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VOL. XIX NO. 27 JULY-6, 1989

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Petitions Circulate Against Domestic Partnership Law

Opponents Seek Ballot Challenge While Supporters Plan First Ceremonies

by Allen White

Anti-ERA crusader Phyllis Schlafly may be preparing to take on San Francisco's gay community in the November election over the issue of domestic partners. For the last few days, Eagle Forum, a Schlafly-led group from Menlo Park, has joined with local church groups to gain signatures on a petition which would overturn the recently signed domestic partners law.

The measure's official sponsors are the Rev. Charles McIlhenny and Lionel Feldman. McIlhenny was in the forefront of fundamentalist religious efforts against the gay community about eight years ago.

The proposed ballot measure argues, "With this ordinance, the Board of Supervisors have in effect arbitrarily re-defined the time honored and hallowed nature of the family, flying in the face of society's most precious values."

The City Registrar of Voters said that 18,000 valid signatures must be filed with petitions in order for the measure to qualify for the November ballot. The deadline was yesterday, Wednesday, July 5.

The domestic partnership bill was shepherded through the Board of Supervisors by Harry Britt, president of the board.

Jean Harris, a Britt aide, said surveys predict that domestic partnerships will be overwhelmingly upheld should the measure appear on the ballot. Harris also said placing the measure on the ballot, coupled with Phyllis Schlafly as a leader of the opposition, would solidly galvanize the lesbian and gay community.

The *San Francisco Examiner* reported last week that several church and office buildings of the tax-exempt Roman Catholic Archdiocese of San Francisco have been used to distribute and coordinate the petitions. It was reported that the Rev. Lee Kaylor

(Continued on page 13)



Jean Harris, one of the top aides to Supervisor Harry Britt. (Photo: Barbara J. Maggiani)

Playing the Big Boys' Game An Afternoon with Jean Harris

by Dennis Conkin

On the last Thursday afternoon in June, Jean Harris sits in the small cubbyhole of an office in City hall that she shares with other staffers of Supervisor Harry Britt, telephone receiver perched between a shoulder and a cheek, and surveys an appointment book bulging with phone messages. It is, she says, "a typical day."

"We get calls from all ends of the spectrum," she says. "Every day we get the commie-pinko-faggot-I-hope-you-die-of-AIDS calls. Calls for permits, calls about the budget, pending legislation, police and crowd control, people with problems, people being evicted, cars being towed, routine things. We get calls from people with AIDS or who are HIV-positive who are having problems with the Department of Social Services. We field calls from people having problems accessing services all the time." The calls total over a hundred a day.

"Listen, tell him that Harry Britt's office wanted him to know about the problem," she tells a constituent. For the next half-hour and 10 phone calls the process is repeated. Meetings are scheduled or cancelled, requests for Britt's presence at community functions or political events

are accepted or declined, callers needing assistance are given it—or are told who in the city government to call.

The wall-to-wall desk in Harris' office is scattered with dozens of pink message slips, and even as she is on the phone, another Britt aide is on the other line.

It's just after 1 p.m. The day's activities have included a 10 a.m. meeting of community groups concerned about hate crimes at the Jewish Community Federation on Steuart Street and a working lunch with a member of State Assemblyman John Burton's office.

The afternoon promises to be busy: three back-to-back meetings; an event honoring Tim Wolfred, outgoing head of the San Francisco AIDS Foundation; a public hearing on police crowd control before the Human Rights Commission; and an awards dinner. Harris is dressed for the sprint in white Reeboks, a white shirt, pants, pale grey sweater vest and tie. A flat gold-link necklace adds a dash of flash.

"I've been here two years going on 35," she laughs. "But I've been in politics for 20 years, since 1970, when I was in the anti-war movement." After voting for

(Continued on page 14)



Statues of dancers greet visitors to the Grand Palais, where the Ballet Lausanne performs during its run in Paris. (Photo: Jay Newquist)

Paris, 1989

Notes on French Men in Their Bicentennial Summer

by Jay Newquist

A friend who knows these things says a gay man who leaves San Francisco for any reason—even two weeks in Paris during the summer of 1989—rapidly loses strength, like a hurricane moving over land.

We would also rapidly lose patience with the Parisian gay community, such as it is, for its low visibility, its political decorum and its apparently skillful mimicry of eight million straight people on its axis.

My friend Gary and I have a few utterly scientific observations about French men based on a foraging expedition in May, just before the summer of the French bicentennial.

French men all look 18, but they are invariably 10 years older. French men mature rapidly, marrying early by our standard. They are, for the most part, gorgeous, and are seen on the arm of less attractive women.

French men don't eat: they

pick at green salad and look anorexic. No one is supposed to be full after a nouvelle cuisine meal, but this is ridiculous. French men have very nice skin despite their preference for liquor and those filthy Gauloise cigarettes that foul the air.

French men also don't exercise—the joggers in the Jardin du Luxembourg turn out to be tourists—and French men don't do anything vaguely healthy. The

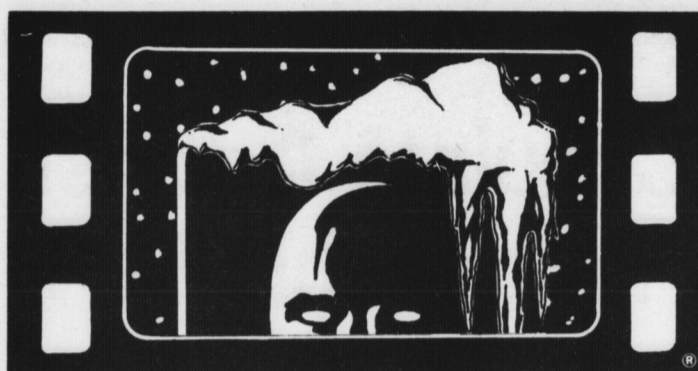
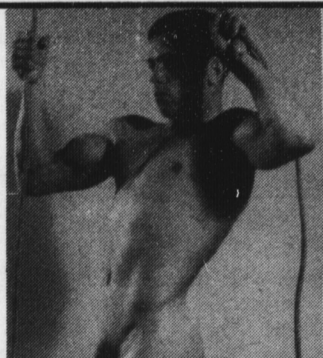
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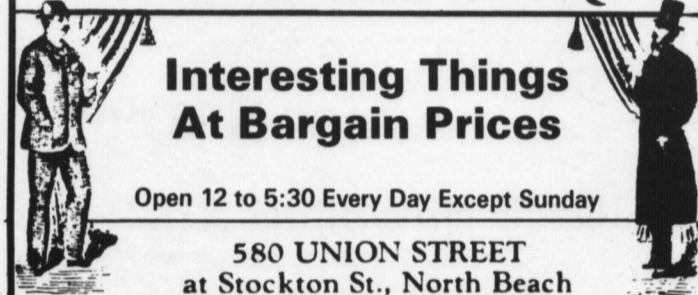
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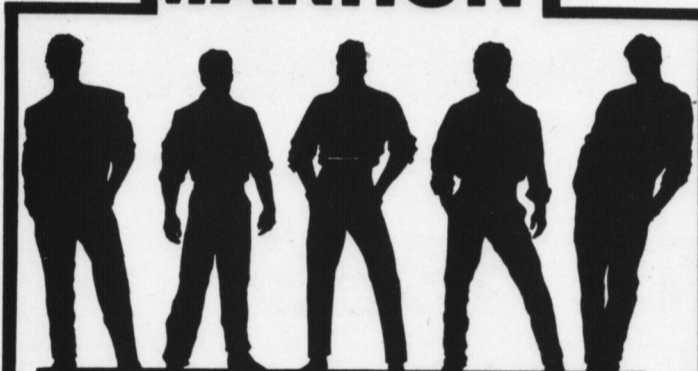
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Paris

(Continued from Page 1)

compilation of these vices, alas, means French men also decay physically rather rapidly, their faces dropping away until they're just another casualty carrying a brief case on the Metro at La Motte Piquet Grenelle.

French men, however, engage in a lot of eye contact on the street, from friendly curiosity to outright flirting, including those men whom one assumes are heterosexual, since the little woman is in tow. French men who are gay act straight and dress likewise despite the scorched-earth haircuts on the very young. French men are wearing wingtips these days, or for the truly bold, topiders without socks.

There is little display of affection expressed in public between anyone, gay or straight, despite the casual, societal erotica everywhere, especially on TV, where barebreasted women and naked men appear in advertisements with little comment. We saw no French men pecking one another on the cheek and very few women walking arm-in-arm with baguettes in fishnet socks.

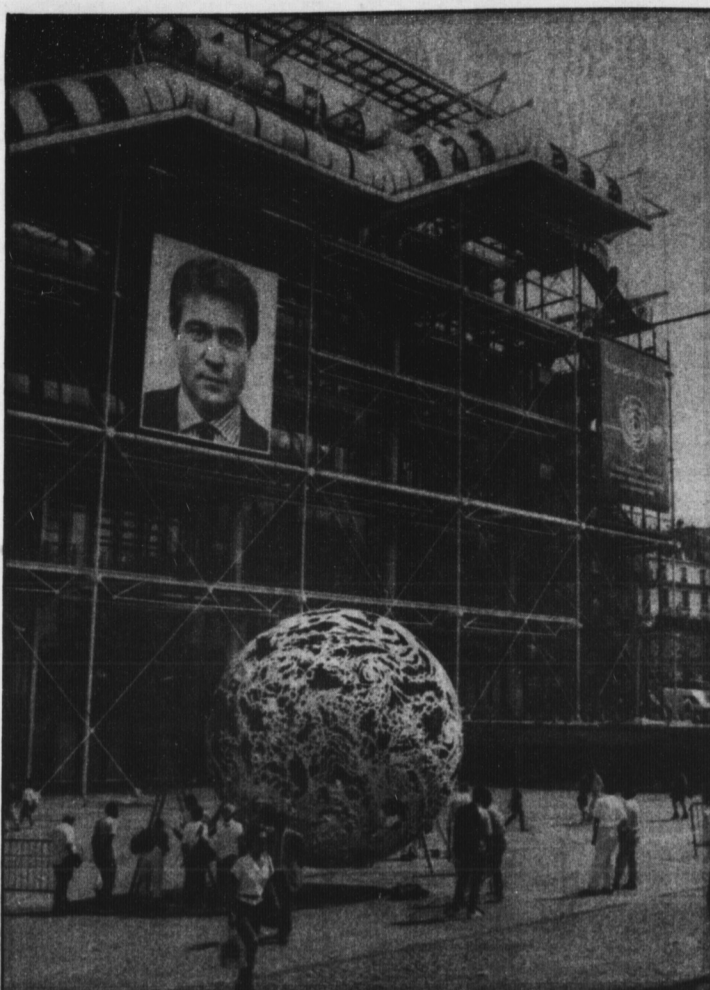
These mixed signals sent us to the gay district, located in the Marais district north of the Hotel de Ville, and with our copy of Gai Pied, the gay guide to France available at newsstands, we hit upon two nice restaurants that are gay, alas, in name only. They charge ruthless prices, but any sense of gay bonding won't happen here.

In the vicinity of the rue du Vieux Temple, at least Aux Mauvais Garçons had a homoerotic poster, while Chez Maman appeared to want gay business while passing as straight. The French seem to eat, when and if they eat, after 8 p.m., which means Marais bars like le Piano Zinc are hopping at 10 p.m.

The music at le Piano Zinc is all American and low enough for conversation, and if the warm, friendly atmosphere on one floor is unappealing, there are two more floors to work with, including the second level, where, more times than not, someone is playing cabaret tunes at the piano.

You may have to pry yourself with a shoehorn into the Quetzal, a pickup bar where the lithe young things come to hawk their wares. We looked longingly from afar, moving to another place (capacity 15) that Gai Pied described as a moustache bar.

There were no discussions of



The Pompidou Center, one of the most popular tourist attractions in Paris, is a stone's throw from the gay district.

(Photo: Jay Newquist)

Kant here, either, and the clientele was rather rough, the student-dockworker type. We found the same at the Central, a dingy, eardrum-splitting place where a pattern began to emerge: gay men of all ages congregate at the same places. The community isn't diverse enough to support the variety of bars that San Francisco does, but there definitely seemed to be more young men under 30 out and about.

The intense consumption in AIDS issues hasn't reached Paris or dented the mass public consciousness, and one is tempted to believe it doesn't exist in France. At the baths near the Opera, you are, however, given a blue towel and a condom (called, oddly, "preservatifs"). The place is large, dimly lit, and has an indoor pool and restaurant surrounded by men of all ages in towels or street clothes.

It seems that gay men in Paris are locked into only a few places where they can safely be themselves, and clearly the baths is a walled-off place, a safe house where hair may definitely be let down. There are darkened cubicles for brief encounters, and it is probably an overstatement that because no one is reading about

safe sex it isn't practiced.

You are accorded a certain reverence if they know you are from California, and there is a frequent lament that such freedom is not on the horizon in France. San Francisco is considered a sexual and social Atlantis, the mythic place where they tend to lift their eyes unto the hills. A lot of porno advertised in the major gay weekly magazine is direct from California and dubbed in French.

Paris at large was loud, expensive, full of long waits (two hours in line to enter the Louvre), greedy waiters who took one look and handed us English menus (even though we speak the language), and hordes of tourists, especially Germans in short shorts travelling in wolf packs. This was *before* the major tourist season.

A new low was reached when we asked a gendarme about the location of the statue of gay poet Paul Verlaine in a Paris park. He had never heard of Verlaine, a major romantic figure of the 19th century.

Have you ever returned to SFO and been tempted to kiss the tarmac? ▼



Street performers work for loose change in a gay area of Montmartre in Paris. (Photo: Jay Newquist)

East Bay Publisher Threatens Dismissals Over Gay Parade Coverage

"Children, Animals and Homosexuals" Considered To Be Sensitive Topics

by Allen White

The publisher of the *Contra Costa Times* has threatened to fire newsroom employees responsible for front-page coverage of the San Francisco Lesbian/Gay Freedom Day Parade.

The publisher's comments followed an internal-policy memo issued by the paper's news editor saying the treatment of the story "drew criticism from the community and company management." The paper devoted a quarter of its front page to a full-color picture and a wire-service story on Monday, June 26, the day following the parade.

Dean Leshner, the publisher of the *Contra Costa Times*, told the *Bay Area Reporter*, "I did find it repulsive because it did not represent a major interest in our particular community. I do not consider it to be a major story. Whoever put it there [did it] without considering our idea of major importance in the story. The story was played up far beyond its importance, as far as I am concerned."

An angry Leshner said he didn't know who had made the decision regarding placement or why. "I don't know why, but if I find out, the person will no longer be with us, that is for sure." When asked whether he would actually fire a person for the decision, he added, "I would consider that to be a factor involved in their continued employment. I don't know whether I would fire them or not. I would like to know who it was."

As Leshner was making his comments, writers at the paper were circulating a petition protesting the policy memo. It stated, "We object to the policy restricting front-page coverage of 'gays and their activities' as offensive and posing a threat to the basic standards of journalism. This policy affects more than story play. We are concerned it will keep editors from making assignments and deter reporters from aggressively pursuing stories, which should be judged on news value, not on whether they offended the sensibilities of a segment of the community."

The petition is signed by 16 *Contra Costa Times* reporters. One person at the paper said almost twice that number had subsequently added their names to the petition. Their protest was delivered to Ann Hagen Kellett, the paper's managing editor.

Leshner contended, "Gay rights does not have that prominence in our community. As far as I am concerned, that was an artificial play by somebody, done very deliberately against our idea of what is important. That was not that important to our community."

"I don't care if a million people show up for a parade that doesn't affect our community. I am interested in issues that affect our community. I am not interested in artificial issues that say 'We had a parade in New York or they had a parade in San Francisco.' I am not interested in that. I

am interested in it, but not to the extent of putting in on page one."

The publisher also said, "We have a family newspaper here. To have a story that says that a number of people had no clothes on, I don't think is good family reporting. It said some were undressed. I didn't like that part of it. If they are going to act that way in San Francisco, let them do it in San Francisco, but that's not the type of parade I think we would countenance out here in Contra Costa County."

That statement in the story, which many believe actually set

off the series of memos, was part of the Associated Press coverage. The offending sentence reads, "Clad in everything from black lace stockings to leather corsets — though a few wore nothing — the riders rode side-by-side through the cheering crowd that lined both sides of the boulevard."

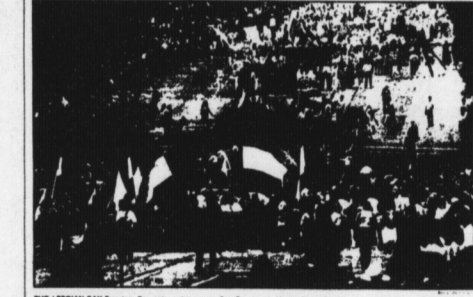
Associated Press stands by the report that a member of the women's motorcycle contingent was nude. In fact, the news service took a picture of her and sent it over the wire. AP records show

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TIMES AT A GLANCE
Quake safety is concern
Old age estimates revised
Pentagon cuts spend
Seniors take steps toward physical fitness
A's top Blue Jays, Giants fall to Padres
Sports, 10
WEATHER

Contra Costa Times
Vol. 79 No. 26 Monday, June 26, 1989
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REMEMBERING STONEWALL



SF holds its 19th gay pride parade

The Lesbian/Gay Freedom Day parade under way in San Francisco's Market Street Sunday.

Tension grows as abortion decision nears
OVERLOADED
New club at Vassar seeks future housewives

Rose hearing put on hold until July 6

The U.S. Supreme Court has put off until July 6 its hearing on whether the federal government can sue to force the state of California to pay for the medical care of a severely disabled child.

China's leaders set to purge Zhao allies

China's leaders are expected to purge Zhao Ziyang's allies from the government in the coming weeks, according to a source familiar with the situation.

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Gays Join Women to Protest Supreme Court's Abortion Ruling

by Allen White

Gay men and lesbians took to the streets July 3 to express their outrage and anger at the Supreme Court decision regarding the choice of a woman to have an abortion. Many gays joined the protest, which at times became violent, and turned into an overnight vigil at the new California State Building.

A crowd began to assemble outside the Golden Gate Avenue Federal Building at 5 p.m.

"I am here to support a woman's right to choose an abortion and because I think that the same civil rights that are under

attack today by the Supreme Court affects those of us who are gay people, men and women," said Eric Rofes, executive director of the Shanti Project.

He was one of the first people on the scene.

"It basically is about how we use our bodies, how we make decisions about it, and the state should not have a right to do that."

Explaining how the decision affected gay men he said, "We saw the Hardwick decision a couple of years ago, which specifical-

ly said that men can't do in the privacy of their bedrooms with their bodies what we want—this is the same thing."

There were pleas for solidarity by the gay community with women. Aurora Garcia, president of the San Francisco National Organization for Women, said, "gay men and lesbians need to stand by women because any minority will be tyrannized if we are not standing up for one another. Our civil rights as women affect every man."

Garcia said the Supreme Court decision "is signalling a turnaround. Not only is it possible to discriminate, but they are doing it in the most private areas. They're regulating a woman's right to control her own body. They are obviously intending to regulate the kind of sex you can have, who you can have it with, where you can have it and if you can have it at all.

"This just leads one thing to another. The right to control your own body and the right to express yourself in whatever manner is appropriate for you should not be hampered by someone else's so-called morality."

"Gay men, straight women, black men, brown men, green men, every man and every woman



Participants in the demonstration Monday in front of the State Building, protesting the Supreme Court's decision in the case of *Webster v. Reproductive Health Services*.

(Photo: Barbara J. Maggiani)

is involved in the abortion issue," former Supervisor Carol Ruth Silver said. "Because every unwanted child, every abused child

left on a doorstep or beaten pays for. The taxes of gay men are

(Continued on page 15)



Angry San Francisco women responding to the Supreme Court's abortion decision.

(Photo: Barbara J. Maggiani)



Angry protestors block San Francisco streets in response to the Supreme Court's narrowing of the right to abortion.

(Photo: Barbara J. Maggiani)

Issues of Access

Panel Proposal, Q Trials Raise Questions About Who Will Get High-Tech Treatments

by Dennis Conkin

The underground testers of Compound Q and a recent proposal by a top federal medical official have directed increased attention to the issue of widespread access to proper HIV-related health care.

Dr. Anthony Fauci, director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, on June 23 called for the development of a "parallel tracking system" that would allow people with HIV infection access to selected AIDS drugs while they are still being evaluated. His proposal, made during a keynote speech at HIV Treatment Awareness Week, follows several years of severe criticism spearheaded by ACT UP, the AIDS activist group, that people with HIV infection and AIDS are denied access to treatment due to the government's cumbersome methods of testing, approving and releasing AIDS drugs.

Fauci suggested that promising AIDS drugs could be made available through private physicians and community-based research clinics but emphasized that such a proposal would involve FDA and pharmaceutical manufacturer approval—and only on a drug-by-drug basis. "What I'm proposing is that we respond to the needs of patients with HIV infection by instilling greater flexibility in our scientific approach," Fauci said.

Under Fauci's proposal, selected drugs that have been shown to be safe and effective during pilot—or phase-one—clinical trials would be offered in a "second track" conducted simultaneously with phase-two clinical trials. Phase-two trials, which test for efficacy, involve a wider patient group than phase-one trials, which test for toxicity and are limited to a small and rigorously screened initial patient group.

Michelle Roland, a member of the local ACT UP treatment issues committee, said Fauci's statement raises a lot of questions.

"When pushed, it sounded like he meant just one or two hundred people to start with," Roland said. "My fear is that it could drag on before large numbers of people have access. We have to scrutinize every word that comes out of his mouth and not be complacent just because somebody in power is finally starting to say what we've been saying for months and years."

Roland asked what will happen to people with HIV infection and AIDS who are not geographically close to established research centers, and said that Fauci must back up his proposal with concrete efforts to implement it.

ACT UP is not the only organization to question the slow spread with which access issues have been addressed.

"Timely and broad access to treatment information has long been an urgent priority in the fight against AIDS," said Pat Christen, director of public policy for the San Francisco AIDS Foundation. "However, this need is only beginning to be addressed at the national level.

Fauci's suggestion is the latest statement from local and na-

tional AIDS experts to reflect a shift in the way AIDS is viewed medically. It is this increased optimism that is throwing the issue of access to treatment into sharp relief.

"The picture for HIV illness has changed greatly," said Dr. David Werdegar, director of the San Francisco Department of Public Health. "There is hope. Medical treatment is available. I believe with the utmost sincerity and a lot of practical experience that AIDS meets the definition of a chronic illness.

"Too often the message in the past was that to have AIDS or HIV disease was a death sentence. That's no longer true," Werdegar said.

Dr. Don Abrams, director of AIDS activity at San Francisco General Hospital, concurred with Werdegar.

"In 1981, our first patients had a lifespan of seven to nine months. We didn't know what caused the disease until 1984. As yet there is no cure. We've come quickly in treatment. The future holds even more progress in a shorter period of time," he said.

"The critical message we want to get across is that HIV is treatable," said Martin Delaney, co-director of Project Inform. "We don't have the treatment to cure the disease, but we can slow down the progress of the disease. The majority of the people in this city who are infected do not know they are infected."

Founded in 1985, Project Inform is the leading organization working with federal authorities on AIDS treatment research and drug regulation policies. It advocates for voluntary AIDS

(Continued on page 19)



Martin Delaney of Project Inform explains the organization's stand on underground testing of Compound Q at a recent meeting of supporters of the organization.

(Photo: Rink)

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EDITORIAL & OPINION

Freedom's Limits

It was a bitter irony that the Supreme Court issued its decision narrowing the right to abortion on the eve of Independence Day, the holiday on which the nation pauses to celebrate freedom and its implications. The Court's ruling in the case of *Webster v. Reproductive Health Services* provides further evidence of a rightward philosophical lurch that has ominous implications for all who are concerned with personal liberties. Gay people are prominent in this group, and not only because lesbians sometimes require abortions. Lesbians and gay men are at the top of the list of those whom conservative social forces would punish and restrict, and any judicial decision that unjustly infringes upon the rights of another repressed group ultimately poses a grave threat to us.

In 1973, in *Roe v. Wade*, the Court established a woman's constitutional right to abortion, thereby ending an era of back-alley butchery, maimings and deaths and affirming that this right belongs to all women, not only to those with the economic means to circumvent restrictive local laws. In politics as in physics, every action has a reaction—in this case, the growth of a strident so-called "pro-life" movement whose goal was the restriction and disruption of the lives of women for the sake of the potential life of a piece of tissue called a fetus. In Missouri, anti-abortionists succeeded in passing a law the cynical intent of which was to throw up roadblocks to the exercising of a constitutional right. Abortions were banned in public hospitals; public employees, including doctors and nurses, were forbidden from performing abortions that were not necessary to save a woman's life; expensive and unnecessary medical tests were mandated on fetuses that were thought to be more than 20 weeks old. By upholding the Missouri law, the Supreme Court has issued a formal invitation to state legislatures to do what they will to circumvent the Constitution.

"This is a sad day for freedom," said the president of the Planned Parenthood Federation of America, Fay Wattleton. "Now a woman's access to abortion will become hostage to geography as states enact a patchwork of laws and regulations aimed at blocking abortions." In this case as in the *Hardwick* decision, which permitted the states to go their own way in the enactment of sodomy laws, the Court shows a blithe

disregard for those who wish to exercise judgment in the use of their own bodies.

The drive against abortion is an attack on the sexual revolution, of which gay liberation is a part. It is no accident that anti-abortionists generally tend to be anti-feminist, or that anti-feminists (such as Phyllis Schlafly, currently reported to be engaged in an effort to overturn San Francisco's domestic partnership law) are so often anti-gay. The conservative movement has a broad range of targets; abortion is just one. When they have successfully killed this right, they will be emboldened to move against others, such as the gay movement, that represent challenges to some of their most deeply cherished assumptions and beliefs.

We have become accustomed in the latter part of this century to thinking of the Supreme Court as a fair-minded body with humanistic values at its heart. Sadly, we may be returning to a time more akin to the 1890s, when a repressive Court ignored justice and the common good and, in a series of egregious decisions, overturned Reconstruction by allowing the states to enact viciously racist laws, the consequences of which the nation is still struggling to overcome. Meanwhile, we have a moral vacuum in political leadership, with a president and legislators (both federal and state) who applaud a Supreme Court ruling allowing children and the mentally retarded to be put to death while expending their capital pushing for a constitutional amendment to protect a piece of cloth. We cannot hope for salvation from the likes of them, and in that sense efforts by abortion activists to pursue feminism through the legislatures may be doomed.

Justice Harry A. Blackmun, author of a scorching dissenting opinion in the *Webster* case, stated his reservations most eloquently: "I fear for the future. I fear for the liberty and equality of the millions of women who have lived and come of age in the 16 years since *Roe* was decided. I fear for the integrity of, and public esteem for, this Court... For today, the women of this Nation still retain the liberty to control their destinies. But the signs are evident and very ominous, and a chill wind blows."

The nation celebrated freedom this week. But how free is the woman who cannot control what happens inside her body? How free is the unwanted fetus that grows into an unloved child? And how free is the country that suffers a compulsion to interfere in such intimate moments of its citizens' lives?

GUEST OPINION

Letter from Beijing

by John Hubert

Dear Friends:
I am a senior high school student. I am 17 years old, living in Beijing, the People's Republic of China. I am writing you this letter in tears because this is the last time for me to write letter in the world. After giving this letter to a foreigner who will leave China, I will kill myself and stop my nightmare thoroughly. I really don't have any other choice.

I am gay. I don't dare tell anyone. I am very very lonely and despair. I curse my fate for living in China. Gays should not be born into China. I have to hide my feelings all day long. If I am caught out, I will be sent to jail.

I write all my pain and bitter emotions in my diary. I love one of my classmate deeply. I wrote my love of him in the diary in great depth. I don't dare to show my love. That is very pain in my inner-heart. I wrote all these emotional struggle in that diary.

It is my fault and careless that I shall pay with my life. My diary was read by two of my classmate. Not very long that the whole school and the people in my neighborhood have known this shocking news I have been exposed thoroughly to the society. For days my mom has been crying and my father has beaten me four times so far. My younger sister don't dare to go out because her peers will laugh at her and beat her. Most of the neighbors' smiling faces have turned to stone faces. Everyone here is chatting on this big news, pointing to the members of my family.

I have been asked to leave school and to wait punishment from my school. Because I haven't reached the adult's age of 18, the police office on my street hasn't bothered me yet.

I don't dare to look at the faces of other people these days. I feel terribly bad and grief. I owe my family. I owe my relatives. I owe my friends. I have brought trouble to them. As long as I think of these, I can't help my tears. God, why I am so bad-luck?

I have decided to cut my wrists and put an end to my pain-filled life. I hope my family and relatives would understand and forgive me. Life for me is too hard to bear. I don't have face to continue my unhuman-like life in front of all these hostile people. It is time for me to leave this heartbreaking world and forget everything forever. Good bye!

— Li Binbin

Li Binbin's goodbye letter was sent to the ACLU/Gay Rights Project in California. As he used an assumed name to protect his family, it is not possible to know whether he followed through with his unhappy plans.

There are isolated young gays like Li Binbin in our world, in Asia, in Africa and in Latin America as well as in other countries. Even in industrialized countries, a sense of isolation can be overwhelming to the young. A recent report from the Institute for the Protection of Lesbian and Gay Youth of New York City showed that 29 percent of the people visiting that facility reported attempting suicide—because they were gay. Joyce Hunter, the institute's director, says, "Gay youth are six times more likely to attempt suicide than their heterosexual counterparts. Up to 23 percent of lesbians and up to 18 percent of gay men have attempted suicide."

In Asia, Africa, and Latin America, the situation is far more difficult, as there are far fewer support facilities, such as lesbian and gay organizations, which one can join.

Two things that we can do to help: (1) join protest-letter campaigns to raise the consciousness of leaders in developing countries, who often have little or no understanding of gay people; (2) have one or more overseas pen pals. Many of those seeking overseas contacts are also budding activists. You might encourage this. Ask about local groups. If none, suggest she/he consider starting one. Plant the seed!

Harvey Milk, the first openly gay supervisor in San Francisco, said, "We must provide hope to the gay community, especially our youth, so they know that there is hope for a better world, hope for a better tomorrow."

Some lesbians and gay Asians requesting pen friends include:

Indonesian lesbian, 27, would like to correspond with other lesbians outside Indonesia. She lives with her family, so please be discreet. Ellen T. JI. Jatinegara Barat V/6, Jakarta 13310, Indonesia.

Indonesian/Chinese gay male, 25, student, wants to contact gay friends worldwide. Is new to gay life. Aditia Nugraha, P.O. Box 124, Daan Mogot, Jakarta 11001, Indonesia.

Gay Singapore/Chinese, 28, wants to correspond with gays worldwide. John Tay, Alexandra, P.O. Box 0114, Singapore 9115, Singapore.

Malaysian/Chinese, 55, professional, seeks correspondence and friendship from Asians and whites, 20-35. Jaivan Ho, 4708A, Taman Maju, 15200 Kota Bharu, Malaysia. Jaivan would like to see a gay movement develop in Malaysia.

For a free listing of 50 worldwide pen friends, write to this columnist, P.O. Box 66450, Houston, TX 77266.

UNREAL

Unreal

★ Of all the Gay and Lesbian Freedom Parades I have attended over the years, this year's was unreal. The energy was that of the best drug in the universe. With the love of my life at my side, we glowed in the magic of the day. Although it was foggy, we felt the heat from the power in the streets. We were safe and our wish was, "Why can't it always be like this?" Oh well...

In this letter I want to thank everyone who brought the love and support to our streets. I bless you all for keeping my smile and the smile of the love of my life glowing. Don't stop.

Peter J. Davey
San Francisco

Looking Forward to Next Year

★ I have never been much of a parade-goer, but my window is right over the march route anyway, so I actually have the best seat in town. I must say, this year's Gay Pride March was the greatest yet! And which contingent in the parade do you think got the most applause? I am proud to say that it was the Fire Department.

But I was saddened to see that there was not a contingent of Vietnam veterans. So, I will see to it that, starting next year, there will be from now on, as well as a contingent for the homeless. Only sorry I did not move on this idea in time for this year's parade. (Sometimes inspiration comes only with hindsight, and on the heels of a great event.)

Even though I myself am not a Nam vet, I have many close friends who are (including my lover), most of whom are still struggling with PTSD, many of whom wander the streets homeless and psychologically devastated. It will be my greatest achievement ever, to awaken the lesbian/gay community to the need to heal our own Nam vets who not only served our country, but served the needs for kindness, love, and caring, for their comrades in arms, at the risk of suffering persecution, torture, murder, not just at the hands of the enemy, but in the hands of their own brothers at war. (Read *Anywhere, Anywhere* by Tim Barrus, for specific insights on the Vietnam War through the eyes of a gay soldier.) This healing process of the Nam vets is every bit as important as the healing of the AIDS holocaust.

I shall see to it that the history of the Vietnam War shall not be a repeat of the history of other wars, in that the issue and importance of the homosexual at war was suppressed as if it were not just irrelevant, but nonexistent. More than 200,000 homosexuals were condemned to concentration camps during the Nazi reign of terror that began World War II. My heart goes out to all groups of people who were thus persecuted: Jews, Polish, Catholics, dissenters, etc. However, I beg of these groups to stop ignoring their own gay contingents, whenever documenting their history of persecution. After all, indeed there were (and are, and always will be) gay Jews, gay Polish, gay Catholics, gay dissenters, and gay soldiers.

Anyway, it was a great parade, and I suspect history is in the making this year for lesbians/gays, the homeless, and Vietnam veterans. And we'll do it all, together.

Gene Catalano
San Francisco

Crowd Count

★ Published reports estimate the crowd at the Gay Freedom Day Parade at 275,000. However, I wish to say that I only counted 274,000.

David W. Jones
San Mateo

Looking Good

★ Thanks for "Stonewall 20: A Generation of Pride." The second section of your special edition was a real gift. The reader opened to an article by the former owner of the Stonewall Inn—what a surprise. Then came a message from our mayor that was actually aggressive in our favor—no political double-talk. Frank Robinson's piece comparing Chicago and San Francisco in the '60s was a joy, as expected from a man who is not only a real successor to his friend Harvey Milk, but also a great writer. And Darrell Yates Rist's profile of Eric the grey-haired two-stepper was pure revelation.

The piece on Hank Wilson was good—he certainly deserves the recognition he received on the Gay Freedom Day main stage—but can't anyone get Hank to talk about himself or his work, rather than his opinions? There followed a centerspread on lesbian and gay parents: A decade ago would any gay paper have featured this?

But the real congratulations must go to the writers and editors who provided us with such deep and caring looks at our "elders." Mary Richards and Marv Shaw's revelations on long-term relationships ("Still Happy After All These Years!" and "44 Years of Gay Love"), the profiles of grand marshals Lyon, Martin and Sarria, and the recollection of San Francisco's own "Stonewall" at California Hall four years before the New York bar exploded (the last two articles by Allen White) let all of us feel real pride.

These were not about nostalgia, but about something more—something often lacking in our community: a sense of continuity. I hope you make this special section available to anyone who may have missed it, and that you continue this kind of journalism all this year to come. This Gay Freedom Day the venerable (and at times dowdy) old *Bay Area Reporter* looked damn good.

Mark Freeman
San Francisco

Just Curious

★ I went to the parade with my boyfriend and other friends and had a great time, of course.

And mind you this letter is out of healthy curiosity and confusion—not anger.

In passing the disabled section on the north side of Grove, between Polk and Van Ness, we were told to extinguish all smoking materials because we were entering a "smoke" and "scent-free" zone.

The monitors were firm about this, even though people were jammed in both directions usually five abreast. OK, maybe if we were passing through an enclosed area, but outside? During a parade?

If this were truly a concern, then why were these people positioned on the edge of the street while four hours of motorcycles, slow-moving trucks and floats went by, not to mention the cars on Van Ness? Oh well.

Frederick A. Bartos
San Francisco

Just Tribute

The following was sent to the San Francisco Examiner.

★ Dear Mr. Hearst and Examiner Staff:

I would guess that you have stirred the ire of many of your readers because of the truths you have told in your "Gay In America" series. I would not be surprised if you have been accused of "recruiting gay youth" or proselytizing the "gay lifestyle." The poignant "Legacy of Bobby Griffith" and the ironic epiphany of his fundamentalist mother have left me deeply moved. In your series you have revealed a disease in this society that is far more life-threatening than AIDS itself. I refer to the disease of homophobia, fueled by a "moral" self-righteousness that Mrs. Griffith herself so appropriately called "demented."

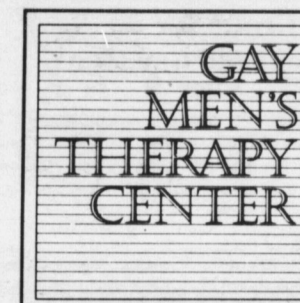
I'm always amazed by the moral ethic (for lack of a better term) that casts its gay youth into the drug-trafficked streets and then blames them for being "anti-family" and drug abusers; that forbids its children to love the natural objects of their affection and then uses that as proof that they are incapable of lasting relationships; that ruins their careers and then calls them failures; that casts them from their churches and then vilifies them as "godless." It's a belief system that gives a Vietnam veteran a "medal for killing two men and a discharge for loving one"; a belief system that would ask a man to risk his life in defense of his brothers and his country and then have the hubris to imply that he is less of a man and have the audacity to attempt to remove him as a role model! What a strange disease homophobia is!

If you want to measure the degree of degeneracy of the American family, ask not how many homosexual children it produces, ask, instead, how does the family treat those children. The stories of these tragic young men lend subtle meaning to the terms "molestation" and "child abuse."

The *Examiner* series has paid tribute to the many men and women who are truly superior role models for any child, straight or gay. "Gay In America" has shown us both how far we have come and how far we must go. Some may say, in jaded sophistry, that you were only trying to sell newspapers. Well, I for one hope you sold a hell of a lot. You have proven that we are not alone. No one can doubt your good faith, courage and journalistic leadership. In the short term I fear you have been preaching to the converted, but in the long run I believe your contribution will be inestimable. One thing is for sure: your series has brought us all a little closer together. You have shown many that there is light shining in the darkness.

To all of the *Examiner* staff: From the beginning, your series has been Pulitzer material. I can only hope that your peers pay you the tribute you deserve. I for one salute you!

John P. Mortimer, Esq.
San Francisco



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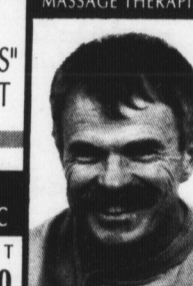
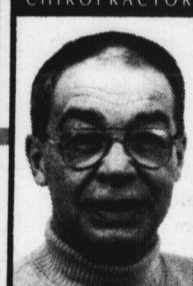
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BAY AREA REPORTER JULY 6, 1989 PAGE 6

EDITORIAL & OPINION

Freedom's Limits

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LETTERS

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San Francisco

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Looking Good

★ Thanks for "Stonewall 20: A Generation of Pride." The second section of your special edition was a real gift. The reader opened to an article by the former owner of the Stonewall Inn—what a surprise. Then came a message from our mayor that was actually aggressive in our favor—no political double-talk. Frank Robinson's piece comparing Chicago and San Francisco in the '60s was a joy, as expected from a man who is not only a real successor to his friend Harvey Milk, but also a great writer. And Darrell Yates Rist's profile of Eric the grey-haired two-stepper was pure revelation.

The piece on Hank Wilson was good—he certainly deserves the recognition he received on the Gay Freedom Day main stage—but can't anyone get Hank to talk about himself or his work, rather than his opinions? There followed a centerspread on lesbian and gay parents: A decade ago would any gay paper have featured this?

But the real congratulations must go to the writers and editors who provided us with such deep and caring looks at our "elders." Mary Richards and Marv Shaw's revelations on long-term relationships ("Still Happy After All These Years!" and "44 Years of Gay Love"), the profiles of grand marshals Lyon, Martin and Sarria, and the recollection of San Francisco's own "Stonewall" at California Hall four years before the New York bar exploded (the last two articles by Allen White) let all of us feel real pride.

These were not about nostalgia, but about something more—something often lacking in our community: a sense of continuity. I hope you make this special section available to anyone who may have missed it, and that you continue this kind of journalism all this year to come. This Gay Freedom Day the venerable (and at times dowdy) old *Bay Area Reporter* looked damn good.

Mark Freeman
San Francisco

Just Curious

★ I went to the parade with my boyfriend and other friends and had a great time, of course.

And mind you this letter is out of healthy curiosity and confusion—not anger.

In passing the disabled section on the north side of Grove, between Polk and Van Ness, we were told to extinguish all smoking materials because we were entering a "smoke" and "scent-free" zone.

The monitors were firm about this, even though people were jammed in both directions usually five abreast. OK, maybe if we were passing through an enclosed area, but outside? During a parade?

If this were truly a concern, then why were these people positioned on the edge of the street while four hours of motorcycles, slow-moving trucks and floats went by, not to mention the cars on Van Ness? Oh well.

Frederick A. Bartos
San Francisco

Just Tribute

The following was sent to the San Francisco Examiner.

★ Dear Mr. Hearst and Examiner Staff:

I would guess that you have stirred the ire of many of your readers because of the truths you have told in your "Gay In America" series. I would not be surprised if you have been accused of "recruiting gay youth" or proselytizing the "gay lifestyle." The poignant "Legacy of Bobby Griffith" and the ironic epiphany of his fundamentalist mother have left me deeply moved. In your series you have revealed a disease in this society that is far more life-threatening than AIDS itself. I refer to the disease of homophobia, fueled by a "moral" self-righteousness that Mrs. Griffith herself so appropriately called "demented."

I'm always amazed by the moral ethic (for lack of a better term) that casts its gay youth into the drug-trafficked streets and then blames them for being "anti-family" and drug abusers; that forbids its children to love the natural objects of their affection and then uses that as proof that they are incapable of lasting relationships; that ruins their careers and then calls them failures; that casts them from their churches and then vilifies them as "godless." It's a belief system that gives a Vietnam veteran a "medal for killing two men and a discharge for loving one"; a belief system that would ask a man to risk his life in defense of his brothers and his country and then have the hubris to imply that he is less of a man and have the audacity to attempt to remove him as a role model! What a strange disease homophobia is!

If you want to measure the degree of degeneracy of the American family, ask not how many homosexual children it produces, ask, instead, how does the family treat those children. The stories of these tragic young men lend subtle meaning to the terms "molestation" and "child abuse."

The *Examiner* series has paid tribute to the many men and women who are truly superior role models for any child, straight or gay. "Gay In America" has shown us both how far we have come and how far we must go. Some may say, in jaded sophistry, that you were only trying to sell newspapers. Well, I for one hope you sold a hell of a lot. You have proven that we are not alone. No one can doubt your good faith, courage and journalistic leadership. In the short term I fear you have been preaching to the converted, but in the long run I believe your contribution will be inestimable. One thing is for sure: your series has brought us all a little closer together. You have shown many that there is light shining in the darkness.

To all of the *Examiner* staff: From the beginning, your series has been Pulitzer material. I can only hope that your peers pay you the tribute you deserve. I for one salute you!

John P. Mortimer, Esq.
San Francisco

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BAY AREA REPORTER JULY 6, 1989 PAGE 7

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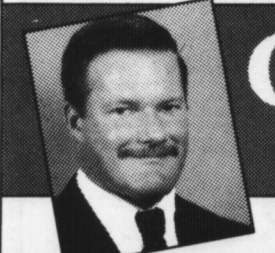


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LETTERS

Negative Reporting

★ When I first heard about "In Concert Against AIDS," I was extremely excited! I rushed out and got my tickets for the Saturday celebration, I think, a day or two after they were on sale.

But I didn't realize until your article of May 18, how negative gay reporting has become in recent years.

Is it necessary for your paper to continually draw on the negative? Just because a few agencies were not mentioned in the funding list doesn't mean coming down so hard on the total organization for not being fair to everybody asking to benefit from "In Concert Against AIDS."

What we need is a positive and loving attitude toward the AIDS crisis, not picking every issue bare and letting it lay, bleeding in the dust of despair!

I am thankful that a more diverse grouping of agencies was mentioned in your article! Shanti Project, Open Hand, along with many other major San Francisco-based agencies, do not have exclusive rights to all money raised!

AIDS is a world problem, not just restricted to San Francisco alone! Please give the little person a chance to speak without feeling offended that the big guns with "clout" haven't received a fair share of the money!

Monies raised by "In Concert" need to be fairly shared by all agencies involved! Without this money, education would be greatly lacking in areas overlooked when ongoing fundraisers come around! Let's give everyone an equal chance... money, as well as education, are top priorities in the fight against AIDS, not the exclusive possession of a chosen few big established agencies!

On a stronger note, I would like to applaud your article reviewing "In Concert Against AIDS," which appeared in the June 1 issue.

Finally your reviewer is speaking from the heart... getting to the soul of the celebration, its love, its energy, its overall impact and message!

I observed that the concert was predominantly made up of rainbow clad deadheads... what a perfect opportunity to relay the truth... to a content and happy audience!

I had read several reports that some people stayed away from the concert because of the nature of its message and that parents kept their children from going because the concert featured the Grateful Dead; that this type of "toilet seat" environment was a negative influence upon their children, etc.

I say let them have their opinion! But if it wasn't for the fact of Bill Graham, the Grateful Dead, and many other well-known artists, this concert would have no impact at all!

In a world where too little is done for too many problems, it is encouraging to see the diverse number of people coming out and supporting this important cause!

I hope that there will be future "In Concert Against AIDS" and that support would lovingly and positively increase!

My hope goes onward, that politics would find its proper place in the AIDS crisis and not undermine compassion, truth and love!

As John Lennon wrote, "All we need is love!"

Paul Ford
San Francisco

Misinformation Corrected

★ Relying on a brief history of Most Holy Redeemer parish in *The Monitor* newspaper of October 10, 1936, I passed on to the *Bay Area Reporter* readers (letters, May 11) misinformation concerning the date of the dedication of the first, and present, parish church.

Because so many gay Bay Areas have attended Masses of the Resurrection there for lovers and friends who have died of AIDS or ARC, it is important to correct the error.

The formal dedication of the Church of the Most Holy Redeemer at Eureka Valley in San Francisco was covered in *The Monitor* of January 11 and 18, 1902.

The church was dedicated by Archbishop Patrick W. Riordan of San Francisco on January 12, 1902.

The January 11 *Monitor* hailed the new church as "an ornament and attraction to that fastly growing portion of San Francisco at the foot of Twin Peaks" and reported that "this church, a very pretty building of Romanesque style, was designed and carefully supervised by the well-known architect Chas. J. Devlin."

My apologies for the previous error of Christmas Day 1901, which was probably the day on which the church was first used.

James F. Gibbons
San Leandro

Big Gestures

★ In view of the widespread reluctance on the part of "straight" society to deal with the gay/lesbian community on equal terms, it is hardly surprising that the existence of senior citizens in that community is virtually ignored. Even in "normal" society, seniors tend to lose their status as fully accredited members of their community and become consigned to a different—not to say second-class—social status. For gay/lesbian seniors, the situation deteriorates even further, as the straight community frequently seems to wonder how we got as far as we did in the first place, and why we did not do the decent thing (in their eyes) and simply fade away into obscurity. In a certain sense we have forced our oppressors to acknowledge their failure to be able to keep us in our pre-Stonewall hiding places, as we refuse any longer to compromise our integrity by trying to be other than who and what we are, as we were forced to do in our younger, pre-Stonewall lives.

Judging by the spontaneity of the enthusiastic reception we received all along the parade route on Sunday as we rode by in the motorized cable car provided by the staff of Gay/Lesbian Outreach to Elders (GLOE), it was clear that our younger members enthusiastically acknowledge that we, too, are part of their community. Their demonstrated sincerity in wanting to make us feel that we, too, belong was evident and much appreciated. We were not all dry-eyed on that cable car Sunday as we felt the warmth which radiated towards us from our younger counterparts.

