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BAY AREA REPORTER

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Fed. Cops Arrest AIDS Vigilers

Arrests Continue Daily; Protesters Chain Selves to Door

by Allen White

Arrests continue at the ARC/AIDS Vigil following the removal last Friday of beds and chains locked to the doors of the old Federal Building since Oct. 27, 1985. At press time, at least a dozen people had been arrested. As soon as arrests are made, new people chain themselves to the door.

Vigil protester John Belskus said, "At sometime between 2:30 and 3 in the morning [Dec. 11], the federal police came out and removed the beds and the chains, saying they were a fire hazard, that they were abandoned. So they decided after two years and two months they had a fire hazard on their hands."

At 5:30 on Friday morning, Randy Welsh, 24, became the first person in the history of the Vigil to actually be arrested for civil disobedience. "I chained myself to the door and sat down," he said. "About 15 minutes later the cops came and pulled the chains, took the bolt cutters, and took off the chains." Welsh was then arrested and later released without being charged.

Welsh said, "To me the beds represent what we are doing here more than the tents. The way I see it is to have a federal protest, you have to have some of your protest on federal land."

The next day the arrests began. At 11:50 a.m. the protesters put on rubber gloves. "It's part of the symbolism behind it," said Belskus. "They use gloves to arrest us. It is a form of protest against them."

At 11:55 federal police began to put on their plastic gloves. Over the plastic gloves they placed leather gloves. One of them grabbed a pair of bolt cut-

ters. With about 50 people watching, the second confrontation of the day began.

Then at noon, Belskus, Eric Basher and Garth Galena walked to the doors of the United States Federal Building and chained themselves to the door. Moments later federal police walked up to the protesters.

"You are in violation of the code of federal regulations," said the officer. "You are blocking the doorway and we are giving you the opportunity to be cited. Do you wish to leave?" The answer by the three was negative. They continued, "You are going to be placed under arrest for violation of federal regulations."

Galena, Basher and Belskus were then taken inside and arrested. Two-and-a-half hours later they were released. Each has a \$25 citation to pay or appear in court on Dec. 24. The charge is blocking a doorway.

(Continued on page 2)



Frank Richter (l.) and Gary Harmon were arrested at the AIDS Vigil after chaining themselves to the Federal Building (Photo: J. Dusch)

Today

It's the Gay Holiday Season: Mike Hippler writes about Christmas and Chanukah, pages 13 and 14, and Mary Richards goes shopping, page 11.

Pandering Or First Amendment Rights? Read Tom Horn's news analysis on page 16.

James Baldwin's Legacy: John Karr has the story on page 26.

They're Sorry Man Threatened By Attendant, Gets Apology From Mobil Oil

by Gregory Douthwaite

When a service station attendant refused to pump his gas and threatened to kick his "faggot ass," Todd Mangini was furious, and refused to shrug off the incident.

"I felt like I was back in high school," said the 29-year-old San Francisco hairdresser. "Only this time, rather than running away, I decided to do something."

With the help of National Gay Rights Advocates, Mangini wrote a letter to Mobil Oil Corporation, demanding appropriate action be taken. This week, he received a letter of apology from Mobil headquarters in New York City. "I am thrilled," said Mangini

in an interview from his busy Sutter Street salon. "Did you see the letter? They apologized about four times!"

The incident occurred one night last August, when Mangini pulled into the full-service island (Continued on page 2)

Walking The Quilt Like Entering A Very Quiet Place

Names Project Expects Thousands To See Quilt At Moscone Center

by Allen White

Tens of thousands of people are expected to visit the Names Project quilt which goes on display tonight at the Moscone Center. The display in San Francisco will include 2100 panels, 200 more than were displayed Oct. 11 at the National March on Washington for Lesbian and Gay Rights. All Bay Area panels that can be shown will be shown.

Starting next spring, the quilt will go on a national tour to 25 cities across the U.S. The tour has a projected budget of \$300,000 and is expected to raise funds in visited cities for AIDS services in those localities. (Continued on page 18)



Looking at the Quilt on the Mall

(Photo: M.J. Murphy)

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Vigil

(Continued from page 1)

FEDERAL PROPERTY

At 6 p.m. Terry Beswick, Frank Richter and Gary Harmon became the next to be arrested. Richter and Harmon spent last weekend in jail and appeared before a federal magistrate last Monday morning.

Harvey Maurer, another of the Vigil protesters, said the arrests will continue. "We are inviting people to bring chains. They're expensive," he said. "We are hoping to continue compelling them to arrest people or cease the practice of arresting people."

The tents and the information area of the Vigil, which are on city land continue unthreatened.

It is significant that the arrests are made by the federal, not San Francisco police. The doors of the building are federal property.

The ARCAIDS Vigil is supported by the San Francisco Board of Supervisors which passed a resolution in November, 1985. That action gives the protest a unique type of support.

Gary Harmon, who was arrested Friday night, is a person with AIDS who gives the Vigil as his home address. His address on the city voting rolls is 50 1/2 United Nations Plaza, and that is where he gets his mail.

Discussing the actions of last Friday, Maurer commented, "When they cut the chains and removed the beds they made a statement that the Vigil was no longer a federal problem. I believe that they were saying that the Vigil no longer has a site on federal land. But there is another interpretation which means that now they are no longer considering us at all."



John Belskus addresses the throng at the protest rally at the AIDS Vigil (Photo: Rink)

"We have deemed it important to be able to communicate our demonstration on federal land and we are persisting and insisting on that. We don't want them to be confused and we don't want others to be confused. So we are continuing," said Maurer.

UNCERTAIN FUTURE

How the future of the protest will evolve is still not determined. Several at the Vigil site have discussed a mass confrontation. One person suggested that several hundred people might become chained to the doors. Another suggested a wall of people completely surrounding the building with people chained to every door.

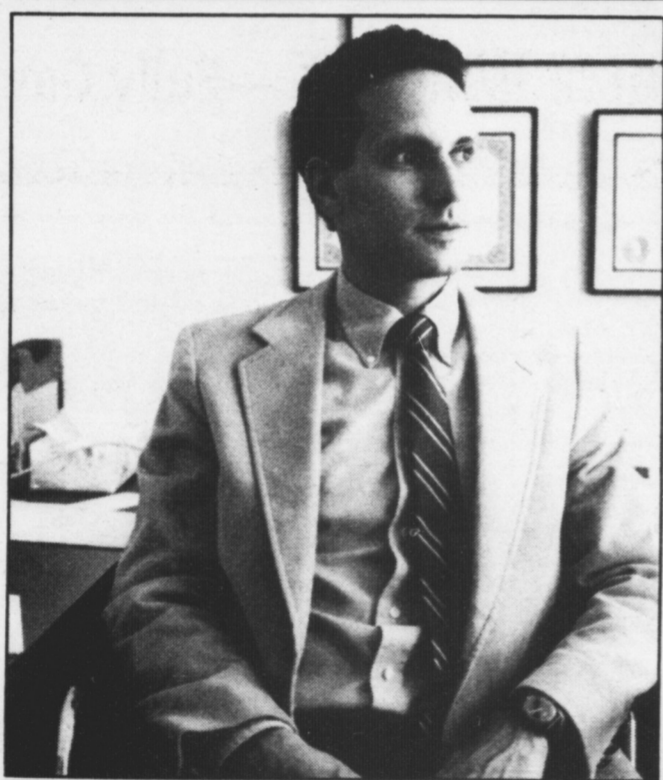
Maurer cautiously noted, "I believe it's going to take a couple of weeks to build up the type of communication and to draw the people."

Just moments before he was arrested, John Belskus said, "People chained themselves two years and two months ago because the policies of the Reagan Administration were criminally inadequate. Those policies are still inadequate today. Not enough money is going for research to find a cure. Not enough money is going for medical services that are needed. There is a super critical shortage of medical personnel that is developing. We need the funding and the policies for what is necessary to protect people's lives during the AIDS epidemic. The federal government is still not engaged in an educational program to let people know across the country how the virus is and isn't transmitted. As long as those policies are not in place, we will continue chaining ourselves at this federal building."

Eric Basher said, "If they want to cut the chains down, we'll get more chains. If they want to arrest us, we'll get more bodies. We're going to be heard. Our four moral appeals are going to be met. It might not be today, it might not be tomorrow, but we're going to be here until it is."

Federal police would not comment when questioned. Instead they gave a statement directing calls to a government spokesperson. Each attempt to locate the person was met with the response that they were in meetings.

The ARCAIDS Vigil began Oct. 27, 1985. The location is the old Federal Building on United Nations Plaza which is the location of the local office of the Department of Health and Human Services. Over 40 participants in the Vigil have died of AIDS in the last two years. ●



Leonard Graff (Photo: S. Martin)

Mobil

(Continued from page 1)

of Bob's Lafayette Service in the suburban town of Lafayette. He was driving a friend's car, and wasn't sure which side her tank was on, so he got out to check.

The attendant, a "big old beer-bellied redneck," came up and asked gruffly, "What do you want?" Mangini said.

Mangini, whose voice is sometimes mistaken for a woman's on the telephone, explained the situ-

ation and paid the attendant who ordered him back in the car.

"When are you going to push the button?" the attendant asked impatiently.

Mangini couldn't find the device which opens the tank cover. He was tired, and maybe a little bitchy, he admits. He told the attendant, "Cool your jets."

The attendant handed him back his \$5 and said, "Get out of here. I don't want to serve you," Mangini said.

Mangini asked the attendant his name. He replied menacing-

ly, "Get out of here before I kick your faggot ass," Mangini said.

NRCA legal director Leonard Graff said, "The type of behavior exhibited at this service station is obnoxious bigotry at its worst. Furthermore, in California, threats of violence based on sexual orientation are actionable under the Ralph Civil Rights Act, which provides for minimum damages of \$10,000."

'WRITE A LETTER'

Graff told Mangini his options: write a letter demanding an apology, call the B.A.R. to investigate, or organize a protest. With no witnesses, a lawsuit wouldn't go too far, Graff said. Mangini opted to write the letter, which Graff helped him to compose.

In reply, Mobil said the incident in no way "reflects any policy or position of Mobil's and we share your concerns." The company further promised that the incident will be considered when Mobil makes a determination about continuing its business relationship with the franchise owner, Robert Lamb.

NGRA executive director Jean O'Leary said that a recent government report shows that gay men and lesbians are the most frequent victims of hate-motivated violence. We are targeted for assault, verbal harassment and vandalism more than any other minority group, she said.

"We simply will not tolerate these attacks on our right to live free from the fear of physical and psychological abuse, based on someone else's prejudices." ●

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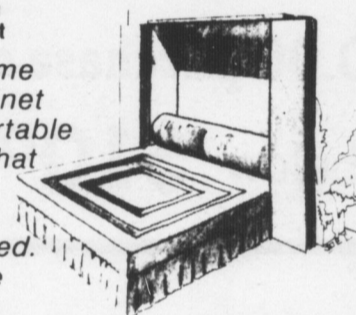
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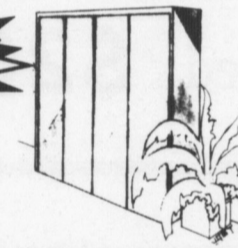
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Church Wants Symbols Kept On Hospice Building

Parish Wants Cross Highlighted; Hospice Says That Violates Agreement

by Jay Newquist

A unique landlord-tenant dispute threatens the relationship of Most Holy Redeemer Church and Coming Home Hospice who are at fundamental odds over the place of religion in the Diamond Street building. The people at the hospice say they have received complaints for some time from clients and their relatives who object to the presence of a religious cross and the name of the Most Holy Redeemer Church emblazoned across the hospice building, a former convent, at 115 Diamond. At the same time, church officials would like those "religious symbols emphasized."

The skirmish began with the renovation of the building by the hospice in 1986. That work obscured the cross and lettering—or blended them into the facade—with a new paint job.

The church complained that it was not notified about the camouflage and recently asked hospice to highlight the cross and lettering, bringing them into full view.

Bill Haskell, program manager at hospice, said that interference of the church, Coming Home's landlord, was inconsistent with the secular identity of Coming Home Hospice.

"We're a non-denominational healthcare provider leasing the building," Haskell said. "We work in cooperation with the church, but we don't want to put off any people who aren't Catholic, or anyone else who may be offended."

Father Anthony McGuire, pastor of Most Holy Redeemer, said the spiritual nature of the former church building was unavoidable, and the church valued its bonding with the hospice.

"We understand that the cross may be an obstacle to some people, but we feel just the opposite, that it is a source of strength," said McGuire.



The dedication of the Most Holy Redeemer Convent as Coming Home Hospice (Photo: T. Plewik)

He realized the present situation was a fait accompli, but his parish council has suggested a compromise. They requested that the hospice simply highlight the lettering and let the cross remain untouched and unaltered.

"It's not what we would really like," Father McGuire said. "We feel the church is part of the building in a very real way."

Bill Haskell likened the disagreement to a family spat.

But he acknowledged that people who leave their family, lovers, and friends at hospice are quite upset by the spectre of a homophobic Catholic church hovering in the waiting room.

A resigned Father McGuire concluded that the cross and lettering had more of a historical significance to 115 Diamond than a religious importance.

"Whatever happens," he said somberly, "we can live with it."

Castro Tree Lighted With Many Names

Christmas Tree Becomes Personal Monument

by Allen White

The lights went out in the Castro last Sunday night just moments before the official lighting of the community Christmas Tree at Castro and 18th Street. Two San Francisco police cars came to the rescue, illuminating the star on the top of the tree with their searchlights. The unlighting was just one of the unpredictable events surrounding the tree. Early morning risers on Saturday found the tree laying halfway across Castro.

At 8 a.m. the volunteers gathered in front of Hibernia Bank to begin the task of putting the tree in place. Many people were on top of the building ready to pull lines while others worked in the street. Because of its size the raising of the tree became a monumental task.

The tree is huge. J.D. Larson, Eureka Valley Merchants Association president, said the tree was 45 feet high. It came from Humboldt County and was donated by Dan Ferguson.

Throughout the day Sunday there were people selling ornaments and banners for placement on the tree. Others created their own ornaments and brought them down to the location. The tree is bedecked with remembrances of those who have died of

AIDS. A cherry picker crane hovered over the tree most of the day as workers placed decorations on it. The tree is co-sponsored this year by the Names Project and the Eureka Valley Merchants Association.

Just moments before 6, the power went out on Castro Street from Market to 19th Street. Power stayed on only where businesses received their power from a side street power source.

Singers from the San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus sang out in the chill night underneath the darkened tree. As the chorus continued to sing it became apparent that the lights would probably not come on.

Larson then dedicated the tree to people who have died of AIDS.

