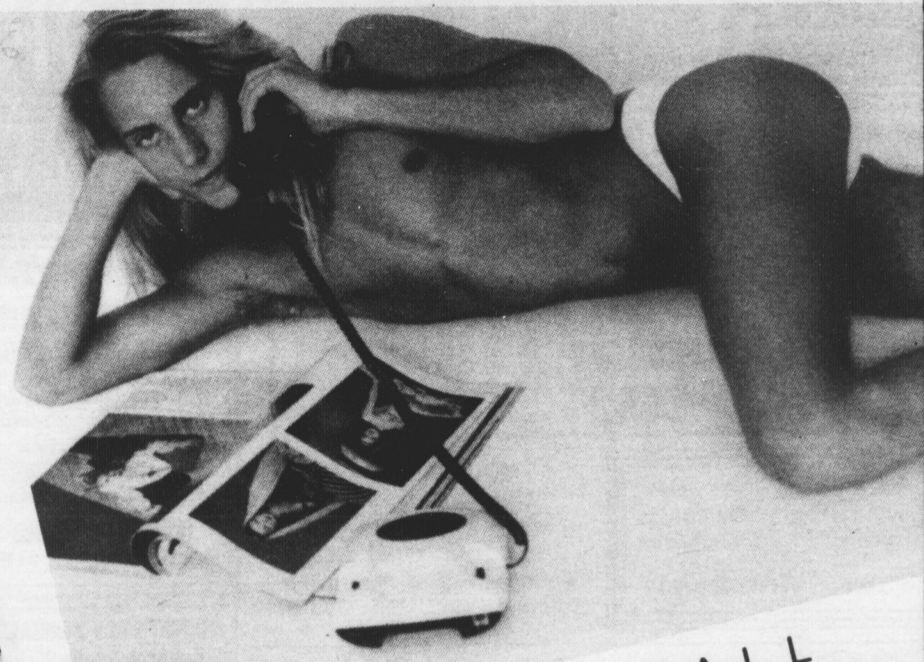
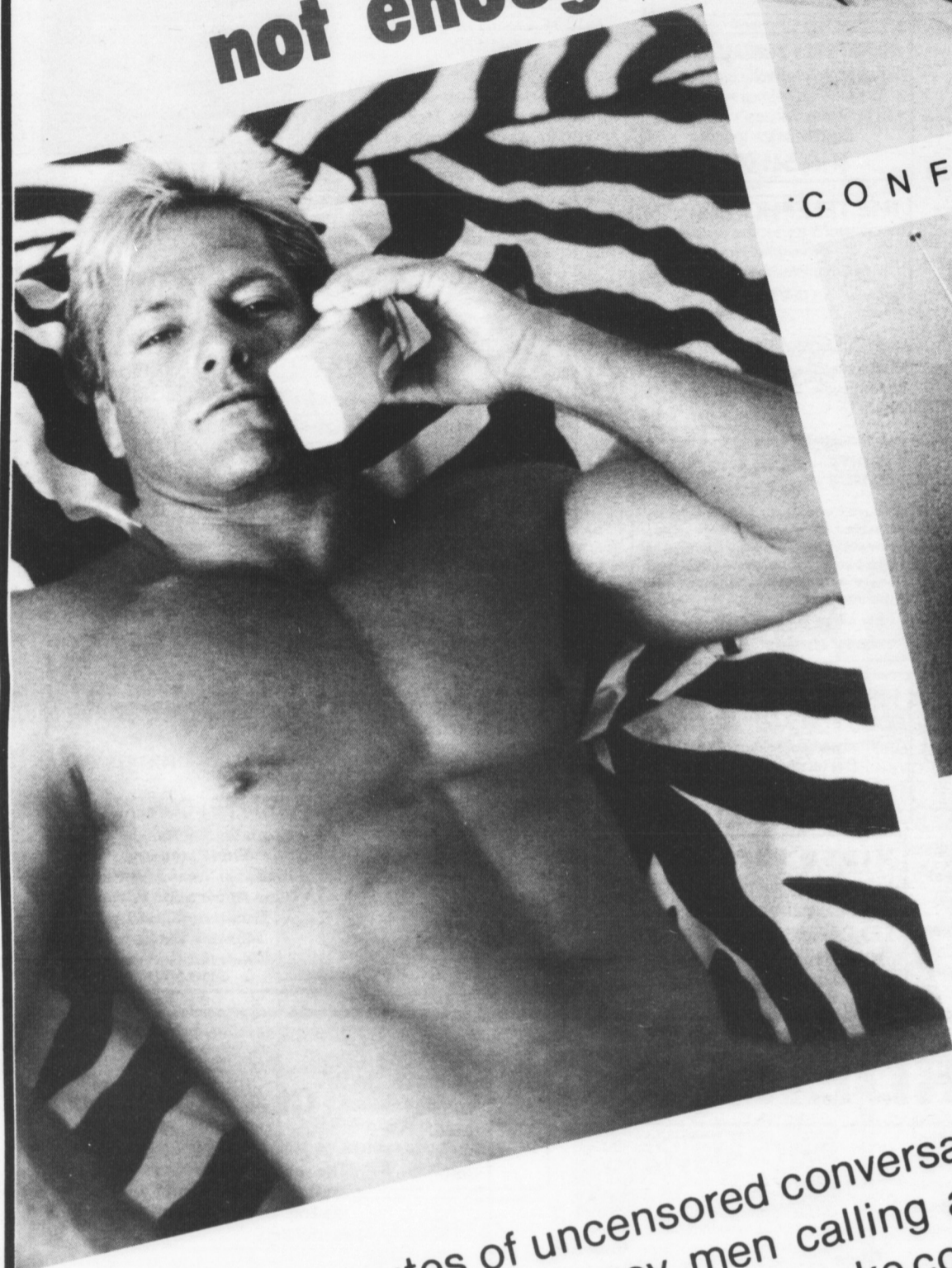


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# BAY AREA REPORTER

VOL. XVII NO. 40 OCTOBER 1, 1987

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TELEPHONE: 415/861-5019

## Bye Bye Baybrick



The Baybrick Inn, a gay community institution, will close its doors Oct. 3 after five years. See story on page 17. (Photo: Photo Graphics/Darlene)

## Son Comes Out, So Does Family — With Weapons

# Ax Attack Victim Sues

by Ray O'Loughlin

An ax-wielding grandpa and a golf club-swinging mom and dad were sued in San Mateo Superior Court Sept. 28 for subjecting their gay son and his friends to a night of terror. On June 27, Dennis May went to help his friend Michael Martini move out of his grandparents' house. For his help, he was brutally attacked by Martini's grandfather and parents.

May is invoking California's Ralph Act that prohibits violence against individuals on the basis of sexual orientation. That law provides for a minimum of \$10,000 in punitive damages plus three times the victim's actual damages. In the assault, May was injured seriously enough to require a trip to the hospital and stitches. He is claiming physical injuries, emotional distress, loss of wages, and medical expenses.

Meanwhile, in addition to May's civil suit, Martini's grandfather Howard Sotherden and parents Joseph and Patricia Martini face trial on criminal misdemeanor charges of assault with a deadly weapon.

### ROUGH COMING OUT

When Michael Martini told his grandparents he was gay, they ordered him to move out of their house. So, Michael asked three friends—May, L. Richard Shaug, and Rick Hunts—to help him retrieve his personal belongings from the South San Francisco residence. He arranged a time to pick up his things and the four men showed up the evening of June 27 at the agreed upon time.

But his grandmother, also named in the suit, refused to let him into the house. Instead, she spoke to him from a second floor

(Continued on page 21)

## While Republican Party Urges Governor To Prosecute AIDS Educators,

# State Bans Safe Sex Info

by Brian Jones

The California Republican Party this week called for criminal prosecution of the San Francisco AIDS Foundation and others who distribute explicit AIDS educational materials. It was the latest skirmish in a widening statewide campaign against gay-related AIDS education. The Deukmejian administration was already moving aggressively this summer to enforce a two-year-old ban on safe sex education materials.

Among the items declared "obscene" by the state AIDS office and, now, by the state Republican Party, are:

- The popular "Can We Talk" brochure, first published in 1982 and since updated by the Milk Democratic Club's AIDS Education Fund. More than 200,000 copies of the illustrated, bluntly worded brochure have already been distributed nationwide and—in Spanish—in Mexico and South America.

- The wallet-sized safe sex cards which list safe, possibly safe and unsafe sexual activities.

- The chart on "Guidelines for AIDS Risk Reduction" on which the wallet-sized cards are based. The risk reduction guidelines also describe which acti-

(Continued on page 16)



Dr. David Werdeger  
(Photo: BAR)

## Today

**INSURANCE RIP-OFF** is alleged against L.A. firm which pushed AIDS policies, then cancelled them. Page 3.

**CUAV CONFLICT** has four staffers quitting as a grievance is filed for "dictatorial management." Tim Taylor reports on Page 4.

**GAY LOVERS** don't count as close family members of crime victims in lawsuits, says the state supreme court. Page 14.

**BEING POSITIVE** is a state of mind as well as an AIDS antibody status. Mary Richards talks with a support group on Page 15.

## On Their Way

# Gays and Lesbians Pack Their Bags For Oct. 11 March on Washington

by Mary Richards

"As soon as I heard about it, I knew I had to go." Those were the words of M. Janet Allen, but she probably speaks for hundreds—maybe thousands—of Bay Area residents. They're on their way to the nation's capital next week for the National March on Washington for Lesbian and Gay Rights. The march is Sunday, Oct. 11, and events are scheduled during the days preceding and following the march.

Jan Allen has worked as a federal employee for 21 years, and the demand that gay and federal employees should not be discriminated against has a special meaning for her.

She will be in Washington for five days, and leaves Tuesday, Oct. 13, the day of civil disobedience before the Supreme Court.

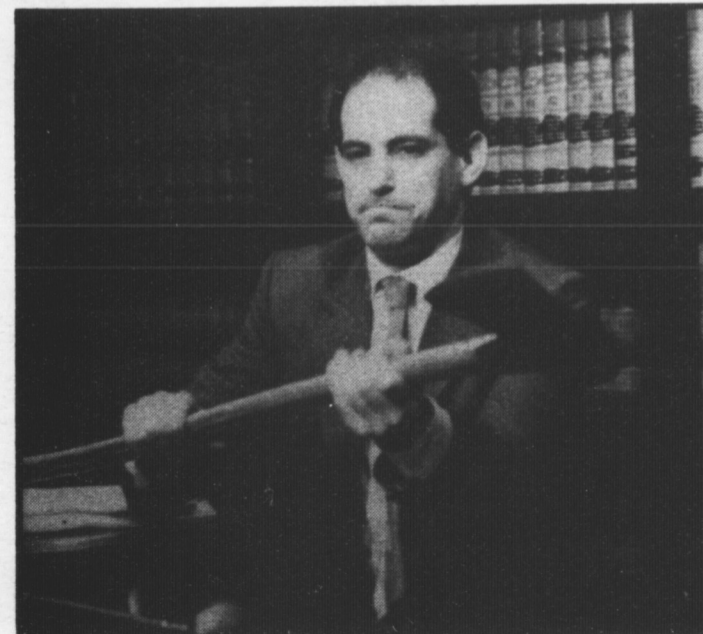
"I'd love to have the courage to do civil disobedience," she says. "However, because I'm a federal employee, if I were to be arrested it would be very easy for

the government to pick that up and use it as a cause for dismissal."

Then she starts to laugh, and the wistfulness disappears: "But if I won my \$10 million from the Publisher's Clearing House, I would do the CD in a flash! — the people who are doing it have my full moral support, and I love them for doing it."

Jan sees media coverage as being of particular importance to the event. "People that don't see

(Continued on page 18)



Atty. Paul Wotman brandishes an ax to make his point  
(Photo: BAR)

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# 22 ON the Red!



