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VOL. XIX NO. 41 OCTOBER 12, 1989 395 NINTH STREET, SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94103-3831 TELEPHONE: 415/861-5019

Castro Held Hostage

Many Injured as Police Sweep Bystanders from Sidewalk

by Brett Averill

Related stories, pages 12-13

It was a confrontation such has not been seen in San Francisco's gay community since the White Night riots more than a decade ago. What started outside the federal building Friday evening, Oct. 6, as a bland plea for more AIDS funds ended five hours later with bloodied heads, mass arrests and the specter of fully armed riot police marching in military formation through the heart of the Castro, sweeping demonstrators and confused passers-by from the streets and sidewalks.

The protest and its aftermath have led to angry accusations of excessive force on the part of the police. Eyewitnesses lined up at a rally Saturday evening to give testimony to the city's Office of Citizen Complaints about Friday's events, and by Wednesday morning the OCC had received 10-15 reports of improper police action. Community United Against Violence has received in the neighborhood of 40 complaints. The Board of Supervisors has taken the issue up and plans a closed session next week with Police Chief Frank Jordan. Meanwhile, Jordan said the police department was commencing its own investigation, and

members of ACT UP, the principal organizer of Friday's demonstration, say they hold Jordan ultimately responsible for the arrests and bloodshed.

Friday's demonstration and march were conceived as part of a national day of protest meant to call attention to federal shortcomings on AIDS, particularly the lack of a coordinated national policy on the epidemic and the dearth of federal funds for treatment. Demonstrators planned major actions in Boston, Fort Lauderdale, Austin and San Diego, among other cities.

In Los Angeles, hundreds of activists blocked entrances to the federal building in Westwood early Friday morning. About 80 of them were arrested by federal police wearing surgical masks, facial visors and rubber gloves.

The protest was reported to have been peaceful, for the most part, although at least one demonstrator, the Rev. Troy Perry of Metropolitan Community Church, suffered "minor shoulder injuries" while being arrested, and others accused police of using ex-

(Continued on page 14)

Bush Snubs Names Quilt

by Allen White

Hundreds shook their fingers at President George Bush and yelled "Shame, shame, shame" as he flew over the Names Project quilt last Friday in Washington, D.C. Bush had snubbed the presentation of 10,848 quilt panels at the Ellipse, directly across the street from the White House, by refusing repeated invitations to view it.

Bush's helicopter fly-over capped a morning of activity surrounding the unfolding of the huge memorial to people who have died of AIDS. Earlier that morning, a light rain had delayed the unfolding ceremony by almost an hour, but many of the celebrity readers waited through the delay.

Cleve Jones, executive director of the San Francisco-based Names Project, began the reading with the name of Jack Caster, a co-founder of the Names Project who died earlier this year of AIDS. He was followed by dozens of readers including Dionne Warwick, Harvey Fierstein, Congressman Gerry

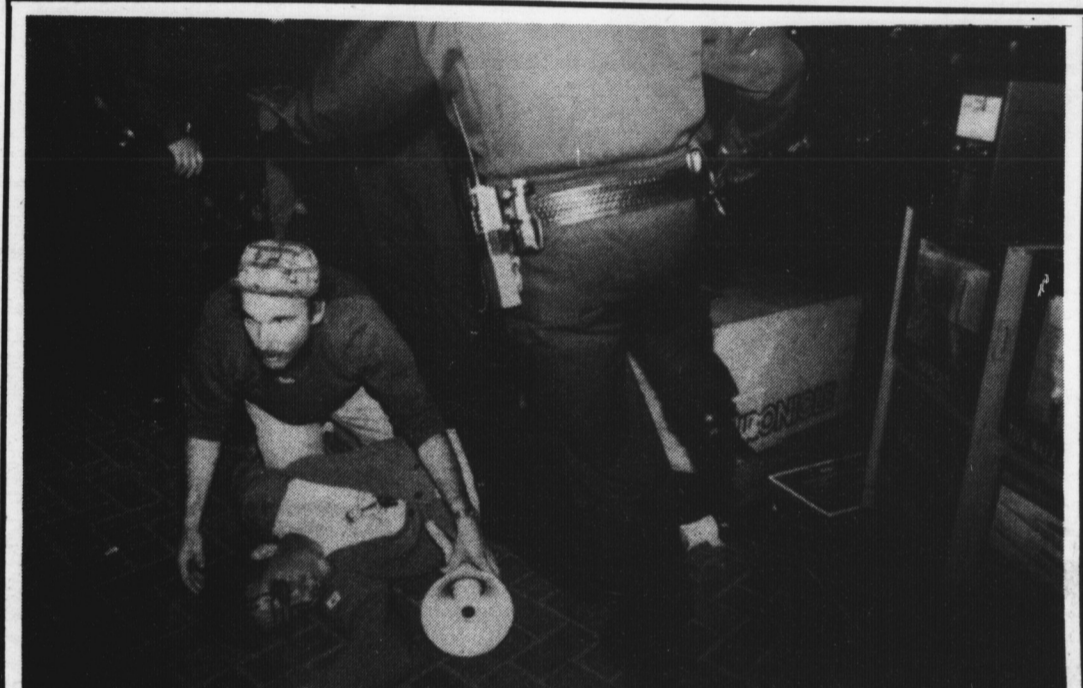
Studds and others. Representing Cincinnati, Ohio, the fifth reader was Mary Whitesell, the mother of the late San Francisco gay activist Bill Kraus.

At ten till noon, it began to rain again. With the precision of a fine-tuned army, the hundreds of volunteers were able to refold the quilt, which covered the equivalent of nine football fields, in less than two minutes.

A moment later, the president's helicopter flew over the quilt and landed on the lawn in front of the White House. As the motor idled, security covered the area. Fire trucks, which are on standby whenever the presidential helicopter lands at the White House, parked next to the quilt.

The rain again subsided. Jones stepped to the microphone and said, "The President of the United States will not be with us today, but he will be overhead." He then announced to the many volunteers, "Reopen the quilt." In moments it was done.

(Continued on page 2)



Scenes from last Friday night's AIDS protest in the Castro. Top: Blood streams from Michael Barnett's forehead after he was injured at Castro and Market streets. Middle: A protester challenges police as they advance in riot formation down Castro Street. Bottom: Police arrest a prone demonstrator as they sweep the sidewalk at the intersection of 18th and Castro. (Photo: Rick Gerharter)

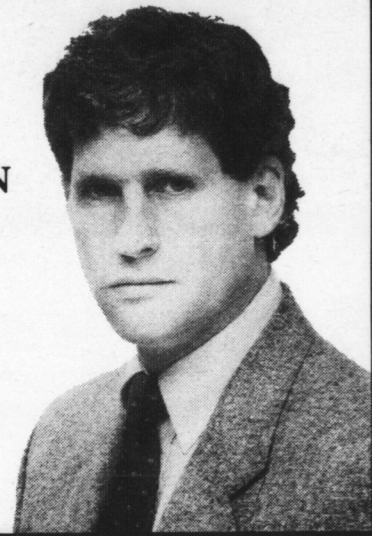
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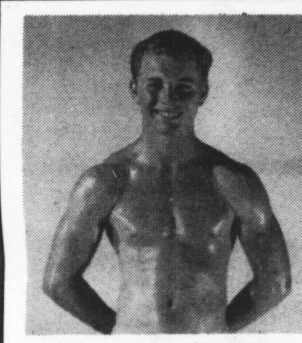


