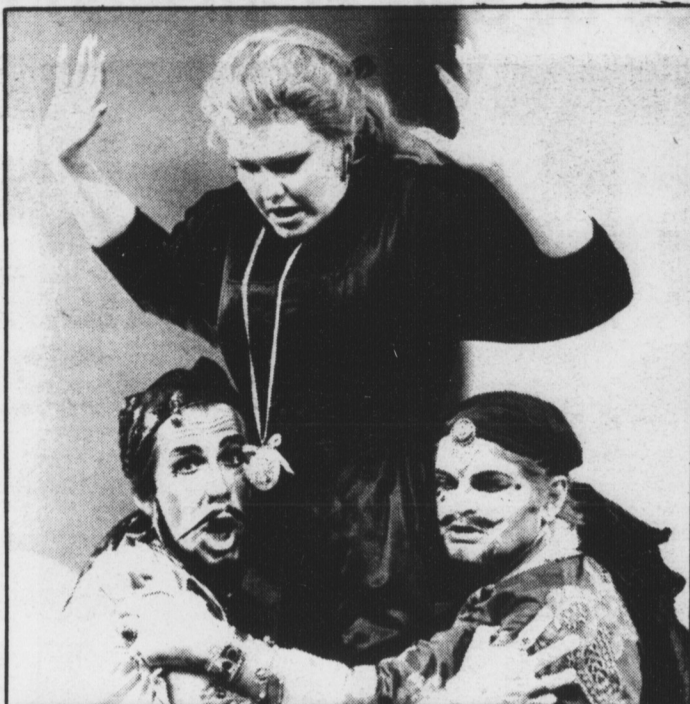
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In Pursuit Of Excellence

When I attended Opera America's annual conference in January I encountered a curious phenomenon. Although the people who come to this conference are usually there to talk shop, several sessions forced them to address the delicate subject of the art they actually produce. Something which is central to the lives of these people suddenly became a stumbling block for those who have been so locked into "fundraising for survival" and "the business of art" that they are rarely given a chance—especially in any public forum—to examine their own feelings about the art form which governs their lives.

Panel discussions entitled "Approaches to Presenting or Evaluating a New Work," "Are Our Practices of Producing Opera Fulfilling Our Responsibility to the Art Form?" and "Maintaining Your Producing Integrity" witnessed some of the opera community's decision makers coming out with concise, insightful observations about the problems which confront them while others grappled for words. What became obvious was that the people who fared best on these panels (Skylight Comic Opera's Stephen Wadsworth, Houston Grand Opera's Scott Heumann, Artpark's Christopher Keene and Lyric Opera of Chicago's Ardis Krainik) were those who had a clearly-articulated artistic vision in which they devoutly believe. Their personal and professional standpoints embrace the creation of new works



Watch those hands, boys!—Fiordiligi (Karita Mattila) warns Robert Orth's superb Guglielmo and Goesta Winbergh's horny Ferrando to show a little more discretion during Mozart's *Così Fan Tutte*.

and, rather than investing in a past which can no longer support itself, welcome the challenges of tomorrow's opera world with open arms.

Most importantly, their individual artistic visions seem to be as deeply rooted as a religious or ethnic identity. I mention this because, on the day Terry McEwen resigned his position as General Director of the San Francisco Opera, he outlined the press five characteristics which should

be sought in his successor. McEwen stressed (a) the ability to speak several languages, (b) strong fundraising potential, (c) some knowledge of how to produce opera, (d) an ability to get along with a board of directors and, (e) high artistic aspirations and standards. What struck me as peculiarly lacking was the key qualification which only a handful of people in America's professional opera community seem to possess: a genuine sense of artistic vision which can carry an

opera company forward into the 21st century.

Although the opera profession functions on a tremendous amount of good faith, the arts can and often do become a cut-throat business. Unfortunately, a tremendous amount of denial is at work within this professional community; a dangerously perverse factor which prevents key people from dealing head-on with reality. Many of the nuts-and-bolts topics chosen for roundtable sessions at Opera America's conference ("Reaching a Growing Hispanic Audience," "What To Do and What Not To Do In Planning a New Theater," "Working With Your Local School Board," "How Opera For the 80s and Beyond Can Work With You," and "New Concepts in Commissioning New Works") seemed geared toward dealing more realistically with the future. It's about time!

As usual, the problem of coping with cancellations by major artists proved to be a hot topic of conversation. Despite all the pissing and moaning from various General Directors, one sensed a profound unwillingness to do anything as radical as boycotting certain artists or suing for breach of contract. At the heart of the problem lies the extremely masochistic tendency of many people in the arts to play victim instead of aggressively fighting the forces which oppress them.

That's why I'm always delighted whenever Anne Murphy (Executive Director of the American Arts Alliance) or William Blair (who is currently involved in the formation of a Political Action Committee to lobby members of Congress on behalf of the arts) take over the microphone. These two arts activists bring a megadose of political savvy and sorely needed reality to Opera America's meetings. In this election year, I strongly urge B.A.A.'s readers to get their hands on copies of "Campaign '88: Arts On the National Agenda" (you can order this publication by sending \$3 to The American Arts Alliance, 1319 F. Street N.W., Suite 307, Washington, D.C. 20004) and to contact the Alliance of Arts Advocates (c/o William White, Law Offices of Kaplan, Ruffin & Vecchi, 1215 17th Street N.W., Washington, DC 20036) for information on how you, too, can lend a hand to a very important and long overdue political action committee for the arts.

QUALITY TIME

The highlight of my weekend in Houston was an absolutely brilliant production of Mozart's *Così Fan Tutte* which, under the inspired baton of Dennis Russell Davies, featured such mind-blowing ensemble work that I nearly ended up in a state of shock. When taken seriously as a piece of musical theater, this Mozart opera glows with vitality and, with surtitles written by Scott Heumann, this performance became the most stunning experience I have had with *Così Fan Tutte* since the legendary Jonathan Miller/Richard Gaddes/Calvin Simmons collaboration mounted by Opera Theatre of St. Louis in June of 1982.

Backed by Carl Friedrich Oberle's unit set (which reminded me of my visit to Sweden's Drottningholm Court Theatre last September) and Oberle's delightfully crafted costumes, director Goran Jarvefelt delved

much further into the layering of each individual character's psyche and dramatic motivations than most of his professional peers would ever dare to do. Working from a sound theatrical standpoint, he crafted a dramatic whole which was, in a word, breathtaking.

HGO's exceptionally strong ensemble included tenor Goesta Winbergh and baritone Robert Orth as Ferrando and Guglielmo. Winbergh was in exceptionally fine vocal form. Orth's artistic growth during the past five years continues to astound me. This man is a major American talent who I keep watching deliver one finely crafted character and beautifully sung performance after another in theaters around the nation. As far as I'm concerned, Robert Orth is a 21-karat operatic gem.

So much for Mozart's vain heroes and the men who portrayed them. How did the rest of the cast fare? Finnish soprano Karita Mattila delivered a fascinating Fiordiligi which was vocally impressive and dramatically quite forceful. A tall, shapely blonde, Mattila's soprano dominated the stage with its radiant sound. Nevertheless, there were moments when I was more taken by the dark strengths of Jeanne Piland's magnificently feminine Dorabella. As Don Alfonso, veteran buffo Renato Capecchi cast a seasoned and justifiably cynical eye on the proceedings. Melanie Helton's robust Despina rounded out a cast which would have done any impresario proud.

It's interesting to see Houston Grand Opera scoring so strongly with Mozart in a market whose median age is less than 30. Last fall's production of *The Abduction From The Seraglio* became the surprise sleeper of the company's opening salvo in the Wortham Center. In many ways, I wish that (in addition to October's *Aida* and the delayed telecast of *Nixon in China* scheduled for April 1988) the company could have broadcast this *Così Fan Tutte* so that people would know what happens when high artistic standards reach a healthy equilibrium with the business of producing opera.

Next fall, both Goran Jarvefelt and Carl Friederich Oberle will return to Houston to mount Mozart's *The Marriage of Figaro* with a cast headed by Thomas Allen, Susanne Mentzer, Francois Loup, Gunnel Bohman, Angela Maria Blasi and Robert Hayward. Although I missed the same team's 1987 staging of *Don Giovanni*—a production which was reported to be a major artistic triumph—I'm told that all three da Ponte operas will be revived as part of a Mozart festival (along with Peter Mark Schifter's wacky *Abduction* and the Corsaro/Sendak *Magic Flute*) which is being planned by the Houston Grand Opera for the spring of 1991.

Stay tuned for further developments and make your travel plans accordingly.

Playwriting Women

A playwriting class offered by Terry Baum will be held on Tuesdays from 7:30 to 10:30 p.m. from May 10 to May 31 (four sessions). The cost is \$100. The focus will be on developing an idea into a finished scene. Call 641-7729 for more information.

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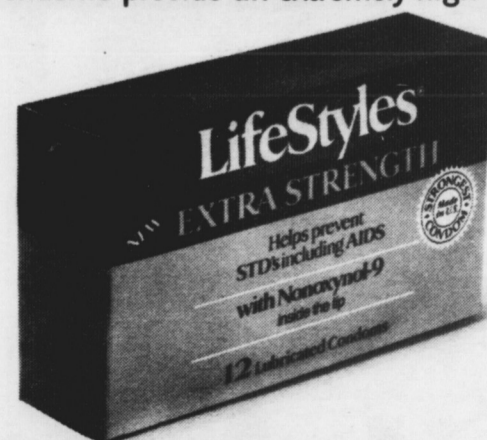
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Mr. Marcus

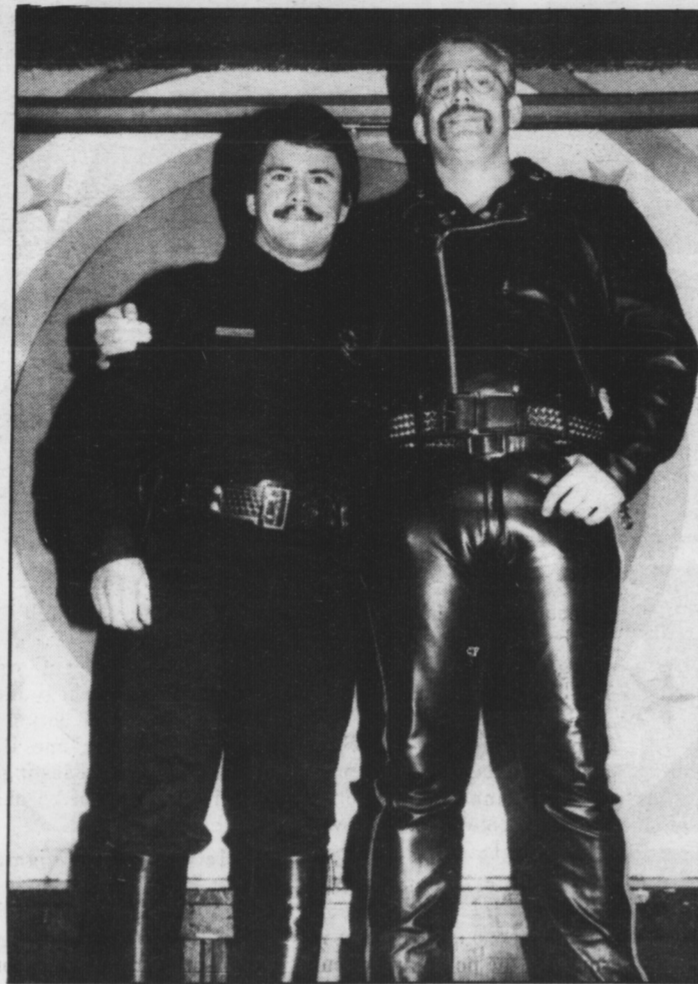
The Fun Is Just Beginning!

It was standing room only last Wednesday night, April 6, as the Blazing Redheads blasted out a superb live performance at the Great American Music Hall. Another bizarre array of costumes and screaming fans congregated at the O'Farrell Street nightery to laud the Redheads on the occasion of their first album release.