Peachy sold her puffs at 22 on the Red

(Photo: Rink)



Nancy Pelosi and Steve Morin (Photo: Rink)



Drawing the raffle winner at 22 on the Red

(Photo: Rink)



The Names Project unveiled some of its panels at 22 on the Red

(Photo: Rink)

## Insurer Promotes, Then Cancels, Policies for AIDS

S.F. Man Sues L.A. Firm,  
Alleges High-Pressure Ad Scam

by Ray O'Loughlin

A Southern California insurance company is accused of taking "advantage of the climate of fear" surrounding AIDS to sell policies which it later cancelled, refusing to pay claims. An Aug. 31 lawsuit filed in San Francisco Superior Court charges Coastal Insurance Co. with breach of contract for failing to pay a \$78,000 claim to Gary Frantz. The suit contends that Frantz was misled by "scare advertising . . . to induce a class of vulnerable persons to take out this policy of insurance."

On Sept. 20, 1985, Frantz purchased a Coastal policy for AIDS Medical Expense Insurance, known as the "AIDS 1000" policy. The insurance was advertised as paying expenses incurred from AIDS treatments provided that more than 90 days elapsed from the policy purchase date to the date of diagnosis.

Six months later, in March 1986, Frantz was diagnosed with pneumocystis pneumonia. On April 20, he filed his first claim for benefits under his AIDS 1000 policy.

That and subsequent claims were ignored until February 1987, when Frantz received "a written denial of all claims in the form of a rescission of the policy," the lawsuit alleges.

Then in May, Frantz was told in a letter from Coastal that his claims were denied "on the basis of pre-existing condition, and/or for manifestations of AIDS within 90 days of policy date," states the lawsuit.

Attorney Alice Philipson of Bay Area Lawyers for Individual Freedom (BALIF), called Frantz's suit "a typical bad faith insurance suit."

The insurer "breached the covenant of good faith and fair dealing in that they failed to provide payments and coverage, attempted in bad faith to rescind a valid contract, (and) failed to act promptly in respect to the review of denials of claims," states the suit. All are violations of the California Insurance Code.

### TARGETED GAYS

"Coastal Insurance made a bold faced attempt to profit on the epidemic of fear associated with AIDS," said Philipson. "They pushed insurance onto men at risk to AIDS, and then when a claim came in, they refused to pay it."

According to the suit, Coastal Insurance targeted gay communities throughout California, taking advantage of the fear of AIDS. The Los Angeles-based insurance company "circulated an estimate or illustration of policy benefits targeted to 'anyone in an AIDS high risk group' which contains misleading statements and misrepresentations of both the policy terms and conditions and misleads and misrepresents by overstating the economic advantages to the insured of the AIDS 1000 policy," charges Frantz in his suit.

He accused Coastal of having "designed" the policy and its campaign "to both add to and take advantage of the climate of fear that exists within the gay community as a result of the AIDS epidemic."

Said Philipson, "It was like shouting fire in a crowded thea-

ter. Hurry up and buy before it's too late, was the message in the ads."

Chris Wain, of Coastal Insurance, did not want to talk about the allegations in the lawsuit. "I can't comment on a matter that is now before a court," he said.

In defense of Coastal's actions, he said, "We feel we've complied with the terms of the policy."



\$10,000 was split between the AIDS Emergency Fund (\$2,000), the S.F. AIDS Foundation Food Bank (\$2,000), and Coming Home Hospice (\$6,000) from proceeds from Thursday night Bingo at Most Holy Redeemer Church (Photo: S. Martin)

Coastal launched its AIDS 1000 policy in early 1985. In January 1986, the company applied for and received a rate increase from the California Department of Insurance. Then in June 1986, policyholders began receiving letters informing

them that their policies would be rescinded as of their next premium date. Coastal said that fewer than 1,000 policies had been sold, well below the 5,000 hoped for. Policyholders were assured that coverage would remain in effect until the policy

expired. Coastal no longer markets the AIDS 1000 policy.

The suit is seeking payment on all of Frantz's claims, plus "punitive and exemplary damages," court costs and attorney fees.

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**Wayne Friday**

**Deukmejian On The Fence**



Pat Schroeder became part of the pack of those who will not seek the presidency in 1988 (Photo: S. Martin)

**G**ov. George Deukmejian, who himself earlier toyed with the idea of running as a "favorite son" in next year's GOP primary, but later rejected the idea, told reporters this week that he would make no endorsement of a Republican presidential candidate before next June's winner-take-all primary.

Though some had felt that the influential governor was quietly favoring Vice-President George Bush for the nomination, Deukmejian's aides were saying this week that the governor admires Sen. Robert Dole of Kansas as well. He could, in fact, comfortably support New York Rep. Jack Kemp or former Delaware Gov. Pete du Pont also.

Deukmejian did say, however, that he tended to "rule out" any support for either television evangelist Pat Robertson or former Secretary of State Alexander Haig, noting that they have never held elective office and therefore lacked a "track record."

Deukmejian, whose endorsement would be a plus for any candidate, considering the large number of delegates the state sends to the national convention, says he hopes to put together a public forum in Southern California in late November featuring all six announced Republican candidates.

The governor also announced this week that he will definitely appoint a replacement for the late State Treasurer Jesse Unruh this month, saying that he will choose from a list that reportedly includes state senators Ken Maddy, William Campbell, and Marian Bergeson, the only woman among those considered, as well as Congressman Daniel Lungren of Long Beach, a Deukmejian ally who represents the governor's home district.

Saying that he had "intelligence and insight," former Mayor Joseph Alioto, who once championed the downtown development boom, last week endorsed Art Agnos for mayor. Agnos' campaign people hope the Alioto endorsement will offset John Molinari's recent endorsement by incumbent Mayor Dianne Feinstein.

Massachusetts Gov. Michael Dukakis has reportedly raised nearly \$8 million in his presidential bid, more than twice that of

any other Democrat. Singer Dionne Warwick was honored this week by the City of New York for raising more than \$1 million for AIDS research, the royalties from her hit recording of "That's What Friends Are For."

**T**hink it's all glamour being a national political celebrity? Take Geraldine Ferraro, the 1984 Demo veep nominee. Her husband's bribery trial starts this week in New York, and her son John goes on trial next month in Vermont on charges of selling cocaine to a narc. Ferraro, meanwhile, told reporters this week that, referring to her run for vice-president, "I wish now that I had never gone through with it."

Now that the Giants have won the Division championship and are headed for the play offs, there is certain to be more support for the Downtown Stadium, and yes I do hope Proposition W passes.

I keep getting these letters from "lawyer Richard Gayer," but does anyone really care who he supporting for mayor?

Here we have Jessica Hahn, who had a very brief affair with evangelist Jim Bakker, telling us that she posed naked for Playboy (in the November issue, folks) because "it brought me closer to God." She said that while she was posing for Playboy's cameras in the buff, she asked God for a "sign." Behold, she then looked up and saw a rainbow in the sky. "My miracle came, it's just me and God. That's all I need," Jessica exclaimed (the year of the 'Bimbo,' you say? No way; if the lady can get a "sign from God" and a cool million bucks for posing in the raw, she's definitely no 'Bimbo').

I'm not a betting man, but if I were, I'd lay you odds that Judge Robert Bork will not be confirmed, but that Reagan's

More than a little snickering in political circles at the Agnos ad running in some papers that lists among its "lesbian and gay supporters," the three-year-old son of prominent attorneys V. Roy Lefcourt and Ellen Chaitin (I mean, no doubt any son of Ellen and V. Roy's is smart, but is he endorsing candidates at that early age, to say nothing of determining his sexuality this soon in life).

next choice, Utah's Sen. Orrin Hatch will get that Supreme Court seat.

Agnos did pick up the endorsement this week of Wendy Nelder, however, though there is no word of who Wendy's children are supporting.

**J**oe Biden, who reportedly started off his withdrawal statement last week by claiming that "you won't have Joe Biden to kick around anymore," has become the butt of numerous jokes. Not the least of which is an exaggerated version on his resume that is making its rounds on Capitol Hill. Added to Biden's claims about his inflated academic record, the resume lists such distinctions as: "Triple B.S. degrees in political science, history and bionuclear physics from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology; Crew Chief, Apollo 13; Grand Marshall, Rose Bowl Parade (1968-69); silver medalist, 1964 Olympic Games; member, Rockettes (1968); Assistant Chief Surgeon, first heart transplant 1963; member of the 1968, 1970, 1971 National League All-Star Team; and the Inventor of polyurethane and the Weed-eater."


Randy Shilts' new book, *And The Band Played On: Politics, People, and the AIDS Epidemic* (St. Martin's Press; \$24.95), hits the stores this weekend and those who have already read the 630 page book say Shilts has a sure bestseller.

I'll get criticized for this, but can someone tell me why Rep. Pat Schroeder cried and carried on the way she did Monday when she withdrew from a race she had yet to enter? If a mere "decline to run" press conference could cause the woman to fall apart as she did, God knows what would have happened had she actually been a candidate and had been driven from the race as with Hart or Biden. As one prominent New York political consultant remarked: "Frankly, it wasn't that tough a day for her. The crying could be a real problem. It is hard to visualize the President crying in front of Gorbachev."

On a personal note, the New Bell Saloon on Folk Street is hosting an auction/benefit this Sunday, Oct. 3, starting at 2 p.m. for Mark Friese, one of our community's best, and I hope to see you there.

**Mike Hippler**

**Gay Soul Music**



Renato Capecchi salutes his master's sexual prowess in a Mozart aria at this year's Opera in the Park (Photo: R. Pruzan)

**A**lthough I will gladly stanc through a four-hour production of Handel's *Orlando* or Strauss' *Der Rosenkavalier*, I do not consider myself an opera queen. Oh, I can name that tune when it comes to a familiar aria from *La Traviata* or *Aida*. But ask me to hum a few bars of *Billy Budd* or *Schwanda the Bagpiper* and I am at a complete loss.

As to pinpointing the differences between reigning divas such as Jesse Norman and Monserrat Caballe, I am equally hopeless. The only thing I see is what everyone sees, even from the last row of the balcony—they are both enormous.

It is unnecessary to be an opera queen, however, to enjoy events such as Opera in the Park, held Sept. 13 in Golden Gate Park. Consequently, when asked by Don Leighton, a member of the Gay Men's Chorus for eight years and an opera season ticket holder for ten, to attend his annual Opera in the Park party, I jumped at the chance.

"I'll be there at 6 a.m.," Don explained, "so you'll have one of the best seats in the house. And because I've invited nearly 40 people, who knows? Even you might find a husband—provided you can stand one who sings in the shower."

Not quite as eager as Don, I didn't arrive at the park until 10, just in time for the rehearsal before the show. This, Don assured me, is often as enjoyable as the show itself and sometimes lasts as long.

I had no trouble finding my friend. Six huge bedsheets at the left of the bandshell marked his domain. At the center stood a long, low table set with enough food to satisfy every spear-carrier in Grand Operadom. The spread was impressive, to say the least. I had heard that opera fans did this best to outdo one another at this event, but this was ridiculous.

"Having a feast?" I asked. "Or is this just an appetizer for La Caballe?"

After introductions to the other early arrivals, who brought newspapers, books, and knitting needles to while away the hours until the 2 p.m. curtain, Don shared something of his own musical background. Although his parents took him to his first opera, *Carmen*, at age six, he didn't become seriously interested until he moved out of the house at 21.

"That's when I discovered I'd rather go to a concert than any other kind of date," he said. "Part of it had to do with hearing it live. I never liked opera through sound systems. Big trained voices just don't fit into little boxes. But in an opera house, it is another matter entirely."