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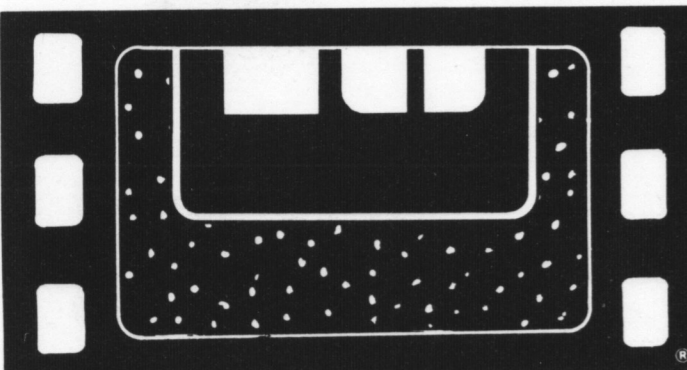


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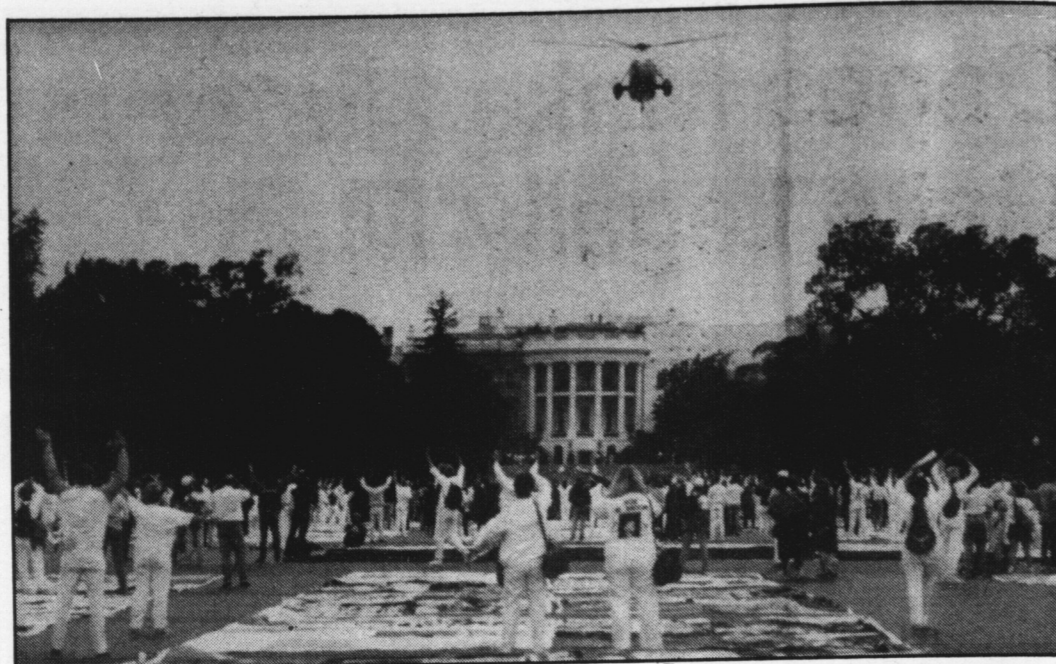


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Visitors to the Names Project quilt gesticulate at a helicopter carrying President George Bush, who refused repeated invitations to view the quilt. (Photo: Marcel Miranda)

Quilt

(Continued from page 1)

Microphones placed so that those reading the names faced the quilt were turned so the readers faced the White House. The volume was turned up on the public address system speakers. The next readers were Joan Wike of the Names Project chapter in Anchorage, Alaska, and Paul Hill from San Francisco.

Emotionally they literally screamed the names of people who had been memorialized with panels. Their voices began to crack as the names penetrated the whir of the helicopter blades. The president emerged from the White House and boarded the helicopter.

The noise increased as the helicopter lifted off the White House lawn and headed over the quilt. It was later confirmed that the president was aware of the quilt as he flew over.

Down on the ground there was anger and disappointment. "I was deeply angered and disappointed that the president and Mrs. Bush did not visit the quilt," said Jones. "If they would have stood on the quilt it would have sent such a powerful message of hope to so many people, and they were right there, and I felt it was just a real example of callous indifference."

The decision not to visit the quilt was attributed by many to security concerns. One person close to the president said Bush believed he might be the target of demonstrators.

"You know, they could have visited the quilt," Jones countered. "No one would have harmed them."

Bush scheduled elective surgery on Friday for removal of a benign cyst from the middle finger of his right hand.

The effort to persuade the president and Mrs. Bush to visit the quilt began within days after he took office in January. Letters of invitation were sent. His personal physician, Dr. Burton Lee, who did read names last weekend, told him of the quilt. Friends of the Bush family sent letters and personally invited them to view it. In fact, last Thursday at the National Cathedral in Washington, Barbara Bush was once again invited by one of her friends who is a Names Project volunteer.

Speaking Saturday evening at an AIDS candlelight vigil, Jones directed his remarks to Bush. "The time has come, Mr. President, for you to see and understand and act. The time has come for you to see us," he said. "Ten months ago you shared with us your vision of a thousand points

of light. Yet when we come to our nation's capital we bring with us a thousand points of light, times ten, times ten again, and still you cannot see us.

"We appeal to you to speak with us, to learn from us the painful facts of the challenges before us. Speak with us, Mr. President. Speak to the American people," Jones continued. "Tell us of your plans to defeat AIDS as you have shared with us your plans for other wars. Tell us that your war on drugs includes rehabilitation and prevention. Tell us a cure for AIDS will be found, Mr. President, and that it will be accessible to all regardless of ability to pay and will be found in time to save those who are already infected."

"Again, we stand here seeking that appointment, and we will return, Mr. President, on a day when many people in many lands on every continent will stand in global solidarity against the AIDS pandemic. Will you stand with us then, Mr. President?" The day Jones referred to is World AIDS Day, Friday, December 1. His announcement begins another effort to create an environment where Bush might speak out forcefully on the subject of AIDS.

The effort to encourage the president to see panels of the quilt also will continue. Because of security concerns, it is known that a suggestion has been made for a quilt display to be set up in the White House.

Throughout the weekend, it was estimated that more than 325,000 people viewed the quilt. This year, 487 new panels were received at the site for inclusion in future displays. By comparison, in 1988, only 150 were received.

The 13-ton quilt was shipped from the Market Street workshop in San Francisco to Washington by train for the showing.

Due to its ever-increasing size, this is the last time the panels in the Names Project quilt will be displayed in their entirety. The quilt will continue to be shown in smaller sections at presentations around the world.

"It truly is a gift of the lesbian and gay community of San Francisco to the rest of the country," Cleve Jones said. "So many people in San Francisco have been involved in one way or another in the making of the quilt. I hope they all feel proud knowing their work is continuing and building and going on."

CRIME WATCH

The following incidents were reported to Community United Against Violence between September 16 and September 27.