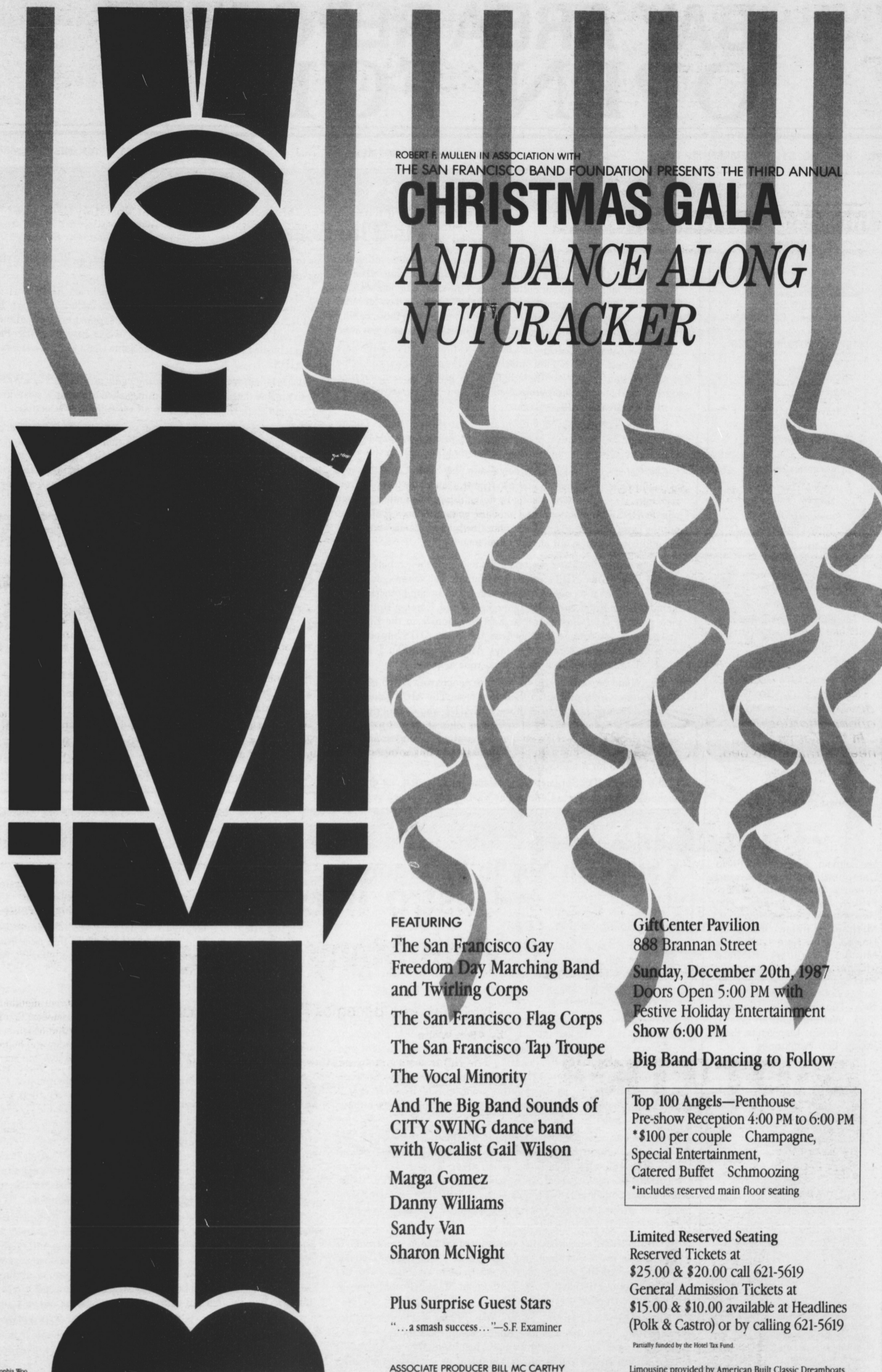
He added, "We also dedicate the tree to the future, that we can celebrate our life, our existence and that we can be a joyous group in this celebration." In the dark he took a deep breath and dramatically stated, "We declare the lights are on."

Across the street members of the San Francisco Gay Freedom Day Marching Band struck up a musical note as several began to sing, "Now we don our gay apparel." The Love That Dares Bookshop, didn't lose their electrical power giving light to the musicians to see the music.

Larson, who owns Pak Mail on Castro, said, "We are very happy to work with the Names Project. We've also had a better than normal response from the merchants in donations to this project. Financially, as well in the giving of time. It takes a lot."

Larson particularly credited John Keane. "He has worked extremely hard. He is a neighborhood resident who has coordinated the project with the merchants and the Names Project."

The Christmas Tree has become a tradition in the Castro. Since the start of the AIDS crisis, the tree has become a place to remember friends, lovers and family who have died. Any person can bring ornaments for placement on the tree. They should be brought to the Names Project workshop on Market Street. ●



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NATIONAL & WORLD NEWS

Mass. Rights Bill Needs Action

Send a letter to Massachusetts Gov. Michael Dukakis. The Boston Lesbian and Gay Political Alliance is urging people to write Dukakis to let him know that the national gay community is watching his actions on the Massachusetts Gay and Lesbian Rights Bill (H. 5469). The state legislature passed the bill recently. If it gets through a last hurdle in a Third Reading Committee, it goes to Dukakis for his signature.

Letters are needed urging the governor to push the bill through the committee in time for his signature before the legislative session ends Jan. 5. If the bill gets bottled up in committee, it is dead. Send letters to the Committee to Elect Michael Dukakis, 105 Chauncy St., Boston MA 02111, attn: Susan Estridge. You can also call (617) 727-3600. ●

Boston Council Backs Down

BOSTON—U.S. District Judge Ryan Zobei ordered the reinstatement of two aides to Boston Councilman David Scondras Nov. 18. The two had been fired by the City Council because they were involved in the defense of a man charged with child molesting. Scondras had refused to fire them, so the council took the matter out of his hands.

The court order reinstated Gary Dotterman and French Wall and awarded them back pay to Sept. 30 when they were fired.

Racist Group Believed Responsible For Murders

SHELBY, N.C.—Three unsolved murders of men in an adult bookstore have been called the work of an anti-gay, white supremacist group. An informant told a federal grand jury that the execution style murders that took place in January were motivated by homophobia. Police had originally attributed the killings to what they called "homosexual romances gone sour."

—Miami Weekly News

Anti-Gay Pol Forced To Quit

TRAVERSE CITY, MI—City Commissioner John Markl, who had made several anti-gay remarks during discussions of the commission's attempt to repeal an ordinance that restricts the sale of condoms to physicians and pharmacists, has resigned. When petitions were signed by 1200 town residents calling for the removal of Markl, he quit, announcing "I'm divorcing myself from the entire situation." The commission voted 4-3 to repeal the ordinance that restricted the sale of condoms. The commission is also studying whether or not there is a need to establish further restrictions of condom distribution.

—Chicago Outlines

Charges Dropped In Court Protest

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Twelve lesbians and gay men were granted dismissals of all criminal charges against them resulting from their participation in the Oct. 13 civil disobedience action at the U.S. Supreme Court. The group appeared before D.C. Superior Court Commissioner Roy M. Ellis on Dec. 2. Each had entered a plea of not guilty at the October arraignment to charges of unlawful entry and demonstrating on Supreme Court grounds.

Commissioner Ellis dismissed the charges against each demonstrator after the prosecution's witness, a police officer, did not appear for the trials. Noting that the activists had traveled great distances at their own expense to appear in court, Commissioner Ellis said, "I cannot ask them to return two or three more times just because the District of Columbia cannot manage its own security forces and guarantee the appearance of the state's own witness."

One of the twelve civil disobedience participants, Cathy Hoffman of Cambridge, Mass., said "Although I'm disappointed that First Amendment issues were not pursued, I'm delighted the state was not allowed to drag this out and that our charges were dismissed. And though I'd certainly rather have the chance to speak in court, the statement that we made on Oct. 13 spoke powerfully of our numbers, the solidarity of lesbians and gay men, and the determination of our movement."

Four participants in the October action will return to D.C. Superior Court in December and January. Support for those with court dates is being coordinated by Sue Hyde, Director of the Privacy Project of the National Gay & Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF). Any persons needing help with a court appearance in connection with the civil disobedience may contact her at (202) 332-6483. ●

Researchers Find HIV Positive Men Convert Negative

BALTIMORE—Researchers at Johns Hopkins Hospital are studying several people who suddenly tested negative for exposure to the AIDS virus after repeated positive tests, according to a report broadcast Nov. 11.

The researchers are confident the tests were accurate. They are trying to find out whether some people might be able to rid themselves of the AIDS virus naturally. WBALTV reported.

"The observation is very interesting," said Dr. Homayoon Farzadegan, a researcher at Hopkins' AIDS unit. "It could mean some answers to that question. Are people being infected in the world that can get rid of the virus?"

In reviewing lab test results of patients who had tested positive for the AIDS virus, the researchers said they discovered at least three people who tested negative for HIV after repeated retesting had earlier produced positive results.

The study is due to be reported in the British medical journal Lancet in the near future.

—Associated Press reports

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BAY AREA REPORTER

Start Your X-mas Shopping Yet? As Long As The Gift Is Bought With Love, You Can't Miss

by Mary Richards

Some people approach shopping with the same zeal and intensity they might approach, say, buying a house. Shopping is Serious Business to these folks, and woe betide any hapless person whom fate may choose to cross their path.

There is the shopper who doesn't really care what he or she buys, as long as it costs something and is wrapped. The more intricate the wrapping, the better the gift.

Then we have the person who is so dazed by the trauma of the experience that they always end up buying the wrong thing: shoes that don't fit the feet they're supposed to adorn, a scarf one would only bring out on Halloween, or that delightful piece of jewelry you can send on to your aunt in Milwaukee.

What do lesbians and gays buy for Christmas? What a silly question. They buy the same things everybody else does—or do they? We decided to take a Saturday afternoon and see exactly what's out there for the discerning woman and man in the gay community.

First stop was Church Street (extending our "borders" a bit, but certainly still to be considered a part of Castroville). We were interested to find a frame to fit our Gay Games II poster.

We met Scott Alpert at Frame-works, and they are a busy bunch, no doubt about it. He pointed to his order calendar and said they were now doing frames to be ready the 61st of December.

Off we went, on our whirlwind tour, only to stop at the Stagecoach/Western Man shop on Market Street. It's heaven here for all you cowboys and cowgirls. (The word cow, of course, is only used in a generic sense, not to insinuate that any of our readers are fat.)

No Christmas inventory would be complete without stopping at a leather shop, so we walked next door to Image Leather. Here we were treated to an interesting array of designer cockings in bronze and silver; black and red leather roses; and our favorite, a lovely golden arrow to pierce, not the heart, but that special part of the chest which some among us like to highlight.

Further up, at Au Naturel on Market, we were treated to a drink of wheat grass. We're thinking health this year, and as the sign on the door says, "A gift of Health is A Gift of Love." This is undoubtedly true, but the thought of grass is a bit off-putting. It does taste good, and they say it purifies the blood and gives a person extra energy.

Books are always a good gift, so we peeked into A Different Light on Castro Street. We are reminded to reread James Baldwin, Truman Capote, and many others of our prolific gay and lesbian writers. An expanded travel section highlights places where we can rendezvous with new friends throughout the world.

Good wine is always a welcome gift, and this year our choice is Amis DeCoeur, a vintage specially made to generate a donation to the United Way's AIDS Crisis Fund. It's a beautifully bottled Sauvignon Blanc, which tastes as



Headlines is full of Dinosaurs for Christmas (Photo: S. Savage)

elegant as it looks. Castro Village Wines and Liquor Express, among others, carry this special vintage.

No stop in this area would be complete without a tour of Headlines, and there we have our usual array of dinosaurs in every type and size, fun writing paper (palm trees and flamingoes seem to proliferate), odd-shaped vases, and best of all, a little item that might remind a friend of those few great days you spent together in Key West. It's supposed to be an ashtray, but no matter: it could be used to hold nuts or candy. It's a little scene all to itself, with a mini-pool and diving board, palm tree, and red and white striped lounging chair.

Well, there it is. Just a small sampling of the many fun, fantastical gifts that are available for Christmas. And whether you choose to brave the big stores or just pop into our specialty shops in the Castro, as long as that gift is bought with love, you can't miss.

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Congregation Sha'ar Zahav

No Need To Compromise

by Mike Hippler

The first thing Rabbi Yoel Kahn wants people to know is that "this is not our holiday season. It happens that Chanukah falls near Christmas, but our High Holidays are in September—Rosh Hashanah, the Jewish New Year, followed by Yom Kippur ten days later. Chanukah is a fun holiday, one we enjoy, but in the scheme of things, it's a minor one."

Consequently, it is understandable that Rabbi Kahn views the Christian effort to promote Chanukah as a separate-but-equal alternative to Christmas as well-intentioned but basically condescending. "We don't resent this, but it is a little oppressive," he says. "There's so much Christ-

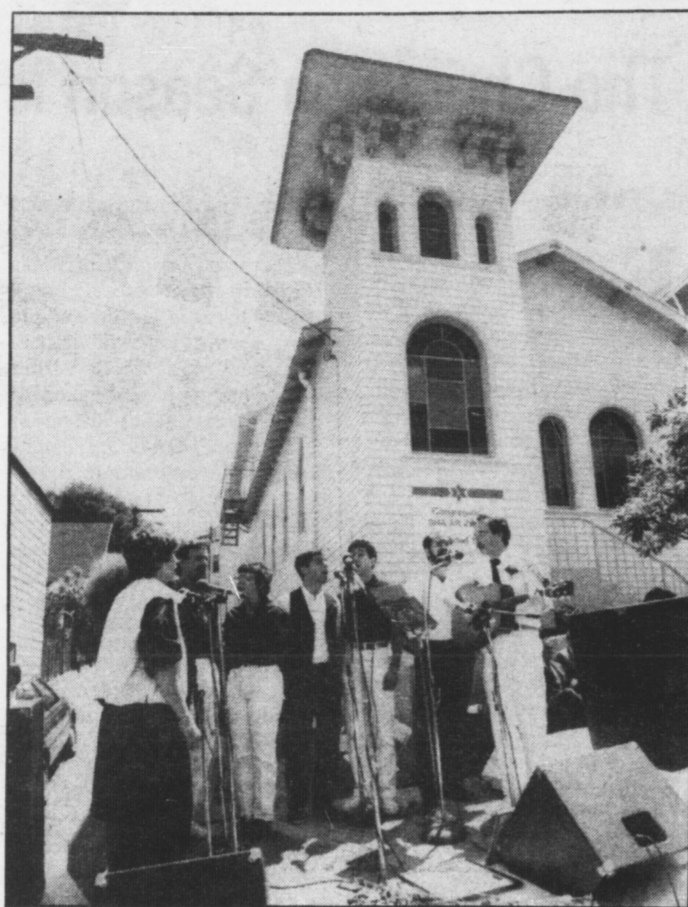
mas everywhere—the music, the trees, the lights, the decorations. Everyone is presumed to share in the spirit—but not everyone does."