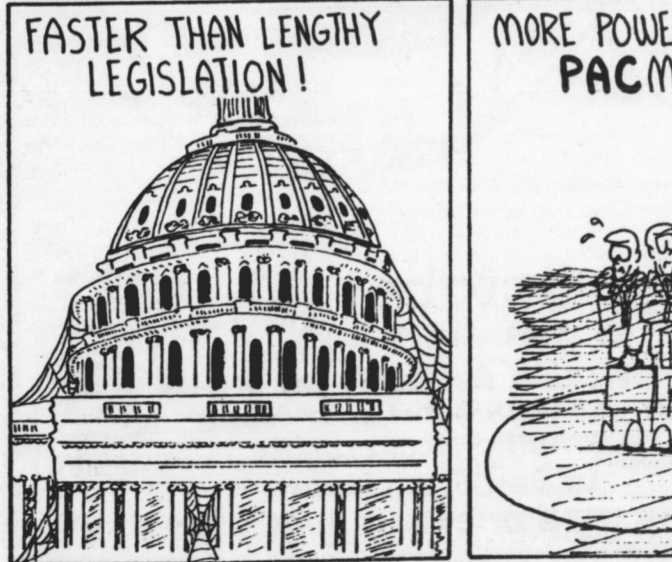
Don enjoyed opera so much that at age 24 he started taking voice lessons. Fourteen years later, he still studies voice. He also sings with the Gay Men's Chorus, in church, at weddings, and in local cabarets. In spite of this, he has no professional aspirations.

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"I'm not good enough," he admitted. "I'm relaxed and can do a reasonably good job if I choose my material carefully, but really good baritones are a dime a dozen. Perry George describes my talent by saying I have an enormous repertoire of music that I can't sing."

Motioning to the vast number of gay men surrounding us, Don theorized that many gay men enjoy opera "because it's the perfect cross of a sensual and spiritual experience."

Another reason, he said, is that gay men, because of their personal histories, are less likely than others to accept the dictates of the majority or popular culture, one of which is that opera is an outmoded and tedious artform.

By this time, more of Don's friends were arriving, but not the 40 he had invited. Perhaps this was because the fog showed no signs of clearing and the singers didn't include Pavarotti or Domingo this year.

"Usually, I invite only music lovers," noted Don, who has been attending Opera in the Park since its inception over ten years ago. "But this time I got smart and invited the chefs instead. So dig in."

Unfortunately, the concert had hardly begun before I had to leave for work. Still, all was not lost. Since I taped the show at home, when I returned to my apartment that night I settled into an armchair, poured myself a glass of wine, and sang "Libiamo ne lieti calici," the drinking song from *La Traviata*, with the rest of the cast and audience. Although I didn't know the exact meaning of the words, I understood and appreciated the spirit of the thing.

It's the first step, Don says, on the road to becoming a true opera queen.

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## Judge Closes Urine Clinics

HOUSTON—A Texas judge has issued temporary injunctions closing three clinics which were treating people with AIDS with injections of their own filtered urine. State District Judge Sharolyn Wood ruled that the clinics operated by William Hitt falsely advertised the treatment's effectiveness. Hitt is not a physician and the treatments he offered are not approved by the federal Food and Drug Administration (FDA).

Texas Assistant Attorney General Rose Ann Reeser sought the injunctions because she felt the treatment may be dangerous. She advised Hitt to apply for ex-

perimental drug permits from the FDA.

A number of AIDS patients at the clinic stated that their conditions had improved as a result of the treatment. No scientific evidence was presented to support that claim.

"This is going to deprive them of any hope," said Hitt. "We've got a bunch of AIDS patients who depend on it." He said he had lost money on the AIDS treatment.

No further court action has been set.

—Dallas Voice

## They Don't Like Royalty In Boise

BOISE—When residents of this placid, conservative town learned that their city was to be the site of the International Court Conference, they threw a fit not to be believed. Local media reported that thousands of "AIDS infected" homosexuals were about to take over the Idaho capital notorious for its 1950s witch hunt against gay men.

But once again, money eased their concerns when it was pointed out by the Boise Convention Bureau that the event brought in about \$250,000 to the depressed local economy. And it has been doing so for the last eight years without incident.

The International Court Conference brought together 75 representatives of drag court systems from 50 U.S. and Canadian cities. The court system has about 10,000 members nationwide.

The conference was an exchange of ideas be-

tween the smaller and larger courts to plan new activities. "We have a unique ability to raise money," said Empress Nicole of San Diego. "The hard work we put into drag shows, art auctions, and bake sales shows in our bank accounts." The courts have contributed to the upcoming National March on Washington and to Gay Games, among other things, she said.

Empress Jack-E from Reno pointed out that there has been a sudden growth in court memberships. She said that there had been new courts recently established in New York, Toronto, and in Minnesota.

A Break in the weekend conference featured a "fruit float" on rafts down the Boise River.

—New York Native

## Attorney Tries to Disqualify Lesbian in Police Sex Case

### Police Commissioner Juanita Owens Challenged In Probe of Harassment Against Female Officer

by Tim Taylor

A Police Commission probe into allegations of sexual harassment against a police recruit has taken an unusual turn: The attorney for the accused wants Commissioner Juanita Owens disqualified because she is a lesbian.

The commission was hearing an allegation that Janet Scarborough was subjected to a night of sexual mistreatment by her field training officer, Eugene Yoshii. The case was widely publicized and closely monitored by women's groups throughout the city.

After three days of hearings the commission ruled in favor of Scarborough. Yoshii was suspended for 90 days without pay and placed on probation for three years. If he violates department rules during that time he could be terminated. The decision will be appealed.

Courtroom observers were shocked by last minute legal maneuvering by Yoshii's attorney, Michael Mendelson.

Mendelson filed a motion that Commissioner Juanita Owens be disqualified from participating in the hearing. The attorney asserted that Owens' background as a lesbian-rights activist compromised her ability to be impartial.

Mendelson told Bay Area Reporter he made the motion because Owens "was appointed to the commission) obviously because of her upfront position in the lesbian community. How can she retain that leadership position and be fair in this case?"

#### 'LESBIAN CONSPIRACY'

He pointed to a recent article in Coming Up newspaper as evidence that there was in his view, a lesbian conspiracy to railroad a negative decision against Yoshii.

"The lesbians seem to be in the vanguard against violence against women," Mendelson said. "They're promoting this as a spin-off against acquaintance rape. I just felt the train was definitely on the track."

Mendelson noted that Scarborough's attorney, Donna Hitchens, is prominent in lesbian causes and suggested that Hitchens served with Owens on the Commission on the Status of Women. Mendelson said that this relationship further compromised Owens' impartiality.

In fact, the terms of the two



Juanita Owens was sworn in by Mayor Dianne Feinstein in 1986 (Photo: Rink)

women on the women's commission did not overlap, and both Owens and Hitchens say they do not know one another.

Owens had engaged in pointed questioning of Yoshii, and Mendelson objected to questions he called hostile. "My concern is that hostility translates into bias." Later, Owens voted for Yoshii's termination, rather than the milder suspension.

The effort to disqualify Owens was overruled by Police Commissioner Chairman Louis Giraudo, who questioned Mendelson's timing and motive in making the motion at the end of the hearing.

Owens declined to comment on the case. She said it is under appeal and could be remanded back to the commission for further review. She was irate at suggestions that she would not be fair in hearing the case.

#### AN INSULT

"I could appreciate his concern for his client," Owens said. "As a commissioner, I'm there to render a decision based on the facts."

She said Mendelson's motion "insults my intelligence" and added she is on the commission "to listen to the facts and serve the people and the police department of San Francisco."

One of those monitoring the hearing was activist Del Martin, who has a lengthy record of involvement in women's and lesbian causes. She noted that the case attracted a lot of attention among women who were interested in ensuring that the police department and the district attorney adequately prosecute cases of sexual violence.

Martin said Mendelson was "way out of line. He's just trying to go for dramatic effect. The reason he went to such extremes is he was losing his case. His witness (Yoshii) was very ineffective and he had to come up with something."

Jackie Hale, a staff member with the Commission on the Status of Women said, "I don't think it's remarkable that an attorney would pull out every stop



Del Martin (Photo: Rink)

## Good Loses Council Race

SAN DIEGO—Openly gay candidate Neil Good missed out in his bid to become San Diego's first gay city councilman on Sept. 15. Good came in third in that city's Eighth District race with 2,667 votes (20 percent of the vote.) He was beaten by Bob Filner who came in first with 3,300 votes (25 percent of the total).

Turnout averaged 24 percent of San Diego's registered voters, up from 16 percent in the city's 1985 city council primary election. In the four seats up for election this time, no incumbents were running. That fact, said observers, probably sparked greater interest in the election.

—San Diego Bravo

## UNQUOTE

*'There is not a scrap of truth that I am having an affair with my secretary. If I were homosexual, these are not the times to hide it.'*

—Brigitte Nielsen, former wife of Sylvester Stallone, denying she is having an affair with her female secretary.

*'What the public really loathes in homosexuality is not the thing itself but having to think about it. If it could be slipped into our midst unnoticed or legalized overnight by as decree in small print there would be few protests.'*

—E. M. Forster, author of Maurice

*'We're finding that all those old restrictions on behavior had not only a moral basis but a medical basis. Whatever one may think about sodomy from a moral standpoint, it is clearly an unhealthy activity.'*

—Gary Bauer, Reagan advisor

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**UNQUOTE**  
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## Inter Galactic Crowning Glory

**CHEVELURE, DULCETRLY!**  
(An Awaiting Nose)

From its opening, with a somewhat controversial invocation, to the comparatively predictable outcome, the Imperial Star Empire's Coronation '87—Inter Galactic Odyssey—is now a matter of history.

And speaking of history, it does repeat itself. This is the ninth Coronation in Alameda County that I have attended that didn't start on the advertised time. This year's reason is: The spaceship designed for the opening number of the then-current Court was too big. It had to be dismantled to get it into the auditorium, and once backstage, it couldn't be reassembled in the too tight quarters.

Plan "A" had to be scrapped, and an alternate "entrance" was put into immediate rehearsal. It was impressive, but the "fog" almost choked the participants before the curtain was opened.

In events such as this, there is invariably one "show stopper." Coronation '87 was no exception. Emperor David's "Modesto daughter" did a fantastic rendition of "Look for the Rainbow," and received a well-deserved standing ovation. What made this particular fete unique is, Tarra is only eight years old!

Those that came in costume "of theme" had some quite original and outstanding creations. Winning the in-town male and female were, respectively, Emperor IV Doug and Empress

VIII Lady Johnny. The out-of-town male and female winners were from Reno, and the best presentation in-theme was awarded to the contingent from Modesto. The much delayed command performance by Lady J was worth the wait, and she too received a standing ovation.

Recognition was given to Terry and Marge for their outstanding services (why does it always have to be emphasized that they are straight?), and the Court's Humanitarian award(s) went to two very deserving individuals, Val Sousa and "Have you got a dollar?" Paul Moulton.

The final walks of Emperor and Empress VIII were both nostalgic and relieving for the individuals. Mama Chuckles' gesture of tossing her heels into the audience before her walk must have been indicative that she was glad it was over—at least for her, not her other half!

Participating in the ceremony of crowning were dowager Emperess Stephanie, Cha Cha, Lady Johnny, and Lady Billy; the dowager Emperors involved were Doug and Paul. Kneeling before the gathered throng, accepting their duties and responsibilities, were the new Emperor and Empress IX elect, Carlos and Tootsi! After a grueling year, one wonders what they will toss into the audience!

Congratulations to the two of them, and their soon-to-be-

named Court and Family. They have a tough act to follow and an even tougher row to hoe.

**NETTOGROF TON TUB ENOG**  
(Eson Noitome Dexim A)

Yes, it's true. As of Saturday, Oct. 31, Revol will be just a memory. The building has been sold, and the new owners are going to convert it back into six store fronts.

Feelings are a little too sensitive right now to mention much more. Suffice it to say, "There's a 'There' Here" will become a "was," yours truly won't have to walk on eggs with his column anymore, and the vultures awaiting the plucking will have to dig into their pocketbooks at an upcoming auction. (The body isn't even cold yet, and "they" already want this or that!)"

We've heard several congratulations, and a lot more "I'll be sad to see it go."

Oh well, parts is parts, aren't they?

**POTPOURRI**  
(A Melange Nose?)

It was announced at the coronation that BASH has indeed, been active. Two hospice houses will open in October. Hopefully, I'll get exact details from Mama Chuckles so you can read it in black and white.

If I remember correctly from my little theatre days (yes, I've



ISE Emperor and Empress IX Tootsi and Carlos celebrate their victory

been on the boards!), one cardinal rule is that if you're behind the scenes, never, never, never look out the wings to see what's going on onstage. Eight-year old Tarra probably hasn't been taught that —yet. But Ms. H.H. should have known better! It is possible to "upstage" the performer from the wings. That act tended to take the dignity away from the one "in the spotlight."