It was packed to the rafters with loyal fans, and Marga Gomez effortlessly had the crowd in the palm of her hand. Marga has often been the opening act for the Redheads, and her presence is always a great warm-up for the sizzling beat of this talented group. It was a joyous and exhilarating experience, and we wish much luck to the future efforts of the Blazing Redheads.

Across the slot, another hearty group converged on My Place on Folsom for the opening of Jim Leff's art show. It looked like the reunion of the old Ambush crowd, with lots of new faces joining in tribute to one of the leather community's most talented artists. Norman Bazley, fresh out of the hospital, was looking good and none the worst for his bout with the medicos. A great turnout indeed. The Jim Leff show will hang until April 19, so get on down there and check out some of those blazing sunsets, hot men, and other adventures in the magic oils of Mr. Leff.

It was the first round of the search for Mr. Leather of S.F. at the Eagle later that same evening. Four of leatherdom's boldest came forth to express their views on leather life in general and the Intl. Mr. Leather contest in particular. Judges Shadow Morton, Nick Veratakis, and current Mr. Leather of S.F. Bill Johansen had their hands full with the contestants. Their cogent answers were timely and intelligent, and in the end Michael Chase emerged as the winner. The first runnerup, Ken Horan, a recent emigre from Chicago, will also compete in the finals May 6. In the meantime, another contest



Michael Chase (l.), winner of the first heat of the Eagle's Mr. S.F. Leather contest, with first runnerup Ken Horan. (Photo: S. Martin)

was held last night (April 13), and still another will be held April 27. Remember, the winner gets \$200 in cash, round-trip air fare and hotel accommodations in Chicago, and a chance to compete in Intl. Mr. Leather May 29.

In addition to the winner of this competition, the Detour bar will sponsor Marty Blackburn as their entry, and current Mr. Carnival James Buhler will try for the glory of the CMC. Some other surprise entries appeared last night, and the fever is in full bloom already. Stay tuned—or, better yet, if you think you're leather title material, now's the time to jump into the fray.

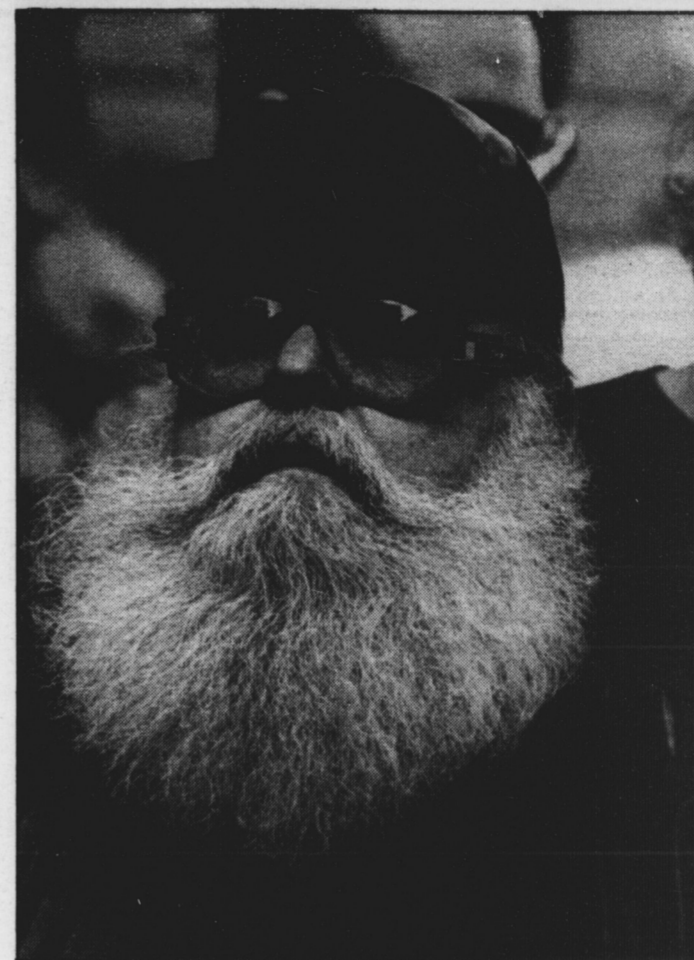
There's one contest left, and it's on Wednesday, April 27. There will be no contest on the 20th due to the Eagle's seventh anniversary festivities.

Over the weekend, there were the Community Awards on Saturday night and an imperial family get-together. Nobody told me who won what, but I do know that David Stoll of the Eagle won "Best Bartender of the Year South of Market" for the third consecutive year, and it couldn't have happened to a greater bartender.

Sunday dawned hotter and brighter than all the previous



The Blazing Redheads played to a SRO crowd at the Great American Music Hall. (Photo: PhotoGraphics/Darlene)



The winner of the 'Silver Locks' portion of the big Beard Contest at the Pilsner. (Photo: R. Pruzan)

days of last week; shorts and bare chests sprouted all over town, and the Castro was full of hot dudes prancing in the shimmering heat. All the GSL teams got into the swing, and, over at the Japantown Bowl, the royalty mavens gathered for the investiture of Their Imperial Majesties Lily Street and Steven Rascher. It was one of the most innovative and fun events to come out of the royalty dudes in a long time.

Whether deliberately or just a series of snafus, the ceremony was campy enough. The mike was squeaky, the pomp and circumstance music and tapes didn't arrive, and the cue cards kept getting mixed up. Between the crowns, robes, orbs, sceptres, royal oils, imperial seals, etc., it was all Ginger could do to keep calm. The bowling for titles was hilarious, too. All you had to do was throw four balls with a decent total to get an "Ambassador at Large" title; if you were dissatisfied with that, you could try again for a higher one. It was fun, and it looks like Lily and Steve are off to a great start. Some people were there to get a title; some were there just to participate to raise money. Ron Huberman was there, looking for a husband while throwing his balls around under the warning eyes of Wayne Friday.

A big turnout at the Pilsner Inn Sunday for the big Beard Contest. The place was invaded by boffo beards from a lot of men from the Sonoma County area, with representatives of Club MUD, too. It was festive, all right. MC Olin Saunders proved to be quite good at interviewing the contestants, which totalled almost 30 in the various categories. You'll see some Pruzanadanna photos in this issue of B.A.R. as well.

Monday night was the Academy Awards. Did you catch the show, and aren't you glad Cher finally won? While we all have our opinions on who or what should have won, it wasn't a bad show, after all.

So what's to keep you busy, broke, and panting in the next few days? Someone named Suzie Wong and a cast of eight will perform at the Mint bar tomorrow night, April 15, in a show called IRS (Incredibly Refined Show), at 2130 hours with a \$2 donation for Open Hand.



Contestants competing for the longest beard fraternized freely on the Pilsner's patio. Woofier (l.) won. (Photo: R. Pruzan)

Tuesday night is T-shirt night; and Wednesday is the big buffet and show with lots of entertainment. At my deadline, Marga Gomez was being lined up, with a hot band as well.

Friday, April 22, a special organ recital will take place at St. Mary's Cathedral (Geary and Gough) with three Bay Area virtuosos: John Balka, John Fenstermaker, and Jared Jacobsen in a

joyous musical celebration to benefit the AIDS Emergency Fund and other AIDS agencies. The ducats are only \$10, and don't be put off if it sounds too (Continued on next page)

"We'll be alone in the steamroom."



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BACKSTROKES

Marcus

(Continued from previous page)

classy. They promise fun music and a celebration of life, so try to make it!

Saturday, April 23, BACW (Bay Area Career Women) kick off their annual big dance, entitled "The Golden Girls," at the Claremont Hotel in Oakland. It's \$25 for members and \$35 for non-members. These women always have great dances.

Saturday and Sunday, April 23-24, the Constantines are having their annual "500" overnight run to Cambria near Morro Bay. It's only \$50 and departs from the Watering Hole at approximately 0900 hours and features a two-hour cruise on the Tiger's Folly II. It also includes a run

pin, lodging, dinner cruise, and 500 miles of great riding. At this late date, I suggest you contact a member of that club or be at the Watering Hole with your cash that morning. They return late Sunday afternoon, April 24.

The 29th is Round 2 in the Mr. Powerhouse Contest (a Friday), and if you're in New York, the Saint closes its doors after their final party Saturday, April 30.

That should keep you busy; if you want to go to New York and really get broke, you can pay \$150 for the second emperor/empress coronation at the Waldorf Astoria Hotel! Any takers?

MULTIPLE SLUR-OSIS

Yes, I do believe Pat Montclair is trying to make a statement that she will be running for empress



The winner of the 'Best Group' competition in the Beard Contest. (Photo: R. Pruzan)

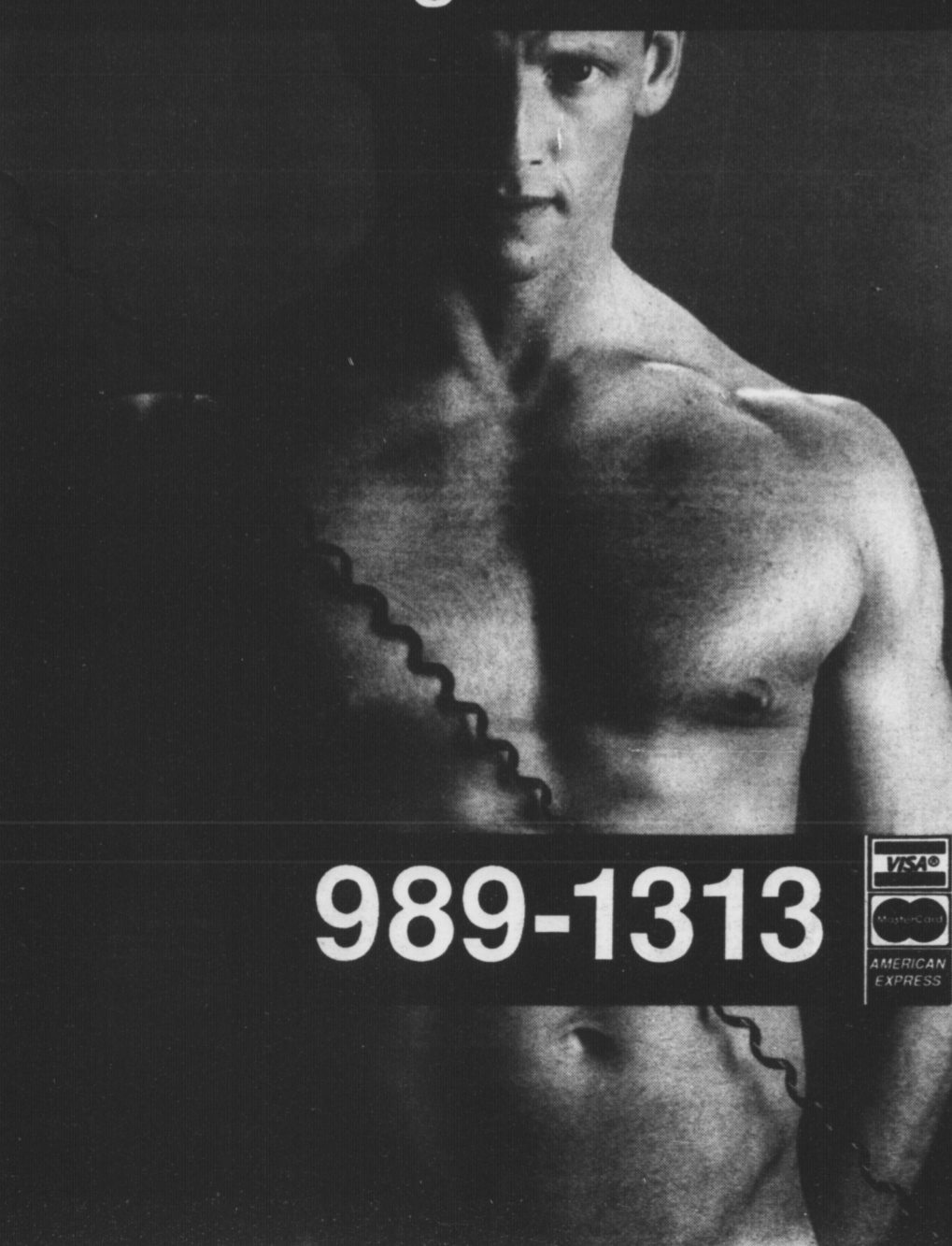
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next year. This annual event always occurs just as the crown on the reigning one is just cooling off, so don't get panicky!

