

# BAY AREA REPORTER

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Supervisor Harry Britt, who shepherded the domestic partnership ordinance through City Hall, as he appeared in this year's Lesbian/Gay Freedom Day Parade. The "Yes on S" pro-domestic partnership campaign office will open this Saturday, Sept. 9. (Photo: Darlene/PhotoGraphics)

## Domestic Partners Said to Be in Jeopardy

by Allen White

Voter apathy in the gay community, the loss of a key endorsement and a poll of San Francisco voters indicate the "Yes on S" campaign to validate domestic partners is in serious trouble even before it begins.

Last week the San Francisco Planning and Research Council voted against endorsing domestic partners. Todd Dickenson, co-chair of the Bay Area Non-Partisan Alliance, said "This is an organization which influences public opinion in the institutional areas—the daily newspapers, for example, and, frankly, things like Pacific Heights voters

and good-government yuppies.

"They are given credit for being very thoughtful, very investigative and researching the issues very thoroughly. Coming out against domestic partners could provide an opening wedge hindering getting to the very moderate good-government support we need to win our campaign," Dickenson said.

The research council, known as SPUR, is a good-government think tank that takes positions on planning issues. Its board voted to take a position on all the ballot issues and last week voted to vote no on domestic partnership. The

Public Affairs Committee and staff had recommended a neutral position.

Dickenson also noted that the research council's board had a precedent for reconsidering its vote.

"They reconsidered their vote on the *Missouri* last year after further consideration, and I believe further consideration is called for here. They voted, in my opinion, without having all the facts, and they voted on opinions outside of the ordinance," he said.

"SPUR was concerned on

issues which were outside the four corners of the issues we are voting on. They believed the slippery slope argument that this is simply the opening volley in a campaign to get a whole plate of very expensive health items for a whole other group of people.

"I think it is a strong indication this is going to be a long fight," Dickenson said. "I think we need to mobilize and not be complacent because there are plenty of people out there and plenty of organizations that don't care about our issues or are willing to nitpick them to death that are going to turn out. We have to

make sure our vote turns out. If we do, we win. If we don't we lose."

A concern for voter apathy was expressed by Supervisor Harry Britt.

"It has bothered me to hear from people who have been out on Castro Street trying to register voters that there are lesbians and gay men who don't want to get involved and don't understand the enormous difference we can make in the lives of our people if we do get involved," Britt said.

The worst fears of Yes on S  
(Continued on page 2)

## They'll Take Manhattan Gay Candidates Get Serious Support In Quest for New York City Council

by Sandor Katz

New York City elects 35 City Council members, 25 state Senators, 60 state Assembly members, 15 congressional representatives, five borough presidents, a City Council president, a comptroller, and a mayor. Not a single one is or ever has been openly gay or lesbian.

This year, however, two gay men from Manhattan are running for seats on the New York City Council. Tom Duane is challenging 20-year incumbent Carol Greitzer in Chelsea and Greenwich Village, and Dave Taylor is vying in an eight-person race to succeed Ruth Messinger in her

Upper West Side and Hell's Kitchen district.

Duane's candidacy got a big boost last Friday when he received the endorsement of the influential editorial page of the *New York Times*. Both men are running in the Democratic primary, which will be held Sept. 12. In New York City, victory in the primary virtually ensures victory in the general election.

In 1985, openly gay candidate David Rothenberg came close to election to the City Council. He lost to Greitzer by a 54-46 margin. "Prior to David Rothenberg, expectations were not that

we would necessarily have gay or lesbian council members," observes Rothenberg's campaign manager, David Fleischer. He thinks Rothenberg's near success raised the expectations as well as the electoral organizing capacity of the gay community, and that lesbian and gay representation on the council is imminent: "If it's not Tom or Dave, then next time."

It is no accident that the two highest officials in the United States who are openly gay—Congressmen Barney Frank and Gerry Studds—both came out

(Continued on page 17)

## Discrimination Alleged In SF County Jail

by Gregory Douthwaite

Four gay inmates are suing a San Francisco County jail for discrimination, complaining that they were taken off kitchen duty after threats from heterosexual inmates.

"I don't know why we can't work in the kitchen," gay inmate Stanley Robinson, 32, said. "I'm healthy."

The gay prisoners have filed a \$10 million lawsuit against the county jail, which is located in San Bruno. Last week a federal judge ordered the sheriff and the mayor to respond to the civil rights complaint.

Two gay inmates lost jobs in the butcher shop. They were told that they had been threatened be-

cause other inmates were afraid to have gay men handling food because of AIDS fears. Two other gay inmates lost jobs as kitchen janitors.

The gay inmates are angry that no action has been taken against the threateners, and no more gays have been hired in the kitchen.

"The inmates at this jail feel as though they can disrespect and even threaten the life of a gay inmate without injury to themselves," Robinson said. "This appears to be fact since this administration turns their head to such blatant gay hate and discrimination."

A spokesman for the jail de-  
(Continued on page 2)











# Battle 'State' Lines Drawn— Life After Hardwick Ruling

by Cliff O'Neill

In shades of purple, pink and lavender, the map is sectioned off. Reminiscent of pre-Civil War maps of the United States, the country is divided into a nation of "free" and "unfree" states.

But the freedom to which this map refers is much more shrouded than what one would normally expect. The freedom involved here is the freedom to engage in certain sex acts with consenting partners behind closed doors.

Hardly the stuff that inspires civil wars.

But in a sense, there is one going on now. And the battle lines have been drawn.

As with many wars, the present confrontation began with a crushing defeat. The "massacre" in this melee took place on June 30, 1986, when the U.S. Supreme Court voted 5-4 in the landmark *Hardwick v. Bowers* decision and, in doing so, upheld the right of the state of Georgia—and hence the right of all states—to declare gay and lesbian sex illegal.

Actually, Georgia calls it sodomy. Others call it "lewd and lascivious behavior" (Florida), a "crime against nature" (several), "sodomy and buggery" (Massachusetts), "sexual psychopathic behavior]" (District of Columbia), "unnatural intercourse" (Mississippi), "deviant sexual conduct" (Montana), "unnatural or perverted sexual practice" (Maryland), or, as was the case in

North Carolina, the "detestable and abominable crime against nature." (The state has since trimmed down the name, but not the statute.)

In some states it is a misdemeanor; in others, a felony. In many, it is directed specifically toward gay and lesbian sex; and in some, it extends to many forms of heterosexual sex as well.

And in all 25 "unfree" states and the District of Columbia, the laws make unconvicted criminals of all sexually active lesbians and gay men.

"The Supreme Court dealt us a very serious blow with the *Hardwick* decision," said Sue Hyde, Privacy Project director for the National Gay & Lesbian Task Force in Washington. "The *Hardwick* decision now is cited over and over again, not just in court cases, but in the legislative arena as justification and rationale for denying us basic civil rights."

"The *Hardwick* decision is cited in every one of the military cases. The *Hardwick* decision was cited by the New Hampshire state legislature when they passed their... foster care law... as justification for denying lesbians and gay men the option to be foster parents in the state. Over and over, that decision is cited as justification for denying us basic civil rights. [It] would be wonderful if the Supreme Court review-

ed the *Hardwick* case and decided they had erred."

But is it at all likely that will ever happen?

In the era of the Reagan court, Hyde believes that things can only get worse for lesbians and gay men. Which, of course, doesn't bode well for several gay-related cases—including the precedent-setting military discrimination *Watkins v. U.S. Army* case—which are now floating toward the high court.

That doesn't leave a whole lot of room for optimism. So for now, the strategy on sodomy issues is twofold.

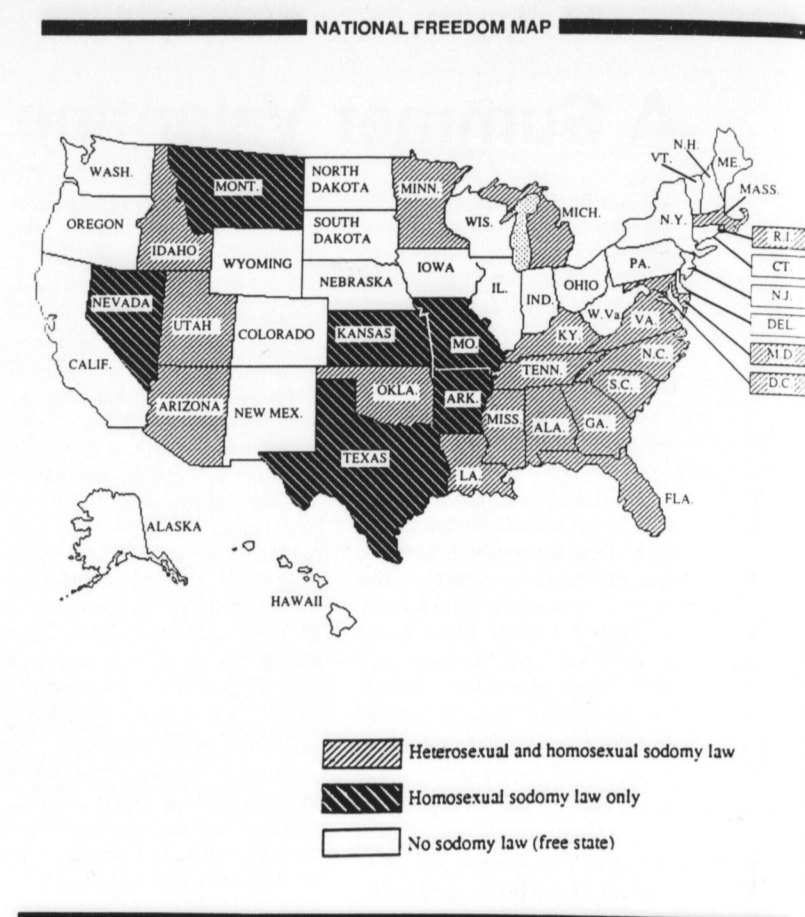
First, gay and lesbian activists mourn the anniversary; then they mobilize to attack sodomy laws on a state level.

For months now, Hyde has been organizing local groups across the nation to commemorate the *Hardwick* decision with an effort called the National Day of Mourning for the Right to Privacy.

In at least 14 cities nationwide, activists will be commemorating the historic defeat and directing media attention to the decision that allowed lawmakers to legislate their bedroom activity.

#### State By State

Since the 1986 decision, many of the sodomy repeal efforts have been played out in



state courts, often times through legal challenges involving upstanding members of the gay and lesbian community (and sometimes heterosexual couples and disabled persons) recruited to claim injury from the presence of these laws. Such cases are now pending in Texas, Minnesota and Michigan courts.

The most visible of the present state court efforts is the Michigan challenge, being handled in large part by the New York-based Lambda Legal

Defense and Education Fund.

Filed on the second anniversary of the *Hardwick* decision in 1988, the broad-based case also involves heterosexuals and the disabled, whose sex lives are also affected by the Michigan felony statute.