From our state's capitol I received this press release: An estimated 150 Sacramento lesbians and gay men and their supporters are expected to join the National March on Washington for Lesbian and Gay Rights Sunday, Oct. 11. The Sacramento group will join similar contingents from throughout the United States to form what may be the largest civil rights march in American history.

In addition to the march and rally, organizers have slated activities from Thursday, Oct. 8 to Tuesday, Oct. 13, including a mass "wedding" for lesbian and gay couples, ceremonies honoring AIDS victims and gay and lesbian veterans, a concert and a massive non-violent demonstration of civil disobedience at the U.S. Supreme Court.

Harvey Milk said rights will never be given to you, that you have to demand them. "That's what we're going to do."

Speaking of Sacramento, I spoke with Lady Garnet and Leonard at the Coronation (we get to meet once a year at Coronations!) and they said they finally made it! They are the new Grand

Duke and Grand Duchess of Sacramento. Congratulations, it was a long time a-coming!

Recently there was an "altercation" at one of our local watering holes. Rumor had it that it was between Steve and an owner of Revol. Diligent detective work discovered that neither of the two Steves from Revol nor either of its owners were involved. It turned out to be Vicious Vera and her spouse, Steve! Expected but not accepted behavior.

This Saturday is Lady Lennie and Marlow's buffet fundraiser for EBAF at Cabel's Reef. From 6 p.m. on, experience music, prizes, buffet (\$3 a plate donation), raffles, and entertainment.

Big Mama's October schedule is chockablock: Sat. 3, Lady Bianca w/band 8 p.m.; Sat. 10, E.C. Scott & Smoke 8 p.m.; Sun. 11, Dean Snow's Columbus Day Party 4 p.m.; Sat. 17, Ruth Hastings & Co. 8 p.m.; Sun. 25, Joseph Taro & Sandy Van w/Dan Fludd, 8 p.m.

Little Mother will present a show at Spoiled Brat, on Sunday, Nov. 15. It will feature the wonderful Pauleen and the "famous" Jim Brown at the piano. An added attraction will be "Terricita."

The first show will be at 5 p.m. and the second one at 7 p.m., with a buffet in between for a suggested donation of \$5 (proceeds going to EBAF).

Our great ambition was to have built something that would last—at least until we had finished building it. Dare I smile? Love, ●

Nez and spouse.



ISE Emperor and Empress VIII Mama Chuckles and Davida few minutes before their final walk

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## George Heymont

In 1986, when the Seattle Opera, (under the leadership of Speight Jenkins), unveiled a new *Ring* cycle designed by Robert Israel and directed by Francois Rochaix, it became painfully evident that certain parts of their creative concept would have to be reworked. The giant crab-legs used in Act II of *Siegfried* to suggest a dragon twice the size of the Opera House had nearly been laughed off the stage. The affectations of traditional Japanese Noh drama which were used, quite literally, to wrap up Brunnehilde's immolation scene had proven to be a major disappointment.

Although the Seattle Symphony, under Manuel Rosenthal's baton, had given a superb reading of the score—and the cast had done a spectacular job of singing Wagner's music—the 1986 *Ring*, as exciting as it may have been, did not fully gel. Despite Jenkins' pledge to spend at least \$100,000 revamping the production and the glad tidings that soprano Leonie Rysanek would perform the role of Sieglinde in 1987, an announcement earlier this year that there would be no *Ring* in Seattle in 1988 sent tremors of alarm coursing through the operatic grapevine.

Was the Rochaix/Israel concept doomed to a mercifully short life? Had the Seattle Opera's administration bitten off more than it could chew? Was the highly successful Pacific Northwest Wagner Festival—first begun in the mid-1970s by Glynn Ross—about to be buried under the triple threat of the Metropolitan Opera's new but noticeably conservative *Ring*, Artpark's daring multi-media *Ring* (scheduled for summer 1989 in upstate New York) and San Francisco's revival of its phenomenally successful *Ring* in 1990?

## The Ring Revisited



Under the watchful eyes of her sister Valkyries, Brunnehilde (Linda Kelm) gives Sieglinde (Leonie Rysanek) the pieces of Siegmund's sword in Act III of Wagner's *Die Walkure*

Such fears, legitimate as they may have seemed, were proven groundless this past summer when Jenkins (a) produced a *Ring* of such incredible musical strength, vocal beauty and dramatic clarity that it made hardened Wagnerians weep with a newfound sense of orgasmic ecstasy; (b) discovered the Seattle audience rallying around his revised *Ring* in a way that would guarantee the funding necessary for its future health and welfare, and (c) explained the complicated financial reasons which had forced

him to cancel the 1988 *Ring* in order to meet the requirements of a major multi-disciplinary foundation grant which demanded to see a balanced budget before it would fund continued growth for several of Seattle's most vital nonprofit arts organizations.

Recently, I've been quite taken aback by the glut of mediocrity to be found on the operatic stage. However, I should confess that, when one attends as many as 150 performances a year, the statistical odds dictate that, if one is lucky, perhaps ten percent of

those performances will truly be superb.

It gives me great pleasure to report that the Seattle Opera's 1987 *Ring* was not only an immense artistic triumph lodged solidly in that top ten percent, but an entrepreneurial tour de force which could easily hold its own in the international festival marketplace.

Based on my experiences this summer in both Seattle and Scandinavia, I'd advise any impassioned opera queen—even the most hardened skeptic in the

crowd—to plan on attending the 1989 Seattle *Ring*. At the very least, you'll get your money's worth. However, my guess is that you'll also get a magnificently musical mindfuck.

### BURN, BABY, BURN!

Due to the precarious economics of the opera profession, very few directors and impresarios receive the chance or, for that matter, create the opportunity to improve their staging of a given production. Seattle Opera deserves to be congratulated for not only taking the time to do so, but doing a spectacular job in the process. A newly-lit rainbow bridge at the end of *Das Rheingold* shone with as much magic as the music coming from the pit; the carousel horses used during the "Ride of the Valkyries" seemed better than ever before.

Although a different dragon marched to the same drummer in Act II of *Siegfried*, this time around the theatrical effect was solidly in tune with the dramatic moment at hand. For pyromaniacs, the 1987 *Ring* offered the ultimate operatic flame-throwing experience. Not only did the "Magic Fire Music" work to stunning effect, during the immolation scene nearly half the stage was in flames (the heat in the audience quickly became a sinister presence).

Speight Jenkins still can't help chuckling when he describes what happened during the dress rehearsal of *Gotterdammerung*. One of Seattle's fire marshals, confident in the safety of Tassilo Baur's pyrotechnical designs, stood quietly through the immolation scene before turning to the Seattle Opera's rather nervous general director and muttering, "Wow! That's really beautiful music!"

(Continued on page 38)

## Keith White

A succession of dolls shared my deepest childhood secrets for more years than I normally admit. Benign creatures; perfect imaginary friends. My recollection is a result of my just having seen French choreographer Maguy Marin's controversial *Cinderella* at Zellerbach Auditorium, Sept. 25. Every character wears a mask with a porcelain baby-doll face. What Marin set out to do is clear. She'd make a dance theater ballet of *Cinderella* in the guise of a children's dollhouse drama; every character would be portrayed by a doll, and the story would be enacted using the manners of children as well. The concept is interesting and Marin went to great lengths to realize it, so it is surprising that the finished ballet is not more engaging than it is.

During the opening strains of Prokofiev's ballet score, the curtain opens onto a giant three-tiered dollhouse, with lifesize toys in each chamber. There's an eeriness in Prokofiev's music that perfectly cues the gradual appearance of several giant doll heads, occupying the upper story like ghostly cherubim. Eventually the whole house is illuminated, finally revealing the doll-masked Cinderella asleep in her chair.

The story is familiar, and for a while the ballet holds the audience's attention with the novelty of its concept and its ingenious set and costumes, some of which are electrified with flashing lights. Visually the production is a triumph. It seems more determinedly experimental during

## Dolls Playing With Dolls



The stepmother and stepsisters jump rope at the ball in Maguy Marin's *Cinderella*, performed by Lyon Opera Ballet.

sections when the Prokofiev orchestral score is replaced by sound collages of babies gurgling. Insights about childhood and children tumble forth, including the perception with which children model the adult world around them, and their occasional unabashed cruelty.

The interest of Marin's concept wears thin too soon, unfortunately. Marin made movement for the dancers that resembles the movement of mechanical dolls, or the movement children give dolls when they provide the locomotion: broad, clumsy, confrontive gestures. This is charm-

ing and funny at first, and horrifying too, as the Cinderella character takes more and more violent pratfalls, the victim of her broom, the furniture, her step-sisters and stepmother, and ultimately her own lack of coordination.

If Marin had blessed her dolls with a moment of human (or superhuman) grace, her ballet might have transcended the limits of its concept and effected a magical transformation. Instead, the choreographer continued her method of broken, halting gestures through the entire hundred or so minutes of the

ballet. Cinderella dances on pointe, but never beautifully. She's a doll, see? Even the Fairy Godmother's four dolls-in-waiting, who arrive to dress Cinderella and teach her to dance, perform an uninspired pointe variation, technically demanding enough to let us know they are actually classically trained dancers but never allowing the dancers to shine. Most of it could probably be performed by nondancers, which does not necessarily discredit it. But Marin's choreography too often struck me as a waste of good music.

The tightness of Marin's focus played her false even on her own terms. Many scenes were protracted to the point of tedium, like the portion of the ballroom scene in which the guests quarrel endlessly over candy that has been served, hammering at the idea of juvenile selfishness without advancing the action or providing a divertissement. Toward the end of the ballet there are Spanish and Oriental divertissements, as the prince doll searches the world for the owner of the glass slipper, but these come too late to boost the flagging spirits of an enervated audience.

The Lyon Opera Ballet, which made its Bay Area debut in this production, has no resident choreographer, but imports and commissions ballets with a preference for modern ballet and experimental works. Kurt Jooss' *The Green Table* and Antony Tudor's *Jardin Aux Lilas* are the oldest pieces in its repertoire, which includes works by William Forsythe, Jennifer Muller, and Louis Falco. Maguy Marin's *Cinderella* was an original commission.