As for Al Wasik's letter last week regarding my age—is that all you've got to do, honey? What do you want, blood? I'll give my time and energy, but no blood for nasty queens! Who is she?

I mentioned late last year that a book entitled *The Golden Age of Folsom* is due out, supposedly a compilation of the history of South of Market. I saw the cover, sent to me by one of my spies, and it looks like the cover of *Drummer Magazine*. I wonder how much fiction it will contain?

I'll tell you what isn't fiction. On the front page of the *San Jose Mercury-News* edition of 3 May 1986, the headlines scream: "Fire Chief Accused of Sex Bias," a story about Robert Osby, now being considered as one of the candidates for chief of our fire department. As if we didn't have enough troubles within the department. Mr. Osby made horrible anti-gay remarks, and I find it hard to believe a fire chief is being considered for this town who is anti-gay! Chief Osby's strident remarks have caused him no end of troubles in the South Bay, and I wonder if Mayor Agnos and the Agnosissies are aware of this situation. Oh, well, as long as they've got their appointments, do they care?

Well, guys, the foot fetish dudes are back in action. After transferring the action of the Foot Fraternity to Cleveland, where it failed to grow at all, the new Footguys have been formed here for guys who are into boots,

shoes, sneakers, feet, and related accoutrements. If you're interested, send a SASE (with 25 cents postage) to FF, P.O. Box 786, San Francisco, CA 94101, and step on it!

Now that Glenn Terrio is single again (for a couple of hours), his ex has decided to enter the Intl. Mr. Leather contest in Chicago—vengeance is his! As for Suzy Parker of L.A.'s *Compass Magazine*, he admits he's over 50, nominated for a Maggie Award, and is madly in love with this 25-year-old "gentleman of the evening," whatever that means.

Wes and Griff of Griff's have bought 51 percent of the Stud Bar in Los Angeles, joining with Emiel Adrels and renaming the place "The Zone." Whether it will be the twilight or the nocturnal is unknown at this point. And the Gauntlet II started searching for their candidate to represent that bar in Chicago, and the contests continue every Thursday this month. Will there be another bet between Bob Linsley and Terry Thompson this year? Will Bob attend IML? Will Terry attend IML? Only Stella knows!

Hey, swing easy. Congrats to the S.F. Jacks, who had a great fifth anniversary party this past Monday night. A whacking good time had by all. Memo for Bruce Werner: Yes, you're right, Bruce, there are a lot of hot-looking white leather guys in S.F. Are you accusing me of being racist? How rude!

See you in the highways, byways, alleys, and bushes. Keep your legs crossed, give generously, and wear your rubbers! See you 'round the campus! ●

Karl's Calendar Compiled by Diedre

THURSDAY 4/14

Feathers 'N Flesh Show, N' Touch, showtimes 10:30 p.m. and 12:15 a.m.

FRIDAY 4/15

Susie Wong Meets The IRS, Mint, 8:30 p.m., \$2 donation, show 9:30 p.m., benefit Open Hand.

Constantine's Serving "Connie Dogs," S.F. Eagle patio, Friday and Saturday nights, 11 p.m.-1 a.m., \$2 (large and juicy).

SATURDAY 4/16

Grand Duke Tom Roller Presents All Male Revue, Kimo's, 8:30 p.m., show 9:40 p.m., \$5 donation.

SUNDAY 4/17

Phoebe Planters Presents The Vanna What, Elaines, 3 p.m., all proceeds to 1988 Gay Freedom Day Parade.

CMC 25th Anniversary Tax Break and Beer Bust, S.F. Eagle, 3-6 p.m., \$6.99, donate dry or canned goods, benefit AIDS Hospice.

Anita's B'day Bash, Kimo's, 6 p.m., \$4 donation, shows 6 and 9 p.m.

MONDAY 4/18

7th Anniversary Party, S.F. Eagle, 9 p.m., pin night.

TUESDAY 4/19

7th Anniversary Party, S.F. Eagle, 9 p.m., T-shirt night.

WEDNESDAY 4/20

7th Anniversary Party, S.F. Eagle, 8 p.m., buffet and show.

THURSDAY 4/21

Feathers 'N Flesh Show, N' Touch, showtimes 10:30 p.m. and 12:15 a.m. ●

Sweet Lips

It's The End of An Era

The 7th anniversary of the very popular S.F. Eagle takes place for three days beginning Monday the 18th with pin night. Tuesday the 19th is T-Shirt night, and Wednesday the 20th is the show and buffet, so please mark these dates on your calendar, right Randy Humphries?

The wonderful Michael Greer has a birthday on the 20th, which is the same day as Hitler's. Does that mean something Michael? Incidentally, Michael Greer will be coming to the popular Plush Room some time in May, so look for announcements.

The 10th anniversary of the popular Gilmore's bar at Hyde and California is on the 1st of May, and Charlotte and Peggy and their great staff promise a big blow-out for this one.

It's the end of another era. The New Bell Saloon has been sold to Bill and Chuck of the great Aunt Charlie's on Turk Street, so watch for some new and fantastic changes. Also, last Saturday night was Wayne Friday's final night on the planks at the New Bell because he is taking a needed rest until the Fall. Incidentally, Wayne and yours truly are going to Portland in June for the Rose Festival. Are you ready Lucy?

Have you been to the new Scandals bar on Turk Street yet? It's all new and gorgeous. It was formerly the Sound of Music, and yes, Empress Mae is in charge of this place.

The Chez Mollet at 527 Bryant St. is still serving great meals, with Keith, aka Kitty, on the planks. Lenny and Edward have remodeled the back room for private parties, and they have done a great job. It looks wonderful.

Kramer Chorale To Present Weill Music

The spring concert of the Dick Kramer Gay Men's Chorale marks the return of Kurt Weill music to the Bay Area. The group will perform *Das Berliner Requiem*, a piece originally composed as a lament for the death of the German people.

"I am very excited to be bringing Weill back to San Francisco," said Dick Kramer, musical director and founder of the group. "His music is dramatic and exciting and is really quite unique. It really shouldn't be missed."

Also being performed are the *Saint Sebastian Mass* by Villa-Lobos and the *Salve Regina Mass* by Langlais. "Both of these pieces combined traditional religious elements with 20th century musical innovations," Kramer added.

The chorale will perform three times: in Berkeley, Friday, April 22, at 8 p.m. at the Unitarian Church, and in San Francisco, Saturday, April 23, at 8 p.m. at Metropolitan Community Church, 150 Eureka, and Sunday, April 24, at 4 p.m. at St. Mark's Lutheran Church.

Tickets are available at all Headlines stores or at the door. Prices are \$8 in advance, \$10 at the door. To order by mail, send check or money order to DKCMC, 827 Duboce Ave., San Francisco, CA 94117. ●



Jose Sarria does what comes naturally.

is one of the most popular bars in Chicago, and you did your share to help. We still love you and have some new Bombay Sapphire Gin (94 proof) for you when you come out.

John "Virginia" Kehr is moving back to Ohio after 25 years and will be missed by many friends, including the lovable Art York.

Have you tried Teddy Balloons at 621-2248? They have great balloon arrangements. Don

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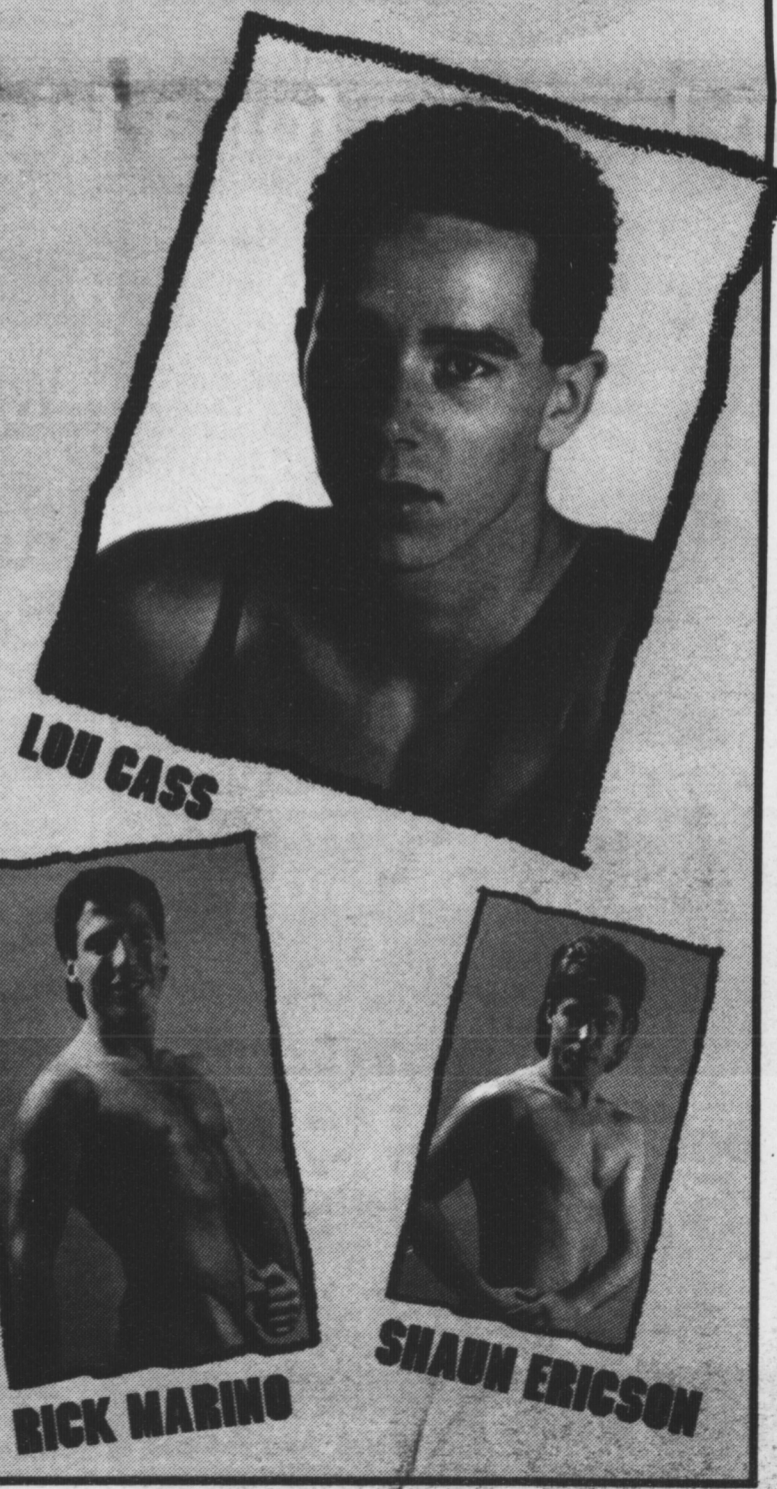
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nights a week with Naomi Starr, among other entertainers, so drop in some time. They open at 4 p.m., and you'll like Skip.

Mr. Lee-ona, Ricky, Willie, Donald, Terry, and Hal would like to thank all of you from the Kokpit and Coits and others for all the Easter baskets for the AIDS patients at all nine hospitals. They collected more than 60, and some were actually gorgeous. Nice job, guys.

A penny by itself buys nothing, but with everyone pitching in, here is what you've accomplished by lugging those heavy pennies and other coins to your favorite penny jar: From 8/17/87 to 3/31/88 the sum of \$53,029.31 has been collected. Isn't that fantastic? Thank you from the AIDS Emergency Fund. What a great job, and keep up the good work Fred Skau and staff.

Portland memo: Yes Mame, that was Kim Chidester on the phone from here last Sunday. You never know where or when he'll turn up. Take care of the "Dirty Duck Pub" until the big party in June. Luv ya!