Filed shortly after the *Hardwick* defeat in 1986, a "recruits" case challenging Nevada's sodomy statute was quickly thrown out of court on a technicality. No new challenge has been filed there since.

A new case challenging Georgia's sodomy law was recently filed by the Georgia American Civil Liberties Union at a Day of Mourning action in Atlanta. The case involves a heterosexual man who was sent to jail for two years based on testimony from his wife during divorce proceedings in which she described being a willing partner in non-vaginal sex with him.

A major problem faced by other sodomy law challenges, however, is that occasionally they come in the form of criminal cases, as in a 1988 Minnesota court challenge that involved a 45-year-old man who bought sex from a 16-year-old male who presented himself as an adult. That case eventually was decided on a technicality and left open the question of an unconstitutional invasion of the right to privacy, paving the way for the present case, which involves recruited non-criminal candidates.

Probably the best tool with which to attack these laws, Hyde says, is a state privacy law, which would easily allow state courts to find sodomy laws unconstitutional on privacy grounds. However, only two states have both sodomy and privacy laws side by side: Florida and Montana.

In Montana, Hyde has found little interest from the state's dissipated gay and lesbian community, which has left that state law unchallenged. And in Florida, efforts headed up by the loosely formed Florida Right to Privacy Committee have suffered two false starts and now stand no further than they did two years ago when the effort was first considered.

#### Legislative Challenges

The other place in which to challenge these laws, Hyde says, is in state legislatures. But there, things have been even tougher.

In fact, the only real change since *Hardwick* has been a change in Tennessee's sodomy statute, which dropped the "crime" from a heterosexual/homosexual felony to a Class C homosexual-specific misdemeanor, punishable by a \$25 fine.

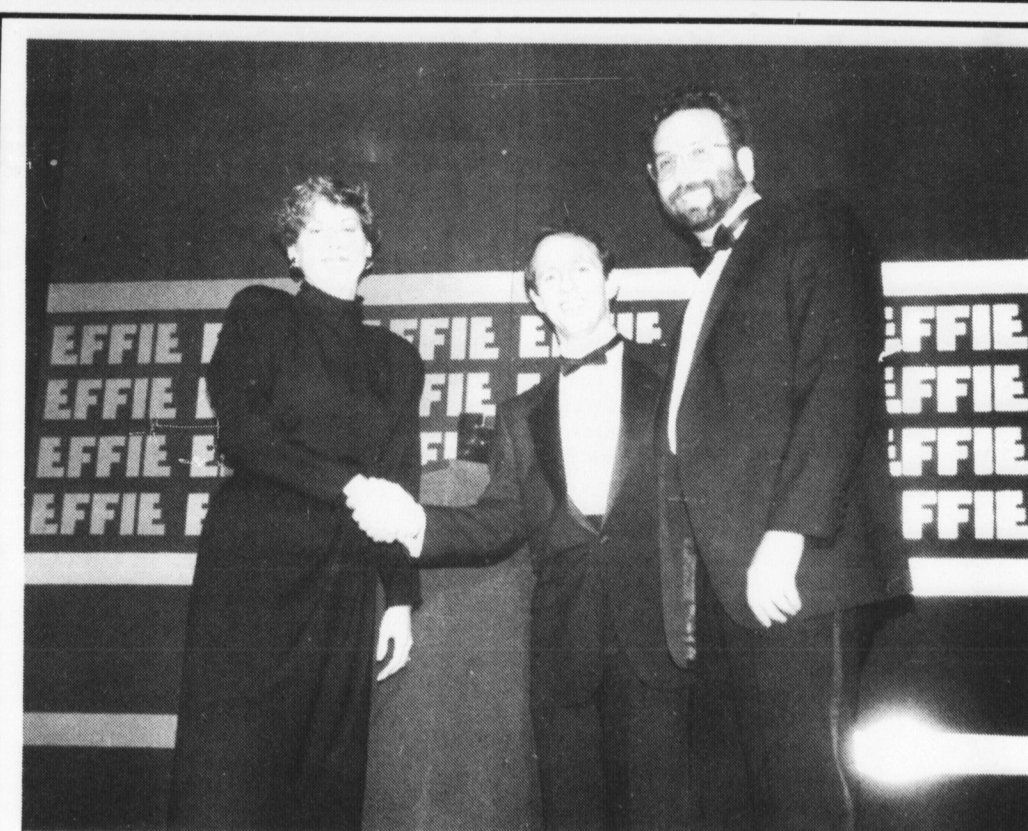
This, according to legal activists, although continuing to stigmatize gay and lesbian sex, could open the door to a court challenge to the statute on equal protection grounds.

Otherwise, nothing has really changed since 1986.

In many states legislative repeal efforts have met with stiff resistance from skittish lawmakers. Maryland, seen as the state with the best chances for repealing such a law, saw its state Senate quickly approve a repeal bill in 1987, only to have it die in the state House Judiciary Committee that year.

The following year, efforts were concentrated on that committee but proved fruitless after a committee member held up a brochure from the North American Man/Boy Love Association as an "example" of the sort of behaviors that would become common in the state should the sodomy law be repealed and quickly quashed the bill.

"The reason that the *Hardwick* decision was such a watershed was not only did the Supreme Court declare that gay men and lesbians have no constitutional right to privacy," Hyde says, "but it... made the issue of sodomy



#### Advertising Award to Shanti

Carla Hardaway (left) of Young & Rubicam/San Francisco, and Eric Rofes (right), executive director of the Shanti Project, accept congratulations from an American Marketing Association representative after the presentation of a 1989 Effie, one of advertising's most important honors. The ad agency and Shanti shared the award for a public service campaign urging volunteer support for the AIDS organization.

laws much more real in people's minds. It was a very rude awakening for this community. It sort of shocked us back into the reality of institutionalized homophobia, not only as we know it through the AIDS epidemic, but as we know it simply as itself: Unadulterated, unadorned institutionalized homophobia. What's changed is that people now think about it."

And because sodomy laws are used by anti-gay forces to defund AIDS educational programs, deny lesbians and gay parents custody rights and to repudiate basic civil rights protections for lesbians and gay men, she feels the fight against these laws should be a basic part of every gay-related issue from AIDS funding to foster care.

"[This puts] our work and our contacts with legislators in a broader context," she adds. "I think it's very important for state legislators to realize that simply because they have dealt with AIDS legislation in their state, that it doesn't mean that the gay and lesbian community goes away. We actually have several items on our legislative agenda and we will be back." ▼

# Stoli. For the purist.



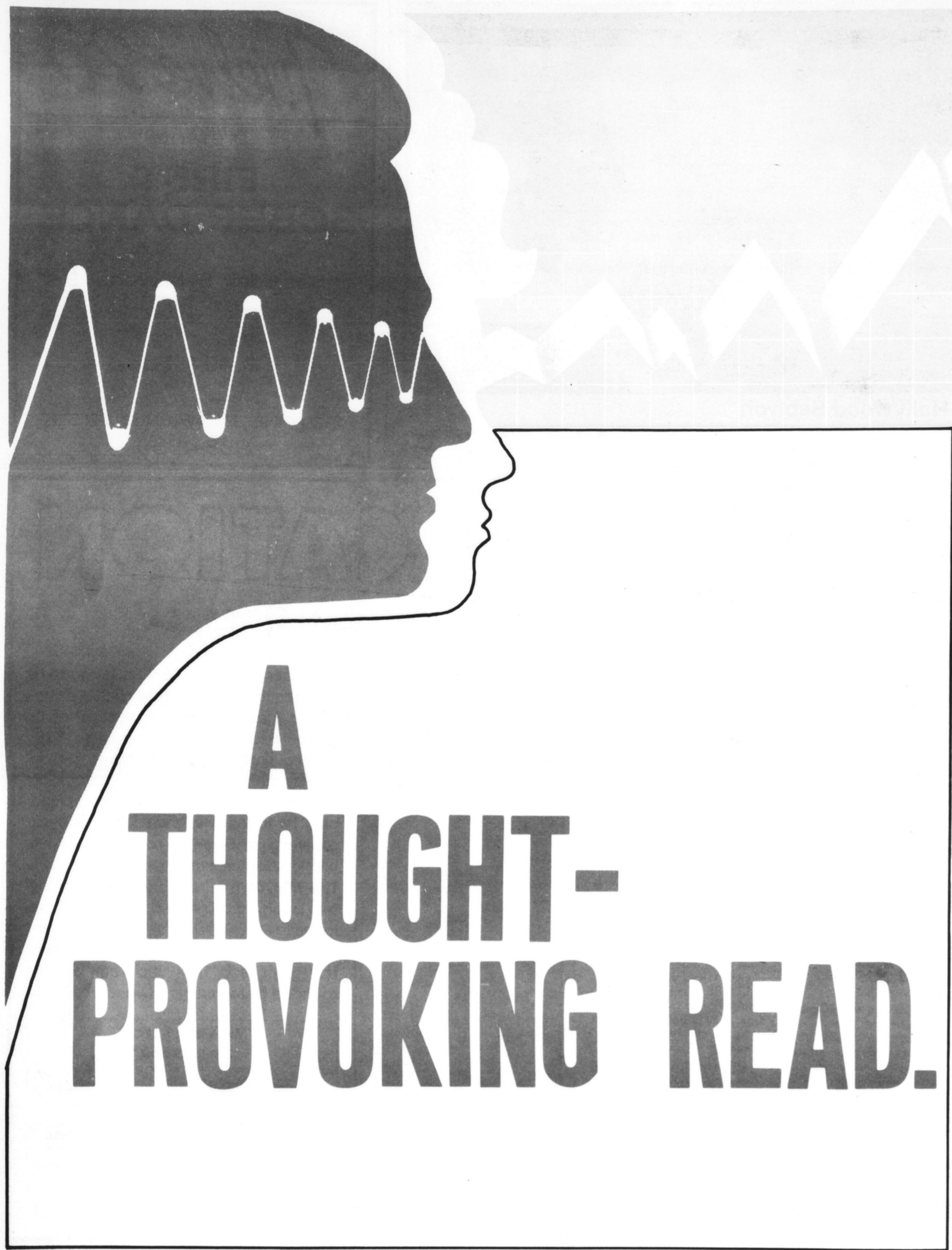












**A  
THOUGHT-  
PROVOKING READ.**

**BAY AREA REPORTER**

**BAY AREA REPORTER  
ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT**

**'Give Me  
Those Ruby  
Slippers,  
My Pretty!'**



by Noreen C. Barnes

**T**he *Ruby Slippers of Oz* is Rhys Thomas' engaging and well-researched account of Hollywood's—and America's—fascination with movie magic, particularly with the charmed shoes (how many pairs were there?) that Judy Garland wore as Dorothy Gale a half century ago.

Thomas' investigation took him across the country and uncovered decades of deception and secrets, as well as a remarkable cast of players—each claiming to possess one of the film industry's most cherished symbols of power, magic and childhood innocence.