I, for one, am grateful to all who made Parade Day '89 what it was for us. Nor will I ever forget the sincerity of that young, black, female police officer on Upper Market Street who came over to me and told me how proud she was of all of us. I hope that she will be able to learn that her gesture did not go unnoticed, and that it was deeply appreciated.

John J. Carr
San Francisco

Thanks to All

★ Just a quick word of thanks to Flo Tumolo and Steve Lindsay, co-chairs of this year's Gay Day Parade. It was a wonderful event, especially this year, with the large number of people both viewing the parade from the sidelines and the marchers who turned out for the trip to the Civic Center celebration.

To all those who volunteered their time, energy and money into this event, thank you. The entire production was flawless; from the expansion of the Civic Center area with its four sound stages, as well as exhibition space for artisans, food vendors, political and social organizations, and even a disco tent. There was truly something for everyone.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank artist Gilbert Baker for donating the beautiful flag that was awarded the Blueights Campaign as this year's Grand Prize Winner for booth decoration, as well as the flags that lined the parade route along Market Street and the shocking pink backdrop that was used on the main stage in front of City Hall.

One last bit of thanks to everyone who stopped by our booth and to everyone who turned out for the festivities. It was a rousing success and let's all do it again next year. Thank you to everyone involved.

David S. Willers
Director, Blueights Campaign

Reflections on Stonewall 20

★ Jose, all in white; how proud you looked leading the parade and how proud we were of you and all you have done. In the second car, Mayor Agnos, for which we can only say, "Thank you for coming!"

The warmth, the pleasure of a brief friendship as we enjoyed the entertainment, as we wept for those with AIDS, the delight in the freedom of a nude wearing only body paint. We were all there in all our guises, from the ridiculous to the serious—and they all were welcome, for they are our community. We are proud of ourselves, and we are proud of all of you. The joy of America is its diversity and its freedoms—and in the back memory, I kept thinking of the slaughter in Tiananmen Square—how lucky we are. A day of love, of joy, of reflection, of sadness; emotions as various as the display.

And at seven o'clock in the evening, the bottles rolling in the street, the trash and papers blowing in the doorways, piling in the corners; a drag in a gorgeous dress and wig, eyes looking down to the sidewalk, hugging the wall, walking home alone.

Marc Porrovecchio
San Leandro

Write to B.A.R.

★ *Bay Area Reporter* welcomes letters to the editor. Please type and double-space them, if possible. Always include an address and telephone number for purposes of verification; these will not be published. Letters may be edited for length or grammar, but the sense will not be altered. Address them to: Letters to the Editor, *Bay Area Reporter*, 395 Ninth St., San Francisco, CA 94103-3831.

OPINIONS

Low Visibility

★ Comments from Dana Van Gorder on efforts in Montreal to change the United States Immigration and Naturalization Service's (INS) policies on admitting HIV-infected individuals (June 22) deserves clarification.

From my perspective, there was relatively little visibility for the issue in Montreal. I had some difficulty tracking down a copy of a petition that could be signed, which then had to be returned to booth 218 in the Exhibit Hall. I was told that this resolution had been distributed outside one or more plenary sessions, but several people said to me that they had neither seen nor heard of the petition. I don't know how many petitions were returned, but the procedure was certainly one to discourage both education and signature collection.

It was stated that the delegates adopted a resolution "urging all countries to reverse policies that exclude HIV-infected travelers and seeking assurances from the U.S. government that HIV-infected individuals will be permitted to attend the San Francisco conference." In fact, a proposed resolution was read at the end of a plenary session that had run considerably over its time on Thursday. There were very few delegates even present at the time, and no vote was taken. This action hardly qualifies as an "adoption" of a resolution by the delegates.

At the meeting of the International AIDS Society (IAS), several people, including San Francisco delegates, did request that the IAS not sanction future meetings (after the San Francisco conference) in countries that deny entry to HIV-infected travelers. Because the amended INS policy still does not permit unrestricted entry into the United States, objections were raised to holding the meeting in San Francisco. However, the objections did not appear to me to be coming from San Francisco delegates or organizations. Business at the sparsely attended IAS meeting was conducted in a confusing manner. It was decided that a mail ballot will go out to IAS members regarding future meetings, but the wording of the ballot was uncertain as the meeting ended.

Mr. Van Gorder says that the issue of travel by HIV-infected people will be given great prominence at the 6th International AIDS Conference. If Montreal is being put forth as a solid example of mobilizing opinion and action, I am highly skeptical of what we will see in San Francisco.

James Krajewski, M.D.
San Francisco

Write

★ An important financial issue for all people with either AIDS or ARC is currently being proposed locally but going unnoticed by the gay and medical community. The Regional Transit Association (RTA), whose members include AC Transit, BART, County Connection, Golden Gate Transit, MUNI, SamTrans, and Santa Clara County Transit, are reviewing a proposal to allow individuals with severe chronic and progressive debilitating disorders the opportunity to obtain transit discount cards. Progressive debilitating disorders include, among other disorders, symptomatic HIV infection (i.e., AIDS or ARC). Currently, people with either infection are not eligible for a discount card and must pay full fare.

If approved by the RTA Board of Control and subsequently each operator's board, this would benefit anyone with either disease who choose to use it. The discount card allows them to travel at greatly reduced costs. I urge everyone to write the RTA Board of Control at 101 Eighth Street, Oakland, CA 94607 supporting this modification to the discount card program. Please write soon, as the last day for public comments is July 13.

Jerry Crumpley
Piedmont

Editor's Note: Please send copies or originals of your correspondence to the publisher of *Bay Area Reporter*, Bob Ross. He is a member of the Board of Directors of the Golden Gate Bridge and is working on trying to implement this type of pass.

Heroes Among Us

★ Over the past two weeks, the gay community has focused on 20 years of Gay Pride, of coming out, and of fighting back. On Monday afternoon, the day following our celebration, the media was "shocked" by the revelation that a man died at Mt. Zion Hospital who happened to be part of a Compound Q study. The media called this study "unauthorized," "underground," and "renegade research."

This study, born out of Project Inform, had been communicating with the FDA and participants were monitored by AmFAR. Martin Delaney and Joe Brewer of Project Inform have gone to great lengths to describe to the media who they are and they have been doing. They welcome an FDA investigation, because it will focus on the fact that drug research has been so very slow at the conventional level, and that this research can be done professionally and privately

at an accelerated pace.

What amazes me is that Martin Delaney and Joe Brewer have been doing exactly what the spirit of Stonewall is all about, and after 20 years of getting to know us, the media still doesn't get the fact that the gay community has come out fighting for itself again. The media, as well as the traditional straight medical community, continue to expect us to passively stand by for countless more years as they grind away at their double-blind protocols. In two months of Phase I toxicity trials at San Francisco General, only four patients have received Compound Q. Laboratory and animal studies have gone on for two years prior to this, according to the *Examiner*. How much longer should we be expected to wait? Why should the gay community look to San Francisco General for answers? If we had done this at Stonewall we wouldn't be parading down Market Street today.

If there are any heroes among us, besides the PWAs who participated in Project Inform's study, it is Martin Delaney and Joe Brewer. They have challenged and upheaved the traditional medical community. They have informed the general public about the clinical trials delays. They have also provided those infected with HIV a drug that seems to provide hope and possibly a cure. As we look forward to our next 20 years of pride, let us be thankful for the Martin Delaneys and Joe Brewers of our community.

William Voeit
San Francisco

Time for Accountability

★ We think the time has come for the gay community to demand financial accountability from the various AIDS service groups in the city like AIDS Foundation, Shanti Project and Open Hand to name a few.

My lover and I attend an average of five "AIDS fundraisers" a month at various places, including the beer busts at the Eagle. We are concerned that in light of the many articles on the demise of the "San Francisco AIDS Service model," we need to start asking questions about where donations are going and what they are being spent on. Why are our service group falling apart? Lack of money or people? Are there too many independent AIDS service groups? What are their functions and what is the money being spent on? Administration or direct services? How do we justify paying people like Tim Wolfred (AIDS Foundation) and Eric Rofes (Shanti Project) salaries in excess of \$60,000 a year when executive directors of AIDS projects around the nation (specifically Larry Kessler of Boston) earn less than \$40,000? How do we justify people like Skip Sikora (husband of morning personality Susan Sikora of TV's *Good Morning Bay Area*) a salary plus percentage of money raised at Open Hand, which could lead to a salary in excess of \$100,000 per year? What services does AIDS Foundation provide that could justify a budget in excess of \$3 million, given the fact that they are basically a referral service, unlike Shanti or Open Hand, which provide in-home care services?

How much money is being raised annually by these AIDS service groups and where is it going? Must we always wait until there is a scandal (like Jim Geary at Shanti Project) before we get the true facts? Are we as a community so caught up in our own AIDS grief and sadness that we turn a blind eye to these flagrant excesses and possible abuses? It is more than time that we open the books at AIDS Foundation, Shanti Project and Open Hand. We demand access and accountability of our monies as private citizens and as taxpayers.

H. Walt Lewis
Phil Rosengard
San Francisco

A Slow Show

★ When you have 300,000 spectators for any event, you better give them a good "show"; this year's parade was unbearable!

The "acts" in themselves were impressive, but the long gaps and stops killed part of the momentum. Especially when one has to get a parade of this enormous size "on the road," speed is absolutely essential! Not one of my friends had the attention span to watch the parade in full. Besides, one would miss nearly all of the celebration at the Civic Center.

Even the *Examiner* called the parade "snail-paced"; there has to be a way to avoid this self-defeating mistake next year.

I am aware of the problems: traffic has to cross at certain intersections, contingents are not ready in time, floats break down, etc. This is not to criticize the efforts of all the volunteers involved, but we have to come up with some imaginative solutions and make next year's parade more "professional" and easier to watch!

Peter Gudd
San Francisco

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Politics and Poker

While *The Washington Times* headlines screamed that a "Homosexual Prostitution Inquiry Ensnares VIPs with Reagan, Bush" last Thursday, with a smaller sub-headline claiming that "Call boys took midnight tour of White House," the highly touted story in the Moonie-owned paper turned out to be pretty much a scandal on the basis of much ado about very little.

Washington-based U.S. Attorney Jay Stephen has apparently confirmed that U.S. officials are investigating whether there was indeed a credit card fraud in connection with a purported gay prostitution ring.

The *Times* reported that two second-tier aides to President Reagan—plus an ex-*Washington Times* editor and others—paid for the ring's services with credit cards.

This week, White House spokesman Marlin Fitzwater said, "We know nothing about it."

However, late last week Paul Balach, an aide to Labor Secretary Elizabeth Dole, and one of those cited as "customers" of the service, resigned his position as Dole's White House liaison.

The Washington escort service, using several names, including "Ultimate Models," and "Dream Boys," operated out of a fashionable area of D.C. and was raided by city police and Secret Service agents in February. Records were seized, one drug arrest was made, but no formal charges have arisen since the raid.

One of the ring's high-profile clients was reportedly so well-connected that he supposedly arranged a middle-of-the-night tour of the White House for his friends, allegedly including a couple of the "call boys" on July 3 or last year.

After the initial headline was splashed on the front pages of the sensationalist-minded *Washington Times*, the story was drawing

little attention in the nation's capital. But never one to pass up a chance to gain publicity at the expense of others, Rep. William Dannemeyer, the anti-gay Republican from Orange County, jumping at the opportunity to take a swing at gays, dashed off a strongly worded letter to President Bush late last weekend, barely hours after the story broke.

Suggesting that homosexuals in the administration have tilted White House policy away from "traditional family values" to promote the "homosexual movement," the Orange County demagogue called on Bush to sign an executive order banning federal employees from directly or indirectly encouraging homosexuality, as well as "bisexuality, bestiality and pedophilia."

In his letter to the White House last week the anti-gay Dannemeyer says that "the public might ask how two consecutive, conservative administrations (Reagan and Bush) can do more to advance the influence of the homosexual movement in public policy than an overtly sympathetic administration might have."

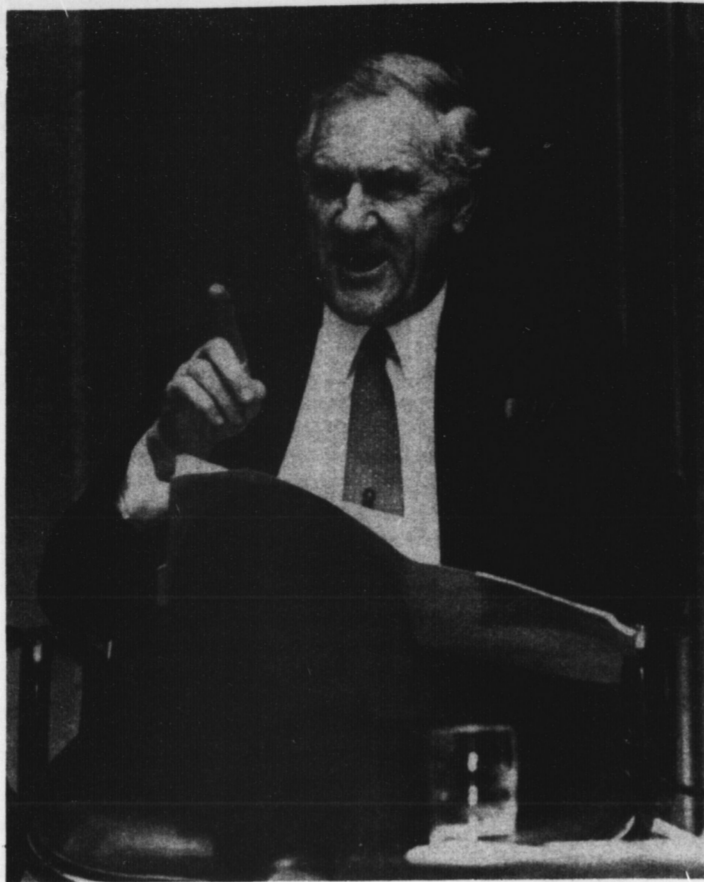
Dannemeyer answers this by adding that "one answer may turn up in the current investigations [of the alleged male prostitution ring]. This would explain much."

In addition, Dannemeyer's letter said that Bush's announced support for a so-called "hate-crimes" bill, which would require the Justice Department to annually catalogue crimes linked to the victim's race, religion, ethnic group or sexual preference, "is a subtle affirmation of homosexuality."

The legislation was actually approved by the House last week and now must be considered by the Senate; Dannemeyer is actively opposed to the legislation.

"This bill is a precursor to amending the 1964 Civil Rights Act to include sexual orientation along with race, religion, creed and national origin," Dannemeyer wrote the president.

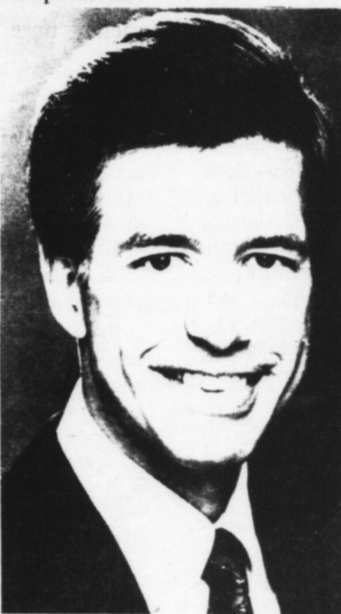
The White House had no immediate comment to Dannemeyer's letter, but Thomas Stoddard, executive director of the Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund in New York, after hearing of the contents of the Dannemeyer letter said that "this Dannemeyer letter is so extreme in tone that I can only extend to Congressman Dannemeyer my gratitude. The letter will greatly enhance our fundraising efforts and demonstrates more concretely than any other



Rep. William Dannemeyer, R-Fullerton, CA. (Photo: S. Savage)

document I have ever seen that gay people are still the object of irrational hatred in this country.

▽▽▽
A race for former Rep. Tony Coelho's 15th Congressional District seat to be held in September, one thought to be safe for Democrats, has now turned into a promising free-for-all between Democrat Assemblyman Gary Condit and former legislator Clare Berryhill, the Republican.



State Controller Gray Davis.

In a last-minute Republican deal, Modesto Mayor Carol Whiteside withdrew from the race and threw her support to Berryhill, a former state senator

and state agriculture director, who is a rancher popular with farmers in the Central Valley.

Political observers in the district say that Berryhill will be a much stronger Republican opponent.

Clint Reilly, the San Francisco campaign consultant running Democrat Condit's campaign, told the *Bay Area Reporter* last week that "this guy [Berryhill] could be a real problem for us."

The leadership from both the national Democratic and Republican parties will be pouring big bucks into the campaign; stay tuned.

East Bay Assemblywoman Delaine Eastin, D-Union City, long thought to be a supporter of gay rights, apparently thinks gay office-holders should stay in the closet. In an interview with the *San Jose Mercury News* recently, discussing the recent disclosure by Fremont School District Board President Robert Stipicevich that he is gay, Assemblywoman Eastin said: "I think people for the most part don't want to know; I don't think people should discuss their sex life in public." (And so much for the two faces of some of our so-called "friends.")

The Federal Election Commission fined Sen. Alan Cranston \$50,000 last week for violating campaign finance laws during his sorry 1984 presidential bid, as the senator's image continues to tarnish.

(Continued on page 21)

Gay Comedy Rarely Pays



Tom Ammiano. (Photo: Russell Ellison)

When you talk to Tom Ammiano, the widely heralded "Mother of Gay Comedy," he does most of the talking. This is only natural, for the comedian is well-known for his rapid-fire delivery, which has propelled him in just a few short years from obscurity to the heights of fame in the gay comedy world—which means that he still can't earn a living.

It hasn't always been this way. Ammiano used to be a grade-school teacher, until he began to yearn for a wider arena to display his talents. In 1980 he ran for the Board and Education and lost—"although I didn't do poorly at all," he notes. "But in order to win the next time I would have had to start the very next day after the election, and I thought, 'This is not the arena I want, because you have to watch your P's and Q's and sibilant S's.'"

At about the same time, several friends of Ammiano opened a gay cabaret and community center on the site of a former mortuary on Valencia Street. This was the legendary Valencia Rose, and it was at Ammiano's suggestion that the new owners included a gay comedy night as part of the program.

"I was interested in comedy and had been trying to learn open mike at the Holy City Zoo and places like that. But for a fagot, that was suicide. You couldn't learn anything. The Rose, however, provided a supportive environment from the start. It was a place where we could escape the apartheid of show biz, a place where we didn't have to apologize for being gay or presenting gay comedy."

In the beginning it wasn't easy for Ammiano.

"The first few times I performed I was a total wreck. That's where the tenacity comes in. You have to understand that it's what you want to do. You have to keep trying. It seems to come easier to some people, and it can be discouraging. But once the bug bites, I don't know, there's something about it."

Ammiano kept at it, and by 1982 he was so infected by the bug that he gave up teaching full time to pursue a comedy career.

"It wasn't a life or death thing

for me," he explains, "but it was real important. Because I was already 40 when I started, maybe it was easier in some ways for me than for others. I had another career to rely on if I needed it, for example. But in other ways it was harder. It's not easy at age 40 trying to adjust to an income which is sporadic and irregular at best."

When the Valencia Rose closed in the mid-'80s, the gay comedy routine got even tougher. Ammiano and his fellow Rose performers were forced to find other venues.

"Some tried to break into the straight clubs—and are still trying—but it's difficult," Ammiano says. "There is a closet mentality in the straight clubs here. Furthermore, they're primarily interested in the business aspect of things—which is bad, because they're all having problems and they won't take risks."

"At present, no straight clubs are open to gay comics. You can't be openly gay and expect to perform on a regular basis at these places. The only time they ask you is for a special event, like In Concert Against AIDS or Comedy in the Park. So you're blocked."

"Because of this," Ammiano says, "some gay performers have given in and changed. They are not gay any longer. That doesn't help anybody. It may help their careers, OK fine, but in terms of real change it doesn't do anything. It's the same old tired stuff."



Tom Ammiano (Photo: Rink)

Ammiano himself has followed a more honest path than this. In his words, "I've hustled. I've written a few shows, I've done a play or two at Theatre Rhino, I've played gay clubs on the road, and I've done countless benefits. I've also produced three comedy shows at the Victoria."

Obviously, Ammiano has kept himself occupied since the Rose closed, but unqualified financial success continues to elude him, and there are still setbacks: "Occasionally I get a straight venue, like in Toronto, which came about as a result of an AIDS benefit I did in Hawaii, but then the club went out of business. And that's how it goes."

Even regular employment can be discouraging, for different reasons: "I had another gig in Provincetown at a gay place, every night for a while. That showed me what it could be like. I felt like a real professional. And if I was a straight guy or didn't use my gay perspective, I'm at a level now where I could probably have that kind of regular employment. But if it's not in the cards, it's not in the cards."

Despite difficulties like these, Ammiano refuses to compromise, to alter his act for a straight crowd.

"I'm always gay," he states. "People sometimes say it's a label, but I have my own identity, and I have a right to express it just like anyone else who is Jewish or black or whatever. It's simply a matter of refusing to accept second-class status. And it's not going to happen for us as a community if there aren't individual people getting out and doing it."

Sometimes the improbable actually happens: Ammiano is able to reach straight audiences, and all is right with the world.

"There's a club in New York called the Comedy Elite," he says, "which attracts the bridge and tunnel crowd. I play it every year, and every year I do well. When I got a positive write-up in the *New York Times*, I said, 'See, it can be done. These people are straight as anything, but they can be reached.'"

"In comedy," Ammiano says, "timing is everything. I think that maybe in 10 or 5 years or tomorrow being an openly gay comic won't be a big issue any more. I'd sure like to be around for that. For me and other performers who are out to be able to make a living from what we're doing, that would be a nice dream."

In the meantime, Ammiano will keep plugging away, continuing to be a "big mouth" at events like the March on Washington—which he says "took my breath away"—and the annual Gay Day Parade in San Francisco—which he calls "a fabulously rewarding experience."

Events like these are important to him not only because they provide a forum for his undisguised political agenda—to change the world through gay comedy—but also because they allow him to satisfy what is for him an equally basic need—his desire to perform.

Ammiano, after all, is probably no different than most straight performers when he admits, "When you validate the audience and they validate you by their response, laughing and cheering by the hundreds, or hundreds of thousands... there's nothing like it."

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by Kurt Erichsen

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The school most often named as a possibility to carry Harvey Milk's name is Douglas School on 19th Street. Proponents of a Milk School, though, have been seeking a resolution designating no school.

Last month Dolores Nice, principal of Douglas School, and Kate Ross, the secretary of the school's Parent-Faculty Club, began circulating a petition opposing the renaming of the school.

The petition states that commencement exercises of the 100th graduating class will be held in 1990 and that Douglas School "has been an important part of the fabric of the Eureka Valley community over the century. We strongly urge you to retain our school name and help preserve our neighborhood history."

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Ramon Cortines, superintendent of schools in the city, sent a letter to principals and parents clubs in the system discrediting the petition and the principal's letter.

"To involve school personnel and parents from other schools in this issue, whether in support or in opposition, is, I believe, inappropriate," Cortines said. "I am therefore requesting that you not involve yourself any further in this issue. I have informed the principal of Douglas that I am sending this letter."

Chris Nunez, who chairs the school system's Superintendent's Advisory Committee on Health and Family Life Education, sent a letter to Nice on June 5.

"It has come to my attention," Nunez said, "that there is some controversy at Douglas, and I believe that these teacher resources might be of interest and help."

The resources included a manual on the subject, "Anti-Slur Resources." Also made available was information from the school system's Lesbian and Gay Family Issues resource material. Ammiano said the principal rejected the offer of help.

In the meantime, Ammiano said the Board of Education was backing off bringing the resolution to a vote, he says, because of the sensitivity of the issue.

Several people had hoped the vote would come before the Lesbian/Gay Freedom Day Parade. Assemblyman John Burton wrote to Libby Denebeim, president of the Board of Education, saying, "It would be particularly timely if such designation could be made by June when the lesbian and gay community will be celebrating the progress they have made in becoming a respected part of the political process on the 20th anniversary of Stonewall."

"While I can appreciate," Burton said, "that there is bound to be some controversy over the change of the name of a school and that some parents may be resistant to the idea of naming a school after a gay leader, I am hopeful that the school board will not let that deter them from giving this positive consideration."

In May, the Bay Area Network of Gay and Lesbian Educators also urged the school board to make the designation in June to coincide with the gay-pride celebrations.

Ammiano said he now hoped the school board would bring the issue up in August. The plan is to have the Board of Education vote to name a school for Harvey Milk and set a time limit for the designation. The resolution would not define an actual location.

He believes many oppose changing the name of any school, since children go to a school and then grow up remembering the facility and, more particularly, the name.

Ammiano believes this resolution would leave open the possibility of having Milk's name attached to a new school. The school board would determine the location. It would continue to leave open the possibility of changing the name of the Douglas School to honor Harvey Milk. ▼



The Rev. Charles McIlhenny, one of the leaders of the effort to overturn domestic partnerships via ballot measure.

(Photo: Rink)

Domestic Partnerships

(Continued from Page 1)

had told parishioners at St. Emydius Church that Archbishop John Quinn wanted parishioners to sign the petitions.

It has also been reported that the church's "Respect Life" office had petitions and was making them available.

Though Father Peter Sammon, who sits on the Human Rights Commission, voted in favor of the ordinance, the local

Catholic Church has been the most vocal opponent of the ordinance. The Archdiocese made statements opposing the ordinance at every public hearing.

As the Registrar of Voters begins counting and checking the petitions, Jean Harris said a meeting will be held next Thursday evening, July 13, at City Hall at 6 p.m. The purpose will be to set the guidelines and begin planning for the first domestic partners events. Hundreds of couples are expected to apply and officially become domestic partners at an upcoming event. ▼

ACT UP Protests Forbes Article

A demonstration June 20 by ACT UP at the offices of *Forbes Magazine* resulted in publisher Malcolm Forbes himself denouncing the article in the magazine that downplayed the severity of the AIDS crisis in America.

About 50 protesters, waving placards and chanting, created a picket line in front of the offices at noon. They were protesting an article titled, "Straight Talk About AIDS," which appeared in the June 26 issue of *Forbes*.

The article, an interview with author Michael Fumento, whose upcoming book, *The Myth of Heterosexual AIDS*, states that heterosexuals need not worry about contracting the disease and that new infections among homosexuals have dropped.

In addition, Fumento states that projections about new cases worldwide are "worthless" and "garbage."

"This article is irresponsible journalism on the part of *Forbes*," said Andrew Velez, ACT UP member and demonstration organizer. "It plays into the reactionary fears and wishes of bigots that AIDS is a disease that belongs to people outside of white, heterosexual America."

Activists drew a large lunchtime crowd with their demonstration. Playing on the slogan of *Forbes*, which calls itself "the capitalist tool," activists carried small shovels and chanted, "The shovel is a capitalist tool; how many AIDS graves will *Forbes* dig?"

Some signs read, "Malcolm, at least get your facts straight," referring to the publisher, known for attending AIDS fundraisers with close friend Elizabeth Taylor.

A small group from ACT UP was then invited inside to meet with Forbes. They demanded that ACT UP be offered space in the next issue for a rebuttal to Fumento's views. Forbes himself showed the group his own editorial, which called Fumento's opinions "asinine" and apologized that he was out of town and did not see the article in time to retract it.

The editorial also warns, "Because *Forbes* gave [Fumento] space, some unknowledgeable or unthinking readers may give his opinions a credence they don't deserve."

Forbes also accepted a fact sheet from ACT UP, pointing out the many errors in the article, and transformed it into a rebuttal to accompany his editorial in the next issue.

ACT UP plans another demonstration this fall when Fumento's book is published. ▼

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The petition states that commencement exercises of the 100th graduating class will be held in 1990 and that Douglas School "has been an important part of the fabric of the Eureka Valley community over the century. We strongly urge you to retain our school name and help preserve our neighborhood history."

In a cover letter schoolteacher and comic Tom Ammiano is named as a person who "would like to see Douglas's name changed to 'The Harvey Milk School.'" Following release of the letter and the petition, Ammiano told the Board of Education that the teacher sent the letter out illegally.

Ramon Cortines, superintendent of schools in the city, sent a letter to principals and parents clubs in the system discrediting the petition and the principal's letter.

ACT UP Protests Forbes Article

A demonstration June 20 by ACT UP at the offices of *Forbes Magazine* resulted in publisher Malcolm Forbes himself denouncing the article in the magazine that downplayed the severity of the AIDS crisis in America.

About 50 protesters, waving placards and chanting, created a picket line in front of the offices at noon. They were protesting an article titled, "Straight Talk About AIDS," which appeared in the June 26 issue of *Forbes*.

The article, an interview with author Michael Fumento, whose upcoming book, *The Myth of Heterosexual AIDS*, states that heterosexuals need not worry about contracting the disease and that new infections among homosexuals have dropped.

In addition, Fumento states that projections about new cases worldwide are "worthless" and "garbage."

"This article is irresponsible journalism on the part of *Forbes*," said Andrew Velez, ACT UP member and demonstration organizer. "It plays into the reactionary fears and wishes of bigots that AIDS is a disease that belongs to people outside of white, heterosexual America."

Activists drew a large lunchtime crowd with their demonstration. Playing on the slogan of *Forbes*, which calls itself "the capitalist tool," activists carried small shovels and chanted, "The shovel is a capitalist tool; how many AIDS graves will *Forbes* dig?"

Some signs read, "Malcolm, at least get your facts straight!" referring to the publisher, known for attending AIDS fundraisers with close friend Elizabeth Taylor.

A small group from ACT UP was then invited inside to meet with Forbes. They demanded that ACT UP be offered space in the next issue for a rebuttal to Fumento's views. Forbes himself showed the group his own editorial, which called Fumento's opinions "asinine" and apologized that he was out of town and did not see the article in time to retract it.

The editorial also warns, "Because *Forbes* gave [Fumento] space, some unknowledgeable or unthinking readers may give his opinions a credence they don't deserve."

Forbes also accepted a fact sheet from ACT UP, pointing out the many errors in the article, and transformed it into a rebuttal to accompany his editorial in the next issue.

ACT UP plans another demonstration this fall when Fumento's book is published. ▼

"To involve school personnel and parents from other schools in this issue, whether in support or in opposition, is, I believe, inappropriate," Cortines said. "I am therefore requesting that you not involve yourself any further in this issue. I have informed the principal of Douglas that I am sending this letter."

Chris Nunez, who chairs the school system's Superintendent's Advisory Committee on Health and Family Life Education, sent a letter to Nice on June 5.

"It has come to my attention," Nunez said, "that there is some controversy at Douglas, and I believe that these teacher resources might be of interest and help."

The resources included a manual on the subject, "Anti-Slur Resources." Also made available was information from the school system's Lesbian and Gay Family Issues resource material. Ammiano said the principal rejected the offer of help.

In the meantime, Ammiano said the Board of Education was backing off bringing the resolution to a vote, he says, because of the sensitivity of the issue.

Several people had hoped the vote would come before the Lesbian/Gay Freedom Day Parade. Assemblyman John Burton wrote to Libby Denebeim, president of the Board of Education, saying, "It would be particularly timely if such designation could be made by June when the lesbian and gay community will be celebrating the progress they have made in becoming a respected part of the political process on the 20th anniversary of Stonewall."

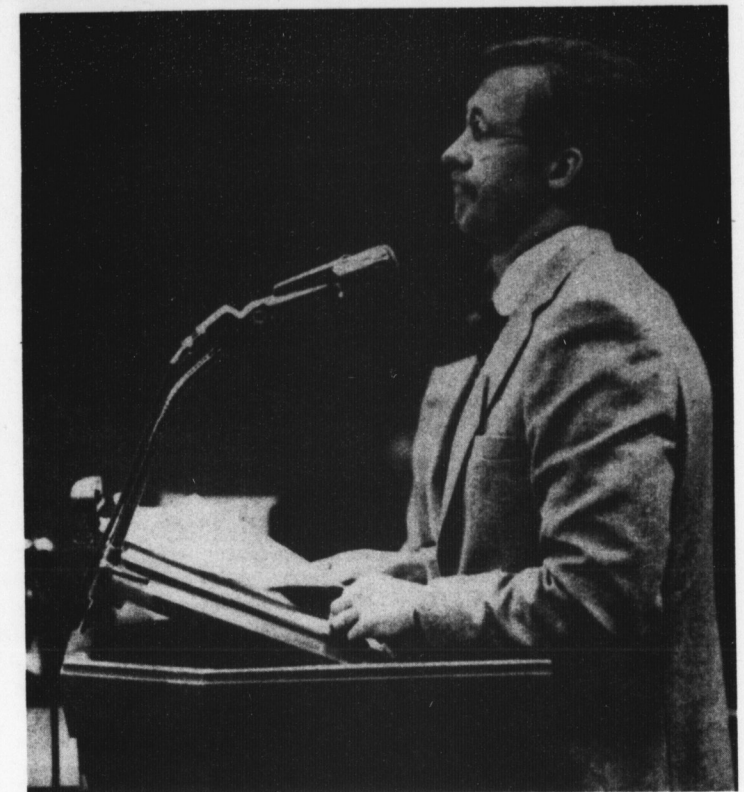
"While I can appreciate," Burton said, "that there is bound to be some controversy over the change of the name of a school and that some parents may be resistant to the idea of naming a school after a gay leader, I am hopeful that the school board will not let that deter them from giving this positive consideration."

In May, the Bay Area Network of Gay and Lesbian Educators also urged the school board to make the designation in June to coincide with the gay-pride celebrations.

Ammiano said he now hoped the school board would bring the issue up in August. The plan is to have the Board of Education vote to name a school for Harvey Milk and set a time limit for the designation. The resolution would not define an actual location.

He believes many oppose changing the name of any school, since children go to a school and then grow up remembering the facility and, more particularly, the name.

Ammiano believes this resolution would leave open the possibility of having Milk's name attached to a new school. The school board would determine the location. It would continue to leave open the possibility of changing the name of the Douglas School to honor Harvey Milk. ▼



The Rev. Charles McIlhenny, one of the leaders of the effort to overturn domestic partnerships via ballot measure. (Photo: Rink)

Domestic Partnerships

(Continued from Page 1)

had told parishioners at St. Emydius Church that Archbishop John Quinn wanted parishioners to sign the petitions.

It has also been reported that the church's "Respect Life" office had petitions and was making them available.

Though Father Peter Sammon, who sits on the Human Rights Commission, voted in favor of the ordinance, the local

Catholic Church has been the most vocal opponent of the ordinance. The Archdiocese made statements opposing the ordinance at every public hearing.

As the Registrar of Voters begins counting and checking the petitions, Jean Harris said a meeting will be held next Thursday evening, July 13, at City Hall at 6 p.m. The purpose will be to set the guidelines and begin planning for the first domestic partners events. Hundreds of couples are expected to apply and officially become domestic partners at an upcoming event. ▼

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Harris

(Continued from page 1)

Richard Nixon in 1968, Harris felt betrayed when Nixon failed to end the Vietnam war, as promised, in the first 30 days of office. She became radicalized.

Three years later, she was a field coordinator for the McGovern for President campaign, responsible for four Southern California assembly districts, and firmly entrenched in Democratic Party politics. She also was married, with one daughter and another on the way.

In 1974, while a student at Long Beach State University, Harris became active in the women's movement. "I was married for 10 years and I didn't realize I was a lesbian until my husband told me I was in love with my best friend. I got into this women's studies class, where I started talking about patriarchal power and male power and visualizing who has control over the military system and the government. I would go home and talk to him about this patriarchal stuff. He would get uptight. Then the problems started. When I wanted to go to law school, he didn't want me to go to law school. I decided to leave home for a couple of weeks to get my thoughts together, and I moved in with this woman who I stayed with for the next five years and never went back home.

"I went into my second year of law school. I thought, 'This diesel-dyke ain't ever going to walk into a courtroom in Orange County, they'll throw me out. I've got to find another kind of profession.'"

In 1975, an outfront lesbian, increasingly active in lesbian-feminist politics, Harris got divorced. The custody battle over her daughters was excruciating.

"There was no way I could have successfully won custody. He was going to bring up the lesbian thing and my parents were going to testify for him. They didn't want me to get a divorce. My parents were totally devastated that I was a lesbian. Now, they are extremely sorry. They know they were wrong, and we're reconciled."

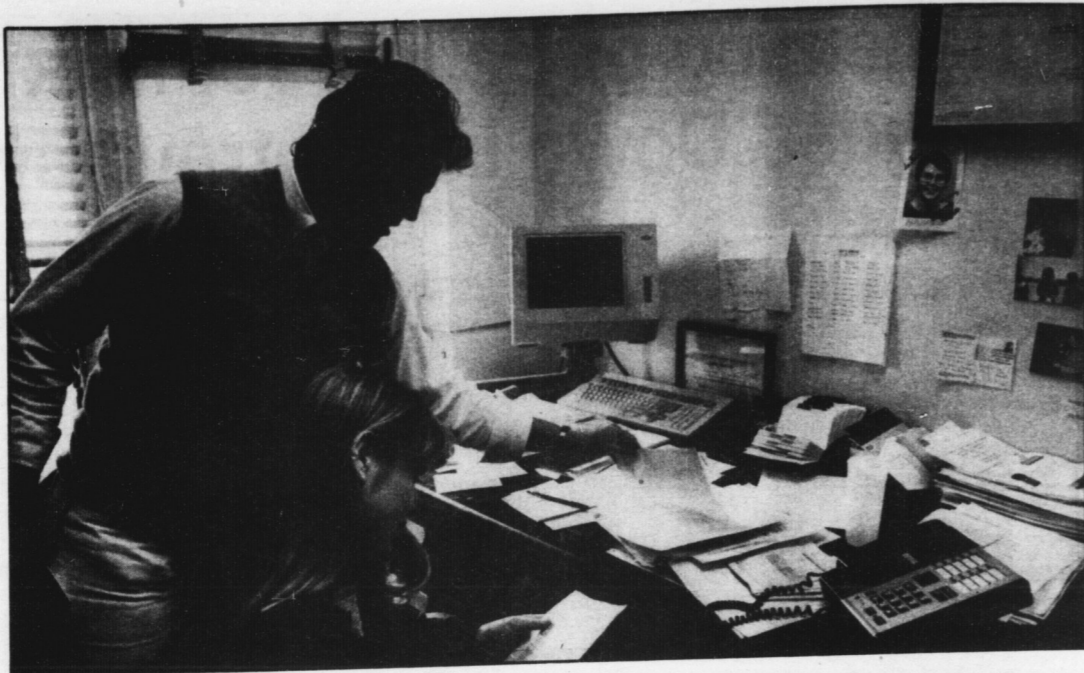
One of Harris' daughters is married and about to have a baby. The other is a student. Because of the custody battle, settled out of court with visitation rights that she says her ex-husband consistently violated, Harris says she hasn't had contact with him since 1976. She sees her children all the time.

In 1984, Harris moved from Long Beach to Santa Cruz, then moved to San Francisco in 1985. Her first lesbian relationship lasted five years, the next, three years.

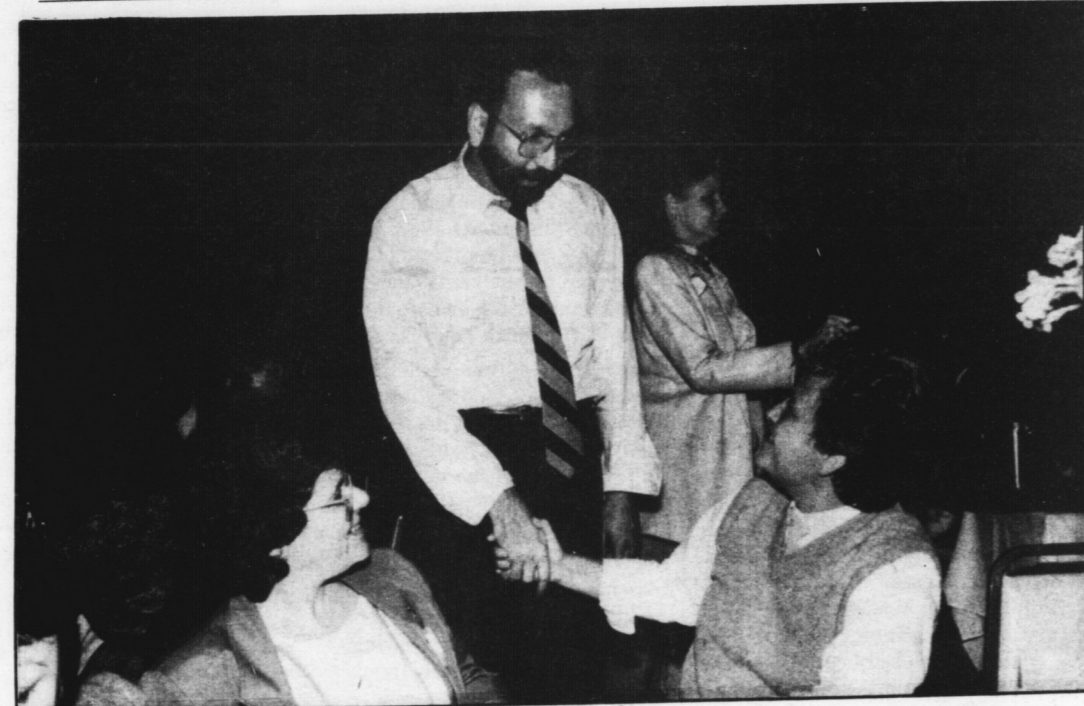
"The problem with my political life is that it's difficult to find a person who wants to stick with me when I work 18 hours a day, and I never know when I'm going to be home and I never have weekends off. But I think this one's going to work," she smiles, speaking of her relationship with Melinda Paras, who works at Community United Against Violence.

Harris is a central figure in gay/lesbian politics, not only in San Francisco but throughout the state in her role as Northern California co-chair of the California Democratic Party's Lesbian/Gay Caucus. She's also involved in Lesbian Agenda for Action and numerous other groups, including the Harvey Milk Democratic Club.

"I love my job. I here's some-



Britt aide Jean Harris supervising an intern in her office at City Hall. (Photo: Barbara J. Maggiani)



Jean Harris, right, greeting Eric Rofes, executive director of the Shanti Project, as Roma Guy, executive director of the Women's Foundation, looks on. They were attending the annual dinner of La Raza Centro Legal. (Photo: Barbara J. Maggiani)

thing different going on every time I turn around. This is a place for me to help push the movement forward to the next step.

"We've got major challenges. The AIDS epidemic, domestic partners. I think homelessness is another primary problem, it affects all of our communities. Drugs and alcohol have always been a problem in our community."

Even with the immense challenges facing the gay community, Harris thinks that San Francisco lesbians and gays are better able to advocate for the community within city government than ever before. She points out the great number of gays and lesbians appointed by Mayor Art Agnos to city commissions and posts. She thinks, however, that the gay community in San Francisco sometimes becomes so embroiled in local politics on a day-to-day basis that the various factions lose sight of the bigger picture, their leadership role in the world-wide gay movement.

Harris says the AIDS epidemic has brought the community together. She points out that lesbians are "in every level" at AIDS agencies, providing organizing and leadership skills in ways that they didn't have the opportunity to do before.

"We've had to look at death in the face. You see a lot of stuff in the straight papers that the epidemic is wiping out the leadership in the gay community. We are losing a lot of our leaders, but we've had to develop a lot of new leadership along the way. We are more out there than we have ever been," she says.

"I honestly think that the AIDS epidemic that forced people to talk about gay and lesbian lifestyles all over the world. It's made people face the issues and deal with our existence. Maybe it has been on a medical level, but they've had to talk about us."

The same effect has occurred with the passage of domestic-partnership legislation, Harris says.

"We've had calls from all over the world. People and cities are talking about it. They may not pass the perfect domestic-partnership legislation. They may not support it, but it's a recognition of gay and lesbian couples, that we have families, that we care about each other, that we need the same equal opportunities that everyone else has. It's just the beginning, but people are getting that it's about basic human rights."

Harris says one of the hardest things to deal with in her job is the personal criticism. Outspoken and forthright, she calls the shots as she sees them and acknowledges that she has a reputation in some quarters as being "Mean Jean."

"I've probably yelled at every reporter who writes in this town, including the *Examiner* and the *Chronicle*. If I feel they've written something that's irresponsible or I disagree, I say so."

She has been particularly annoyed by articles that have appeared in the local gay press criticizing Britt's office for inaccessibility, noting that callers during business hours frequently must leave their messages on an answering machine.

"It's surprising that now that we have a mayor who is responsive, and when the access to Harry and his office is at an ultimate high, to see this stuff in the gay papers. It's harmful to the movement and hurts the work we do in this office. People have this 'Where's Harry' stuff. The gay press has created an image of Harry as a kind of bumbling goofball," she bristles.

"I challenge anyone to come in and look at my schedules or Harry's and follow us around for a week or a month. The gay press has a pulse on the community. Criticize us where we need to be criticized, but don't trivialize it and accuse Harry of being at the races. He works full time at a job that is only supposed to be part-time," she says.

"Jean Harris has an image of being a Mean Jean, ball-busting bitch in City Hall, but she's truthful," Harris says. "She says what she thinks. Some personalities in the community are afraid to approach me, but the people who know me know that I'm pretty much a marshmallow. I've got this tough image. But you know what, it's a boy's world. I've got to know how to play a boy's game. You can't have some wimpy little woman in here with a smile on her face saying, 'Yes, sir' all the time. Most of the men in here know how to kick ass and don't get ridiculed for it, but you get a diesel-dyke type who says what she thinks and she gets a bad rep. But it comes with the territory. I have to do my work, and some people are not going to like my style, but hey, I'm just a working-class girl, what can I say."



Jean Harris, at podium, addressing a hearing of the Human Rights Commission on the subject of the rights of demonstrators. (Photo: Barbara J. Maggiani)

Abortion

(Continued from page 4)

going to incarcerate the children who were abused because they were unwanted children.

"The black movement made possible the women's movement, which made possible the gay movement. I think the liberation of all people is inexorably tied together. You cannot have one without the other," Silver said.

From the first moments when the decision on abortion was issued, Supervisor Richard Hongisto's office began working to draft a resolution for presentation to the San Francisco Board of Supervisors, which would provide for establishing an emergency response to the attacks on women's health.

The four-page resolution calls upon the city attorney to intervene on behalf of the Department of Public Health in any future abortion-related cases. It also calls upon the Department of Public Health to reassure San Francisco women that public facilities for the purpose of abortion is ensured and preserved.

It requests the district attorney to vigorously prosecute anyone attempting to stop an abortion and for the Police Department to "swiftly arrest any lawless person who attempts to shut down women's health clinics or in-

terfere with a woman's right to choice."

Hongisto's resolution passed the board unanimously.

"Abortion affects us in many ways," Hongisto said. "First and foremost for gay people, it presents a movement toward the invasion of privacy and the Supreme Court moving into letting states legislate laws that take away rights to privacy for people in our society. If the Supreme Court is willing to tell a mother she must have a baby, it also suggests that they could also say you can't. There are areas the Supreme Court should simply stay out of. We don't want the Supreme Court in any aspect of our private lives—what we do sexually, sexual orientation or sexual lifestyle or our decision regarding family making.

Amy Weitz, director of public affairs for Planned Parenthood in San Francisco, said, "This is really an issue for everyone because it shows that our civil liberties are really in jeopardy."

"I think there is an erosion of everybody's liberties every time the Supreme Court reaches a decision such as this one. What we need is a country where every child born into this world is wanted and loved. That affects everybody."

Shanti's Eric Rofes firmly stated his belief that the gay community must become involved in the abortion issue.

"If people want to choose to sit

this one out, especially if gay men want to sit this one out, we are all going to end up in jails and detention centers in this country. People have to work together to change this."

The feeling of gay San Franciscans became known very quickly. Following the Federal Building rally, the protesters marched two blocks to Van Ness and McAllister for a vigil that extended through the night.