Folsom Street near Division Street—2 a.m., Sept. 24. Three gay men were attacked by seven suspects yelling anti-gay epithets. One of the suspects brandished a knife. Three of the suspects were arrested. The gay men received bruises and lacerations.

Route 120, 10 miles out of Yosemite National Park—5 p.m., Sept. 25. Three male youths screamed anti-gay threats from their vehicle at three gay men in a vehicle. The youths pulled off the road at one point and threw a lit flare at the auto the gay men were in. The youths also attempted to drive them off the road and succeeded in ramming their car into a guardrail with a steep cliff just beyond the rail. The youths also hurled beer bottles at the gay men. The youths were arrested and are being charged with assault with a deadly weapon by the Sonoma County sheriff's office. There are several witnesses to the case.

Valencia and 15th streets—12:30 a.m., Sept. 13. A gay man met a man in the bar and took him home. At the victim's house, the suspect became violent and demanded money. The victim managed to get the suspect out of his house.

Church Street near Market (near Daphne Funeral Home)—3 p.m., Sept. 15. A gay man was beaten and raped by three men in an incident of anti-gay violence. While at Davies Hospital the victim's lover was upset with what he perceived as a lack of medical attention. Hospital security and police were called. The rape victim's lover says they jumped on him, knocking him to the floor, kneeling him in the ribs, kicking his kidneys and saying anti-gay epithets. When the man asked what he had done wrong, one policeman responded, "Being born."

Collingwood Community Center—2:30 p.m., Sept. 17. Two teens with baseball bats threatened a gay man that they'd crack his skull. Police arrested the youths.

Castro and Market—11:16 p.m., Sept. 16. A man threatened to kill a gay man at the Muni station. The suspect cocked his gun while saying anti-gay epithets. Police arrested the suspect.

During this time Community United Against Violence also received seven reports of anti-lesbian/gay verbal harassment and one report of egg-throwing.

Community United Against Violence can be contacted at 864-3112.

Danes Make History: Gays Legally Marry

by Rex Wockner

In what is being hailed as a fundamental turning point in the fight for gay and lesbian equality, 11 gay male couples were legally married Oct. 1 in the Copenhagen, Denmark, Town Hall.

Denmark is the first country in the world to allow gay/lesbian marriage, and this was the day the new law took effect. The grooms included a high school teacher, a Lutheran minister and a school psychologist.

As hordes of reporters from all over the world stampeded for interviews, the 11 marriages were compared with such watershed gay events as the 1969 Stonewall Revolt in New York City, the 650,000-strong 1987 March on Washington for Lesbian and Gay Rights and the 1988 mobilization in Great Britain against homophobic Clause 28.

"This is one of the five most important days ever in the lesbian and gay struggle," boasted one jubilant celebrant to Copenhagen's "Pink Radio" station. The Copenhagen daily newspaper *Berlingske Tidende* dubbed the 11 weddings "the event of the year."

At the center of the festivities were 74-year-old Axel Axgil and his 67-year-old partner of 40 years, Eigil Axgil. Axel founded the Danish gay rights movement by coming out of the closet in 1948. He was fired from his job the very next day.

"I'm quite overwhelmed with all these people and the press," Axel said through a translator, "but it's overall very beautifully put together."

"We just never could have dreamed we would get this far," added Eigil. "Of course, we always hoped we would be fully accepted and have the same rights as others."

Eigil said he was not troubled at being married amidst a "media circus" because it is "the necessary price you pay for making world history."

Many other gay and lesbian couples saw it differently, however, and postponed their weddings until later. Activists with the National Association for Gays and Lesbians (NAGL) had thought that 50 to 100 couples might marry Oct. 1, but as the historical significance of the day became more apparent, several couples backed out.

Only three of the 11 couples later attended a press conference, including a pair that had been trailed for eight days by a British Broadcasting Corporation documentary crew.

Asked if he had any words of encouragement for gay and lesbian couples in other countries who might someday hope to be married, Eigil Axgil said, "Be open. Come out. Keep fighting. This is the only way to move anything. If everyone comes out of the closet then this will happen everywhere."

Correction

The name of a news figure was misspelled in our Sept. 28 issue. The correct spelling is Andrew Ross Exler.

LBL national president Else Slange agreed. "You must get involved with politicians," she said. "Make them learn about you, make them know what you are and how you think. You must also get people in mainstream politics to be as open as gays and lesbians."

Despite her obvious joy at LBL's success, Slange added that she has a "personal ideological opposition to the ruler/rule model of heterosexual marriage" and would never get married herself. "But now gays and lesbians can choose," she said, "and that is very, very important."

It All Happened So Fast

The weddings themselves were surprisingly brief. Copenhagen Vice-Mayor Tom Ahlberg addressed the group for two minutes,

reminding the grooms of their duties of "joint love, helpfulness and tolerance."

Each couple then individually entered a small adjacent room to answer the single question, "Will you take... as a partner?" After both men said, "yes," they signed the marriage certificate and made way for the next couple.

Photographers nearly got into fist fights jockeying for position in the cramped space.

After all vows had been exchanged, the couples descended the Town Hall steps into a hundreds-strong throng of well-wishers flinging rice and confetti. Champagne flowed freely as the Danes exclaimed "Skal."

The three activist couples then made a dramatic exit in horse-drawn carriages, winding through the narrow streets of



Axel Axgil, left, and his lover, Eigil Axgil, in a carriage bearing them away from their state-sanctioned wedding ceremony in Copenhagen. (Photo: Rex Wockner)

Copenhagen to a grand reception at the stylish LBL offices.

Many observers expressed surprise that no lesbians were married on this first day. There was no clear explanation why, but some activists suggested that it was a matter of "media intimidation" or a "preference for privacy."

There are two remaining problems with Denmark's new gay marriage law. Homosexuals are not yet permitted to adopt

children. And the new legislation does not require the state Lutheran church to offer gay marriage ceremonies. Activists are fighting both omissions and expect the issue of church weddings to be resolved first.

At least one partner in a Danish gay/lesbian marriage must be a Danish citizen currently living in Denmark. According to Tom Stoddard of New York's Lambda Legal Defense and Edu-

(Continued on page 15)



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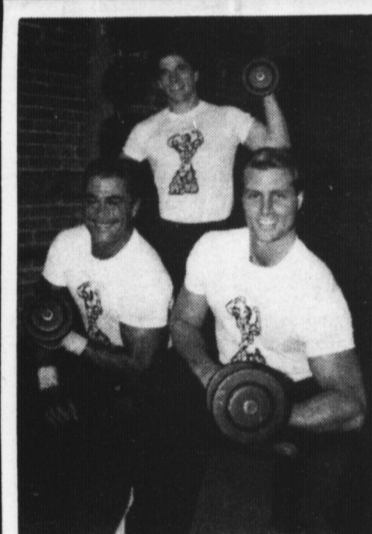
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**39 Arrested at TVC Symposium on Gays
 Civil Rights Official Blasted Over Speech**

by Keith Clark

Between 150 and 200 lesbian/gay rights activists turned out in Anaheim on Saturday, October 7, to protest the Traditional Values Coalition's (TVC) West Coast Symposium on Homosexuality and Public Policy Implications, which featured an address by Dr. William B. Allen, chairman of the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights. Some 39 activists, mostly from the Orange County Visibility League (OCVL), briefly entered the Pan Pacific Hotel across from Disneyland and lodged themselves outside the actual conference room in a sit-in protest. They blew whistles and chanted, "Arrest Allen! Arrest Sheldon!" before being arrested by police.