At the center of the intrigue surrounding the shoes is a studio costumer, Kent Warner, a flamboyant young man who "liberated" hundreds of costumes and props from untouched storage rooms, dust-covered shelves and trash bins. He saved them from decay and destruction and sold them to collectors who appreciated their worth, while he kept many of the invaluable items for himself, including the pair of ruby slippers from *Oz* that he claimed were used only for a particular set of close-up shots:

*"He took them out of the case and showed me the bottoms. He showed me where Judy tapped her heels together. They had little, circular scuff marks. He said they were worn only in that scene. I almost fainted. He knew he had the best."*

Warner died of AIDS in 1984. Ron Wind, who was also a costumer and collector (and the one to prompt Warner's own salvaging of Hollywood history) was his ex-lover and accomplice in many of these memorabilia deals. He passed away a year later. Thomas pieced together the story of their lives together, and their "liberation" of movie

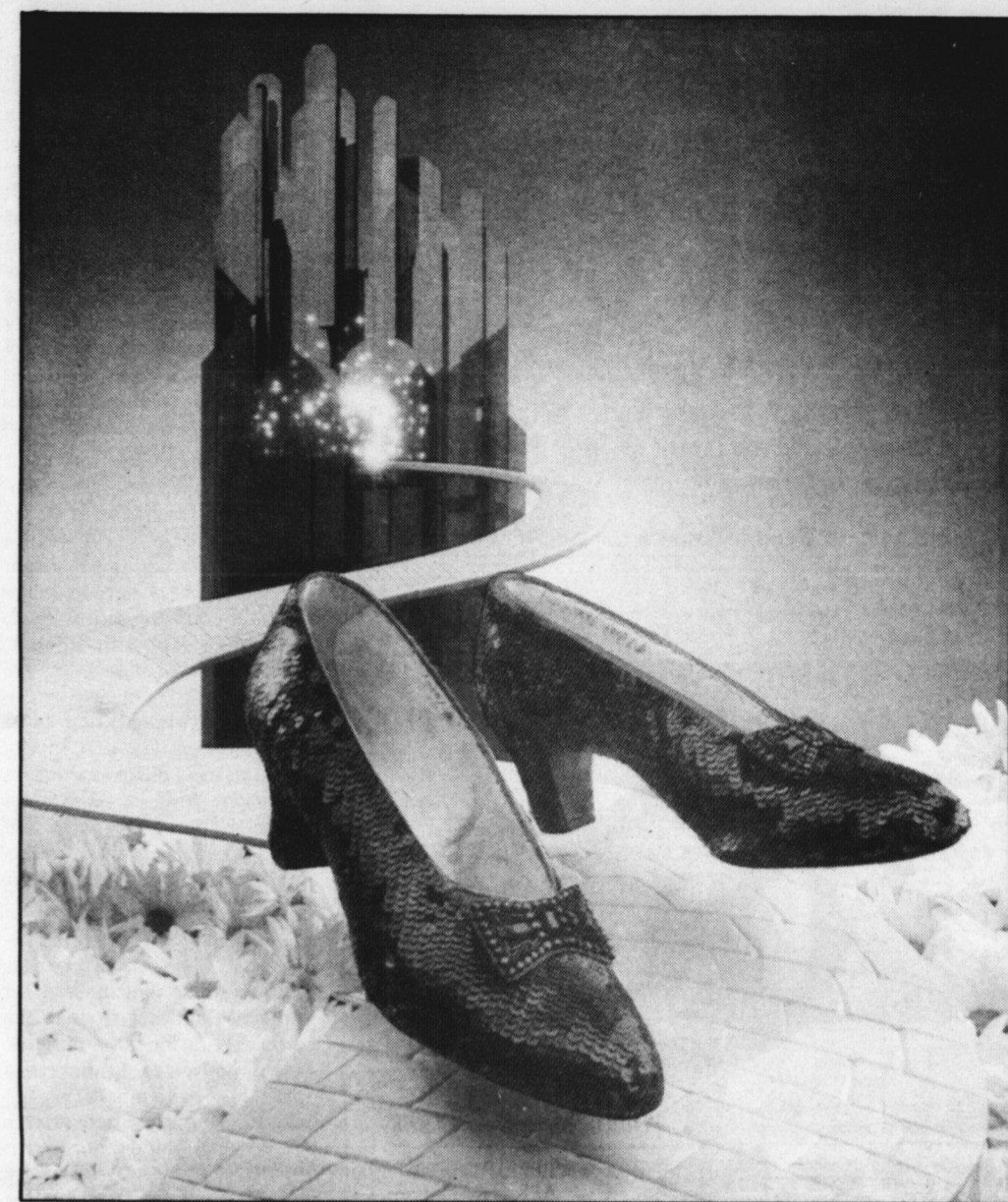
costumes and props from a variety of friends and co-workers.

Warner is surrounded by such figures as Debbie Reynolds, who has spent hundreds of thousands of dollars on costumes and props for a proposed Hollywood museum that has yet to exist, and has been frustrated in her attempts to acquire one of the pairs of ruby slippers (although she has a "test" pair used in the first few weeks of shooting the film); Roberta Bauman, an obscure Tennessee housewife who won a pair of slippers used in the movie in a contest in 1940, and who finally sold them at Christie's for \$150,000 last year, and a colorful San Francisco figure Ted Smith.

The San Francisco connection to the slippers is an interesting one, because it demonstrates to what lengths people will go to be associated with this screen image, which has become central in the popular imagination.

Thomas described Ted Smith as a "professional clown with a penchant for buying memorabilia." There is a common perception that he actually owned a pair of the shoes, and he did represent a pair of shoes as authentic in his Pine Street novelty store.

**H**owever, the fact that he called Roberta Bauman in Tennessee in 1981 claiming to be a freelance writer who was doing a story on the ruby slippers, and requested—in a follow-up letter—"a good close-up photo, a side view and photos of the bottom" and wanted to know the "color of the felt on the bottom of the shoes," as well as the color on the inside, the numbers and their placement on the inside, and the overall "size and dimensions" of the shoes, were thought by Mrs. Bauman to be rather "peculiar requests,"



Photos from *The Ruby Slippers of Oz* by Rhys Thomas (Tale Weaver Publishing). *Wizard of Oz* film pictures courtesy of Turner Entertainment Co.

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Kent Warner also had his own carefully constructed reality—one which encompassed the entire aura of the 1930s, which he attempted to replicate in every possible way. He was a romantic with a collection that included radios, early televisions, priceless cigarette lighters, Bogart's trenchcoat from *Casablanca*, costumes of Ginger Rogers, and most of the dresses worn by Garland in *The Wizard of Oz*. It was his knowledge of the value of the items that were being discarded by the studio costume and property departments, the scavenging bravado he picked up from Ron Wind, and his great love of all the treasures he found and what they symbolized—that

made him the person, according to Thomas, "without whom the book could not have been written."

Contracting AIDS, possibly as early as 1977, however, did not fit in that romanticized image Warner had of life, of being able to immerse himself in a glamorous past, and he denied having the virus.

Warner, a kind of Robin Hood or Billy the Kid figure, was legendary in the Hollywood costuming community. He possessed energy, humor and a sense of style.

Thomas writes that a Hollywood memorabilia museum should be dedicated in Warner's name, as he was the one to make most items available to people, and was the first to try to preserve them. Warner created, then took advantage of what Thomas calls a "window of opportunity that existed from 1965-79—Warner was the first one through the window." His talent and ability to identify things made the memorabilia business lucrative.

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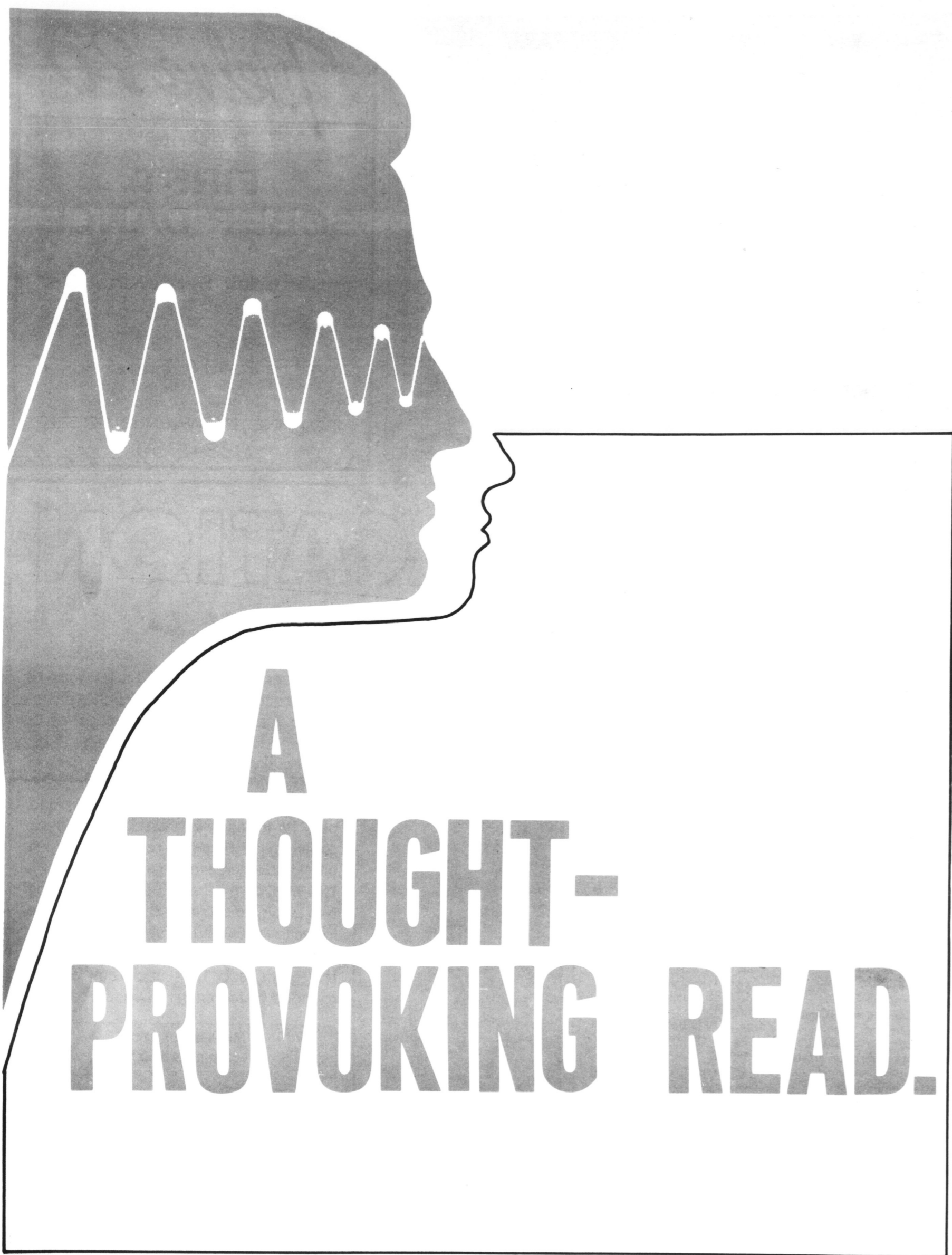
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### 'Give Me Those Ruby Slippers, My Pretty!'