Yes, it is true that Big Bird of Ginger's fame is now at Mueller's Deli on Castro. Bella is the real boss, right Bruce? ●

Bizarre Classic Reprinted

The Flower Beneath the Foot
by Ronald Firbank
Penguin Books, New York, 1987
128 pages, paperbound; \$4.95

by Joseph W. Bean

When an established publishing house writes an author's biography to be printed on the cover of a book, you don't expect to see any details about his private life in the bio. Nonetheless, Penguin's bio of Ronald Firbank (1886-1926) begins, "Aesthete, exotic, homosexual and habitue of the Cafe Royal, Ronald Firbank was . . ."

Of course they are clever to remind us that he was a homosexual. After all, since he is best known at this moment as the "hero" of Joe Orton's life as a reader, to whom but Orton fans

—most of us gay—do they expect to sell Firbank today?

This particular Firbank novel, *The Flower Beneath the Foot* originally published in 1923, is a typical one. It goes nowhere, has no real story to tell, meanders through the English language as if words were an underbrush too pretty to cut away, and it delights the reader who is willing to take it lightly enough. The world created in *Flower* is peopled by such outlandishly named characters as "her Gaudiness the Mistress of the Robes" and "her Dreaminess the Queen." They speak volumes about "froust-

ing" and "chalmide." They are said to "expostulatingly exclaim!" And, they get lost between sentences far more often than not.

In the world of *Flower*, a character might "develop a disconcerting taste for fiction," because she has deigned to marry "for Love." And another might be so sensitive that she knows, just by speaking to them, the color of men's braces (suspenders). In fact, these things do happen. People like this are swarming on every page of *Flower*. And, as if speaking of nothing were not empty enough, from time to time their speeches are recorded as nothing more than dots, as in ". . .!?" or ". . . ."

Still, if you have the courage to go on reading when the words are drifting into pointless, swirling stacks; if you can let yourself laugh without having to explain to yourself or anyone what in the world is funny; and, if you like a book that is willing to be delightful without the slightest trace of meaning, you'll enjoy *The Flower Beneath the Foot*. And, as a matter of nearly obvious fact, you'll probably enjoy other Firbank novels, too.

Reading *Flower* you will discover what Orton, Broughton, and other recent and contemporary masters of gay literature have long admired in Firbank, but you probably won't be any better at putting a name on it than they are. You'll also see why Firbank, as the Penguin bio says, "remains a specialized taste." But, you will probably remain a little bit puzzled—until you also read several other Firbank

books—as to how literary historians have decided that Firbank was a significant stylistic influence on Evelyn Waugh and Ernest Hemingway.

Word by word and line by line, the layers of insanity that make up this book just keep getting gayer and gayer, without ever getting gay. How could that be? Who knows? But next time you want to read something for pure pleasure, pick up *The Flower Beneath the Foot* and you'll see that it's true.

Finally, a warning: The typesetting in *Flower* is the least

careful you are apt to see in a book from a major publisher in your lifetime. So, if you suddenly feel lost—more lost, that is, than the text is apparently supposed to leave you—consider it possible that you have just read past a typesetter's error.

Search back. Correct it, and go on. Their and there are typed in for one another, land rather than hand is found on the end of an arm once or twice, and so on. Brace yourself. *Flower* is worth the effort it takes to untangle the bad typesetting. ●

White

(Continued from page 26)

"It wasn't a typical Village bar," he said. "It was a lot of uptown people, blacks and Puerto Ricans who were called 'A-trainers' and who were screamers, drag queens, some tough guys, too." White says Stonewall hadn't started that way, that it had started as a more upscale kind of place. "But it was beginning to sink in the social system, which made it more fun and a better dancing place. I lived just a few blocks away, and it was always a good makeout bar."

White believes the Stonewall riot happened as do many uprisings in history, just when things are starting to get a little better for the masses. "The bar was on Christopher Street. All the boutiques there were gay. Gay people hung out on the stoops in the summertime, drinking beers, bare-chested, lots of open cruising.

"It was really our turf, and of this immense city it was the only street that we claimed," he remembered. "Suddenly the cops decided to close it down. They had let too much time go by, and these parallel movements of women's and gay liberation had already shown us the personal as political."

As the cops dragged the bar workers away in two groups, the

The Beautiful Room Is Empty is not the only new book with the

patrons started building up a steam of rage. "The crowd just started to rip up parking meters, storm the doors, throw in garbage, turn over cars, it was quite wild! Of course there were lots of black riots going on the '60s, so we were used to the idea of riots."

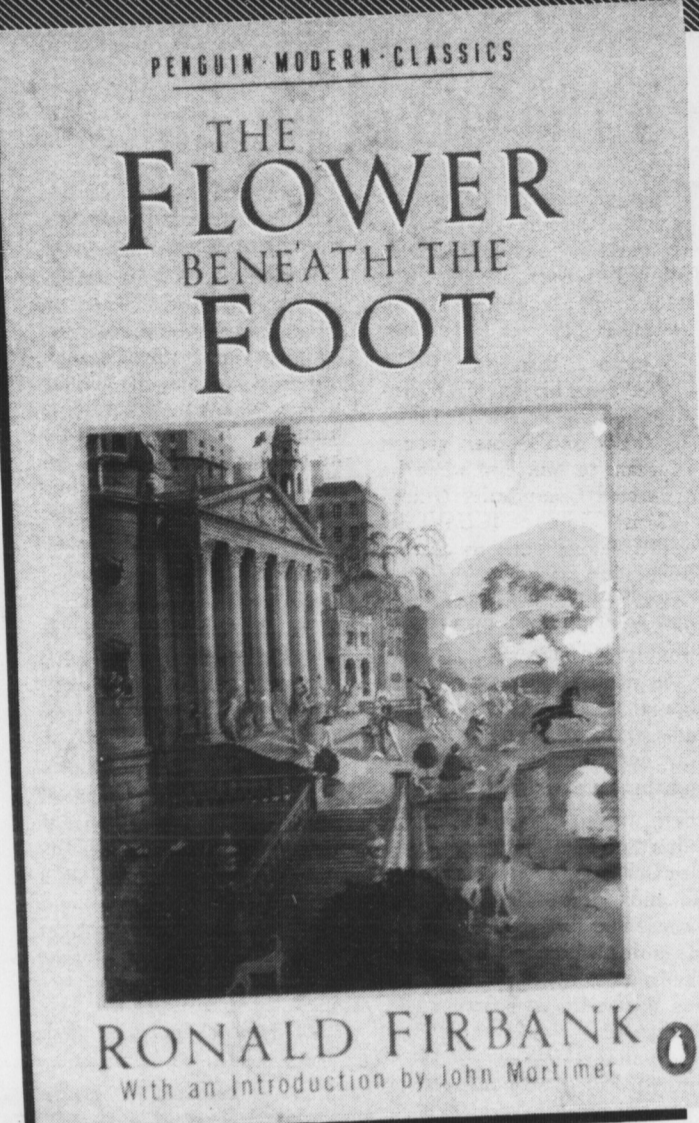
Edmund White notes that his next project before part three of the *Boy* saga is a biography of Jean Genet. "Genet tries to reverse all values. He says the greatest virtues are cowardice and betrayal." White says Genet's upended philosophy may have been on his mind while working on *A Boy's Own Story* when he had his previously charming young narrator turn on an adult who had befriended him. "That incident is based upon the single worst thing I ever did in my life, which was to have sex with a teacher, and then turn him in."

White was surprised at the outpouring of reader criticism this act of betrayal received. As always, he's surprised that readers and critics don't always grasp the differences between life and fiction: "In some of the early reviews, people always assume I'm writing an apology for this boy, that I admire him. Although it is based on me, I think there is enough distance between the adult narrator and the youthful protagonist to suggest there's some kind of irony or detachment in the view."

Edmund White stamp on it: White has teamed up with the British author-editor Adam Mars-Jones to produce a paperback original collection of AIDS-era stories, *The Darker Proof*. For his three stories in this volume from Plume, White abandoned his usual leisurely writing pace (*The Beautiful Room* took two years to compose) to write, instead, on deadline, news from the trenches about the experience some gay people are starting to call "the War." White's story, "Palace Days," is perhaps a classic description of the gay "marriage blanc" (white marriage). White compares the love that has developed between Mark and Ned to an ongoing poem each is helping the other write.

Their poem, however, was more than a nursery rhyme, since they had a stuffed bear they named Mister Peters, and they called each other "Peters" or "Pete" or "Petes" and were generally silly to the point of rapture, endlessly shouting their love from room to room. One of them would sing out, "Do you still like me, Peters?" The other would reply, "Petes, I love you."

White's point about lovers willing to trade thrice-weekly sex for hourly affirmations of love registers poignantly at story's end in startlingly new definition of home and love for men caught on the battlefield. ●



Violence

(Continued from page 27)

straight press. "We did a computer search," he said. "The only item we found was an article in the Los Angeles Times last April. That article mentioned gay people just in passing."

It was at that time that Walsh started doing his own research to set things up for Yeh. He found some gay and lesbian groups reluctant to talk, but when he contacted Community United Against Violence (CUAV), he found people such as Sharon Silverstein and Randy Schell helpful with information of their own, as well as finding people who agreed to interviews.

Two people who did talk provided some heart-wrenching insight into the problem of gay and lesbian domestic violence. Patrick, a 22-year-old college student, talked of barricading his door to keep his lover away from him. He was, however, unsuccessful in keeping his boyfriend away and ended up pleading for his life. Meanwhile, a woman named Barbara recalled getting punched in the face and hit with cement.

These aren't pretty pictures for our community, but Walsh insists Channel 4 will not resort to exploitation. "One thing I want to emphasize," he said, "is that this is not going to be one of those 'Gays beat up on each other, story at 11' type of stories."

Indeed, one of the promising aspects of the interview was the fact that Patrick—who agreed to be interviewed without a silhouette—smiled and looked positively to a better future for himself. "One of the things that he felt was so important," said Walsh about Patrick, "was to let people know that there is help for people through counseling and special groups."

We are, unfortunately, a long ways away from the end of AIDS. But the day will come when this disease will be licked. Even before it is licked, however, we can still stand back and say, "Hail, hail" for a good job in the fight against AIDS.

One organization which deserves a pat on the back is KPIX-TV. Channel 5 has been the consistent leader in providing sharp, incisive information about AIDS, not only to the Bay Area, but (due

to its connection with Westinghouse Broadcasting's Group W Television, Inc.) to 54 markets all over the U.S.

KPIX's big AIDS production has been its continuing series of programs known as *AIDS Life-Line*. Now, the station is making the Peabody and Emmy award-winning series available either in the form of videos, video guides, or brochures to the Catholic Television Network/Bay Area. This means 40,000 Bay Area school children in approximately 1,400 Bay Area grade schools and high schools will get up-to-date information about the disease.

The importance of Channel 5's action is obvious. Education is the best weapon we have in fighting the spread of AIDS. Despite the hysterical shrieking of ultra-conservatives, children and young adults (especially in-the-closet and out-of-the-closet gays and lesbians) need facts, not finger-pointing adults.

Once again, Channel 5 deserves our applause. ●

KPIX 5

L/G Chorus Focuses on Mozart

The Lesbian/Gay Chorus of San Francisco will perform Mozart's *Solemn Vespers* and Fauré *Requiem* in their first concert of the spring season, "A Touch of Classics."

The chorus, under the direction of Pat Parr, will give the concert at 8 p.m. on Friday, April 15, at St. John the Evangelist Church, 1661 15th St., San Francisco, and again at 8 p.m. Saturday, April 16, in Trinity Chapel, 2352 Bancroft Way, Berkeley.

Tickets for the performances are \$10 in advance and are available in San Francisco at Headlines, Always Tan and Trim; in Hayward at Big Mama's; or may be reserved by calling 621-3088. They may also be purchased for \$12 at the door the night of the concert.