The well-organized, well-orchestrated protest—both outside and inside—was described by San Francisco lesbian activist Dr. Sally Gearheart as "One of the best demonstrations I've ever seen in all my years of activism. The timing was perfect: the content was flawless. When the protest in the hallway outside the conference room began, the TVC people inside took on a look of fear that reminded me of what the Christians in the Roman Coliseum must have looked like when they heard the roar of the lions about to eat them."

Gearheart was one of over a dozen lesbian/gay activists who attended the two-day symposium, which has been at the heart of a storm of protest among activists throughout the state since news of it first became public in the *Bay Area Reporter* two weeks ago. Even before the press report, reports about the TVC symposium were circulating, mainly among lesbians, after it first became known at the recent West Coast Women's Music Festival.

Gearheart, who is a writer/activist and professor at San Francisco State University, where she is acting co-ordinator of Women's Studies, described the TVC presentations as "impressive and very frightening."

"Once you accept their premise," Gearheart said, "it is very difficult not to accept the conclusions they reach. They are making some very compelling arguments against the cause of lesbian and gay rights which we need to seriously counter."

The 39 sit-in protesters, members of OCVL and ACT UP/LA and Orange County residents concerned over the impact of the symposium, were ordered by rubber-gloved police to leave the hotel shortly after the inside protest began at around 11:50 a.m. When they refused to move, police arrested the protesters one by one and led them off to be booked, photographed and held in a waiting police bus for about an hour while protesters continued their demonstration outside the hotel. Those who had been arrested were then released and re-joined the protest outside the hotel, which continued on until about 2 p.m.

Kevin Farrell of OCVL and one of those arrested said afterward, "We were protesting the TVC symposium and in particular Allen's appearance at it." The protest, Farrell said, marked



The Rev. Lou Sheldon, head of TVC. (Photo: Don Wilson)

OCVL's second anniversary and the first lesbian/gay civil disobedience in Orange County where residents had been arrested. "The fact that 39 people here were willing to risk arrest," Farrell said, "is an indication of how angry people in Orange County are over this symposium."

Farrell called the TVC event "gay-bashing with a thin veneer of respectability."

Allen, whose tenure as chairman of the Civil Rights Commission has been riddled with controversy, delivered an academic address entitled "Blacks, Animals and Homosexuals: What Is a Minority?" His appearance and the title of his speech drew formal rebuke on Friday from his fellow commissioners, who branded it "thoughtless, disgusting and unnecessarily inflammatory." Allen dismissed the commission's action and said his prepared speech was "as innocent as can be."

Late last week Rep. Don Edwards (D-CA), chairman of the House judiciary subcommittee on civil rights, also urged Allen in a letter not to attend the symposium and argued that the issue is "outside the scope of the commission's jurisdiction."

National Gay and Lesbian Task Force Executive Director Urvashi Vaid also wrote Allen last week urging him to withdraw. "The civil rights commission should be in the position of opposing bigotry against any American citizen," Vaid wrote. "And this event is rooted in anti-gay sentiment. It further discredits the commission if its chairman is participating in a symposium about some of the most quack theories of sexuality around."

In his address, Allen said he is opposed to using anti-discrimination legislation for specific ethnic or minority groups. "Historically, that process has always led to heightened tensions and heightened antagonisms

among the groups competing for the rewards of the society," Allen told the symposium participants.

Allen asserted that special legislative protections demanded by blacks over the past decades have brought demands for all sorts of civil rights laws protecting all sorts of groups, including demands for animal protection laws, which Allen said are "patently absurd."

"Express laws for minority groups," Allen said, "is the beginning of the evil of reducing American blacks to an equality with animals, and then seducing other groups—including homosexuals—to seek the same charitable treatment."

Allen criticized the lesbian/gay civil rights movement for "attempting to make sex itself a political matter."

"Our society escaped that threat when it first arose in the free-love movement [of the 1960s]," Allen said. "We have been less successful with homosexual politics."

Allen's address at the TVC symposium drew a standing ovation from most of the approximately 150 participants on Saturday.

Police reported that the Pan Pacific Hotel had been the object of a "stink-bomb" the night before the symposium began that left the hotel's ventilation system reeking throughout the entire weekend.

TVC head Lou Sheldon attributed the act to "homosexual activists" protesting the event and told reporters the police had arrested a gay rights activist in connection with the vandalism. Anaheim police, however, said there had been no arrests and that they had no leads in the incident.

Sheldon also said his organization intends to make the symposium an annual event and is already planning a second symposium for "early next year." ▼

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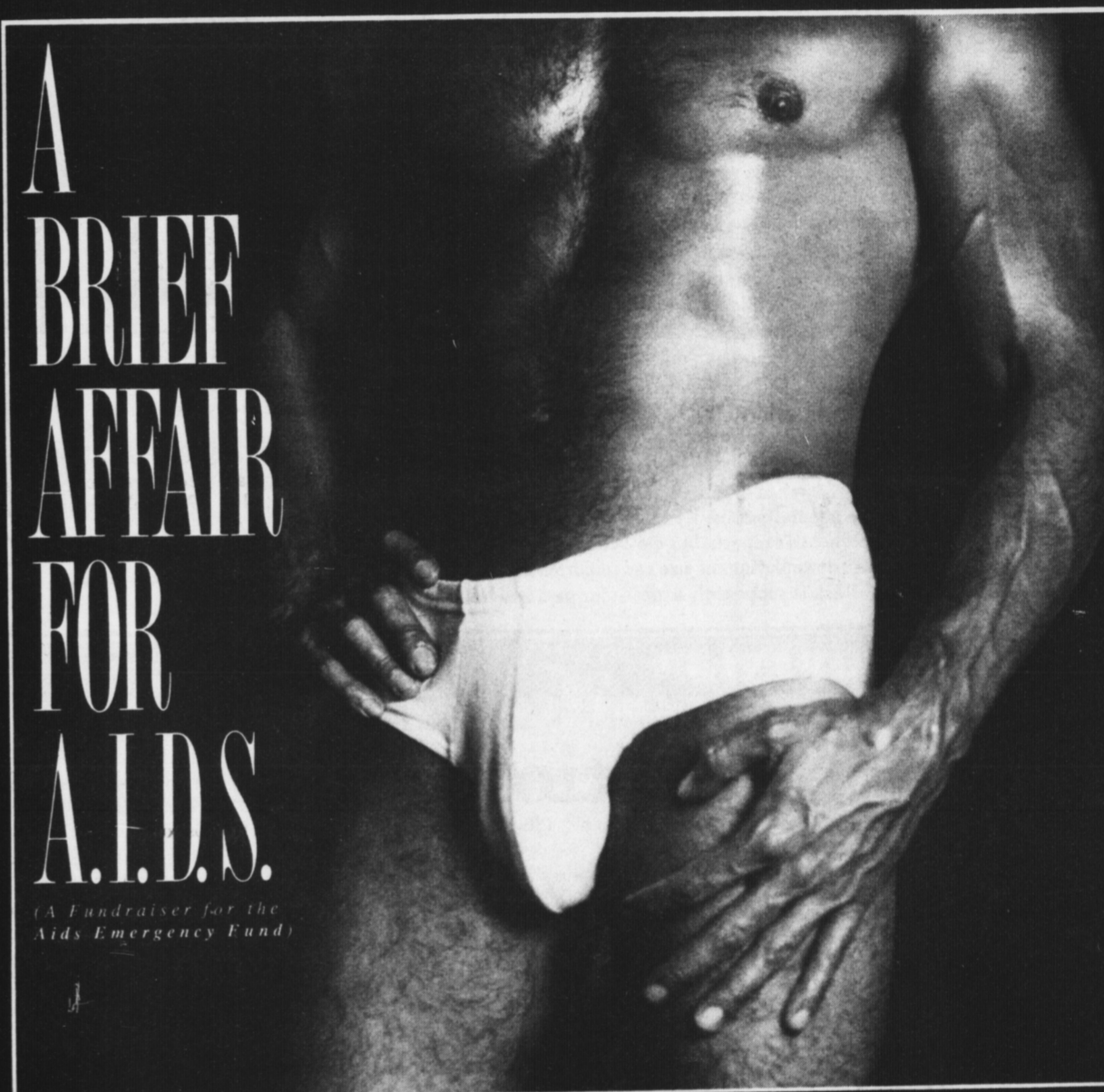
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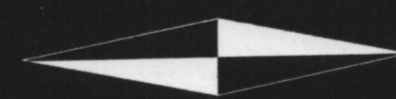
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VOL. XIX NO. 41 OCTOBER 12, 1989