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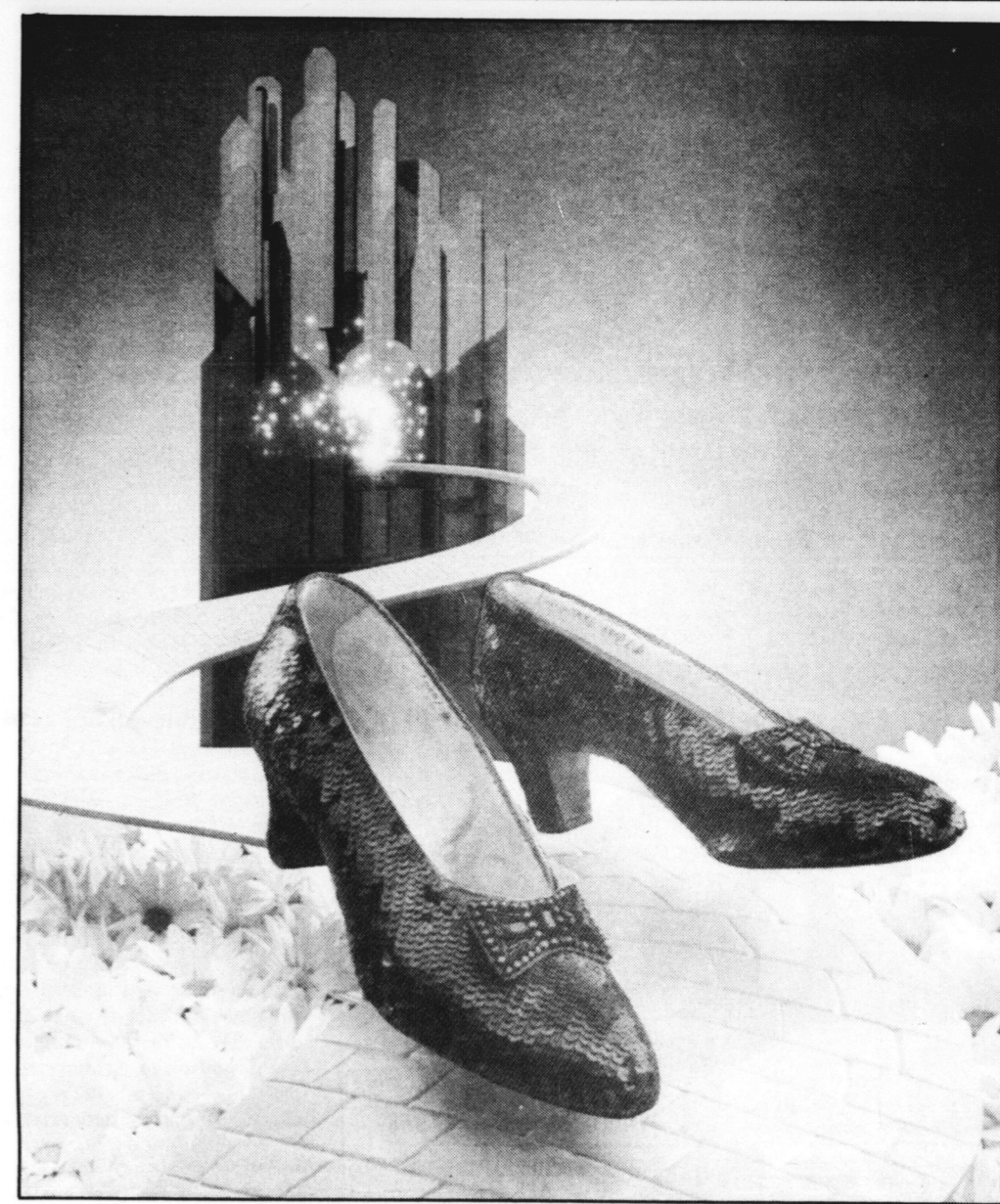
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Retake of Preceding Frame







### Film Screenings at York to Benefit Women Emerging

Women Emerging, a San Francisco-based support network that assists women who are leaving the sex industry, will be the beneficiary of a unique double bill and midnight show on human sexuality and love at San Francisco's York Theatre Sept. 9-10.

The three films are: *Kamikaze Hearts*, a rarely seen look at the lives and loves of women in the X-rated film industry; *Hold Me While I'm Naked*, an underground film classic directed by George Kuchar; and *Thundercrack*, which will be seen at a special midnight show on Saturday, Sept. 9.

After the 7:30 p.m. show Saturday, there will be a panel discussion with M.C. Rita Ricardo, headliner at the Condor club and staff member of WE; Ann Walls, chairperson of WE; Juliet Bashore, director of *Kamikaze Hearts*; Robin Layton, director of WE; Annette Haven, ex-porn star from the '70s and '80s; Fanny Fatale, publisher of *On Our Backs*, a lesbian erotica magazine; and Bobby Lilly, a spokesperson for San Francisco ACT (Against Censorship Together).

Women Emerging was started by Layton, an ex-prostitute and professional dominatrix in 1986. Its clients include "high class" call girls, street walkers and strippers.

Layton said, "We are very

pleased to be the beneficiary of this event. It's an 'only in San Francisco' kind of affair that will examine the controversial issues of women, sex and power."

*Kamikaze Hearts* (1986) has been variously described as a dramatic documentary, a "docudrama" or a unique blend of fact and fiction. It is the "real life" story of Sharon Mitchell and Tina (Tigr) Mennett, lesbian lovers who worked as X-rated film actresses.

*Hold Me While I'm Naked* (1966), by underground filmmaker and instructor at the San Francisco Institute, George Kuchar, has been described as "a very direct and subtle, very sad and funny, look at nothing more or less than sexual frustration and loneliness."

*Thundercrack* (1975), which was directed by Curt McDowell and written by Kuchar, was described by Jack Babuscio in the *London Gay News* as a "steamy spoof film... whose prevailing mood is one of buoyancy and exhilaration. *Thundercrack* is, simply, pro-sex of all sorts: try it, you'll like it—that's the theme."

Show times for the double bill will be 1:30, 3:30, 5:30 7:30 and 10 p.m. Admission is \$5.

For more information, contact Robert Zelma at 776-8029 or Robin Layton, Women Emerging, 942 Market St. #307, San Francisco, CA 94102, (415) 982-3365.



Sharon Mitchell and Tigr, lesbian lovers who work as X-rated film actresses, star in the docudrama *Kamikaze Hearts*, this weekend at the York Theatre.

### Movies

(Continued from page 29)

the code was in many ways one of Hollywood's most liberal. Even though the studios had drawn up what appeared to be a rigid code, "it was actually toothless," she says, "because they never set up a way to enforce it."

But as a way to defuse potential trouble, Monga continues, "There was a formula operating at the time that basically held that a director could show as much licentious behavior as he wanted for the first 80 minutes,

as long as all the perpetrators paid dearly for it in the last 10."

The acknowledged master of this concept, cynically known in Hollywood as the "Law of Compensating Values," was famed director Cecil B. DeMille, whose *Madam Satan* screens with *Call Her Savage* Sept. 16. DeMille often hid behind the Bible,

Similarly, gay characters, although not plentiful in the immediate pre-code era, when they do appear "actually seem in some cases like they might be sexual beings, rather than neutered sissies, the usual stereotype," Monga says. In *Call Her Savage*, she says, "two of the waiters in the gay bar do a sexy

little dance together, and it's obvious it's not just a gag. This admission of the existence of a homosexual subculture seems amazing compared to films made between 1934 and the early 1960s."

When it came to homosexuality, the code was brief but blunt, lumping it into a general prohibition against "sex perversion or any inference of it." Elsewhere in the code is the warning that neither "natural" nor human law—with the Catholic Church's interpretation of the former holding great sway—could be

lumped into a general prohibition against "sex perversion or any inference of it." Elsewhere in the code is the warning that neither "natural" nor human law—with the Catholic Church's interpretation of the former holding great sway—could be

Vito Russo has written in *The Celluloid Closet* how code administrators were merciless about deleting even the most fleeting references to gayness from scripts or finished films. Even such innocuous gay "buzzwords" of pre-code films—"pansy," "fairy," "nancy"—were outlawed as "likely to corrupt."

For all its high-sounding prose about protecting the morals of the nation, the code was, in the final analysis, a blatant attempt at social control. The warnings against showing "casual or promiscuous sex," "miscegenation" and what the censors had decided was "sex perversion" are more obvious examples, but at the height of their power the code administrators also used the prohibition against the ridicule of organized religion (sound anything like Jesse Helms today?) to stifle legitimate debate in that area, and even attempted to steer some filmmakers away from anti-government positions.

The Castro series is a sampler of the kinds of films that led to the institution of the code. Melodramas and films with purely camp appeal predominate, with the musical, social drama and comedy genres represented as well.

### George Heymont

## Changing One's Mind

The confusion caused by one's nervous indecision can often be difficult to communicate to an audience. At times, hard answers are sought when only gray areas can be found. When the strength of one's decision is severely undermined by the tug of one's heart strings, the resolution to a ticklish amorous situation rarely involves a happy ending in which the winner takes all.

Whenever an author is up against a wall and no logical loophole can be found with which to escape from the reality of his predicament, he can almost always fall back on the fickle female flip-flop act as a last minute form of "deus ex machina." Why? Because, sexist though it may be, one of the oldest literary ploys involves a woman's right to change her mind.

Changing one's mind, however, also requires a person to deal with the moral consequences of such an action for, once one has opted to tip toe down a path filled with dangerous discoveries, one must be willing to take responsibility for one's choices. That's the stern message given to us in music works ranging from *Idomeneo* to *Into The Woods*; from *La Calisto* to *Cosi Fan Tutte*.

curio, Janice Hall's feminine Calisto, James Bowman's sympathetic Endimione and Kathryn Geronzi's horny Satyr. While mezzo-soprano Tatian Troyanos was all puffed-up pomp and circumstance as Diana, the strongest musical contributions of the evening came from Joanne Komyjec's outraged Guione and the hilarious drag characterization of the aging nymph, Linfea, by tenor John Fryatt (whose diction and stagecraft could be a model for any and all aspiring singers). Justin Brown conducted.

Sadder but Wiser

While John Cox's production of *La Calisto* seemed to lack a great deal of purpose, Peter Sellers' staging of *Cosi Fan Tutte* at PepsiCo Summerfare was filled with tremendous doses of humor, anger and dramatic insight. Set in a seaside diner owned by Despina and Don Alfonso (depicted here as a disillusioned Vietnam veteran), this interpretation of Mozart's "School For Lovers" (Continued on page 49)



James Maddalena, Susan Larson, Frank Kelley and Janice Felty bid each other farewell in Act I of Mozart's *Cosi Fan Tutte* at PepsiCo Summerfare.