One of the evening's most magical moments occurs during the bows, when the masks come off and we see the real young dancers who've been wearing them. Their faces look so interesting in comparison with the masks that an ovation is guaranteed. (And I think they took seven company bows—a lot for Berkeley.) But it seemed to me a shame to spend an entire evening with a new company and learn so little about its internal style. ●

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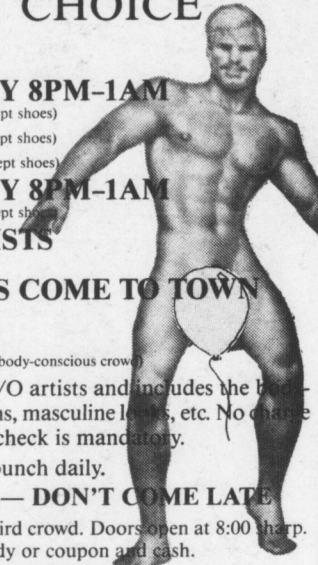
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## Mr. Marcus

### For The Days Dwindle Down...

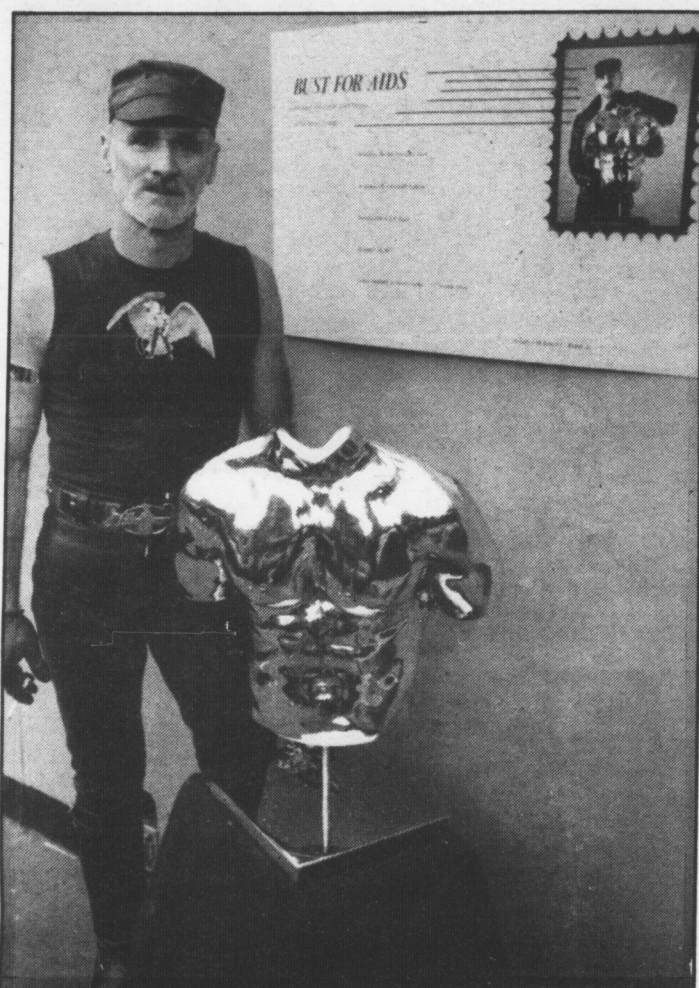
You say you didn't get enough with the Dore Alley Fair, Ms. Haight Ashbury Contest (Congrats Balloon Girl!), Leather Daddy, Leather Daddy's Boy, Physique '87, Lily Street Party, the pope's visit, Duke/Duchess Ball, 22 On The Red, Spring Equinox, Oktoberfest, Gay Rodeo, Gay World Series, Haight St. Fair, Upper Grant Ave. Fair, the J/O Buddies events and Theatre Rhino?

For shame! Well, one of the biggest Fall events takes place this Sunday, Oct. 4. See thousands of dudes and dudettes jam-packed into two blocks on the Castro. See drags and weirdos and much eye-balling as well as booths with food, games, political b.s. and community organizations. Drink, and be Mary Tie-Her More. See the Rainbow M/C initiate new members. See Richard Law and Robert Pruzanadanna immortalize baskets without shirts! See Jim Baroni's staff at the Castro Station perform to their fullest. See leather and non-leather people and have a ball.

Halloween is only 28 days away so drop in on Ms. Marcel at 4084 - 18th Street (upstairs from the Village Bar) and she'll create the wig of death for you to wear with that gown of death (in this case, death means just absolutely gorgeous!). Ms. Marcel has been doing wigs longer than any queen in town and she knows her stuff!

Yes, boys and girls, it's the official Fall Season in Full Swing! Absolutely no one has announced their Halloween parties (unusual for Sanford Kellman, Dick Collier, Fred Badalante and their cohorts). But not to worry. Before long you'll be deluged with all the entrepreneurs trying to get your dollar on Halloween. Stay tuned.

The weather has been on and off so-so! Last weekend it was gorgeous and the CMC's annual Oktoberfest at the SF-Eagle Sun-



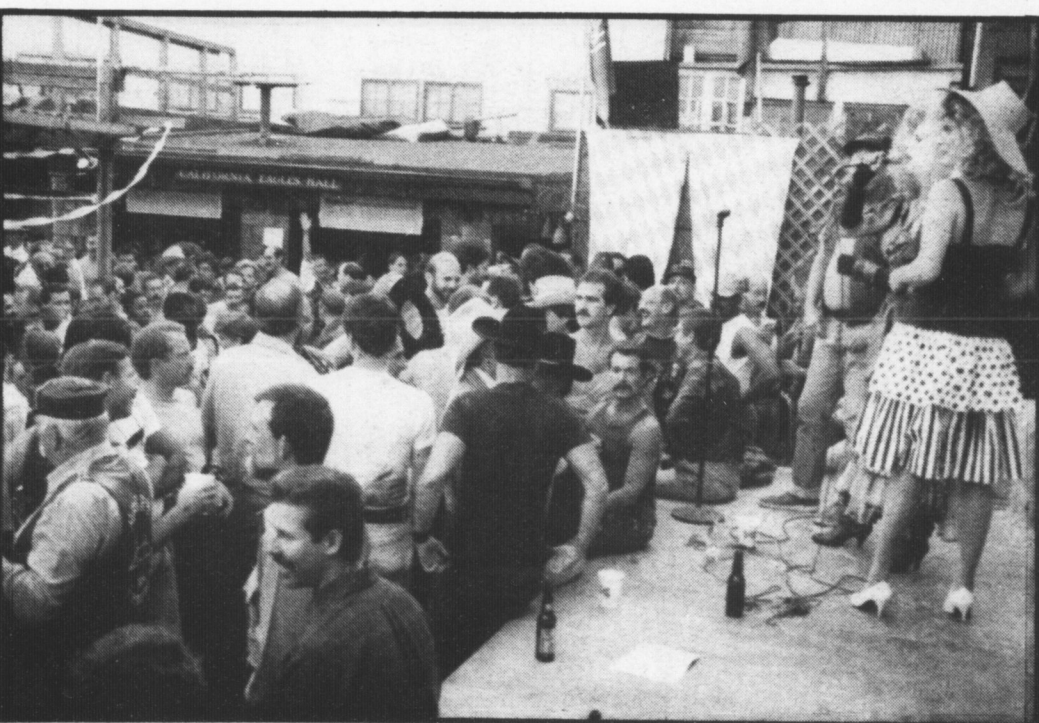
Haven Sanborn donated this bust in memory of Gregory Lorine for a raffle to benefit the AIDS Emergency Fund. Tickets (\$1) are at the Eagle leather store and Mr. S. Leathers. The drawing will be held Dec. 20 at the Eagle (Photo: S. Martin)

day was very well attended. Two dudes visiting here from Berlin were aghast! They came here for American cult-shure and couldn't believe all the lederhosen on the premises.

Across town that evening at Ivy's, a great group of "real" friends showed up at the bon voyage dinner for Kym Whittington. Everybody's favorite Saucy Aussie got a job offer with the Australian government that was just too good to turn down so right about now he's winging to the land down under where he'll assume his new position.

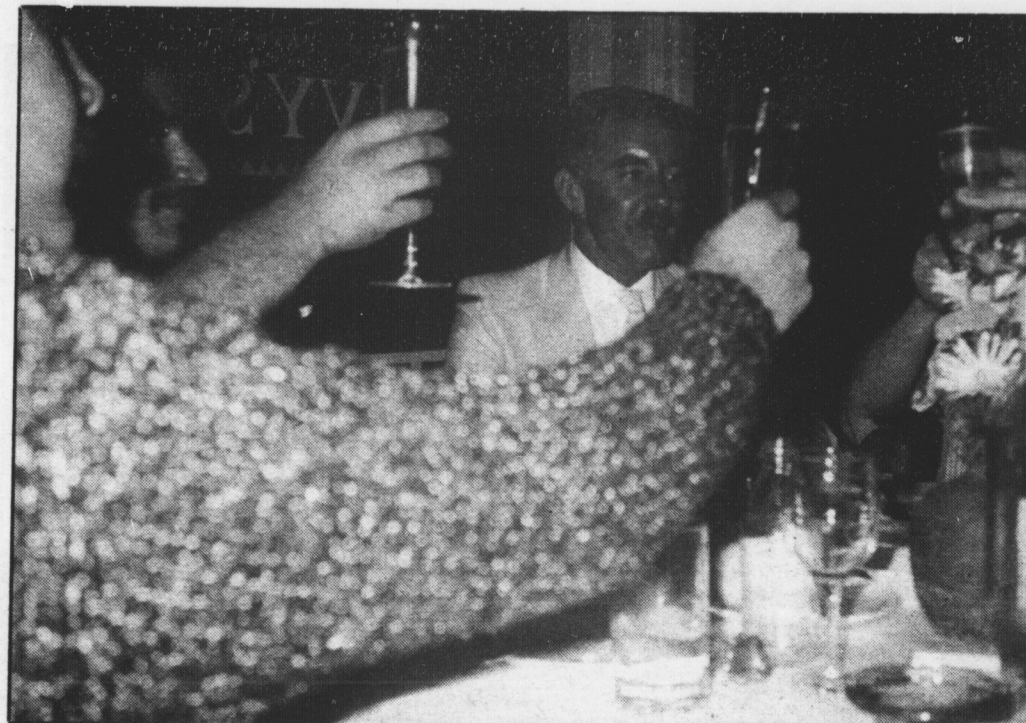
In his parting words, Kym wanted you all to know that his experiences here in San Francisco's gay community have prepared him well for the years ahead. There's a possibility he'll return to be in the Fourth Edition of Men Behind Bars (Feb '88). Kym put his best foot forward and certainly did his share for the community welfare. We're all going to miss him!

It Happens Every Fall Dept.: I don't know why September is the month for all these letters to



Sable and Lily emceed the Eagle beer bust last weekend

(Photo: S. Martin)



Toasts were raised to Kym Whittington, one of South of Market's favorite leathermen, at his Bon Voyage party (Photo: Marcus)

come my way, but out of the last two dozen, 18 of them asked me to put out the word on dudes who wear cologne in the South of Market bars. Buster-Butch seemed to be the most strident in his strong suggestion that man-sweat is where it's at! (I agree!). Buster-Butch says to sound a "perfume alert!" For him, it's honest man smell!

Just in case, you're gorgeous and never make out, it's the cologne honey! Think about it. At one time, a real leather man from day one was going to open a leather bar here banning perfume, white sneakers (especially with a leather jacket or chaps!), polished nails, underarm deodorant, and a whole list of no-no's. But alas, so many groups would be picketing the place, he just said, "Fuck it! Wallow in perfume sloop!" Yeah.

Male Entertainment Network (M.E.N. and W.O.M.E.N.) have completed the video of Physique '87. There are two cassettes available: one of just the men and one of just the women. Both are approximately one hour long and include all the highlights and winners and are available now from M.E.N., \$39.95 + \$2.60 tax. You can charge to your Mastercard by calling (415) 621-0100.



Chowing down at the Eagle beer bust (Photo: S. Martin)