NEXT ISSUE OUT: OCTOBER 19, 1989

NEXT DEADLINE: OCTOBER 13, 1989

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EDITORIAL & OPINION

Friday Night on Castro

Justice was blind and the scales were missing Friday night in the Castro as members of the San Francisco Police Department used martial law tactics on members of the gay community who were targeted merely for standing on the sidewalks.

The questions of who is responsible and how this could have happened must be answered expeditiously by the Office of Citizen Complaints, Police Chief Frank Jordan, the San Francisco Police Commission and Mayor Art Agnos.

And when those questions have been answered, action must be taken. Officers responsible for any misconduct must be disciplined. New policies must be drafted and implemented to guarantee that such over-reactions never happen again in this city.

The implications of this event are more far-reaching than other recent events of police brutality or harassment. This time the police took on the gay community, both figuratively and literally. And our community let it be known that we will not tolerate it.

The police apparently thought they were simply targeting members of ACT UP, a group known for its unconventional and sometimes radical but non-violent methods. But their show of force backfired on them when they got to the Castro and began intimidating and allegedly beating bystanders.

How much mismanagement is this city supposed to tolerate in the police department? How much more should we be willing to tolerate before drastic actions are taken?

There are many videotaped records of the events of Friday night, and members of the community and city officials will be studying them very closely. This was not an event that can be easily brushed aside by the police department. There were too many witnesses, there were too many injuries, and there were too many people who were justifiably outraged.

The mainstream media in San Francisco did an appalling job of reporting this event to the general public. KPIX-TV and the Examiner offered the most comprehensive reports, but most coverage was indicative of the straight media's downplaying the size and importance of our community in this city, which is supposedly a mecca for gays and lesbians.

GUEST OPINION

Reflections on Activism

by W.L. Warner, M.D.

The very act of "activism," usually about AIDS when in the gay community, frequently brings on reactions of support or criticism from readers and observers alike. The response to the demonstration is not always what was intended. Activism has its place and has obviously been successful when carried out wisely. As the noted gay medical ethicist, Dr. Alvin Novick, expressed it recently, it would be "stupidly obsequious" not to be activists when wrongs threaten us; implied in his remarks was the need for conditions, the calculated approach to activism, that should concern us. Analyzing experiences from the past should improve our performance if we heed those lessons.

For activism to be productive, it must be focused, must communicate the message. It must have the highest motivations. It must be at a time and place where the grievance is obvious or most clearly expressed. It must also address directly those who are most in control of the situation, those who can remedy the grievance. A "general" sort of activism, whereby those in authority or control escape its implied violence, or an encounter that is far from the desired action, is wasted. While this sort of activism may achieve headlines for a day, the public's interpretation is more likely to question the motivations of the activists than to take sides in the dispute.

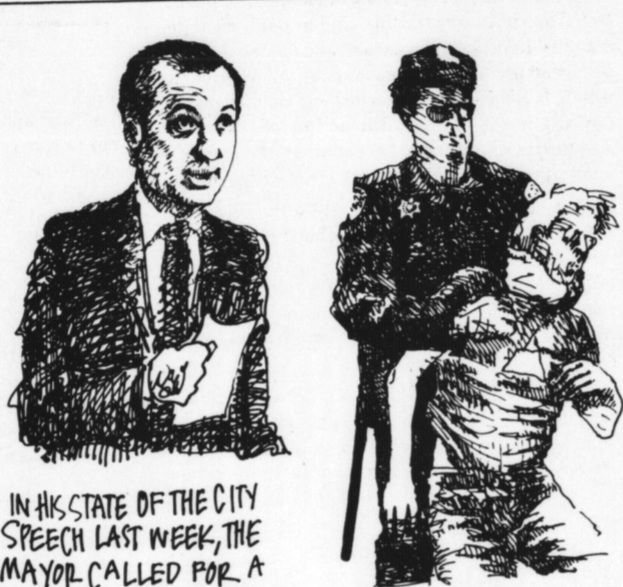
Several of the recent actions stand as good examples of these tenets. The AIDS activist demonstrations outside the FDA complex in Rockville, Maryland, were on the point. They had a clear message for the FDA, and they delivered it loud and clear. The FDA got the point and started to clean up its act. The Names Project takes its soul-searching quilt to the large cities and small towns and touches hearts and heads where they live. Meeting with and picketing Burroughs Wellcome on its home turf resulted in a price reduction of AZT. The message was focused and the participants communicated it. The lesson is also clear: don't stretch out across a railroad track unless you are communicating with the engineer.

On the other hand, when unfocused activists block the Golden Gate Bridge or assault opera-goers, involving people who are not responsible for the epidemic or for the government's failure to address the problem adequately, the response of many is to bristle and fight back, feel-

How would the newspapers and television stations have played the story if the exact same scenario had been played out at Fisherman's Wharf? Or in North Beach?

In the coming weeks we will be patiently waiting for answers to the questions and rectification of the problems.

Meanwhile, someone needs to find those scales.



IN HIS STATE OF THE CITY SPEECH LAST WEEK, THE MAYOR CALLED FOR A REFORM OF POLICE DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURES.

BY FRIDAY IT WAS MARTIAL LAW ON CASTRO STREET.

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OPINION

Infringing on Our Rights

★ I was not involved in the ACT UP demonstrations of Oct. 6, but I was caught up in the "sweep" of Castro Street. I was horrified to hear gay men yelling from bars that we brought it on ourselves. For a moment I thought I was in the Twilight Zone and had been transported back to Hitler's Germany. How did I bring it on myself? I stroll down Castro every Friday night. I was on the sidewalk!