### Bear Me No Malice

Cavalli's *La Calisto* features one of the more twisted librettos in the repertoire. In this opera the eternally horny Giove descends from Mount Olympus, is taken with the beauty of Calisto (a nymph of Diana) and, at the suggestion of Mercury, transforms himself into the virgin goddess so that he can handily woo the confused Calisto.

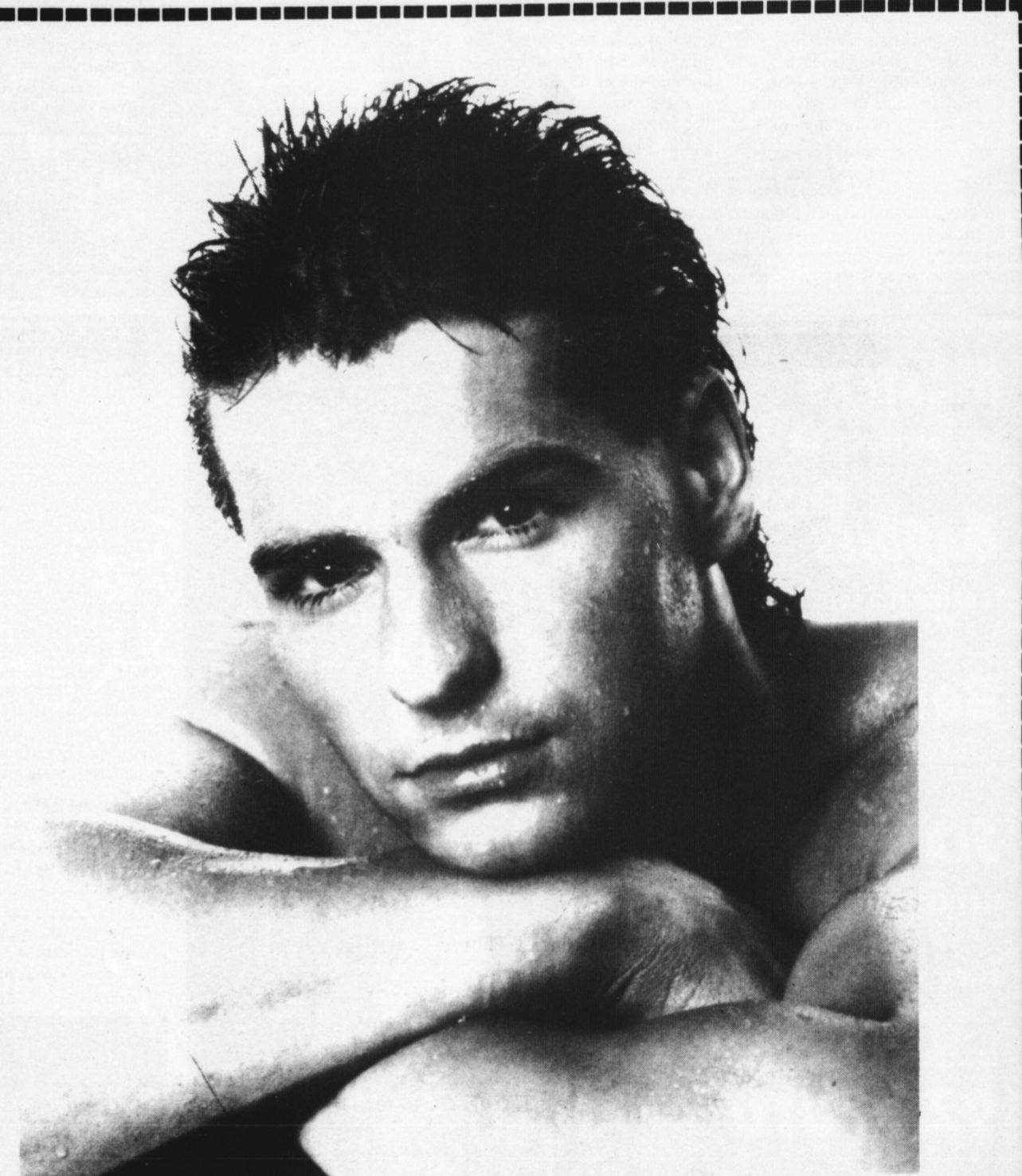
Needless to say, when Diana returns to the scene chaos ensues. Shortly thereafter, Giove's wife, Guione, catches her husband in the act of wooing Calisto and, as a means of revenge, transforms the innocent young nymph into a little bear. Always one to get his way, Giove transforms the bear into the constellation Ursa Minor and is reunited with Calisto in the heavens surrounding Mount Olympus.

While much of this mythological claptrap is confusing, the Santa Fe Opera's recent production of *La Calisto* raised serious obstacles to anyone who is not an absolute fiend for baroque opera. I must confess that, despite director John Cox's attempts to transform *La Calisto* into a viable entertainment, I found myself supremely bored with the proceedings. Supertitles (which are made impossible by the dimensions of the Santa Fe Opera House) might have helped matters but, when push comes to shove, I could find no solid dramatic momentum behind this production.

Set and costume designer Robert Perdziola (who set *La Calisto* atop a dangerously curved and raked platform) didn't seem the slightest bit concerned with the safety of his singers, and his mix of traditional costumes with space-age punk outfits was highly uncalled for.

When theatrical conceit is based only on conceit, it's a sure sign that dramatic coherence is at a premium.

Credit nevertheless goes to Kevin Langan's resonant Giove, Mikael Melby's athletic Mer-



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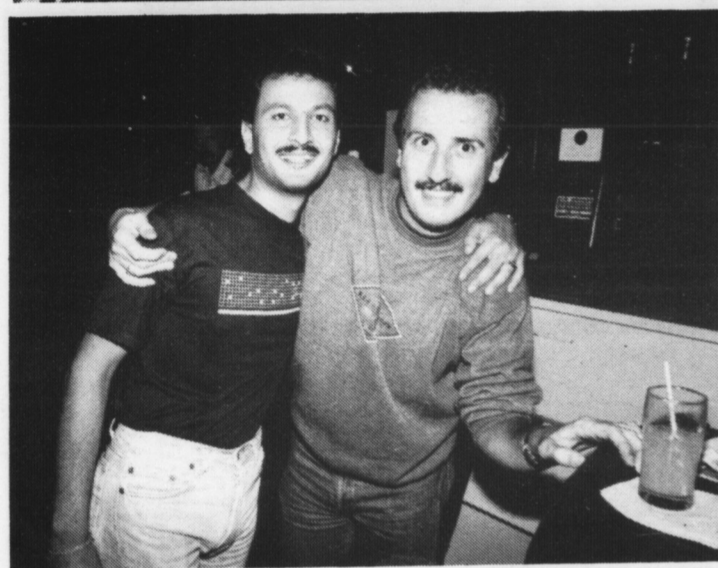
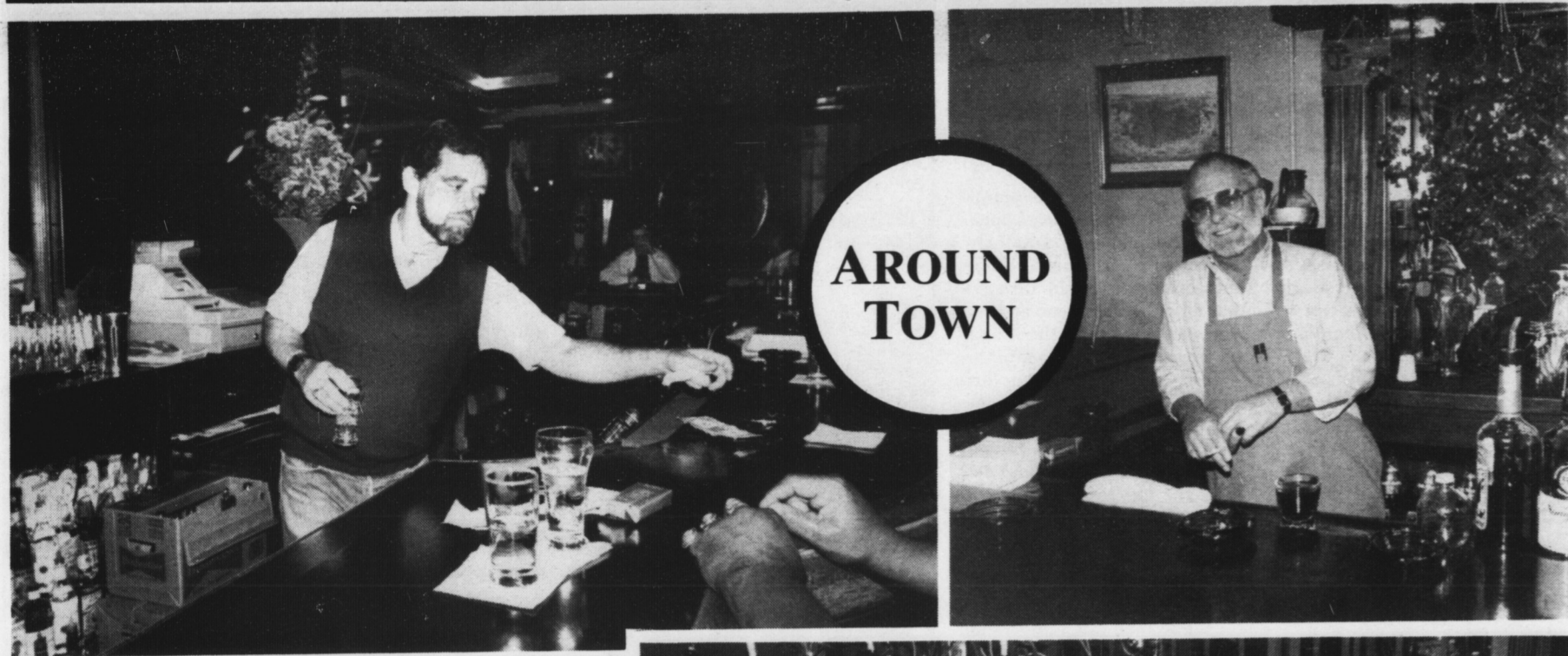
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Clockwise from top left, Nelson serves 'em up at the Special; a friendly face at Gilmore's on Hyde Street; the cozy inside of Gilmore's; Tony (bottom of page) manager of the Special; Special patrons Robert and Rudy. (Photo: Darlene/PhotoGraphics)

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**T**ony Ziegler, head bartender at the Special on Castro Street, has a warm attitude toward his clientele—the neighbors.

Many years ago the Special was named Club Unique. When the new owners took over they decided not to be so uppity and dubbed the bar Nothing Special. When the "Nothing" of the neon sign over the door burned out, the bar became just plain Special.