Fortunately, most people in Rabbi Kahn's Sha'ar Zahav congregation are secure enough that they feel no need to celebrate in an alternative fashion. "Both as gay people and as Jews," says Kahn, "we don't copy what the mainstream does but work to develop our own program, our own strengths."

In spite of this, the Rabbi is happy to explain the history and meaning of Chanukah for the unlighted. "It commemorates a civil war in Palestine in the year 165 B.C.E.," he says, "in

which the Jews rebelled against the Greek government because the government had tried to forbid Jewish religious practices. Therefore, it was a place of battle for civil and religious rights on the part of a minority against a majority."

"The name, 'Chanukah,' means 'dedication,'" continues Kahn. "Not only does the holiday mark the rededication of the temple in Jerusalem, it also marks the rededication to self, to what a person stands for, especially in the face of majority oppression. This is the contemporary significance of Chanukah for gay and lesbian people. It is a model of spiritual and physical resistance."



The dedication of Congregation Sha'ar Zahav's temple (Photo: Rink)

To celebrate the holiday, the Sha'ar Zahav congregation, which consists of more than 400 members and meets at the synagogue at 220 Danvers St., will hold a big party at the Lake Merced boathouse Dec. 20. The members will also celebrate in the traditional fashion. "We'll be adding candles to the menorah each night," explains Rabbi Kahn. "We'll also be eating things fried in oil, particularly latkes (potato pancakes). This symbolizes the holy oil that was supposed to last one night but instead lasted eight."

In this way, gay and lesbian Jews will celebrate in the manner of the generations who went before. "As we collectively grow older and feel stronger and more integrated," says Rabbi Kahn, "we're able to go back to our religious traditions and take from them what we need without fearing rejection, without worrying that we don't belong. We're no longer afraid to borrow, to use the traditions without having to compromise." And that, he implies, is good for all of us—straights as well as gays, Christians as well as Jews.

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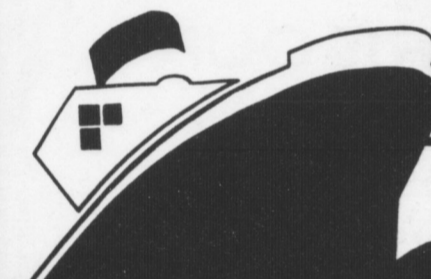
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Holiday Events

FRIDAY, DEC. 18:

Old-Fashioned Christmas Caroling in the Castro, 7 p.m. Meet at the MCC-GG Church, 48 Belcher St.

SUNDAY, DEC. 20:

Coat and Blanket Collection and Distribution for the Homeless. MCC-GG, 48 Belcher St. at morning services.

Affirmation Christmas Party, 1:30 p.m., 1885 Chantilly Lane, Hayward. Bring a \$3 "White elephant" gift to exchange. Call 886-7369 for more information.

Chanukah Party for the Sha'ar Zahav Synagogue at the Lake Merced Boathouse, 2-6 p.m.

Christmas Caroling. Meet at the MCC-SF Church, 150 Eureka St. Call the church for the correct time: 863-4434.

MONDAY, DEC. 21:

AIDS Healing Service, sponsored by the AIDS Interfaith Network, 7 p.m., 150 Eureka St.

THURSDAY, Dec. 24:

Christmas Eve Service, MCC-GG, 10 p.m., 48 Belcher St.
Christmas Eve Candlelight Service, MCC-SF, 10:30 p.m., 150 Eureka St.

Dignity Midnight Mass, Castro Theater, 12 a.m.

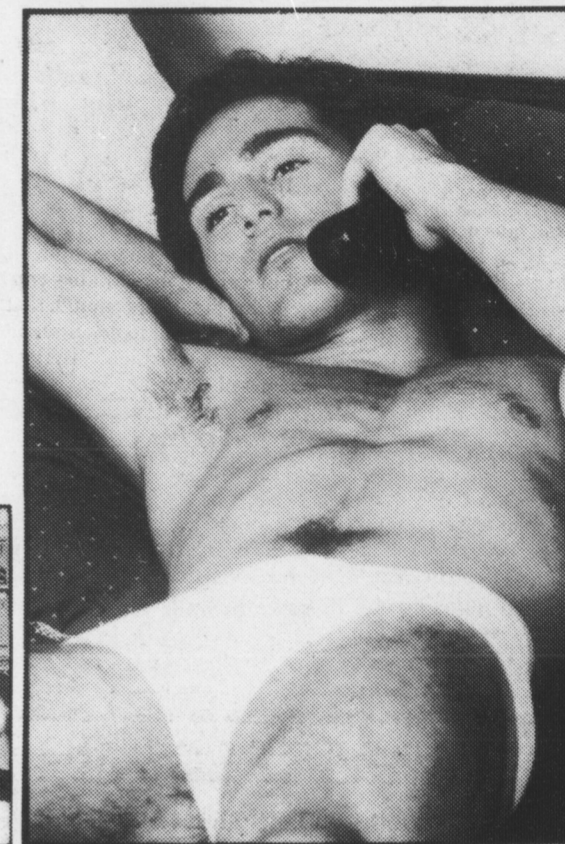
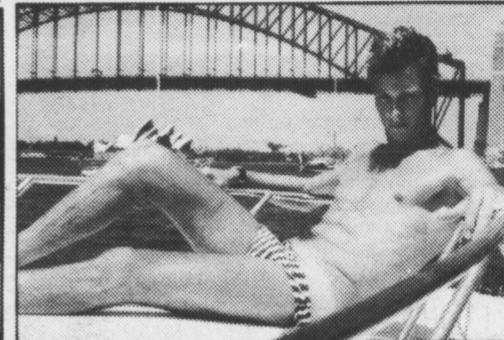
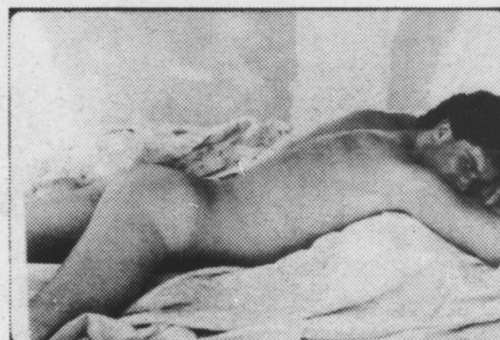
FRIDAY, DEC. 25:

Christmas Day Service, MCC-SF, 10 a.m., 150 Eureka St., followed by an open Christmas dinner.

On-Going:

MCC-GG Deacon's Closet (food contributions) and Deacon's Fund (emergency financial help). Contributions are welcome at any time, but there is a "special call" on these ministries at Christmas, says Rev. Jim Sandmire. Call the church at 621-6300 for more information.

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High Court Quizzes DA In Porno Pandering Case

Film Producer Charged with Prostitution For Paying Actors Performing In Sex Flick

by Thomas E. Horn

Robert Freeman faces six years in state prison for producing an X-rated film called *Caught from Behind, Part II*. That film, like many others being produced today in California, depicted explicit acts of sexual intercourse and oral copulation. The district attorney in Los Angeles, where the film was made, however, did not ac-

cuse Freeman of producing an obscene film, which would be a crime in itself. Obscenity cases against filmmakers historically do not fare well in California. So the Los Angeles district attorney decided to try a new twist by charging the film producer not with obscenity but with pandering.

NEWS ANALYSIS

Pandering refers to one person inducing other people to perform acts of prostitution. An act of prostitution is the exchange of money or other considerations for sex acts. The L.A. district attorney's theory in the Freeman case was that Freeman had procured actors and actresses to perform explicit sexual acts and had paid them for it. Hence, the district attorney claimed that it didn't matter whether the film was obscene or not, Freeman could be convicted of pandering because he had paid the actors and actresses to perform.

Freeman was given a jury trial in Los Angeles on the pandering charge and was convicted. Because the pandering section of the California Penal Code does not permit one convicted of pandering to be granted probation, the judge was obligated to send Freeman to state prison for producing a rather common, garden variety X-rated movie. The conviction was upheld by the California Court of Appeal.

Freeman, through his lawyers, further appealed to the California Supreme Court. That case came up for oral argument last Thursday, Dec. 10. The courtroom was packed with lawyers who practice in the field of criminal law, specifically as it relates to cases involving sexual conduct.

The tension was clearly discernible as no one knew how the



Pandering or First Amendment rights?

newly constituted Supreme Court would feel about the question. The three most liberal members of the Court had been ousted by the voters in the last election. Conservative Republican Gov. George Deukmejian had replaced them with three judges much more closely aligned with his own political and philosophical persuasions.

This was the first case involving serious First Amendment rights of free speech and expression to come before the newly constituted Court. No one knew how they would lean, but were openly concerned in view of the Court's recent decisions upholding death sentences in cases where even the Court agreed there were errors and misconduct in the trials of those given the death penalties.

The Supreme Court does not decide a case or take a vote at oral argument. However, you can frequently get a feel for how they are leaning by the comments and questions asked by the Justices during argument. There was a general sigh of relief in the courtroom as the various Justices began to verbally beat up on State Deputy Attorney General Lauren Dana, who appeared on behalf of the Los Angeles district attorney's office.

Freeman was represented by Santa Monica lawyer Dennis Fischer who came prepared to make the argument that would be most appealing to conservative judges. He urged the judges to take a conservative approach and use judicial restraint (both good catch words for conservatives) in determining the application of the pandering statutes.

Fischer argued that what the Los Angeles district attorney was doing in this case was expanding the applicability of the pandering statutes to a filmmaker when that was never the intention of the legislature. He was using an approach to his argument designed to appeal to the new conservative majority of the Court, rather than to address the more fundamental constitutional question of free speech and expression implicit in the making of a pornographic movie.

Fortunately, however, the Justices indicated that they were

more concerned with the First Amendment, constitutional questions of repression of expression, than they were with the narrow statutory argument being presented by Fischer.

Justice Stanley Mosk expressed astonishment that prosecutors would charge a filmmaker with a crime over filming acts which were themselves entirely legal. He asked Dana if her interpretation of the Penal Code would allow a prosecutor to go after a filmmaker who depicted a gambling scene in a movie and she acknowledged that it would. Justice Mosk commented, "You're going to drive motion pictures out of Hollywood with that attitude."

First District Court of Appeal Justice J. Anthony Kline asked the deputy attorney general if she had ever seen *The Graduate*. She said she had not.

He said, "As I recall, didn't Dustin Hoffman jump in bed with Mrs. Robinson? Would you have prosecuted the producer of *The Graduate*?" He also opined that such a prosecutorial attitude would have permitted the prosecution of the filmmakers of *Midnight Cowboy* and *Last Tango in Paris*.

Justice Edward Panelli, a Deukmejian appointee, was troubled that a filmmaker could be prosecuted over filming legal sexual acts between consenting adults. He said that this case presented a significant distinction from other cases involving, for example, child pornography.

Justice Marcus Kaufman, another Deukmejian appointee, expressed similar reservations.

It was Justice Kline, however, who appeared to get right to the heart of the issue when he pointed out that in his opinion this prosecution was intended not to go after acts traditionally viewed as pandering, but rather to infringe on "Mr. Freeman's exercise of his rights of free expression."

The Freeman case is extremely important for a variety of reasons. First of all, if this conviction were to be upheld it would have ominous impact on the filmmaking industry, particularly those filmmakers engaged in explicitly sexual themes.

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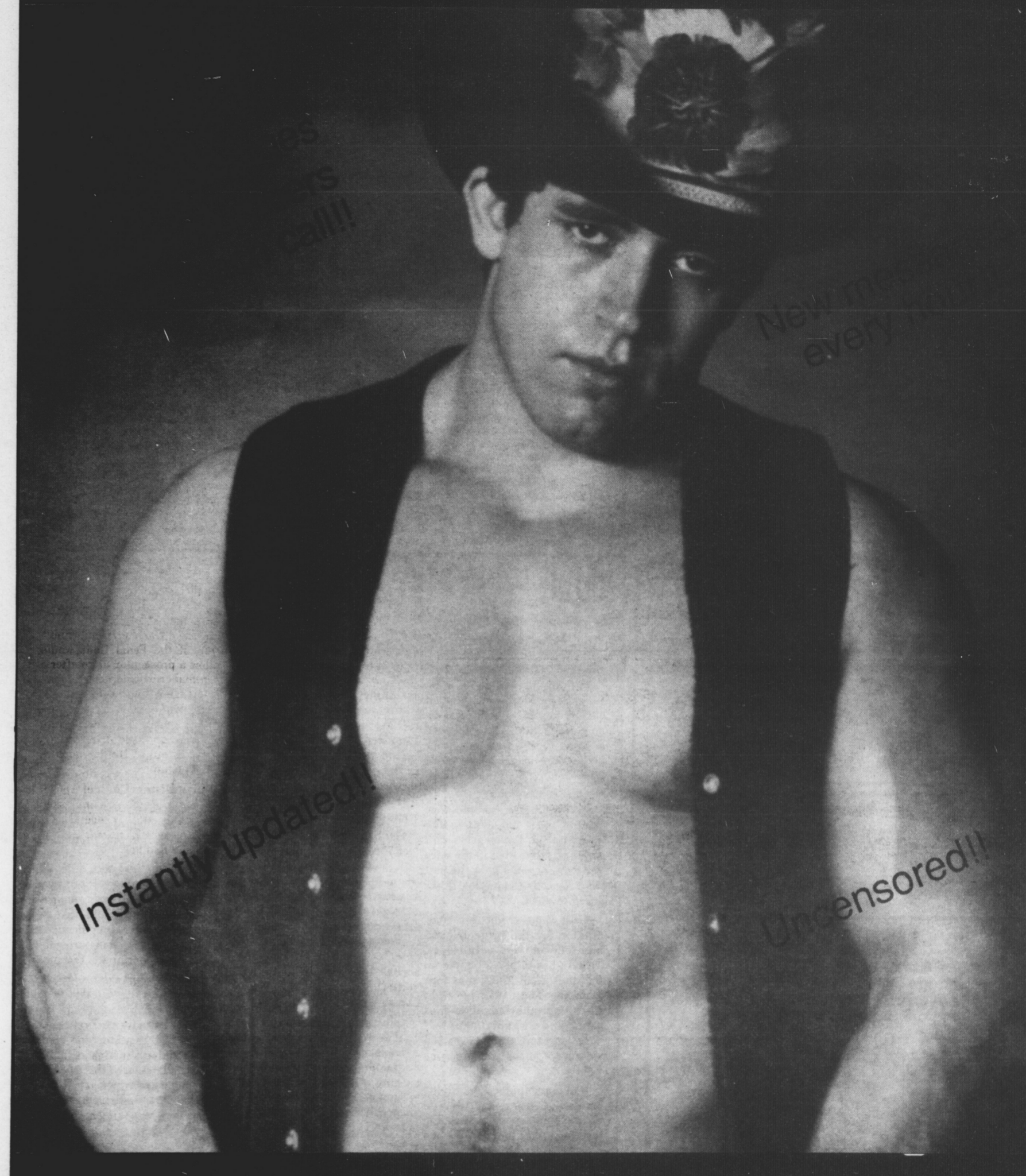
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Wilson Arrested On Drug Charges

Police Attorney Charged With Sales;
Four Others Also Arrested

by Gregory Douthwaite

Lawrence A. Wilson, a gay activist and an attorney for the San Francisco Police Department, was arrested Dec. 10 and charged with dealing drugs out of his Western Addition home. Wilson, 37, has been suspended without pay from his \$52,500 a year job in the police legal affairs office, where he had worked for nine years.