For a nation which prides itself on freedom of expression, we seem all too eager these days to throw away what rights we do enjoy. At what point is it acceptable for the police to infringe on my right to be on the sidewalk in my own neighborhood? I think never!

Robert Starkey
San Francisco

Burning a Symbol of Freedom

★ As I scooted home from work last (Saturday) night, I stopped to see my girlfriend in the Castro and heard about the previous night's Gestapo action and the developing plans for last night's march. I had just seen the crowd gathering at the intersection of Market and Castro, and I decided to join in the protest. The right to make this kind of political statement is important to us all, and, as such, it is protected in the far-sighted language of our Constitution. It is the Constitution that was violated on Friday night by an unlawful action of wanna-be authorities who managed to pollute the law-enforcement agencies of our city with their employment.

So, I caught the march as it left the mouth of Castro and Market. I, and many others, joined spontaneously as the march progressed in front of every major bar in the neighborhood chanting, "Out of the bars and into the streets!" rebelling against the previous night's authoritarian, "Stay inside; anyone leaving will be arrested!"

I circled the intersection of Market and Castro at the end of the march with approximately half a thousand and more of the Castro community's outraged citizens. We were justifiably incensed at the violation of our rights guaranteed in the Constitution of the United States.

I was shocked, then, to witness a small group of individuals lighting my flag on fire, our flag, which stands for the Constitution which guarantees the very rights I joined the protest to uphold. These rights do not have to be guaranteed; plenty of historical examples demonstrate the unique character of our nation's cornerstone. I fail to see how burning the symbol of the freedoms established in that document can be equated with protesting a violation of those same rights, rights I have been sworn to uphold.

I waited long enough to see that nobody stopped the flag-burning, and I left. Today I am angry at myself for not confronting those individuals, but last night, I felt betrayed by those who burned the flag and by those who take responsibility for ACT UP actions.

I will not lend my support to further public demonstrations led by ACT UP until two things happen. ACT UP must publicly disassociate itself from flag-burning as a rights-negating, self-destructive act, and ACT UP must demonstrate a policy which will prevent a recurrence.

My protest was perverted by a group of individuals last night. Without these two steps from the leadership of ACT UP I will not have a forum in which to express myself by marching, and I will stay inside—and write letters.

Andrew Murray
San Francisco

What Happened at the Demonstration

★ I was at the ACT UP demonstration, in habit, Friday night and this is what I saw.

The police were very uncooperative while we marched between the Federal Building and the Castro. Our group was only about two blocks long, but the cops wouldn't stop the traffic at the intersections for three minutes so we could all cross together. Instead, this queen was on his police loudspeaker screaming, "Obey the traffic laws!" If you stepped off the curb you were met with a baton at the legs. The resentment and hostility grew, and by the time we reached the Castro it exploded.

I have been in San Francisco since 1977, marched with Harvey Milk, and have participated in many (if not all) the public marches since. The police haven't reacted like this since the White Night Riots of spring 1979. Granted, ACT UP has its share of hot-headed radicals who use civil disobedience as personal therapy and are always one short fuse away from violent action, but those are not the majority. We knew, and the police knew, that when we reached the Castro ACT UP was going to march down the center of the street for one block.

In trying, ostensibly, to keep the street open, the police ended up closing it for three hours trying to remove ACT UP from the street. If the police had let ACT UP make their statement it all would have been over in half- to one hour of time. In the past, that is what the police have done. I can only assume that someone in a position of authority was out to slap ACT UP in the face. Why?

One policeman said to me, "Where's your permit?" I ask, how many times has this street been closed after a San Francisco 49er victory in a Super Bowl over the last 10 years? Three. And how many permits did they have. None. And how many people were arrested? None. And did the cops march through at the very beginning like the Gestapo? No.

Whoever ordered the crackdown on ACT UP Friday lost more than they gained. They lost good police relations that they have worked on for ten years since White Night, and they lost many votes for the stadium. And another thing they are losing is civil disobedience. There is nothing that will make a queen more radical than having to sit in a police van for two hours without her fingernail polish!

Sister Vicious Power Hungry Bitch
Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence, Inc.
San Francisco

ACT UP: Go Away!

★ After enduring two nights of absurd confrontation between those who have decreed themselves spokespersons for the gay community and the SFPD, I've had it!

As a gay businessman running a gay business in the heart of San Francisco's gay neighborhood, I'm somewhat perplexed by the motivation of ACT UP in bringing their inane protest to the Castro on the nights of October 6 and 7. As a result of ACT UP's desire to "take over the streets" and the associated over-reactionary appearance of more uniformed police than the Castro has seen in 10 years, literally hundreds of shoppers, diners and visitors were unnecessarily hassled and threatened.

Part of my desire to be in business is to turn a profit—thus enabling me to support various AIDS-related charities and causes—including (in the past) ACT UP. I assume I am not alone in this regard. However (as I see it), the misguided antics of ACT UP are in serious jeopardy of backfiring, especially among the gay business community. If our livelihoods and those of our employees are to be disrupted (for no apparent reason), from where, then, does ACT UP think charitable donations will come—the Bush administration? Hardly!

Furthermore, when I took it upon myself to voice my displeasure with ACT UP's presence in the Castro on the night of October 7, I was immediately "set upon" by several of the more rabid members of their contingent. This verbal altercation resulted in my being called—among other sophomoric things—a cop and/or a member of the Bush administration! At one point three "monitors" felt compelled to position themselves between me and this verbally abusive group of protesters. Has it deteriorated to the point that gay people require protection from other gay people?

Come on, ACT UP, is protest OK only if you agree with it? That is not my understanding of our constitutional rights! Besides, what is there to protest about in the Castro? We all have friends and loved ones who have died and are dying. I sincerely believe ACT UP in particular and the gay community in general need to reassess the motivation behind these ill-advised and ridiculous demonstrations.

Patrick Batt
Owner, Mercury Mail Order
San Francisco

More Than Meets the Eye

★ I just got through reading the article about Mike Todd in the Sept. 28th paper. After reading it a couple of times, I have some very serious questions for Mr. Todd.

First of all—what was he doing walking in that area at that time of night? Why was it necessary to show off his tattoos and even say anything to them—much less make a big deal about his medicine?

Then he stated he was "stomped with boots" and thrown down a flight of stairs. It was never mentioned how he got on a flight of stairs since he said he was walking by the projects.

Lastly, since he was supposedly being beat up because he had AZT—why would one of the assailants want to have sex with him? And if one of the guys was still standing around when San Francisco's finest arrived and didn't get arrested—well, I think there's more to Mr. Todd's story than meets the eye.