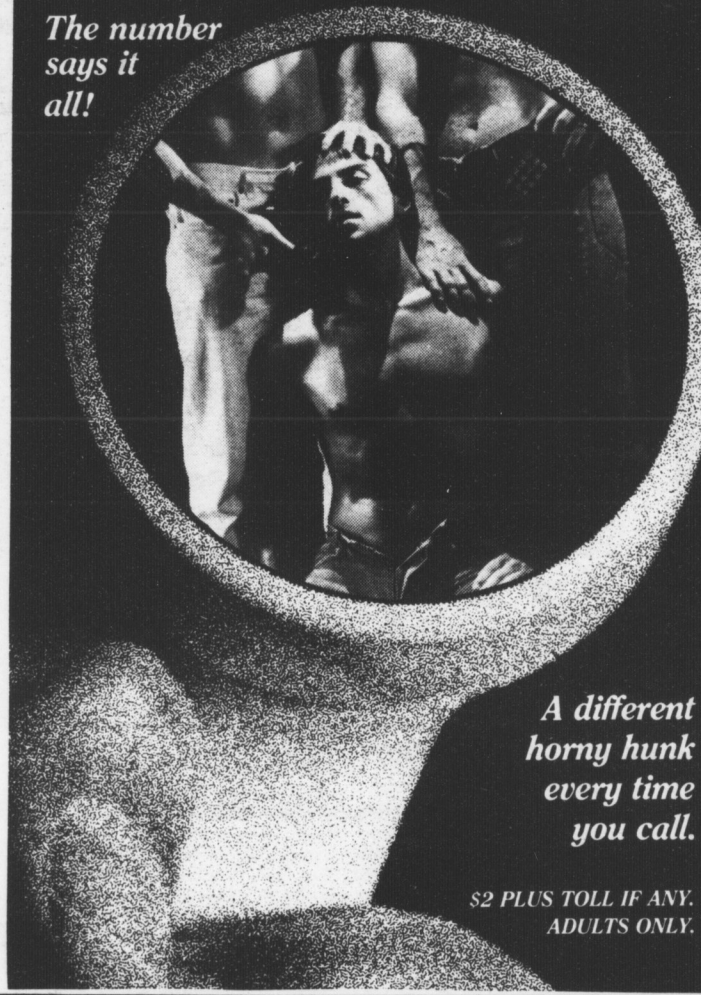
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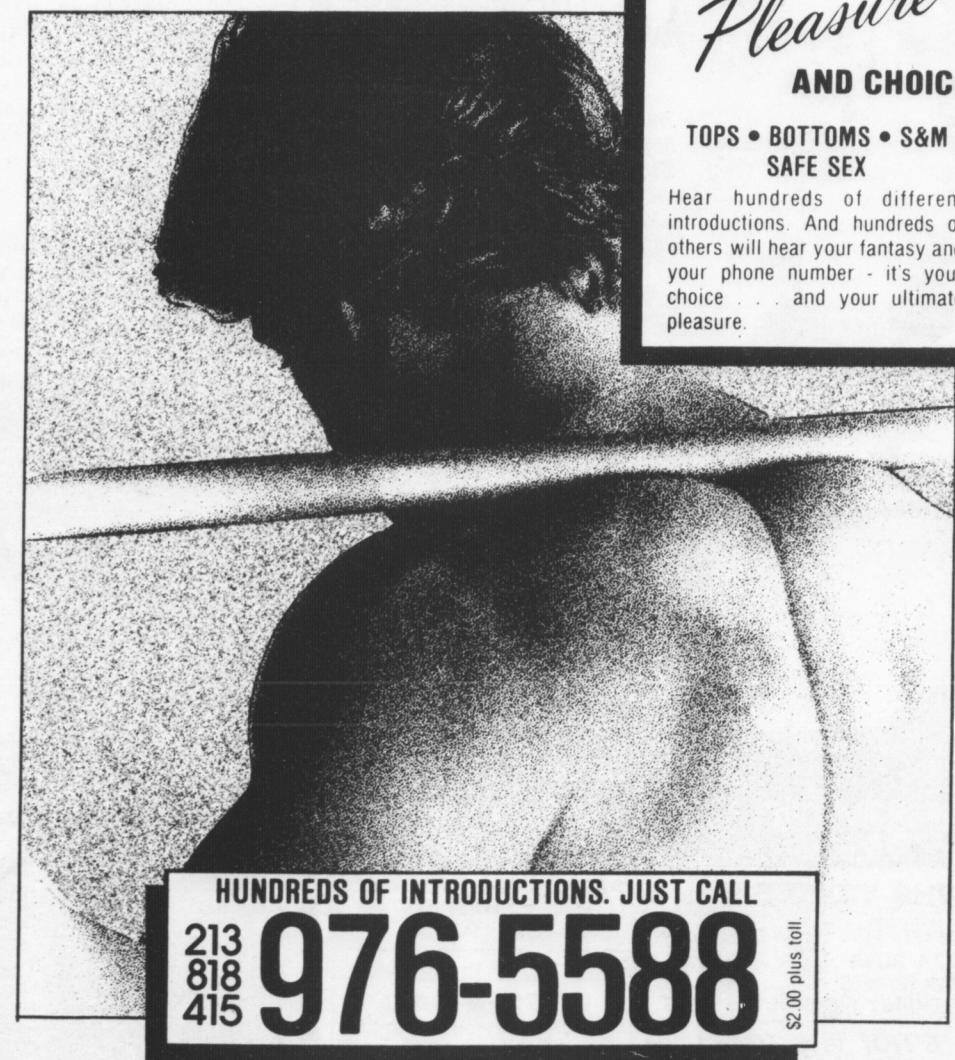
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## Marcus

(Continued from previous page)  
before Halloween (let's see, that's Oct. 24); check out the time and price from your favorite body-builder.

★ □ ★

The Fall TV Season is under way and there seems to be a lot of gay characters in some of the new shows. Surprisingly, John Ritter's "Hooperman" (a SF detective show) has a real cutie on the police force and a queen in the apartment building Hooperman inherited in the first installment. This one bears watching at least

for two more episodes. In Private Eye, that hot detective is absolutely a hunk, but they keep throwing Hollywood queens in the background, sort of the Sisters of P.I. of the '50s!!

And since the Castro hasn't had a leather shop in its midst for so many years, Mercury Mail Order (purveyors of leather, leather dildos and other masculine accoutrements to queens all over the country), have moved to 4084-18th St., upstairs from the Village Bar. (Hi, Bill Martin!) Expect their grand opening in late October.

Frank Lapaglia, the barber on the same floor is ecstatic! I never



Leather Daddy's Boy and Leather Daddy come out for the AIDS Emergency Fund at the Folsom Street Fair (Photo: S. Martin)

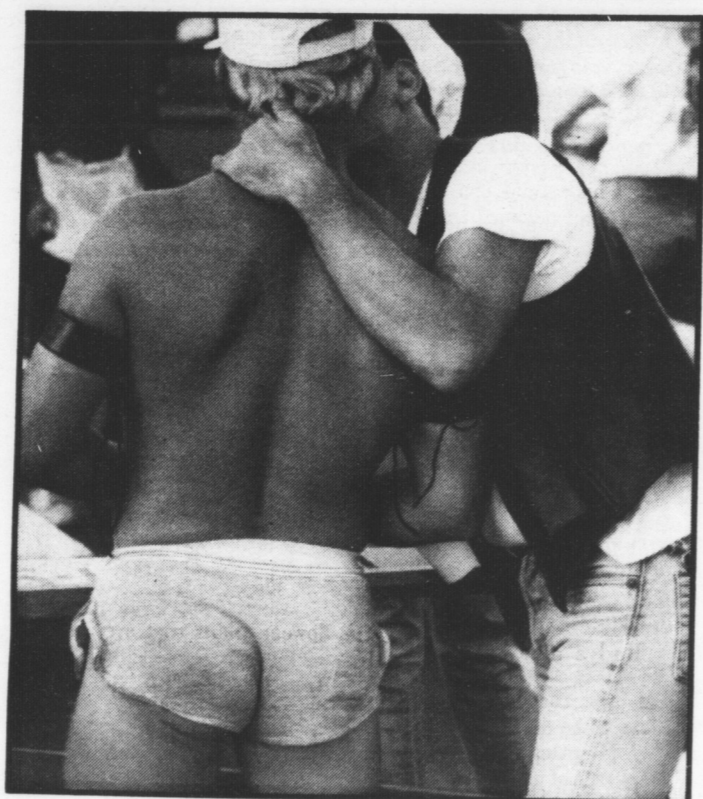
knew the mail order business could be so fascinating. Have you seen "Dildo—The Movie" yet? Sales of the M.E.N. video of "Men Behind Bars" is running neck and neck with "Dildo"!!!

Saddest news I got this week is that The Baybrick Inn on Folsom is closing for good on Saturday, Oct. 3. The "Bye-Bye Bay B" party begins at 2000 hours Saturday and ends at 0700 on Sunday morning. The fabulous Marga Gomez will MC the VIP toasts beginning at 2330 hours and the DJ's all night include Donna Rego, Stefanie Phillips, Page Hodel, and Lauren Hewitt who will Meet The Press around 2000 hours.

I've had many opportunities to visit and down a few at the Baybrick. Owner Lauren Hewitt had the right idea for a women's bar (men welcome) and lots of community involvement. The Baybrick gave a lot of push to stand-up comedy, men and women and they've won a lot of awards for their efforts for their community efforts. Yeah, Lauren, we're sad too. Lots of fine and lasting relationships were formed there.

The 3-day closing partying starts tonight with Bonnie Hayes at 2000. The Blazing Redheads (of course!) perform from 2200 followed by dancing. Friday, all the former favorite comics begin performing at 2000 hours and the Grand Finale is Saturday night.

I just want to say thanks to Lauren Hewitt and her great staff—the Baybrick Inn—it was always a gas. Thanks for all those wonderful nights and thanks for



Boy meets boy at the Folsom Street Fair (Photo: S. Martin)

your interest in the welfare of all the community—you were right on!

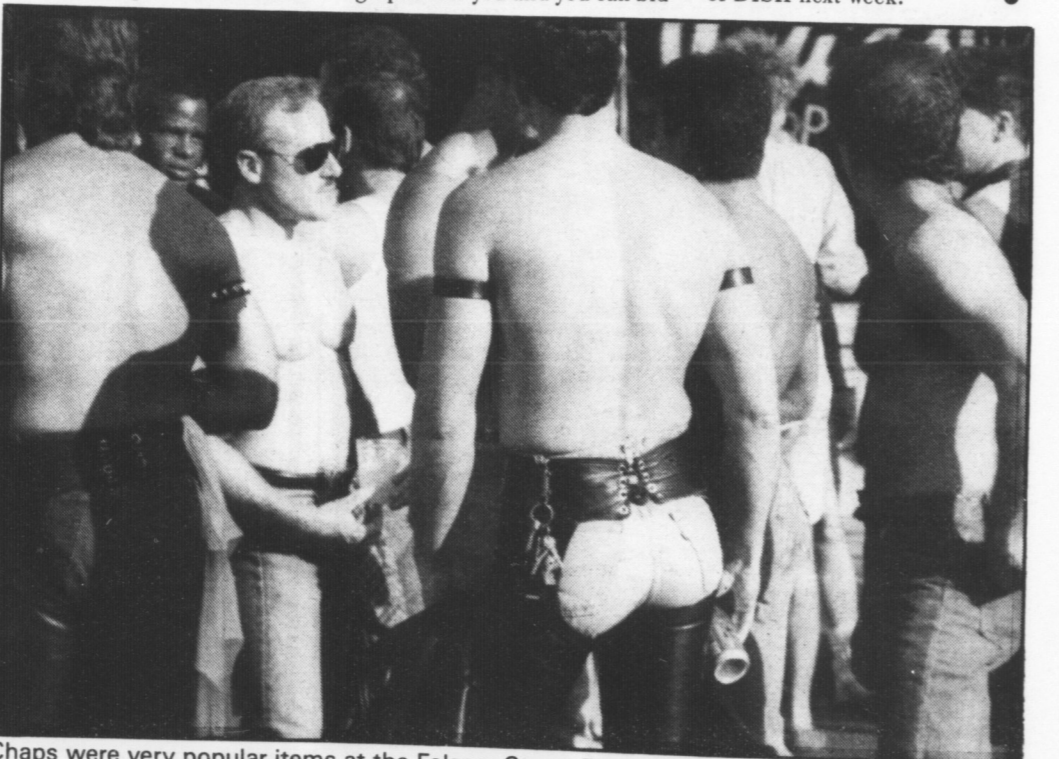
Don't forget the Society of Janus Erotic Art Faire this Saturday, Oct. 3. Call (415) 848-0452 for location and directions, but only if you're positively interested in S&M. Hi, Karen! Much success with the show!

And don't forget the 1988 Bare Chest Calendar makes its debut on Friday, Oct. 16 with most of the winners on hand to autograph it for you and you can bid

for a dinner date with one or more of them. A benefit for the AIDS Emergency Fund.

This Saturday, Oct. 3 too, Ms. Tatiana's First Saturday show is at Kimo's starting at 2100 hours; only \$5 with Flame, Grand Duke Tom Roller, Lola Lust, Big D, Inga and Jacqueline.

Have fun at the Castro Fair; take care and be safe. Are you gearing up to compete in the Mr. South of Market Contest? Think about it. Keep your legs crossed and stay out of the bushes. Lots of DISH next week!



Chaps were very popular items at the Folsom Street Fair (Photo: S. Martin)

## Sweet Lips

### Pennies Add Up



Pennies were collected at Bingo night last Thursday

(Photo: S. Martin)

This Sunday, Oct. 4 the New Bell Saloon is presenting an "Affair" in recognition of and for the benefit of Mark Friese. It starts at 2 p.m. with a plant and etc. auction with lots of entertainment including David Kelsey, Davida and the Galleon's own Bob Sandner. Even Harry Gardner and LaKish will be there as guest auctioneers, so don't miss it.