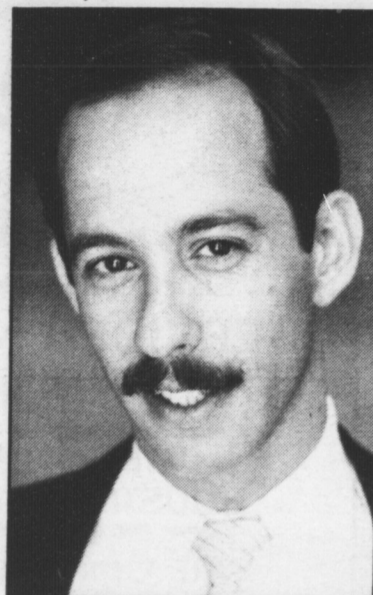
During a search of his basement apartment on Pierce Street, police reported finding a quarter pound of marijuana, plastic bags of cocaine, and heroin, and smaller amounts of amphetamines, Valium, psilocybin, and MDA. They also found paraphernalia for drug usage including needles and syringes.

Police also arrested three men who came to Wilson's home during the three hour search, reportedly to buy drugs.

Police said they were tipped off by an informant, who had both Wilson's home and work numbers. Wilson, widely known as Law, reportedly bragged during drug sales that he worked for the police department.

Police knocked at Wilson's door with a search warrant at 6:15 p.m. on Dec. 10. When Wilson asked who was there, they replied "U.P.S." for United Parcel Service.

After Wilson admitted his identity, police identified themselves. Wilson then attempted



Law Wilson (Photo: Rink)

unsuccessfully to shut the door.

Police reported that a pornographic film was playing in the apartment, and that Wilson was only partially clothed. With Wilson at the time was John

Thomas Nester, 33, who was arrested and charged with visiting a place where narcotics are used.

The telephone rang through-out the raid, police said. Three drug buyers made appointments with an officer who posed as Wilson, and were arrested when they came over. Anthony M. Barbour, 27, William P. Baker, 33, and Robert E. Reams, 26, were charged with visiting a place where narcotics are used or sold and with possession of narcotics.

Wilson was charged with nine felony narcotics counts. He was released on his own recognizance pending arraignment the morning after his arrest. He was arraigned Dec. 16.

Wilson promptly resigned a post as a member of the city's election commission, to which Mayor Dianne Feinstein had appointed him in 1982 and reappointed him last year. He has also been an active member of the Alice B. Toklas Lesbian/Gay Democratic Club and Bay Area Lawyers for Individual Freedom.

Viacom, Producers Reach Accord

Commercial Trimmed, Show Goes On

by Mary Richards

The dispute between Viacom Cablevision's Channel 6 and Electric City, San Francisco's gay television show, has been settled. For a half hour starting at 9 p.m. on Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve, their special holiday program will be broadcast in this city and on Channel 35 in Oakland.

Difficulties arose between the show's producers and the cable television station when a 30-second commercial featuring male strippers was broadcast as part of Electric City's regular spot. Following that broadcast, the station threatened to cancel the show's contract.

On Dec. 8, a meeting was held between Electric City and Barrett Giorgis, executive producer of Channel 6. Electric City claims that at the meeting Giorgis said the gay TV program "had offended his personal standards of decency."

Both sides in the dispute came out of that conference with the intention of keeping the show on the air. Although the Campus Theatre is reportedly angry that their commercial was the center of the argument, they have given permission to Electric City to recut the commercial so that it meets the station's standards of acceptability.

Sue Levitin, director of public affairs for Channel 6, said, "We're certainly going forward with the December programming. As I understand it both sides agreed to try to be cooperative and understanding and flexible about the needs of the other party."

Sande Mack, creator and director of Electric City, said, "As far as we know we will not be



Sande Mack
(Photo Graphics/Darlene)

cancelled by Viacom and we've got total support from the community." Producer Mark Wang added, "We've got no vendetta against the station. We just want them to back off and let us continue with what we've been doing."

Segments of Electric City's upcoming Christmas show will include an interview with Pat Norman on the National March; the benefit for Laf 'N Bowl; a segment with Fatale Video (an erotic lesbian group); and special guests Rita Rockett and her baby Nicholas.

VISA Clipping USOC, Says Alyson

The "Clip Your Visa" campaign, protesting Visa's Support of the Anti-gay U.S. Olympic Committee, will continue through next year, the organizer says. Gay publisher Sasha Alyson, who began the campaign in August, explained that originally he saw it as a short-term project. "My first thought was that we should simply register our disgust with them, then move on to other things," he said.

"But Visa's response has been appalling. They have steadfastly refused to address the issue of homophobia. Furthermore, they have announced that their support of the Olympics will go at least through Sept. 30, 1988," said Alyson.

Alyson began the Clip Your Visa campaign after reading in a Visa ad that "every time you use Visa, we'll contribute to the 1988 U.S. Olympic Team." He explained that, "After the viciously homophobic way the U.S. Olympic Committee had treated Tom Waddell and the Gay Games, I had no intention of using my Visa card again, and I decided to encourage others to join me. Already, several hundred people have sent in half their card as a sign that they agree."

The clipped cards are being used to make a banner memorializing Gay Games founder Tom Waddell. "This banner is a way of visually symbolizing our disgust with Visa," noted Alyson. "We displayed it at the March on Washington, and will continue to display it at other events. Visa

paid millions of dollars for this Olympic tie-in—yet for literally hundreds of thousands of people, 'Visa card' now has a negative connotation."

That, noted Alyson, "is our real strength. We can significantly lower the value of the Olympic tie-in. And that will hit the USOC right in its wallet."

There's already one sign that the campaign is having the desired effect. "We called the USOC recently to ask who else was sponsoring it," notes Alyson. "We were told that 'We don't give out that information anymore.' I can't imagine any reason for such a change in policy—except that being an Olympic sponsor isn't the unmitigated plus it once was."

Alyson asks Visa cardholders who want to participate in this campaign to cut their card in half. One half should be returned to Visa, with a note explaining why it is being cancelled; the other half should go to Sasha Alyson, Alyson Publications, 40 Plympton St., Boston, MA 02118.

BAY AREA REPORTER GREATER BAY NEWS

Seminary Sued For AIDS Bias

Suit Based on Berkeley Ordinance;
Charges Discrimination, Lack of Confidentiality

by Miranda Kolbe

An AIDS discrimination case brought against Berkeley's Pacific School of Religion may be the first of its kind in the Bay Area. The plaintiff, identified as John Doe to protect his privacy, charges that the school denied him housing because he had an AIDS Related Condition (ARC). He also contends that school officials failed to maintain confidentiality by informing other school officials of his condition against his wishes.

Filed in Alameda County Superior Court on Nov. 20, the suit seeks to reinstate the plaintiff in student housing for the Spring 1988 semester. The suit also seeks to gain a temporary and permanent injunction on the school prohibiting discrimination against people with AIDS. It also asks an unspecified amount in compensatory and punitive damages.

Three out of four school officials named in the suit were unavailable for comment. The fourth, Director of Housing Carole Voisin, said, "We don't know anything about the suit. We haven't been served yet, and we don't even know who John Doe is."

According to the complaint filed by John A. Lewis, an Oakland attorney representing the plaintiff, the discrimination began in the fall of 1986 when his client informed school officials he had an AIDS Related Condition (ARC).

At that time, Dean of Students Barbara Troxell told the plaintiff that school officials would inform his two roommates of his condition, unless he told them himself. However, when he refused, the school offered him the alternative of living in a studio apartment where he would have no roommates. The plaintiff agreed to that.

This fall, after taking a leave of absence from school, he made plans to return the following spring semester. School officials allegedly assured him of housing during that term.

However, on Nov. 4, the plaintiff received a memo from Barbara Brown Zikmund, Dean of

the College, stating that the school would not provide him with housing for the spring semester.

In her memo, Zikmund gave three reasons for the school's refusal: 1) "complaints about your living habits and the staff resources needed to clean your units when they were vacated"; 2) because of priorities given to other students already promised studio apartments, the school would only be able to offer him a dorm room, but "[w]e know that this would not meet your needs"; and 3) although special priorities are given in school housing policies to students asking for preferential treatment because they are differently-abled, giving preferential treatment requires giving an explanation to those students "bumped" out of housing and "[y]ou do not want that information made public."

DENIES OPPORTUNITIES

Commenting on the memo, Lewis stated, "I don't think there's any reason why my client shouldn't be able to live in a dorm room. He's not having sex with other students or sharing needles with them. [Not being allowed to live with other students] is, in effect, denying him the opportunity to take advantage of his educational opportunities. The academic atmosphere and the atmosphere of living with other students has a definite impact on one's educational experience."

The Pacific School of Religion, an interdenominational seminary which trains its students to be members of Christian minis-

tries, owns and manages 76 housing units for single students and 52 units suitable for families. According to a catalogue put out by the school, "[PSR] attempts to provide accommodations for a majority of the students enrolled."

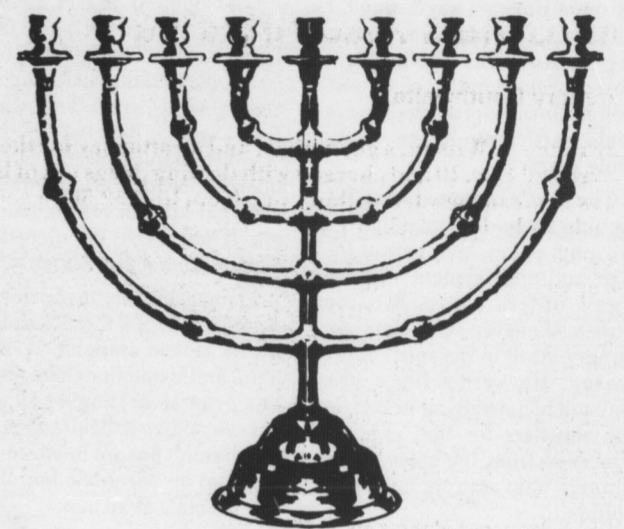
According to the catalogue, the rent for these units is "reasonable in contrast to regular housing in Berkeley."

Lewis would not state whether the deprivation of housing would prevent his client from attending school for financial reasons.

Claiming that the school violated the California Constitution, the Unruh Civil Rights Act, and the Berkeley anti-AIDS discrimination law, the suit may be groundbreaking in several ways. According to Marjorie Gelb, Berkeley deputy city attorney, this is the first case which rests partly on the Berkeley legislation enacted in May 1986.

Clint Hockenberry, executive director of the AIDS Legal Referral Service of Bay Area Lawyers for Individual Freedom, adds that it is also one of very few cases in the Bay Area which involves discrimination complaints against educational institutions.

Lewis was quick to point out that "We're not intending this as a test case. We merely want to get his rights." Nevertheless, he added, "Certainly a successful case will set a precedent for appointment cases involving AIDS discrimination. It will also discourage other schools from discriminating against people with AIDS. It will show them that they can't get away with that kind of discrimination."



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But What About Oshogatsu?

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Talk about togetherness! An unheard-of phenomenon occurred down Hayward way during Ed Paulson's Christmas auction at Big Mama's. The Spoiled Brat closed for the duration of the auction/action, so its customers could participate in the worthwhile event.

The Brat's customary Sunday evening steak dinners didn't go begging, either. Members of the staff and management shuttled "go" orders across Mission Street whenever customers got hungry. And, in the spirit of the season, Hayward's finest proclaimed no jawwalking tickets for the shuttlers for that evening. Proceeds from the sales of the dinners went into the auction's coffers.

Another surprise! David Reign was in town and wanted to contribute a bit of entertainment to the gathering. Had there been any back-up musicians, they couldn't have found any room on the stage, so David brought some tapes and accompanied himself, as it were. (He said it was a trick he learned from the Pointer Sisters.) David donated one of his "stage" jackets and was surprised it brought in the large amount it did. In an aside, he told me, "It only cost \$15.98!"

Miss Piggy and Johnny appeared as Mr. and Ms. Claus, and helped with the auctioning, as did, of course, Little Mother.

The fever of "I'll bid so much if so and so will wear it" had an early start, with Rob (Brat) buying a cap to cover Chatty Cathy's bald spot. (He agreed to wear the cap every time he was in Hayward, until the end of the year.) Someone else got into the action, and started buying "Mamie Eisenhower" pill box hats for several people. Somehow, we two at the accounting table wound up wearing the precious little crea-

tions. I opted for the pink, and Kenny Sue chose the very smart ecru number.

One of the biggie items, an organ valued at \$8,000, topped out with a high bid of \$2,000. The next day, however, the bidders confessed that they had had too much to drink and really didn't want it. Besides, they had no place to put it. Eddie is considering placing a classified ad to see what kind of results he can get. If you might be interested, contact him at Big Mama's.

Mama Chuckles made the announcement of a three-bedroom BASH House available in Hayward, and stated that there would be a general meeting for all who have signed up to help (and those who haven't but are interested in helping) on Saturday, Jan. 2, at Big Mama's at 10 a.m.

Eddie Paulson announced that his collection barrels would be picked up this Saturday, Dec. 19. So, there's still time to deposit your food-stuffs and toys for the needy. Wrapping will be done at Big Mama's that same afternoon.

The grand total for the evening (deducting the abandoned organ) came to a whopping total of \$4,021. Congratulations to him, and all who helped obtain that staggering amount. Proceeds will be divided among the AIDS Food Bank, EBAF, Fairmont Hospital Patient Services, and Tri-Valley Volunteers.

AMPHIGORIC ASSEMBLY
(A Discumboluted or "Whatever happened to the rule of no drinking during the meeting?" Nose)

The ISE Board of Directors/General Assembly meeting held Tuesday, Dec. 8, at Bella Napoli, was, at best, an exercise in frustration, confusion, and sophomoric pompousness. Robert's Rules of Order should have been renamed Clara's Canon of Chaos!

There were two appointed parliamentarians present, but obviously they either forgot or didn't know that the correct order for a motion is: (1) motion; (2) second; (3) discussion; (4) call for the question; and (5) vote on the motion. Also, never have I been witness to three motions (all seconded) on the floor at the same time!

Miss Malone's "McCarthyistic" points of order brought forth neither the points nor any order.

There must have been some shifting of positions since the original board was announced. The chairman, secretary, and treasurer were all different from the list given to me before the investiture.