Members of ACT UP gathered in the middle of the intersection, blocking all Van Ness traffic. The group quickly expanded as others joined the group. Several in the larger group began moving through the streets toward the Mission. On their route they turned over newsstands, broke windows in businesses and threw red paint on police cars.

A Channel 2 cameraman was physically abused because some of the demonstrators believed he was a police officer. The cameraman has filmed many gay events of the past several years. Several at KTVU were directly blaming radical gays for the incident.

The violence in the streets ended near Dolores and 16th Street when demonstrators sat in the street and attempted to provoke police into making arrests. When the police refused, the demonstrators left. Later that evening organizers of the protest at the State Building disavowed any connection with the radical group.



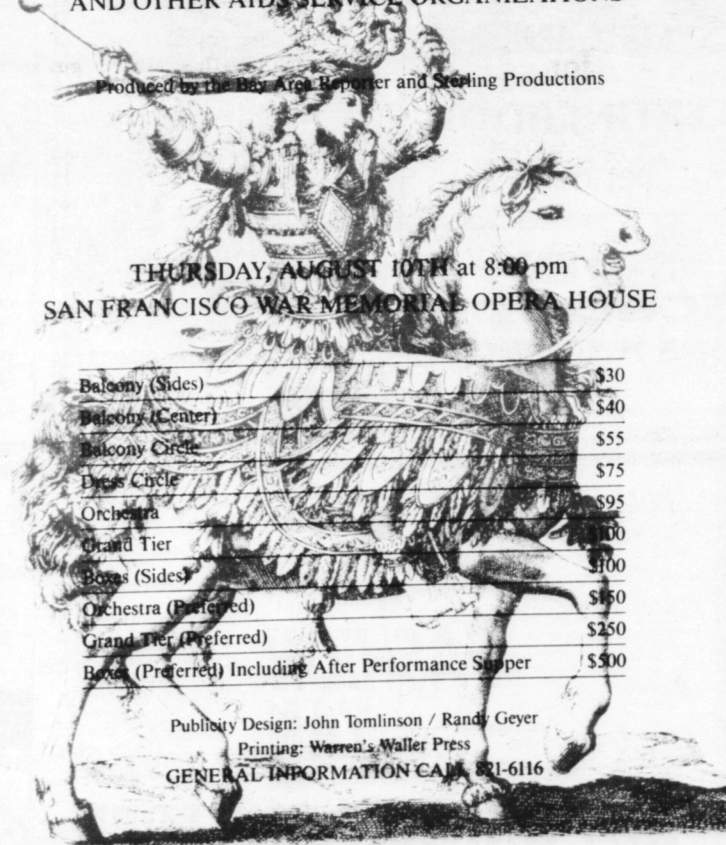
Demonstrators accept one recent Supreme Court ruling while protesting another: a flag-burning in San Francisco in protest of Monday's abortion decision. (Photo: Barbara J. Maggiani)

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Settlement Reached In UCSF Discrimination Case

by Dennis McMillan

A person with AIDS who was put on a forced leave of absence in August 1988 from the University of California at San Francisco is returning to work with some of the issues settled and some still unresolved.

Randy Bard, UCSF environmental health and safety technician, had filed a grievance with the help of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, Council 10, when the university attempted to medically separate him after receiving an ARC diagnosis. At the time he was declared a health and safety hazard.

At first UCSF had shifted Bard's job to a clerical position, but later apparently withdrew the offer and terminated him.

After much negotiation between AFSCME and UCSF officials, according to Bard, "They have met the bare minimum requirements, but everything has not been totally detailed out." Bard explained that the terms so far force him to return to work at an entry-level position, reporting to a superior whom he had originally trained.

On the other hand, Bard will not have to do any heavy lifting, and management says it will insure a hostile-free work place. "The situation will be monitored, and if anyone violates that policy, if management or staff provide harassment or a discriminatory environment, they will face dismissal," Bard said.

The temporary settlement involves back pay to August 11, 1988, given to Bard, but it will be based on an entry-level technician's salary, not Bard's senior level amount.

There are outstanding claims, including denial of promotion because of handicap and previous incidents of anti-gay and AIDS-phobic harassment, which Bard said he will probably bring up in a civil suit, after he files for grievances again.

"This is one of the bones I have to pick," said Bard. "I am the most senior tech, I have the most education and work experience in the subject, yet I have to return on an entry level as low man on the totem pole."

Another meeting is scheduled in early July between Bard, other staff, and management to discuss his new job descriptions, talk about his concerns, and assure that there will be no further discrimination on the job.

"At that time I intend to bring up their policy on promotion and advancement opportunities, because so far they are still in violation of their own staff procedures," Bard said. "It's all clearly AIDS-phobic to me." He added, "They were homophobic at first, but when I got sick, that just made it all the worse."

Neither UCSF assistant chancellor Dr. Leroy Balzer nor Art Rich, director of UCSF Environmental Health and Safety, would comment about the case, saying they were not authorized to discuss it because of privacy issues involved in the personnel file.

When the *Bay Area Reporter* contacted Lydia Rios of Affirmative Action at UCSF, she declined to comment because, as the in-house mediator, she was legally bound to neutrality. ▼

Radical Paper Bucks Turks Over Gay Liberation Issue

by Rex Wockner

The first news of the gay movement ever printed in Turkey continues to appear monthly on the Gay Liberation Page of *Yesil Baris* (Green Peace), the newspaper of the Turkish Radical Green Party, even as the publishers of the paper await trial on

charges of spreading homosexual information.

The party's leader, Ibrahim Eren, and the editor of *Yesil Baris*, Abdul Kadir Demir Ozu, have also run afoul of authorities for editorializing that the Kurdish minority in Turkey should have the right to speak and write in their own language.

But Eren, communicating in Spanish by telephone from Istanbul, said *Yesil Baris* would continue to taunt authorities as long as it was able.

"In our most recent issue, we have published just a few sentences in Kurdish," he said, "so we'll see what happens."

Some previous issues of the paper have been confiscated and returned months later, while other issues were published clandestinely to avoid confiscation. The next court appearance in the matter will be Nov. 3.

The newspaper and the gay-lib page began one year ago. In its first issues, *Yesil Baris* covered harassment of gays by police, explained the theory behind gay liberation and the aims of the Turkish gay movement, featured the Iceberg Project of the International Lesbian and Gay Association, which monitors anti-gay discrimination in Europe, and published gay contact ads.

More recent issues have featured ancient Greek gay poetry and drawings, and an article suggesting that the founder of the 20th century Turkish Republic, Kemal Ataturk, was gay.

"This page on homosexuality is an important turning point in Turkish political and gay life, and

it will have a major impact on Turkish society," said Can Istanbulu, an English-speaking Green Party representative who lives in Sweden. "The general public has always accepted the homosexuality of well-known people, such as the famous singer Zeki Muren, but the ordinary homosexual without money or social status has always been the target of anti-gay attacks."

Instanbullu estimates that 10 percent of Turkish men are gay and 50 percent bisexual, the latter statistic a function of Turkish men seeking from each other the "sexual gratification" they cannot get from unmarried, culturally suppressed women, he said.

Turkish gays—inspired and led by the Greek Party—staged hunger strikes in Ankara and Istanbul in 1986, protesting bar raids where police dragged gays into the street, beat them, shaved their heads and forced them to be tested for sexually transmitted diseases. With the help of ILGA, demonstrations eventually occurred at Turkish embassies in several countries.

The gay members of the Green Party recently applied for membership in ILGA and are seeking a "twinning group" from the First World to offset the cost of travel to ILGA conferences.

The gay Turks also have asked for protest letters to Turkish leaders, condemning the harassment of gays and transvestites and denouncing the attacks on *Yesil Baris*.

Write President Kenan Evren, Cankaya Köskü, Ankara, Turkey, and Prime Minister Turgut Ozal, Basbakanlik, Ankara, Turkey. ▼

5,000 Gays, Lesbians Congregate At Living Sober '89 Convention

by Allen White

The extraordinary world of Living Sober '89 took place last weekend at the Civic Auditorium. More than 5,000 gay men and lesbians, all recovering alcoholics, were there to attend workshops, dance to the music of City Swing, be together and to celebrate being clean and sober.

Susan, the chair of the conference, said, "It is such a rush to stand up on the stage and see over 5,000 people and know they are all happy and they are helping a good time and you are helping people. It is changing their lives."

What makes this particular event special, she said, is "This program offers hope. Usually, when people come into the program their lives are pretty fucked up in one way or another and this is a way out, a way for them to change. There is a lot of love and a lot of high energy knowing that we have all been in the same place and we have all come through. We are struggling with the same issues."

The issue basically is alcoholism and those attending the conference are committed to changing their lives. Living Sober is Alcoholics Anonymous for gay men and lesbians. Some of those attending have been sober for years. Others come to the conference to become clean and sober.

The conference is national in scope, and there are people from all over the country.

One man from San Diego said, "This is my first time. It's really great."

He says he has been clean and sober for seven days. He heard about it from two friends.

"They thought it was just the thing to bolster what I am going through right now," he said.

Another person attending the conference said, "I had to move to Sacramento when I found out I had AIDS, from a little town outside of Chico."

Looking at the thousands of people in the Civic Auditorium he said, "Being around this many men in recovery is really great for me."

He said he had heard about the conference in previous years but, "I have never had the time until I became unemployed. It is an answer but only for people who are alcoholics."

"I think it's wonderful, it's a very loving place," a woman from Encino said. "They have taken a lot of time and effort putting this together. It just feels good."

She spoke of the emotions that take place as people attend the many workshops.

"There is so much en-

thusiasm. The quality of love, the kind of healing that can go on between people with each other. We have a hard time sometimes going to things like incest or child abuse workshops. You will see somebody in the halls who is crying and there is somebody holding them. There is that kind of care given, even to people you don't know. What really strikes me about this conference is that there are so many people, yet there is this calm."

There were literally thousands of gay men and lesbians in the building throughout the day and most of the night. There was a feeling, a sense of inner peace, that many described as spiritual.

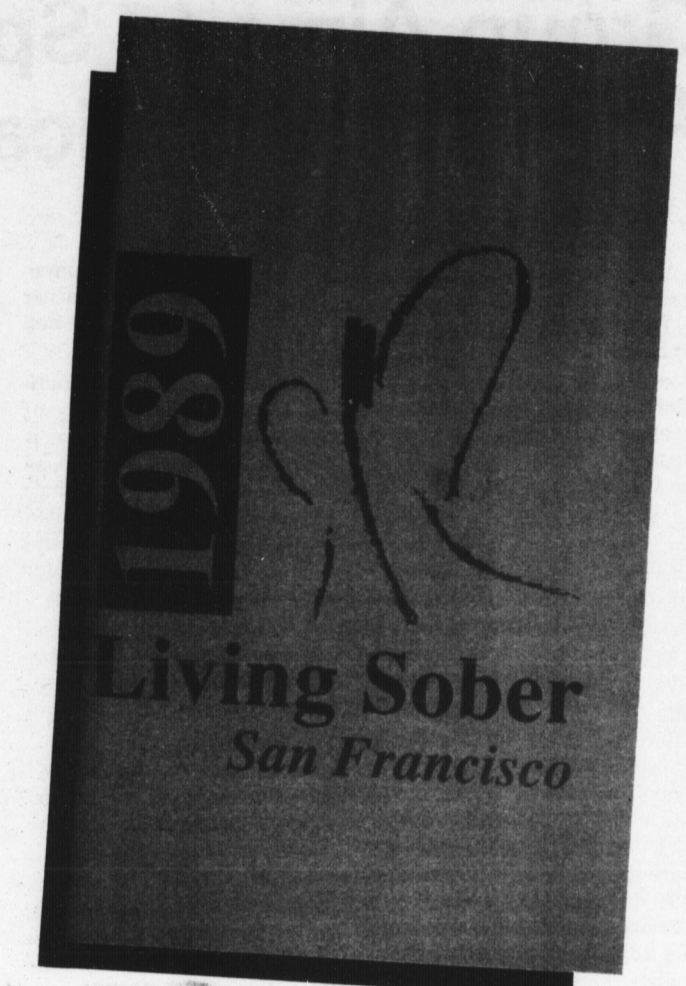
A woman from Cupertino could understand the meaning of the conference by "walking through the halls and seeing all the people who have supported me all through my life are here."

For her, "One thing that is really significant is I just graduated from college. I started going to college when I got sober three and a half years ago. I tried many times, but I got through it this time. I did it because I had support from the gay, sober population. It is following a path and the people who are there with you. The steps give you the ways to find the absolute truth. That is the side benefit from being sober."

"It is an incredible experience of community," she continued. "In the San Jose area there is a real wonderful gay, sober community. Here I find I am with my whole community. It is a real miracle to see so many gay people who are sober and want to find the truth in their life and want quality."

"I used to come to San Fran-

cisco and get real loaded. I used to walk the streets and not even know who I was or where I was going and even caring. It is so different to go out with friends and have a good time and know you don't need drugs or alcohol to do it." As she finished her comments she joined three other friends and they went out to go dancing and to celebrate. ▼



Town Meeting to Discuss Gay Community Center

A community-wide town meeting to discuss the possibility of building a San Francisco Lesbian and Gay Community Center will be held on July 12 at 7 p.m. at Metropolitan Community Church of San Francisco, 150 Eureka St.

The meeting will be facilitated by Amy Funghi and Michael Haigler and has been planned by a diverse group of people meeting since March as the S.F. Lesbian/Gay Community Center Organizing Committee.

The committee was initiated by members of MCC-SF, whose church building is overflowing with community organization meetings and a rapidly growing congregation, who were initially joined by members of ACT UP and Operation Concern's Gay and Lesbian Outreach to Elders.

The committee has grown to include people from Dignity, BALIF, Gay Asian-Pacific Alliance, Federal Lesbians and Gays, the Parade Committee, the Gay/Lesbian Historical Society, Team San Francisco, the New Works Theater and the S.F. Public Library, as well as numerous people not affiliated with any organization.

Many lesbians and gay men have long felt the need for a center to serve as a focus of our community where all of our diverse aspects are represented. We have also felt the lack of a central place for the dissemination of information and services, and

the housing of resources and social events. Centers that fulfill these needs exist in more than 30 cities around the world from Amsterdam to El Paso, from New York to Sydney, from Guadalajara to Stockholm. And, whereas San Francisco has long been an international center for the expression of lesbian and gay consciousness, and is probably the world's most celebrated gay city, the committee thinks that San Francisco deserves a center that reflects our place in the world.

During the long history of lesbian and gay people in this city, attempts have been made to create and maintain such a center without success. In the past decade the community has drawn together as never before to confront the AIDS epidemic and the challenge of right-wing politics. The Lesbian/Gay Community Center Organizing Committee believes that we are now united enough, and strong enough, to create a center that will further strengthen and unite us for the political struggles and continuing battles against AIDS which lie ahead.

The S.F. Lesbian/Gay Community Center Organizing Committee invites the entire community to "help build the dream," to come to MCC on July 12 and share your dreams, ideas, plans and concerns about a center for our community. For more information, contact the committee through MCC-SF at 863-4434. ▼

A lifeline for every gay person trapped by addiction

At least 3 out of 10 gay Americans are alcoholics, and still more suffer from other forms of chemical dependency. Now, at last, there's a practical handbook for dealing with this problem: a step-by-step guide written by a gay recovering alcoholic, addressing the specific needs of lesbians and gay men.

"Wisdom that can help each of us."
 —Don Clark, author of *As We Are*

"I hope this book's healing glories will reach millions."
 —Ned Rorem

ACCEPTING OURSELVES

The Twelve-Step Journey of Recovery from Addiction for Gay Men and Lesbians

Harper & Row
 San Francisco

SHEPPARD B. KOMINARS

Group Aims to Speed Up AIDS Drug Clinical Trials

by Drew Blakeman

After a nine-month start-up period, the non-profit Community Research Alliance has opened for business. The group's goal is to initiate clinical trials that test effective and safe potential treatments for AIDS and HIV, according to Terry Beswick, president of the CRA board of directors.

"We are a unique organization," Beswick said, noting that CRA is committed to having substantial PWA representation on all its policy-setting bodies.

There is "at least 50 percent PWA representation" out of a total 49 members on the three different CRA executive boards, according to Tom Wilcox, the group's administrative director. Research programs conducted by the federal government and pharmaceutical companies are notorious for excluding PWAs from meaningful input to the planning and implementation of medical studies. This results in denying the very people they claim to be serving from having any significant access to the decision-making process.

"We need to take matters into our own hands," Beswick said, "which we have proven is not impossible for us to do."

Beswick is no stranger to direct action, having organized protests as head of the ACT UP/PSF treatment-issues committee.

"Now is the time for us to take the next step," he said.

CRA's Scientific Advisory Committee works with research scientists to develop treatment protocols, while its Institutional Review Board provides for independent community oversight of ethical and policy decisions,

Beswick said. Individual physicians are recruited to administer treatments and monitor the progress of patients.

CRA's first clinical trial, studying the possible efficacy of Hypericin as an HIV inhibitor, is already under way. Hypericin, an herbal derivative of St. John's wort, has been used in the United States as an anti-depressant, and is sold as an over-the-counter medication in West Germany.

The relatively modest initial study group, numbering 10 patients, will be increased by 10 more in July and another 10 in August.

"This is a small first study," Beswick said, "but it is a first step, and a relatively inexpensive one."

Additional protocols will be implemented as funding permits, and CRA's goal is to have at least nine studies in place within the next nine months, he said.

CRA specifically hopes to include populations previously underrepresented in clinical trials—minorities, women and children—in its future studies.

"We also have to reach the straight community," Beswick added.

The organization plans to include asymptomatic seropositive individuals in its testing protocols as well as those showing signs of HIV-related illness.

"We need to be there when the next drugs become available, and get them out to the community quickly," Beswick said, noting that waiting for FDA approval adds at least 18 months to the time it takes for treatments to be made available to the public.

"We need to help push things through the bureaucracy,"

Beswick mentioned the New York-based Community Research Initiative, which is the model for CRA. In its first two years of operation the New York group has 16 clinical trials in place, the first of which was a protocol testing aerosolized pentamidine as a preventative against pneumocystis carinii. The drug recently received accelerated FDA approval.

CRA is negotiating with a number of pharmaceutical companies to fund future research protocols.

"It is frustrating to work within the system," Beswick said, while at the same time noting that the companies will pay for overhead and staff expenses in addition to funding the cost of the actual research.

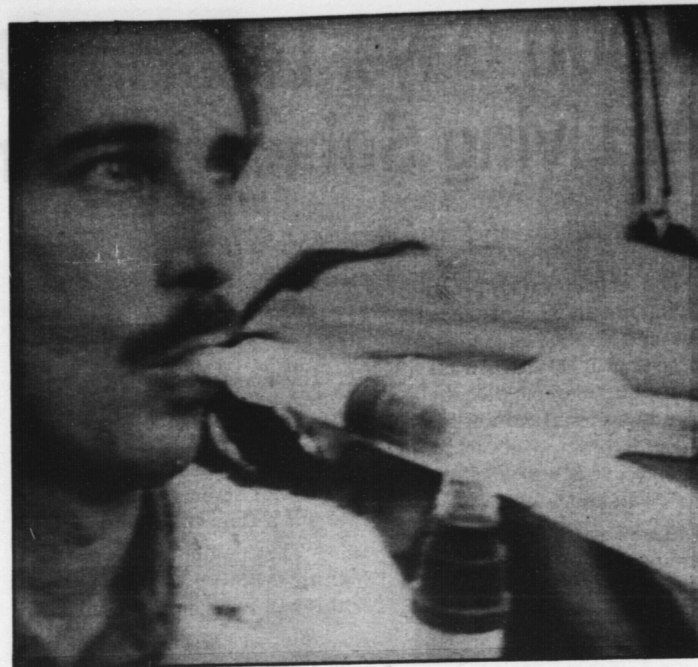
"The only thing stopping us from doing more is money," Beswick said, adding that there is an "obvious need for a massive infusion of federal funds" to combat AIDS.

A \$30,000 grant from the American Foundation for AIDS Research provided the bulk of CRA's seed money, and funding in lesser amounts has been trickling in from other sources, he said.

Beswick mentioned the problems a research-oriented group faces in competing for grants.

"Foundations and corporations are still in the headset of funding service and education programs," he said.

Only three percent of the more than 150 such organizations approached by CRA showed even minimal interest in its programs.



Patient being treated with Pantamidine for PCP.

Beswick praised groups like the Shanti Project and the AIDS Emergency Fund for the work they have accomplished, expressing dismay that service organizations are "really hurting for money." Funding basic medical research should be considered equally important, he said, and to date it has not been given the priority it deserves.

"This will be an endless nightmare unless we put an end to it" by finding useful treatments and eventually a cure for AIDS, Beswick said. "Most people don't see research as service, but simply just science."

Among the programs CRA is planning for the near future include the testing of Tagamet, a widely prescribed treatment for stomach ulcers, as well as various CD4 variants for anti-HIV properties.

"If Compound Q gets past the first round [of FDA approval], we see no reason why we can't start testing it," Beswick said.

He said that people enrolled in CRA protocols would be permitted

to commence or continue using other HIV treatments, a departure from the procedures followed by most other studies.

"We are not likely to do many placebo studies, if any at all," because of the ethical questions they raise, he said, adding, "there should not be any cost whatsoever" to PWAs enrolled in clinical trials.

Beswick's wish list includes a new facility containing administrative offices in a clinical setting "so we can move out of this attic," and the financial ability to increase the size of the paid staff from the present number of four. Having just started "from scratch," CRA also needs to build up a larger pool of volunteer support, he said.

"We could enroll hundreds and hundreds of people [in our protocols] if we had the capability," Beswick said.

The Community Research Alliance is located at 273 Church St., one-half block south of Market. For more information, call 626-2145.

AIDS Briefs

Bay Area Mothers' HIV Rate Higher

State Health Director Kenneth W. Kizer, M.D., has announced that an ongoing Department of Health Services study of human immunodeficiency virus infection in California reveals that the rate of HIV infection among mothers in the San Francisco Bay Area is double the rate of infection among mothers statewide.

"This study, which tested blood samples taken from babies born during July 1988, shows that one in every 610 women giving birth in the San Francisco Bay Area was infected with HIV, compared with a rate of one in every 1,225 women statewide," Kizer said. "In Los Angeles, the rate of HIV infection was one in every 1,201 mothers, essentially the same as the statewide rate."

Of 6,708 women giving birth in the San Francisco Bay Area, 11 were infected with HIV. Of 14,417 births in Los Angeles, 12 were born to mothers with HIV infection. Among the 21,761 births outside of the San Francisco Bay Area and Los Angeles, 12 were to mothers with HIV, a rate of one in every 1,813 mothers.

"More than a third of the samples that tested positive for the virus were from babies born to women outside the Los Angeles and San Francisco Bay areas," Kizer said. "At a minimum, these results tell us that the problem of HIV infection among childbearing women in California is not restricted to any single area of the state."

The study's results also suggest differences in HIV infection rates among mothers from different racial and ethnic groups. Black women giving birth had a rate of one HIV infection among every 374 births—more than three times the overall rate. The rate among Hispanic women is slightly lower than the overall rate, one HIV infection among every 1,954 births. This is similar to the rate for white women, one HIV infection among every 1,697 births.

"These findings add weight to the already severe problem of AIDS and intravenous drug abuse in the black community," Kizer said. "At the same time, the generally lower rate of infection for Hispanics suggests an important opportunity to prevent a more serious situation, such as that seen in the eastern United States, from developing here."

Kizer urged caution in interpreting these findings, however, since the racial/ethnic group was not known for more than 15 percent of the women studied, and for 20 percent of infected women.

"The rates could change quite a bit, depending on the racial and ethnic group in which these 'unknowns' occurred," Kizer advised.

The study found a slightly higher level of HIV infection in teen mothers as compared with the statewide rate.

"Among white women from Los Angeles, two of the three mothers whose babies' blood tested positive for HIV were in their teens," according to Kizer. "These numbers will require further evaluation, but they clearly point to recently acquired infections."

Blood samples tested in the study for maternal infection with the AIDS virus were those routinely taken from newborns shortly after birth. Presence of HIV in the blood of an infant is an indicator of HIV infection in his mother. Although the HIV test results cannot be linked to any individual baby or mother, researchers do know the mother's age, racial/ethnic group and area of residence. Current estimates are that between 30 percent to 50 percent of infants born to infected women will themselves go on to become infected.

Volunteers Needed for Drug Study

An experimental drug that may be a useful alternative or supplement to AZT in the treatment of AIDS and AIDS-related complex is being studied at Stanford University. The drug, called dideoxycytidine or DDC, was recently approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration for expanded testing in humans.

Twelve centers across the United States have enrolled nearly 200 participants in a study comparing weekly and monthly alternating regimens of AZT and DDC with intermittent AZT, intermittent DDC, and continuous AZT. Stanford is seeking volunteers for this clinical trial, which is scheduled to close soon.

Researchers at Stanford, Drs. Thomas Merigan and Gail Skowron, have participated in pivotal clinical trials showing promise for the drug. Studies using DDC alone have shown suppression of the AIDS virus with mild toxic side effects, and an alternating regimen of DDC and AZT has also indicated inhibition of the AIDS virus.

The scientists assessed DDC's effectiveness by measuring two blood values from subjects—a protein called p24 made by the AIDS virus, and the number of helper T lymphocytes, immune system cells that are killed by the AIDS virus as the disease progresses. The recent studies of alternating treatment regimens of AZT with DDC have shown both a drop in p24 levels and an increase in helper T cell counts.

AZT (zidovudine) is the only drug marketed for use in people with AIDS. Among people who take AZT for one year, however, nearly half develop anemia and other serious side effects. DDC's most serious side effect is a painful form of nerve impairment called peripheral neuropathy, which improves when the drug is stopped. Because the two drugs' drawbacks do not overlap, the researchers believe the alternating these two drugs can diminish the side effects of both while maintaining suppression of p24 antigen over time.

To participate in the one-year study, volunteers must have a diagnosis of AIDS or ARC, must test positive for p24 antigen, and must have no AZT therapy for 60 days prior to enrolling in the study. Conditions that exclude people from participating in the study include peripheral neuropathy and any severe intolerance to AZT.

People interested in participating in the study may call the Stanford University AIDS Clinical Trial Group at 723-6231.

Jackson Staffer Admits Sending Letter to Daley

by Rex Wockner

A staffer at the Rev. Jesse Jackson's Operation PUSH office has taken responsibility for the contents of a mysterious and highly controversial letter sent to Chicago Mayor Richard Daley shortly before he took office in April.

The letter accused "the AIDS czars and czarinas... of Chicago's white gay communities [both activists and old guard]" of purposefully manipulating city AIDS money away from people of color and of conducting a smear campaign against Dr. Lonnie Edwards, who was then commissioner of health. Edwards is black.

In early June the director of PUSH's AIDS project, Jamillah Muhammed, acknowledged that the charges in the letter were hers and were "probably taken off tapes—things I had said on our weekly broadcasts on... WJPC, WCCI and V-103."

All three radio stations program music by black artists.

"The tapes are for sale each week," Muhammed said. "Anybody can get them. Whoever authored [the letter], the content you can find on tapes—statements I made on broadcasts between December and the present."

According to PUSH head, the Rev. Willie Barrow, who said her son died of AIDS, Muhammed's statements reflect official PUSH positions.

"The African American community has the AIDS but somebody else has the money," Barrow said. "I want to educate our people that it is a wild man out here called the disease of AIDS."

"Now, I'm a member of the Rainbow Coalition," Barrow continued, "and the lesbian and gay community is part of that and I've been working with the gay community because my son was gay, but that does not take away from where the money is going... I don't know who wrote that letter. Maybe the devil wrote it but the Lord must have sent it... because they were talking about the truth of the situation."

The letter was signed by the Hispanic AIDS Network and the African-American AIDS Network and was carbon-copied to 175 people involved in Chicago's battle against AIDS.

But HAN officials later denounced the letter, saying that while they signed it, they neither

wrote it nor read it before it was mailed. HAN was reportedly promised a \$130,000 city grant for its signature.

Edwards resigned his job before Daley took office, and on May 30 Daley fired Edwards supporter Dr. Stanley Strickland, who had directed the city's AIDS Activity Office.

Insiders say Strickland com-

posed the inflammatory letter, but he has denied it. AAN staffers did not return calls.

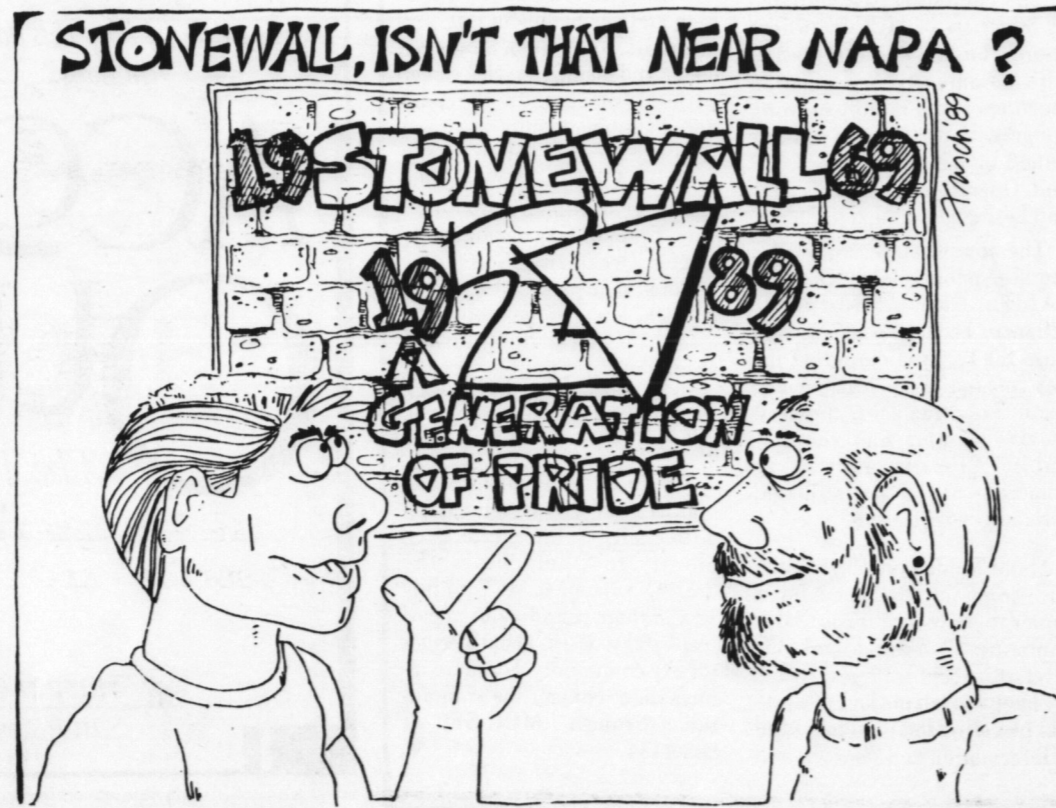
Gay activists expressed shock upon hearing that PUSH had taken credit for the contents of the letter.

Paul Varnell of the Illinois Gay & Lesbian Task Force said that Muhammed's "perspective is deeply, deeply offensive" and

that he could "not imagine why the health department lent legitimacy to her views."

"And I was stunned at the blatantly racist tone of her unconscionable comments," he said. "In the beginning, it was only white gay men taking care of everyone—black, brown, Asian, gay and non-gay. We wouldn't be where we are today with education and care were it not for white gay men."

Frisch



Access

(Continued from page 5)

testing, monitoring of immune-system functioning and early treatment. The agency also serves as a clearinghouse on promising AIDS treatments.

Project Inform has also been coordinating—with local physicians—underground tests of GLQ-223, a purified version of tricothanthin, known as Compound Q, since the middle of May, on volunteers in San Francisco, New York and Miami. The scientific study of the promising drug is expected to last three months—while phase one of an officially sanctioned University of California-San Francisco clinical trial of the drug could take three times as long.

"I feel a lot of gratitude to the people in this study. We owe them a great deal. I think it's very exciting. We're not just waiting for the system," said Hank Wilson, a member of People with AIDS. "We know the problems with the system. Key people from the scientific community all agree the system isn't working. It's time that we act."

"As more people become aware, there must be more of a push for access. A couple of years ago, we didn't know the names of

the AIDS drugs. The community needs to be the plumber and get these drugs out of the pipeline," Wilson said.

"We are really at a crossroads," said Dr. Mervyn Silverman, president of the American Foundation for AIDS Research. "The goal is to get the treatments to the people who need them. Looking at the tensions that exist between researchers and people with AIDS, I hear the same thing being said. They want quick access and safe and effective drugs."

In the opinion of some gay leaders, however, the perceptual shift in how AIDS is viewed—and the suggestion that everyone at risk be tested—may be putting the cart before the horse. They are not convinced that the local public health-care system will be able to respond to the increased demand for treatment and early intervention.

Jerry De Jong, director of 18th Street Services, a gay men's substance-abuse treatment agency, said, "I feel that if local governments and AIDS advocacy groups are going to start recommending that people at risk take the antibody test, then the local, state and federal governments better be able to back that up with access to health care. It only

makes sense for people with insurance and a primary care physician."

De Jong also noted that it is easier for a white, gay male to gain access to treatment in the local health-care system than, for instance, someone with HIV infection who lives in the Mission District and speaks only Spanish.

According to Dr. Tom Peters, Health Department associate director, San Francisco is "nearly at the limit" in terms of financial resources available for AIDS care. Federal and state assistance is crucial to the continued level of service delivery to people with HIV infection and AIDS, he said.

"The San Francisco model has no way of being able to sustain itself or go through the necessary evolutions without specific continued, immediate and sustained help. We just don't have the resources," Peters said.

In a telling example that underscored Peters' concern, he said that, of the hundreds of patients receiving AZT through city-administered subsidy programs, more than 50 percent made less than \$10,000 a year.

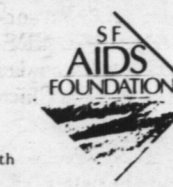
Burroughs Wellcome, which manufactures AZT, charges about \$8,000 for a year's supply of the drug.



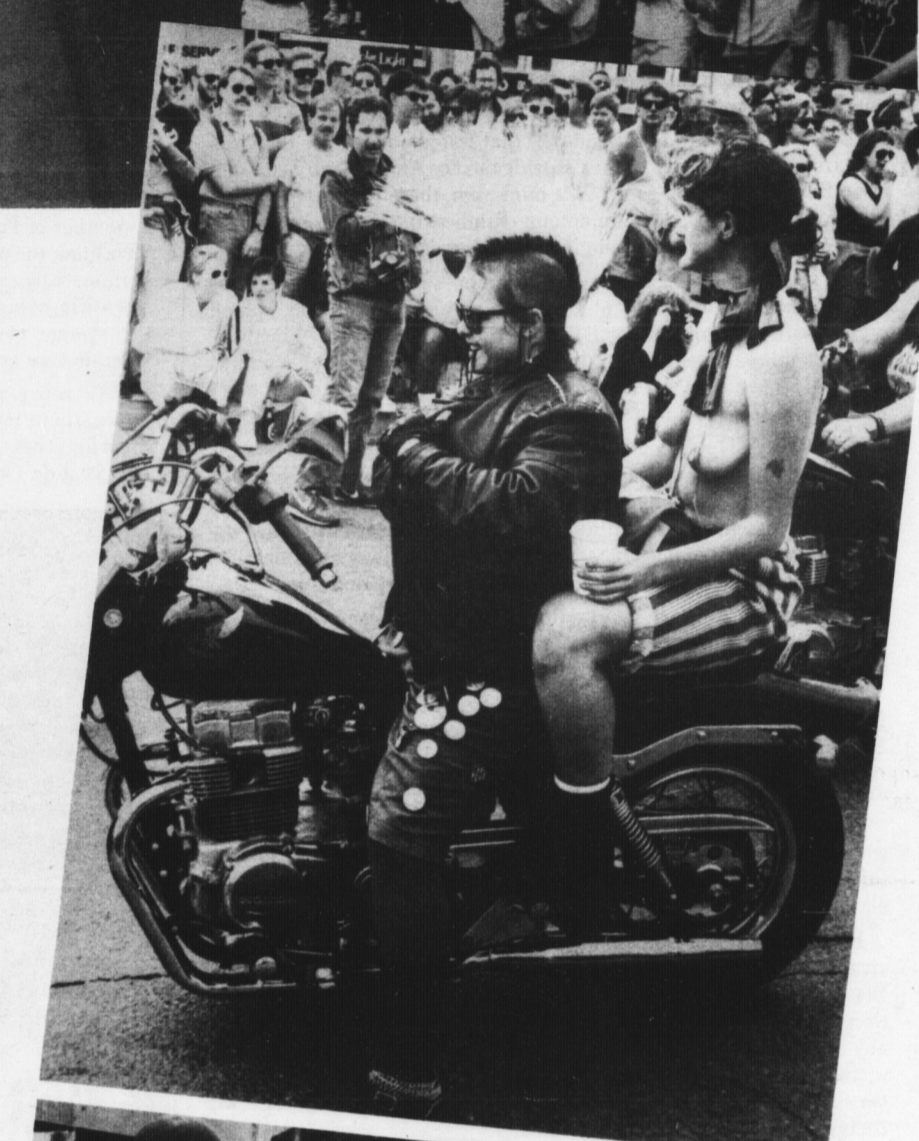
Condoms are for lovers, too.

Loving your partner means protecting each other from AIDS. It takes practice to use condoms correctly, but your life—and your lover's—are worth it.

For more information: **Call 863-AIDS**
Toll-free Northern Calif.
(800) FOR-AIDS
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(All Photos by Darlene/PhotoGraphics)



Gay Couple Wins Suit Against Landlord

by Dennis McMillan

A case of alleged anti-gay discrimination by a landlord against his tenants was settled recently in Small Claims Court.

Mark White, a butler and actor, and his partner Fred Snyder, a chef, took their claims of anti-gay discrimination and harassment to court and won a \$406 settlement along with a lien against the property of landlord Cherk Chuck Lee.

The couple had moved into the Richmond District at Fourth Avenue and Balboa in February during an arctic winter storm. For their first two weeks they were without heat. According to White, the upstairs neighbors, who speak only Chinese and do not communicate with the landlord, have suffered without heat for five years.

White said that shortly after the couple had moved in, the landlord came into his apartment demanding to know where Snyder slept. When White informed him that the two slept in the same room, the landlord became incensed, made homophobic remarks, and insisted they move out.

White said that the landlord's son repeatedly stood in front of their apartment yelling, "You fuckin' faggots, get out of our building!"

Neighbors on both sides said they heard the homophobic epithets and complained to the landlord, with no results.

The incidents reached a peak

when White called the police, who arrived in time to catch the landlord's son attempting to kick in their front door.

White said that when they went to Small Claims Court, the son continued to use abusive, homophobic language and had to be reprimanded by the judge.

The upshot is that White and Snyder were able to receive a settlement by the judge to cover moving costs and electricians' fees when they were without heating facilities. The total came to \$406.

White and Snyder also now have a lien on Lee's house. Since Lee had 20 days to appeal the case but failed to do so, he is now legally unable to sell his house until he pays the settlement money to White and Snyder.

White said that although the monetary amount was small, he felt a victory in uncovering illegal basement units, faulty wiring, and several violations of the building code—all of which Lee will now have to remedy for his tenants.

White and Snyder have since moved to another location.

"He treated us extremely poorly, as well as the other tenants. They were also victims of this landlord, and we feel good that we were able to change all that," said White. The money is nice, but it is more satisfactory to us that a case in gay discrimination has been vindicated." ▼

Friday

(Continued from page 10)

I would certainly expect that any self-respecting gay or lesbian subscribing to the *Contra Costa Times* will abruptly cancel same. (Farms in Berkeley? Homophobes in Contra Costa?)

Even some of Mayor Agnos' friends are beginning to say that the homeless situation in Civic Center could be His Honor's political albatross; the *Examiner* is calling the 300-400 transients who now live across the street from City Hall "Camp Agnos" while others are referring to the tent city as "Agnos Plaza," and this problem can only get worse.

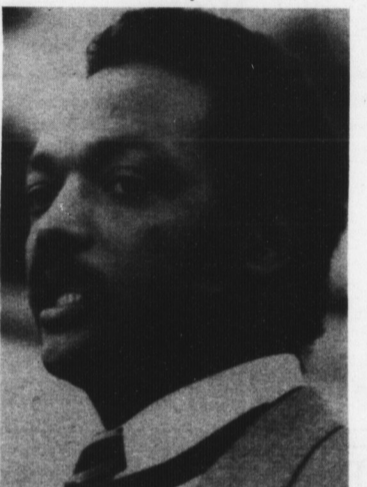
Few issues seem to keep coming back as much as those know-it-all disc jockeys who insist on playing *Donna Summer* songs; I seldom go to disco bars, but it seems that I am always hearing complaints from those that do that "these DJ queens just seem to love her and insist on forcing her music on us"; and all this for a born-again Christian who supposedly remarked that gays were "sinners" and that AIDS was a divine retribution... And few issues, too, have caused the uproar as the U.S. Supreme Court decision banning laws against flag-burning; the decision has forced politicians at every level across the country to support efforts giving the Congress power to protect the flag by legislation; California gubernatorial candidates *Dianne Feinstein*, *John Van de Kamp* and *Pete Wilson* quickly endorsed the plan. Incidentally, not all politicians are flag-wavers; the California Assembly passed a resolution last week by a 58-2 vote calling for a constitutional amendment authorizing criminal prosecution for the burning or

desecration of the U.S. flag. The two NO votes: *John Burton* of San Francisco and *Terry Friedman*, D-West L.A.

And just when we thought we were rid of him, it was announced that NBC has lined up *Ronald Reagan* to provide one full inning of commentary during baseball's All-Star Game on July 11 from Anaheim Stadium.

The race for attorney general promises to get interesting. *Gov. George Deukmejian* sent out a letter saying "we need a Republican law and order conservative back in the attorney general's office," and endorsed former *Rep. Dan Lungren* for that job. (He's the guy that couldn't get confirmed as state treasurer last year.)

Meanwhile, *Arlo Smith* seems to be gaining big points, even in the Southland, against his Democratic opponent L.A. District Attorney *Ira Reiner*.



Jesse Jackson (Photo: Rink)

And supporters of conservative Republican *Angela Buchanan*, the sister of famed anti-gay commentator *Patrick Buchanan*, and a candidate for

the GOP state treasurer nomination, has apparently got herself in hot water with the disclosure that she recently signed a letter to President Bush urging a pardon for *Oliver North*.

Washington friends of *Jesse Jackson* are quietly telling reporters that if *Washington, D.C.*, Mayor *Marion Barry* can be persuaded not to seek reelection, *Jackson* will definitely run for the job next year. Some of those hoping to push *Barry* aside are saying that "the mayor is not as good as he is cracked up to be," and should get out while he can.

Noting his role in the first appointments of openly gay men and lesbians to important state positions during his seven years as chief-of-staff to then *Gov. Jerry Brown*, the Christopher Street West/Los Angeles honored state Controller *Gray Davis* as the recipient of the *George Moscone Award* during the *Gay Pride Celebration* last week.

The *Moscone Award*, named for San Francisco's late mayor, is presented annually to a non-gay individual for "furthering human rights and for a readiness to speak out on issues of importance to gay men and lesbians."

Davis, who has long been a strong supporter of gay issues in his job as state controller, proposed a tax credit for contributions to AIDS research and served as co-chair of the successful campaign against the *Dannemeyer* initiative.

Democratic County Chair *Carole Migden* sent me a postcard from New York with the first-ever gay-related U.S. Post Office cancellation, a stamp noting "STONEWALL—20 Years, 1969-1989, Lesbian & Gay Pride; June 25, 1989, New York, N.Y. 10099!" ▼

The San Francisco Lesbian/Gay Freedom Day Parade Committee

salutes

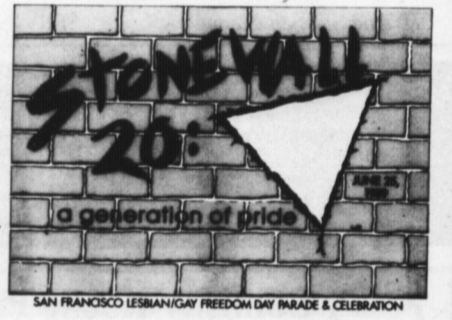
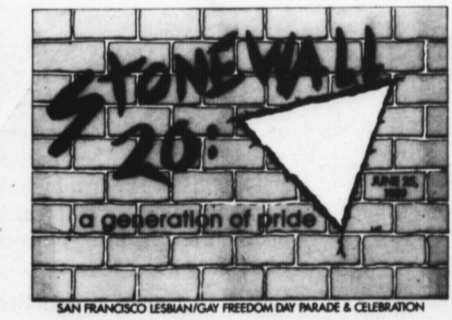
GOLDEN BRANDS

and

THE MILLER BREWING COMPANY

for

Their Generous Sponsorship of The 1989 Celebration



DEATHS

Ed Lucas

June 24, 1947-June 30, 1989
Ed died quietly at home Friday morning, June 30. He is survived by his loved of five years, Steve Bobic, and his very loving and supportive family and friends.

Ed was a member of the Gay Men's Chorus for 10 years. He loved music and film and enjoyed sharing these pleasures.

In recent days Ed stressed that he felt he had lived a charmed life. He always felt loved by his family and friends and realized the value of these relationships in his life. He had a challenging wit and an endearing charm which we will always remember.

Roger Lewis Madison

Sept. 26, 1950-June 25, 1989
On Sunday, June 25, as thousands of balloons were released signifying the start of Los Angeles' Gay Freedom Day Parade, our friend Roger was released from his 25-month battle with AIDS.

Although for the last seven years Roger lived in Pasadena, he called San Francisco home as well. During the early '70s Roger worked on Castro Street, first at Andy's Donuts, its later incarnation

Without Reservation, and Orphan Andy's. The years 1974 through 1982 found Roger dividing his time between his adopted home of San Francisco and his home in Pasadena.

Roger touched many lives in his 38 years, leaving a lasting impression on those he encountered. His eccentricities were as endearing as they could be maddening as he created for himself a unique style of living. Roger took equal pleasure in serving a formal dinner in period tails as he did cooking up a cheeseburger during "bar rush."

Roger's knowledge of and affection for times gone by were of matched intensity to his pride at having been a part of establishing "the Castro" as a symbol of gay liberation and community.

Roger is survived by his father, Clyde Madison of Pasadena, and an abundance of friends. He was loved and will be missed by many.

Services and interment were held at Mountain View Mortuary in Altadena, California, on July 1.

John Charles McGivern

March 19, 1955-June 3, 1989
John died in his sleep on June 3 from AIDS-related cancer. He will be missed by his many friends and co-workers in San Francisco.

He also will be missed by his family and friends in Chicago. Donations in his name may be made to the San Francisco AIDS Foundation or to Children's Hospital.

Robert J. Morawski

Sept. 10, 1946-June 28, 1989
Bob departed the "Vale of Tears" on the morning of Wednesday, June 28, after a courageous battle with *Pneumocystis carinii* pneumonia. His diagnosis encouraged him to feel a renewed sense of commitment to pursuing a healthy, fulfilling life.

Bob was born in Chicago and migrated to San Francisco in 1978. Basically a private person, Bob had the knack of passing on to the people whose lives he did touch his zest for life. He loved baseball, football, the symphony, music, movies, videos and especially his two cats, Puddy and Boo-Boo.

He will be missed by his co-workers at Graham and James, who meant more to him than they realize; his AIDS support group; his friend in Arizona, Kathy; and his buddies Bob Kellman and Leon McBrayer.

Donations in Bob's name can be made to Pets are Wonderful Support for People with AIDS (PAWS), P.O. Box 460489, San Francisco, CA 94146-0489 or to a charity of your choice.