Now in its eighth season, the San Francisco Lesbian and Gay Chorus has more than 50 non-paid members, people from all walks of life who share the love of singing and music. The chorus also serves as the parent organization for two other vocal groups—Menage and the Fiddlestix—which have recently been featured in performance at the Hyatt Hotel in San Carlos and at Big Mama's in Hayward. Future performances are planned for May in Santa Rosa. ●

MCC to Celebrate 18th Anniversary

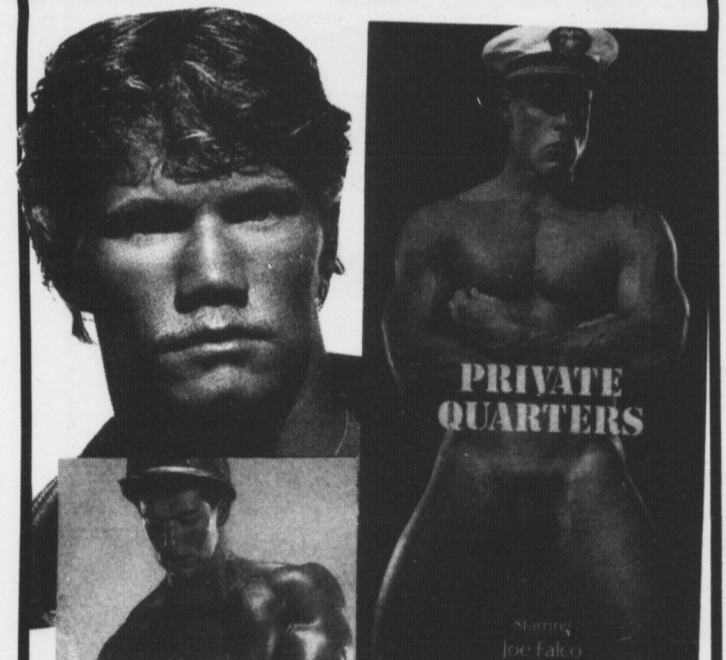
Metropolitan Community Church of San Francisco celebrates its 18th anniversary with special activities on Sunday, April 17. There will be two festival communion services at 8:30 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. The Rev. Nancy Wilson, pastor of Metropolitan Community Church of Los Angeles, will be the guest preacher. Mr. Kevin Fong will perform a dance, and both MCC-S.F. adults' and children's choirs will sing. The festivities will continue with an 18th anniversary dinner at Sutter's Mill. Dinner is at 6 p.m., preceded by a no-host cocktail hour. The show *Puttin' on the Glitz* will follow dinner. Tickets (\$25) may be obtained through the church office (863-4434). ●

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Ballet

(Continued from page 29)

Ives, I hasten to add that much of Martins' choreography is equally ugly (to use a word Martins himself chose to describe the music). Yet it's his casual approach to this complex score—a very Balanchinean device—that bothers me most. Christopher Boatwright saunters onstage and begins a solo that looks improvisational, experimental, and off-hand. But this isn't the kind of music that inspires spontaneous movement: No one dances to music this difficult unless a choreographer comes along and makes them do it, a truth which invalidates impromptu suggestions here as much as in *Duo Concertant*—only this piece is bolder. Tracy-Kai Maier's solos are tighter and more absorbing, particularly the second, to a march cadence containing strains of the Bible school song, "Jesus Loves the Little Children." Some people liked this ballet for its quirky difficulties and clever partnering, and I applaud the dancers, who demonstrated their accomplishment at every turn. But I wouldn't want to see it again.

What I remember most from these programs is the performing of individuals who took small opportunities to interpret something and made the most of them: the consummate feminine nobility of Leslie Young, dancing in the corps of *Theme and Variations*; and, among the men, Mikko Nissinen, whose temperament is so fine I couldn't help imagining him in the lead; Jim Sohm's deeply absorbing partnering of Kathleen Mitchell in *Vivaldi Concerto Grosso* and Gregory Russell's clean allegro dancing in the same ballet; Sohm's funny, unrecognizable work in *The Concert*; the dormant power of Elizabeth Loscavio and Shannon Lilly, two knockout corps dancers appearing as juvenile friends/sisters in *Intimate Voices*; and Lawrence Pech's mercurial presence, whipping up storms of energy in *Narcisse*.

The programs were flawed with many things not to my liking. But with images like these glowing in my memory, I know there's no such thing as a bad night at the ballet. ●

B.A.R. PEOPLE & PERSONALS

People

English gent, 27, seeks pen friend. All replies answered. Photo appreciated. Barry Adams, 12 Spratslade Dr., Dresden, Stoke-on-Trent, ST3 HDZ, Staffordshire, England. E15

Buddy wanted for spanking and hot ass play sessions. Your woodshed or mine. For masculine, trim guys, 18-40. (408) 371-6743. E15

Jesse Jackson, I love you! Tommy Goldsmith, San Francisco. E22

RUNNERS WANTED for Bay to Breakers. Heal AIDS w/ love centipede. Peter, 621-4284. E19

Houseman &/or traveling companion. All expenses paid & salary. Reply with photo. Box 73, c/o B.A.R. 1528 15 St., SF, 94103 E18

GOURMET POTLUCKS for accomplished cooks. Regular & vegi smoke-free Saturday nights. 775-6143. E16

Situation Wanted I am looking for a housing situation for 6 weeks from May 1st to June 16th. Housesitting, share, care of PWA, all acceptable options. Stable, loyal, responsible. Ph.D. Contact Jim Herbert, 552-4109. \$100 finder's fee. E16

Cigarettes, duck tails, leather jackets, beer, 21-30 only, no drugs! Jack M., Suite 284, 2040 Polk St., S.F., CA 94109. E16

WILD SLAVE OPENS FOR HAIRY MASTER AND GROUPS FOR HUGO INSERTIONS. TOYS, ETC. 626-3047. E16

Asian and ebony seeks young Asian guys. 474-7480. E15

HUNGRY, EAGER MOUTH craves sexy, hairy bodies for oral ecstasy. Dark hair a +, 35 y/o, 6', 175#. Steve, POB 6925, S.F., CA 94101. E15

FF big shaft needs deep, aggressive plummung into new depths. Call a.m. 982-6031. E15

Spiritual, androgynous handballing. No drugs. Anthony, 334-1542. E15

Suck Party info, send SASE, 584 Castro #395, SF 94114. E15

Take my thick dik, son! Show Dad yr tite butt! 548-0842. E15

Bottom Daddy Great tits & ass for your use & pleasure. I'm gdlkg, wl-bl, eager to please. 2370 Market #42, S.F. 94114. E15

PACIFIC BELL You were in truck Tues, Apr. 5. I was on corner of Geary & Polk at 2:00 in red shirt. I'm not a hustler. Contact S.B. at 3983 17th St., S.F. 94114, Apt. 1. E15

BOTTOM Endurance Head Pliable, Pumpable Butt 24 Hrs.—No J/O Castro Area 255-1710 E15

Married man seeks travel buddy: het, gay or bi OK. 5'11", 160 lbs, 47 years. Tired of traveling with wife, want guy for a change. Photo please. POB 610055, Redwood City, CA 94061. E15

Downtown head!!! 771-2154 E15

FINDING THE RIGHT MAN 1-Day Workshop \$25 Saturday, April 23 For men wanting a life partner **PARTNERS INSTITUTE 343-8541**

Good Head. No J/O 285-8390 E18

Gay Men's Sketch Class, Tue 7 pm, 1229 Folsom, 621-6294 E15

Daddy, 30, will train young trim boy in the art of obedience thru bondage and discipline. Tom 647-7695. E18

Glory Hole Hotline 621-1887 E26

Wanted: Body Help GWM, 30 yrs, 6'4", 245, gd lks. I want GWM to help me get back in shape. Poss. for you to live in. Will pay for help. (408) 354-7758 or 19065 Skyline Blvd., Los Gatos, CA 95030. E16

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Drop in for coffee and conversation at **THE SUPPORT CENTER** for and by people living with AIDS, ARC & HIV+. Attitudinal Healing support groups and activities at 134 Church St. or call Rest Stop, 621-REST (9 to 5 p.m.) FREE.

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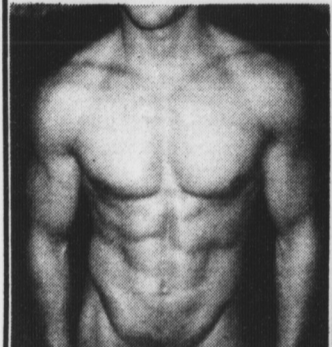
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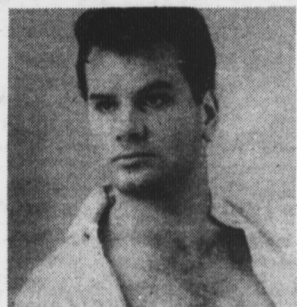


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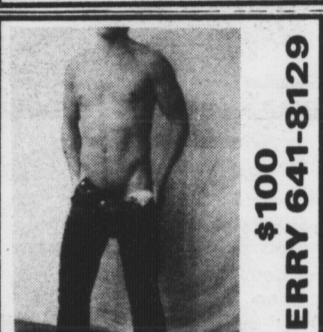
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BAY AREA REPORTER SPORTS & FITNESS

Palace Billiards Once Again Has That Royal Look

Thanks to Toni and Tony of the SFPA

by Lauren Ward

Palace Billiards, one of the last old-fashioned metropolitan pool halls in the country, seemed doomed. Pool had gravitated to bars and suburban malls. Places like the Palace appealed to boosters, hustlers, pushers and transients seeking shelter from the street.

The Palace probably would be closed by now, another fading memory of the city's old-timers, if it weren't for the combined dream of Toni Macante and Tony Annigoni.

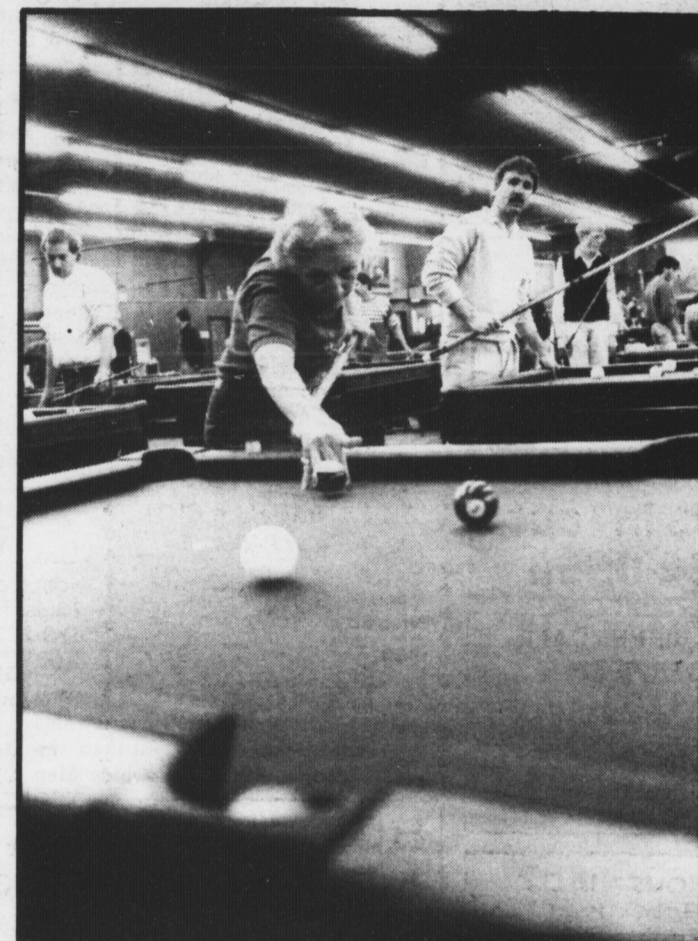
Macante, a mature businesswoman and lover of the game of pool, had wanted to open a hall since she sold her Mission District women's bar several years ago. There were regular scouting trips to investigate prospective locations and inquiries with active halls in the area. She spent many hours networking with anyone knowledgeable in the field she was able to contact.

She came to realize that opening a room from scratch entailed formidable logistical problems and a huge and risky investment. The Palace, she realized, had the open, unencumbered space she wanted, as well as all the equipment and a location she could live with. Toni believed she could clean it up and restore it to eminence in the pool-playing world.

The drawbacks were significant. The leaseholder, Bob Bills, was elderly, in poor health, and his demands for the sale of the business seemed generally unrealistic to Macante. There was even doubt as to whether his soon-to-expire lease was even renewable.