If you ever want or need a great piano player, listen to Trixie of Sutter's Mill, a very talented and hunky guy—and not a bad drag queen.

Had a nice card from Bob Dunn who is still in Las Vegas but is bored as hell and wishes he was back here on Geary Street stirring. Come on home, honey.

Happy Birthday greeting, this week, to the Widow Doan of the popular Reflections Bar on Polk Street. Incidentally, Widow, the bar does look a lot better now.

Across the street you have the popular Giraffe Bar with the handsome Bill on the planks, days Tuesday through Friday, so drop by for a popular libation with him and tell him the Lips sent you as I promise you'll enjoy him as well as the Giraffe.

Spanish Rose, aka Jimmy Steger, is still doing well out there at Laguna Honda and his Harry does bring him downtown once in awhile. Let me know when you'll be coming the next time, Rose, as we all want to say hi.

Flash: New bartender at the Rawhide 2. Mike, very hunky, recently returned from the East Coast. He used to be here seven years ago. So do drop by and see and drink with him.

Thanks to Tony: Char is in Europe, Kenny is in Chicago and Art is in Clear Lake, so they are thinking of remodeling the Kokpit.

The Gate at Pine and Jones is still on the upswing in collecting pennies for AIDS Emergency Fund and would you believe they have over \$3,000 so far. So if you have any and would like to contribute them they'll pick them up if you call 885-2852 after 3 p.m. A great cause.

Note: The Godfather Service Fund in the last four months increased to include four more hospitals making a total of eight hospitals. They need volunteers, donations, refrigerators, video tapes and other things. So, if you have anything, please call the San

Francisco Tavern Guild at 771-6133. Okay Tony?

A memo to Sophie of the Inner Circle in Chicago: Jack Sebok and Jim Laine want to hear from you when you are here in November and yes, I have the number.

Jimmy Quinn, aka 'Mare,' and his 'Nanny' David have returned from a three week stay on the continent and said that they had a marvelous time in London and are looking forward to returning shortly. But you did need the rest, Jimmy.

Watch for all of the great Halloween plans that are forming, especially Jerry Colletti's bus from the Galleon Restaurant, home of our current Empress Tina. Sutter's Mill will be doing a biggie on the Friday before Halloween with all of the help in costume and I am sure you'll be the 'star' of it all, Metz.

Don't forget the Octoberfest, Oct. 9-11 at the White Swallow on Polk Street especially with the great food being served by Aunt Martha's Kitchen. They are going all out for this spectacular event.

This Saturday, Oct. 3 at Kimo's Show Room, Tatiana will be having her first Saturday show and it promises to be spectacular so don't miss, right Jay Noonan?

Also this Sunday, Oct. 4 is the Castro Street Fair that will have just about everyone in the city out there at one time or the other. Yes, you are going to be doing something wonderful again this year, aren't you, Bella?

Be prepared for the Portland Coronation on Oct. 24. They go all out in Portland and I am sure that Emperor Ray and Empress Peacock will be doing something out of sight with the theme being 'A Steamy Night—The Copa Reopens.' But can you picture the event starting at 6 p.m. prompt. That is so the ball is over by midnight and everyone returns to their favorite bar. Mine, of course, being the Embers/Avenue at 110 N.W. Broadway, so don't miss the ball or the Embers/Avenue, right Steve and Steve?

Just to let you all know that the great Maggi Jiggs passed away a few weeks ago and will be missed by his many friends from coast to coast—New York, Providence Town, San Francisco, Miami and New Orleans, and too many places to list. You have made it to the 'Stairway to Paradise,' Jiggs.

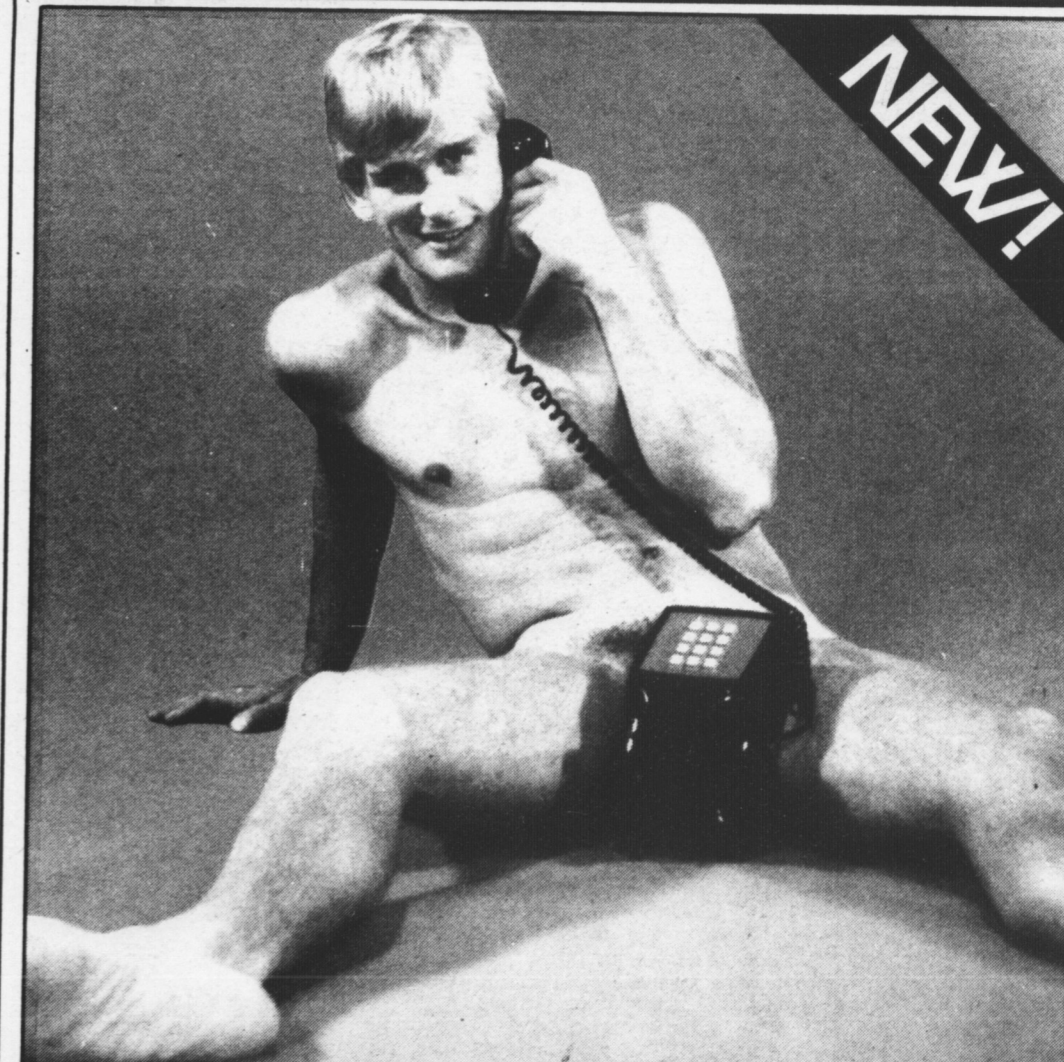
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## Irma

(Continued from page 28)

fore you go. What you do need to know is that two actors, whose way with costumes, characters, and words is very unusual, fill the stage for nearly two hours with a parade of delicious outrages.

Chances are that the extreme technical requirements of the show, already well handled, will become second nature to the cast and crew very soon. As that process settles in, some of the comic possibilities that are not yet being exploited will turn up on stage. Until then, *Irma Vep*, which is a potential 10 (on a scale of ...), is already a seven or eight on the laugh meter.

## "Ojos Que No Ven": A Clarification

Apologies are due to Jose Gutierrez and Jose Vergelin, respectively the Director and the Production Manager of the Latino AIDS Project's new educational video, *Ojos Que No Ven* (*Eyes That Fail To See*), reviewed here in our Sept. 17 issue. The omission of their names was an unintentional oversight.

Additionally, Rodrigo Reyes was incorrectly identified here

as the Videomaker. In fact, *Ojos* included the contributions of many talented artists from within the Latino community, including Reyes' imaginative script; Isaac Villanueva's original musical composition, "La Cumbia del SIDA"; and the considerable expertise of numerous actors, consultants, and Project staff.

—Wendell Ricketts

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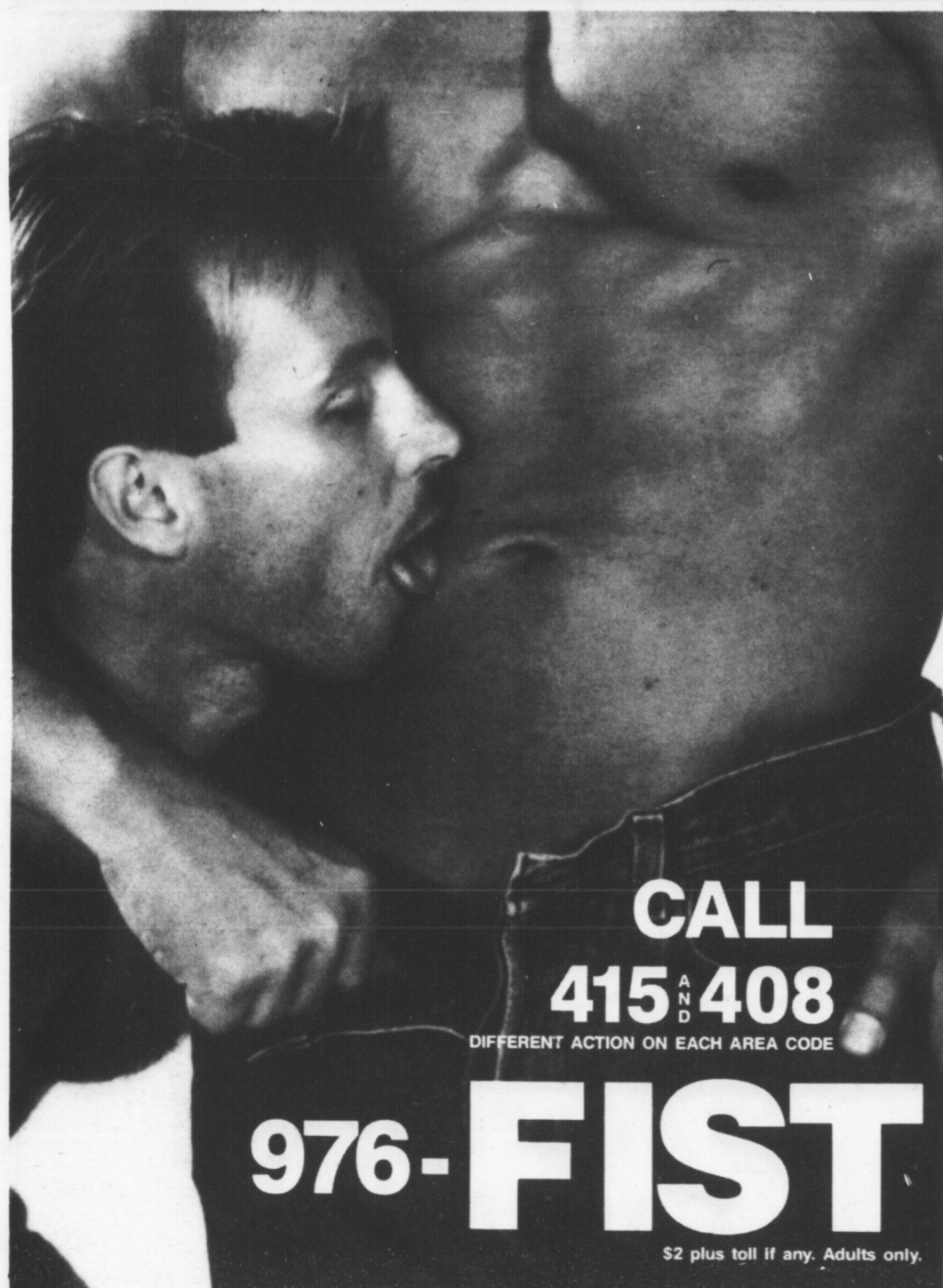
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## GOING OUT OF OUR MINDS: THE METAPHYSICS OF LIBERATION



SONIA JOHNSON

## Johnson

(Continued from page 26)

### A VIABLE ALTERNATIVE

Her current commitment is to creating a viable alternative to that intolerance, an alternative based on women acknowledging the intrinsic value of their femaleness. Where women's values are assessed on their own merit rather than by contrast to patriarchal standards.