A remembrance of Bob is being planned. Call Bob Kellman for information at 863-6204 evenings or weekends.

The Pud, Boo and I will always remember the times we shared together with you. I love you, kid! —Bob

The Rev. Paul Peachey

Sept. 20, 1941-Feb. 16, 1989
It was discovered recently that the Rev. Paul Peachey passed away in February from coronary artery disease.

Peachey was born in Trenton, N.J., and moved to San Francisco over 25 years ago after serving as a corpsman in the U.S. Navy. He worked for many years as a florist in San Francisco and was one of the earliest members of Metropolitan Community Church in San Francisco.

As a traveling Deacon, he helped found M.C.C. churches in Oakland, Sacramento and San Jose. Ordained by M.C.C. in the early '70s, he served as pastor of M.C.C. Hawaii from 1975-79. In Hawaii he became known as "Mr. Gay Hawaii" for his public stand on gay rights, which included fasting for two weeks on the steps of the State Capitol and helping gay men and lesbians in their struggles with the military.

He founded Hawaii's first gay and lesbian newspaper, *The Paper*, co-founded Love and Peace Together, Hawaii's gay service organization, and was the first Night Minister for the Hawaii Council of Churches.

He will be missed by his many friends in M.C.C. around the country, especially by Jim Kerber, his friend of 20 years and roommate for most of that time.

Bruce W. Kears

Jan. 19, 1954-June 17, 1989
Bruce passed away at UCSF as a result of complications of AIDS. At his side were his lover, John, and his sister Pat. He left this world for a better place.

Bruce was born in Oakland and loved the San Francisco Bay Area. He was diagnosed with AIDS in September 1986. While he was physically able, he spent his time battling discrimination against PWAs in the area of employment.

To know Bruce was to know someone who loved his home, dogs, cooking and Christmas. During the last year our dog "Maggie" was his constant companion, and a tremendous comfort to him.

Bruce is survived by his lover of eight years, John, his mother Mildred, sister Pat, brothers David and Ron.

As he requested, his ashes were spread at sea on July 1, followed by a private memorial.

Daniel Sterling Weaver

July 8, 1958-June 27, 1989
Dan Weaver passed away quietly in his sleep last Tuesday evening at John M. Long Hospital. He is survived by his

parents, Moe and Shirley Weaver of Denver, his brothers Eric, of Berkeley, and John, of Seattle, his sister Nancy, of Carmel, and many loving friends. All of his family were with him during his last illness, and his parents, brother Eric, and friend, Sara, were with him when he died.

Dan had been a resident of San Francisco since 1976. His commitment and concern for the community were evident in his years of volunteer work for the AIDS Foundation and the Shanti Project. Honesty and right living were very important to Danny, and he was especially proud of and grateful for his sobriety during the last six years of his life.

Those of us who loved him mourn our loss, but are grateful for the privilege of having known him and are grateful for his release from suffering and his passage into peace and light.

Richard W. Shand

April 30, 1941-June 27, 1989
Dick Shand's brave two-year battle against AIDS ended with his passing on June 27 in Adair, Iowa. At the time of his

death, Dick was fulfilling a long-held wish to cross the country by car, and was traveling from San Francisco to Red Bank, N.J. in the loving care of his father and his sister, Carol Lodzinski.

Dick was an eight-year resident of San Francisco, having transferred here from New York City in 1981 with Bank of America and later joining the brokerage firm of Shearson Lehman Hutton. He also served his country for six years in the U.S. Navy as Lieutenant, j.g.

Dick is survived by his parents, Walter and Grace Shand, his sister Carol, and by many loving friends in San Francisco and New York.

Funeral services with military honors were held in Neptune, N.J. on July 1. San Francisco services are pending. Dick requested that donations be made to the San Francisco AIDS Foundation or the American Cancer Society.

Joseph "Joey" Howard Heckman

Dec. 11, 1951-May 7, 1989
Joey Heckman was well known around Stockton as "The guy who always drives those old cars." He took great pride in showing off his classic Chevys from the mid '50s and '60s. The "Mighty Heck" saw life as one big adventure. His battle cry was "Parrrty!" resounded on weekends throughout Stockton and Sacramento. Joey organized gay volleyball in Stockton and was always there as a new friend for those just moving into town or just coming out.

Through his illness, Joey helped to get the word out about AIDS, consenting to be interviewed by radio and newspaper, and speaking to high school students in the Sacramento area. He helped to inform and enlighten many people. For this, those of us who love him are extremely proud.

Joey lived his final year at Hope House, in Sacramento. Memorial donations may be sent to Hope House, P.O. Box 2161, Sacramento, CA 95812, c/o Clara Taylor. Joey was surrounded in his final days by his family and friends. He knew much love.

Text of Memo On Gay Coverage

Following is the text of a policy memo issued to the news desk of the *Contra Costa Times* on the issue of the prominence to be accorded gay coverage in the newspaper's pages. Bill Walters, the author of the memo, is the paper's news editor; Ann Kellert, referred to in the text, is the managing editor.

To the News Desk:
Tuesday, June 27, 1989
All Please Read and Heed:

Our play of a story and photo atop Monday's CCT 1A [*Contra Costa Times* front page] of the gay freedom day parade in SF—despite the estimated turnout of 140,000 to 250,000 people—drew criticism from the community and from company management.

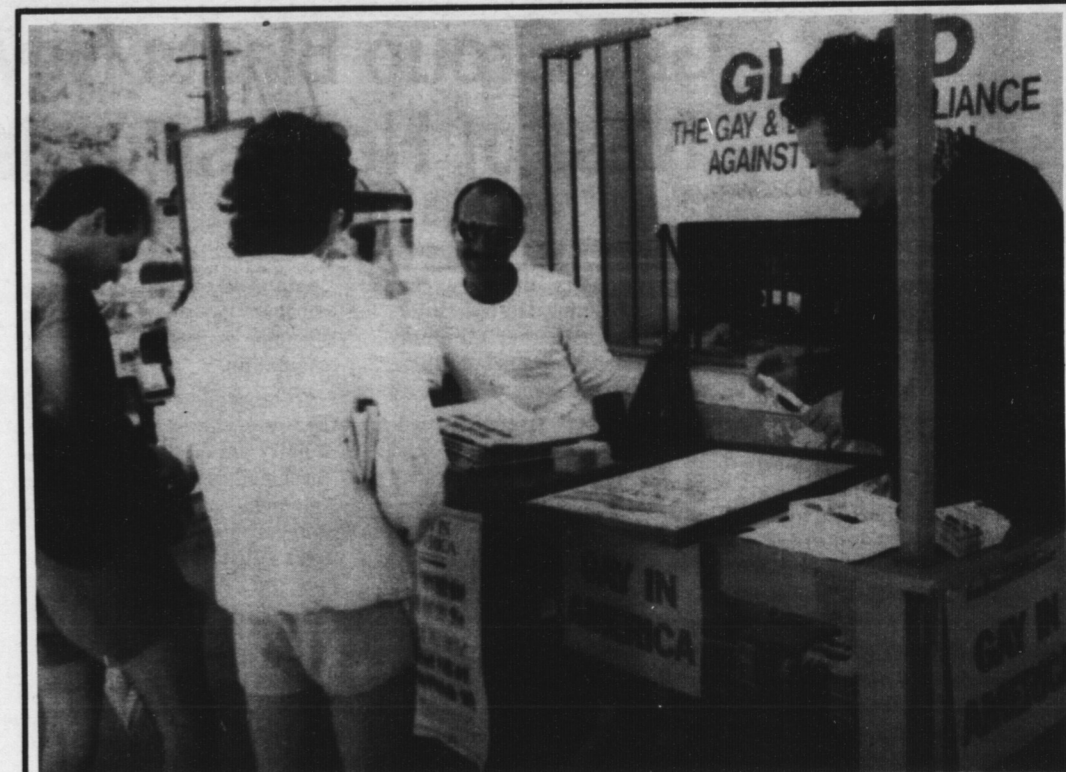
Despite your and my personal views on this, we must not do it again.

We must never forget that we are putting out family newspapers in conservative communities. We must never forget that this should be a prime consideration in story and photo selection. In editing, and in outline and headline writing.

This is not to say that the parade story did not belong in the paper. Even management agrees on that. But, the play was the straw that broke the camel's back, especially when the front page also had a story about alleged illegal gambling (Pete Rose), and about the abortion decision due this week from the Supreme Court. Any of these stories will stir a reader's blood, especially on a Monday morning when he or she struggles up to begin another tough week.

There are some topics that warrant extreme care. They include, but are not limited to: family life, children, animals, homosexuals, religion, AIDS, abortion, sexual bias, etc. Readers have firm opinions on these topics and others, and they are angry and vocal when their beliefs are damaged.

Bad things, disgusting things, inhumane things happen, and they often are news. But we don't have to describe every naked person, or show a photo of every dead body, to report what's going on in the world and in our communities. Our readers live here,



Gay in America

Members of the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation raising funds by selling complete copies of the *San Francisco Examiner's* "Gay in America" series. (Photo: Rink)

and we live here, and we must not forget that.

Sensitivity is what we are asking. Whether you think about it often, every word, every headline, everything we do is seen by hundreds of thousands of people. They want to trust us; they want to know that we are unbiased, tasteful, honest and accurate. And, they have that right.

So, let's question everything we do with an eye toward the standards mentioned above. We want to tell the story—hopefully every story—but with an eye toward the way we would like it to be told to us. We aren't going to bury things, and we aren't going to fill the front page with goody-goody fluff. But we are going to maintain the standards that we know are right.

The following procedures will become effective immediately:

Stories about gays and their activities that are proposed for Page 1A must be approved in advance by Ann. Please also consider seeking guidance from her on stories dealing with subjects mentioned above that you think could arouse undue anger or reaction.

Ann will call each Saturday to hear about and approve 1A stories for the Sunday paper. I

will call in each Sunday to do the same for Monday's paper. If I do not call by the time you are ready to finalize 1A, please call me at home.

If you have questions about any portion of this, Ann and I will be more than willing to discuss it with you. Thank you.

Bill W.

Contra Costa

(Continued from page 3)
that the photo ran the next day in the *Vallejo Times-Herald*.

The concern at the *Contra Costa Times* surfaced in an internal memo from Bill Walter, the news editor of the paper. It has since been distributed to most media organizations in the Bay Area and has been reprinted in the *San Francisco Examiner* and the *Oakland Tribune*.

The memo says, "We must never forget that we are putting out family newspapers in conservative communities." It goes on to say that placement of the story "was the straw that broke the camel's back, especially when the front page also had a story about alleged illegal gambling (Pete Rose), and about the abortion decision due this week from the Supreme Court." Walter's memo added, "Any of these

stories will stir a reader's blood, especially on a Monday morning when he or she struggles up to begin another tough week.

"There are topics that warrant extreme care. They include, but are not limited to: family life, children, animals, homosexuals, religion, AIDS, abortion, sexual bias, etc. Readers have firm opinions on these topics and others, and they are angry and vocal when their beliefs are damaged."

Walters continued, "But we don't have to describe every naked person, or show a photo of every dead body, to report what's going on in the world and in our communities."

He concluded, "Stories about gays and their activities that are proposed for page 1A must be approved in advance by Ann (Kellert, managing editor). Please also consider seeking guidance from her on stories dealing with the subjects mentioned above that you think could arouse undue anger or reaction."

TO THE NEWS DESK:
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Sensitivity is what we are asking. Whether you think about it often, every word, every headline, everything we do is seen by hundreds of thousands of people. They want to trust us; they want to know that we are unbiased, tasteful, honest and accurate. And, they have that right.
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HRCF Announces Major Reorganization

The Human Rights Campaign Fund, the largest national political organization representing the gay and lesbian community, has changed its structure from primarily an independent political action committee (PAC) to a national, full-service lesbian and gay advocacy organization and PAC.

The reorganization, coming on the heels of the 20th anniversary of the Stonewall Rebellion, will allow HRCF to expand its lobbying, education, grassroots mobilization and advocacy programs while continuing its aggressive PAC contributions.

"When HRCF was founded in 1980, its sole purpose was to contribute money to candidates running for Congress," said Vic Basile, outgoing HRCF executive director. "In a short amount of time we've established ourselves as a major player in Washington's influential PAC community."

"Now, the next logical step is to broaden HRCF's base of power—to be seen and heard not only at election time, but between them, when laws are enacted," said Basile.

Under the new structure, HRCF will become a "501(c)4" lobbying and advocacy organization. The organization has been occurring over the years, but now the restructuring process is complete.

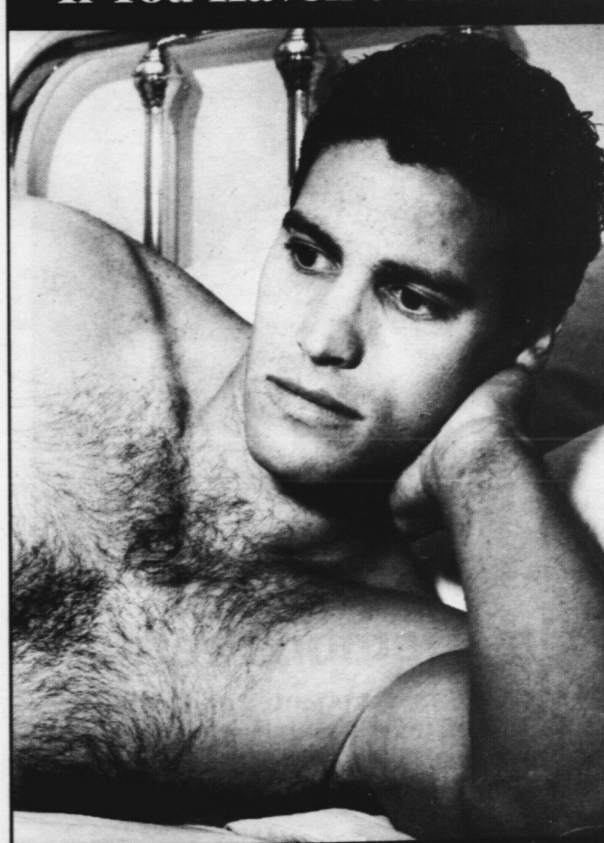
HRCF officials said the change comes as a response to the unprecedented political growth of the lesbian and gay movement and HRCF's burgeoning political programs.

"Twenty years ago we expressed our anger by throwing rocks and bottles," said Basile. "Today we have channeled that anger into sophisticated mainstream political action. We have moved from the category of political 'fringe' to center stage of the national political debate."

The HRCF restructuring, approved by HRCF's board of directors earlier this year, becomes effective immediately.

For more information on becoming a member of HRCF or on the restructuring, call (202) 628-4160.

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For more information (in Spanish or English), call the San Francisco AIDS Foundation Hotline: In San Francisco **863-AIDS** In northern California (800) **FOR-AIDS** TDD (for hearing impaired only) **864-6606** For Asian language/community information, call the Asian AIDS Project: **929-1304**

Funding provided by the San Francisco Department of Public Health and foundation, corporate, and individual donations.

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Gay Group Blasts Newspaper's 'Nest of Homosexuals' Expose

by Cliff O'Neill

In a front-page story with two-inch-high headlines, *The Washington Times* revealed on June 29 the names of a number of White House officials as clients of a homosexual escort service as part of an independent investigation, incurring sharp criticism from national gay and lesbian groups who charged the paper with anti-gay reporting.

The *Times* story was initiated by the May 18 closure by law-enforcement officials of a Washington gay male escort service that had been operated from a local funeral home.

That week *The Washington Blade*, a local gay and lesbian weekly, reported that at the escort service's eviction, reporters from local news outlets were seen rummaging through the escort service's files for names of prominent Washingtonians.

The *Times* alleged that credit-card receipts they acquired from the agency revealed the names of a number of highly placed Reagan and Bush administration officials among the agency's clients.

In the story, the newspaper generously quoted its own editors who explained that they only would reveal the names of "those found to be in sensitive government positions of influence."

To back up their alleged need to expose those who are in such "sensitive position," the *Times* quoted a former top-level Pentagon official who told the *Times* he had long been aware of a "nest of homosexuals" in the Reagan White House, adding that the "nest" may have been penetrated by Soviet spies.

"We have known for many, many years that there is a department of the KGB [Soviet spies] whose job it is to prey on sexual deviants," Ret. Lt. Gen. Daniel Graham told the *Times*.

He added that the Soviets have easily "turned" "closet homosexuals" through blackmail efforts and, hence, "we have always in intelligence tried very hard not to be giving classified information to known homosexuals."

The Human Rights Campaign Fund said the *Times* story

"points out the fear and repression many gays and lesbians must live under because of their sexual orientation."

"The argument that gays in the government and the U.S. military are targets of potential 'blackmail' is without merit," the statement read. "The U.S. government, since World War II, has never substantially proven that open gays and lesbians are more of a security risk than heterosexuals. . . . If a person is 'out of the closet,' he or she cannot be blackmailed. To report that 'known homosexuals' are not worthy of receiving classified information . . . is to propagate homophobia and anti-gay prejudice."

The National Gay and Lesbian Task Force chimed in with their own statement blasting the *Times* investigation as "petty gay baiting" and "homophobic sensationalism."

"The *Washington Times* story is a rank attempt to sensationalize a fact that should come as no surprise to anybody: that there are gay people in the Re-

publican Party and in the Republican administration," the NGLTF statement read. "We challenge as baseless the *Times*' implication that the presence of gay people in political office represents a threat to national security."

A June 29 NBC report stated that White House spokesperson Marlin Fitzwater has expressed "no knowledge" of any investigation into gay White House aides. NBC also reported that federal agents confirmed that they were investigating the escort service, but only on charges of credit-card fraud, not prostitution.

In their June 30 edition, the *Times* reported that a Republican National Committee spokesperson saw "no reason for cleaning anyone out of office" based on the *Times*' revelations, but in the same edition wrote a lengthy editorial supporting their investigation.

"Those who know about the possible compromising of people in powerful or responsible posts have a duty to inform security officers, even at the risk of being called prudes or homophobes," the editorial read.

Although none of the five figures named in the *Times* story were highly visible administration agents, centrally placed in the June 29 story was Craig J. Spence, a conservative Washington socialite and fundraiser who was the sole subject of a follow-up story in the newspaper's June 30 edition.

The newspaper has alleged to have testimony and evidence charging that Spence, who is highly placed in the Republican Party, spent up to \$20,000 a year on male prostitutes through the agency; offered cocaine to friends and clients; videotaped U.S. and foreign officials in compromising positions with male escorts through a one-way mirror; and in one instance, gave two male prostitutes a 1 a.m. tour of the White House.

In one paragraph of the June 29 story, the *Times* reported that the operators of the "homosexual ring" told them that "videotapes, audio tapes and still photographs were made of sex acts performed by the clients and the call boys, including perverted acts."

The *Times* did not reveal which particular sex acts they considered "perverted."

In a sidebar to that story, the *Times* stated that "gay clubs" are often used by the escort services to recruit "call boys," and immediately listed the names of seven area gay nightclubs.

Only in the paper's June 30 story on Spence's alleged illegal activities did the newspaper quote anybody who was identified as openly gay, in quoting a former Reagan aide who expressed concern with Spence making passes at his own "bodyguards."

"I'm openly gay myself," the aide told the *Times*. "Most gays find that type of behavior reprehensible." ▼

BAY AREA REPORTER GREATER BAY NEWS

Concord Council Near Vote on Discrimination Bill

ACT UP Demonstrates at Concord Christian Center

by Allen White

Over 50 members of ACT UP descended on the Concord Christian Center last Sunday morning to educate churchgoers to what the AIDS Coalition to Unleash Power is calling the pastor's "agenda of bigotry." The Rev. Lloyd Mashore, pastor of the Christian Center, has been leading the fight to rescind Concord's new AIDS anti-discrimination ordinance.

The Concord City Council will decide on July 11 whether to rescind the ordinance, which bans discrimination against people with AIDS. If not rescinded, the issue will be on the November 7 ballot. Opponents of the Concord ordinance were successful in securing enough signatures to force the issue to a public vote.

Michael Thompson, who heads the San Francisco ACT UP Local Issues Committee, said, "We were contacted by people in Concord who were very concerned." He noted that activists in Concord don't have much experience with direct-action opposition. He said they have more experience working within the system.

"What we were dealing with was people who didn't have a



ACT UP of San Francisco chants back at the Christian Fundamentalists during the Gay Freedom Day Parade. (Photo: Barbara J. Maggiani)

voice and were afraid to speak out," he said. "We believed we had to take responsibility, since we weren't afraid. We planned an educational picket which provided specifically a vocal, public opposition to Rev. Mashore and his agenda of bigotry, which is currently manifesting itself in the

effort to repeal the ordinance."

What churchgoers found was over four dozen people from ACT UP. They arrived at 9 a.m., 30 minutes before the church service, carrying a big banner which said, "Defend Human Rights." About the only contact the protesters had with those attending the church was a father and son who brought out donuts. Thompson said the offer was made "with a level of condescension and patronization which we didn't want to buy into."

Thompson also said ACT UP plans to organize a Contra Costa chapter. He said this will be to examine issues in Richmond as well

as Concord. Several days ago, the Richmond City Council joined a large number of other Bay Area cities in adopting similar anti-AIDS discrimination legislation. In view of pressure from the Concord religious fundamentalist groups, the passage in Richmond has been viewed as significant.

AIDS activists in Concord are hoping the City Council will not vote to repeal the ordinance they passed unanimously. Since the passage, there has been severe pressure from local church groups, and some council members are believed to have changed their position.

If the issue goes to the public

ballot in November, it is generally believed the local ordinance will be upheld by the voters. Shoring up that belief is data for Concord supporting propositions 102 last year.

This week Mashore said he and Concord Mayor Colleen Coll and Metropolitan Community Church pastor Larry Whitsell had agreed not to comment on the fate of the ordinance.

He confirmed the three have been in meetings to find a resolution to the issue. At the same time, Mayor Coll has been meeting with a broader coalition of gay rights advocates, religious leaders and others who support the ordinance.

Whitsell, a member of the Concord Human Rights Commission who helped draft the ordinance, said no agreement had been made. He said a decision might come with the meeting of the Concord City Council.

The Roman Catholic Church has publicly gone on record in support of the AIDS anti-discrimination ordinance. Bishop John Cummins, who heads the Diocese of Oakland, came out on June 9 in support of the ordinance. He denounced those trying for a repeal. The Rev. John Schexnayder, a spokesman for Cummins, said, "The picture is being given that Christian churches are behind this effort to repeal the measure, and that just isn't so."

Ken Stanley, a gay member of the Contra Costa Human Rights Commission, says opponents of the law "reinforce the idea that Concord is the redneck capital of the state." ▼

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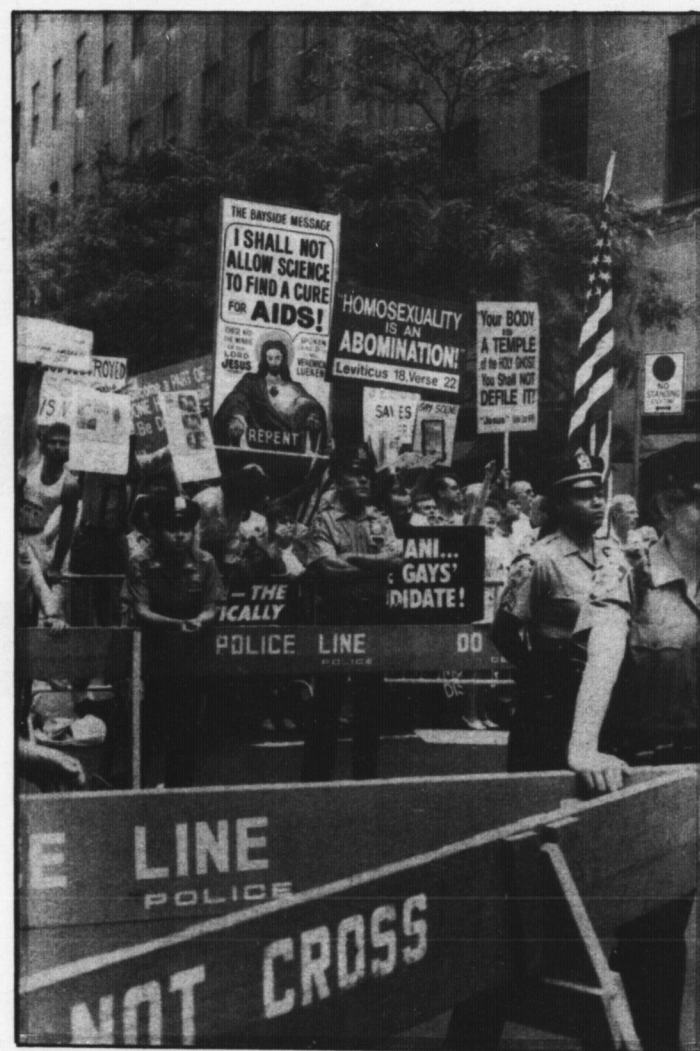
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Anti-Gay Demonstrators

Christian Fundamentalists chanted and jeered in New York as well as here in San Francisco. This New York group was well protected from gay marchers behind a large barricade with many police. (Photo: T.L. Litt)

National Gay and Lesbian Crisisline Unveils New Phone Numbers

The National Gay and Lesbian Crisisline, America's only toll-free gay information and counseling service, has adopted a new, easier to remember, nationwide calling number:

1-800-SOS-GAYS
or
1-800-767-4297

Simultaneously, the Crisisline increased its incoming call capacity by 25 percent with the addition of a telephone line, made possible through the gifts of private donors.

The Crisisline, which has been in operation for more than six years, is a program of the New York-based Fund for Human Dignity, the national, non-profit organization that provides and promotes better information about gay and lesbian lives.

Volunteers who staff the Crisisline telephones receive intensive training in crisis intervention and general counseling; about one-third of the 30,000 calls fielded in 1988 were people, especially teen-agers, who needed to discuss their sexual orientation, but were unaware of any other source of information and support.

A computer database of more than 6,000 entries, developed especially for the Crisisline, provides local referrals to the caller for social support, information about AIDS, healthcare, legal, psychological and other services.

"A growing number of callers are not gay," Julien Maurice, Crisisline coordinator, said. "What this shows is the lack of reliable and honest information about being gay in many parts of the country. Gay and lesbian people need to know the facts, and so do their families and friends. The Crisisline is often the only source available to them."

California, Pennsylvania and Massachusetts provide the largest number of callers to the Crisisline, about 12 percent each, with significant calls also coming from Ohio, Texas, Florida, North Carolina and Illinois.

For further information regarding the National Gay and Lesbian Crisisline, contact Julien Maurice, coordinator, The Fund for Human Dignity, 666 Broadway, New York, NY 10012. (212) 529-1600.

For direct assistance, dial 1-800-SOS-GAYS. ▼

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Sorry About That

PROPITIATION 1NE
(A "OK, So I Can't Read My Notes" Nose)

I know, I know! I got the dates right but somehow the wrong days just happened to flow from the ol' fingertips.

Town and Country's sixth anniversary party will be on this Saturday, July 8 and Sunday, July 9. On Saturday, July 8, Stephanie and Morgan—why does she remind me of one of the sisters on "A Men"—will perform, as only they can, starting at 9 p.m. On Sunday, July 9, entertainment will be provided by the C/W band Thorn & Roses, from 4 to 8 p.m.

Also on the July 9, there will be a barbecue, possibly in the parking lot right next door, to the north of T&C. Sam, Steve and the rest of the crew have many raffles, prizes, and games planned for the two-day soiree.

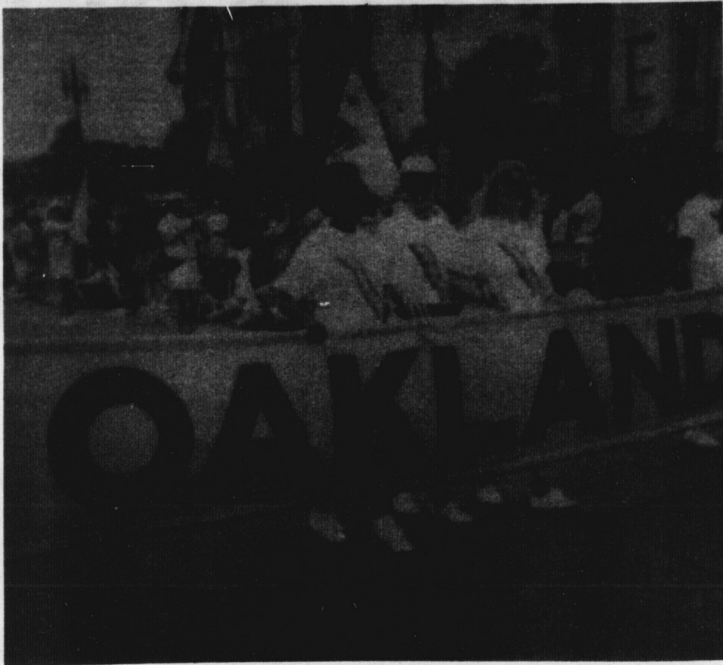
PROPITIATIONS 2WO, 3HREE & 4OUR
(A "It Wasn't My Fault" Nose)

(Two) *The Revenge of the Golden Dragon*, A Party To In-

trigue at Hotel Savoy, 580 Geary St., SF 94102, is a series of historically based murder-mystery dinners and weekends held in the city of Charlie Chan and Dashiell Hammett. The first "weekend capers" were scheduled June 9-11, and Lily Street was one of the main characters. The cost for the entire weekend was \$325. The Murder Mystery Dinner, held the second week of each month, is \$45 per person, and it started Saturday, June 10.

The information was mailed to me on May 26, but it was received by me on July 1! The next series of capers are August 11-13. Contact Jim Skiba, 626-2950, for further information.

(Three) Sent to "Monsieur Nez Pas" was a copy of information mailed to H.M.I.M.s Emp/Emp 10 Tim & Fina. The date on the envelope was June 22, and you guessed it—I received it on July 1! It was an invite to the S.F. Follies Fashion Show, presented by the Royal Court. It was held last Saturday, July 1 (why is that date so familiar?) at the Corral. The event was a bene-



Proud steps and determined expressions introduced the Oakland Parade Contingent in this year's Lesbian/Gay Freedom Day Parade.

fit for AIDS Emergency Fund. Suzie Wong, I don't know what went wrong.

(Four) The press release, dated June 9, was for a press conference on June 12 at the Plaza next to the Hayward Courthouse, on the subject of "Alameda County Infrastructure Breaks Down." The information looked rather interesting, but, unfortunately, infrastructure isn't the only thing that breaks down. The press release was mailed on June 9, and—you're way ahead of me, dear reader—I received same on July 1. Contact Joe Keffer, 452-2366, if you want any additional information about Alameda County's Housing and Community Development programs.

LOQUACIOUS SALMAGUNDI
(A "Garrulous, Motley" Nose)

On Thursday, July 13, at 7:30 p.m., the OPC will have its final "Parade '89" meeting at the Town & Country. The final financial report will be given at this meeting. The committee wishes to take this opportunity to thank and congratulate all who participated on this year's contingent.

It is quite an honor to be elevated to the Cable Car Hall of Fame. The Oakland Float has won the "Outstanding" out-of-city entry for the past three years. Maybe there will be some other category for their efforts next year.

From Debbie Dirt up in Sacramento: *Newslines*—An allegedly anti-gay slur made by a disc jockey at KWOD-FM 106 has inflamed Sacramento's gay community. Unless an apology is forthcoming, activities plan to call for an advertising boycott. (Marlow, do you really work for Channel 3?)

Plaudits and kudos to Timmi (Paul Presutti) for an outstanding standing out, if you will with that recent interview—seemed more like a nailing to the wall—in the latest ISE newsletter. For someone who often goes in drag, she/he really showed balls during that inquisition! Additional respect and awe have been added to my total picture of you. Someone was really digging and stirring, and Miss Timmi rose far above it. That's class, baby, real class.

You've Got To Be Kidding Department: Steve, T&C, was at one of the local pubs on Polkstrasse the day of the big parade, and who do you think he

think of it, she's similar to Miss Vestibule in a way. Since coming on the scene a couple of years ago, she has spoken a total of only eight words to me, and that was at a private party. The words were: "Nez, are you going on our boat trip?" Oh well, it's most certainly not my problem.

D.J.'s keyboard updates once again. John Erreca will be at the ivories on Friday happy hours, 6 p.m. On Wednesday and Thursday, Alan Tucker will tickle the 88s at 7 p.m. Todd Michaels has signed on to caress the keyboard with them again in July for Friday and Saturday nights at 9 p.m. And, Bob Sandner is always upright at the baby grand on Tuesday nights, starting at 9. There's no one finer, even in Caroliner, for such engrossing sing-alongs.

Tickets are on sale, at D.J.'s, for Casino Night '89, Saturday, Aug. 26. Last year was a complete sellout, and this year is shaping up as a complete success too. It will be held on Dr. Silverman's estate, so you won't want to miss this one. Get your invitation and tickets now, at D.J.'s. The grand prize is a trip for two to the Orient—yes, it's round trip, silly!—unless you two have a heated argument over there!

Spoiled Brat had a jockey shorts contest last Monday, and George and Bertha Jean were "ordered" to attend. Bertha said she would wear boxers, but George opted for good old BVDs!

DopeY, GrumpY, HappyY, SleepY and Sneezy are the dwarfs that end in Y. Can you name the other two? (How come FrumpY wasn't one of them?)

My Very Earnest Mother Just Served Us Nine Pickles may seem like a silly sentence, but it's an easy way to remember the order of the planets starting nearest the sun.

How about: *Sergeant Major Hates Eating Onions?* That's the order of the Great Lakes, west to east.

And finally: *Poor Queen Victoria Eats Crow At Christmas.* Of course you know what the sentence stands for: Palatine, Quirinal, Viminal, Esquiline, Capitoline, Aventine and Caelian. You did know that, didn't you?

The collective with some drunks is that they are even worse when they are sober! I can smile at that. Love, Nez.

Hmmm? Oh! Come on. You did know that those are the seven hills of Rome, didn't you? ▼

New Group Represents Needs of Gays in Education

Research on education has typically not focused on problems facing lesbian and gay educators, administrators, students or researchers. But a new group has recently been formed to address issues concerning lesbians and gays who work in education: the Lesbian and Gay Studies Special Interest Group of the American Educational Research Association.

Its goal is to foster "empirical, interpretive and critical educational research relating to lesbian and gay issues, and networks of individuals and organizations conducting or supporting such research."

To this end, LGSIG has established a research fund, to assist researchers interested in studying lesbian and gay issues

in education, and a scholarship fund, to provide awards for excellence in lesbian and gay studies.

At the recent AERA convention in San Francisco, which was attended by nearly 10,000 educators from throughout the country, LGSIG held its first meetings.

If you are interested in joining LGSIG and supporting its work, send \$10 for a one year membership (used to support publication of a newsletter, AERA conference costs, and the research and scholarship funds) payable to GLARP/SIG to: Dr. James T. Sears, Dept. of Educational Leadership and Policies, Wardlaw 230, University of South Carolina, Columbia, SC 29205. ▼

House Approves Hate Crimes Act

by Cliff O'Neill

After an afternoon of largely one-sided debate, the U.S. House of Representatives passed the Hate Crimes Statistics Act by a landslide 368-47 margin June 27, over the loud protests of anti-gay Rep. William Dannemeyer (R-Fullerton).

The Hate Crimes Statistics Act (HR 1048) would order the Justice Department to collect statistics on crimes motivated by race, religion, ethnicity or sexual orientation. Although the landmark bill was passed last year by the House by an equally wide margin, a last-minute tactic by Sen. Jesse Helms (R-N.C.) kept the bill from the Senate floor, effectively killing it for that session of Congress.

Before the bill came to the House floor, Dannemeyer denounced the bill's inclusion of sexual orientation as an attempt to "derail the freedom train" launched by the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

Dannemeyer argued that the bill would "elevate homosexuality above gender, age, mental capacity, and economic circumstances as a legitimate category of redress under our civil rights laws," although the bill contains a disclaimer which states that the bill does not provide anti-discrimination protections for lesbians and gay men.

Rep. Chuck Douglas (R-N.H.), who gained notoriety in February for attacking Rep. Barney Frank (D-Mass.) for being one of two openly gay members of Congress, asked that consideration of the bill be postponed "so that we can deal with union violence in addition to crimes involving race, creed, color and religion."

Once the bill was taken up by the House, however, Republicans

and Democrats lined up to praise the bill without reservations.

Among those stepping up to speak was Rep. George Gekas (R-Pa.), who in the last session introduced an amendment striking the bill's "sexual orientation" provision. This year, he introduced an amendment to instead broaden the scope of the bill.

"I, too, like [Mr. Dannemeyer], had felt in the last session of Congress and the previous session that we were wading in dangerous waters when we were attempting to raise the homosexuals to a constitutionally protected class which was not already in accord with race, creed or color, as was already articulated in the Civil Rights Act of 1964," said Gekas. He explained that since his amendment would allow other possible targets of hate crimes to be counted, he could now support the bill and urge Dannemeyer to do the same.

Dannemeyer then railed against the bill's inclusion of "homosexuality or heterosexuality" as one of the items on the gay "agenda."

Interrupting the California Republican, Rep. Charles Schumer (D-N.Y.) asked if the amendment Dannemeyer wanted to introduce, to limit the scope of the bill and the spending allowed under it, was "the one that was voted down in the full [Judiciary] committee, 33 to 1, is that the one?"

"The gentleman has counted correctly," Dannemeyer curtly replied, and continued his speech.

After lashing out against the hate-crimes bill, a federal survey into adult sexual patterns now under review by the Department



Rep. Dannemeyer. (Photo: Rink)

of Health and Human Services, and the Americans with Disabilities Act (which would ban AIDS discrimination nationally), Dannemeyer quoted from the gay press to make his case. "One of the things you have to do in politics is sometimes look and read what your opponents are saying," he explained.

The passage he quoted, from the *Guide to the Gay Northeast*, suggested that if heterosexuals viewed their sexual orientation as being no more important than other preferences, the battle for gay and lesbian equality would be won.

Dannemeyer lapsed into his now-standard speech on the "heterosexual ethic," whereupon Frank interrupted Dannemeyer and began a loud exchange with the anti-gay House member over several statements made in his speech.

After a voice vote had clearly

passed the bill, Dannemeyer requested a roll call on the suspension of the rules, which was to be held in the early evening.

At approximately 8 p.m., the House suspended the rules and passed the Hate Crimes Statistics Act by a vote of 368 to 47 with 17 not voting.

"We had the entire House and [then we had] a handful of people who were just plain ornery," said National Gay and Lesbian Task Force lobbyist Peri Jude Radevic. "The vote was a clear signal that people just wanted to [pass this bill]. It's a wonderful thing. It signals the non-controversial nature of this bill."

"In our lifetime, lesbians and gays will be able to walk down the street holding the hands of [their] lovers without fear of getting beat up by anti-gay bigots," said Robert Bray, communications director for the Human Rights Campaign Fund. "The vote on the floor of the U.S. House of

Representatives is the first step to that not being just a dream, but a reality."

Now attention is turning to the Senate, where gay and lesbian activists are pulling out all the stops to pass the bill and defeat an expected amendment from Sen. Helms which would declare the "homosexual movement" a "threat to the American family"; order states to enforce sodomy laws; put the Senate on record as being against ever passing gay anti-discrimination legislation; and ban funding to schools which "promote" homosexuality as an "acceptable alternate lifestyle."

To help beat back the amendment, the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force has extended its June National Lobby Days through the month of July, and the Human Rights Campaign Fund is continuing its unprecedented effort to sign up Americans for its "Speak Out" pre-authorized congressional message program. ▼

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Gay Men's Collective to Offer HIV Testing, Monitoring

The Gay Men's Health Collective of the Berkeley Free Clinic is taking a new direction as it celebrates its 12th birthday: clinical HIV research and HIV antibody testing.

The collective was founded in 1977 by gay activist John Day and long-time Free Clinic worker Fred Strauss, now a physician at Health Center No. 1. Both John and Fred still volunteer with the collective.

The collective will still offer free, confidential VD testing and treatment by and for gay and bisexual men as they have for the past 12 years at the Berkeley Free Clinic on Sunday evenings and VD screening and safer sex education at the Steamworks Baths in Berkeley.

Starting in July they will offer anonymous HIV antibody testing. And, now they have started monitoring groups of people using alternative HIV treatments to see if the alternative treatments are effective.

The reason for the change is to provide more services specifically to the gay community. As safer sexual practices have become more widespread in the gay male community the collective has been seeing fewer and fewer gay and bisexual men at its Sunday evening VD clinics.

"Only about 30 percent of our Sunday night clients are gay," says Jerry Thornhill, a long-time collective member. "The rest are

young straight men, usually symptomatic, who come to us because we provide good care in a safe, alternative setting. Although we provide a useful service, we feel we want to do more for our own community. That is why our new direction into research and antibody testing is so exciting. We will be seeing more gay clients and providing more help for our own community."

The research the collective is starting will be observational and blood testing data collected from HIV-positive men who are trying alternative treatments.

"Many people in our community are trying substances or treatments for which there is no reliable data. We do not know whether these treatments are beneficial or harmful," says Leland Traiman, the collective's coordinator from 1977 to 1979 who is now a family nurse practitioner and does clinical HIV research. "We want to observe people, get baseline data and see what happens to them as they self-treat. If we find 10 or 20 people who want to do the same treatment we can try to help them find funding and monitor that group and see if people get better or worse. Of course, none of this would be definitive research but it is a start and can point a direction to go."

The collective's first project is an ozone monitoring study. The ozone project is already several

months along and was started by Traiman, who came to the collective for help with the project. The collective can supply observation projects with clinical space and volunteer workers. The one thing the collective is short on is money. The city of Berkeley has been paying for the collective's gonorrhea cultures, syphilis blood tests and antibiotics. It remains to be seen where money will come from to pay for the more extensive and expensive testing needed to monitor people infected with HIV.

"We may approach various funding sources, but of course, we are hoping that our community will come through with more volunteers and money," said Dr. Strauss. "The collective can do good pilot studies gathering valid data for a fraction of what the established scientific community spends."

"Furthermore," says John Day, "the established scientific community won't do the studies we are interested in doing because they don't see a profit in it. We want to look at some of the things people are already using.

If you are interested in donating money or volunteering with the Gay Men's Health Collective call 644-0425 or send donations to the Berkeley Free Clinic (please specify for Men's Clinic HIV studies) 2339 Durant Ave., Berkeley, CA 94704. ▼

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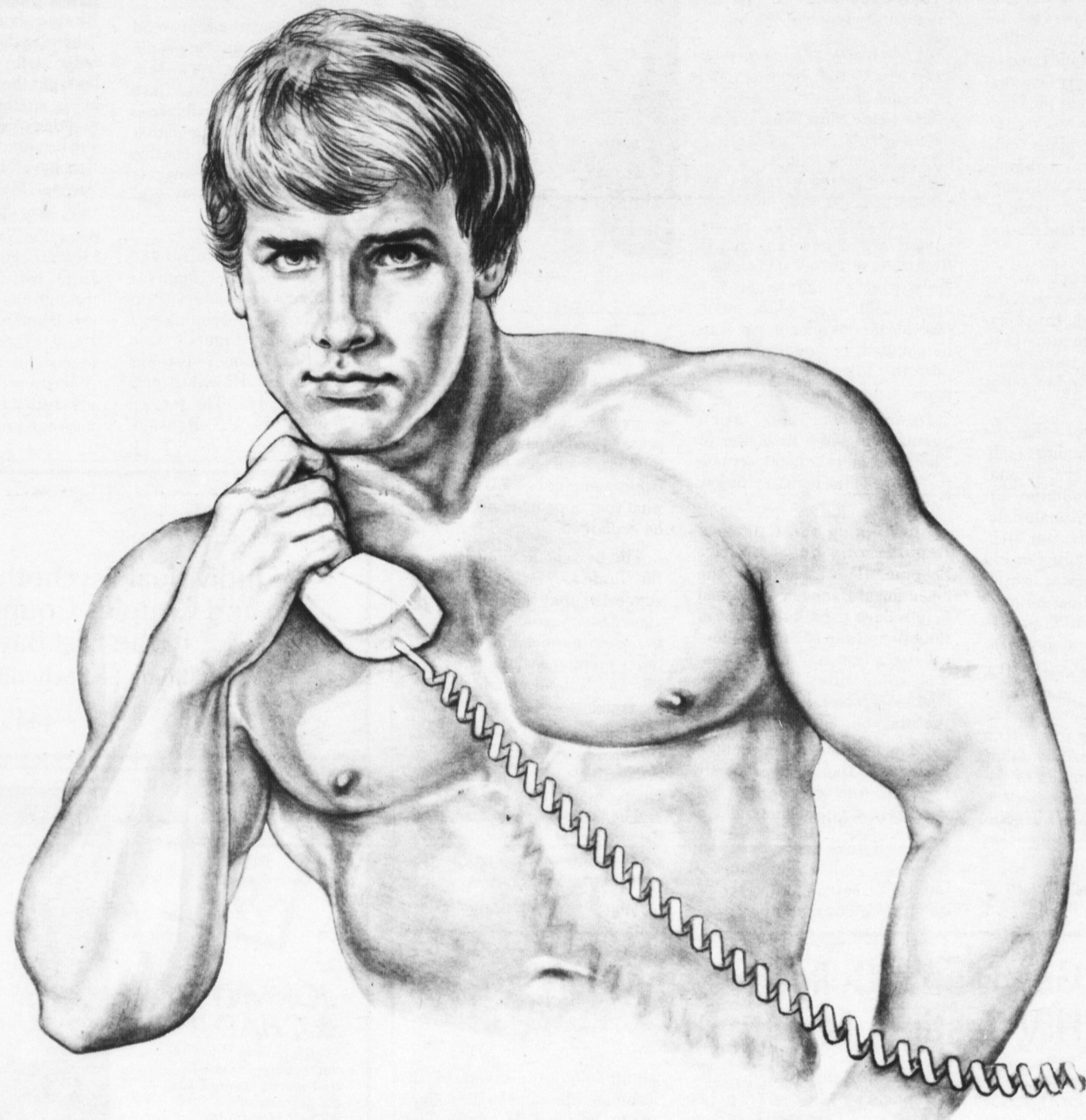
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**BAY AREA REPORTER
 ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT**

Love Affair With a Hot Machine

by David Lester

I've never been much of a daredevil. I've never had an itch to parachute out of an airplane, leap off an ocean cliff strapped to a hang glider, or plummet down a mountain on a pair of skis. I always have lots of trouble hiking downhill on steep mountain trails, and, call me a sissy if you must, but I never even learned how to roller skate when I was a kid.

But I've long had a fascination with motorcycles. For years now I've fantasized about owning and riding a flashy motorcycle with more chrome than a '58 Buick. It's pure sex appeal, I know, but these machines really get me turned on. I didn't just want to ride a bike, I wanted to have an affair with one.

But like many men I've fantasized about having my way with, I was never quite daring enough to just jump on a bike and ride away. The risks seemed greater than the reward, and I wasn't enough of a daredevil to take on the machine on its terms.

When I talked to friends who own bikes about my secret passion for riding one, many of them suggested I check out the classes offered by the Bay Area Institute for Motorcycle Education. They said the classes were a good way to learn the skills necessary to ride so that I could then make a decision about actually owning a bike.

This all appealed very much to my reasonable side. I could get a taste of motorcycles without killing myself in the process. And



Motorcycle safety training course participants go through the paces at Crissy Field.

(Photo: Darlene/PhotoGraphics)

since BAIME provided the bikes, I could make a decision without making a big investment. I mentioned the classes to my boyfriend, Richard, and he was interested. I called BAIME and got us into the next class.

The class was scheduled for two Wednesday evenings of classroom instruction, and two Saturday afternoons of motorcycle riding at BAIME's practice area at Crissy Field.