"Many times," Toni remembered, "We'd agree to terms, only to have him call the next day wanting to change everything."

As the negotiations went on and on, Toni was also actively seeking a partner. She had that one prospective buyer in Tony



Palace co-owner Toni Macante sinks one (Photo: S. Savage)

Annigoni, a former professional player. Toni and Tony had first met when Annigoni had promoted and directed the SF Open Pool Tournament at the Trinity Plaza in 1980. Last April Tony met Toni over dinner to discuss their possible partnership and soon settled the details.

When Macante heard that the building management was fed up with the rundown nature of the building and was not going to renew Bills' lease, she convinced the management that she could clean it up. Later, Bills was told that Toni was the only person for whom management would renew the lease.

NEW BEGINNING

The new partners took over last Dec. 16, with Macante serving as operations manager and Annigoni as marketing director. Both of them began immediate work on a cleanup operation.

"The kitchen had gotten so filthy even the street people hesitated to eat there," mused Macante.

After ousting the marginally sleazy building occupants, Toni and Tony went to work on the Palace. They stripped, steamed and fumigated it. The room got a fresh coat of paint. Even the pool tables got weekly doses of TLC.

"We have Bob Bebb, a master craftsman from Fresno, come in weekly to retool the tables," Macante said, pointing out the vibrant fresh felt.

Annigoni is proud of the brand new, seven-foot tables which were commissioned for the room. "We want to appeal to the tavern player," he said. "With these new bar-size tables, tavern players can come here to practice and hold tournaments."

Besides the four new seven-footers, Toni and Tony have 14 nine-foot tables, two twelve-foot snooker tables, two ten-footers and six three-cushion billiard tables in their room. The tables cover about 6,900 square feet of floor space.

Annigoni is a jazz aficionado and insists on jazz music for the Palace sound system. That's just fine with Gene Miller, their new tournament director and former KJAZ disc jockey, who is supplying some tapes for background music.

Another change involves the conversion of supermarket-style overhead fluorescent lighting to

over-the-table incandescent fixtures. The seating is being repaired and replaced, and new carpeting is to follow soon, too. The duo said they hope to sponsor many professional and amateur tournaments.

The San Francisco Pool Association (SFPA) is planning on holding several tournaments at the Palace this season, including the finals of the 8-ball championship, the All-Star, and the West

Coast Challenge Women's Qualifier. These tournaments are of special interest to some members of the Palace staff, such as current SFPA members Jack Dunbar and Bill Von Prillwitz, as well as former member Frank Mayers.

The Palace, which never closes, is located at 949 Market St. There's plenty of parking at the Mission and Fifth parking garage. Call 421-2236 for more details.

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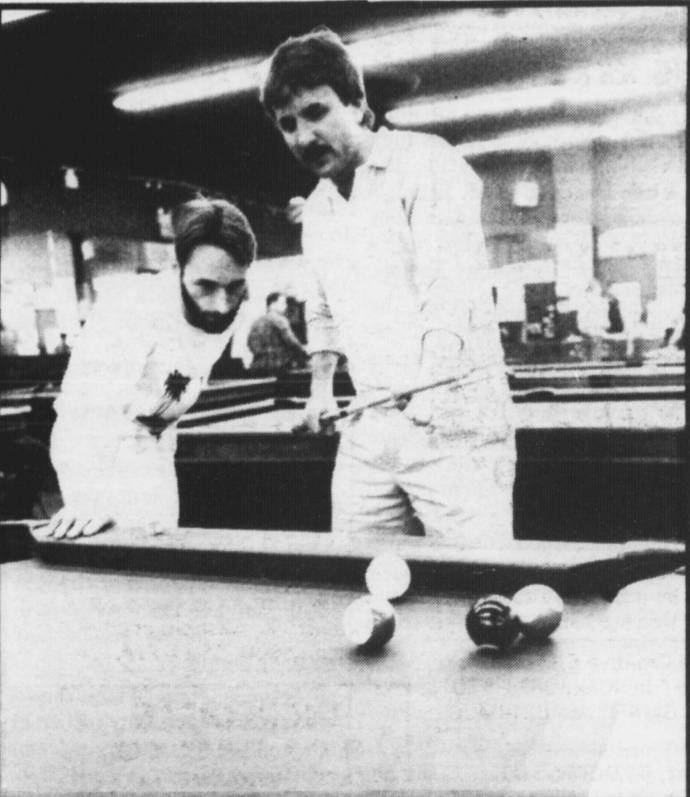


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Palace co-owner Tony Annigoni (r.) advises a teammate (Photo: S. Savage)

SOFTBALL

Rainbow Roos Shock Endup, 15-13

by Hal Herkenhoff

What a way to begin! In one of the biggest upsets in recent memory, the Rainbow Roos used sound, steady softball to upset the heavily favored defending Gay Softball League champion Endup, 15-13, at Balboa Field last Sunday.

In the league's first full week of play, the Endup was rolling along when the Roos exploded for seven runs, took a formidable 15-8 lead, and then managed to hold the slugging champs in the exciting last inning before a sunned, stunned, and cheering crowd. The Roos success was remarkable not only because of their 4-10 record last year, but that they spend far more time assisting the Godfather Fund and other AIDS charities than they do practicing softball.

Roos manager Terry McCord was elated.

"We play for fun, but when we play a good game, we can win," he said. "I don't know if they were ready for us to play well," said Terry diplomatically of the defending champs, last year's San Francisco representative at the Gay World Series, who were playing their first game of the year.

When asked if this would help motivate his team for the rest of the year pitcher Terry Brooks laughed and said, "You bet it will." Next week the Endup faces the 1987 GSL runner-up Pendulum Pirates at Lang Field



The Superstar Video Beaches in action (Photo: PhotoGraphics/Darlene)

(Gough and Turk streets) at 2 p.m.

The Galleon vs. the Pilsner Inn Penguins was supposed to be the closest game of the week, but an eight-run outburst by the Galleon, topped by Mark Woodyard's towering home run, put the game out of reach, 14-4, and the Pilsner walked away feeling the opening-game blues.

For the first time since the GSL's founding in 1977, there will be separate divisions with different schedules. Only some teams will compete for the San

Francisco Slot at the Gay World Series to be held in Dallas in August.

Four women's teams will compete against the men and co-ed teams, but will provide their own champion in Dallas.

Teams will all compete twice each against teams in their own division and then against six teams out of their division.

Due to the quantity of recreational, more relaxed teams in the GSL and nationally, the Dallas hosts will also provide an additional tournament in conjunction

with the Gay World Series. According to GSL Commissioner Francis Medeiros, "Until we hear from Dallas we won't know the exact format for two weeks that we are going to have to use to choose the San Francisco team that will represent us."

In games last week, the Pendulum tuned up for the show-down with the Endup by edging the Kokpit, 8-6, and downing Uncle Bert's Place, 16-4—both of whom are division opponents for the Pirates—behind new pitcher Mark Braverman, formerly of Milwaukee, and a two-run home run by Steve Smith.

Amelia's women remained undefeated in their division by shutting down the new team from The Mint with good defense and inspired play, not to mention good all-around hitting. Their opponent next week, Cafe Sn. Marcos, also put on a good display of defense and hitting in their first game by downing the same Mint team, which has now faced two experienced teams to open their first GSL season.

While the Super Star Video Beaches went to the beach, the S.F. Eagle wound up the second division's day by pouncing a sunned-out squad from The Bear in their second game of the day.

Newer, less-experienced teams from Rawhide II split their two games, with the Rawhide Men winning over Cassidy's, and the Phone Booth stopping the Rawhide Women.

Personally, I would like to thank Tom Vindeed for giving me the opportunity to begin this assignment with such a spectacular opening week! When you said you would try to help, I never expected this!

After reading your softball reports for seven of your nine years at the Bay Area Reporter, I can only hope to provide the same kind of insight and assistance you have given softball players for years. Thanks.

My background as a player for seven years for Cafe Sn. Marcos in the GSL has given me a broad knowledge of the many accomplishments of the Gay Softball League and the various issues that face it.

It is not true that I gave myself the name Buffy!

DIVISION I	
Pendulum	2-0
Galleon	1-0
Endup	0-1
Kokpit	0-1
Uncle Bert	0-1

DIVISION II	
Rainbow Roos	2-0
Amelia's	2-0
Cafe Sn. Marcos	1-0
S.F. Eagle	1-1
Super Star Video	0-1
The Mint	0-2

DIVISION III	
Rawhide Men	2-0
Phone Booth	1-0
Rawhide Women	0-1
Cassidy's	0-1
The Bear	0-2

RESULTS:	
Phone Booth-14/Rawhide Women-2	
Rawhide Men-10/ Cassidy's-5	
Amelia's-15/ The Mint-1	
Cafe Sn. Marcos-16/The Mint-3	
S.F. Eagle-29/ The Bear-0	
Pendulum-16/ Uncle Bert's-4	
Rainbow Roos-15/ Kokpit-6	
Rawhide Men-22/ Endup-13	
Galleon-14/ Pilsner-4	

BOWLING

The Bowling Just Keeps Getting Better

by Richard McPherson

There have been some great scoring achievements this past year at both Park Bowl and Japantown Bowl (JTown leagues continue another month), with 700s being shot by Dick Cavane and Arne Prince. Don Gambell shot a 278 (a typo in last week's column listed 178), and Ken Sayles and Randy Peterson both had 269s.

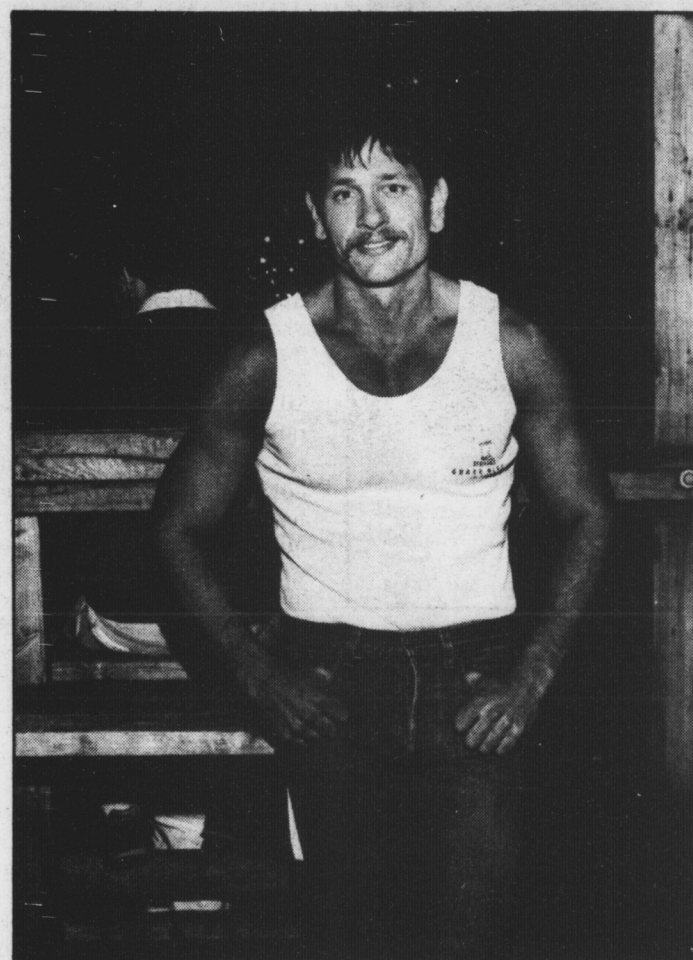
In scanning the final season averages at Park Bowl, it's evident that we're seeing a greater improvement in the high average range year-by-year. More and more bowlers are averaging up around the 190s. Who are the best? Here are the best.

Following are the top 10 averages at Park Bowl for the 1987-88 winter season: Roy Thornson, 193; David Arnold, 193; Arne Prince, 192; David Lilly, 190; Jeff Hettmansperger, 190; Tom Sipple, 190; Randy Peterson, 189; Doug Litwin, 186; Angelo Maggio, 185; and J.C. Halstead, 185.

JTown and SFWBL averages will be listed upon league completion.