JoAnne Thomas
San Francisco

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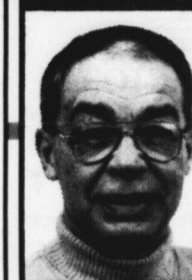
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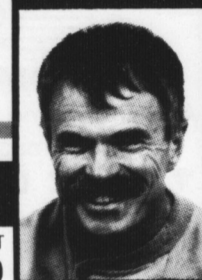
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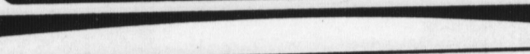
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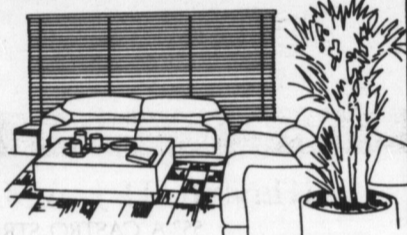
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BAY AREA REPORTER OCTOBER 12, 1989 PAGE 8

LETTERS

Questioning the Priorities

★ As someone who is a precinct leader for Proposition S (domestic partners), and the Political Action Chair for the Alice B. Toklas Lesbian and Gay Democratic Club, I find it necessary to question all of the energy and resources in our community being wasted on opposing the China Basin Ballpark (Prop. P), when our right to love is being contested on the November ballot.

Whether a new ballpark is build or not does not directly affect us as lesbian and gay people. Domestic partnerships, on the other hand, has a direct impact on our everyday lives here in San Francisco. A loss for gay rights here has serious implications for lesbian and gay people throughout the country.

I am not at all suggesting that individuals are not fully entitled to take any position they want regarding the stadium, but as someone who has been spending hours on the phone and in the streets pushing Prop. S, I have to question what other gay people are setting as their priorities.

Wake up, brothers and sisters, religious extremists are out to defeat us on our home turf. The lesbian and gay community must put all of its limited political resources into winning domestic partners, or come election day we are going to lose.

Robert Barnes
San Francisco

People United

★ As I watched the Navy's blue death, a.k.a. "Blue Angels," fly over downtown San Francisco during Fleet Week with four hours of dangerously low flight over a populated area, demonstrating their ability to burn up our tax dollars while people are hungry, homeless, illiterate and dying of AIDS, I wondered how long it would take for the other people on the street to feel as angry as I was.

I remember when the anti-Communist witchhunters, the House Un-American Activities Committee (HUAC), came to San Francisco in 1960. The students at UC Berkeley and friends had come to City Hall to demand their right to enter a congressional hearing, and when refused entry, sat down at the doors. The San Francisco Fire Department sprayed them with high-pressure water hoses and the San Francisco Police Department literally threw them, young and old, down the marble steps of the City Hall rotunda. The resulting blood stains remained in the marble for years. The following Saturday, we came from all over the Bay Area and marched around City Hall with a double picket line, one line in each direction, four long solid blocks. One could not step forward until the person in front did so. HUAC never returned to San Francisco. Such are my childhood memories.

It was refreshing to see, during the same Fleet Week, that ACT UP had the strength in numbers and politics to stand up to the police as the police, without justification, swept the Castro district, after constantly terrorizing the march for AIDS funding from the federal building to the Castro. When the police finally turned tail, we chanted the maxim from the Central American peace demonstrations: *El pueblo unido jamás será vencido*; The people united will never be defeated.

Lee Heller
San Francisco

Cabbies Support Prop. S

★ This is an open letter from our organization to Dick Pachich of the Yes on "S" campaign, confirming our support of the domestic partners legislation.

It is our hope that you will let our support be known to your readers.

Dear Mr. Pachich:

On September 18th, the Cab Driver Association's Board of Directors voted to recommend endorsement of the domestic partners ordinance. On October 2nd, this recommendation was placed before the general membership, who voted by a large margin to endorse Proposition "S".

San Francisco's gay and lesbian communities have been among the cab industry's most loyal and valued customers. We have a large number of drivers and other industry workers from the community, and we also have parents of gay men and lesbians who are active in the various political and support groups.

Considering the support your community has given us over the years, and our interpretation of this proposal as nothing more than that which is just and fair, we feel a show of our support is the very least we can offer in return.

CDA will also encourage the city's cab drivers to act as volunteers on the "S" campaign, and I would like to personally offer my services on voting day to help AIDS patients and other challenged individuals to the polls, and offer my assurances that we will encourage all drivers who can do so to help out on poll transportation as well.

Finally, we hope to be a part of the happy crowd that descends on City Hall November 8th to register.

If we can be of any further assistance, please call me.

Sincerely,
Michael K. Sealey
Director of Public Relations
Cab Driver Association of San Francisco

Old-Fashioned Pork-Barreling

★ I am really quite astounded at the naive yet letter writers expound in their opposition to the ballpark initiative. Has anybody ever heard of pork-barreling? It is a political term whereby one group, in exchange, votes or funds another group's bill or initiative. It is in political science 101, kids! Mr. Agnos is a political realist. He won't be the mayor to lose the San Francisco Giants. Compromises and concessions are part of politics. Let's interact rather than retract with other political groups.

Your letter writers implied that ballparks and the domestic partner ordinance are a queer combination, that they're opposing forces and that sports fans are homophobic. Gimme a break! I hate to be categorized as an "opposing force" by my gay peers. Who is suffering from phobia? Us or them?

I am gay. I love baseball and football with a passion. It's one diversion where allegiance, faith and enthusiasm surfaces extremely. The image, reputation and spirit of the game is a reflection on the team and the city. I just can't imagine San Francisco without a baseball team. Mr. Lurie is not a blackmailer. He is merely taking the team where it'll be more lucrative and conducive to its environment. What's wrong with that? A yes vote on Proposition P is telling him the Giants deserve to be in the city. Vote yes on Prop P.

Art Alcantara
San Francisco

Guilt by Association

★ Assertions that gays are supporting Prop. P are flying about, but they are not accurate. Gays have been told to support the downtown stadium by their "leaders" seeking to maintain/enhance their political standing. Few actually support it. The unraveling of gay support is bringing new vigor to the floundering Prop. S campaign.

By refusing to support secret deals, sleazy political manipulation and blackmail, Stonewall Gay Democratic Club's reversal on the endorsement of Prop. P, opens the door to that bloc of voters (polls show 45 percent firmly opposed) who oppose the downtown fiasco. This is the only way to win back the traditional allies. This is still a grass-roots city. Our neighbors can understand the need for Prop. S, but what they cannot understand is relinquishing the integrity of its merits for a short-term concession to power politics. Gay leaders attempted that before (support John Molinari, "our next mayor"), but gay voters deserted in the 70 to 80 percent category. Senior, feminist, neighborhood, environment and slow-growth factions are so antagonized by the attempted alliance with downtown developers and power brokers that one cannot expect them to vote for S. Ball fans would sooner allow public displays of affection at the stadium than honor gay relationships. We stand alone.

Prop. S cannot win with ballpark money. When voters are suspicious of the means, they will not support the ends. Voters smell something fishy in Prop. P, and guilt by association could doom Prop. S.

Douglas Comstock
San Francisco

Stadium Is a Good Deal

★ I am sick and tired of being accused that I have somehow "sold out" or had my arm twisted simply because I support Prop. P, the waterfront ballpark.

It is insulting to my integrity and the thousands of hours of hard work I have committed to the struggle for lesbian and gay rights that I would support a proposition if it was not worthy on its own merits.

I remain opposed to land use development that benefits only a few. I support Prop. P exactly because it benefits the city as a whole. Yes, Lurie and Spectator will make money—but so will the city! Money we need for AIDS, for housing, for drug rehabilitation, and for many other social programs.