Ziegler describes it as an ordinary bar—nothing special, no specialty of the house, just friendly conversation. Happy hour is 5-7:30 when the drink prices go down, and occasionally the hors d'oeuvres come out.

The Special has a lot of motorcycle clubs as regulars. The bar boasts a bowling team and two pool teams, Special Breed and Specialettes (a co-ed group).

In the past, the bar has held AIDS fundraisers and plans to continue doing so in the future.

Gilmore's on Hyde near the Cala grocery store has been in business for more than 12 years. Co-owned by lesbians Peggy Forster and Charlotte Colman, the quaint, neighborhood bar serves the Nob Hill area. It is a mixed bar as far as the male/female ratio goes.

They occasionally have hot-dog fundraisers for Godfather Service Fund that you won't want to miss.

Hunting for a parking space is not a joyful experience, but if you're really in a jam, check out the underground lot at Calas. Just don't plan a five-cocktail marathon stay at the bar, or you may discover your car has been rudely towed away.

Gilmore's offers large, picture windows with a fine view of two cable cars, the California and the Hyde, going up and down the hill.

The upstairs balcony creates a more intimate atmosphere, and the bartenders can warm things up a bit by pouring delicious Irish coffee with real whipping cream.



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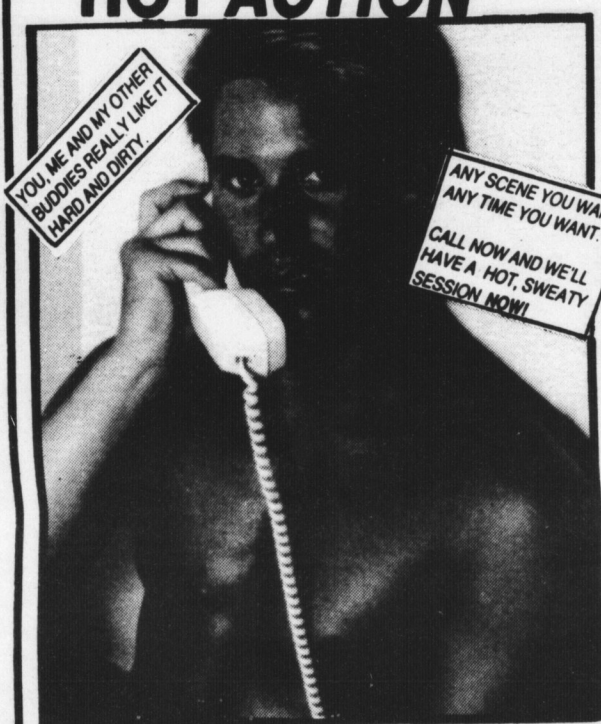
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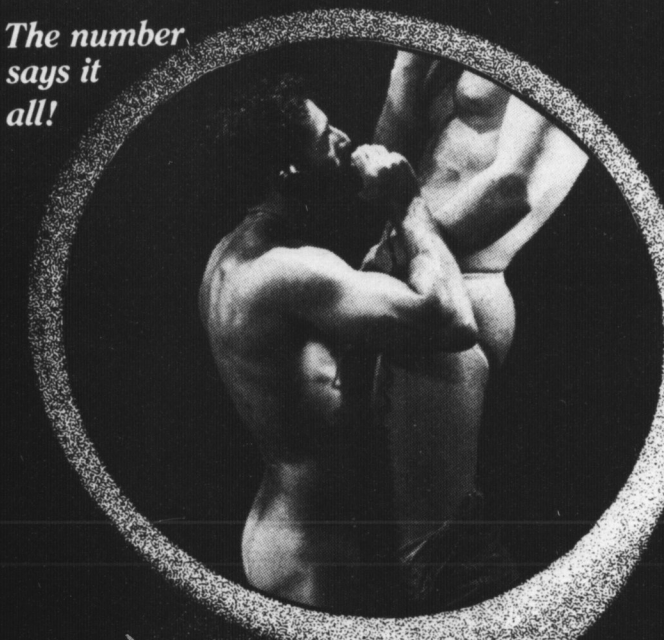
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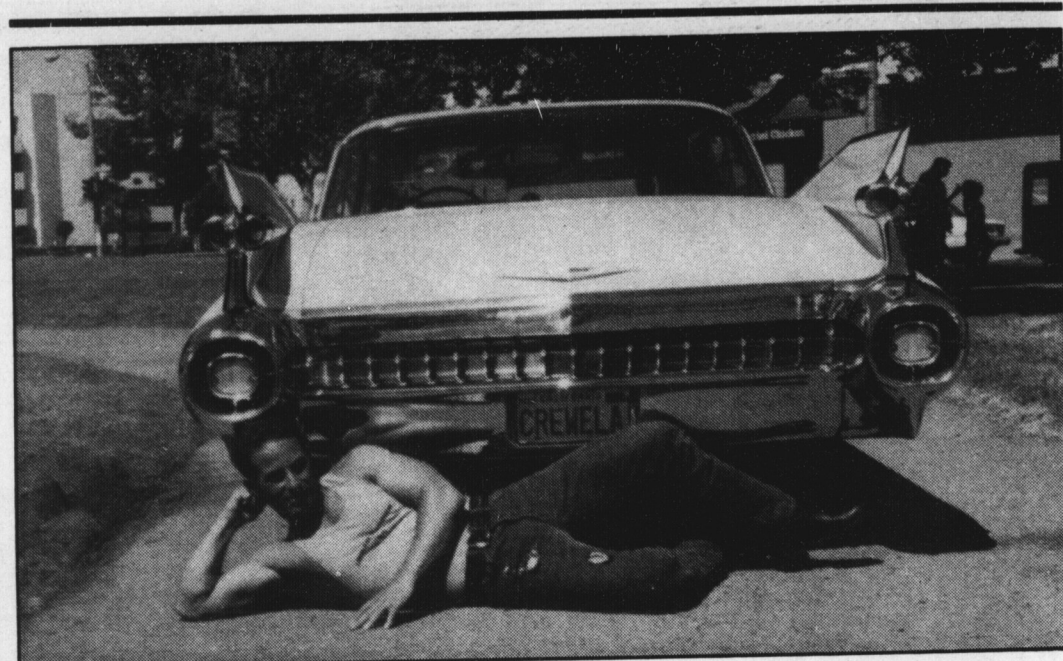
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Famous fins of the '59 Cadillac will be featured at the Freewheelers' Concours d'Elegance Sept. 9 in San Rafael. (Photo: Marcus)

## Marcus

(Continued from previous page)

have noteworthy connotations!

**Update:** The White House. Would you believe our own Christian Haren has been invited to dine with President Bush at the White House? Being honored for all his efforts on behalf of AIDS/ARC people and commended for bringing the "truth" to our nation's youth about AIDS. Hey, this is heavy duty and aren't you just as proud as Christian himself! Sure you are!

**Update:** Now that S.F. Park & Rec has done away with all those nooks and crannies in Buena Vista Park, Robert Pruzanadana had to do something doesn't he? (Brian Jones is still hanging in

there!) So Pruzanadana is exploring the new cockring craze! You know all those over-sized donut shaped ones; those new brass ones; those new velcro ones; those new velcro ones? At first I thought he was going to have a ring toss at the Folsom Street Fair, but darlings, half a dozen cock rings will just not be enough for a game like that!

**Update:** If you see Sister Boom Boom (Jack Fertig) limping around this week, give him a pat on the back to comfort him after the cosmetic surgery he had this past Monday (Labor Day). Let's face it, getting a Prince Albert isn't all that fun, is it Boom, Boom, darrrrring?

**Update:** All that wild applause coming from the Eagle's patio last Monday was David

Kelsey's stunning performance for and with the Gay Marching Band and Twirling Corps beer bust. What a trouper! What with Danny Williams knocking 'em dead on Sunday and David Kelsey being equally funny entertaining the next day, I wasn't a bit surprised to hear a veteran Eagle-ette quip: "Jeeze, this place is better than the Improv!" Hey, you gotta laugh once in a while during these trying times! And while you're living and loving and being generous to all the worthy causes facing our community, just be sure you do it in leather!

**P.S.:** I just know you're all going to elect Candi del Rey Ms. Tavern Guild at the SFTC Picnic this weekend, aren't you? Candi always does a good job! ▼



Young buns! At the Leather Daddy's Boy contest. (Photo: Marcus)

## Cycle Runners Motorcycle Club Camps It Up Deep in the Woods

by Dennis McMillan

The Cycle Runners Motorcycle Club presented their annual Labor Day weekend run and program centering around the theme "Hawaii" at their Big Basin campsite.

It was a sellout show with every bench in the woods filled. Rangers from far and near came to see the spectacle. It must have truly amazed them that these part-time bikers/part-time show biz folk and campers (in both senses of the word) would set up a load of fake, painted, cardboard trees in the middle of a forest filled with the real thing.

The show was a highly condensed version of the classic James Michener's *Hawaii*, a history of the island paradise from creation to Pearl Harbor to American exploitation.

Beginning with special effects that rivaled Spielberg (especially after one has sipped several Singapore Slings and downed a couple more Mai Tais), the show utilized an electronic array of strobe and laser lights and unearthly prerecorded sounds as a Mana Loa facsimile erupted into an awesome, tin-foil lava explosion.

This was followed by a spectacular procession of island princesses, vestal virgins (you had to stretch your imagination here), and native men scantily clad in grass skirts or ti plant leaves (it should be noted that portions of the show verged on an X-rating due to some bare buttocks).

There was not merely sex but even a touch of good old Hollywood violence as an elaborately costumed King Kamehameha in red feather cape and hood commanded that one of the "vir-

(Continued on page 48)

## BOOKS

# Can We Escape The Ape Culture?

**Primal Threat: An Introduction to Homophobia**  
by Irving Ashby, Comstock Publications, \$16.95.

by Marv. Shaw

New contexts for the gay culture give us new perspectives on ourselves, as Harry Hay, Aaron Shurin, Dennis Altman and several others demonstrated in Mark Thompson's *Gay Spirit: Myth and Meaning*. Now, from out of somewhere, comes this 179-page analytic-epic that puts our social status in a historical framework in which humankind is seen as struggling toward a universal government of What's Right and away from the one set by our hominid predecessors, the apes. That one is simply Who's Boss and is a territorially structured power arrangement, ruled by the strongest ape.

Ashby goes to considerable lengths to show how the territorial concept has evolved from the simian one of a small band in a few acres of treetops to a highly diversified one in which humans realize power, with all its rewards, in complete cultures in myriad ways.

The author places the origin of What's Right, a structure of laws determined by reason, in ancient Greece and its singular notion that a democratic government was more just and effective than a tyrannical one.

True, the Greek city-states had their tyrants, but there were also those thoughtful enough to counteract tyranny: Socrates, Plato and Aristotle, to name only the most significant. So began the contest between Who's Boss and What's Right. Interestingly, some of the most brilliant of the latter were homosexuals.