Our class was taught by Ray Earls and Jerry Neuhaus.

Earls, an officer in the U.S. Navy, has been a motorcycle rider

for 21 years, and a certified Motorcycle Safety Foundation instructor for eight years.

Neuhaus has been a rider since 1967, took the MSF course in 1969, and has been teaching it since 1984.

The class was made up of 17 students—a third of them women. Some were experienced riders, some were just curious about motorcycles. There was one teen-ager and one middle-aged gentleman, but most students were in their 20s or 30s. My radar told me Richard and I weren't the only gay people in the class.

One student said he decided to take the course after he nearly got killed on a bike touring Thailand. Another signed up after he got a broken jaw in an accident. And one student said she wanted to ride a bike because it looked like so much fun.

The class session was much like drivers' education, some lecture, some videotapes, and a workbook to review from the Motorcycle Safety Foundation. It also gave us time to ask some basic—and stupid—questions about how a motorcycle operates.

The class met again on a gray

and foggy Saturday afternoon at BAIME's practice area at Crissy Field. The bikes we were going to use were small—250cc Yamahas and Hondas on loan to BAIME from a Daly City dealer. Richard and I walked around a few of them, staking out the ones we wanted to use for the course. I was astute in my selection—I picked my bike because it was red.

Now that we were actually about to start riding, I was beginning to get as nervous as I was excited. It was easy to fear simple failure, or just not getting the hang of it. I was even more concerned that I'd fall and hurt myself. But I was just plain eager to ride, and once the class started, I didn't have time to be nervous.

The first exercises were deceptively simple ones. We walked the bikes a bit, then pushed each other from behind. I started feeling like I was in over my head already, because the little bikes felt very heavy, and moving them was hard.

Then we learned how to start the bikes, and moved them only inches with our feet still on the ground. It felt like there was so much to learn, and we hadn't even started riding yet.

Exercises built on one another very quickly. Earls and Neuhaus had us riding the bikes almost immediately. I tried to relax, but learning the skills to make the bike move were harder than I ex-

(Continued on page 49)

**Gay Cable TV Show 'Outlook'—
 A Force to be Taken Seriously**

by Steve Dambach

Flipping through the channels one night I rested on *Outlook*, a lesbian and gay video magazine (not associated with the print magazine of the same name) and learned a few things.

Started quietly a year and a half ago, *Outlook* serves the entire Bay Area on half a dozen cable stations as well as being rentable from Superstar Video on 17th Street in San Francisco. This half-hour show is hosted by Paul Wysocki and Elizabeth Birch and is a combination news and lifestyle format that makes good use of its available talent. Out to be equally entertaining and informative, *Outlook* does what television does best—it takes you there.

Interesting packaged departments fill up the first half of the program, interspersed with bulletin board type news clips, instead of commercials, read by the anchors. One segment entered the eerie queer world of *Dark Shadows* fans; another went on a tour of the architecture of Castro Street.

This is not the most hard-hitting electronic journalism bouncing off the satellites but more often than not it is informative and catchy.

Before a long interview with a local somebody, Bennett Marks commentary offers one gay man's view of life. It is a lot to fit into a half hour.

Anybody who has ever volunteered on a lesbian/gay video production knows they are in for a thankless task. The genre as a whole has never caught on for a lot of reasons, largely because of the demands gay TV puts on viewers' attention. It is right to salute the people out in the field trying to fill us up on public access. That is a difficult task in any city, but especially so in an area littered with media.

Outlook does what it does well, but to stand out in this crowd will take more. Since they are open to suggestions, I looked at the show again with a critical eye.

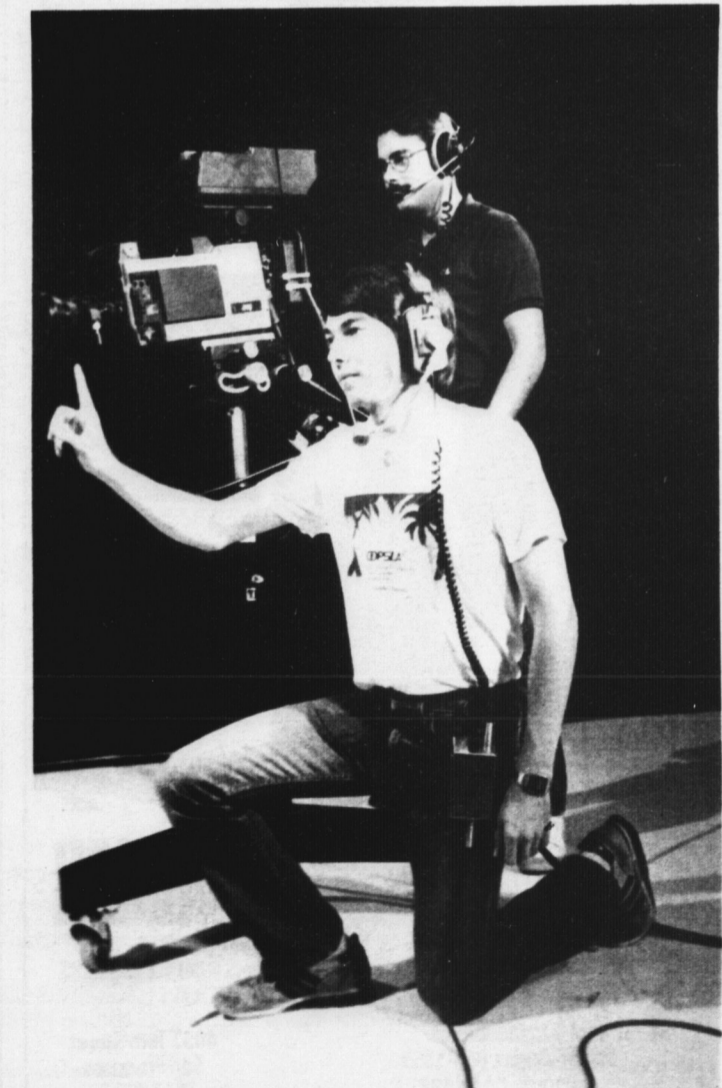
The more I watched *Outlook* the more I wondered if cable could be more than a poor man's

version of broadcast television. By that I mean that cable has the freedom to stretch formats and to explore lesbian and gay ways of telling our stories.

However, *Outlook* too often felt and looked like a lesbian and gay version of the evening news. An authoritarian desk divides the anchor/hosts from the screen and no matter how sharp the background set is, and it is, the presentation is more formal than I've come to expect in the community.

How is it that we tell each other what we know? We raise an eyebrow, we stare and point and occasionally dish. More importantly, we address each other as equals and *Outlook* almost does that. Most often, though, it leans into that comfortable talking head thing it is so easy to eat dinner through. After last year's shaky camera breakthrough taught us that video does not have to be static, especially with better all the time cam-corders, there is room for more experimentation.

(Continued on page 55)



Production workers videotape another segment of *Outlook*.

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John Karr

Chorus Line is Back! And Donna Talks

A Chorus Line, that glorious and central beacon of musical theatre, is back, and it's hard to believe the show is nearly 15 years old. It's harder to believe the show will be at the Orpheum Theatre for only five days (closing July 9; 243-9001). But however brief a stay, *A Chorus Line* is back and we can rejoice. It's back with members of previous tours who'll help maintain performance levels: long-time Bennett associate and original cast member Baayork Lee who will duplicate Bennett's direction and choreography, and, of course, Donna McKechnie in her original role of Cassie, to imbue her gut level connection to the show as well as its performing traditions to the new members of the cast.

Yet even while we rejoice in the show's presence in San Francisco, its secure status in New York is threatened. Because of New York's dwindling number of theatres, the Schubert Organization needs *A Chorus Line*'s long-time home, the Schubert Theatre, to house incoming shows (the doubtful *Miss Saigon* being chief contender).

Will a suitable smaller theatre be found where *A Chorus Line* can continue its run for another 15 years, or will the show come to a forced end? That's a frightening possibility.

It is, however, unlikely—as long as McKechnie is compelled to continue proving to herself and to her audience that she's a dancer, and that although she sings and acts and choreographs and may even direct in the future, she's driven by the bottom line sentiment she shares with the character she plays in the show: a dancer dances.

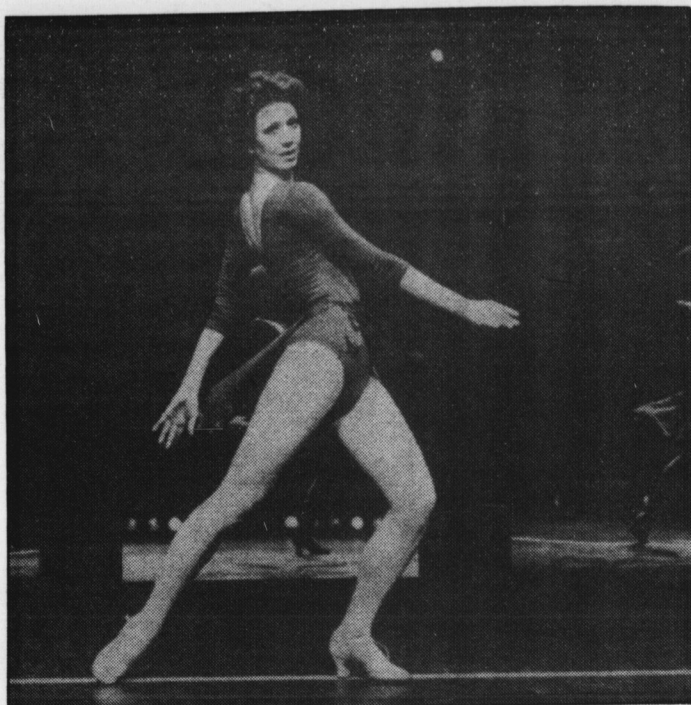
And the role that most clearly manifests that is Cassie in *A Chorus Line*. The role is not only the backbone of the show, but the validation—and greatest achievement—of McKechnie's career. The story of a dancer whose inability to act precluded her advancement from solo dance specialties to fuller roles, the role of Cassie mirrored McKechnie's life frighteningly close, with only two exceptions.

While it didn't mention that McKechnie is only a serviceable singer, an impediment to her real life career, it allowed her to prove she certainly could act—at least the story of her own life. For while other Cassies have been very good indeed, McKechnie has a visceral grip on it that stamped the role forever hers. So I guess she'll return to it as long as she's able, and if *A Chorus Line* ends its life on Broadway, it will continue to live with McKechnie starring in or staging a touring version that recreates as closely as possible the show's Broadway brilliance.

Proving that she's able to do the show again is as big a surprise to McKechnie as to her fans, and a deeply meaningful effort for the star. In a recent conversation McKechnie told me about her recent endeavors as Annie Oakley, Sweet Charity, and Pistache in *Can Can*, and how they affected her return to *A Chorus Line*.

"This is the fourth time I've returned to *A Chorus Line*," McKechnie told me, "and it's always a killer. Physically, it's like running the mile every night. I'm right on top of it now, but it took me a while to get back to that place. I had to go through a couple of injuries, and someone reminded me that I did that before the last tour in 1985, too—I hurt my knee, and then my hamstring. I was glad to be reminded of that, because I thought, am I going to get through this in one piece?"

"Of course, that's part of getting back into it, demanding things of your body that it doesn't really want to do. I just did *Annie Get Your Gun* in San Francisco and Florida, and between them, *Can Can* in London, and that was exciting. You see, *Annie* is not a dancing show. I put a couple of cute numbers in it,



Donna McKechnie is back in her original role as Cassie.

but it's not too demanding on dance. And when I was in London I was really brought to task on that. I really had to dance in *Can Can*, with those jump splits and everything. And I got excited about not losing dancing.

"I've always loved dancing, and I realized more than ever that I don't want to let it go. I've choreographed for other people, and played acting roles. I've turned down offers to choreograph Broadway shows because I was afraid that if I got categorized that way, it would be hard for me to keep that image for people that I'm a performer. I didn't want to take away from establishing myself as an actress. So I was grateful that I was the right age to play *Can Can* and *Sweet Charity*, and I was grateful I can still do these things. *Can Can* got me really in shape, so I had personal reasons to be thrilled when this tour of *A Chorus Line* came along; I was thrilled to be able to do a dancing role, especially this dancing role, because it keeps me on top. It's an absolute challenge every night. I can never take it for granted. I have to be there totally aware of everything every second in order to really pull it off.

"It takes less emotionally than physically to do the show, because it's right under my skin. But it's been very cathartic for me this time. I'm more objective about it, because

I'm older, and I feel much richer emotionally. Michael's death was very hard on all of us. It was just so tragic to me. But when you lose people you love you keep them alive inside, and the positive thing I get from doing the show is this is a wonderful way to keep Michael and his work and what he believed in alive.

"We have a wonderful company. We have the same producer as the 1985 tour, and some of the same cast members. And with Baayork Lee, the director, I'm assured that we're going to keep the integrity of the show—the very essence of Michael's direction, and the exact same choreography, the same costuming. I couldn't do another version of the show, I'm too prejudiced about this one.

"Before I did *Annie* I worked with Bob Fosse on the tour of *Sweet Charity*. I was lucky to work with Fosse just before he died—it was the last production he directed. I absorbed everything I could from Gwen [Verdon], who taught me the role by hand, step by step and breath by breath. She said she didn't know how else to do it in four weeks, except to lay the whole blueprint on me. In a way it was exciting to just have it imposed from the outside, and then internalize it and find a way to bring it to life.

"I was very spoiled by Michael in a way. He was very generous in

(Continued on next page)



Topol is Tevye in *Fiddler on the Roof*, now playing at the Golden Gate Theatre.

STAGE

John Hogan in 'Soul Survivor'

Iowa Kid Makes Good In Gay Theatre

by Henry Mach

Less than 10 months after arriving in San Francisco, 27-year-old John Hogan has won a Bette Rhino award for his portrayal of a young Republican who learns the joys of gay leathersex in Theatre Rhino's production of *Soul Survivor* (through July 15).

"It's amazing to me," John says, "to get cast in both of Theatre Rhino's AIDS-related plays this season, and then to get honored when all I do on stage is say someone else's funny lines, take off my clothes, and fall in love with a beautiful man. It doesn't seem that hard to do."

When he received his master's degree in theatre from Michigan State and came to San Francisco as a tourist, John made a trek to 16th and Mission to have his picture taken in front of the Theatre Rhinoceros marquee, recalling times he had read about that theatre in gay publications he used to keep hidden under his bed back in Waterloo, Iowa (home of John Deere Tractor Works).

It was during that visit that John decided to move to San Francisco, in part because he'd never before lived in "a big city."

Last winter he made his San Francisco stage debut as Pony, the dying young man in Rhino's production of Robert Pitman's play *Passing*.

"It's exciting to do this kind of theatre," John says. "Before this I had always played the boy next door. Now I'll never have to sing 'I Am 16 Going On 17' again."

Karr

(Continued from previous page)

giving the people he worked with the input, and he just let me do it—he saw what I did, and would make me reach for things. I had to reach and grow. There was great freedom in his movement. He was a real dancer's dancer. And Fosse has a fantastic style, of course, but all of that energy goes right in to the floor, right inside, it's isolated. It was hard at first to reorganize my energy, focus it, between having such freedom and then this self-contained style, but it made me a better dancer. I'm more intuitive about the workings of my body now and what I'm able to do.

"I felt so fortunate to get the role of Charity under my belt, and have the best direction and guidance possible—especially now that there are no dancing roles being written for individuals. It was so exciting, I'm excited about *A Chorus Line*, too, because it always amazes me—it's just timeless. There's another generation coming to see it, children and teen-agers and that keeps me very committed to doing it, because I really love the show. I love what it has to say."

A brief word about the revival of *Fiddler on the Roof*, which last week opened a national tour as it begins a trip to Broadway. By the time this appears, the cobwebs apparent opening night will have been dusted off, and technical

While that song may be out of his repertoire, he admits that the character of Mark, the role he plays in *Soul Survivor*, is a boy next door type in his own way.

"He is deeply rooted in small-town ideals. He believes in dating. And, yes, Mark is a Republican.

"I don't see his fascination with leather as incongruous," John continues. "For someone from that background, the fantasy of leather could be even greater. As of one year ago, I had never even seen someone in leather, and it still is kind of abstract for me."

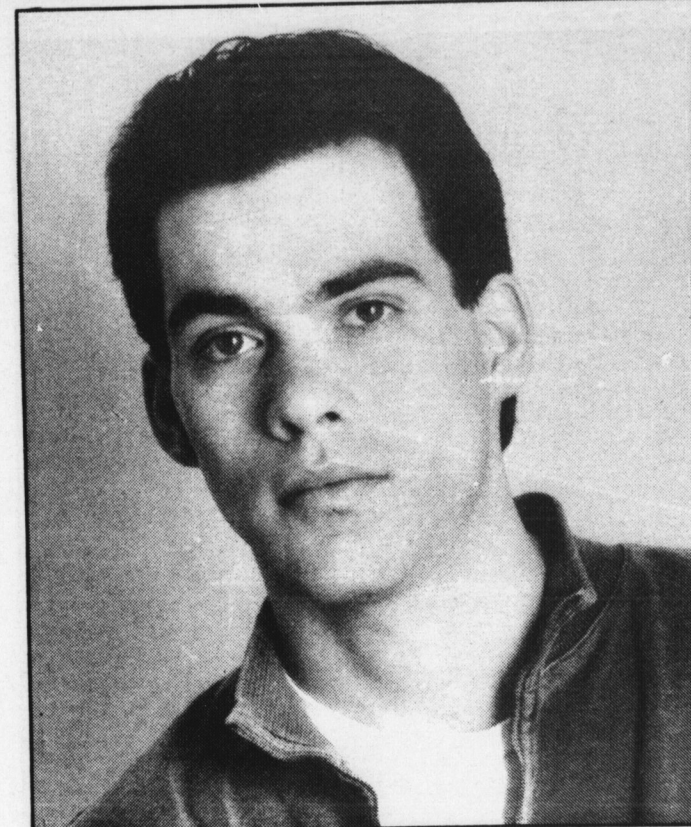
Pointing out that the guy he's presently dating seems to like him best in "preppy" outfits, John recognizes that there's an element of drag and costume however we choose to dress.

As to the onstage nudity, John recalls enthusiastically reading the script and seeing himself in the role of Mark—until he came to the nude scene.

"I'd always told myself that if I believed in a play and believed it was appropriate, I could deal with nudity," John says.

He came to believe the nudity was necessary because "Mark has just had the best sex he ever had.

"Still, it was a lot for me to deal with after years of being a fat kid, and considering myself just an average looking guy," John says, exuding the boyish manliness of a 1930's Henry Fonda. "I'm still uncomfortable wearing



John Hogan, 27-year-old star of *Soul Survivor*, had hesitation about doing a nude scene.

shorts in public, and don't ever take my shirt off.

"And here I am on stage with Greg Hoffman, who's an absolutely chiseled Adonis. Part of it now is that I am so comfortable on stage with Greg.

"We rehearsed with our clothes off starting early in the rehearsal process. I was still really nervous in front of an audience. But I went back to concentrating on the situation of Mark—not John Hogan up there."

Playing to mostly gay audiences, how does John feel about the fact that his nude scene with Greg Hoffman might set off erotic fantasies?

"I hope that would also be combined with being attracted to the characters beyond their bodies. The love story of this guy for so long. To see Mark fall in love with Jerry every night."

Anthony Bruno, author of *Soul Survivor*, has written an AIDS

play that allows gay audiences to laugh. This three-character comic love triangle tells the story of a hunky leather daddy (Greg Hoffman), the comically bitchy ghost of his deceased ex-lover (Chuck Kubick), and the cute North Carolina 28-year-old who is the new love of his life (John Hogan, of course). Bruno has said that *Survivor* is about hope and that Hogan's character carries much of the hope for the future.

About his own future, John hopes to teach, direct and continue his education.

"I'd like to play more gay characters, to balance the straight characters I've played. But I'd like to play other kinds of gay men, a greater variety. Less apple pie and cheesecake.

"At this point, I'm only really interested in acting at Rhino. I'm excited about the plays they've chosen for next season."

The 7th Annual Bette Rhino Awards, for outstanding contributions to Theatre Rhino's 1988-89 season, saw statuettes awarded to *Soul Survivor* for best main-stage production, as well as sound design, set design, and the award for best actor in a main-stage production shared by John Hogan and Greg Hoffman.

In most cases, awards are presented long after shows close, so you only hear second-hand about special evenings or good performances. Because *Soul Survivor*'s run has been extended through mid-July, it's possible to still see some of the work that's been selected best of Theatre Rhinoceros' 1988-89 season. ▼

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'The Beat'

FM Soul Station Coming?

by David Taylor-Wilson

When people ask me what type of music I like best, I usually respond by saying that I like anything that is performed well and with feeling. I like music that grabs hold of you and makes you stand up and take notice. True to form Soul Music with the rhythm and the blues has always been among my favorite, and so I was very excited to hear that the Bay Area's only real "soul" radio station, KDIA-AM has recently sealed a deal to purchase the troubled KOFY-FM with the intent of transplanting this great music to the FM side of the dial.

It is truly unbelievable that a market the size of the Bay Area doesn't have an established FM soul station (not since the days of the late KSFJ—now there was a station). The innocuous, 24-hour, non-stop drum machines on the FM dial right now (KMEL, KSOL) are going to be given a good run for their money—and rightfully so. Take notes boys.

If I'd started this column a month earlier, you would have read about the latest gay-pretty-boy-group to come out of the U.K. *Seventh Ave.* is a group



Dionne Warwick will serve as honorary chair for the AIDS Walk in Orange County.

that sing as good as they look. Well, almost as good. Add these guys to the gay-dance mold along with *Bronski Beat*, *Communards*, *Pet Shop Boys*, *New Order*, and you know what I'm getting at: Hi-NRG. Their first single, which is still making the rounds here in the Bay Area clubs, is a remake of the *Harold Melvin & The Blue Notes* classic, "The Love I Lost." As far

as remakes go it's not too bad (*Simply Red's* "If You Don't Know Me By Now" is also a HM & the BN's remake. Aah... such unique creativity the '80s hath spawned). It does capture the original soulful feel, but of course does so over a contemporary dance beat. Seventh Ave. made a quick Bay Area debut a month or so back at a few clubs and was met with a very warm

response. We'll wait and see how they develop.

Back to the future: *Donna Summer* has been burning up the charts with her comeback smash "This Time I Know It's For Real." Produced by the U.K.'s leading production team, Stock, Aitken & Waterman, you can easily hear and feel the similarities of her new music with the other artists the SAW team are responsible for: *Bananarama*, *Rick Astley*, *Mel & Kim*, *Kylie Minogue*. *Donna's* next single from her new album "Another Place And Time" is already an established hit in Europe and called "I Don't Wanna Get Hurt." I understand her old hit "Rumour Has It" has been revised and remixed in an '89 version and being readied for release.

The *Commodores* have decided to cancel plans to perform in Sun City, South Africa. They originally planned a Sun City concert and explained that this would afford them the opportunity to speak out against apartheid. Somebody care to explain that to me? The cancellation came after many expressed outrage at their intent to perform.

Speaking of which, recent performers at Sun City include *Laura Branigan* ("Self Control," "Gloria") and *Irene Cara* ("Flashdance," "Fame"). Just in case you're keeping score.

Dionne Warwick recently agreed to serve as the 1989 AIDS Walk honorary chair in Orange County. Ms. Warwick has been actively involved in raising

they'll probably drop dead from heart attacks. This videoclip makes "Prayer" seem like a B-rated late-night movie. *Madonna* proudly and defiantly grabs hold of her crotch numerous times as the video unfolds scenes of S&M, bondage, nude silhouettes and just plain raw sex. Not to mention a cast of fifty of the most gorgeous men probably ever assembled for a music video. If you think "Prayer" was controversial, you ain't seen nothin' yet!

Madonna's sidekick (and oft-remixed closer-than-thou female pal) *Sandra Bernhard* now has her own album "Without You I'm Nothing." This is a live performance of the comedienne that will probably please her growing number of followers.

Remakes today are everywhere. It may be true that imitation is the sincerest form of flattery, but excess also causes stagnation. Recently recycled, refurbished and sent to the remake department: *Bronski Beat's* "You Make Me Feel (Mighty Real)," *Sinitta's* "Right Back Where We Started From," *Bananarama's* "Help!" *Belle Stars's* "Iko Iko," *Bette Midler's* "Wind Beneath My Wings," (about four times now), *Peabo Bryson's* "Show & Tell," *Public Enemy's* "Fight the Power," *Tiffany's* "I Think We're Alone Now," and "I Wanna Hold Your Hand," *Robert Palmer's* "Tell Me I'm Not Dreamin'" and "I Didn't Mean To Turn You On," *10DB's* "I Second That Emotion," *Kylie Minogue's* "The Locomotion" (I dare somebody to convince me that we really needed another cover of this song). This list really could go on

Philip Campbell

A Bland Beethoven Festival

by Philip Campbell

Michael Tilson Thomas has left the podium at Davies Symphony Hall after a grueling three-week assignment leading the annual Beethoven Festival. The results were mixed, but his elegant stage appearance and essentially conservative approach proved, on balance, to be mostly satisfying, even if memories of Kurt Masur's electrifying mastery in seasons past and our own Herbert Blomstedt's startling complete Symphony cycle were not forgotten.

There were some notable high points, though—an exciting and theatrical presentation of "Wellington's Victory," complete with digitally recorded gun and cannon fire by the sound experts of the new *Indiana Jones* movie; a wonderfully evocative *Symphony No. 6, "Pastoral"*; a tense and emotional "Egmont" Overture and a chance to hear the rarely encountered *Fantasy in C Minor for Piano, Chorus and Orchestra*.

What the series lacked was a real sense of occasion and, perhaps, more importantly, a unifying theme. Simply celebrating Beethoven is no longer enough, when every concert season and home audio enthusiast programs him with such regularity.

I also missed the previously plentiful chamber performances at Herbst Theatre. An in depth study of Beethoven can not slight the glorious string quartets or music for winds. A single candle light recital with pianist Garrick Ohlsson essaying several of the Sonatas was better than nothing, but it certainly seemed short measure. There is an audience for these highly civilized evenings—were they bypassed for organizational or budgetary reasons? At any rate, their absence only pointed up the generally lackluster tone of the festival.

Michael Tilson Thomas may be credited with early advocacy of approaching Beethoven with considered authenticity. His scaling down of the orchestra to near chamber size, even though modern instruments are still employed, approaches the sound

the composer must have first imagined.

The 'authentic' movement rages on and that leaner sound has been combined with stricter, often controversial, tempo markings and dynamic balance. The band wagon has roared ahead, leaving Tilson Thomas a bit dusty and sounding somewhat timid by comparison.

His careful molding of the Sixth Symphony presented individual movements more as self-contained tone poems than part of a cohesive structure, but it worked brilliantly, thanks to some exceptionally refined orchestral response (the players were clearly enjoying themselves) and the conductor's own sure sense of control.

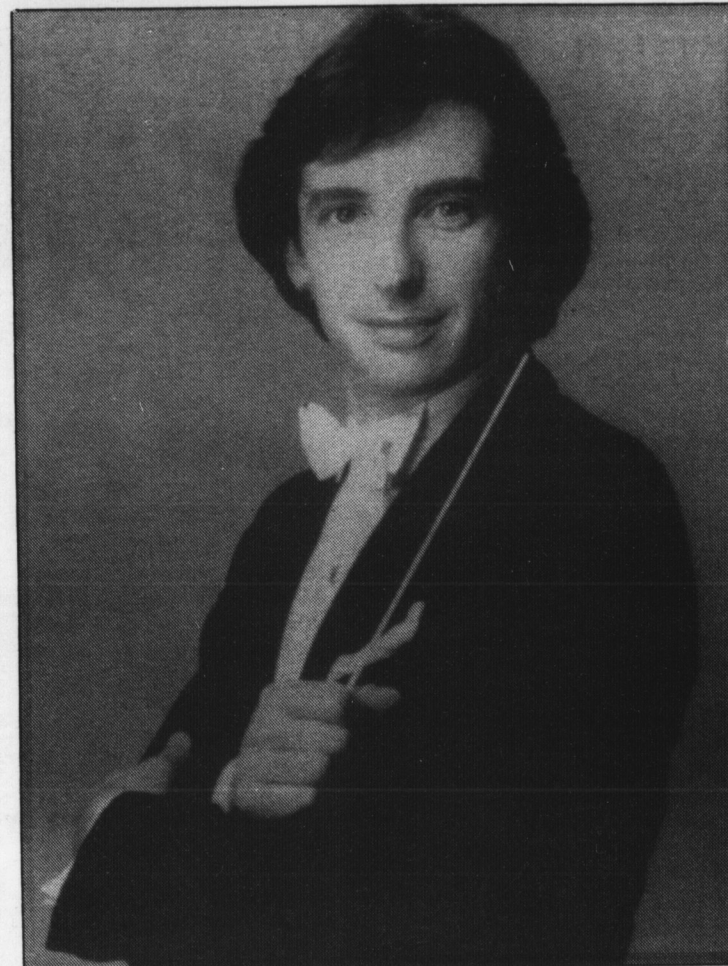
It has been a long time since I've heard the strings with such an agreeably sweet bloom on their sound; inner voicings by woodwinds and horns were clear, disciplined and well balanced.

This had less to do with improved acoustics at Davies or sufficient rehearsal time than with a conductor who knew what he wanted and then made sure he got it.

Other performances were less involving, though all showed flashes of inspiration. The outer movements of the Fifth Symphony, particularly the final Allegro, were magnificent and, once again if for the umpteenth time, Beethoven's genius was glorified.

Garrick Ohlsson is not a pianist of the international first rank, but his ability to project a genuinely improvisational feel in the opening of the Choral Fantasy, marked it as a memorable event and Vance George's Symphony Chorus sounded well, if a little less assured than usual.

The inclusion of Reicha's truly obscure "Music to Celebrate the Memory of a Great Man" on the "military" bill with "Wellington's Victory" and the Beethoven Symphony No. 3, "Eroica," was a delightful idea, deftly executed with brass on either side of the stage in the Terrace seating.



Michael Tilson Thomas has left the podium at Davies Symphony Hall.

Concerto No. 4, the *Fantasy for Piano, Opus 77*, the *Kyrie, Gloria and Sanctus from the Mass in C*, and "Ah, Perfido!" Scene and *Aria, Opus 65* made an overwhelming evening and created a special feeling that, unfortunately, did not spill into the rest of the Festival.

When an unseemly number of latecomers were slowly seated, Tilson Thomas quipped, there were probably more of them than the total attendance for the original 'Akademie.' It was true, spontaneous and thought-provoking—things the remaining Festival was not.

g u s p r e s e n t s

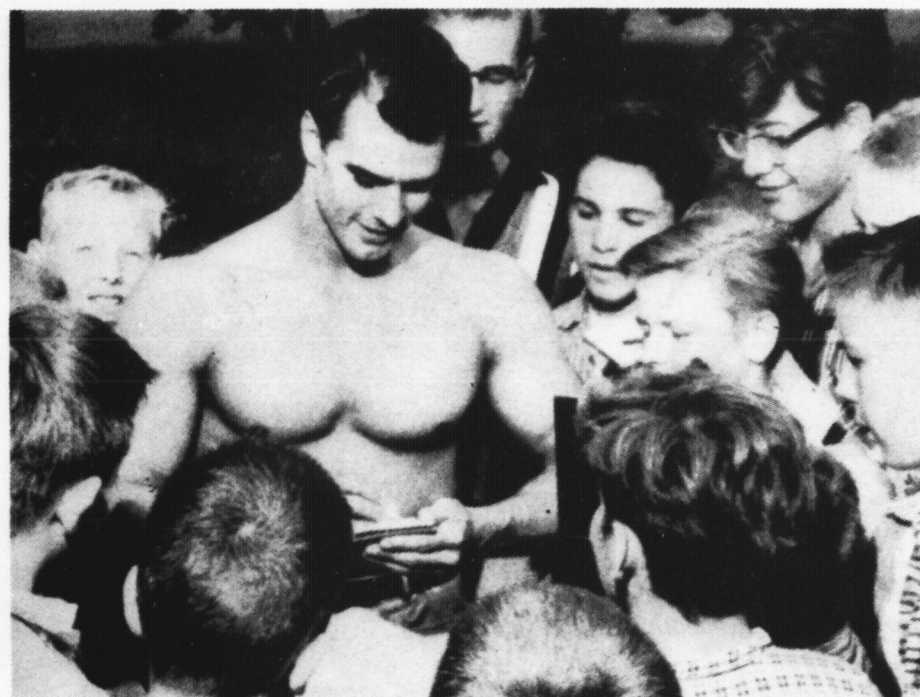
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Fundamentalists beware! Madonna proudly grabs her crotch.

money and supporting AIDS fundraising campaigns around the nation for quite some time. I'd wager that if she was contacted, she'd fly here in a second and perform a benefit show for the various Bay Area AIDS support organizations. Hint, hint, hint.

Just received the new video "Express Yourself" by *Madonna*. Now this is what music video is all about. Stunning photographic sequences depict *Madonna* doing what she does best amid a remarkable *Metropolis* setting. When the fundamentalists that expressed outrage over the "Like A Prayer" video get around to seeing this

forever, but I think you get the point. Have all the different subjects of love and romance been covered already to where we have to revert to rehash en masse? Are the politics of today any less important than those of yesterday? Are you trying to tell me that songs like "What's Going On?" and "Has Anybody Here Seen My Old Friend John?" were just political flukes? I say it's high-time that we as consumers start demanding the artists of today to start living up to their so-called talent and start cranking out original productions rather than ransacking yesterday's treasure chests. The technology of today

(Continued on next page)

Music

(Continued from previous page)

allows us to listen to near-perfect replicas of the artist's studio work; to be continually bombarded with these electronic retreads with a drum machine overlay are not only an insult, but a waste of this technology. There are of course, and always will be, beautiful pieces that are wonderfully reworked, but these stand out with great orchestration and loving vocals that prove that the intent of this remake was to pay homage to the original classic, rather than cash in on the hit-and-run recycle circuit.

What I do like is when an original song is given a reworking, mix-wise. This of course shows off engineering talent more than anything else, but the original energy is usually left intact. Soon to hit the clubs here (and I'm sure this is going to cause some overtime on the dance floor) is what is probably one of the Bay Area's most played gay dance classics, *Miquel*

Brown's "So Many Men, So Little Time" gets an '89 acid house mix (great!), *War's* "Low Rider" was also recently redone, as was *The Jackson Five's* "I Want You Back," *The Temptation's* "Papa Was A Rolling Stone," *KC & The Sunshine Band's* "Get Down Tonight" and "That's The Way I Like It"; this list also goes on, but at least these are all original works by the original artists that put in some real labor time to produce these. They deserve the added royalties that these reworks will bring them. And thus ends this week's sermon.

Ten years ago this weekend, "Ring My Bell" by *Anita Ward* was the #1 single across the nation. Twenty years ago it was *Henry Mancini & His Orchestra* with the "Love Theme from *Romeo and Juliet*"—now I'd like to see somebody lay a hip-hop beating drum machine over that!

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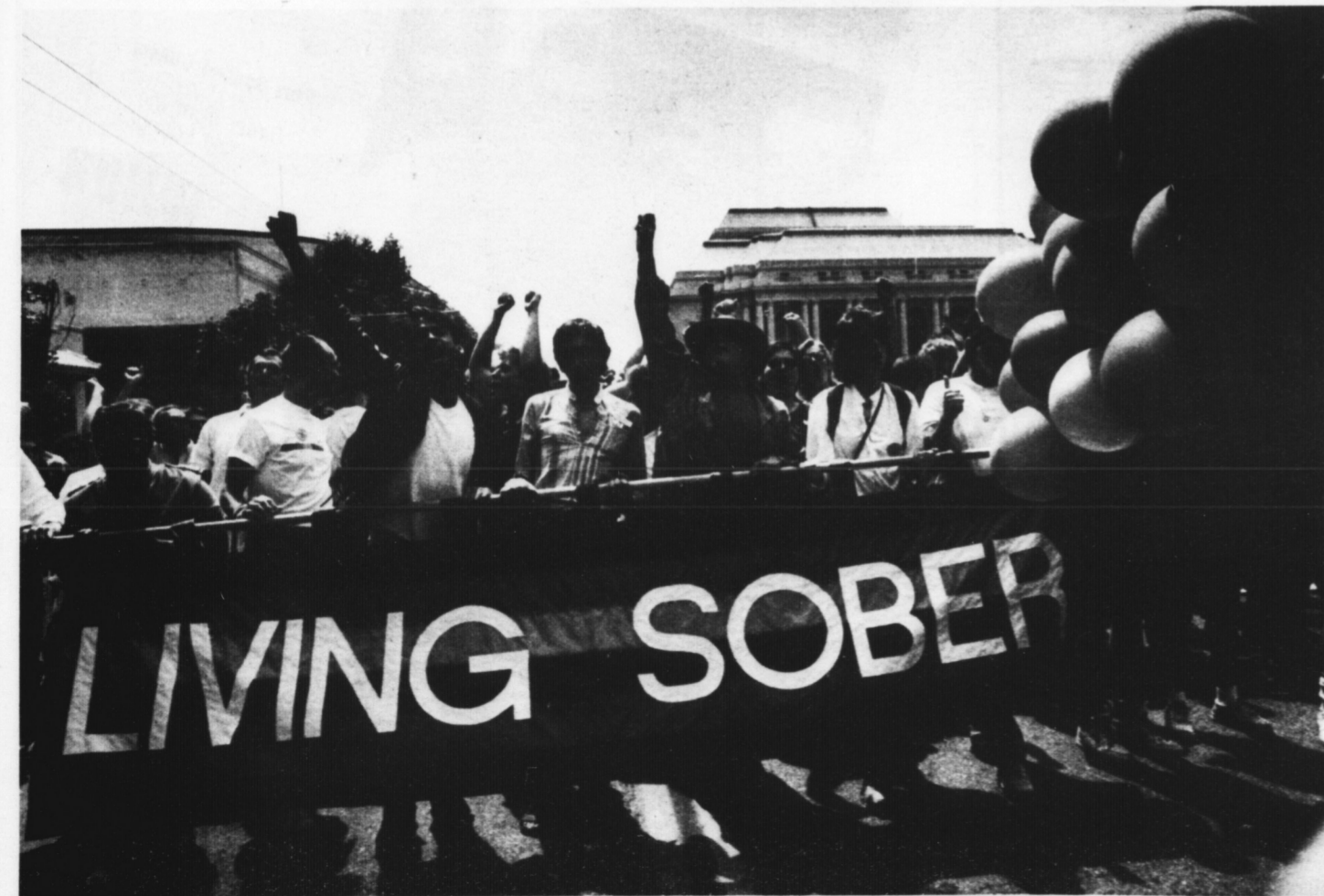
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Revellers Receive Homeless

by Dennis Conkin

As 300,000 revellers enjoyed Sunday's Lesbian/Gay Freedom Day festivities in front of City Hall, the homeless residents of the olive groves seemed to be having a good time, too.

One encampment, clearly caught up in the spirit of the day, wasn't just having a good time, it was practical about the whole affair.

Even as Steve Lindsay, parade co-chair, was publicly thanking the homeless for letting the parade use their living quarters for the day, the entrepreneurs had filled a large plastic garbage can with ice and beer and were turning a hands-over-fist profit by selling beer for a buck a can—underselling everyone else. And there wasn't a Coors can in sight.

"There's no conflict between the homeless and the gays," said the Rev. Cecil Williams of Glide Memorial Methodist Church in the Tenderloin. Jan Mirikitani, a program director at Glide was an emcee for the festivities.

"We have to deal with the liberation of all people and end oppression. We are moving towards unity and liberation of the homeless and lesbians and gays and an end to all forms of discrimination," Williams told the *Bay Area Reporter*.

The parade committee met with homeless residents of the Civic Center area in the weeks before the event in order to involve them in the festivities and to make them feel welcome.

There was concern about the possibility that the homeless might feel pressure from the police or city officials to move or keep a low profile during the event, but parade organizers wanted them to know they were welcome to stay.

There are about 2,000 homeless lesbians and gay men in San Francisco.

'Clown Dreams'

Another Pickle Goes It Alone

by David Perry

The recent announcement of Eureka Artistic Director Oskar Eustis' impending resignation may or may not bode well for the state of speculative and socially relevant theatre here by the Bay. Hitherto, Eustis' youthful commitment to dramas with a bite have been Eureka's strong suit. We can only hope that whomever is at the helm next will continue Eureka's relevant agenda.

At the moment, they're presenting a clown—actually the clown, San Francisco's much beloved "Lorenzo Pickle" (Larry Pisoni) formerly of Pickle Family Circus. It is typical of Eustis' eclecticism that Eureka gets the city's first glimpse of Pisoni's subtly probing one-person show, *Clown Dreams*.

Like Pickle alums before him—Geoffrey Hoyle and Bill Irwin—Pisoni has struck out on his own. As founding member of the Pickles, it's kind of strange seeing him sans his home troupe—kind of like the first Diana Ross concert without the Supremes. But the solo stage seems to like Pickle just as well. Whereas his one clown in search of an insight has little of the facial or physical athleticism or range of Hoyle's or Irwin's already well-established solo performance pieces, Pisoni brings forth a kinder, gentler mental trek.

When the lights go up we find Pisoni "backstage," relating into a tape recorder a rather disjointed dream he has had. Once completed, he proceeds to make himself up and—ta da! Lorenzo Pickle. Act One finds Pickle being Pickle, delighting the children (of which there were a few) and adults in the audience with his now well-known clown act. In Act Two, the makeup comes off, and things get a bit cerebral.

Pisoni's Pickle persona is an unashamedly lovable one. Its humor is not wrought from physical machinations or extraordinary slight of hand. True, Pisoni is as gifted a stage craftsman as either Irwin or Hoyle. However, Lorenzo Pickle is not a grand-standing persona. He's every-clown.

We laugh and begin to get teary at Pickle's constant frustrations with balloons that fly away, trunks too heavy to lift, batons that take on lives of their own simply because Pisoni approaches each new challenge with total dedication. This will be the time I get it right, his white painted smile seems to say each

time. Blowing a bubble through a sousaphone is about as risky as it gets. And we love it.

It's the second half of Act I and all of Act II that gives Pisoni a chance to shine—and write. Without makeup, Pisoni enters the world of his dream for our benefit. He is thrown down twin sets of stairs leading nowhere. He is beset by falling trunks, predatory beach balls of ever-growing dimensions, murderous pipes and sand bags falling from the sky with specific authority.

Without makeup, he seems to say, he's just like us. This most human of clowns is just that, human.

The symbolism is overt. However, the denouement is obscure. The technical effects and timing with which Pisoni avoids the steadily more deadly obstacles of his dream are impressive.

But the message Pisoni seeks to deliver with them is not nearly so sharp. When a shiny new sousaphone appears at the top of the dream stairs—in sharp contrast to the battered old one into

which he blew bubbles during the beginning of Act I—and Pisoni uses it to serenade an abandoned child found in his circus trunk, we are left scratching our heads.

Pisoni is to be applauded for stretching the boundaries of his character Lorenzo Pickle yet again. If this amusing, and interesting bit of solo work doesn't entirely gel, it is half our fault. We want Pickle to be a clown. Watching him attempt Bertolt Brecht shadings or Robert Wilson's theatre of images is something we are not used to.

Clearly, Pisoni will continue to give us chances to get used to this new improved pickle. He is going where two other pickles have gone before—just with different luggage.

★ ★ Lorenzo Pickle in *Clown Dreams*
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Larry Pisoni's new improved pickle.

(Photo: Bob Hsiang)

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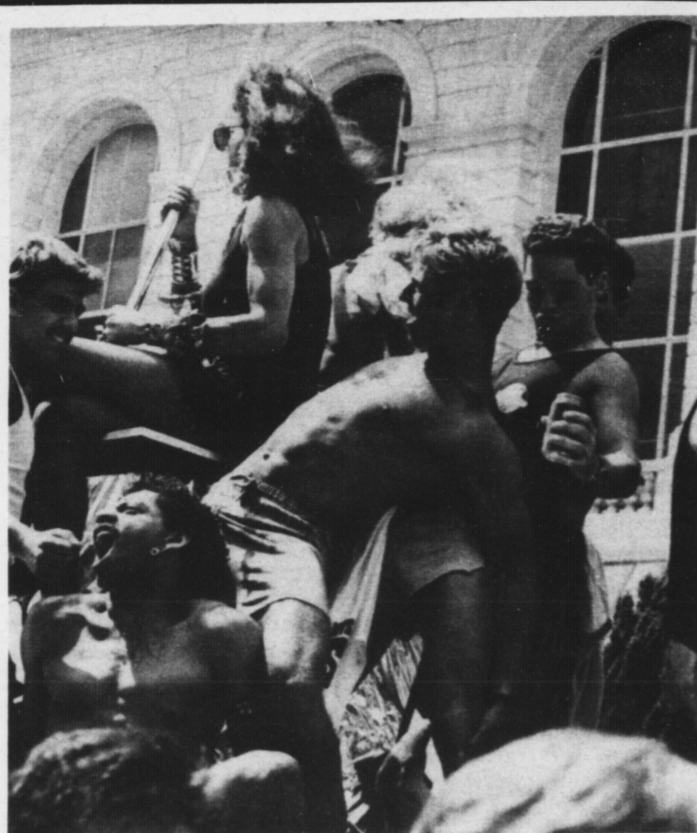
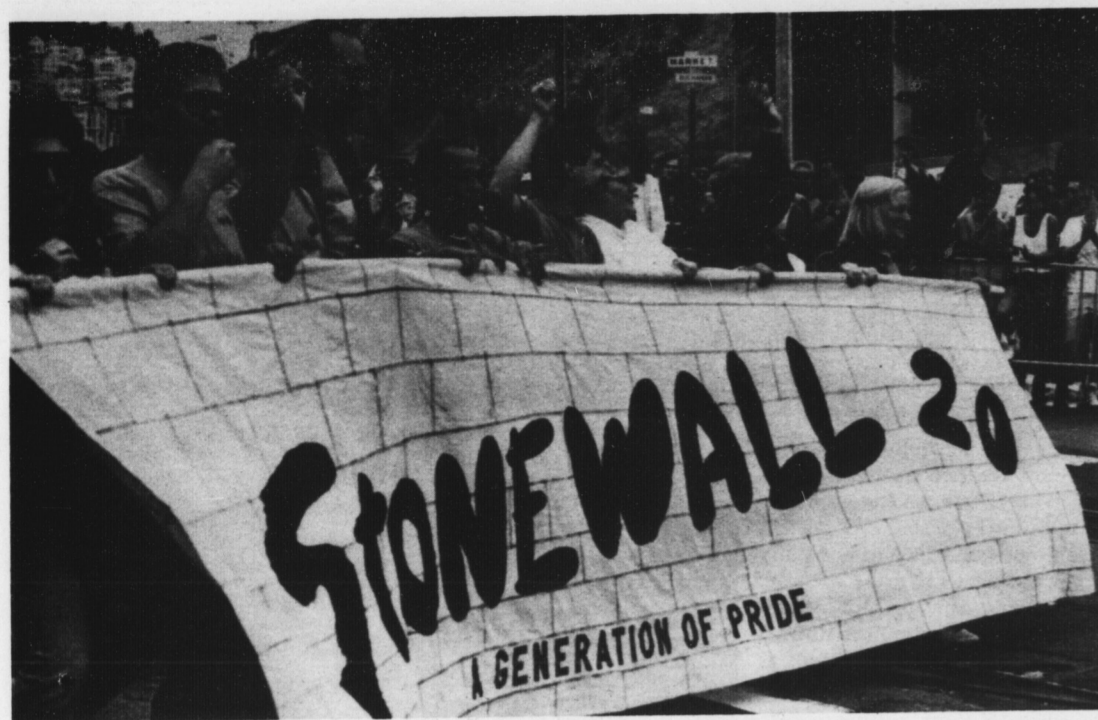
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(All Photos by Robert Pruzan)

George Heymont

Make Mine Rare, Please

Cris-crossing the operatic landscape is a bit like dining out every night: After enough meals of steak and potatoes, one longs for something different. Excursions into the lustful joys of samosas, sushi, spedini and spanakopeta serve to broaden the palate while creating a thirst for new tastes and culinary adventures. As the yearning for different experiences continues to grow, vanilla no longer seems sufficient; one begins to seek out the exotic in search of the sublime.