The financial report was, at best, confusing. I didn't have a calculator handy, but my mental gymnastics concluded that there wasn't enough money in the treasury to pay the bills that were "moved and seconded" to be paid. (Such items as income from the Investiture being \$983, and expenses being \$1,021.62 [not including the sound, lights, and food costs] with \$158 to go to EBAF for the raffle tickets and sales of the buffet were somewhat confusing.) There was quite a bit of discussion about the "taxes" paid by In Memory Fund, while its money was under the umbrella of ACIE. It was decided to hold functions to repay the debt.

There were three resignations from the board that night: Mama Chuckles, Robert Helton, and Tootsi. In a closed meeting of the board, however, Tootsi consented to remain. It seems there is some misalignment and dents in the Rings of Saturn Court. Those should be straightened out before a total, and expensive, ring and valve job is needed.

HOTCHPOTCH
(A Ragout Nose?)

It was, is, and will be a busy time for ISE and BASH. Last Sunday was the Casino Royale at Bench & Bar. On Monday, ISE had "A Night of Togetherness/Tribute to San Francisco from Alameda County" at the Cockpit. The following Tuesday, ISE had a tree decorating contest and cake raffle at Town & Country (T&C didn't know anything about it until the next day!). Thursday, Dec. 17, Imperial Prince and Princess David and Morgan presented "Holiday for ISE" at the Spoiled Brat.

This Friday, BASH will be stuffing stockings at Paradise starting at 8 p.m. This Saturday, the stockings and trees (from the contest at T&C) will be distributed to East Bay hospitals. And, on Tuesday, Jan. 22, ISE will present "Christmas International" at Driftwood in Hayward, starting at 7:30 p.m. Admission will be \$10.

Marlow presents Cabel's Reef's "First Christmas Barrel" for the AIDS Food Bank, Outpatient Care, and Fairmont Hospital Patient Services. He is stressing food and clothing for this drive, but money donations will be gladly accepted. Marlow is interested to see just how well Cabel's Reef's customers can respond to this worthy cause.

The Spoiled Brat is busy, too! Last Monday there was a Monday Night Football/Spuds MacKenzie Party, with pictures with the "original party animal" available. The next evening, the Jewish staff and customers were invited to "Hebe Night" which featured a special dinner on the eve of Hanukkah, for only 49 cents. Its annual Christmas Party, "Come Jingle Our Belles," will be Sunday, Dec. 20, with a complimentary buffet at 8 p.m. Then, you are invited to "Dance Your Year Off!" around the clock on Dec.

31 and Jan. 1 and 2. On New Year's Eve there will be a complimentary buffet with party favors and hats. A complimentary "Hangover Cure" will be featured on New Year's Day from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. (The "cure" is Steak Tartar!) Bloody Marys will be only a buck. D.J. Norman will be spinning the platters for the three-day disco madness.

Don't forget the general meetings for all who signed up for BASH work. There will be two of them, both on Saturday, Jan. 9. The first is at 10 a.m. at Big Mama's, and the second is at 2 p.m. at Bench & Bar.

On all seven nights of the week you can enjoy all-you-can-eat salad and home-made soup for only \$2.79 at the Spoiled Brat. (And on Sundays, you can add the Brat's "now famous" 10 oz. prime filet steak for only an extra \$3.70!)

Walnut Creek has a new bar, D.J.'s, located at 1535 Olympic Blvd., phone 930-0300. The hours are 4 p.m. to 2 a.m. daily, with happy hour 4 to 7 on weekdays. Sundays are movie nights, Wednesdays are *Dynasty*, of course! Tuesdays, Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturdays feature piano players. Check it out.

With the Spoiled Brat celebrating Hanukkah, Rob and Lou shouldn't overlook "Kwanza" (Afro-American), "Shalako" (Zuni Indians), "Id al-Adha Festival of Sacrifice" (Muslim), "Genjitsu" (Japan), "Posadas" (Mexican), "Divali" (India), "Loy Krathong" (Thai), "Depavali" (Hindu), or "Oshogatsu" (Japan)!

One never gets a first impression to make a first impression. I snicker at that!

Love, Nez



Kovalich Settles Pentagon Suit

The Defense Investigative Service and Jean Kovalich have announced a compromise settlement of a lawsuit scheduled for trial on Dec. 7, in federal district court in San Francisco. The settlement was reached in a lawsuit filed in 1986 by Jean Kovalich, an employee of the Defense Investigative Service who charged the agency with discrimination against homosexuals. Kovalich had been demoted in 1986 after she came out as a lesbian.

In settling the case, the Defense Investigative Service did not admit any wrongdoing or impropriety. The terms of the settlement were not disclosed, but a spokesman for the Defense Investigative Service stated that the agency is "glad to put this matter behind it and to get on with the agency's work."

Jean Kovalich agreed, stating that she is "happy to remain a member of the agency family and welcomes the end of the litigation."

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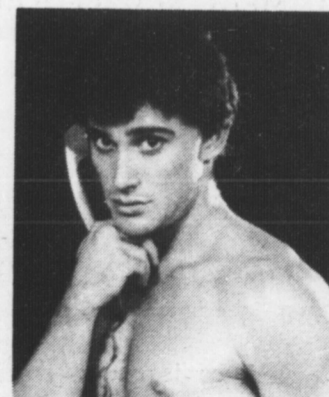
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(Photo: R. Pruzani)

James Baldwin's Legacy

by John F. Karr

When James Baldwin died, I wondered if any of the eulogies to come would mention that he was gay. Sure enough, the mainstream press, which didn't ignore his sexuality altogether, accounted for it with brief mention as another factor of his activism. This inability to make a full accounting of Baldwin's nature was a failing hardly unique to writers, but a mirror of the uncomfortable position of many of his admirers. Baldwin wanted his black and gay families to accept each other at a time far preceding their desire or ability to mesh, and their mutual inability to meet must have been frustrating and isolating for him. Baldwin was a pioneer in the overlapping of his concerns. Blacks eager for his writings on race probably had as much difficulty assimilating his sexuality as his gay readers had with the urgency and fervor of his racial politics. The modern black civil rights movement is hardly much older than the gay civil rights movement; at the time of Baldwin's first writings both were either in their infancy or non-existent, and could hardly have accommodated each other. Part of Baldwin's legacy will lie in the future coincidence of the black and gay movements, and apprehending the slow arrival of that accord will help us appreciate the pain and loneliness, the despair Baldwin must have battled.

Although his fiction always included gay characters, Baldwin didn't write any essays about the experience of his sexuality, the way he wrote about the experience of his blackness.

"His gayness was tied into the politics of being black in America," Ken Dixon told me when I asked about the way blacks accepted Baldwin's sexuality. "He dealt with things they

didn't want to deal with, and there was some upset. Still, the tradition of 'family' overrode it so that he wasn't singled out or put down. But neither did people discuss it or draw atten-

tion to it. Perhaps more discomfoting to many blacks was Baldwin's expatriotism. He had chosen to live amidst the more racially relaxed attitudes of Europe.

"He was a black American, and there is a charm about that in Europe," said Dixon, who lived in Amsterdam for five years. While not denying Baldwin the

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STAGE

In Search With Lily

by Dianne Gregory

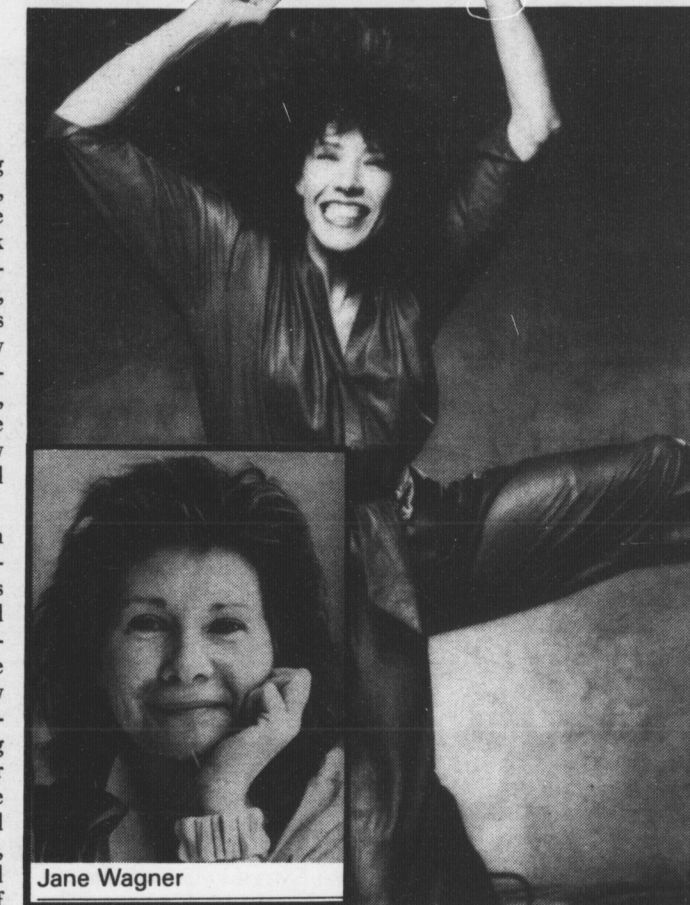
The only other time I had seen Lily Tomlin live and in person was in 1974 when she was on the \$6-a-pop college circuit. She did Edith Ann and Ernestine, a cheerleader and a recovering rubber-holic. I remember that the boy I saw it with walked out in the middle, seemingly offended by Tomlin's dark humor. I stayed for the second show and enjoyed it even more that time around.

The difference between Lily Tomlin in 1974 and *The Search for Signs of Intelligent Life in The Universe* starring Tomlin and written and directed by Jane Wagner in 1987 is like the difference between an uncut diamond and one that sparkles on a beautiful woman's finger. I don't think I've ever seen a more polished performance, be it the San Francisco Opera or the Royal Shakespeare Company. From the sharp delineations between characters to the on-the-money sound cues and brilliant physical humor, both Tomlin and those who have put the show together have created genius.

Although some say the show is too long at three hours, I think that had more to do with the first-night audience, many of whom

were more interested in being seen than in any enlightenment, or laughs, to be gotten out of the experience. I mean, I don't think I've ever heard of it being fashionable to be late for the theater, but most of the first row was seated after Tomlin was already on the stage. Frankly, I'm not surprised the audience got restless, being more interested in where they would be seen after the show and practicing what they would say about it and all.

The story told through Tomlin is one of many layers. On the outside are the jokes, the great lines that get repeated again and again. Then there are the characters who emerge out of the humor to tell their stories. Trudy the bag lady who holds an ongoing seminar for the searching aliens, Agnus Agnst and her grandparents Lud and Marie, the terminally bored Kate, Lynn and her pairs of drawstring pants, Edie and Marge, Brandy and Tina, Chrissy and Paul, all of their stories intertwine to make



Jane Wagner

Lily Tomlin

(Photo: N. Seeff)

up the real tale being told here, one of humanity at its most sublimely human. It is wonderful to watch it unfold.

I can only add my voice to the general clamor evoked by *The Search for Signs of Intelligent Life in The Universe* and urge you to get your tickets now before the San Francisco run sells out.

The Search for Signs of Intelligent Life in The Universe
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Through Jan. 31; 243-9001

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for the
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Baldwin

(Continued from previous page)

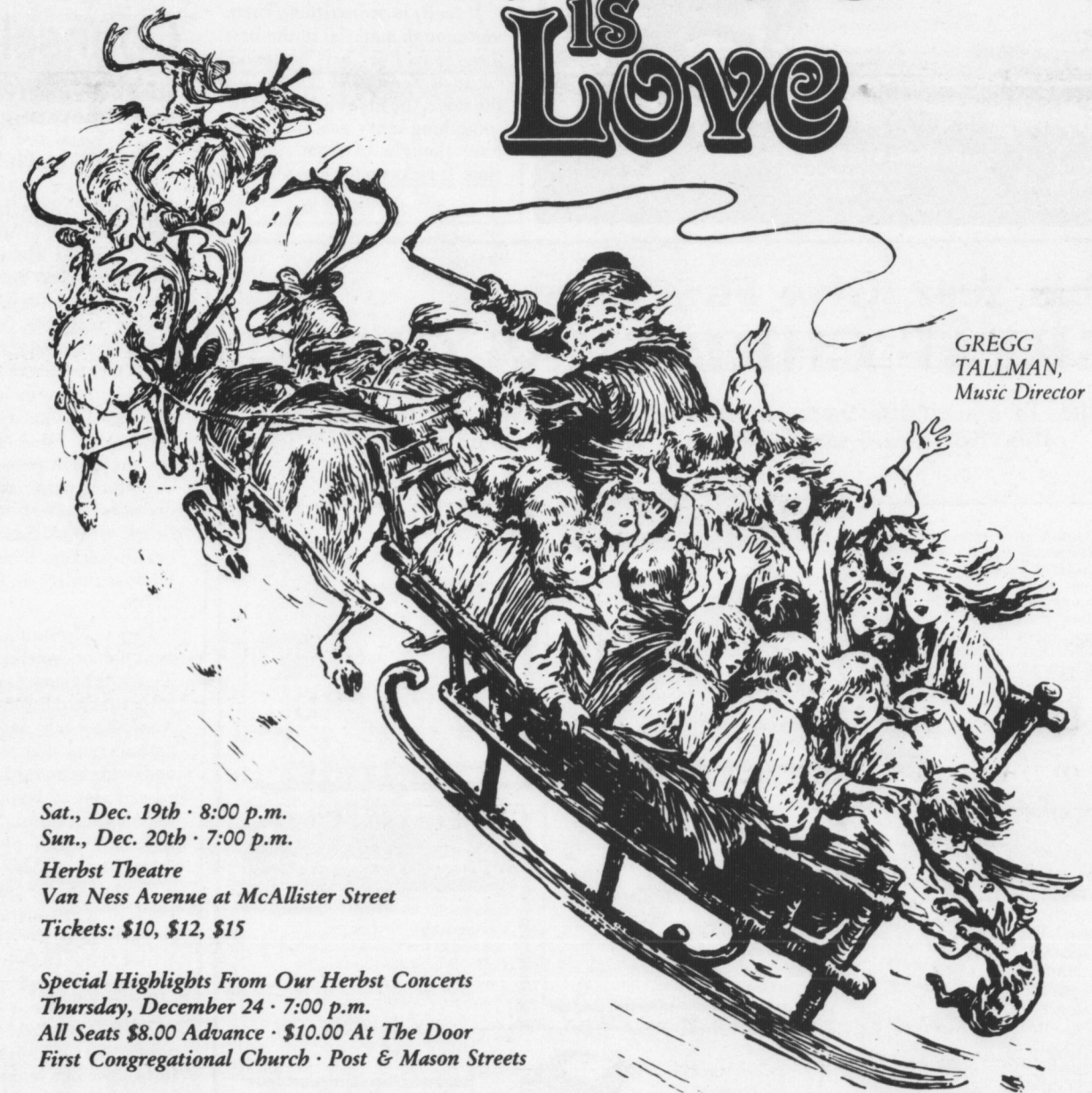
right to the more charmed life possible in Europe, Dixon takes into account how Baldwin's black audience, which had little or no choice about remaining in America, may have viewed Baldwin's expatriotism. "There's some charm in it, but also some denial about where you came from."