Perhaps that's a major reason for two things. First, What's Right guarantees socio-sexual difference be accommodated reasonably. Second, because such difference is a matter of dissent to the Who's Boss mindset, it is seen by The Bosses as dangerous.

Therefore, The Bosses contrive in multiple ways to keep homosexual social dissent opprobrious, threatening and criminal. These ways permeate world societies, even corrupting those functions that supposedly are intended to keep us physically and

## Theatre Season At Eureka Opens Sept. 20

*Tales of the Lost Formicans*, a dark comedy, will have its West Coast premiere as the season opener for the Eureka Theatre.

In *Tales of the Lost Formicans*, alien beings examine the artifacts and rituals of modern American culture. The aliens try to reconstruct the messy life story of a family that has become estranged from one another under the stress of divorce and mental illness.

*Tales of the Lost Formicans*, written by Constance Congdon and directed by Julie Hebert, will preview Sept. 14, 15, 16, 17 and 19, opens on Sept. 20 and plays Wednesday-Sunday until Oct. 15. Tickets are: \$11-\$17. Showtimes are: 8 p.m., Wednesday-Saturday, Sunday 7:30 p.m. For tickets and information call 558-9898. ▼

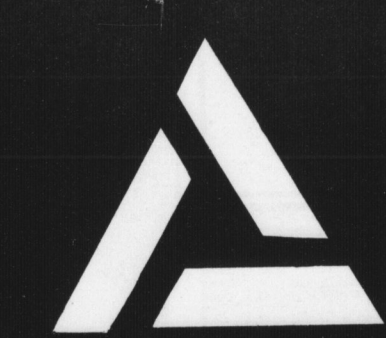
mentally healthy and spiritually hopeful.

So Ashby diagnoses homophobia as an institutionalized reaction of a culture's Bosses, of whatever secondary markings they happen to carry, to dissenters who insist that What's Right be the operative mode of social governance and who repeatedly point out and deplore the continuation of Who's Boss, no matter how that mode is disguised and manipulated. All modern sophistications notwithstanding, The Boss is still the strongest ape. Homosexuals are still the most tempting and convenient victims—in great part because they dare to be so different and are so easy to be made villains in the group mind that The Boss has found so easy to dominate.

Ashby sees homosexuals as the prime adepts at what he calls the aesthetic faculty, a kind of hand-

**PRIMAL THREAT**

An Introduction To Homophobia



IRVING ASHBY

maiden to What's Right. Paradoxically, this distinction, so marvelously demonstrated by the Leonardos and Michaelangelos, is both celebrated and denied in the game of Who's Boss. The aesthetic faculty may be valuable, but it can't be practiced by a homosexual.


Something of the same paradox exists in *Primal Threat*. On the one hand, it is the threat by The Boss Ape to keep us barbarous and subjugated. On the other hand, it is a "threat" even more primal, an intrinsic human drive to be civilized and to conclude Who's Boss forever.

This is an extraordinary book. While the anger propelling the polemic sometimes induces the author to extremities of assertion and style, he is basically right most of the time. However, there are some odd omissions that cause one to wonder. For example, there are anecdotes about contemporary life in which the participants remain unidentified. Further, there are few attributions.

The most serious omission of all is the virtual anonymity of the author. Beyond his name, he is not identified at all. For the author of a work that scores so resoundingly, remaining shadowy is puzzling indeed. ▼

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**POOL**

**Sacramento Hosts Holiday Tourney**

Nearly 100 sharpshooters turned out for last weekend's sixth annual Labor Day Open at Sacramento's exquisite Great American Billiards where soft lighting and air conditioning let players and spectators alike slip out of the sweltering, real-time world.

The Sacramento area is home to a number of world-class women 9-ball players and they were joined by others from throughout the West Coast to

swell the women's field to 26 with practically no promotion.

Two San Francisco Pool Association players shelled out the \$60 entry fee to take part in the double-elimination race-to-eight, which began Saturday afternoon. Both Toni Macante and Lauren Ward suffered the rude awakening of a first-round loss and the prospect of early elimination.

Those familiar with the national 9-ball tournament scene would recognize the names of

many of the players, such as Sher Lively, Diane Piercy, Julie Hunter, Lisa D'Atri, Susie Miller, Jan Cane and the defending champion, Kathy Miao.

Macante couldn't catch a break in her second match and was eliminated, 8-3.

"She made six 9-ball combos!" Macante lamented.

Ward breezed by her next opponent, 8-3, and next faced the intimidating Kathy Miao, herself a surprise second-round loser.



(Photo: Darlene/PhotoGraphics)

Lauren lost the first game but got over her feelings of awe as she won the next two and never looked back, eliminating Miao, 8-3, in the contest's first major upset. Buoyed by the win, she stormed over her next opponent, 8-2, and guaranteed herself a minimum prize of \$100.

The ensuing dinner break, tracking down a motel vacancy, and inhaling her first meal of a very long day definitely broke her momentum as she lost her next match, 8-6, to Susie Miller, the same player who delivered Ward's first-round loss.

Miller went on to face Sher Lively and was finally eliminated after a long, see-saw battle. Her tie for fifth was worth \$200.

Dave "Piranha" Piona played in the SFPA a couple of seasons ago and was one of those who ponied up \$100 to play in the 60-player men's field. He was on a hot streak Saturday, advancing undefeated to the winner's bracket final on Sunday against Paul "Doc" Brienza. Dave played beautifully but Doc was flawless, sending the "Piranha" to face the loser's bracket finalist.

Roy Putternick was clearly fired up as he downed Joe Salazar and went on to defeat Piona. Dave had to settle for third place and \$600.

All of Sunday's finals were played in the separate tournament room, home to five tight-pocketed, fast cloth tables and raked theater seats for spectators. The simultaneous men's and women's final matches seemed at times like a three-ring circus as the audience's eyes darted between tables, not wanting to miss one spectacular shot after another.

In the women's field, Diane Piercy defeated Julie Hunter in the winners' bracket final and sat back to see who would survive the losers' bracket to challenge her for the title. Sher Lively defeated Delani Stephens of Portland and then downed Julie Hunter in another close match. Piercy held on for the tournament victory and \$700 in her showdown with Lively, who pocketed \$410 for second place.

With the women's champion decided, all eyes focused on the incredible play in the men's final as Roy took on the Doc.

"I want to play like them," Piercy whispered. "To play like them you've got to give up your life for a few years and do nothing but eat, drink and sleep pool," Kathy Miao said. "They've probably hit over a million more balls than we have."

**Doc Brienza took home \$1,500 and the complete admiration of everyone in the packed arena.**

Roy seemed destined to pull off the upset, defeating Doc in the first set and forcing a tiebreaker for the title. He went ahead 3-0 in the final when Doc stepped up and proceeded to run five consecutive racks, including one in which he pocketed five balls on the break.

Despite sitting down and watching his lead evaporate, Roy came back and was within a game of the title at 8-7 when his break left him snookered with the 9-ball hanging in the corner pocket. Doc snagged the win and broke in the final game. Roy conceded defeat when Doc lined up a 9-ball combination.

Doc Brienza took home \$1,500 and the complete admiration of everyone in the packed arena.

The next opportunity to see or participate in one of the Great American's "majors" arrives the weekend of Oct. 7 when a field of 128 will be drawn in their Fall Handicapped Classic. The USPPA handicapping system will be employed and the top prize is \$2,000. Students of the game shouldn't miss out on that Sunday's finals.

Dial JOE-POOL for SFPA information. ▼

**Gay Games**

(Continued from page 45)

serious athlete to compete at his or her personal best level, while other events ensure that we don't take ourselves too seriously and fall victim to the "gold fever" that plagues the Olympic Games (where anything less than first place isn't acceptable).

There will be 26 sports to choose from. Many feature age group competition, allowing participants to compete against others in their age bracket. The events include badminton, basketball, bowling, billiards, croquet, cycling, soccer, volleyball, darts, diving, swimming, track & field, equestrian, golf, marathon, martial arts, powerlifting, physique, racquetball, touch football, wrestling, triathlon, softball, squash, tennis and water polo. The Games are open to all.

Long after the competition, it's the people you will remember — your teammates, the athletes from other cities whose performances you admire, the trainers, the spectators and the volunteers. The memories are worth all the gold medals given out. And so nobody goes home empty-handed, all participants in Gay Games III will receive a certificate of merit.

The camaraderie is arguably the best part of the Games. Spectators and athletes alike share the experience of Celebration '90 together, on the athletic field and off. It's great meeting athletes from other cities and other sports, comparing training techniques, injury treatments and basic strategies. The Gay Games are a collection of people who love to participate and share with others just like themselves. The support and encouragement extends to first and last place finishers, making everyone feel like a winner.

Make no mistake though, there will be athletes at Celebration '90 ready to take on all challengers. Some have been in training since the last Games in 1986, some never stopped training since the first Games in '82. However, it's not too late to try to get in shape and compete. The sooner you start your program, the more time you have to train and try to perfect your technique.

Just keep in mind that there's more to be gained from participating than the glory of victory. Personal and social development, physical and emotional well-being are a few of the advantages of competing. If your goals are to optimize performance, to maintain overall fitness and health, then your profit from participation will last well beyond the temporary high of winning. This isn't to say winning shouldn't be a part of your game plan. But it is necessary to keep it in perspective. Fame is a transitory entity, and if accepted as

such it can be a wonderful experience. Remember you're only as good as your last race or your most recent performance.

At the Gay Games, it won't matter where you place in your event... first, second, third or even last... more appropriately, it is that you've taken the risk to compete and participate and challenge yourself. Being the best that you can be is clearly the goal of the Gay Games, for the organizers, the athletes and the spectators support every effort, as long as it's an honest and true one. Why not discover how good you really are?



To find out more about becoming a part of Gay Games III in Vancouver, Aug. 4-11, 1990, contact Team San Francisco at 2215-R Market St., #519, San Francisco, CA 94114, or call 626-1333.

In future issues of the Bay Area Reporter, find out about some of the people who are training to become a part of history at Gay Games III! ▼

**Angel Island Sports Day Is Sept. 17**

by Rick Thoman

Mark your calendars now for the eighth annual Gay Sports Day on Angel Island, Sunday, Sept. 17. The event is sponsored by the San Francisco Frontrunners and is open to everyone, free of charge.

Interest and participation in the event has increased each year, and the Frontrunners are predicting a record crowd this year. Gay and lesbian sports clubs from throughout the Bay Area will be in attendance to share information about their organizations.

A full program of sporting activities has been planned, including a run around the island with the Frontrunners, bicycling with Different Spokes, softball, football, volleyball and hiking. The East Garrison picnic area and field have been reserved and everyone is invited to bring a dish to share at the mammoth pot-luck brunch. Two barbecue pits will be fired up by the Frontrunners for anyone wishing to barbecue. Participants are asked to bring their own drinks.