It's a bit like the old joke about the difference between "erotic" and "perverse." Sex can become highly erotic when you use a feather. Most people think it's perverse if you use the entire chicken. But how many ways can you cook a chicken? And how many meals are served with a feather garnish?

That's why, after a certain point, the expectations surrounding another star-studded performance of *Tosca* or *La Bohème* become as ritualized to the operatic connoisseur as the thought of biting into another Big Mac. By that time, most of the artists singing the lead roles have reached a point in their careers where Puccini has become a convenient meal ticket. All too often, a strange kind of professional indifference creeps into their performances.

It's like what happens when a hustler becomes too adept at turning a trick with great skill but little passion. Because the experience no longer holds much in the way of discovery, its dramatic intensity is much less than what transpires when someone is researching and performing a role for the first time.

Two of the rarest birds in the operatic repertoire were on display in California late this spring. Because they are performed so infrequently, these operas provided a new experience to almost everyone situated on both sides of the footlights.

Curiously enough, both productions were conducted by Nicholas McGegan, a specialist in the baroque repertoire whose passion and expertise bring a rare vitality to any project he lays his hands on.

Matchmaker, Matchmaker

When, as part of the festivities surrounding the 200th anniversary of the French Revolution, the Long Beach Opera decided to present the Beaumarchais Trilogy—*The Barber of Seville*, *The Marriage of Figaro* and *The Guilty Mother*—General Director Michael Milenski opted to produce the Paisiello rather than the infinitely more popular Rossini version of *The Barber of Seville*.

Although the novelty of performing the Paisiello opera (which was first performed in St. Petersburg, Russia, in 1782) drew the critical attention Milenski needed to spotlight his festival in Long Beach, the results proved to be less than felicitous.

This was one instance in which the audience very quickly discovered why an opera had become and remained obscure for, despite its attraction as a musical curiosity,

Paisiello's treatment of *The Barber of Seville* could bore a tulip.

Although the production team (designer Paul Gallis, director Hans Nieuwenhuis and conductor Nicholas McGegan) did the best they could to transform this piece into a viable stage property, it soon became apparent that, even in opera, you can't turn a sow's ear into a silk purse.

Let's face it: When a gifted stage director like Nieuwenhuis has to depend on repeatedly folding and unfolding a giant table cloth while transforming a huge stage elevator into the Count Almaviva's dining room table, you know you're in trouble.

Nevertheless, credit should go to the brave and determined cast, which performed *The Barber of Seville* with an extremely high level of professionalism in Long Beach's intimate, semi-circular, 850-seat Center Theater.

I was particularly impressed by

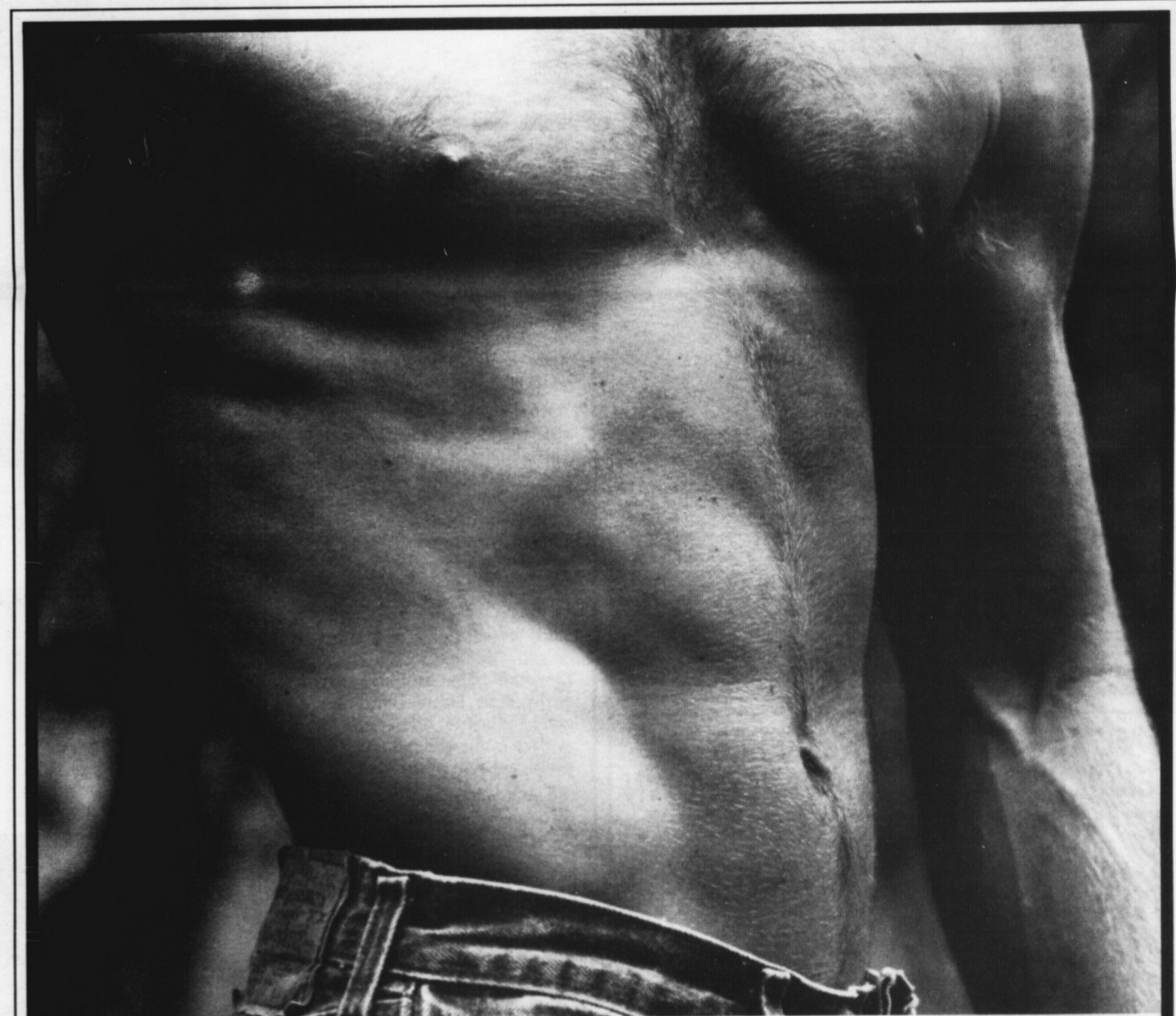


Soprano Janet Williams, left, and Patricia Spence in Handel's *Giustino*. (Photo: Larry Merkle)

John Fanning's Figaro, Don Bernardini's Count Almaviva and David Evitts' Don Bartolo.

Michael Gallup's Basilio and Ken Remo's Giovanotto offered pleasing cameos although

Kathryn Gamberoni's Rosina proved to be the essence of white bread. (Continued on page 41)



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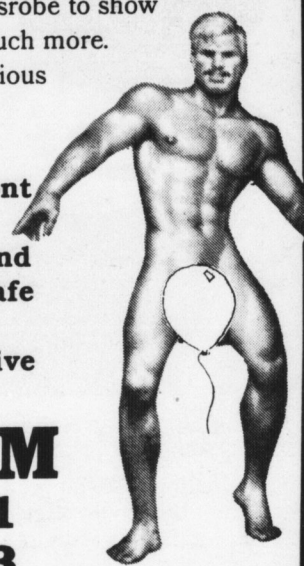
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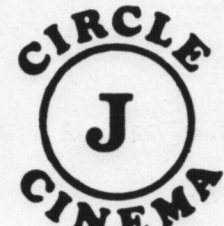
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Mr. Marcus

Augie Mesenbrink Wins Mr. Powerhouse II Contest

Only five of the eight semi-finalists for the Mr. Powerhouse contest showed up last Friday, June 30, for the grand finale after months of competition.

Judges Zack Long, Robert Ratliff and Patrick Weibeler sat through a half-serious, half-humorous interlude as contestants Jacques Briel, Augie Mesenbrink, Kevin McCarthy, Louis Caraballo and Mark Tully went through the paces to win a round-trip ticket for two to Mazatlan, a set of matching Iguauna luggage and a pinata in the visage of Powerhouse bartender Gary Ross, chock full of condoms.

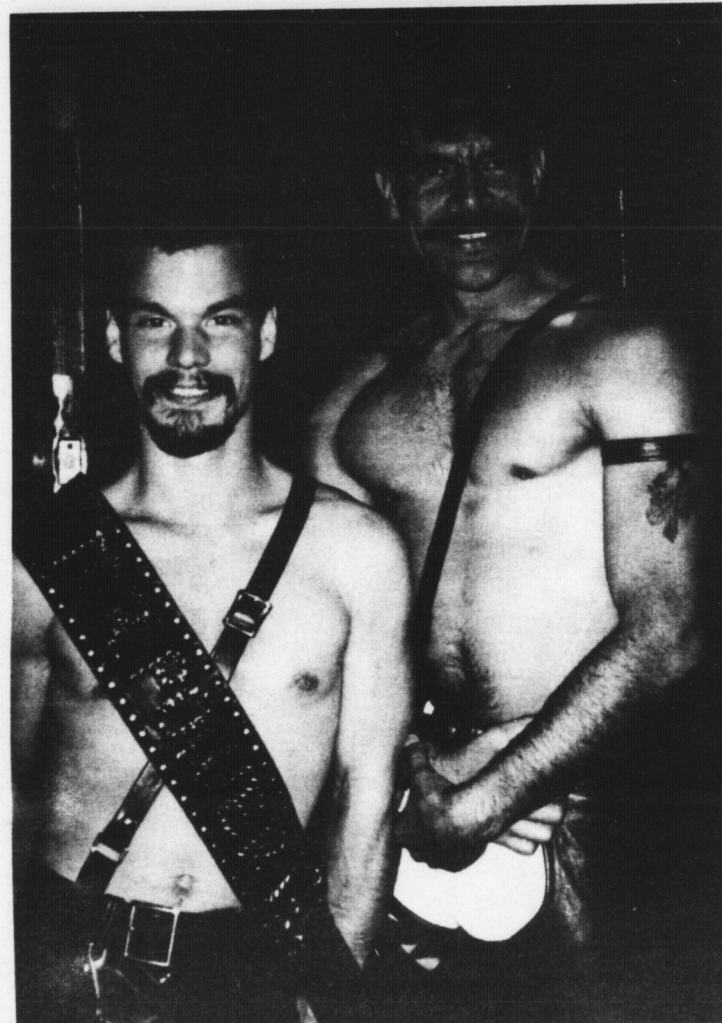
The Powerhouse was packed to the limit and overflowing into the street as local leather mavens as well as a huge crowd of tourists jammed into the place to see who would carry the Powerhouse banner for the next year.

After some heavy-duty questioning and at least two onstage appearances, the contestants who had been in the running for some four months were afforded the opportunity to state why they would like to have the title.

While the bartenders pushed libations at the rate of 15 cpm (cocktails per minute) the jovial crowd got to hear from the contestants their insightful views of their involvement in the community with some humorous barbs thrown in.

When all was said and done, the judges picked the diminutive Augie Mesenbrink to receive and wear the leather sash for the next 12 months. That dashing roller-derby star, Louie Caraballo, grabbed the first runner-up spot as flash bulbs blinded everyone within eye-shot of the stage.

The Powerhouse was jammed



Augie Mesenbrink is Mr. Powerhouse, left.
Louis Caraballo was 1st runner-up. (Photo: R. Pruzan)

for the most part all week. They celebrated their fourth anniversary the previous night with lots of entertainment and continuous drink specials. Manager Ed Gabet managed to maintain a cool demeanor in spite of the huge crowd that converged en masse.

A videotape of last year's proceedings was going full blast and

dozens of floral arrangements were in evidence from friends and customers alike. The Powerhouse also issued a button commemorating the occasion and they disappeared quickly. I'll tell you. Best wishes for many more successful years to the Powerhouse management and staff.



The Fourth of July brought out lovers and friends to the SF Eagle patio. (Photo: Marcus)



Leathermen were out in force at the Gay Parade. (Photo: Darlene/PhotoGraphics)

There were lots of happenings on the campus last week.

Soul Survivor is still garnering large and appreciative audiences at Theatre Rhino.

Lots of people were lucky enough to get Monday off from their jobs so lots of those very people took the opportunity to "get away" more or less. The Eagle softball team had another rather swank outing up at the Rush Riv and Scotts' continues to draw big crowds with their succulent jazz group on weekends.

On Upper Fillmore (Sutter to Washington), the annual Fillmore Street Fair was swarming with people. JJ's managed to keep the bar full of straight and gay clientele as well. Fillmore's fair is a jazzy event. The AIDS Walk people were on hand soliciting pledges/runners for their big event on July 23 with positive responses all around.

Sunday afternoon, the S.F. Eagle again managed to get the lion's share of the crowd—tourists and natives alike—as City Swing featuring the dynamic Gail Wilson predominated. The big-band sound swelled all over 12th Street and Gail was in good voice. She even managed to sock the crowd with a ditty that was far from its original lyrics. City Swing never sounded better. They have to be one of our community's most valuable assets. Jazz on the Fillmore. Jazz at the Eagle. It was flawless.

Tuesday was the Fourth of July. Hurray! Independence Day. Lots of tourists still hanging around from the big parade, lots of hot leather men and a huge delegation of Living Sober people (leather as well as not) here for the convention.

Up Your Alley productions had their beer bust on the fourth and Tuesday night was just like Saturday night all around the town. Hey, I hope you had a good time. Rick Booth's soiree to watch the fireworks was dripping with leather and latex—good show!

July is going to be another one of "those" months.

The major events you should mark on your calendar are, of course, Leather Weekend up at the Rush Riv July 21-23.

Leather Daddy VI Jason Ladd will pass on his title at the S.F. Eagle on Friday, July 28. If you're interested in getting into the fray, contact Alan Selby at Mister S. The judges have yet to be named but the action starts at 2200 that night and needless to

say, it's a benefit—for the AIDS Emergency Fund again! Leather Daddy's Boy contest is on Labor Day, Sept. 4.

The AIDS Walk is Sunday, July 23. Have you signed up yet? You don't know how to? There are application forms and posters all over town! Get busy!

Tonight, July 6, the final bare-chest contest of the year will take place at the S.F. Eagle. They'll be picking Mr. December 1990. Yeah, this is the grand finale after six months of nipple nipping. Super photographer Joe Altman will do the honors for this year's edition of the benefit calendar for the AIDS Emergency Fund.

Watch for the date of the competition for the coverman on the calendar and when it's all ready, there'll be the annual calendar night with all the winners autographing it and being auctioned off for a dinner date. Look for Mr. January, Wally Hansen; Mr. February, Curtis Greenshaw; Mr. March, Brett Lancaster; Mr. April, Bruce Combs; Mr. May, Robert Kumar; Mr. June, John Dopp; Mr. July, Bradley Cavalier; Mr. August, Darrell McQueen; Mr. September, James Rueth; Mr. October, Andrew Vasquez; and

Mr. November Mitch Johnson—all for 1990, of course! Don't miss the finale tonight!

At my deadline, those electronic wizards at M.E.N. (Male Entertainment Network) are putting the finishing touches on the Intl. Mr. Leather '89 video and it will be done complete with titles, music, etc., by next week. Have you ordered your copy yet?

Tomorrow night, Friday, July 7, Rita Rocket and Mark Abranson are celebrating their birthdays at the S.F. Eagle with a \$7 beer bust beginning at 2000. It's a benefit for the Ward 5A Brunch Program on Sundays and will feature the Fabulous Velcros who are expert with renditions of the best of the '60s rock, rhythm and blues. No one told me how old Bubbles or Rita will be, but you know they're old enough to do anything they want! Don't miss this celebration!

Sunday, Vinnie Russell joins up with the dance mavens at Dreamland at 1500 (\$5) for a Zsa-Zsa Look-Alike contest. I presume it's Zsa-Zsa Gabor and not that sleazy fortune teller gal on Potrero Hill. The winner gets a dinner for two at a top S.F. res-

taurant (gay or straight?) and it's a benefit for the AIDS Emergency Fund and the Christmas Eve Dinner for PWAs/PWARC. Mr. and Mrs. Santa Claus will host—and Ron Baer thought I'd say cha-cha queens!

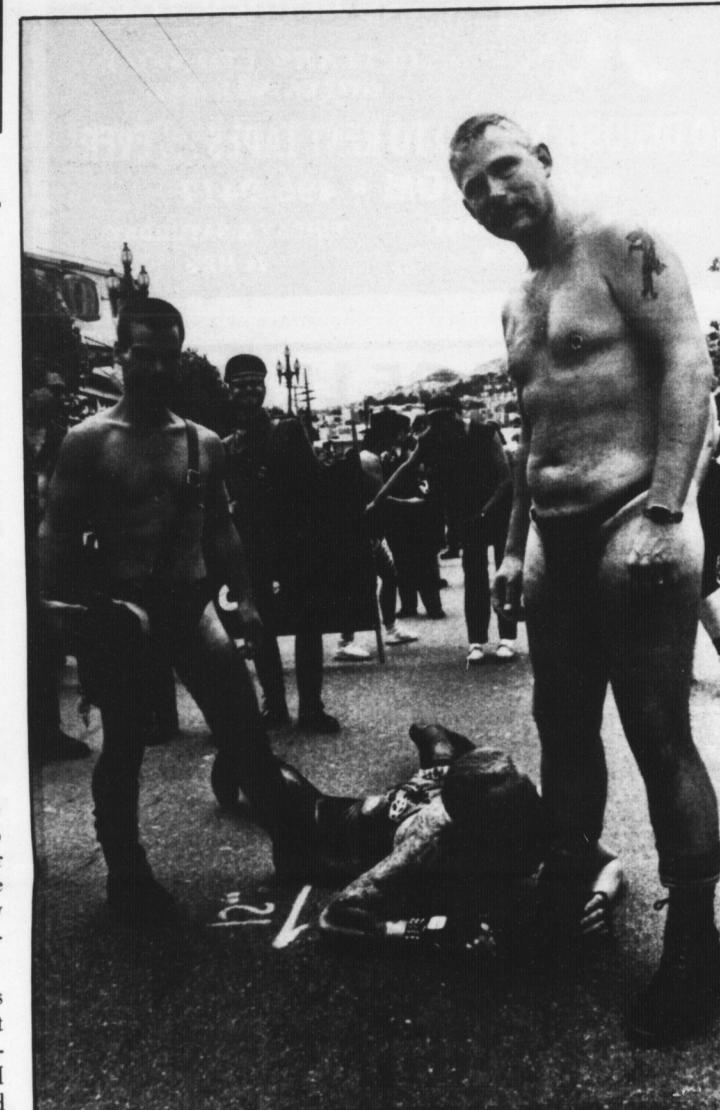
Saturday afternoon, too, the Satyrs M/C are having a beer bust at My Place from 1600 to 1900 (\$3.50 but no food) advertising their Badger Flats run later this year.

If you didn't sign up for the Cal Eagles M/C weekend run this weekend, "Nightmare on Fignon Lake," there's still time. Call 584-9764.

If you're in Los Angeles, Zeus Studios presents their big Phan-

tom II party titled "Leather-hearts." It's an AID for AIDS benefit (\$20 or however much more you can spare) featuring the legendary Campers; S/M wrestling; world premiere of Marathon Films' *Faces With No Names* and Intl. Mr. Leather Guy Baldwin in person. It'll be held at the Woman's Club of Hollywood, 1749 No. La Brea Ave. For more details call (213) 475-3015 or (213) 622-2522. The Campers will perform "Black & Blue Salute to the Boys in Leather." The wrestling sequence will be submission matches with Kid Leopard, Brian Walsh, Raw Deal, Jason Knight and four other hot bodybuilders.

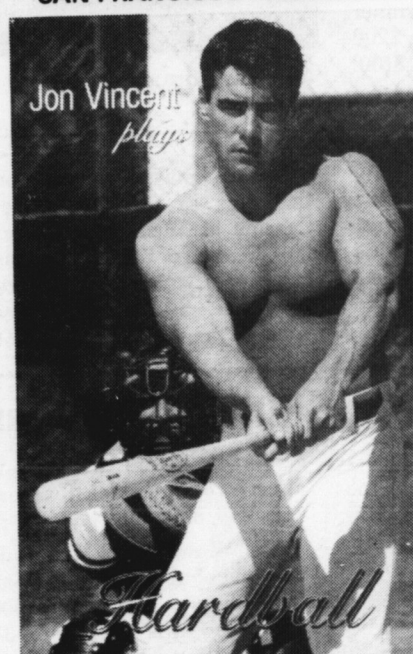
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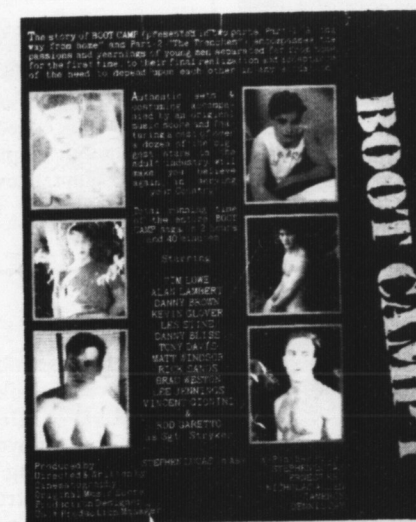
Happy to see you, my dear. (Photo: Darlene/PhotoGraphics)

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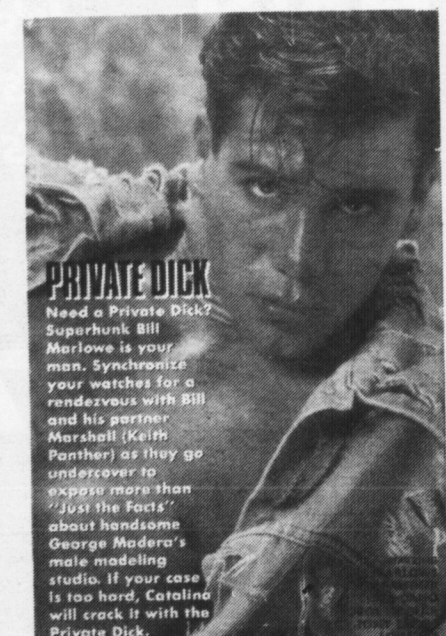
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Marcus

(Continued from previous page)

Faces With No Names is the Roger Earl third and final chapter of the S/M trilogy, *The Dungeons of Europe*. All this for \$20 and a place packed with leather men? If you're in Los Angeles, this is the *only* place to be!

And if you stay over until Monday, you can go to the Miss Gay Los Angeles Pageant at the Mayflower Ballroom in Inglewood. Empress I La Rey really knows how to throw a pageant. Call (213) 850-1673 for details and ticket prices.

Otherwise, you'll have to settle for the S.F. Jacks' first July party—it's on Monday, July 10, Bastille Day. Keep your weenie away from the guillotine. French kissing, french fries, french letters, french bread, and hopefully, french meat from the Paris Jacks! Sound magnifique, Dominique!

And if you're really planning ahead, don't forget the Dore Alley Fair on Sunday, August 6. Summer 1989 sounds absolutely flawless already!

Dishes, Dishes, Dirty Dishes

Hey, new rubber fetish club meets on Fridays at the Powerhouse. It's no rigid group thing—just men into latex cruising the place—good name suggested for this group—the Bouncers. Zack Long and David "Puddles" Dysart are really into it!

And who's the rather well-heeled leather man having his "play room" completely redesigned with murals of famous leather title holders? The first one to be enshrined is Michael Pereyra! Sounds stunning.

And who was the "hot man" visiting here from Down Under that hardly anybody got to meet? Guess somebody was scared he'd run off with a new face (horrors!) never to be seen again!

Remember when the Mr. Gay and Ms. Gay San Francisco meant something? Remember when the annual event was always done with an el-cheapo budget? (Plastic flowers on the tables!) Well I've been advised that the whole thing is being revived and will take place on Saturday, Sept. 30, at the Holiday Inn (Pine and Van Ness). Preliminary contests in several bars are being arranged and the deadline is not later than the end of July. The winner gets \$500; runner up gets \$200 and second runner up gets \$100. Check with Dowager Empress Ginger and Dowager Emperor Ken Wright for details. Any former emperor who continues to wear glitz even out of drag deserves to be called a dowager! And I thought emperors in this town were not allowed to wear crowns! Did some fool change the rules again?

SF AIDS Group Gets Grant Cash

Celebrities such as Gwen Verdon, Barbara Cook, Jerome Robbins, Colleen Dewhurst, B.D. Wong, Helen Hayes and George Segal are among many in the New York theatre community who have given their time and talent to help people living with AIDS.

Through Broadway Cares, a unique organization comprised of 38 guilds, unions and associations that make up the industry, people in show business have helped raise funds that are granted throughout the year to community-based organizations



How would this play in the *Contra Costa Times*? (Photo: Pruzan)



Mr. Powerhouse shows off his well-rounded personality. (Photo: Pruzan)

And lest anyone forget, the Czarinas in this town are: Czarina of Turk Street Sweet Lips; Czarina of Folsom Luscious Lorelie; Czarina of Castro "Michelle." Since the passing of Voodoo, there is no Czarina of

Polk Street. If there are any other czarinas around, they are not officially recognized or sanctioned!

Have a fun time this weekend and this summer. Give all you can and keep living, loving, laughing and keep doing it in leather! ▼

across the nation that provide direct care and services for those with HIV infection.

A grant awarded to Most Holy Redeemer Support Group of San Francisco was part of \$100,000 disbursed this month to 37 organizations. These funds have been awarded to Most Holy Redeemer Support Group in order to provide emotional support programs to persons with HIV infection, their friends and loved ones.

MHR Support Group also provides practical support to 80 people with HIV infection through

their trained corps of more than 100 volunteers. All services are provided free of charge and are open to all persons regardless of race, religion or gender.

In its fourth year of service to the HIV community, Most Holy Redeemer Support Group has been involved in helping to maintain the quality of hundreds of lives.

For more information on their services, please call their offices at 863-1581 or write Regan Chapman, director, at 100 Diamond St., S.F., CA 94114. ▼

Heymont

(Continued from page 37)

Going for Baroque

The San Francisco Opera Center's production of Handel's *Giustino* offered Bay Area audiences a much happier experience in baroque opera. Deftly staged by Albert Takazauckas with Nicholas McGegan in his element conducting the Philharmonia Baroque Orchestra (McGegan's San Francisco-based ensemble of musicians who perform on period instruments) this American premiere of a long-neglected Handel work drew vociferous cheers—rather than the usual round of snores—from its highly appreciative audience.

It was a particular delight to revel in the sound of three mezzo-sopranos (two of them in drag) singing the pants off of Handel's music. While I might have been happier if Supertitles had been used with this production, the truth of the matter is that the libretto crafted by Nicolo Berengani and Pietro Fariati for *Giustino* is another bit of baroque nonsense which, unlike children, is probably better off being heard and not seen.

How did the San Francisco Opera Center create such a blazing artistic success without the presence of a single superstar? The production was staged with a knowing, yet tongue-in-cheek respect for baroque theatrical conventions.

Barbara Mesney's sets, although delightfully appropriate, were intentionally tacky enough so that the audience could hear the sound of velcro rippling through the air when a mountain split open to reveal a dead relative.

Walter Mahoney's costumes and Paul Alba's wigs combined to give a solid feeling of baroque theatre, while the appearance of a highly stageworthy bear and sea serpent brought howls of laughter from the audience.

Of prime importance was the fact that, under McGegan's loving guidance, *Giustino's* musical values were solidly in place. All of the voices in the San Francisco Opera Center's ensemble were fresh, pure and sounded healthy, with mezzo-soprano Patricia Spence showing great promise in the title role.

Patricia Racette's Emperor Anastasio and Janet Williams's Empress Arianna revealed talents well worth watching.

As the bad guys, mezzo-soprano Reka Mavrovitis offered some stunning work in the drag role of the villainous Amanzio while Craig Estep's Vitaliano was an appropriately loathsome and lecherous tyrant.

Gay Task Force Names New Chief

Urvashi Vaid has been named new executive director of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force by a unanimous decision of the organization's board of directors.

Vaid, presently public information director of NGLTF, was chosen following a three-month, intensive search that attracted 86 candidates.

National Gay and Lesbian Task Force is the nation's pre-eminent lesbian and gay civil rights organization. With more than 15,000 members nationwide, the organization is active in grassroots organizing. ▼

Descending from the fly space as the goddess Fortuna, soprano Ann Panagulis looked and sang like a Handelian combination of Jeanette McDonald and a drag queen from the Hallmark Hall of Fame.

Sturdy support came from Catherine Keen's Leocasta, LeRoy Villanueva's Polidarte and Victor Ledbetter's ghostly voice from the underworld.

Along with the main company's presentation of Philip Glass's *Satyagraha*, this staging of *Giustino* by the San Francisco Opera Center offered solid evidence that, under Lotfi Mansouri's guidance, there is hope for the future of the San Francisco Opera.

Not only did the Opera Center's production prove beyond any shadow of a doubt that there is a place in the operatic repertory for Handel's long-neglected *Giustino*, one begins to suspect—with great relief—that the San Francisco Opera's invaluable musical and theatrical resources are once again being put to good use.

New repertoire is being explored with a healthy curiosity while artistic standards and company morale seem to be rebounding from the tragic depths they reached during Terry McEwen's administration.

Will miracles never cease? ▼

Scholarship Offered To Gay High School Student

The nation's first scholarship offered primarily to a self-identified gay or lesbian high school student has been launched in Contra Costa County. The \$500 Bobby Griffith Memorial Scholarship will be awarded for the first time to a college bound senior in the spring of 1990.

A joint venture of the Diablo Valley Chapter of Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays and the Contra Costa County chapter of the Bay Area Network of Gay and Lesbian Educators, the scholarship will be made available to students in most of the county's 23 high schools.

The scholarship is being offered in the memory of Robert (Bobby) W. Griffith, a gay student who dropped out of high school just two months before his graduation because of a lack of support and accurate information regarding his gay identity. Two years later, without hope for the future, he jumped to his death from a freeway overpass.

Mary Griffith, Bobby's mother, the president of the



Let's Dance

The Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual Youth Group held a summer dance at the Women's Building on July 1. (Photo: Rink)

Diablo Valley chapter of PFLAG and Robert Birlie, chairperson of the Contra Costa County chapter of BANGLE, initiated this scholarship in order to offer hope and support to young gay and lesbian students who might otherwise feel isolated and unsupported.

Anyone wishing to contribute to the scholarship may send their contributions to the Bobby Griffith Memorial Scholarship Fund, c/o Wells Fargo Bank, Clayton Valley Office, 4599 Clayton Road, Concord 94521. Account #6173-256074. ▼

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More from Behind the Scenes

Tuesday the 11th from noon to 3 p.m. is the Tavern Guild meeting at Charpe's on Gough Street. Voting day for five members of the board of directors will take place, so please come out and vote.

Hope everyone had a very pleasant Fourth of July holiday. At least the weather was great.

Like to welcome home Dolly Dale (Polk Gulch Saloon), Dick Cook (Reflections) and of course Randy Humphries (S.F. Eagle) from their vacation in Mexico, and please don't ask Randy to show you his tan line. Incidentally Dick Cook discovered Absolut Vodka, and was he a mess.

Don't forget to join the AIDS Walk in San Francisco on July 23. For information call 896-WALK.

The Galleon now has "Silly Saturday"... a party... a brunch... a lunch... a sing-along with Mark "Trixie" Luko at the piano. Sounds like fun.

Well, at Tina Tanner's first night shift at the Hob Nob—Yes, she is now on the staff working Monday-Wednesday nights and Saturday and Sunday from 6 a.m. to noon—we caught Tzarina Greta Grass and Marlena of Kimo's huddled in a corner discussing... don't know what as they were not yelling.

Did you read Allen White's write-up of the parade where he

describes Empress Jose in an all-white outfit and he looked remarkably like Pope John Paul... really how great.

Empress Char is having a welcome back to San Francisco party for the newly elected Emperor of Fresno, Lloyd 15, formerly a bartender at the Gangway and Cloud Seven... then he was known as Debbie Sue and the Cotton Candy man of Circus Vargas... this is at the Kokpit from 7-10 on Bastille Day, the 14th... don't miss the fun... is Lloyd putting you in his Court, Greta?

Keep Saturday, Sept. 23, from 5-7 open for a very special fundraiser to be presented by yours truly and Emperor Steven Rasher at the Yacht Club... it promises to be a biggie.

The Gangway has John Wise doing his operas and classical music on Sunday evenings. It's amazing how many people show up and truly enjoy the evening... nice job, John.

The next 25th Silver Anniversary meeting will be on July 16th at 2 p.m. at Kimo's Penthouse, so be on time. This is an important meeting and time is getting short.

Chez Mollet's patio is the place for lunch or brunch on these nice days. You do get a great choice of delicious items, so

give them a try. I am sure you'll be happy, right Danny Woodland?

Seems as if Ginger's Too is making all of the columns lately, even Herb Caen, for the fine food in a great location, the Heart of the Wine Country... hi, Eddie Chan.

Have you seen the new three-dimensional mural above the front of the Cinch on Polk Street? It is a wonderful addition to the street. Thank you, Richard and Mario. Incidentally, the Cinch is really packing the dudes in lately, so stop by. Remember, just across the street is the ever popular White Swallow. Is it true, Tom Morgan, that you are planning to do another mural on the side wall? Thanks for the tip, Mike Dooley.

Kelly of the Lion on Sacramento and Divisadero certainly keeps his bar neat and very attractive, not only with the flowers, plants, etc. but with the attractive help and of course customers. It is a pleasure to drop in there for a cocktail... keep up the good work, Kelly.

Remember, the AIDS Emergency Fund is in dire need of funds and "Every Penny Counts." So why not have a fundraiser at your bar for them? They help many, many people with rent and bills. It is truly a worthwhile organization. ▼



DAH-LING!

A Zsa-Zsa look-alike contest will be held Sunday at Dreamland's Christmas-in-July Party. (Photo: Pruzan)

Bartender of Year Contest Hopes to Raise \$30,000

by Dennis McMillan

In response to the news that the AIDS Emergency Fund is in its own state of emergency fund-wise, SF Emperor Jerry Coletti and Empress Pat Montclair in conjunction with the Imperial Court of the Lion and the Lady have come up with a fund-raiser targeted to raise \$30,000 during a 10-week period.

Because of financial difficulties, the fund has had to cut back from its usual \$1,000 maximum grant per person to \$500.

The Court's fund-raiser is the Bartender of the Year Contest, which recently began and will culminate at the "Celebration of Life" beer bust and comedy/cabaret event at the S.F. Eagle bar on Sunday, Aug. 20.

A \$1 donation to the fund entitles a patron one vote cast for his or her favorite bartender among 100 bars from the Russian River to the Bay Area to San Jose. The more dollars pitched into the AEF ballot box, the more votes possible.

Ballots will be collected in early July and counted from the ballot boxes distributed in the participating bars. (If your local bar does not have ballot boxes and posters displayed, request them.)

Bar managers wishing to sup-

port the fund-raiser are asked to donate a \$20 fee to the fund, display a poster and agree to provide a \$25 certificate for courtesy drinks if selected by one of the finalists in the contest. To enroll in the program, call 552-8798.

Eight semi-finalists will be determined and awarded certificates for food, beverage and services from merchants around town. The ballot boxes will then go back to the bars with photos of the finalists for voting through Aug. 13.

The three top vote-getters will be announced at the "Celebration of Life" festival on Aug. 20 at the Eagle. Second runner up will receive \$150 in food, merchandise and service certificates. First runner up will get \$300 in certificates. The winning bartender will enjoy cash prizes plus a flight home with lodging for two this Christmas anywhere in the continental United States.

The Court asks the community to get out and vote and support the AIDS Emergency Fund in its time of crisis.

"We are hoping for a 100 percent response from the bars and their patrons," Coletti said. "Let's really make a difference for people with AIDS and disabling ARC this summer!" ▼

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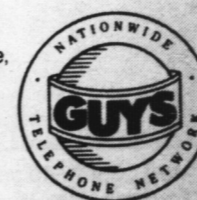
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FRIDAY 7

- An Evening at La Cage:** open run. Tue-Thur. & Sun.: 8 p.m.; Fri. & Sat.: 8 & 10:30 p.m. \$17.50 w/two drink min. Tickets: 391-9999 or BASS/Ticketmaster. On Broadway, 435 Broadway. Light dinners and full bar available.
- El Rio:** Terisitas & Las Chikas, Salsa DJ Carlos Grant, 10 p.m.-2 a.m. 3158 Mission. 282-3325.
- Fraternity:** progressive modern music. 9 p.m.-2 a.m. at Scooters, 22 4th St. 777-0880.
- Healin' Dirt Diner:** a new lesbian play with music. Thru July 23. 8:30 p.m. \$9. Theatre Rhinoceros, 2926 16th St. Charge: 861-5079.
- The Zoo Story:** Edward Albee's terrifying portrait of a young man alienated from the human race. Vector Theatre Company at Subterranean Cabaret/Theatre, 1834 Euclid Ave, Berkeley. 8 p.m. Fri & Sat thru July 9. \$8, call 540-7743.
- Marionette & Madness:** George Buchanan returns to SF in a comedy puppet revue for adults. Fri & Sat (except first Sat of the month), 10 p.m. & 12 a.m. Kimo's, 1351 Polk. \$5 at the door. 885-4535.
- Practical Support Training for East Bay Volunteers:** July 7, 8, 9. Evenings at Fairmont Hospital. Call The Center for info: 655-3435.
- Women In Black:** all women concerned about increasing tension in the Middle East are invited to join SF Women In Black in a silent vigil this and every Friday, 12:30-1:30 p.m., in Civic Center Plaza opposite the Polk St. entrance to SF City Hall. Palestinian, Jewish & American women who oppose Israel's occupation of the West Bank & Gaza Strip. East Bay contingent, every Friday, 1-2 p.m., corner of Telegraph & Haste, Berkeley.
- Electric City:** South Bay, KCAT, every Friday 7:30 p.m.
- Fetish Night:** 735 Tehama, 9 p.m.-6 a.m. Exhibit the fetish of your choice. Males 18+. Info: 621-1887.

SATURDAY 8

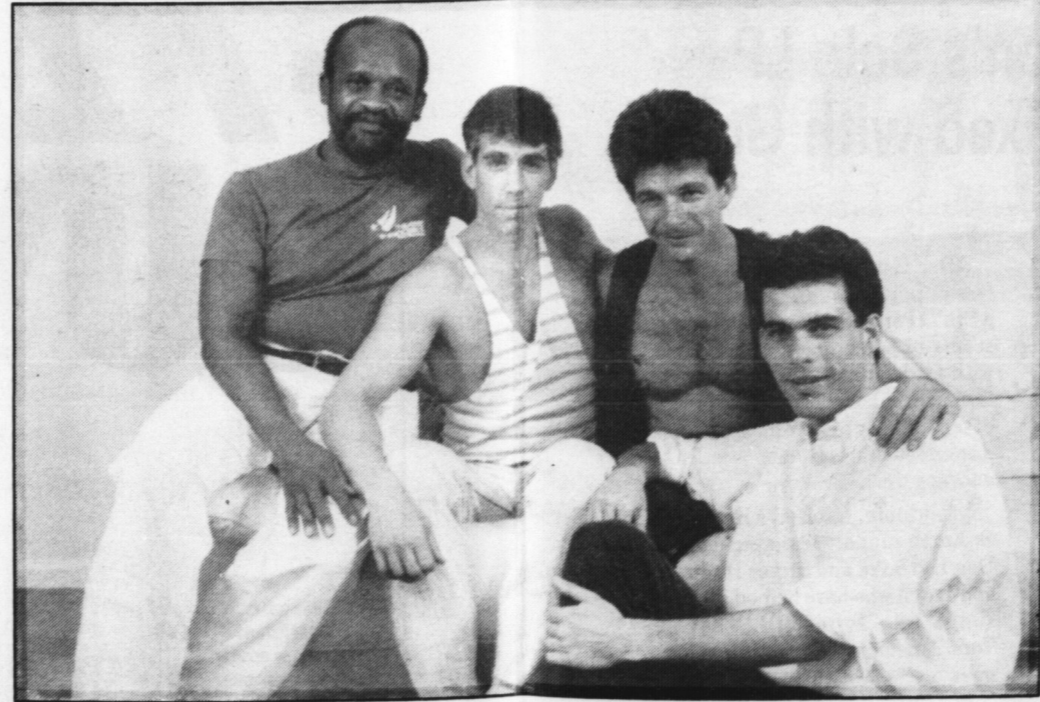
- CREW:** gay house music club. Every Saturday, doors at 9:30 p.m.-afterhours, 21+ \$8. 520 4th St./Bryant. Call: 978-CREW.
- El Rio:** Clara Bellino with Flying Circus, Delinquent Johns. 10 p.m.-1 a.m. \$5. 3158 Mission. 282-3325.
- Mystique:** dance to the rapture of over 400 women at Scooters, 22 4th St. 227-0135.
- Community Organizer's Workshop:** July 8 & 15, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. 2-day workshop to sharpen skills you need to be a more effective advocate for social change. Facilitator Constance Scott, Nat'l Radical Women. \$5/session, \$10/entire class. Lunch: \$3.50. Valencia Hall, 523-A Valencia, SF. 864-1278, 626-6182. Freedom Socialist Party, sponsor.
- A Different Light:** Steve Kluger, *Changing Pitches*, reading & booksigning. 1 p.m. 489 Castro.
- Art Lover's Outing-CSAP Art Hike:** Downtown art galleries. Gather at 1 p.m., Hatley Martin Gallery, 41 Powell/Market (above Burger King), rain or shine. Approx. 3 hrs w/topover for snack. Call Phil to confirm/reserve: 753-2331.
- SF Mime Troupe:** "Seeing Double." 2 p.m. Mission Dolores Park, 18th St. & Dolores, SF. FREE. 285-1720.
- Men Seeking Relationships:** mixer/workshop, MCC Bldg, 150 Eureka, SF. 7:30-10 p.m. \$5. Social hour follows small group discussions. Partners Institute sponsor: 343-8541.
- Untitled Male Nudes:** B&W photographs by Steven Baratz. July 1-31. Jaguar, 4057 18th St. Baratz, 863-3353, or Jaguar, 863-4777.
- Berkeley Women's Free Clinic:** Saturday mornings call exactly 8:30 a.m. for a 9:15 a.m. same morning appointment. Gynecological exams, PAP smears, STD & Bladder infection, testing & treatment, pregnancy tests. Women's health care by and for women. 2339 Durant Ave., Dana.
- Phallic Fellowship:** 735 Tehama, 8 p.m.-6 a.m. \$7 contribution. Info: 621-1887.
- Gay Artists & Writer's Kollektive:** Musicians jam for GAWK. 8:30 p.m. Call Jon Sugar for info: 731-2424.
- All-Chopin Program:** by Seth Montfort, pianist. Dancer's Stage, 60 Brady, SoMa between Gough & so. Van Ness. 5 p.m. \$5.
- El Rio:** Grupo Siniqual, Salsasational! 4-8 p.m. 3158 Mission. 282-3325.
- Gay Asian Pacific Alliance:** steering committee mtg, 5 p.m.; general mtg, 6 p.m. MCC Bldg, 150 Eureka.
- A Different Light Bookstore:** Gay Writers Series-Bo Huston & Isaac Jackson. 7 p.m. 489 Castro.
- Men's Brunch for Older Gay Men (60+):** FREE. St. Francis of Assisi, 145 Guerrero. 12 noon-3 p.m. Please bring food to share. GLOE, sponsor: 626-7000.

SUNDAY 9

- How to Strengthen Yourself Against AIDS & Cancer:** FREE introductory lecture & practice session. 10:30 a.m.-12 noon. Chinese healing practitioner Chung-Siu Wong. Cameron House, 920 Sacramento, SF.
- Electric City:** Sundays, SF cable 35, 10 p.m. 1989 Gay/Lesbian Parade, Peter Barclay, Asian-Pacific lesbians.
- Community Spirit Healing Circle:** doors at 7 p.m.; Circle at 7:30 p.m. sharp. Zen Cntr Guest House, 273 Page/Octavia.
- Men's Clinic:** free/confidential VD testing and treatment for gonorrhea, syphilis, NGU, scabies, lice, venereal warts, etc. AIDSARC counselling and referrals. Gay Men's Health Collective, 2339 Durant Ave, 6-8 p.m. Call 644-0425.
- Dignity:** Liturgy for gay/lesbian Catholics and friends at 5:30 p.m. at Dolores St. Community Cntr, 15th and Dolores. Call 255-9244.
- Integrity:** Eucharist 5:30 p.m. St. John's Episcopal Church, 1661 15th St./Valencia. 553-5270.
- Golden Gate MCC:** 10:30 and 7 p.m. at 48 Belcher St., San Francisco. Call 474-4848.
- SF MCC:** services, 150 Eureka St., S.F., 9 and 11 a.m. (with childcare and signing for the hearing-impaired) and 7 p.m. Call 863-4434.
- New Life MCC:** Worship service, 1823 9th St., Berkeley, 5 p.m. Call 843-9355.
- MCC Santa Rosa:** Worship service, 515 Orchard St., 11 a.m. Call (707) 526-HOPE.

MONDAY 10

- AIDS Update:** lecture by Lowell Young, MD, Chief of the Division of Infectious Diseases, PPMC, 12-1 p.m. FREE. Pacific Presbyterian Med Cntr, Conference Cntr, Clay/Buchanan sts, SF. 923-3155.
- Self Healing AIDS Related Experiment:** An informal discussion on self healing given by people in remission: Niro Assistant, George Melton, Wei Garcia, MCC, 150 Eureka. 7:30-9:30 p.m. Free. donations accepted. 284-7459.
- Gay Asian Pacific Alliance:** HIV/AIDS committee mtg, 6:30 p.m. Call Steve for locale: 282-7546.
- SF Jacks:** Bastille Day Party. Arrive 7:30-8:30 p.m. \$6. 890 Folsom near 5th. Buzz for entry.
- Support Group for Older Gay Men (60+):** Operation Concern, 1853 Market. FREE. 7-9 p.m. Gay & Lesbian Outreach to Elders (GLOE): 626-7000.
- Springboard Diving Class & Training:** beginner thru advanced. Info/reg: Bob Murphy, 552-0820, or Leslie King, 666-6820. Mon & Wed, 7 p.m.; Tues & Thu, 3:30 p.m.
- Community Action Network News:** every Monday, 7:30 p.m. Mountain View Cable 30.
- Gay Basketball:** looking for new people, 7:15 p.m. every Monday at 1525 Waller St. (Haight). 621-2710.
- Co-Dependent No More Support Group:** facilitated by Bob Pettymann. 7-8:30 p.m. Kairos House, 114 Douglass St.
- Hayward & Tri-City HIV+ Support Group:** for PWAS/PWARCS and their loved ones. Every Monday, 10-11:30 a.m. or 7-8:30 p.m.; Thursdays, 2:30-4 p.m. Call: 887-0566.
- HIV+ Spiritual Support Group:** weekly, SF MCC, 150 Eureka. Call: 863-4434.



Last chance to see *Soul Survivor*, by Anthony Bruno, directed by Kenneth R. Dixon. Extended through July 15. Thursday-Sundays, 8 p.m. \$10-13 (\$1 off with canned food donation to SF AIDS Foundation Food Bank). Theatre Rhinoceros, 2926 16th St. Tickets: 861-5079.