Baldwin undoubtedly wrestled with this as much as his audience did, and far from denying his identity, distance from his country focused the theoretical writing of his essays more brilliantly. Perhaps that's why his gayness appeared in his fiction and not his essays—you can't be an expatriot from sexuality. For many gays, the publication of *Giovanni's Room* provided not only a pioneering chance to meet a gay man on the printed page, but also the first realization that gayness could be taken seriously in a literary form. This in itself is a formidable legacy. But let's not talk about what he's left us, or what steps we should be taking armed with his legacy. Those should be obvious. Just stop a moment to comprehend the combination of gay and black which provided Baldwin with his identity and his greatness, but also brought him grief and isolation. Empathize with this pain for a moment, and you'll rejoice all the more in James Baldwin's lifelong commitment.

Amazing man.

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NOW SING WITH HEARTS AGLOW

New Cabaret Shows More Promise Than Punch

by Joseph W. Bean

Two new shows have appeared on the cabaret scene. Both are basically previews of 1988 attractions. Both are promising, each in a different way. First, Joseph Taro, producer of *It's Fascination*, *Dinosaurs Surviving the Crunch*, and *Queen for a Day*, has inaugurated what he calls his "Cabaret Concert Series." The series began with a show featuring Lynda Bergren, a three-time Cabaret Gold winner,

on Dec. 9. Despite bad weather and the fact that the date was a Wednesday, the program of Bergren returning after six months of not performing, Taro reviving his own cabaret act, and Danny Williams doing what comes do, attracted a capacity crowd to the Music Hall Theatre.

Taro also brought a surprise guest, Dan Fludd, who wrote and starred in *It's Fascination* this summer. This set an interesting

tone for the evening. Rather than having back-up singers in the usual sense, the headliners supported each other. And, it worked very nicely.

Bergren was the nominal star of the show, and she was as beautiful of face and voice as ever. Still, Danny Williams was probably the big draw this time. Williams is changing, getting better and better. He has mastered several tricks of the comedy trade that help keep his material fresh, and he's really learned a lot in the past year or so about how to read and play to an audience.

OVER-WRITTEN

The other new show is called *Ah, Men!* While Taro's new series crosses the cabaret to theatre line by bringing us cabaret acts in a modified theatre setting, *Ah, Men!* goes the other way, but it is previewing in a cabaret, The Bear's Den at Teddy Bears.

Ah, Men! is conceived and directed by PerryJohn R. Duman who, in collaboration with pianist David Beardall, also is credited with the arrangements and musical direction. "It's way over-written now," Duman said before the performance. He explained that the purpose of the preview is to work out the cuts that will give the show its final shape.

It really is overwritten. There was enough material in the first three of its five "acts" to make two nice evenings of cabaret. All the same, the idea of *Ah, Men!* is something every gay man must have thought of from time to time. It picks up the love songs—

(Continued on next page)



Dan Fludd in the Cabaret Concert Series at the Music Hall Theatre (Photo: Photo Graphics/Darlene)

VIDEO

Counseling: Scientific Look

Homosexuality: What Science Understands (Part I) and Counseling Gays and Lesbians (Part II)

by Neal King, Ph.D.

From Intelligence in Media's "Thinking About Mental Health" series, this video and accompanying study guide offer a richly compacted resource for teaching about homosexuality and working in mental health settings with lesbians and gay men. It would be equally of value in the formal training of clinicians and researchers as in an in-service situation for a corporate personnel division, training of police officers, or sensitization of public health workers to issues about homosexuality in relation to AIDS.

Part I (27 minutes) traces the evolution of contemporary thinking about homosexuality. It starts with the psychology/psychiatry from the early assignment of pathological diagnoses to gays and lesbians on the basis of skewed samples of institutionalized populations, through the pivotal Kinsey studies of the 1940s (which established the prevalence of homosexuality in the population). It goes up to the definitional work of Evelyn Hooker at UCLA in the 1950s (which set the standard for matched controls in the scientific study of homosexuality). It concludes with the revocation of diagnostic categories labeling homosexuality as inherently pathological by the APA (Psychiatric) committee on nomenclature in 1973.

Part II (also 27 minutes) addresses the actual counseling of lesbians and gay men with the clinicians and researchers from Part I. They are joined by diverse others in a consistent collage of cameo interviews. Topics discussed include such areas as homophobia, relationships and gender roles, the psychological impact of AIDS on lesbians and gay men, the nature and importance of family and community for gays and lesbians, and the essential movement from isolation to affirmation in the development of a positive and healthy lesbian/gay identity.

A study guide includes a script of the video, full bibliographies for each chapter, essay questions and quizzes for the material covered. The video is gay affirmative and inclusive of diverse points of view, comprehensive and provocative.

Given the paucity of attention given in training programs and health care settings to education about gays and lesbians, and the ethical obligation to overcome this deficiency, this video would prove a valuable resource in every departmental and institutional library. It is available through Intelligence in Media, Inc., 123 West 44th Street, Garden Level A, New York, NY 10036; (212) 302-1407.

Stars To Shine In The Caribbean



Quentin Crisp will entertain at tea time

The stars will definitely shine in the Caribbean sky in February and March. RSVP Travel Productions, Inc. is pleased to announce its "star" entertainment lineup for its 1988 winter travel events. Headlining the two seven-day cruises will be singers Roslyn Kind and Freda Payne.

Kind's career has spanned years of sell-out concerts, exclusive nightclub engagements, personal appearances, celebrity-studded benefits, two major-label albums, two hit European singles, starring roles in motion pictures and television specials, stage leads, and commercials.

Payne is a Grammy Award winner for her hit record *Band of Gold*. During her extensive musical career she has worked with jazz greats Count Basie and Duke Ellington. She is still touring throughout the world with the Duke Ellington Orchestra.

The zany comedy and singing trio Gotham will join the "star" entertainment RSVP hosts for the entire week. Featured performers Gary Herb, David McDaniel, and Michael Pace will sing, dance, and joke their way into the hearts of all on board.



Gotham will be part of the entertainment

Tim Curry Benefit Nets \$5,000

Monday, Dec. 7, "An Evening At Hareford Hall," hosted by Tim Curry at the Comstock Club, netted more than \$5,000 for the AIDS Emergency Fund.

An evening full of surprises included appearances by the Pearl King and Queen and Ursula Smith (the Duchess) from *Me and My Girl* and a musical greeting outside the Comstock members of the Gay Freedom Day Band. After a brief performance, Curry expressed his desire to tour AIDS wards and hospices to greet and chat with patients.

Event producers Don Johnson, Michael Vita, and Ed West announced that other "celebrity" evenings are being planned to benefit local AIDS charities.

Different Light Helps AIDS Fund

Castro newcomer Different Light Books is asking its patrons to "Share the season's bounty" with AIDS patients helped by the AIDS Emergency Fund by displaying a heart-themed Christmas tree. The unique tree was created by Pick Me Ups Interior Plantscapes with heart-shaped ornaments donated by Michaels.

The AEF greeting card, created by renowned local artist Noel Betts, is also available at the store in the former Obelisk location on Castro.

Come And Carol With The Chorus

Share the spirit of the season with the Lesbian/Gay Chorus of San Francisco on Friday, Dec. 18, at 8 p.m. at St. Francis Lutheran Church, 152 Church Street in San Francisco (across from Safeway).

Our musical family invites you to carol with us in a cozy atmosphere of celebration and love. Proceeds will benefit the Larkin Street Youth Center.

For information call 552-0725.

Holiday Gifts For PWAs

There will be gifts under the tree for AIDS patients who are part of the Visiting Nurses and Hospice of San Francisco program at Coming Home Hospice and living at home. There will be more smiles on Christmas morning thanks to the generosity of these businesses: Rolo, Buck's, High Gear, On The Rack, G. W. Finley, Castro Streetwear, New York Man, All American Boy, The Record House, and the S.F. Symphony.

New Cabaret

(Continued from previous page)

relationship songs of all sorts really—from Broadway shows, and applies them to gay relationships. Sometimes the effect is quite surprising, but often the satisfaction comes more from the fact that you will already have imagined the song "just that way."

Ah, Men! in this cabaret/preview form is hampered by its cast. First, there are no women in the show, so a lesbian slant on this idea is yet to come. But, more important, the current cast doesn't have the famous, unnameable "it" that makes revues sparkle. All three singers, in fact, seem to have plastic-coated stage

personas that just don't let the warmth and humor of the material out to the audience.

Ah, Men! will be presented in its final preview tonight at 9 p.m., still at Teddy Bears. While it isn't a roaring success, and probably can't be with this cast, you might want to drop by for the fantasy-come-true: all those showtunes turned gay, as you have to imagine many of them were in their early drafts. After all, there is no cover charge anyway. Following tonight's performance, the show goes away for trimming and shaping, to return, according to Duman, "in the new year, in a theatre."

Taro's Cabaret Concert Series also resumes next year, maybe as late as March, surely still at the Music Hall Theatre.

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George Heymont

Settling Into The Wortham Center

The year 1987 has been a crucial year for Houston—a city which has been beaten to a pulp in recent times by frightening changes in its oil-based economy. So far, this year, a new convention center has opened its doors, the DeMenil Collection has gone public at a sparkling new museum, the Wortham Arts Center has made its long-awaited debut to international acclaim and, for the first time in its history, Houston's political leaders have rightfully acknowledged the role of the arts in helping to shape their city's

future identity.

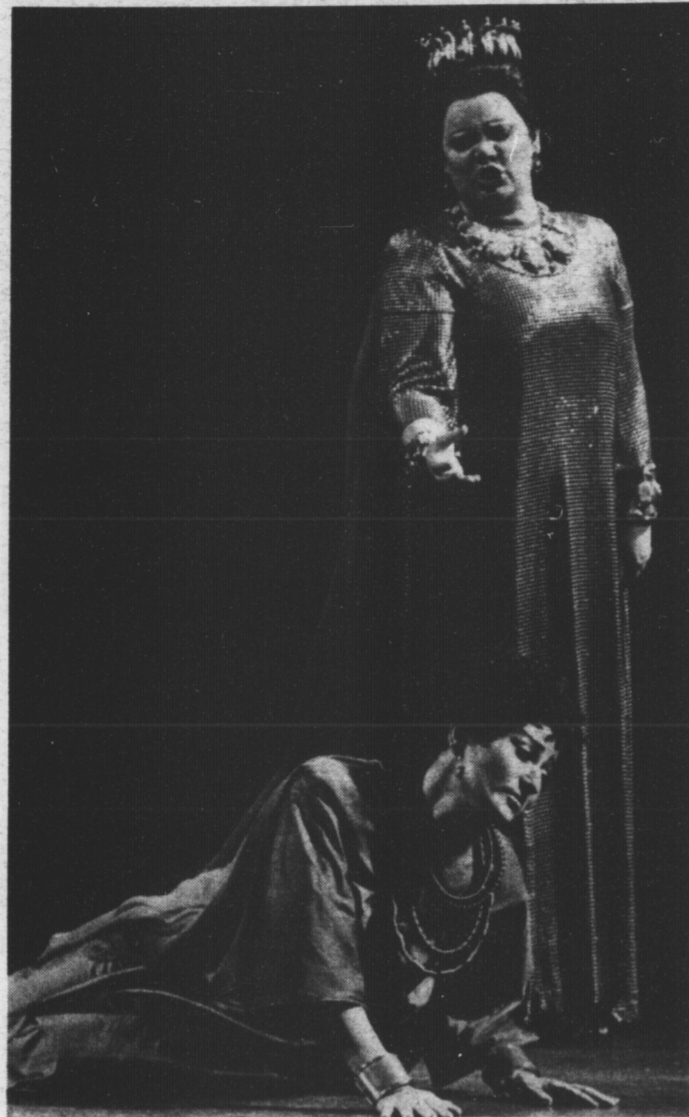
This fall, the Houston Grand Opera and Houston Ballet moved into their new facilities at the Wortham Arts Center; a two-theatred structure which is fast becoming known for some of the finest acoustics in the world. Having toured the building during various stages of its construction (and attended a heavily-miked performance of *Follies* there last June) I was eager to see and hear just how well the Wortham's auditoriums measured up to their pre-construction promises.

The most fascinating element of the Wortham's two extremely intimate theatres is, by far, their acoustical dynamic. Because the recessed Bayreuth-style orchestra pit in each theatre produces a sound balance which favors strings and voices over brass and percussion, instead of drowning in the sounds of blasting trumpets and throbbing tympani, one feels as if the orchestra is providing an airy musical cushion upon which the singers can support their voices. Thus, even a massive work like Verdi's *Aida* ends up sounding like a chamber opera and one never feels as if the soloists are busting their guts in order to overcome the wall of sound which separates them from the audience.

Although one hears every bit of the music, the sound dynamic in the Brown Theatre is wildly different from what one has learned to expect in larger opera houses. And, because the dimensions of the pit opening are so much smaller than the usual, one often feels as if the singers are holding a private salon. It's an incredibly exhilarating operatic experience.

GROWING PAINS

Although I was unable to catch any of the Houston Ballet's repertoire, attending five performances by the Houston Grand Opera helped to give me some feeling for the historic changes that company is now undergoing. In the course of one season, HGO has gone from performing in Houston's 3,000-seat Jones Hall (an absolutely horrid auditorium with disastrous acoustics and woefully inadequate backstage facilities) to



Dolora Zajic's forceful Amneris stole the show from Ilona Tokody's Ethiopian princess in the Houston Grand Opera's production of *Aida*.

two acoustically lush, state-of-the-art performing arenas: the 2,200-seat Alice and George Brown Theatre and the 1,100-seat Roy and Lillie Cullen Theatre.

At the same time the company has gone from performing one opera at a time (the old stagione system) to mounting two or three operas in repertory. When one considers the onslaught of pressures as a result of (1) moving into the new building in September, (2) opening a new production of *Aida* with an all-star cast in mid-October, (3) telecasting the *Aida*, (4) presenting the world premiere of *Nixon In China*, (5) videotaping *Nixon In China* for future release, (6) premiering a new, multi-media production of Mozart's *Abduction From the Seraglio*, (7) hosting the Music Critics Association's annual meeting, (8) trying to accommodate the national and international press' sudden interest in the new theatre and then, (9) offering a second string of *Aida* performances with a different set of principals, it becomes obvious that, at least for the folks who work at the Houston Grand Opera, the Fall of 1987 was about as calmly laid back as running a Presidential campaign.