The summer league season is getting under way at Park Bowl, and league scoring achievements will be listed within the next couple of weeks. Some of the Tavern Guild Leagues (TGL), however, are getting a late start. The Monday TGL is starting later in April, because (are you ready?) the league was cancelled on April 11 so all bowlers can stay home to watch the Academy Awards on the box. They should only know how we honor them!

Jessy Tingin and Wally Dennis were the big over-average shooters in JTown's Community Leagues the week of March 25-31.



Jeff Hettmansperger (Photo: PhotoGraphics/Darlene)

Tingin, a 149 average, shot a 226 game to Dennis' (146 average) 223. Other 210+ games: Ken Gray (174 average), 213, 217; Lowell Hills (168), 214; Steve Szasz (174), 210. Honorable mention (160 and under average): Rick Marchu (147), 209; Keal Ausbrooks (149), 208; Scott Miller (151), 203.

Congratulations to the winners of the 53rd annual City Championship Tournament. Gay en-

tries made a good showing in this citywide event open to all male bowlers.

Jeff Hettmansperger was the top finisher in the singles division at Pacifica Bowl, with a 7th-place finish. Jeff, entering with a

194 average, shot a 654 scratch score, his highest in a while, to finish with a 692 handicap score. Other money-winners in the singles division: 10th place, Ken Gray, 591+86=677; 13th place, Adrian Stenson, 595+79=674; 18th, Preston Lasley, 522+141=663. Singles paid 30 places; 651 was low to cash.

In the doubles event, Roy Thorson and Lyndon Louie finished in 12th place with a 1286 score (1178+108); 13th place, Dan Kiger and Roger Spencer, 1276 (1022+254). Doubles paid 15 places; 1271 was low to cash.

Kevin Ahart was the only one to place in the all-events category (combined score of singles, doubles, and team events), finishing 18th. Kevin had a 1923 handicap score highlighted by a 279/666 series in the team event.

The above names were extracted from the final standings list provided by the tournament committee. Gay entries were not indicated on the standings sheet as such. (Wouldn't that be a riot if they were!) This non-gay tournament always makes a big push for gay entries... good for them, I think.

I had to rely on my memory of gay league bowlers when looking over the list, so I may have forgotten someone. Please let me know if I overlooked any prize-winning finishers.

By the way, before any women bowlers get puffed up, I did not list a women's "bowler of the year" category in last week's column because, unlike the men's

category in the Cable Car Awards, the nominators selected three women who they felt were the best athletic performers... Debbie Carmona won. It was the men's category for "outstanding sportsperson of the year" for which I was questioning the nominating criteria.

As a followup to last week's column, please understand I am not saying that the three men who were nominated in this category in the last Cable Cars were not deserving. They were, for their hard work and fundraising efforts. I am saying that the nomination criteria for this category seem to be a duplication of the category, "outstanding contribution to athletics." In other words, two different categories appear to have the same nomination criteria; that is, outstanding contribution to fundraising and organizational efforts in the gay sports community.

Why not devote "outstanding sportsperson..." category to the best in athletic achievement? The gay community needs to focus more attention on its athletic role models. Or maybe we should just have a new category: "athlete of the year." Or maybe I'm just barking up the wrong tree.

Anyway, from what I observed, it was unclear in all sports categories of the Cable Cars: Was an athlete nominated for athletic excellence or for service to the gay sports community? I'm confused. Cable Car people, please help me out and clarify this matter prior to next year's award nominations.

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TENNIS

Silver Fox First by a Hair

by Les Balmain

In the first round of team tennis of the Gay Tennis Federation played over the last weekend, the Silver Fox smashed Schmidt & Schmidt Insurance, 50-30, and the Galleon Bar & Restaurant overwhelmed Hartford Properties by a score of 53-32. These two strong winners are off to a fast start, with the Silver Fox nudging the Galleon out of first place by .001 of a percentage point.

The next four teams are ranked fairly close. Roto Rooter took third place by defeating the White Swallow, 49-43. Leticia's claimed fourth place with their 47-45 squeaker over last year's champion, Community Rentals.

"Saturday and Sunday, the weather was sunny and hot," remarked Ken Najour, team tennis chairman, "which made for perfect tennis conditions! And I must add that the women are again making their mark in the matches this year. Three women won their singles matches: Deborah Gordon defeated David Williams, 7-6, Virginia Brusco downed Brett Buckius, 6-1, and Beverly Talbot won over Raul Gonzales, 6-4."

Round 1 team standings as of April 19 are:

Team	W	L
1. Silver Fox	50	30
2. Galleon	53	32
3. Roto Rooter	49	43
4. Leticia's	47	45

5. Community Rentals	45	47
6. White Swallow	43	49
7. Hartford Properties	32	53
8. Schmidt & Schmidt	30	50

SECOND ROUND SCHEDULE

Saturday, April 23
9:00 a.m. Silver Fox vs. White Swallow
11:30 a.m. Roto Rooter vs. The Galleon

Sunday, April 24
9:00 a.m. Schmidt & Schmidt vs. Leticia's
11:30 a.m. Community Rentals vs. Hartford Properties

All matches are played at the Sidney Peixotto Playground tennis courts on 15th Street, two blocks west of Castro Street. ●

Gay Sports Awards

A tentative date of January 21, 1989, has been announced for the first APEX awards show.

Highlight of the awards show will be the recipient of the first Tom Waddell Memorial Award, named in honor of the Gay Games founder.

Several prominent members of the sports community will be at the Galleon for the steering committee meeting.

Information may be obtained by calling 554-8500. ●

Six SF Teams Sizzle In Tri-City

by Richard McPherson

Six San Francisco teams captured the top seven spots in the Tri-City Team Bowling Tournament held on Saturday, March 12 in Sacramento.

"Good Bottoms Climb to the Top" did just that shooting a 3175 score to win first place by a wide 59 pin margin in an event which drew 41 teams from San Jose, Sacramento and S.F. areas.

Good Bottoms, from San Francisco, shot games of 1053, 983, 1013 for a 3049 scratch total, a 203 average per man. Tom Sipple lead the team with a 633 series, followed by R. McPherson 629, Kevin Ahart 608, Randy Peterson, Capt. 603, and Jeff Hettmansperger 576. First place prize money for this International Gay Bowling Organization (IGBO) sponsored tournament was \$650.

Second place, and \$400, went to the S.F. Eagle #1 team which shot 3116 (2696+420 hdp). Team members include: Ron Squires, Tim Mulvenon, John Glynn, Ljubo Sliskovic, Gary Kenyon, Capt.

Third place: What's My Line #1, S.F., 3083 score (2696+387 hdp): Ernie Wilson, Chuck Webster, Michael Wheeler, Vince

Dicolla, Don Gambell, Capt. Fourth: Nads, S.F., 3081 total, Dick Cavane, Capt. Fifth: No Name Given, Larkspur/S.F., 3070 total, Dolores Swoyer, Capt. Sixth: P.A.G.A., San Jose, 3067 total, Sharon Robbins, Capt. Seventh: Bagel Band Bowlers, S.F., 3047 total, Sally Canjura, Capt.

The Tri-City paid a total of \$1,925 in prize money to seven places.

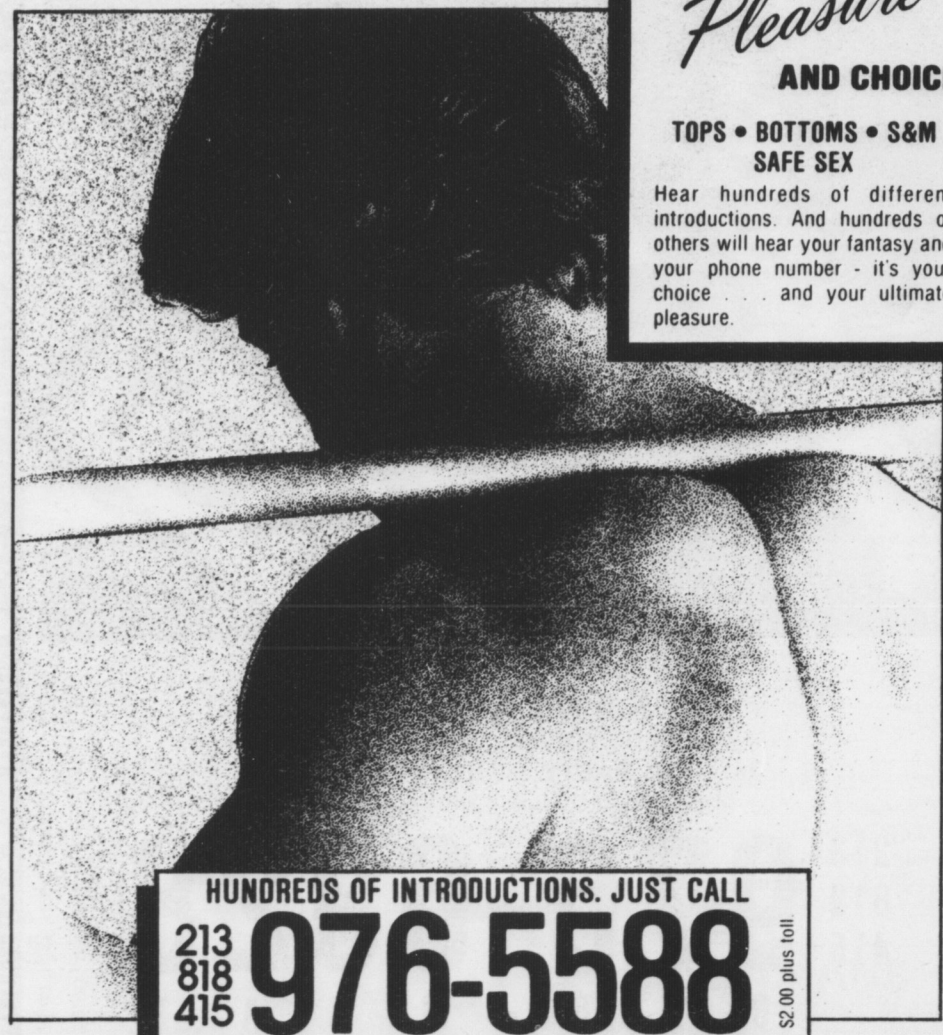
There was a great turnout by women bowlers for this event with a total of forty-four keglerettes competing. Six all-women teams entered, the highest finishers being Sixth place's P.A.G.A. Team members include: Cyn Miller, Poli Adam, Debra Maruyama, Dee Hopkins, Sharon Robbins, Capt.

Debbie Carmona, S.F., was the high individual scorer for all entered, shooting 246, 211, 207 for a 664 series. Carmona's team, No Name Given, finished fifth. High game for the tournament was shot by Michael Bogumill, Sacramento, with a 257 game.

S.F.'s Park Bowl will be next year's site for this annual event. ●

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SWIMMING & DIVING

Tsunamis Head for No. Calif. Championships

by Hal Herkenhoff

This weekend Cal's Spieker Pool in Berkeley will be the site of the 1988 Pacific Masters Short Course (25-yard pool) Championships, a very popular event among adult Masters swimmers that usually attracts up to 800 non-gay and gay swimmers of all ages from all over northern California, including the gay/lesbian San Francisco Tsunami Masters.

Starting on Friday, with the distance events beginning at 2:30 p.m., these championships will conclude the 1988 season for shorter-course pools, and the Tsunamis will be primed and shaved for this one.

The meet continues with the main program Saturday and Sunday, starting at 9 a.m. and lasting all day. Admission is free.

Following their successful trip to San Diego's International Gay/Lesbian Aquatics championships last month, the Tsunamis now will face the best of northern California, the largest region for Masters swimming in the U.S., which now claims more than 30,000 adult Masters swimmers nationwide.

The Tsunamis broke 33 team records at the IGLA meet while winning the team title, not bad for a group of 42 swimmers. That group swam a phenomenal 112 personal best times in their combined 180 races, led by Judy Romann, Walter Hellmuth, Bob Shuler, Crystal Brunzell, Michael Frick, Andrew Alder, and Glen Halvorson, all of whom broke their personal best time in all five races they entered.