WEDNESDAY 12

- Mercury:** progressive/urban house dancing for boys and girls 18+. \$5. 9 p.m.-2 a.m. 520 4th St./Bryant.
- El Rio:** comics Marga Gomez, Kevin Kataoka, Scott Capurro. 9-11 p.m. 3158 Mission. 282-3325.
- Lesbians of Color Read Erotica:** Stephanie Henderson, Darlene H. Hall, Julie Mau, Karla Rosales, former members of USF's A.S. Women's Studies Cntr. Benefit for California Prostitute Education Project. 7:30 p.m. Modern Times Bookstore, 968 Valencia. 282-9246.
- Federal Gays & Lesbians (FLAG):** meets at Mart Bar & Grill, 22 9th St. SF. 6 p.m. Speaker: Peter Hayn, SF sex info. No-host cocktails, free snacks. Everyone welcome, especially public employees. \$2. 695-9174.
- An Evening for AIDS Caregivers:** Quan Yin Healing Arts Cntr, 1748 Market. 7:30-9:30 p.m. No admission, donations accepted. 284-7459 or 861-0877. Foundation for SHARE and the Kairos House sponsor.
- Gay Asian Pacific Alliance:** social committee mtg, 6:30 p.m. Call Dino for locale: 474-0222.
- Attitudinal Healing Training:** Kairos House, 114 Douglass. Wed, 10 weeks: July 5-Aug 23, 4-5:30 p.m. For nurses & other health care providers. Bob Coe, MSW, facilitator. Limit 10. Donations accepted. Register: 861-0877.
- Professional Caregivers Group:** Kairos House, 114 Douglass. Wed, 10 weeks: July 12-Aug 30, 7:30-9 p.m. Support & sharing for nurses, counselors, professional AIDS caregivers. Facilitator Michael Schmidt, DC. Limit 10. Donations accepted. To register call 861-0877.
- Hysteries of Photography:** 4 artists subvert previously held notions about fine art photography & its histories. Thru Aug 19. Reception July 14, 6-8 p.m. SF Camerawork, 70 12th St. 621-1001.
- Gay & Lesbian Older Writers (50+):** meets every Wed., 6-8 p.m. Operation Concern, 1853 Market. Sponsored by GLOE: 626-7000.
- Humping Night on Clementina:** get over the hump of the week, 746 Clementina Apt. 2, 9 p.m.-midnight. Male 18+. 621-1887.
- Endup:** \$1 night. 401 6th St. 495 6th St.
- Our Recovery:** 6-8 p.m. A substance abuse support group for gay men with at least 1 year in a recovery program. Call 550-8561, 9 a.m.-5 p.m., M-F, lv. msg.
- Electric City:** Wednesdays, SF cable 35, 8 p.m.
- KPFA 94.1 FM, Fruit Punch:** 10-11 p.m. Gay men's radio features news, interviews, music, and reviews.
- F.L.A.M.E.:** healing, bonding, fellowship. 7:30 p.m. 347 Dolores, Rm. 201. Rev. Shay St. John: 566-4122.
- Operation Recovery Alumni, Inc.:** Group of gay men with at least one year commitment to recovery from alcohol and drug abuse. 6-8 p.m. every Wednesday. Call 550-8561 between 8 a.m.-5 p.m. for locale and info.
- Meditation Techniques:** Steve Allen, a Buddhist monk, explores meditation techniques with Caregivers, 7:30-8:30 p.m. Kairos House, 114 Douglass. Call: 861-0877.
- Attitudinal Healing:** Peter Weygant and Marina Sargentini lead a group for Caregivers dealing with stress, 7:30-9 p.m. Kairos House, 114 Douglass. 861-0877.
- A Self-Defense Class:** Learn practical skills in a Castro /Valencia Community College class. Free. Call Chris: 861-3523.

THURSDAY 13

- Colors (aka Scooters):** 22 4th St/Market. 9 p.m.-2 a.m. Black & Salsa mix. Every Thursday night.
- El Rio:** features Homewreckers, An R & B Affair. 9:30 p.m.-1 a.m. No Cover. 3158 Mission. 282-3325.
- N Touch Bar:** Feathers & Flesh Show, 10 p.m. 1548 Polk. Dancing, strippers, variety entertainment.
- East Coast Swing Workshop:** July 13, 20, 27. 8-9 p.m. 50 Oak/Van Ness, 4th floor. \$10/class. Call 995-4962.
- Rainbow's End Lesbian/Gay Youth Project:** 7 p.m. 1000 Sir Francis Drake, San Anselmo (Ministry of Light offices). 457-1115.
- Outlook:** gay video magazine plays every Thursday, 8:30 p.m. on Mountain View cable 30.
- Bondage Buddies:** Program meeting on rope bondage. 7:30-10 p.m. \$5 members, \$10 guests. Bondage Buddies is a social/informational group for gay men who are into bondage or want to learn more about it. Call 621-6294.
- Older Gay Men's Friendship Group (60+):** meets at 2:45 p.m. in the Friendship Rm, 711 Eddy, SF. FREE. Live-in discussions, outings, etc. GLOE, sponsor: 626-7000.
- Coming-Out Group for Women:** June 8-August 31. Thursdays, 7:30-9 p.m. Operation Concern, 1853 Market. Info, intake appointments: 626-7000.
- Youth Rap & Therapy Group:** for gay/lesbian/bis under 22. 4-5:30 p.m. Center for Special Problems, 1700 Jackson. Info: Rik or Holly, 558-4801.

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SF-Chicago Gay Chorus Team-up Was Superior

by Dennis McMillan

Chicago's Windy City Gay Chorus blew into town to join the San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus, and together they created quite a cyclone of sound, known as "A Song of Two Cities." They nearly packed the house at the First Congregational Church Saturday night.

The octet Menage opened for the choruses in their most polished set yet. Their "Hit Me With a Hot Note" Duke Ellington number was sizzling, steamy, sweet 'n sassy. Followed by "Summertime Blues," all that was missing was the mint juleps, conjuring up a hot and lazy evening down South. They finished with a dazzling medley of swing to bring on Windy City in a flurry.

And the chorus arrived with bells on! Literally. The opening number, "Welcome! Sing, Be Merry," was complete with bell-ringers to accompany their singing, clear as a proverbial bell.

Their choice of folk song medleys, while not that exhilarating, was executed well. Particularly the even, sustained hold on several of the firmata notes from "He's Gone Away." Kudos to conductor Richard Garrin.

You may ask, what can you do with "What Shall We Do With a Drunken Sailor?" that has not already been done? Yet somehow the Windy City folk managed to syncopate it, change beats, give it staccato accents, and turn up the volume. Not bad for a tired old sea shanty.

Unfortunately, they chose to follow with yet another shanty sound—enough already—this time commissioned by Brown University Professor Ron Nelson. They were saved by the bell, however, in "Ring Out, Wild Bells," also commissioned by Brown. A lively song with xylophone accompaniment and the brilliant pealing of voices.

The mood shifted to mellow a capella in a fine rendition of the Manhattan Transfer hit, "A Nightingale Sang in Berkeley Square." As the lyric went, "there is a magic in the air," it described the effect the chorus made on its audience, in a trance by their lyrical spell.

Their closing piece, "Brothers and Sisters," had been slightly gay-fied from the original lines of "brothers and sisters, and sisters and brothers..." to "brothers and brothers, and sisters and sisters... working together to make things right." It was an Up With People kind of song without getting corny about it. The chorus not only sang with pizzazz but snapped fingers and clapped hands, and in turn received a tumultuous standing hand-clapping from the audience.

A new jazz quartet from the ranks of the San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus opened Act II, but was marred by the lack of miking (or at least the piano lid should have been closed). They did nonetheless a fine version of Cole

Porter's "Begin the Beguine," complete with fluorescent-colored fabric wrapped around hips or heads to create a Spanish antic effect.

The San Francisco chorus began with "Der Glaube Leb't" from Parsifal, a nice choral show-off piece that picked up with conductor Gregg Tallman's resounding organ playing.

Most unusual and really refreshing was "We Be Friends," a work loaned to them by special permission of its composer, the veteran Peggy Lee. This percussive, African calypso-beat piece included animal and bird sounds reminiscent of Martin Denny's '60s single "Quiet Village."

"You Are My Star," as usual, was nothing less than star quality. As was, "A Jubilant Gloria," also by chorus member Robert Seeley. The latter is a unique version of the Catholic kyrie, a sort of skating rink polka/carousel waltz sound mixed with occasional dirges and benedictions. Bizarre, but it works.

A lesson to be learned: unless you are Romanovsky or Phillips, do not try to solo along with the chorus on an R&B blockbuster such as "Living with AIDS," except when your voice can really project, which was not the case with David Held or Kenneth Koppes. It took the full power of the group to "release the power we hold in our hearts," as the lyrics go. And the audience just naturally released a standing ovation.

Take two outstanding gay male choruses and mix them up on stage. What do you get? A "Celebration" (by Tom Jones and Harvey Schmidt) of excellence. The two groups melded as one,

BRAVA! for Women in Arts Announces Summer Workshops

by Noreen C. Barnes

BRAVA! For Women in the Arts, a multicultural arts organization for Bay Area Women, will be sponsoring two "summer intensives for women in theatre" in August.

The Director's Intensive will be taught by Julie Hebert, an award-winning director of new plays, playwright and founder of the recently formed National Women's Theatre.

The class is geared for directors with experience, and students will direct scenes developed in the writing workshop, taught by playwright Michele Linfante.

This course is for beginning and intermediate playwrights and theatre writers.

seeming as if they had rehearsed together all their lives.

Then each chorus got to do its particular signature piece—"Walk Hang in Hand" by J. Cowell for Chicago and "San Francisco" for San Francisco—with each other. Both numbers were pull-out-the-stops perfect-

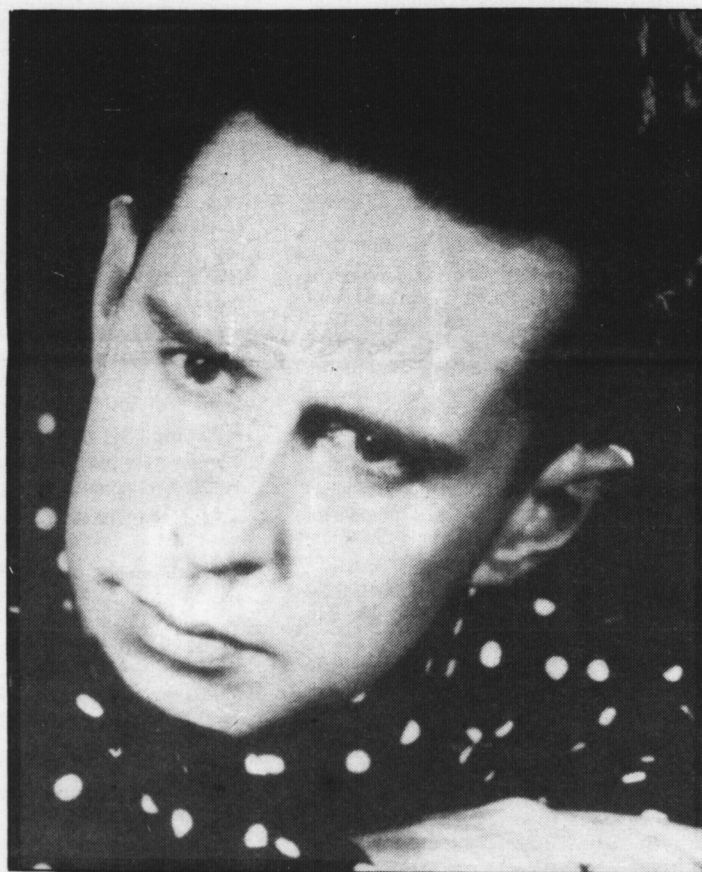
Exercises in writing, reading/critiques, movement and theatre games will be used in looking at plays and theatre pieces for "symbolic and visual structure" as well as storyline.

The cost of the workshops is \$225. Some partial scholarships will be available. For information and registration, call 861-4515. Writers should send samples of their work to BRAVA! 2918 23rd St., San Francisco, CA 94110.

BRAVA! will be continuing its popular *Taking Shape* series of new performance works by women, and is also the producer, with Nathalie de la Roziere, of *Headin' Dirty Diner*, running at the Studio Theatre at Theatre Rhinoceros, through July 23. ▼

so much so that the audience stood and almost stomped the balcony down.

Mayor Art Agnos' proclamation at the end was a fitting reward for such a fine evening of tight, bright music from two truly superior choirs. ▼



Holly Johnson, connecting ecstasy with faith.

'Blast'

Holly Johnson's Solo LP—More Sex Mixed with God

by Steve Dambach

We are floating as angels above the pleasuredome for "Blast," Frankie Goes to Hollywood leader Holly Johnson's first solo release.

"Blast" makes hopeful noise out of the most powerful stuff of popular music in 1989—pop psalms.

If you are looking for the latest religious experience of the dance floor, or if you think prayer is appropriate now, let "Blast" teach you how "we're playing gods and angels."

A connection between God and sex generated love was made by Madonna ("Like a Prayer") and even Donny Osmond has been caught on sex prayer music, right on time.

After last year's need to confess in pop sound because "It's a Sin" (Pet Shop Boys) everyone seems to be connecting ecstasy with faith. Johnson is no exception. He makes this music's light often as appealing as the darkness of "Relax" is in another time.

In addition, Johnson's Heaven on Earth support team includes Dan Hartman and Steves Hague and Lovell who have helped make songs like Johnson's "Love Train" memorable to anyone who goes out.

Sounding like Ultravox some of the time and also like Gino Vanelli, 27-year-old Holly Johnson's "Blast" voices sweet-morning dreams. Let's dance. ▼

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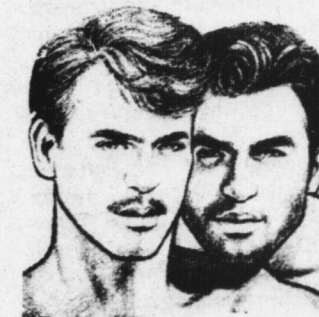
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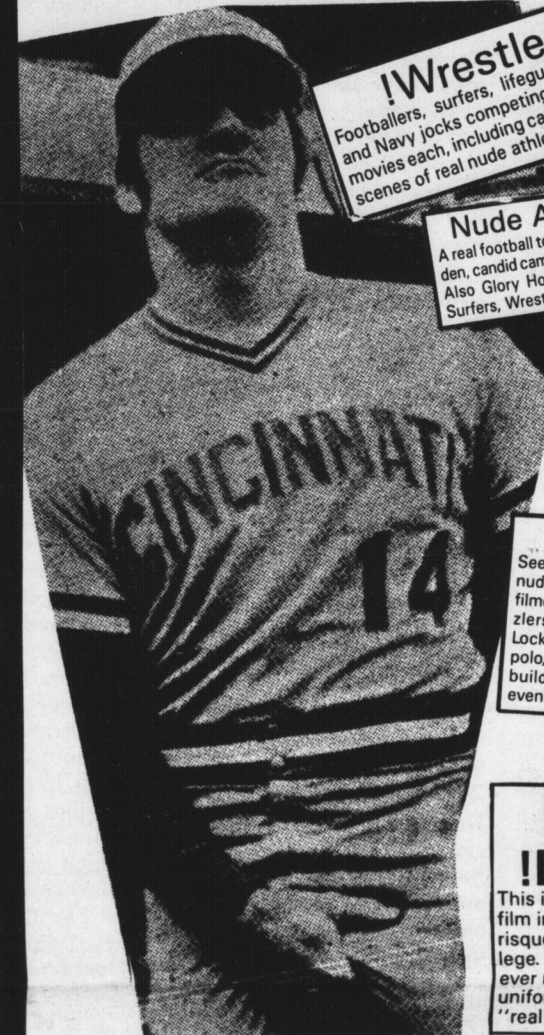
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Film Festival Sets Record

The San Francisco International Lesbian and Gay Film Festival, held June 16-25 at the 1,500-seat Castro Theatre and the 282-seat Roxie Cinema, closed out its 13th year with a record \$100,732 in box office receipts. The festival was attended by 19,013 people.

Sold-out shows at the Castro were *All Girl Action: The History of Lesbian Erotica*, a lecture and film-clip presentation by Susie Bright, editor of the lesbian magazine *On Our Backs* and film reviewer for *Penthouse Forum*, and *Wonderland*, the new Vestron Pictures release directed by Philip Savile.

Sold-out at the Roxie were *Men In Love*, a video directed by Marc Heustis about a young man's encounters with a spiritual community in Maui, and a double bill of *The Two of Us*, a 60-minute British video about two teens and their quest for sexual identity, playing with *The Truth About Alex*, a "coming out" story starring Peter Spence as a gay high school football player and Scott Baio as his straight, best friend.

Near sellouts at the Castro included: *Fun Down There*, the first feature by Roger Stigliano, about a boy from the country who visits New York City; *Johanna D'Arc of Mongolia*, West German filmmaker Ulrike Ottinger's ethnographic farce shot on location in Inner Mongolia; *Salut Victor!*, the festival's opening night film, directed by Canadian Anne Claire Poirer, about two elderly gay men who meet in a nursing home; and *Taxi to Cairo*,

West German filmmaker Frank Ripplloh's tale about a gay man whose rich mother insists he marry a woman or be cut out of her will. Ripplloh's new film is the sequel to his 1981 sex comedy *Taxi Zum Klo*.

Nearly sold-out at the Roxie were each of the three segments of *Out on Four*, videos about lesbian and gay topics produced by London's Channel 4, *The Heart Exposed*, a Canadian television production about the unlikely relationship between an actor and a university professor, and *No More Nice Girls*, a video program of lesbian shorts headlined by Joan Braderman's *No More Nice Girls*.

Among the highlights of the festival was the presentation of the Frameline Award to Cinevista/Promovision, in recognition of that distributor's support of gay filmmaking. Accepting the award were the company's founders, Rene Fuentes and John Tilley.

The award presentation was followed by a showing of clips from several Cinevista releases, including Pedro Almodovar's *Law of Desire*, Nestor Almendros' *Improper Conduct*, and the screening of *Taxi Zum Klo* in its entirety.

Another festival highlight was the screening of the rarely seen *A Florida Enchantment*, Sidney Drew's 1914 Vitagraph Studios sex-role comedy starring Edith Storey as a New York heiress who eats a seed that turns women into men and vice versa. Organist Bob Vaughan provided live accom-

paniment. The film was shown with the 1914 Vitagraph short *Lillian's Dilemma* and the 1912 *Algie, the Miner*, directed by Alice Guy Blache and starring Billy Quirk.

Audience favorites as determined by ballots available in the theatre lobbies after each film/video showing were as follows: Favorite Feature: *The Heart Exposed*, directed by Jean-Yves Lafore from a script by Michael Tremblay; Favorite Short Film: *Ray's Male Heterosexual Dance Hall*, Bryan Gordon's Academy Award-winning spoof of a businessmen's hangout; Favorite Documentary: *Out in Suburbia*, Pam Walton's documentary on suburban lesbians; and Favorite Video, the *Out on Four* series.

Film/video-makers, producers and film historians on hand included Gregg Araki, director of *The Long Weekend*; Claire Beavan, *Out on Four* series producer; Marusia Bocurkiw, director of *Nightvisions*; Wendy Braitman and Michael Ehrenzweig, producers for *The Right to Fight: Everyday Life with AIDS*; John Canalli, director of *One in Seven: True Confessions of a Gay Flesh-pounder*; Abigail Child, director of *Both*; David Stuart, director of *Family Values*; Cecilia Dougherty, director of *Kathy*; Christoph Eichorn, cast member of *Johanna D'Arc of Mongolia*; Edward O. Phillips, author of *Matthew and Chauncey*, the short story on which *Salut Victor!* was based; film historian Vito Russo, author of *The Celluloid Closet*; Scott Shat, director of *Oh Man: For Dad*; Jerry Tartaglia, director of



Wonderland was a sell-out at the Castro Theatre.

A.I.D.S.C.R.E.A.M.; John Tilley of Cinevista/Promovision; Michael Wallin, director of *Decodings*; Pam Walton, director of *Out in Suburbia*; and David Weissman, director of *Song from an Angel and Mothers*.

The San Francisco International Lesbian and Gay Film

Festival is produced by Frameline, a non-profit organization that also distributes lesbian and gay films and videos, produces the weekly television show *Frameline Presents* and provides archival materials and assistance to researchers studying homosexuality on film. For more information, phone 861-5245.

Motorcycle

(Continued from page 29)

pected. Coordinating the throttle and the clutch were tricky, and I wanted to hit the brakes too hard. It took lots of concentration, and I still felt catastrophe was just at the next turn. If I was having fun, I sure was working awful hard at it.

Now that we were moving around the exercises kept getting tougher. For instance, the practice field was striped with sharp corners, which the instructors marked with very small traffic cones. We had to come up to the corner, downshift and brake to slow our speed, make the turn with all the proper body language, and then accelerate again. I killed quite a few traffic cones in that exercise, but I began getting the hang of it.

Earls and Neuhaus were active participants in all the exercises. After they explained and demonstrated each one, they then stood by at critical points and shouted feedback as we rode by. They shouted "you're doing great!" just as often as they shouted "look through the turn!"

The weather got wetter with a heavy mist falling on my visor from the fog over the Golden Gate. We had one short break and began more exercises, all of them coming at a rapid pace. It was hard work, but I started feeling more confident and began to really have fun on the bike. I noticed my speed increasing, and I started fantasizing about taking the bike out of the confines of the practice field and on down the long Crissy Field runway.

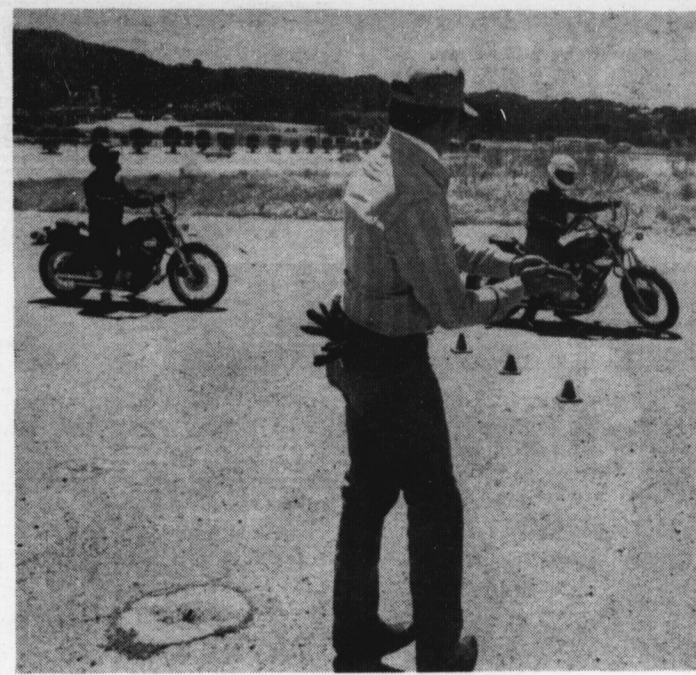
Occasionally, other students would fall or drop their motorcycles. We'd all stop our bikes as instructed. No one got hurt, but I noticed the middle-aged student seemed to be having a rough day. I knew I was getting pretty tired myself, but the fun and excitement of riding was keeping me going. When we finally quit for the day, I didn't want to stop. I was tired and a little sore, but I left with this wonderful sense of accomplishment. Richard was already making noises about going shopping for a bike.

At the end of that evening we took a written test, part of the requirement for passing the course. It was one of those multiple-choice quizzes where too many times all three answers seemed right for the question. I surprised myself when I came up with 98 percent right.

I was just as eager to get back to Crissy Field the following Saturday, and ready to spend more time on the bike. I had a feeling today's exercises would be more challenging, and I was nervous about the riding-skills test we'd all have to take at the end of the day. I noticed the one middle-aged student who had a rough time the previous Saturday hadn't come back to finish the class. Too bad. As Earls said, you don't learn how to ride a motorcycle in one day, or even one class. It's something that takes practice.

I understood what he meant right away. My first few minutes back on the bike felt awkward, like I hadn't remembered anything from the week before. We didn't even have any warm-up time, going directly to an exercise of weaving between cones. I kept trying, but a lot of those cones seemed to get in the way of my back wheel.

Each exercise made me anticipate the final test, wondering how well I'd perform, wondering



Watch those cones, boys!

(Photo: Darlene/PhotoGraphics)

if this exercise would be part of it. I was starting to get nervous again, not about riding now, but simply about whether I was doing well enough to pass.

I got a little shaky, too, when Richard went down with his bike. We were learning how to stop fast in a turn, and that's an ideal time for a bike to fall. He got up OK, but I saw him riding back over to the staging area. I thought he was quitting. He'd been struggling with some of the exercises, and now he'd fallen for the first time. I was glad to see he'd only gone back to switch to another bike and was soon riding around the course again. Still, seeing him go down shook me up a bit.

During my test I wiped out a few traffic cones and put my foot

to the ground when I shouldn't have. I even performed so poorly on one test the instructor sent me back to try again.

My final score wasn't bragging material, but I passed, and so did everyone else who finished the class. From the grins on our faces, you'd think we were law students who'd just passed the bar exam.

Best of all was the feeling I'd been challenged, and that I reached to meet that challenge. It gave me a terrific sense of satisfaction and whet my appetite for more.

Now it's time for the passion to take over. Any day now I'm going to find a bike, and I'm going to fall in love.

Bay Area Bike Classes

by David Lester

In the late 1970s, when Dykes on Bikes were starting to lead the Gay Freedom Day parade and gay motorcycle clubs were in their heyday, two San Francisco gay men began to answer a need for motorcycle-rider training.

Tom Buckingham and Skip Navarrete heard the Motorcycle Safety Foundation was encouraging community-based rider-education programs. The two men decided it was time for such a program in San Francisco.

"At that point in the gay community there was this spirit that anything was possible in our community if we were willing to work for it," Navarrete said.

They saw other training programs being started around the country and felt the gay community would support a program here.

The MSF required that a non-profit community organization sponsor the local program. Buckingham and Navarrete got the support of the Inter-Club Fund, an umbrella organization for San Francisco's gay motorcycle clubs. Navarrete took MSF's instructor training in Southern California in 1978 and began teaching immediately.

From the very beginning, the program's roots in the gay community meant the motorcycle clubs supplied many of their students.

"The motorcycle clubs needed new members," Navarrete said, "and some of those members became motorcycleists after joining the motorcycle clubs."

Those new members were prime candidates for training.

Many of the city's motorcycle clubs have a history that predates Stonewall. Bikers have a tarnished image in the straight world, but Navarrete sees them as honored members of the gay community. He noted the prominent place the 500 members of the Women's Motorcycle Contingent held in this year's Gay Freedom Day parade.

"The motorcycleist ranks right up there in the pantheon of gay icons as a symbol of independence, romance and rebellion," Navarrete said.

"Most of the gay motorcycleists I know are good boys. They are among the most polite riders," he added.

BAIME's success continues today. The group offers several classes a month for novice and experienced riders. The San Francisco students tend to be older than their counterparts elsewhere in the nation. They also tend to include more women and more minorities.

BAIME uses classroom materials supplied by the Motorcycle Safety Foundation. BAIME is just one of 32 independently operated sites in California in a statewide program administered by the California Highway Patrol.

Navarrete points out that even with a \$15 contribution per student from the state, the program runs a hefty deficit, usually paid for out of the pockets of BAIME board members.

For more information about BAIME's motorcycle classes, send a self-addressed, stamped envelope to BAIME, P.O. Box 14195, San Francisco, CA 94114, or call 863-1611.

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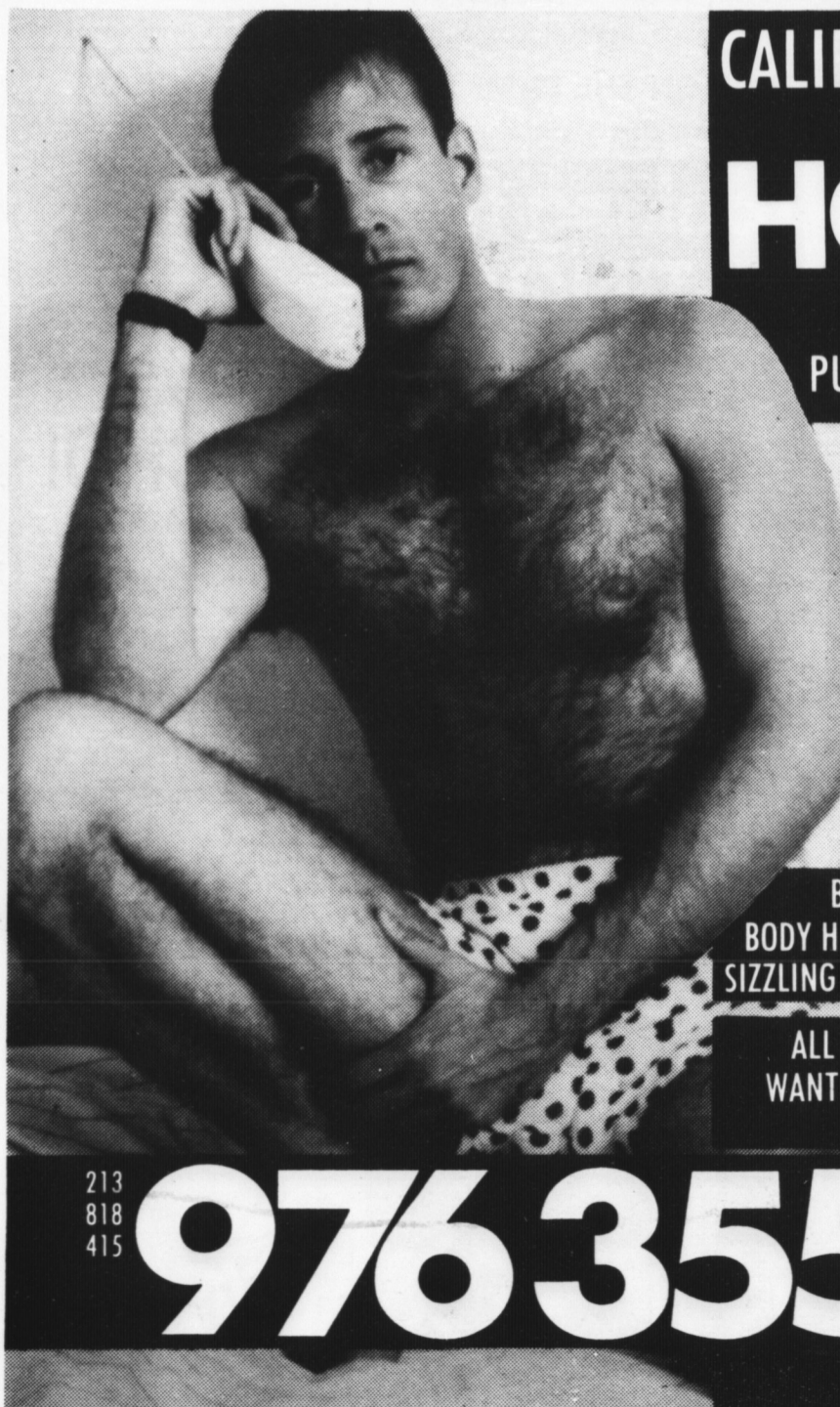
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Bette Rhino Awards Are Dished Out

by Noreen C. Barnes

Theatre Rhinoceros held its annual event, the Bette Rhino Awards, on Tuesday, June 27. Comedian Marga Gomez served as host for the evening's proceedings, treating the audience to commentary ranging from the stage itself (as she bumped into the "fourth wall") to advice for the nominees ("It's not whether you win or lose, it's whether your car is still out there when you leave").

The first presentations, of awards for "Behind the Scenes" work. The Board of Directors awarded John Kriedler of the San Francisco Foundation, the staff of Theatre Rhinoceros, and late board member Scott Johnson.

Administrative Awards went to Damien Walton for front of house and front of house director Timbywolf.

Stage managers Ankor Antonsen and Todd Martin won awards for technical assistance.

John Karr presented the Bette Pulitzer in journalism to Wendell Ricketts, and the graphic design awards to Buzz Bense for *The Balcony* and Rupert Kinnard for *It's Only a Play*. Karr gave special acknowledgment to the photographers whose work is often central to the graphic design for publicity materials.

Design Awards

The designers of *The Balcony* swept the awards in every category for the Studio productions

—Adam Liberman (sound), Gail Russell and Esther Fishman (costumes), Edward Gottesman (set) and Joell Chartier-Serban (lighting). For Main Stage productions, each design category had a pair of winners: sound, J.D. Wilson, *Passing*; John F. Karr *Soul Survivor*; costumes, Nina Capriolla, *It's Only a Play*; Kara Schwandt, *Queen of Swords*; lighting, Joseph Williams, *Passing*; Stephanie Johnson, *Queen of Swords*; set, John B. Wilson, *Passing*; Edward Gottesman, *Soul Survivor*.

The Bette Rhino Award for "outstanding contribution to gay theatre" were presented to director Leland Moss and playwright Robert Pitman, whose remarks of thanks were the evening's most moving.

Recipients of the special awards included Scrumby Koldewyn for his musical score for *The Balcony*; Claire Chaffee, Terry Garthwaite and Jeanine Strobel for their musical compositions for *Queen of Swords*; Anne Bluethenal for her choreography of *Queen of Swords*; Mark Oliver for videography for *The Balcony*; and Brian Thorstensen, "understudy of the year" in his second of Doris Fish in the role of Madame Irma in *The Balcony*.

In the remaining categories—actors, directors, playwrights and production—*The Balcony* again

(Continued on page 54)

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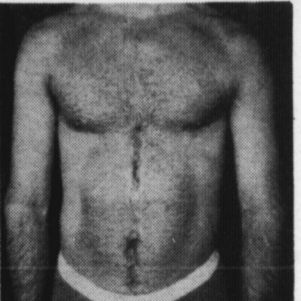
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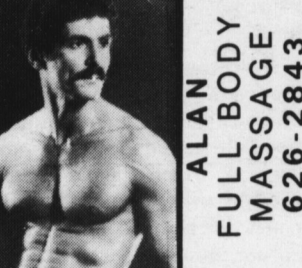
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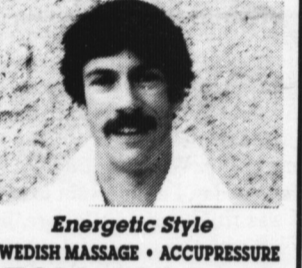
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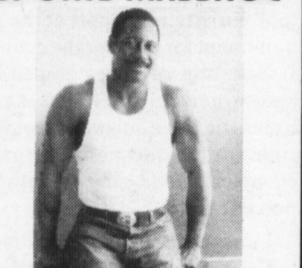
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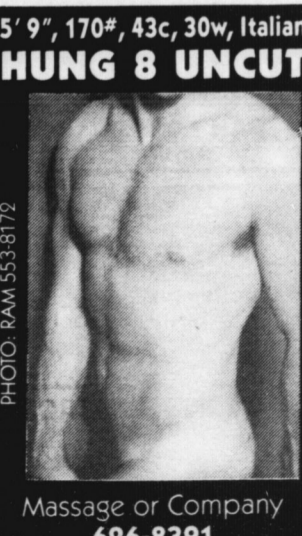


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Safe - No Fr/Gr/FF!
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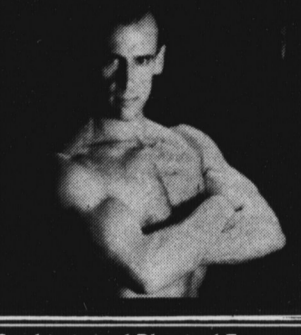
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\$50 in \$70 out
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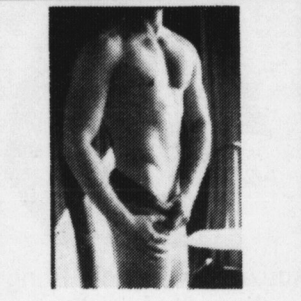
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25 y.o. Stud. Thick Legs, Smooth
Chest, Firm Butt. Out only.
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48" c, 31" w, 18" a. 626-3218

Steve, hairy, bearded, well hung
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Biggest 1 in 4 counties! The
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32, 5'10", 200lb, bear, Br/Br.
8" cut. Likes to lean back
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Hot, gdlkg, rockhard muscles
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Anytime. No BS.
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the boy next door
9" EXTRA THICK CUT!
FRENCH PASSIVE
Hot, boyish, cleanshaven,
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yrs., green eyes, brown hair.
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Angel — 5'9", 145lbs, 9 1/2". Puer-
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Squeeze you & hold you. Call 24
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★ \$30 — Hot athlete. Hung nice. ★
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See to believe. 25 y/o rugged
XXX-Handsomeness, XXX-Hung,
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hard muscular
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No BS. Serious stud
pleasure seeker.
I f-king dig attention.
\$120.
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Pager #739-7527

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Titwork — C&B — Titwork — \$60
Sexy, burly, dominant, & safe.
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Bear 5'11", 220, 38, Rafael. A
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255 lbs, 22" a, 55" c
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JASON
175 lbs., 5'8 1/2", 46" C, 29" W
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WORSHIP
the boy next door
9" EXTRA THICK CUT!
FRENCH PASSIVE
Hot, boyish, cleanshaven,
good looks, 6'1", 160 lbs., 26
yrs., green eyes, brown hair.
MIKE 664-2057
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SF's 1st total quality escort service
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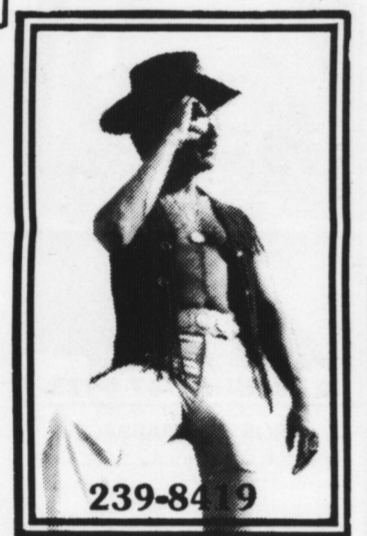
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Washboard / True 9x6
All on a Hot 'n Handsome
Man who's also Nice
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Solid, 205lb Stud has big thick
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Hung big and thick, built tough,
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Straight dude, fat 8 1/2 incher,
kicks back for hd., solid muscle,
real handsome, into good — hard-
times, cigars, videos, attention &
cpls. Nick. \$80. 861-7379.



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21, dark hair & eyes
stunning good looks
smooth, musc. body. 5'9", 150#
40c, 30w, avail for mass. &
J/O. \$100 in/out
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PLEASURE GUY
Day & Night. Ron 863-3270

Gdlkg Puerto Rican 5'4", 125lbs.
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Perfect top, very handsome, very
hot. 30 yrs. 6', 180 lbs. brown
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No drugs. Rod 864-4010.

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Brn/Grn & Smooth Tan Body. Safe
& Discreet Guy needs to be taught
a good lesson. 979-0648. 24hrs.
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Billy is undoubtedly one
TASTY BOY

HOT MUSCLE
Competitive BB — 235lbs.
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MASCULINE
Sensual, Safe, Sexy, Discrete
"Go Ahead...Dream!!"
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Bodybldr, 25 yrs. 5'9", 150#, 8"
cut, a real hunk! Boyd 550-6833

David, 5'8", 165lbs, 16a, 44c,
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Nude Bodybuilder 36, 5'5", 42" c,
16" a, Nice Body. Older men
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Cum Worship Me
I'm Hairy, Too!
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Big Butt Tall Hairy Blue-Eyed
Daddy. Chad 861-7014

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Hndsm, Muscular, Masculine.
27/ 5'9" / 160# / 42" c / 29" w
Jeff 252-0307. \$100 in/out

Dinner Date or Down & Dirty
Body Builder or Beerbelly
Daddy or Daddy's Son Call
and Leave Your Dream
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Sexy blond jock with washboard
abs & incredible pecs. 24 yrs,
5'9", 155#, 8" c, tanned, mascu-
line & very handsome. \$80 in/
\$100 out. Brandon 864-0788

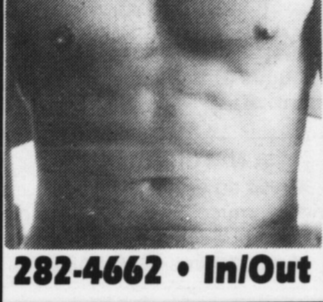
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Hot Butt
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Extra thick — Extra hung!!!
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23 yo Bi Stud. Super Smooth,
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23-yr-old, 6ft, 170lb, well-built,
masculine master will train.
648-7260, KEN

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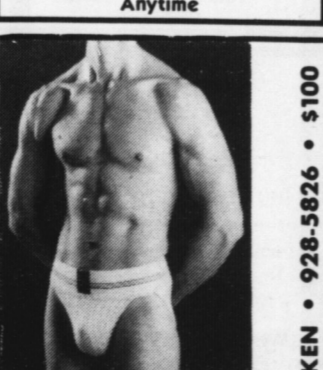
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Blond, Masc., Tan, Smooth, 5'7",
30 yrs; \$80/70; call Jason
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Horse-Hung Blond/Blue 6'2", All-
Man, All-Boy. 285-4319.

MUSCLE MAN
6ft. 28 yr Hunk wants servc. 24hr.
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MUSCULAR IRISHMAN LIKES TO LEAN BACK THICK CUT 8"
32, 5'10", 190#, Br/Br
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Anytime



KEN • 928-5826 • \$100

BAY AREA REPORTER SPORTS & FITNESS

BOWLING



Gay bowlers burn up the lanes at Park Bowl on Haight Street. (Photo: R. McPherson)

Tavern Guild Leagues/Park Bowl

S.F. Eagle Bowler Pushes 700

by Richard McPherson

Roy Thorson was the top scorer in Park Bowl's Tavern Guild Leagues during the two-week period between June 12 and June 22, missing a 700 by two pins with a 698 three-game score. Bowling for the S.F. Eagle in the Wednesday TGL on June 21, Thorson, a 196 average, shot games of 198, 254 and 246. This was a follow-up to his 221, 224, 204/649 effort of the previous week. Behind him was J.C. Halstead (191 average) with a 243, 228, 199/670 set on June 15 in the Thursday TGL. Halstead also shot a 215, 218/628 set earlier in the week. The following week J.C. shot 235/606 & 214/609 sets. Dave Lilly had an on-again, off-again night in the Wednesday TGL on the way to a 662 series. Beginning the evening with a magnificent 269 game, Lilly followed it up with a 147 and then came back with a 246. Dan Burley, a 162 average for the Castro Cheesery in the Monday TGL, shot an American Bowling Con-

Conlon (183) 236/619; Frank Saccocio (185) 225/618; Don Gambell (182) 36/614; Rick Alaimo (182) 254, 227/612; Rick Axelrod (182) 210, 210/610 and 219, 203/604. TGL bowlers shooting 215+ games the weeks of June 12-22: Robert Montaldo (164) 238; Tom Neidert (152) 235; Bob Bates (173) 233 and 232; Tom Marquart (171) 231; Rob Levi (172) 226; Ernie Wilson (175) 225, 222; Randy Peterson (176) 222; Richard Demarest (160) 221; Steve Moore (154) 220; Mark Platis (174) 218; Terry Landin (167) 216; Robert Montaldo (155) 216; Buddy Hunt (159) 215, 209; Joe Sanders (158) 215; Ljubo Sliskovic (171) 215. Honorable mention (160 average and under): Darrel Haven (155), 214; Roger Spencer (154), 213; Don McPherson (155), 209; Jerry Pepper (160), 203; Elizabeth Yesowitch (152), 202; Steve Moore (152), 201; Tim Hagerman (156), 201; Mark Woods (141), 201; Robert Montaldo (158), 200. Special congratulations to Bob Thomas in the Thursday TGL who shot 227, 151, 214/592. This is a 169-pins-over-average achievement for this 141-average bowler. On June 12 in the Monday Trios, Allan Winkle, a 148 average, had a 248 game, a mighty 98 pins over his average. Dan Becker, a 144 average in the Thursday TGL, had a 220 game and Alan Baumann, 152 average, had 210 and 203 games.

SHAPE UP NOW FOR SUMMER

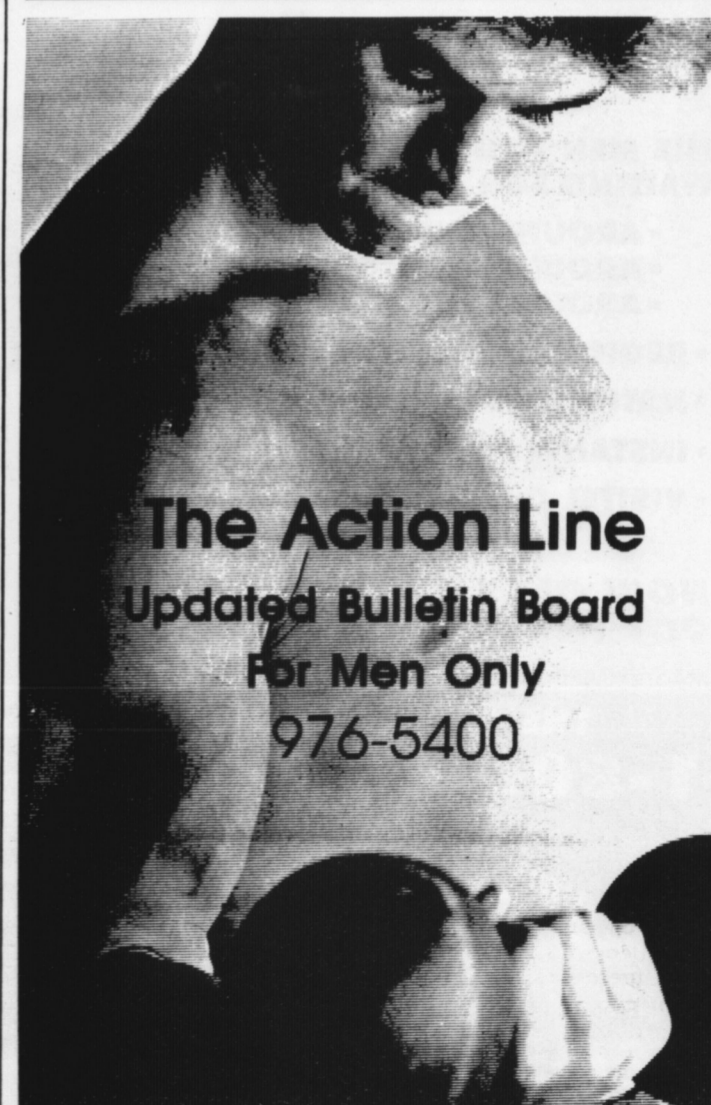
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The Action Line Updated Bulletin Board For Men Only
976-5400

TRACK & FIELD

SF Track Club Tunes Up For National Championship

by R. Thoman

The San Francisco Track and Field Club travels to Sacramento on Saturday for the Western Regional Championships, a final tune-up before the National Championships in San Deigo this month. San Francisco's relay team of Danny O'Connell, Earl Bryant, Frank Demby and Rick Thoman are aiming to break the team record in both the 4x100 and 4x400 relays at the national meet and will be using the western regional meet at American River College to fine tune their baton exchanges. "We had a dramatic improvement at the last meet in the 4x400," Demby said. "We feel the competition at regionals and nationals will be intense enough to help us reach our goals." In addition to the relays, Demby and Bryant will be competing in the 100 and 200 meters. Thoman will race in the 400 and O'Connell is hoping to increase his record mark in the triple jump. Also competing at western regionals will be Nancy Frost in the 400 and 800 meters. A trio of San Francisco Track and Field Club members participated at the Diablo Valley All-Corners Meet June 28 with mixed results. Doug Brooks ran the club's top time for this season in the 1,500 meters with a 4:20.7 clocking, which also gave him first-place honors. But he raced stronger and with better control in his second race, the 3,000 meters, where he finished third with a fine time of 9:23.0. Demby and Thoman struggled with the 100 and 200, finishing fourth and fifth in the 100m and second and third in the 200m. Thoman opened the evening with a season-best mark of 54.5 in the 400 meters. The San Francisco Track and Field Club continues to welcome anyone interested in participating in track and field to their weekly practice sessions. All ages and levels of ability can attend and find out more about training for the 1990 Gay Games in Vancouver. For information, contact Rick at 626-8784.