All things considered, the administration and production staffs handled the transition exceptionally well. Once they survive their initial shakedown cruise in the new facility (a period which includes hosting Opera America's annual conference in January) it will be interesting to see what kind of rhythm the company establishes for itself.

In the meantime, tour packages aimed at arts devotees are now available and, while Texas may have once been a destination which culture vultures scoffed at, they would be well-advised to change their tune. Houston Grand Opera's future repertory includes Mozart's *Così Fan Tutte* and Puccini's *La Rondine* in January/February. The April—

May time slot features a new production of Massenet's *Manon* as well as soprano Eva Marton starring in Wagner's *Tannhäuser*. For ticket information call (713) 227-ARTS.

TRIUMPHANT IN TEXAS

Shortly after I returned home from Houston, the man who, 20 years ago, introduced me to the joys of opera told me that he had turned on the Oct. 30 PBS telecast midway through Act I, Scene I of *Aida* and couldn't figure out if Verdi's opera was being broadcast from La Scala or Vienna. "Is the stuff they do in Houston really that good?" he asked. There was never any question in my mind as to its artistic merit.

Pier Luigi Pizzi's highly theatrical production (a shared venture with the Los Angeles Music Center Opera Association) is one of the most dignified versions of *Aida* I have ever experienced. Pizzi's sets (whose movable columns and platforms are as flexible as the ones he devised for San Francisco Opera's *Macbeth*) were beautifully enhanced by Ken Billington's lighting. The additional use of the stage's two side platforms—which frame the orchestra pit in the Brown Theatre—helped to bring the production into the audience's laps. Although Richard Caceres' excitingly butch Triumphant Scene ballet displayed lots of Grade-A beef and asscheek, his choreography was much more in tune with what *Aida* is all about than such grotesque spectacles as dressing up Luciano Pavarotti to resemble a pyramid covered with glitter.

In HGO's first cast, Plácido Domingo (who was sounding better than ever) and Mirella Freni starred as the two lovers, with Stefania Toczyńska scoring strongly as *Aida*'s rival, Amneris. Alas, Freni did not always strike me as the perfect *Aida*; she had occa-

(Continued on page 36)

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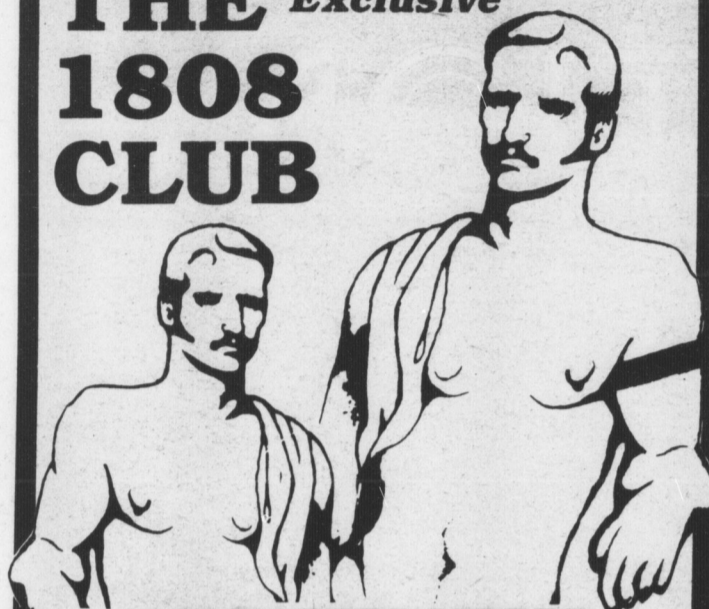
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Mark Friese

Fruitcakes and Football



The Pilsner Inn was the scene for a beer bust for Friends For Friends last weekend (Photo: Photo Graphics/Darlene)

I do believe that Christmas has once again managed to sneak up on me, although I had purchased six gifts ahead of time, six more than I had bought last year. Everyone else gets fruitcake in the mail, which has nothing to do with the photo I enclosed with some of my Christmas cards.

Being a semi-football fan I was duly impressed by the trouncing of the Chicago Bears, by our 49ers, in this past Monday's game. It looks like more jam-packed bars for all the Superbowl madness that looks to be coming our way. It sure is fun to see people who literally know nothing about football suddenly become experts on the subject. I prefer to nod and cheer.

Ruth Brinker, of the Open Hand Project, dropped by the Mint last Sunday where there was a Christmas plant auction being held for that program. Emperor Patrick and Empress Tina hosted the event and several of the titleseekers dropped by, and many supporters of Open Hand.

For \$200, someone received the privilege of taking Ruth to lunch, and there were other bids that were too good to be true, altogether we raised close to \$1400 for Open Hand. Congratulations are in order!

You might be able to still get tickets for the special ceremony this evening that will be held at the Moscone Center, as the Names Project Quilt is unfolded and the names are read. This takes place at 7 p.m. and the tickets, if available, are \$50. They are on sale at the Names Project Workshop, 2362 Market St. The Quilt will be on display through Sunday at the Moscone Center (Friday from 10 a.m. 'til 10 p.m. and Saturday and Sunday from 10 a.m. 'til 6 p.m.). Free admission on these three days, and this event is being sponsored by KPIX and the San Francisco Examiner.

The COITS held their annual Christmas dinner this past Saturday, and they made the Godfather Fund the recipient of their holiday donation this year. Vic

and Eddie, of the Mint and Mother Lode, also presented checks to the Godfather Fund that evening, making the total contributions to the Fund over \$500. They should go to more COIT events!

Friends for Friends will be culminating their holiday gift program this Saturday with a Christmas present wrapping party at 377 Capp St. This party starts at 11 a.m. and you should give Jeff a call at either 622-3477 or 841-7245 to see what you can bring.

(Continued on page 34)

Mr. Marcus Hospitalized

BAR columnist Mr. Marcus was hospitalized on an emergency basis Thursday, Dec. 10.

At press time he had been released from the hospital and is now resting comfortably at home.

We all look forward to the return of his column.

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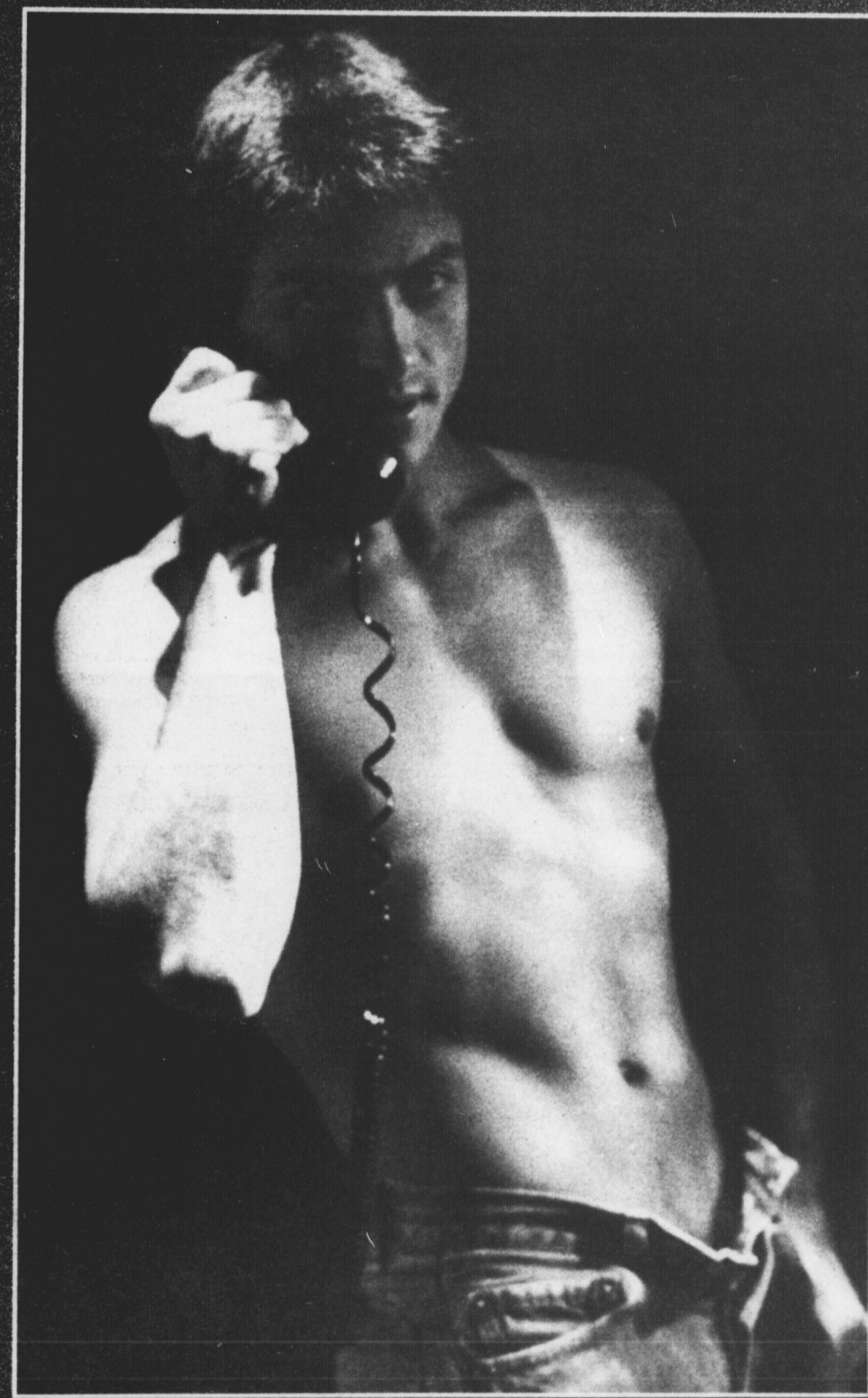
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Santa gave \$200 to the Rainbow Deaf Society to start up AIDS services. (Photo: Photo Graphics/Darlene)

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Part of the cast of *The Bad Seed* was out on the town last weekend. (Photo: Photo Graphics/Darlene)

Friese
(Continued from page 32)

Saturday night will also be the Trocadero's annual Christmas party, Babes In Toyland, which will be from 10 p.m. 'til 6 a.m. with music by Mike Jorba, lights by Greg Fleming, and visuals by Cameron Brown. The charge for members is \$10, guests \$12, and general admission is \$15. Holiday confections and delights will be provided!

Golden Gate Performing Arts and The San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus present Christmas is Love this Saturday evening at 8 p.m. and on Sunday evening at 7 p.m., with both of the performances being held at Herbst Theatre. Tickets for these performances are \$10, \$12, and \$15. There will be a performance at the First Congregational Church, Post & Mason, on Christmas Eve at 7 p.m. with those tickets being \$8 advance or \$10 at the door. You can get tickets for all the performances by calling the GCPA box office at 863-8326, or at Word Processing Services of San Francisco, 2354 Market St.

The 12 nights of Christmas is in full swing at the Galleon, and could not have a more splendid setting, as the Galleon is once again decorated in a splendid fashion. They will be having a special menu for both Christmas Day and New Year's Eve. Drop by and check it out, and also make your reservations, as they are required. It says that the roast loin of pork is Santa's favorite after a long sleigh ride. Uncle Les assures me that Mrs. Claus confirms that fact. She also told Les what Santa's other favorite is, but of course, Les has never been one to kiss and tell!

Tuesday, Dec. 22 will be a biggie at the Elephant Walk as they will be turning over all the proceeds from 6 p.m. 'til closing to the AIDS Emergency Fund. They hosted this last year on Christmas Day, and as you can well imagine did quite well. They hope to do even better this year, rumor has it that Tommy will be pleasant for the event.

Tessie's Holiday Dinner Program will be serving Christmas dinner at St. Paulus Church, Gough and Eddy, from 2 'til 4 p.m. on Christmas Day. If you would like to make a donation, contact Phyliss at 621-2536, or Bobby Pace or Mr. LeeOna at 775-3260, as they are on the committee. Also special thanks to the Kokpit, Aunt Charlie's, and Ginger's Too, for the fundraisers held at those bars for the dinners.

I think I have pretty well covered most everything for now, I even got a little butch and talked sports. I want to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas. And I want to thank Danny Williams for being involved with so many things this year, as it certainly helps fill up the old column.

I thank all my friends for all the support they have shown me, especially this year, and to all of you for being San Francisco. ●



Shawna (c.), Empress I and II of Santa Rosa, is running for Miss Gay SF (Photo: Rink)

Sonoma Play Focuses On Male Friends

Sonoma County's Odyssey Stage Company will present William Babula's *The Winter of Mrs. Levy*, in its world premiere production. It will open Friday, Jan. 8, with subsequent shows on Saturday, Jan. 9, Friday, Jan. 15 and Saturday, Jan. 16.

All shows will be performed at the Five Corners Playhouse, 417 Western Ave. at English St., Petaluma. Shows start at 8:15 p.m. Tickets are \$5.50 for general admission and \$4.50 for seniors and students. Group discounts are available. Tickets can be purchased at the door or by reservations: (707) 996-8212.

The Winter of Mrs. Levy is Odyssey's first in a series of new play selections featuring Sonoma County playwrights. It is a comedy-drama dealing with companionship and love between two elderly widowers and the unexpected reactions of their children.

Babula is the Dean of the Arts and Humanities Department at Sonoma State University. He has taught creative writing and drama at the University of Miami and the College of the Bahamas.

His fiction has appeared in the *Mendocino Review*, *Texas Review*, and the collections, *Fiction 1983* and *Fiction 1984*. This year, he won the 17th Annual Jacksonville University Playwriting Contest for his full-length play *Creatures*. ●

WhatWhenWhereWhyWhoWhatWhenWhere

Karl's Calendar

THURSDAY 12/17
Names Project Special Ceremony, Moscone Center, 7 p.m., \$50.
Twelve Nights of Christmas Show, Galleon, 7:30 p.m., Katibelle Collins.
SFGOI Club Party, Transfer, 8 p.m., showing of Minsky's '87.
Patsy ReKline Party, Kimo's, 9 p.m., \$3 cover, show.
Desiree Revue, N'Touch, showtimes, 10:30 p.m. and 12:15 a.m.

FRIDAY 12/18
Names Project Display, Moscone Center, Friday 10 a.m.-10 p.m., Saturday 10 a.m.-6 p.m., Sunday 10 a.m.-6 p.m., free admission.
11th Annual Mele Kalikimaka Party, Kimo's, 8 p.m.-2 a.m., show and hors d'oeuvres.
Constantines Serving Connie Dogs, S.F. Eagle patio, Friday and Saturday nights, 11 p.m.-1 a.m., \$2 (Large and Juicy).

SATURDAY 12/19
Imperial Applications Available, Galleon and Kimo's.
Christmas Present Wrapping Party, 377 Capp St., 11 a.m., benefit Friends for Friends.
Christmas Party, Men's Room, 3 p.m., buffet.
Twelve Nights of Christmas Show, Galleon, 7:30 p.m., The Vocal Minority.
Mr. and Ms. Santa Claus Contest, Covered Wagon, 8 p.m., benefit Project Open Hand and Inter-Club Fund.
Babes In Toyland Christmas Party, Trocadero Transfer, 10 p.m.-6 a.m., admission cardholders \$10, guests \$12, general admission \$15.