"I'm trying and succeeding, more and more in living in a world of my own. Where competitiveness isn't necessary anymore. I want to create collectives

and women's communities in a new way. We've got to get ourselves into groups and say, 'let us now concentrate upon dynamics and vow that we'll go on, that we'll make this work come hell or ... whatever. To be together. That is the revolution.'"

She sounds determined but cheerful as she says this, as well she might. For, to a woman who has taken on Ronald Reagan, the Mormon Church and the metaphysics of her own soul, the coming of hell should hold little fear.

Alone or in a group of like-minded others, Sonia Johnson will no doubt cut another trail and prove, yet again, that she is equal to the challenge.

## Biloxi Blues

(Continued from page 28)

to react) to them. One of his diary entries in a notebook which serves as his diary states that he thinks Arnold Epstein, his fellow Jew in the barracks, might be a homosexual and "it bothers me that it bothers me."

Arnold is an intellectual, wearing thick-rimmed glasses, who's read "War and Peace" five times, who's being accused by the prejudiced barracks-bully of being a fag and/or a thief, and who refuses to compromise with the Army and its indignities and insane logic (and therefore spends most of his nonreading time cleaning latrines). When the battle-damaged sergeant creates a theft (which, in turn, causes racial acrimony), just to make a point, it is Epstein who outspokenly objects to his "creating a crime ... Neanderthal in its conception."

Shades of entrapment!

The sergeant makes a federal case out of a homosexual-in-our-midst mystery and harps on the word, "fellatio," which gives rise to Epstein's scoffing that it might be like an Agatha Christie mystery, like "Murder by Fellatio" or "Murder on the Fellatio Express" (also: "sounds like an Italian ice cream"), of course, the fellating "culprit" is discharged from the U.S. Army.

Eugene, the aspiring writer, and incipient liberal, is instructed by Arnold that, if he is to become a writer, he cannot be

just a detached observer. He cannot write clever diary entries. He cannot remain forever "neutral, like Switzerland." He will have to fight for some principles.

Eugene feels guilt when he fails to defend Arnold against attacks by others. The character of Arnold Epstein—outspoken, principled, idealistic and somewhat intellectually snobbish—is the catalyst in the play for Eugene in his maturation, as well as the author's. While Eugene becomes more adult in this play, Neil Simon becomes more adult in his play writing.

This more adult, or mature, Neil Simon is still very funny, very witty. In the tradition of handing down from one generation to another, the task of directing was given to Simon's daughter, Nancy Simon, who had previously worked as assistant to her father and to directors like Mike Nichols.

Their confidence in her was justified. I only wish she had seen to it that Kevin Hardesty's performance as Arnold Epstein was more intense and uncompromising, as Barry Miller's had been on Broadway. Ted W. Henning was impressive as the bullying Wykowski, who, according to Eugene, had a permanent erection, and who, according to Arnold, "eats Hershey bars with the wrapper still on them."

Peter Birkenhead, as Eugene Jerome, was engaging and likeable, with the smile, movement and some mannerisms of Matthew Broderick, who is still the most famous Eugene Jerome. ●

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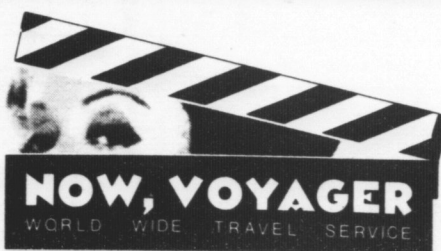
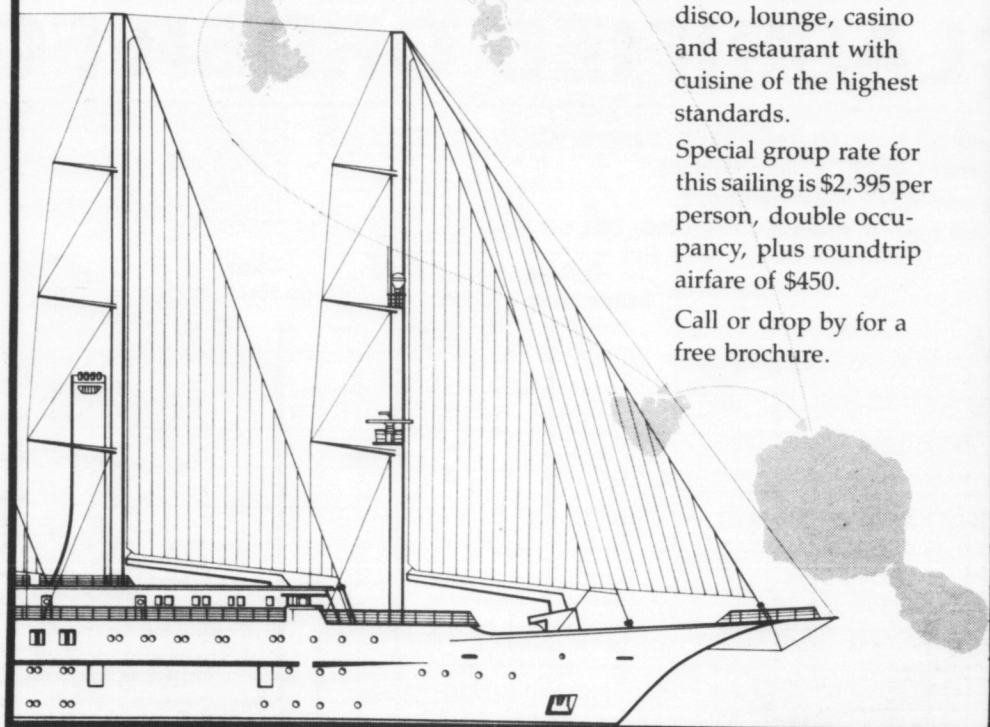
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# BAY AREA REPORTER

VOL. XVII NO. 41 OCTOBER 8, 1987

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(Photo: S. Martin)

## Making Hay From AIDS

### ★ Republicans Plan A Scare Campaign Memos Reveal Strategy for '88

by Jay Newquist

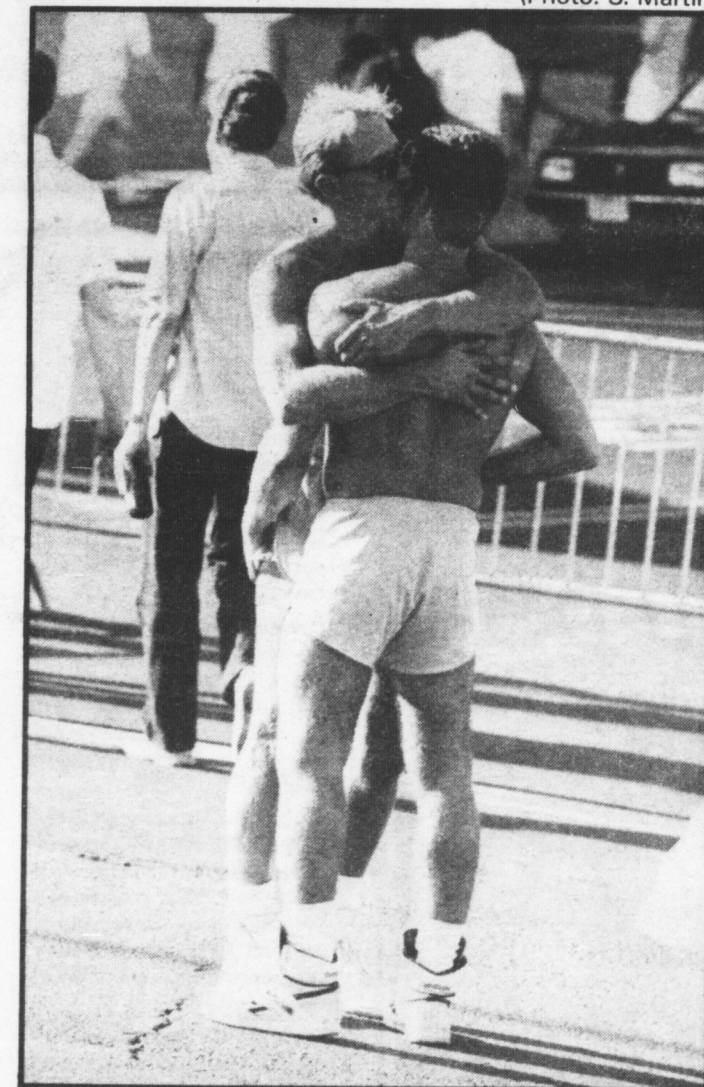
An AIDS scare campaign is being considered by state and national Republicans as a strategy to unseat Democrats who are sympathetic to the health crisis. A San Francisco consulting firm under contract to the Republican Party has proposed a plan to "incite a public groundswell" against Democratic candidates who are perceived "soft" on AIDS issues.

In a series of confidential memos obtained by the Bay Area Reporter, a local consulting firm hired by the Republicans recommends a careful approach to whip up AIDS hysteria.

"(We must) sound reasonable, play for emotion," the memos report, "and above all make it appear as if the [Republican] party is responding to a public ground-whip up AIDS hysteria."

(Continued on Page 14)

# A Day At The Fair



(Photo: R. Pruzan)

## Today

**FRANKLY SPEAKING:** Openly gay Congressman Barney Frank of Massachusetts called current federal AIDS funding "adequate" in an interview with Tim Taylor. **Page 3.**

**ON THE FENCE:** The Toklas Democratic Club again split and failed to endorse in the upcoming Nov. 3 mayor's race. Both John Molinari and Art Agnos claimed victory. **Page 5.**

**WHAT'S LOVE** got to do with it? Nothing, says the winner of a \$2.3 million "palimony" verdict in S.F. court. The case was won on simple contract law, he says. **Page 12.**

**DRUG RESEARCH** will begin at the state level in the quest for an AIDS cure. California becomes the first state to review drugs itself, in a slap at the federal FDA. **Page 19.**

### ★ LaRouchites Begin New Prop. 64 Push Already Gathering Signatures

by Jay Newquist

The same Lyndon LaRouche supporters who put Proposition 64 on the ballot last year have proposed a new initiative urging quarantine for carriers of the AIDS virus.

Brian Lantz and Khushro Ghandi quietly filed AIDS Initiative Statute #395 last summer with California's Secretary of State. The remaining acolytes of LaRouche's crumbling empire must gather at least 372,178 signatures to qualify for the November 1988 ballot.

Lantz and Ghandi, who saw Prop. 64 lose 71-29 percent in 1986, provided the Elections Division with only a Livermore post office box drop as an ad-

dress. They are not listed in local telephone directories.

A spokesman for the Political Reform Division reported that

(Continued on page 2)

### ★ Feinstein Considers Mandatory Testing But Tells Health Panel to Decide

by Ray O'Loughlin

San Francisco Mayor Dianne Feinstein is urging that city agencies consider expanding HIV testing programs, including mandatory testing in some cases. Feinstein made her remarks in her final State of the City report, delivered to the Board of Supervisors Oct. 5.

"I believe that certain confidential testing or mandatory educational programs may be appropriate and beneficial—and should be considered," wrote Feinstein. Feinstein is believed by many to be running for governor in 1990.

She listed four groups where testing is to be expanded. They are members of high risk groups using venereal disease clinics,

abortion, family planning and drug programs; persons undergoing surgery; prisoners in jail; and marriage license applicants.

Asked if that meant the mayor was proposing widespread mandatory testing or expanded voluntary testing, press aide Tom Eastham said, "I presume both or either. The mayor is saying that such programs may be ap-

(Continued on page 2)