Players to Party in the Park

A plethora of pale pool players will picnic in Golden Gate Park's Linley Meadow next Sunday when the San Francisco Pool Association celebrates the achievers from its 22nd season.

The revelry also serves as a send-off for the league's representatives to West Coast Challenge XIX, hosted by the San Diego Pool Association, July 14-16.

The awards presentation is scheduled for 3 p.m. and will include the following recipients:

Captains' Tournament: 1. Antonio Rios, Overpassers; 2. Jack Dunbar, Scandalous Chaos; 3. Lauren Ward, Deluxe Ducks; 4. Torri Connelly, Maud's Make-shifts.

1989 Miller Lite 8-Ball Championship: 1. E.Z., Ducks; 2. Rick Mariani, Overpassers; 3. Lauren Ward, Ducks; 3. Hugh Fountain, Ducks.

Most Valuable Player Tournament: 1. Jim Russo, Overpassers; 2. Lauren Ward, Ducks; 3. Glenn Judd, Bear Thuggs; 4. Ted

Samora, Castro Station Cruisers.

WCC XIX Women's Qualifier: 1. Lauren Ward, Ducks; 2. Lisa Duncan, Ducks; 3. Ann Young, Transfer 2x4s; 4. Torri Connelly, Make-shifts.

Rising Star: 1. Toni Macante, White Swallow; 2. Bernard King, Underpass Toddlers; 3. Tom Williamson, L'Equipe Detour; 4. Jerry Nall, Watering Holes 'R Us.

Under .500 Tournament: 1. Gino Smith, Cinch Killer Beezz; 2. Billy West, Beezz; 3. Phil

Nordeng, C.S. Express; 4. Toni Ihler, White Swallow Sharks.

All-Star Tournament: 1. Bernard Bayaca, W.S. Sharks; 2. Lisan Duncan, Ducks; 3. E.Z., Ducks; 4. Ron Chevrette, Holes 'R Us.

Spring '89 Most-Improved Player: John Villon, Bear Handed.

Championship Teams:

1. Deluxe Ducks, Captain Lauren Ward, E.Z., Lisa Duncan, Hugh Fountain, Luby Pelletier.

2. Overpassers, Captain Butch McAllister, Antonio Rios, Brandon Bridges, Larry Fyvie, Jim Russo, Rick Mariani.

3. Cinch Killer Beezz, Captain Billy West, Gino Smith, Royal Senn, John Schou, Chuck Kranz, Ed Howard.

4. Scandalous Chaos, Captain Charles Dossett, Jerry Roth, Leo Emanon, Ching-A-Ling, Jack Dunbar, Barry White.

Quarter-Finalist Teams: Deluxe Mysticks, Maud's Make-shifts, SpecialTease, White Swallow Sharks.

Playoff Teams: White Swallow Wascals, L'Equipe Detour, Underpass Toddlers, Special Effects, Bear Thuggs, Badlands Buddies, Uncle Bert's Rowdy Nephews, Detour de Force.

The SFPA's board of directors wishes to thank all the players and sponsors for making this season so successful. Good luck to the WCC competitors! Dial **JOE-POOL** for SFPA information. ▼

Painful Account of Incest Offers Insight, Hope to Victims

Don't: A Woman's Word by Elly Danica, Cleis Press, 105 pp., \$8.95.

by Noreen C. Barnes

Don't tell. Don't think. Don't, whatever else you do, do, do, do. If you feel, the pain will be there again. Don't.

Incest survivor Elly Danica chronicles her painful journey from abuse to recovery in a terse, moving account that employs metaphor and multiple perspective.

We hear the voices of a woman—as her adult self and as the child robbed of a childhood; of her father who raped and beat her for years while maintaining the facade of being a respectable church-going citizen, smug in his assurance that “they’ll never believe you”; of her mother, fearful and complicit in his activity, which she never would acknowledge; of little sisters who didn’t understand; of a grandmother who tried, but could not help; of teachers and priests who did not believe (and who equated her father with God); of an insensitive husband who only wanted her to be a “good” wife; and of doctors who only prescribed pills for what they termed an inexplicable “depression.”

Using the imagery of Helen's (The Goddess of Inanna) mythical descent into the underworld, Danica takes the reader with her in a “descent into memory,” passing through hell's mythical seven gates, emerging reborn from the rage, to reclaim a lost self.

Danica begins by scratching the surface of recall, then dipping into it completely, immersing herself and the reader in the wrenching re-experience of the past. The child self is unable to understand—others think she is lying, but she knows that her “secret” with Daddy is wrong and painful. Hers is a litany of memories:

The hell of the four-year-old adult. Who doesn't remember. Who never forgets. Hate... When I was 11 he said he would teach me what it meant to be a woman. Again. He forgot the other times. Maybe I was a kid then. He doesn't have to remember. I can never forget.

She prays to the Christian icons and to the pagan moon for comfort, because she is the one

who has sinned, she is to blame, it is her fault. When religion is no longer a refuge, she reads fairy tales, and hopes “that someday somebody will save me.”

Her body “remembers.” The child is happiest when she is sick because that's when her father leaves her alone. She washes away memory with a bath. She feels old, too old to play like other children. She wants to be a boy, as the condition of being female is full of horror:

...This must be the way the world is for girls. I wish I could stop fighting. Maybe it wouldn't hurt so much if I stopped fighting. Maybe if I tried to do what he wanted he would be nice to me. Maybe if I do what he wants he'll stop hitting me.

She spends years of “being bad,” according to her little sisters, who state, “Daddy said you are bad, so you are bad.” Even as adults, they do not believe her. She is still thought to be a liar, a troublemaker, a man-hater, for no reason at all.

The book's most chilling memory is that of her father's basement studio/darkroom. He is a pornographer who photographs local women, her mother, and finally the 11-year-old child herself, who in one “session” is gang-raped by father and three men. She completely removes herself from her body in this recollection, recounting the incident as from a third-person view, talking about “the body” as an almost disinterested observer. It is also, she says, “the night of my death.”

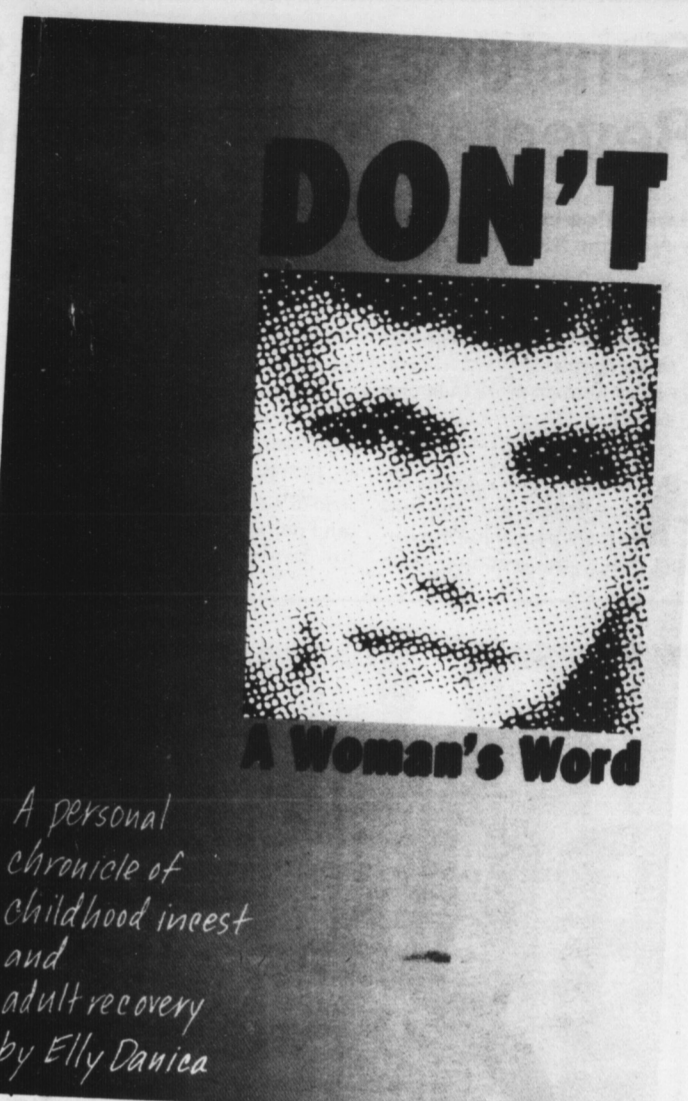
Years of silence and fear, hopelessness and self-hate, feeling that she was crazy and sick followed. At 15 she was declared “depressed for no reason” by a doctor who prescribed valium. She became a “shadow,” who found the escape of marriage to be only another trap. More pills, alcohol, a shrink, a pregnancy, but no cure for the pain:

I'm not a mommy. I'm a failure. I fail at everything. I am the only person who has ever managed such remarkable success at failure. I failed my childhood. I failed my marriage. I failed being a mother. I failed school. I even failed suicide. I

don't even have the courage to die.

She then begins her “journey to self” with a return to reading—of women writers. She continues her education, leaves her husband and son, and finds an old church—a “sanctuary”—in which to live. She realizes her dream of being alone, and heals through writing, guided by a “single moonbeam of understanding.”

The reading of this painful account is a profound, transforming experience. There are an enormous number of women whose own stories resemble this woman's trauma. While it angers and appalls one to read this work, it ultimately heartens and offers hope. It empowers those women who have survived similar circumstances, and provides a visceral education for those who have not been the victims of this execrable abuse. More women are finally breaking the silence—and their word is “Don't.” ▼



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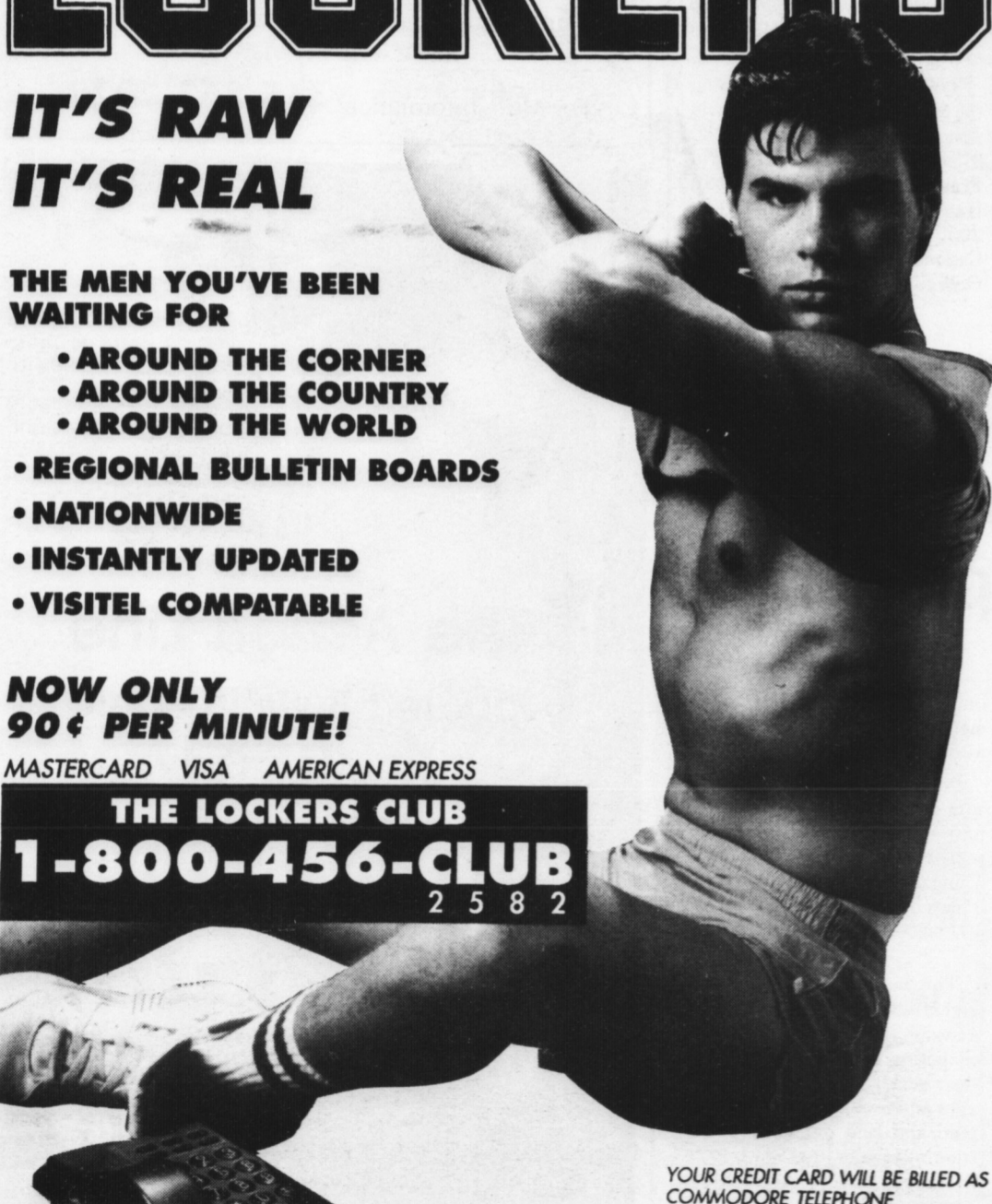
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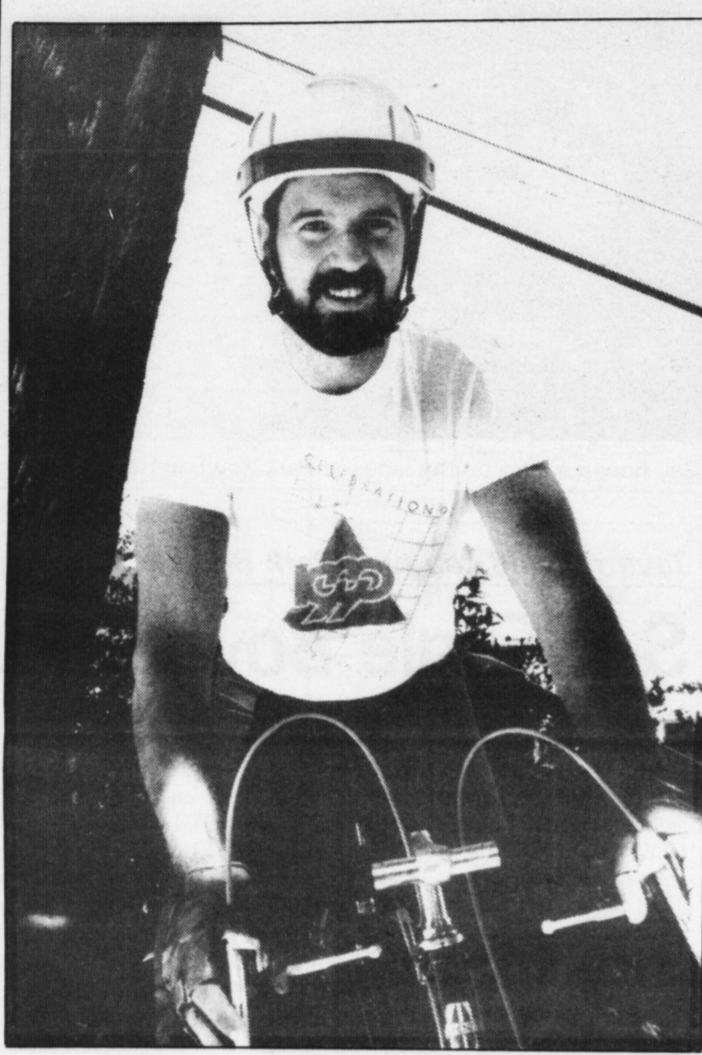
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Gear Wear
Cyclist Mike Lias wears one of the official Celebration '90 (Gay Games) T-shirts, available at High Gear in the Castro. Proceeds benefit Celebration '90. (Photo: R. McPherson)

Team San Francisco Reps To Meet On July 11

There will be a meeting of all sports reps on Tuesday, July 11, from 7:30 to 9 p.m. in the Embarcadero Room of Pacific Bell, 370 Third St., San Francisco.

The responsibilities of Team San Francisco sports reps, as well as all the information now available on the upcoming Gay Games, will be discussed.

If you belong to a sporting organization, and as yet have no sports representatives, please attend and we will give you information on how to become Team San Francisco members.

Any sports club may join Team San Francisco and have up to two designated representatives. These sports reps may vote on all issues up for membership voting.

For more information on the meeting, call Susan Kennedy, 563-0369. ▼

Rhino Awards

(Continued from page 48)

nearly swept the Studio awards. Acting honors were shared by Kate Bornstein and Doris Fish for *The Balcony* (whose combined presence at the awards was both the vertex and vortex of gender-play) and Nello Carlini for *It's Only a Play*.

The Balcony was voted outstanding production, director Leland Moss and Jean Genet (via Jean-Claude van Itallie's superb translation) won for direction and playwrighting.

For Main Stage productions, the two winners in each category were: female actor, Carole Landes, *It's Only a Play*; Jane McFagan, *Kudzu*; male actor, Gregg Hoffman and John Hogan, *Soul Survivor*; authors, Jane Chambers, *Kudzu*, Robert Pitman, *Passing*; directors, Donna Davis, *Kudzu*, Adele Prandini, *Queen of Swords*; productions, *Kudzu* and *Soul Survivor*. ▼

Outlook

(Continued from page 29)

Outlook has shown that it can be as good as mainstream TV. Now it has a chance to move into its own thing, which will help Bennett Marks not seem so Andy Rooney and which could give Wysocki and Birch the opportunity to interact on screen like they do in the opening credits. Maybe it could become more of a magazine and sell subscription copies, so it could be watched piecemeal, the way people read.

In any case *Outlook* has made a strong beginning in a difficult format and is already looking to

expand across the country. For now it is a bright effort we need to take seriously.

Outlook airs in San Francisco on the 4th Thursday of every month at 6:30 p.m. on Cable 6.

In the East Bay *Outlook* can be seen twice a month (repeated) on the first and third Wednesday at 9 p.m. on PCTV Cable Network.

The South Bay airs *Outlook* the first Thursday at 8:30 p.m. on Mountain Cable.

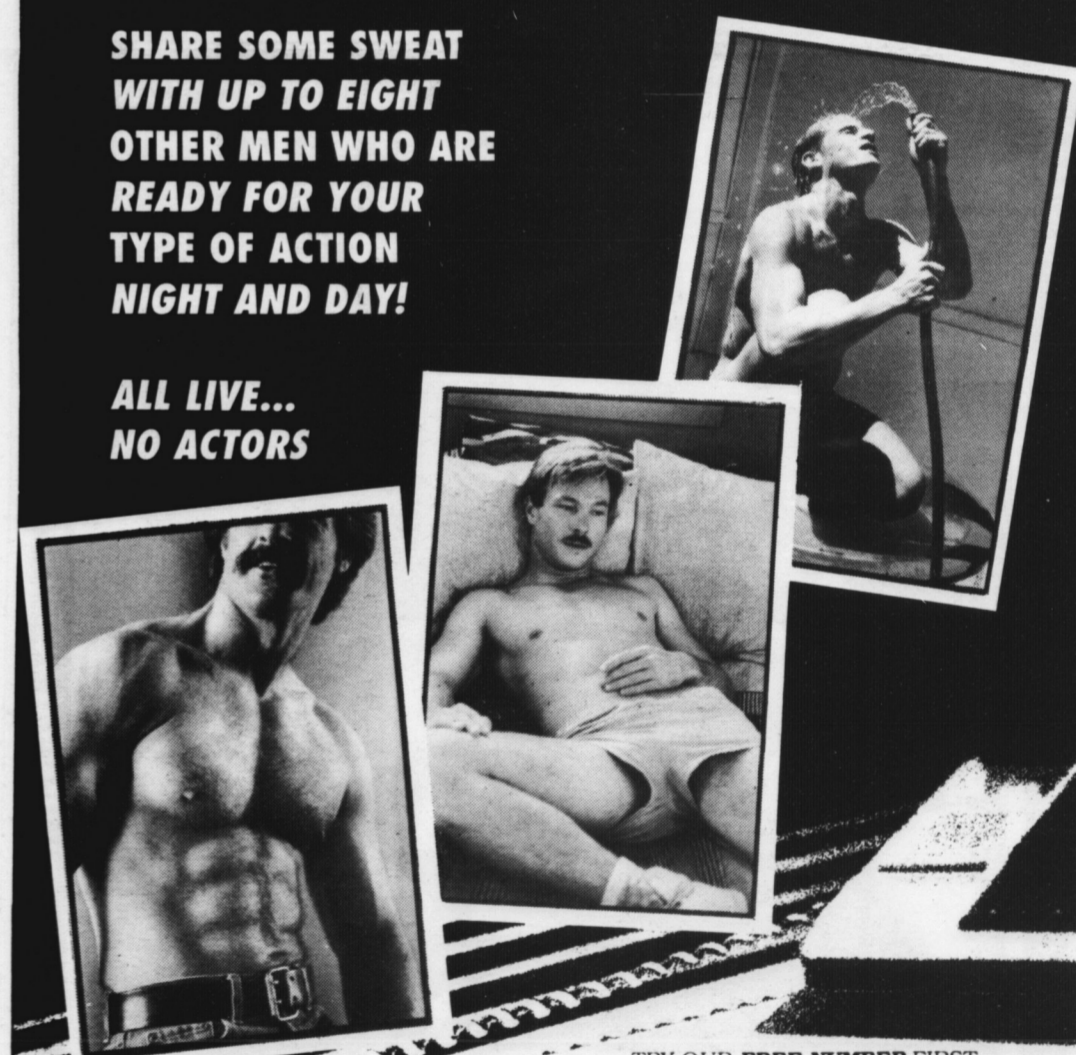
In Cupertino and Los Altos, *Outlook* is on the second and fourth Friday of every month (repeated) at 7:30 p.m. on Cable 30.

In other areas check local listing and the calendar section. ▼

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BOOKS

Sensitive, Seasoned Soul Revealed in Rich Poetry

Time's Power: Poems 1985-1988
by Adrienne Rich. W.W. Norton, 1989. 55 pp. \$7.95.

by Noreen C. Barnes

If you think you can grasp me, think again: My story flows in more than one direction

and culture. They are fragments of choice memories, impressions of things once possessed and now lost, of mothers and daughters, friends and lovers.

Spanish Civil War; another in World War II Yugoslavia describes her friend and herself as "just small, frail, inexperienced romantic people." And the third is a mother sending a message to the children she was forced to abandon in present-day South Africa. She cannot tell

Adrienne Rich's poems are exquisitely wrought stories, each speaking in a distinct voice, transcending time

In "Letters in the Family" a trio of women are caught in social and political turmoil. One writes to her parents during the

TIME'S POWER

Poems 1985-1988

Adrienne Rich

them why she left, but promises that "at the end of this hard road ... we'll eat and tell our stories."

Rich writes of music, and even of poetry itself:

poetry isn't revolution but a way of knowing why it must come.

—"Dreamwood"

Her recall of sensations and certain environments creates an evocative verbal landscape, revealing a sensitive and seasoned soul. Rich, who has been known for many years as one of this country's most distinguished poets, has also been a successful prose writer, most notably for *Of Woman Born: Motherhood as Experience and Institution*, and for her concept and discussion of "compulsory heterosexuality."

A profoundly personal political consciousness informs the writing in *Time's Power*. In "Divisions of Labor" she speaks of "the women in the back rows of politics ... whose labor remakes the world" and concludes:

I have seen a woman sitting between the stove and the stars her fingers singed from snuffing out the candles of pure theory Finger and thumb: both scorched: I have felt that sacred wax blister my hand

Rich continues to create complex, compelling images, employing a variety of styles. Her clarity and remarkable precision of her art speak to and of all of us. "Time's power," Rich writes, "is the only just power—would you give it away?" Never. ▽

Despite Tone, Work Reveals Real Baldwin

James Baldwin: Artist on Fire
by W.J. Weatherby, Donald I. Fine, 1989.

by Frank Howell

Meanwhile the young man just out of jail had been regarding Baldwin with a look of astonishment. "Is that the writer of *The Fire Next Time* I read in prison—that queen?" he whispered indignantly. The friend was annoyed and snapped, "He's more of a man than most you knew, I bet."

In 1963 I witnessed the miracle of a firebrand at work. James Baldwin was speaking to an idealistic, intense audience of students at the University of California, Berkeley. The air was electric when he stepped before us. He held this entire collection of throbbing humanity by the throat. I had a feeling we would be hearing from him again.

His life was short and intense. Like a meteor he streaked across

the sky and vanished. But the nation could never react the same again to the gathering racial crisis.

Baldwin was raised in Harlem in a family of eight brothers and sisters. He alone was illegitimate. His mother would never tell Jim, or anyone else, who the father was.

His early life was molded in a crucible of harshness and little sentimentality. His step-father was a cruel and dogmatic fundamentalist storefront preacher who later disintegrated in a fire storm of paranoid hatred for the "white devils."

James was not physically attractive and his step-father picked at him and nicknamed him, "frog eyes."

(Continued on next page)

Baldwin

(Continued from previous page)

Young Jim was taught to preach and by the age of 14 he had mastered the art. This constituted his first major lesson in communication.

His gayness manifested itself during his mid-teens when he experienced a love affair with a black gangster who was in his thirties.

A wider world of intellectual stimulation awaited him when he attended DeWitt Clinton High School. He met other students like Sol Stein, who later founded the publishing company, Stein and Day. His attachment to religion began to fade.

Even at this age Baldwin began to "queen it up" with lively impersonations of Bette Davis in *Of Human Bondage*.

After working at odd jobs for a time he traveled to Paris where he met some of the budding artists who would later achieve fame, such as Marlon Brando, Truman Capote, and Richard Wright, author of *Black Boy*.

Go Tell It On The Mountain,

his first success, included a gay ending, which the publisher removed.

One of his other early efforts, *Giovanni's Room*, achieved only a small success because of its gay theme. The straight press considered it too sensational, but gays adored it. One editor at Knopf remarked that, "it was way ahead of its time." The publisher felt *Giovanni* would kill his career. It was only when the British embraced it that Dial Press, in New York, finally decided to publish it.

During the 1950s the civil rights movement took hold of Baldwin's imagination and he encountered Martin Luther King, Harry Belafonte and Bayard Rustin, who was also gay. They frequently joked with one another about being "bastard black queens," since they both shared the distinction of birth out of wedlock.

But among many civil rights leaders Baldwin and his gayness were accepted.

Baldwin was enthralled with the theater. His friends included Tennessee Williams, Rip Torn and Elia Kazan and Lorraine Hansberry. Baldwin wrote *The*

Amen Corner and Blues For Mr. Charlie, but it became apparent to critics that his best work was in his essays and novels. *The Fire Next Time*, written in the early 1960s, placed him in the front ranks of influential writers. The whole black rights era and James Baldwin were made for each other. But his involvement with the movement quickly got in the way of his writing.

He argued frequently with King and others but he particularly resented the Kennedy brothers and their shifting alliances within the integration effort. He had an especially bitter meeting with Robert Kennedy, which was long remembered.

Another Country was published during this time and the issue of bisexuality arose once again. Reviewers were acutely divided over the novel's merits, but time has proved the greatness of the work.

The young prophet had numerous affairs with young black men through the years. But Weatherby did not succeed in interviewing any of them. Thus, their presence in the narrative remains shadowy and elusive.

It is strangely ironic that Baldwin held fairly negative views of gay liberation. He once remarked, "I feel very dubious about all that. You don't have to prove you're a woman and if you happen to be homosexual, you don't have to form a club in order to learn to live with yourself." But he experienced no difficulty identifying as a Negro artist.

Eldridge Cleaver, (*Soul on Ice*), also attacked Baldwin's work for the inherent bisexuality. The dedicated radical, who is rather tame and conservative today, resented the "self-flagellating policy of Martin Luther King" and inferred that Baldwin hated Richard Wright for his masculinity. "He cannot confront the stud in others." Dear Jim, never one to back away from any fight in the literary saloon, shot back with, "All that toy soldier has gone is call me gay. All he wants is a girlfriend at the O.K. Corral. He should go make movies with John Wayne."

In his heyday, this short, effete man enjoyed a rare degree of fame. But with the death of King the light went out in his life. In his final years Baldwin grew bitter and disillusioned. His writing

suffered and took on a curiously dated look. The prose was too narrow in scope. The public grew tired of constantly hearing about the black dilemma. He ignored the dramatic, journalistic opportunities afforded by the struggle in Vietnam or South Africa. Such a move could have revived his sagging career.

Weatherby knew Baldwin and has talked to many of his intimate associates. He is a correspondent for a number of periodicals, including *Newsweek*, *People* and *The New York Times*. He has also written a work on Marilyn Monroe. Weatherby recreates a revealing and heart-rending vision of Baldwin and his times. The style is rather cut and paste in tone and he tends to overquote his sources rather than paraphrase them.

▽▽▽
Jimmy died in 1987, old and exhausted before his time, at age 63. We must ask ourselves, what black writer can fill his shoes today? No one artist has appeared as yet. His angry, troubled rage against injustice has stood out and will haunt us for generations.

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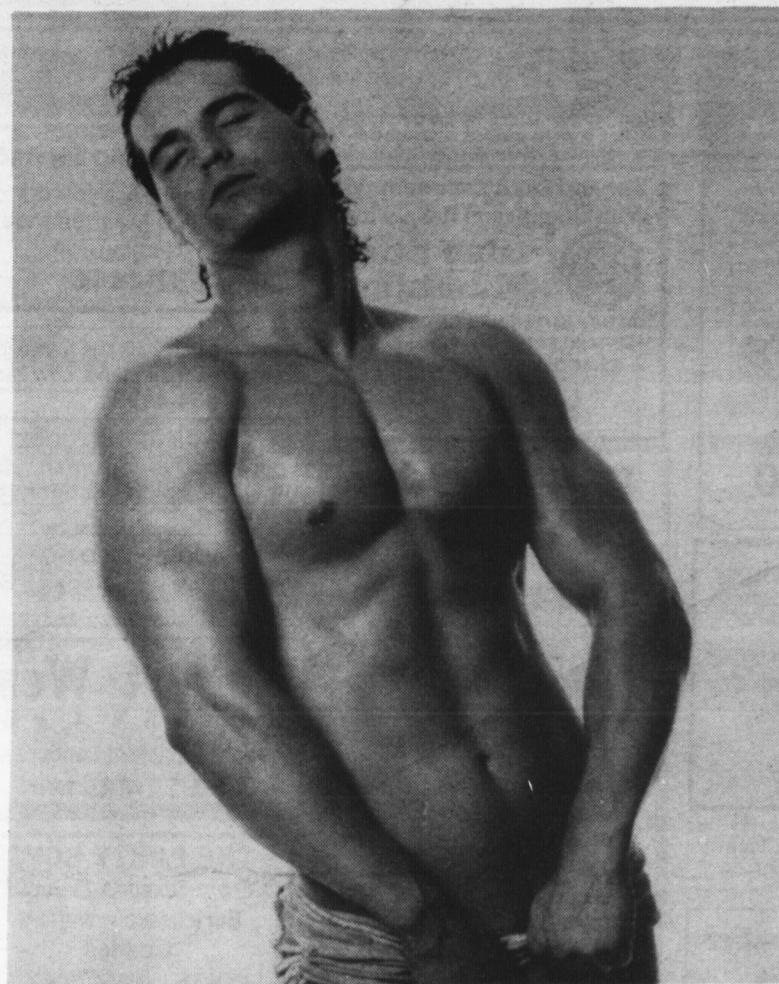
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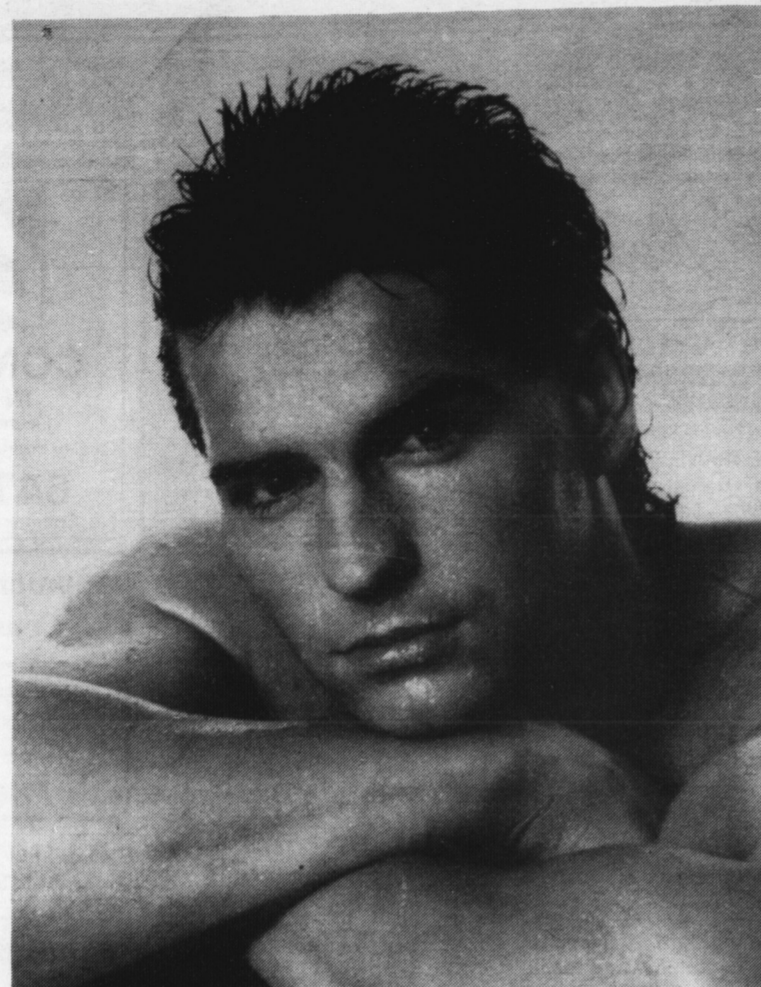
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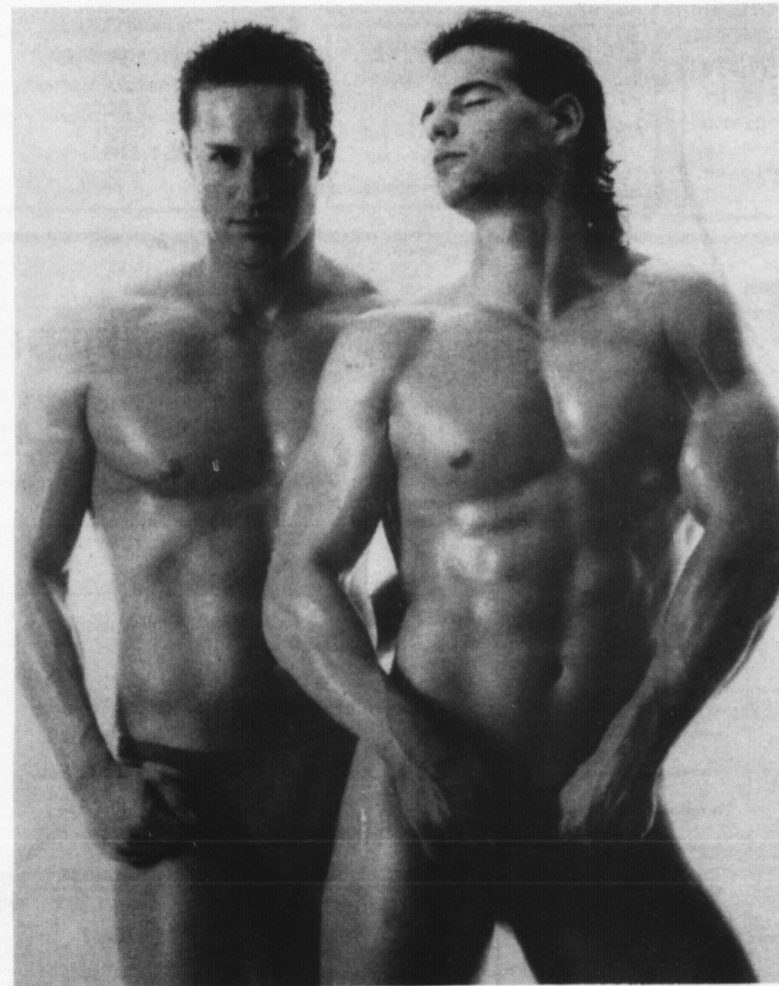
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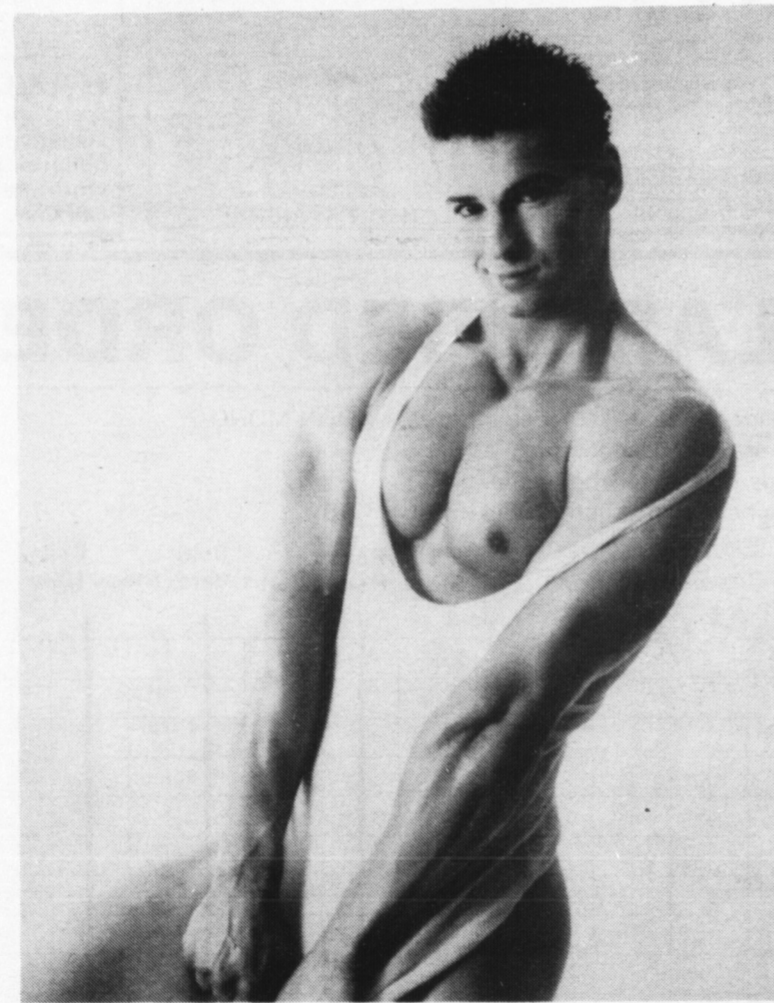
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Domestic Partners Law Suspended

Tough Fight Expected as Issue Heads for November Ballot

by Allen White

Gay activists are predicting a rough battle over the attempted repeal of San Francisco's domestic partnership law, and they say that, while public opinion polls show a broad range of support for the measure among city residents, the prospects of victory in November range from fair to slim.

The city attorney's office suspended the law at noon last Thursday, July 6, after conservative religious opponents of the measure turned in 27,000 signatures on petitions calling for a referendum on the matter. 18,000 valid signatures are required to put the measure on the ballot.

Political consultant Dick Pabich, who is the leading candidate to head the campaign, said a victory will not be easy. "It is going to be very, very hard for us to win," Pabich said. "People are talking that we have 60 percent

of the support. Well, that may be true, but this election will be a teeny turnout, a very conservative electorate. It isn't that we can't do it, but that it will be very hard work."

A public opinion poll conducted in April for the *San Francisco Examiner* indicated that 58 percent of San Francisco residents support the right of unmarried couples to the same employee benefits as married couples.

"I think it is going to cost a lot of money. There will be an intensive get-out-the-vote effort in our own community to try to boost the turnout. It requires a lot of staff, money and volunteers. I think it will cost \$100,000, maybe more."

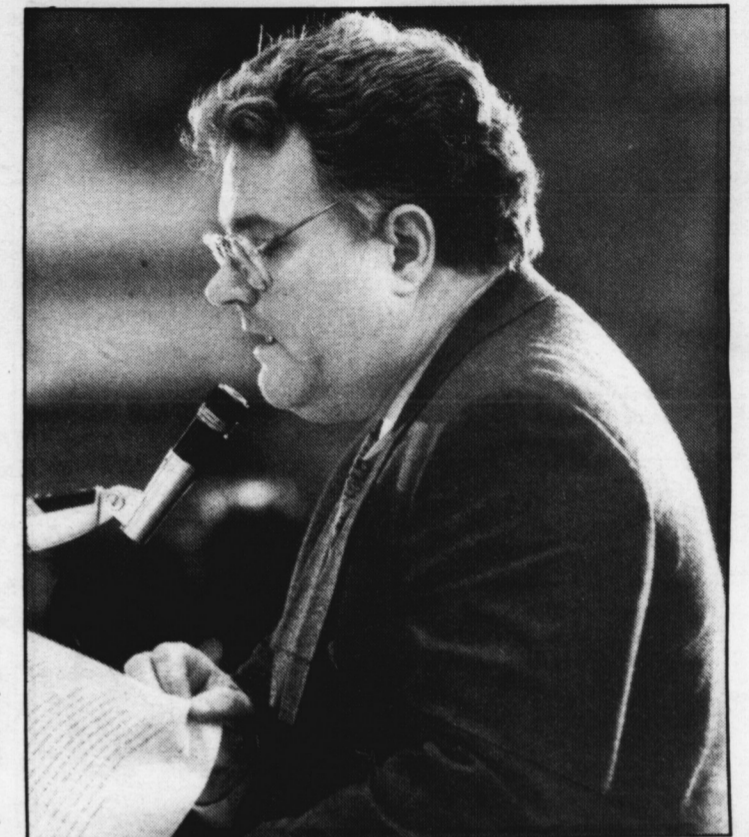
Supervisor Harry Britt, the sponsor of the ordinance, agreed. "We should not assume we are going to win. The profile of the

electorate that votes in an off-year election is extremely conservative. The religious right, as the petition campaign shows, can generate a lot of support. These people can register thousands of voters. I think we will win, but it will take money, a sophisticated political operation."

Supervisor Wendy Nelder, a supporter of the domestic partners law and an elected official with a wide base of support in the conservative areas of the city, is equally concerned. Asked if domestic partners would fail, she said, "I guess the politic answer is, 'I hope not.' The realistic answer is that it will be nip and tuck."

"I think it is possible they [opponents of the law] can win," Supervisor Richard Hongisto said. "It is something that should not be taken lightly."

Supervisor Tom Hsieh com-



Harry Britt, president of the Board of Supervisors, as he introduced the domestic partnership legislation in May.

(Photo: George T. Kruse)

mented, "I think it will be difficult [for supporters of the law] to win. There are many people who are not known as activists. These are areas where people do not normally come out. They may come out and give us a surprise."

When the measure appears on the ballot, it will be phrased as a question of whether to affirm the

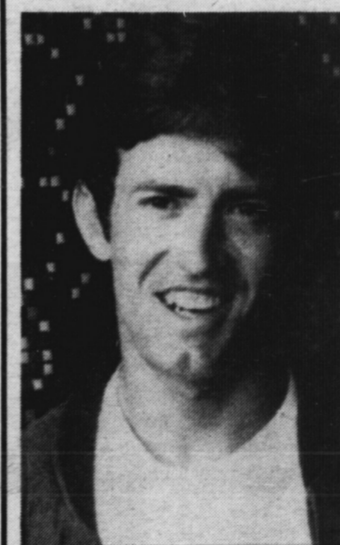
action of the Board of Supervisors. For this reason, a "yes" vote will be to sustain domestic partners. A "no" vote will support those who have submitted petitions.

Britt had said while pushing for passage of the ordinance that he considered the risk of a

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"No Choice"

Excerpts from *Matlovich: The Good Soldier*



Mike Hippler. (Photo: Rink)

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In 1974, Leonard Matlovich, a Technical Sergeant in the U.S. Air Force who was awarded a Bronze Star and a Purple Heart for services performed in Vietnam, was working as a race relations instructor at Hurlburt Field, Eglin Air Force Base, in Ft. Walton Beach, Florida. It was

through this class that Matlovich, who would later challenge the military's ban on homosexuality and appear on the cover of *Time* magazine as a result, first began to explore the possibilities of publicly acknowledging his homosexuality.

Matlovich's students were not the only ones to be affected by his [race relations] class. Through teaching, Leonard himself was changed. He finally overcame his racism. He also became—as far as racial matters were concerned—what he called a starry-eyed liberal. ("That's a person who has his feet planted firmly in the air. Of course, I didn't know then that to have one's feet in the air would one day be a virtue and not a vice.") Furthermore, teaching brought him an increasing sense of his own self-worth—and for the first time ever, Leonard began to sense a way to deal with a problem that was of even greater concern to him than race relations—his homosexuality.

Matlovich eventually summoned the courage to talk about homosexuality in one of his race

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Pacific Bell Settles Gay Discrimination Suit

by Drew Blakeman

After 14 years of legal wrangling, Pacific Bell has been ordered to pay \$3.2 million to 205 claimants to settle the largest and most protracted anti-gay job discrimination lawsuit in the nation's history.

National Gay Rights Advocates, a San Francisco public-interest law firm, brought the class-action suit against the phone company. NGRA takes on cases that break new legal ground in expanding and defending gay rights.

The \$3.2 million settlement is the largest single financial award in the history of the gay rights movement. Checks in amounts ranging from about \$2,000 up to \$80,000 will be mailed to claimants within 60 days, according to NGRA Legal Director Leonard Graff. The average award is in excess of \$15,600.

"An important Supreme Court precedent has now been successfully used to compensate the victims of Pacific Bell's discrimination," Graff said in a prepared statement.

Graff said "smoking gun" documents obtained from the company and made public as a result of the suit "compelled" them to settle. "We had a good deal of evidence" that Pacific Bell had been guilty of "a pattern of discrimination," he said.

A court-appointed arbitrator determined the amount each individual will receive. Awards "depended on what each claimant could demonstrate" and were based upon "three areas of harm," Graff said.

The three areas investigated by the arbitrator in determining settlement awards were: wages lost due to the discriminatory action, emotional distress caused by discrimination, and interference with political activity, Graff said.

The arbitrator in the case, former Oakland Superior Court Judge Robert Bostick, said he generally does not comment to the press on his decisions. "They stand or fall on their own merits," he said.

In a prepared statement, attorney

Charles Freiberg, a co-counsel in the suit with NGRA, said, "We hope that this settlement serves as a strong reminder to employers that discrimination based on sexual orientation will result in severe financial repercussions."

"Not only does this kind of discrimination prevent qualified employees from obtaining meaningful work, it restricts, without cause, an employer's ability to hire the best available human talent," he added.

Freiberg, a partner with the San Francisco law firm Heller, Ehrman, White and McAuliffe, led the team of attorneys that argued the case in court and negotiated the record settlement.

In the same statement, NGRA Executive Director Jean O'Leary said, "This historic settlement confirms the civil rights of gay men and women in the work place. It puts monetary teeth in a major lawsuit and puts others on notice that employment discrimination will not be tolerated."

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