SUNDAY 12/20
Theatre Rhinoceros Beer Bust, S.F. Eagle, 3-6 p.m., \$7.

MONDAY 12/21
Twelve Nights of Christmas Show, Galleon, 7:30 p.m., Tom Anderson.
Grand Ducal Open Court Meeting and Pre-Christmas Party, C.W. Saloon, 8 p.m., guests San Francisco Court of the Golden Gate.

TUESDAY 12/22
Benefit Party, Elephant Walk, 6 p.m.-2 a.m., all proceeds to the AIDS Emergency Fund.
Twelve Nights of Christmas Show, Galleon, 7:30 p.m., Men About Town.
Christmas Party, Transfer, 8 p.m., buffet.

WEDNESDAY 12/23
Twelve Nights of Christmas Show, Galleon, 7:30 p.m., Dell Madill and Mercy Oris.

THURSDAY 12/24
Christmas Party, Kokpit, 8 p.m., hors d'oeuvres and egg nog.
Compiled by Dierdre

Emperor/Empress Applications
Applications for Emperor and Empress of San Francisco will be available on Saturday, Dec. 18, at Kimo's, Ginger's Too, and the Galleon.

Putting It On The Rack
Social events for leather dykes will be presented by the recently formed The Rack Productions. The company's founder, Blaise Mittino, will present dances on the third Wednesday of each month at Amelia's. Entertainment at the dances will include erotic strip shows, leather and lingerie fashion shows, and varied and alternative types of dance music. As well as disco, Motown, dance rock, rap/funk, and salsa will be played at the dances.
Says Blaise, "There's a large community of leather dykes in San Francisco and most are involved, on some level, in S/M. An erotically charged social environment for these women is very much needed; a non-threatening space where we can dance, play and meet other leather dykes."

Deena's Jocks
Deena Jones will present a Christmas Jock Strap show at the Endup at 6th and Harrison, Thursday, Dec. 17, at 10 p.m., \$3 admission.

International Ms Leather Announces Second Annual Competition
Saturday, March 26, 1988, the Second Annual International Ms Leather Competition will be held at San Francisco's Giftcenter Pavilion. Applications are now being accepted from contestants throughout the world.
Contestants may be sponsored by a community, a business establishment, or organization, or they may enter as self-sponsored individuals. Those interested in competing or sponsoring a contestant should contact IMsL, P.O. Box 146504, San Francisco, CA 94114.
For inquiries or to volunteer, call Joy at 863-9413.

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Musicians Band Together

WASHINGTON—Lesbian and Gay Bands of America distributed more than \$17,400 to six groups at a reception held in Washington, D.C. Nov. 13. The funds were raised by the benefit concert, "Let Freedom Ring," produced by LGBA at DAR Constitution Hall Oct. 10. The concert was held in conjunction with the National March on Washington. According to Don Niehus, the concert's producer, "Funds raised exceeded LGBA's expectations." The following lists the presenter, receiver, and his/her organization and the disbursement amount:

- John Macauley, LGBA president, to Anna Schultze of the National AIDS Network: \$2,320.
- Robert Rendon, LGBA board of directors, to Steve Beck and Paula Jones of the National Association of People With AIDS: \$3,480.
- Don Niehus, LGBA vice president, to Dan Bross of the Whitman Walker Clinic: \$5,220.
- Nanisi Barrett, LGBA vice president, to Sherrie Cohen of

the Fund For Human Dignity: \$2,320.

• Jim Cochrane, LGBA newsletter editor, to Philip Dufour and Lois Reckitt of the Human Rights Campaign Fund: \$1,160.

• Mary Bahr, LGBA president emerita, to Kay Ostberg and Lee Bush of the National March on Washington Committee: \$2,900.

"LGBA is tremendously pleased to be able to support these important organizations in the lesbian and gay community. After five years of formation and growth, LGBA has proven itself to be a vital and viable part of our national community," said LGBA President John Macauley.

LGBA is a non-profit national association representing gay and lesbian concert and marching bands in 13 cities. The benefit concert included more than 300 musicians, twirlers, and flag corps members. Also performing were the Denver Women's Chorus and the Gay Men's Chorus of Washington, D.C.

LGBA is very interested in assisting other cities in



The presenters and receivers

(Photo: J. Marks)

establishing bands. For more information about this or any other questions about LGBA write to P.O. Box 57099, Washington, D.C., 20037. Contributions to LGBA are tax deductible and much appreciated.

LA Chorus Taps Jon Bailey As New Director

LOS ANGELES—The Gay Men's Chorus of Los Angeles announced that Jon Bailey, current Chairman of the Music Department at Pomona College in Claremont, had been appointed as its new principal conductor and artistic director. The former Yale University Director of Sacred Music and Dean of the

San Francisco Conservatory and internationally renowned conductor, will begin directing the chorus on Jan. 4, at its first rehearsal of the new year.

Springtime will mean exciting joint concerts with the San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus on March 26 at the Castro Theater and on April 9 at the historic Em-

bassy Theater in Los Angeles. There will be a special GMCLA tribute to the amazing diversity of Leonard Bernstein's music and a SFGMC salute to the magic of Disney and Astaire, as well as a joint SF/LA performance of famous men's opera choruses (including some Gilbert & Sullivan).

Baker Returns As Temescal Music Director

Charles Baker, founder and original director of the Temescal Gay Men's Chorus, has returned this season as musical director of the chorus. Baker was previously director from 1980-82. Baker's compositions and arrangements have been sung by several gay choruses and by the Oakland Children's Chorus. He has also worked in musical theater.

Baker brings his musical expertise and energy to the Temescal Gay Men's Chorus in his continued conviction that the gay choruses have an important role to play in transforming the image of gay people in the public mind.

The Temescal Gay Men's Chorus is a Berkeley-based chorus which includes in its membership men from both the East Bay and San Francisco. The chorus is open by audition to all

gay or gay-sensitive men who enjoy the art of choral singing. Rehearsals, held in a sense of fun as well as musical growth, are every Tuesday evening in the Trinity Center, 2320 Dana, in Berkeley at 7:30 p.m. Visitors are welcome. Those interested in joining may call 843-1439, or write the Temescal Gay Men's Chorus at P. O. Box 1084, Berkeley, CA 94701.

The Temescal Gay Men's Chorus will be performing as guest artists with the Dick Kramer Gay Men's Choral Dec. 11-13. A major concert for the Temescal Gay Men's Chorus in late February 1988 will include works by Handel, Billings, Schubert, and Weill arranged by Krabes. Concert locations will be in both Berkeley and San Francisco.



Natalie Cole To Star In AIDS Benefit

Local radio station KMEL will welcome star singer Natalie Cole for its 3rd annual Christmas Concert this year, a benefit for the San Francisco AIDS Foundation at the Showplace Concourse, Friday, Dec. 18. The concert will begin at 8 p.m.

In addition to Cole, other entertainers include Alexander O'Neal, Sweet Sensation and Georgiou. Tickets are on sale at BASS for \$15 in advance, \$18 at the door.



Heymont

(Continued from page 30)

sional pitch problems and seemed to lack vulnerability. Although Nicolai Chiaurov was a bit dry-voiced as Ramfis, David Langan offered a solidly-sung King of Egypt. Baritone Ingvor Wixell delivered a powerful portrayal of Aida's father, Amonasro, and Emil Tchakarov's conducting brought a tremendous sense of vitality to the production.

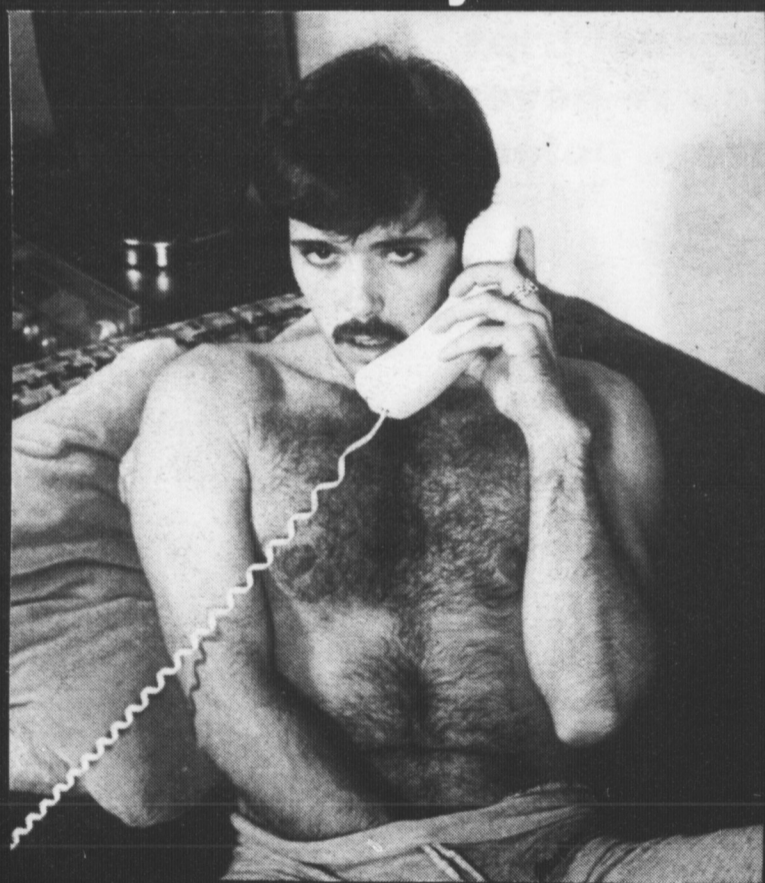
Several nights later, under Louis Salemmo's baton, the second cast exhibited a decidedly more human approach to the work. Ilona Tokody's Ethiopian princess, though vocally not as secure as Freni's, was an impassioned and occasionally frightened Aida. Robert McFarland scored a major triumph as Amonasro; Kevin Langan was a sturdy Ramfis.

In his American debut, tenor Mario Malagnini sounded a bit too nasal for my tastes. However, any disappointment with Malagnini's Radames was easily compensated for by Dolora Zajic's full-throated Amneris. This young American artist (whom I first noticed when she was in the Merola program) has rapidly grown into one of the few true Verdi mezzo-sopranos in today's new generation of singers. Although her acting can be a bit wooden at times, she has such a huge and powerful voice that, without too much effort, she can easily blow her colleagues right off the stage.

This is the kind of sound opera queens tend to have wet dreams about. For those willing to step foot in Orange County, Ms. Zajic can be heard singing Amneris opposite Leona Mitchell's Aida for Opera Pacific in late January. Call (714) 474-8000 for ticket information.

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BAY AREA REPORTER

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Reagan Names USOC Attorney To Federal Court

Attorney Who Fought Gay Games Recommended by Sen. Wilson

by Will Snyder

San Francisco's lesbian and gay community reacted with anger this past weekend after learning of Pres. Ronald Reagan's nomination of Vaughn R. Walker to be a judge on the U.S. District Court in San Francisco. Walker, a 43-year-old attorney with Pillsbury, Madison and Sutro, represented the United States Olympic Committee (USOC) in its successful attempt to keep the Gay Games from using the word "Olympic."

Reagan nominated Walker after the attorney was recommended by U.S. Sen. Pete Wilson, a Republican who will be seeking reelection next year.

Word spread rapidly through the gay and lesbian legal commu-

nity after news of the Reagan nomination appeared in Saturday's San Francisco Chronicle. One gay attorney had hostile words for both Reagan and Wilson.

"I think this appointment is

an intentional assault on our community," said attorney John Wahl. "This is part of the Reagan Administration's attempt to leave our country with a biased, right-wing style of judge who will be with the country for at

(Continued on page 2)

New Militancy Rises In Vigil

Arrests Continue At Fed. Bldg.; Call For Massive Protest

by Allen White

Federal police are continuing to arrest participants in the ARC/AIDS Vigil who chain themselves to the door of the old Federal Building in United Nations Plaza. At least two dozen have been arrested so far. But the arrests have sparked a new determination by the Vigilers. One stated that efforts should begin to stage a massive protest at the site early next year.

"I personally believe that by Feb. 1 we should build support for closing the Federal building down for at least one day. I believe it should happen and I believe it is overdue," said John Belskus. "I would be in favor of

a large non-violent protest that would close down this building for one day," he added.

According to Belskus, "The Vigil went through a long dormant period. It came from a

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1987 In Review

Britt's Run For Congress Raises Gay Clout

by Will Snyder

Only two months before the start of 1987, California's lesbian and gay communities won a great victory. We united with reasonable straights throughout the state to score an easy victory at the polls over Lyndon LaRouche and his AIDS quarantine plan known as Prop. 64. When 1987 arrived, we wanted to start a Road To Recovery.

But 1987 was a tough year. America's conservatives, much like the Luftwaffe over London four decades ago, continued with their never-ending bombardment of human rights.

We lost the "Gay Olympics" case to a conservative United States Supreme Court. We were cheering when Pres. Ronald Reagan announced the formation of an AIDS commission to fight the disease. But the cheers

turned to jeers when we found out the "commission" was packed with conservative ideologues. And, while Reagan appointed cronies and robots, the AIDS death toll continued.

However, there were some triumphs. We joined with progressives everywhere to block Reagan's Supreme Court nomination of a regressive, Judge Robert Bork.

Here are some of the highs and

lows of 1987:

JANUARY: BYE, BYE JOSE

The plans were to get the year off on a different kind of foot. We were thinking of a small dash of Jules Verne or L. Frank Baum and a large dose of Jose Sarria.

Sarria, known lovingly as The Widow Norton, the mother of the gay community, decided to retire to Phoenix, where his memoirs were waiting. His plan was to

leave the city in a hot air balloon.

It was a nice plan, but stormy weather temporarily foiled Jose's style. He made it to Arizona, but he also returned on occasion to San Francisco for visits. Thank God.

We focused in on bigotry against us while a Canadian province helped us reflect further

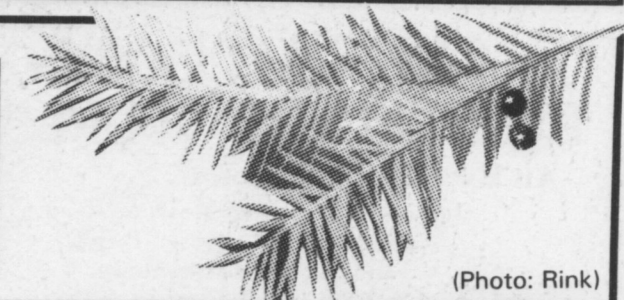
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Today

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Ways to cope with the
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Joan Meant Well: Wendell
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Deadheads with the S.F.
Lesbian/Gay Chorus on
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(Photo: Rink)