Transportation to the island will be by ferry from either San Francisco (at Pier 49 1/2) or Tiburon. The San Francisco ferry leaves at 10:50 a.m. and returns at 3:20 p.m., with a round-trip fare of \$7. The Tiburon ferry departs hourly starting at 10 a.m. and the last ferry back is at 5:20 p.m., at \$4 for a round trip. There is an additional charge for bikes, and spaces on the ferries are not guaranteed so it is advisable to arrive early.

For more information regarding Gay Sports Day on Angel Island, call Mike at 863-9987, or David at 621-8142.

The San Francisco Frontrunners have also announced their 10th annual Gay Run in Golden Gate Park. The 5- and 10-kilometer race will be on a loop course starting and finishing at the Polo Fields. The Sunday, Oct. 15, event begins at 9 a.m. and is open to all interested participants. Registration forms are available at Fleet Feet on Market at 26th Street, or Hoy's Sports on Haight Street.

For more information, call Jim at 922-1435. Those wishing to volunteer to help with the race, call Dave at 626-1380. ▼

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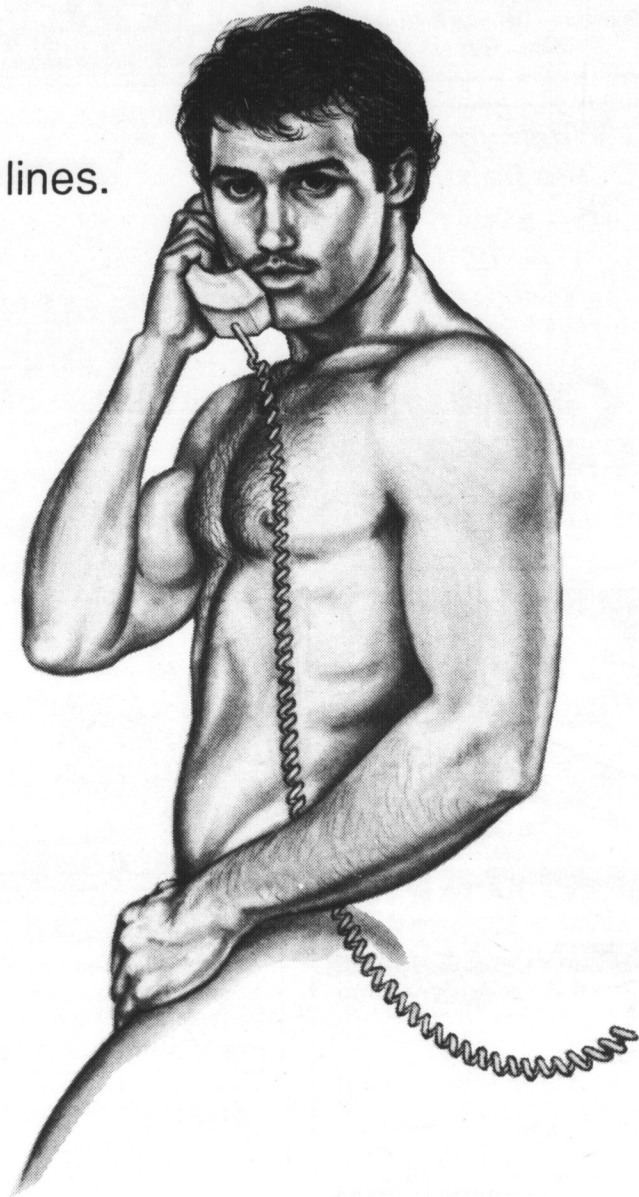




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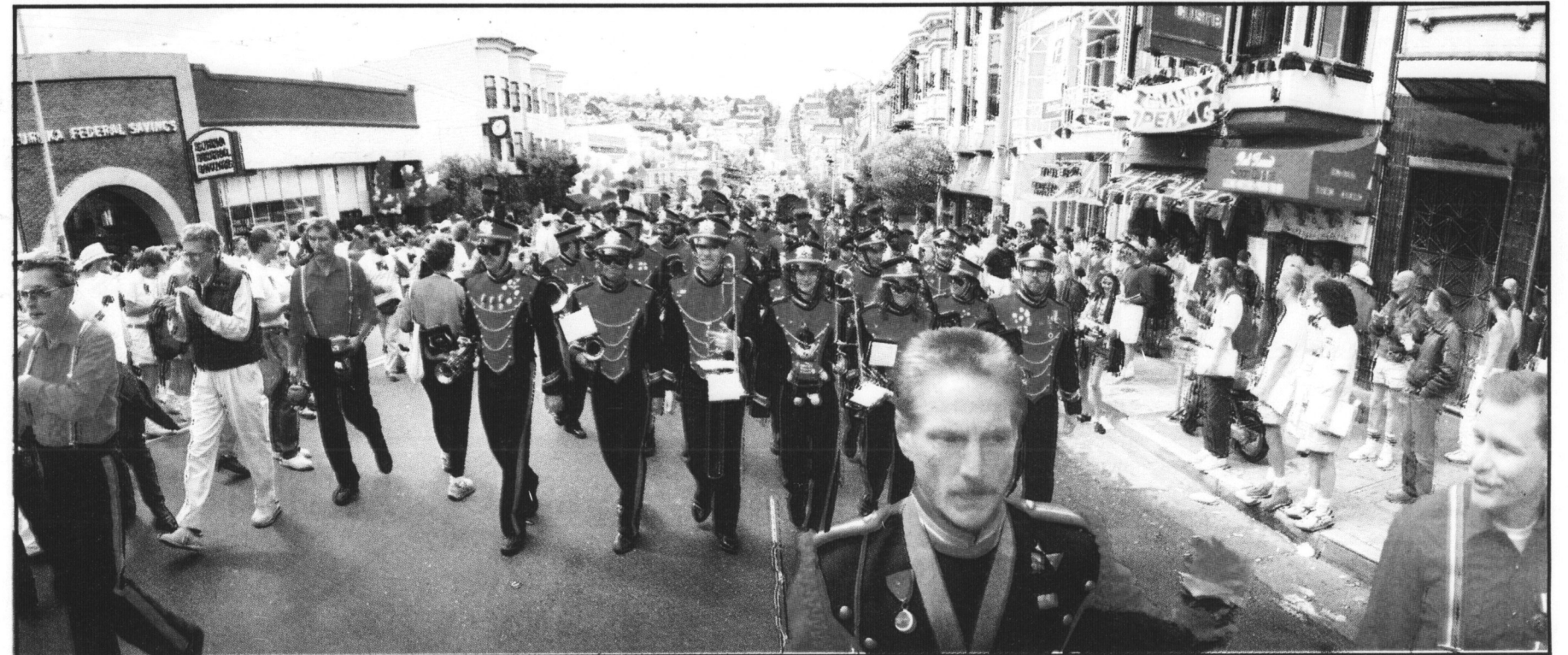
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# BAY AREA REPORTER

VOL 19 NO 37



The San Francisco Gay Freedom Day Marching Band in this year's parade. For a profile of the band see page 32.

## A Fight at the Opera

### SANE Activists Clash with Socialites During Opening Night AIDS Protest

by Gregory Douthwaite  
and Karen M. Everett

AIDS activists wanting to see and be seen by the city's most wealthy and prominent socialites stormed the festive San Francisco Opera opener last Friday night, briefly stealing the spotlight from the stunned crowd.

Blowing whistles and charging down carpeted aisles, 53 demonstrators from a group called Stop AIDS Now or Else (SANE) delayed for 20 minutes the raising of the curtain on *Falstaff*.

Opera fans in tuxedos and gowns stood on their seats and jeered back while protesters read a statement calling for quicker government action in finding a cure for AIDS.

"We got booed to death," said protestor Waiyde Palmer, who managed to deliver only about half of a prepared speech.

Scuffles broke out between the activists and tuxedo-clad men, according to Elizabeth Karnazes, a free-lance photographer. She

claimed she was punched in the face by a demonstrator.

The protesters left of their own accord after delaying the curtain for 20 minutes. They were escorted out by a single policeman. No arrests were made, and no citations were issued.

The protesters had infiltrated the opera by purchasing \$15 standing-room-only tickets on the day of the show.

As the house lights dimmed, they raised their fists and began

chanting, "We're here, we're queer and we're fighting back!"

The orchestra struck up "The Star-Spangled Banner," and some operagoers sang as loudly as they could, attempting to drown out the protesters. Some protesters shone flashlights on a banner reading, "You have the power to stop AIDS now or else." Others, in the balcony, showered the audience with thousands of pink paper triangles.

Protesters passed out "pro-

grams" explaining their actions. Titled "AIDS—The Epidemic: a dramatic evening in three acts," the programs listed changes in government AIDS policy which the activists feel are needed.

Palmer began his speech with a portable microphone. "Stop AIDS Now or Else welcomes you to opening night," he said. "We're here tonight because we know that people in this room have the power to stop this genocide."

(Continued on page 12)

## Australians Issue Visa To S.F. Man With ARC

by Dennis Conkin

Australian government officials have reversed a decision denying a visa to Peter Pender, a San Francisco gay man with AIDS-related complex.

The decision allows Pender to compete in the World Class Bridge Tournament in Perth, Australia. He is a member of the six-person American bridge team, two-time world bridge champions.

"This is a message that can be sent around the world. People with HIV virus are not going to endanger anybody in their coun-

try. I'm going over there to play bridge, not to have sex," Pender told the *Bay Area Reporter*.

"On the one hand, I'm very angry," Pender said. "On the other hand, I'm glad there is a story. I hope I can complete that story by winning the world championship."

"I want people who have the virus to see that it is possible to lead a full life. You can't get rid of it, but can take medications and live a full life. I'm healthy and I have my doctor's blessing to go."

(Continued on page 17)

## Burroughs Wellcome Refuses To Cut Price of AZT

### Life-Saving Drug Costs \$8,000 Per Year

by Cliff O'Neill

Although not expressly ruling out the possibility of a future price reduction, the Burroughs Wellcome Co. has again balked at demands that it lower the price of the costly anti-AIDS drug AZT after a recent meeting with representatives from four AIDS activist organizations.

Responding to a two-page joint letter from 16 lesbian/gay and AIDS organizations, representatives from the drug company met Sept. 5 with staffers from the Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund, the New York AIDS Coalition To Unleash Power (ACT

UP/NY), the AIDS Action Council and Gay Men's Health Crisis at the company's headquarters in North Carolina. Joe Whitehead, executive vice president of corporate affairs, and Dr. David Barry, vice president in charge of research, represented the interests of the drug company.

After a three-hour meeting, AIDS activists left largely disappointed at what they viewed as the company's reluctance to reduce the price of the drug over which it holds an exclusive patent.

Currently, AZT can cost patients up to \$8,000 a year.

"Unfortunately, we got really nothing out of them," said David Barr, staff attorney for the Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund.

"Burroughs was not at all forthcoming in addressing the issue that we had focused on, which was pricing," added Gay Men's Health Crisis lobbyist Jeff Levi. "We were hoping they would share with us some indication what factors go into deter-

(Continued on page 2)

THIS PAPER IN TWO SECTIONS