Tsunami coach Maria Pease with Tsunami swimmer Crystal Brunzell at the IGLA meet in San Diego. (Photo: M. Kliem)

Back from an illness, distance ace Rick Windes will help lead the Tsunamis, along with Elizabeth Kay, John Culver, Craig Mallery, and Richard Chapman.

Not being on the road should boost the Tsunamis, along with the traditional body-shaving that shows it's a serious effort. Come over to Berkeley and see it for yourself. Bring your own film!

Looking ahead to the Gay Freedom Day Parade June 26, the Tsunami board members will present their plans to the team at practice April 24 for discussion. Joseph Denney and Kawa Wong will discuss budgets for the various activities suggested for that day.

The new 1988-89 Tsunami T-shirt needs a design, and board member Cris Allen announced a

contest for selecting the "new look" for the swimmers at the parade and the Northwest Gay/Lesbian Sports Festival to be held in Seattle during the July 4 weekend.

Designs should be created for a white T-shirt, and the words "gay and lesbian" are an optional part of the team name. Voting on the new design will be held during the week of May 1-8 during team practice sessions. Anyone may enter the design contest, but all entries are due by April 30. Call Cris at 285-5659 for more information.

Anyone interested in joining the Tsunamis will be welcome to come to the Team San Francisco Sports Fair Saturday, May 21. This event will present an opportunity to talk with representatives of all of the sports groups in the

city, and is Team San Francisco's lead-in for their big dance, "Jocks Night Out," at Dreamland Sunday, May 22, from 6 p.m. until 2 a.m.

Here is your chance to meet other San Francisco gay and lesbian jocks from swimming and many other sports.

All funds raised will go to Team San Francisco's effort to send local athletes to Vancouver's Gay Games III in 1990. For further information and meeting info, call 626-1333 or write Team San Francisco, 2215-R Market St., #519, San Francisco, CA 94114.

POOL

From Behind the Eight

by Lauren Ward

It's called "Behind the Eight," heralded by Rick Mariani's stylish poster, and represents the S.F. Pool Association's sweetest individuals' plum, the 1988 8-Ball Championship.

Thanks to sponsorship by Golden Brands and Miller Lite, entry to the tournament's preliminaries gains the participants a commemorative T-shirt and poster as well as a shot at one of the 16 finalist positions, all guaranteed cash prizes. Additional trophies go to the top four, with \$175 as the top cash award.

The qualifying trail began April 5 at Park Bowl where Kelvin Roberts and Cody Stevens survived the initial field of 34 players.

The following Thursday it was Karen Brandman winning at the Cafe San Marcos and Torri Connelly finding success at the Detour. Karen captains the Park Bowl Pockets, a women's team currently leading Division IV.

Saturday's action was at Palace

Billiards on their new seven-foot tables where the finals will be held April 30. Frank Meyers, a Palace employee, and Ron Chevette were the victors. Ron captains the Holes 'R Us, leaders of Division III.

Five more opportunities await the finalist hopefuls. Forthcoming matches are scheduled for Thursday night at the Eagle Creek and Saturday at the Bear.

Six weeks remain in team competition to decide the 12 team finalists, three from each division. Leading Division II and the league at 90-22 are the DeLuxe Ducks, six games ahead of their divisional rivals, the Palace Boppers.

Leading Division I at 83-29 is the White Swallow Wave. They play the DeLuxe on Tuesday, a playoff preview between the league's last two undefeated teams.

Dial JOE-POOL for SFPA information.

BOWLING

JAPANTOWN BOWL COMMUNITY LEAGUES BOWLING

SUNDAY RENO LEAGUE		WEDNESDAY COMMUNITY LEAGUE	
W	L	W	L
1. Remember Us?	26 10	1. Mother's Lode	31 9
2. Phabulaz 4	24 12	2. Play With It Ltd	25 15
3. Sassy	22 14	3. Rawhd Balls 'n Hand	24 16
4. Tidy Bowlers	22 14	4. Ball Doctors	24 16
5. Bouncing Balls	22 14	5. SF Band & Tea Corp	24 16
6. 5 Pin-Anybody?	21 15	6. Parakeet Lounge	23 17
7. Jackpot	21 15	7. E Z Pick Up	22 18
8. Firebird Sweets	20 16	8. 14 Karat Jewels	22 18
9. 4 Many Reasons	20 16	9. Kingpin Honeys	21 19
10. Beef Strokino's	19 17	10. A E F Maulers	18 22
11. Diner Dogs	18 18	11. Lois Laners	17 23
12. Bob's Big Boys	16 20	12. Helen Beds	15 1/2 20 1/2
13. Alley Cats	16 20	13. Pilsner Tux 'N Tails	8 1/2 27 1/2
14. Great Balls of Fire	16 20	14. More Hits thn Misses	0 40
15. Pin Us Down	15 21		
16. Natalie's Deadwoods	13 23		
17. Strike Force	12 24		
18. Bad Lucky Boys	0 36		

MONDAY COMMUNITY LEAGUE		THURSDAY COMMUNITY LEAGUE	
W	L	W	L
1. Brand X	32 1/2 11 1/2	1. Hot 'N Hunky	20 4
2. Missing Persons	27 17	2. Odd Balls	14 10
3. No Shows	25 19	3. Galleon	14 10
4. Stationaires	24 20	4. Big Eddie's Girls	12 12
5. Five Easy Pieces	23 1/2 20 1/2	5. Pendulum #1	10 14
6. Split Sisters	22 22	6. Wooden Horse	10 14
7. Rumlbers	21 23	7. Pendulum Bombers	10 10
8. Debutantes	19 1/2 24 1/2	8. SF Sentinel	9 15
9. Bench and Bar	19 25	9. Old Ricks	9 15
10. S.F. Band Foundation	18 1/2 25 1/2	10. Liquor Express	8 12
11. Barb's Team	18 26		
12. Loft In Space	17 27		

TUESDAY COMMUNITY LEAGUE		HAWAII VACATION LEAGUE	
W	L	W	L
1. Tender Vittles	31 13	1. Double Trouble	24 1/2 7 1/2
2. Striketees	26 18	2. Bowl R Brains	20 16
3. Giraffe	25 19	3. Haleakala Hookers	20 12
4. Swaying Palms	25 19	4. Eruptions	20 12
5. Pinups	24 1/2 19 1/2	5. Moby Dick Waiters	20 16
6. Bobby Pins	23 21	6. Urasis Dragon	19 13
7. Still Hoping	22 22	7. Hi Bound	18 18
8. Chuckie's Angels	21 1/2 22 1/2	8. Hard Times	18 18
9. Twin Peaks	20 24	9. Lois' Lane	17 1/2 18 1/2
10. A.I.M. Sluts	19 21	10. Bulldogettes	15 21
11. Radcliff's Rebels	18 26	11. Earth Mothers	15 17
12. Firecrackers	6 38	12. Tropical Teezers	14 22
		13. Easy Leis	12 24
		14. Ball Busters	11 21

(It is the responsibility of the bowling establishment to supply the B.A.R. with league standing sheets.)

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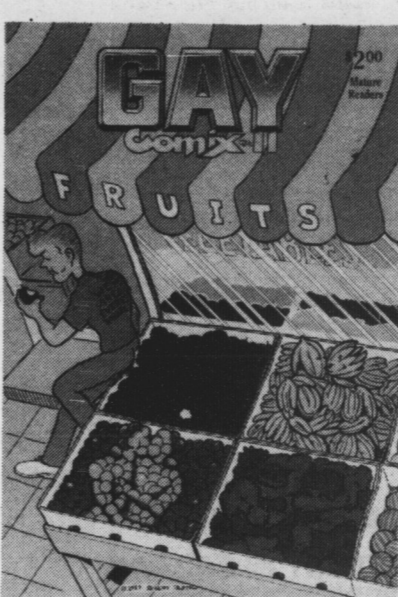
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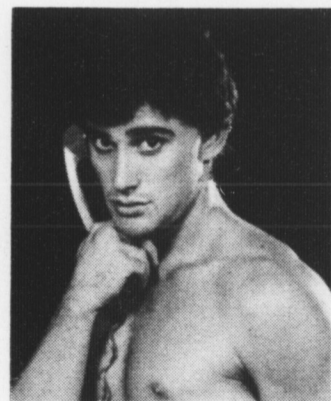
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Parade Route Turned Around

Freedom Parade to Start at Castro; Street Construction Forces Change

by Allen White

This year's mammoth Lesbian and Gay Freedom Day Parade got a jolt from the city this week. Castro and Market streets will be the starting point for the 1988 parade. The complete change in the route of the annual parade is being made because several blocks of Market Street are to be closed from May until Thanksgiving.

Douglas Conrad, co-chair of the Lesbian and Gay Freedom Day Parade Committee, confirmed that the route had been changed. He said the parade will begin at 11 a.m. on Sunday, June 26. The route will take the parade down Market Street and into the Civic Center.

Conrad said the route change has been approved by the board and membership of the parade committee, which is the official sponsor of the day's events. He said the police have approved the route, though it still must be approved by the Board of Supervisors.

The dramatic change in the route will mean that marchers will most likely assemble on side streets in the Castro. Some marches that have moved in previous years through the Castro have also used Dolores Park as an assembly point.

Those building floats for the parade will be faced with the challenge of constructing units that can safely go down the Market Street hill. The assembly site for the floats has not yet been finalized.

Though final details were not available, it is known that members of the parade committee have been working for several months to finalize the route of the parade. Conrad said, "We did not want to change the route. The

route from the Castro was our first choice. We will still be able to use the grandness of Market Street, as opposed to Folsom Street. We want to show we are a part of San Francisco."

"Coming from the Castro, our home, to the center of our city we felt was appropriate," he said. Consideration was given to other routes, including Mission Street, Folsom Street, and the possibility of taking the parade route up Geary Street and down Polk to City Hall for the celebration and rally.

Jennifer Roberts, the other co-chair of the parade committee, said, "I think it will lend us a space to be more celebratory. We have been focusing on some very hard issues including AIDS in the last few years. I think we have to remember to give ourselves space to celebrate who we are."

The closing of Market Street will begin on May 1 and is scheduled to last until Thanksgiving. Streetcar tracks will be replaced, new pedestrian islands will be in-

(Continued on page 2)



Go Back! You're Going the Wrong Way! — This year the parade will start at Castro and Market, not downtown. (Photo: M. Hicks)

Today

Red Tape Snags Benefits for People With ARC: Social Security Administration delays and how to get past them, page 13.

Our House: How will Bay Area population growth affect the Castro? See page 17.

Get Off My Dress! Dennis McMillan defends our diversity on page 16.

Volunteers Still Needed for Castro March: for details, see page 20.

Sharon Bretz Tapped For Fire Commission

Agnos Urges Reform for SFFD

by Allen White

Sharon Bretz's appointment to the Fire Commission is the first of several commission appointments expected from the gay and lesbian community in the next few weeks by Mayor Art Agnos. Bretz, 43, is the issues chair of the Alice B. Toklas Democratic Club.

Bretz is an adult probation officer who holds a doctorate of law from American College of Law. She is the founder of the Western Addition Neighborhood Association and has served as a member of the Mayor's Child Sexual Trauma Advisory Committee.



Sharon Bretz

(Continued on page 2)

Court Orders Comstock Out

Posh Club Closes Doors; Renovation Costs Too Much

by Ray O'Loughlin

The Comstock Club, the elegant scene of many community fundraisers and receptions, has closed its doors and been ordered to vacate its Sutter Street premises by May 6. San Francisco Superior Court Judge Lucy McCabe ruled April 7 that the Comstock had to leave for failing to pay the \$25,000 monthly rent on the building since January. The summary judgment was in response to a motion for unlawful detainer by the building's owner, Evans Pacific Realty.

In an April 15 letter to club members, Bob O'Neal, chair of the board of directors for Gemini Management Corp., which operated the club, wrote, "It is with great sadness that I must an-

ounce the closing of the Comstock Mansion.

"It breaks our hearts to see what started as an exciting club, with leadership from outstanding

(Continued on page 2)



One of the great ladies of San Francisco is closed up.

(Photo: S. Savage)