Instead of building more luxury condos or blocky office buildings, a waterfront ballpark will be accessible to every citizen of this city. It will provide affordable family entertainment, and keep a major business—the San Francisco Giants—in the city.

It was not political pressure that led me to support Prop. P. It was a careful examination of the issues—economic, environmental, and social. I urge my lesbian sisters and gay brothers to consider the issues and come to the same determination I have—Prop. P is a good deal for all of us.

Ron Braithwaite
President, Alice B. Toklas Lesbian/Gay Democratic Club

LETTERS

Stealing the Ballot Box

★ I attended the October 3 Stonewall meeting as a long-time member, concerned about the mayor's failure to discuss the domestic partners ballot proposition outside of the gay community—particularly his failure to mention the subject at the Black Leadership Forum.

The president of Stonewall lost control, yelled and screamed, called us "fascists," and illegally tried to adjourn the meeting because he did not like the new vote against Proposition P. Furthermore, a vice president removed the ballot box from the room and took it away. These actions are a betrayal of the democratic process, behavior that occurs in dictatorships, not in a democratic society. I was shocked by their flagrant disregard for parliamentary procedure and fairness.

Although I have been against it, Proposition P—the ballpark—was supported originally by club members who believed in the mayor's promise to support Proposition S—domestic partners—wherever he campaigned for Proposition P. He is talking out of both sides of his mouth, and the Stonewall membership, as well as the entire gay-lesbian-bisexual community, needs to be fully aware of this. The president and vice president of Stonewall should be censured for their illegal behavior and the mayor exposed for his duplicity. (By the way, I supported the mayor when he ran for office.)

No on P! Yes on S!

Maggie Rubenstein
San Francisco

Rev. Mashore's Hypocrisy

The following was sent to the Contra Costa Times.
★ Rev. Lloyd Mashore's letter of Sept. 25 concerning the AIDS issue merits an answer and commentary. To quote Lloyd's letter, "I think that those who have taken the tragedy of AIDS to try to advance the homosexual political agenda have succumbed to a sad state of demagoguery." It appears that he and his followers, in trying to make a moral issue out of a deadly virus, have succumbed to a very sad state of inhuman bigotry and hypocritical morality. I hope that the voters of Concord will listen to the medical community when they go to cast their votes in November.

Perhaps I am more aware of the AIDS epidemic because two of my children are medical professionals, but any reasonably well-informed person can see that the Concord City Council was correct in enacting the AIDS ordinance. The recent case of the young man being harassed and fired from Televents is a perfect example of the need for the ordinance.

I am constantly amazed at Christians who want everyone to follow their angry God. I have read the four Gospels many times in my 68 years and have never read of a condemnation of homosexuality by Jesus! Perhaps he wasn't concerned about it, although he had to be familiar with homosexual orientation. The only condemnation he made was of hypocrisy!

James J. Mahar
Walnut Creek

Trying Too Hard

★ To "Sweet Lips":

After reading your article that appeared in volume XIX no. 39 which was circulated on September 28, we felt that some response was necessary.

We have always found your column to be interesting and informative as well as amusing, but before we were laboring under the misconception that your information was firsthand, not recycled and embellished stories told to you by others. Truth be known, you were not even in attendance at The Grand Coronation, yet you satirized our presentation as well as our behavior and jokingly made reference to our court name implying that we represent nothing more than a golden checkbook. This kind of irresponsible journalism does you no credit and is a disservice to your readers who receive a jaded view of these events.

As for our communication skills, the protocol was turned in on time, enlarged to size to make it easier to read, and laid out complete with announcer introductions. This protocol was turned in to Matthew Brown, and from there it was edited, rewritten and otherwise butchered so that our presentation, which represented much thought, time and effort, was totally ruined. Our anger that night was genuine, but we did not attend the Coronation with the intent to disrupt or antagonize the proceedings or people in attendance. We simply felt that we had been treated badly, when all we had attempted to do was to fulfill our obligations as Emperor and Empress.

If we are guilty of anything, it is for trying too hard. All we want is the best for The Court and The City.

Emperor XVII Jerry Coletti
Empress XXIV Pat Monteclair

Following His Example

★ On behalf of the Diocese of Sonoma County of The American Orthodox Church, we wish to inform you of our plans, goals and desires which may be intrinsically important to those who hold to a religious stance in the gay and lesbian community of Sonoma County.

It is incumbent on us to minister to the needs of all peoples without regard for one's sex, "non-violent" sexual persuasion or lifestyles, race, creed, etc. And as such, while we are not a gay church, neither are we a heterosexual church. In heaven there is no male or female, no giving or taking in marriage.

Hardly does anyone need the continuous quotes of chapter, line or verse because the real "meat" of Christian belief is directly grounded in what Jesus Christ had to say, not necessarily the prophets of the Old Testament scriptures, which have been overly abused especially against gay and lesbian people.

As Catholics we have until recently attempted to stay as much out of the limelight of press coverage as possible, finding that we attract a different spectrum of heterosexual, gay and lesbian peoples than what many other break-away churches may have drawn. As a result of our structure and method of growth, slower and different than others, we have reached the stage whereby it has become necessary for a more centralized and cohesive headquarters.

I would have to say that the gay and lesbian community as a whole has had quite an impact on the cause of our early beginnings back in the 1960s and 1970s, which aided and brought about national concerns of the gay and lesbian community as a religious people to the consternation of mainline churches in practically every denomination of Christendom.

Today, though, in Sonoma County, we desire to express ourselves to the gay and lesbian community during the month of October since it is nationally AIDS month. We are making slow progress in our attempts to establish a service program which would be held at locations in the Guerneville and Santa Rosa areas.

We are now coming into the limelight of allowing press coverage solely because of the vast needs of HIV (ARCAIDS) people of all persuasions and the lack of society's understanding of, and the reality in, Christ's injunctions that we must be "thy brother's keeper." HIV infection is not a condemnation on any group of people or minority, but a direct challenge to those who profess themselves as Christians and those who put into practice their being Christians after Christ's true example. There is the difference!

We do operate the "HIS HOUSE" HIVARC-AIDS Care Center facility in the Sonoma County area. The location is not advertised except to use our main church's telephone number and mailing address. Because of the alarming negative attitudes toward our clients, we are maintaining confidentiality as to their location.

On October 28, at our St. Jude's Orthodox-Catholic Chapel, 123 Fitch St., Healdsburg, Ca., the consecration of Monsignor Douglas O'Connor will take place. He will be made bishop and take over the Diocese of Monterey County for the church. Our reasons for bringing this to your attention is due to his activities in that area as one of the founders of the AIDS Project.

If you wish, please feel free to call before visiting us as we maintain a schedule in reaching out to the various communities of Sonoma County.

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This is my last request. I will be in San Francisco Monday, October 16th. Please meet me at 5:30 p.m. at the Greyhound Terminal. I love you.

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★ 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.

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MURPHY'S MANOR

Wayne Friday
The Wolf Is Real

Dick Pabich, the manager of the Yes on S domestic partners campaign, has cried "Wolf!" to members of the gay and lesbian community so often that he's afraid they won't believe him this time. I first met Pabich when he was a teenage volunteer in Harvey Milk's 1976 Assembly campaign, and he has since become one of northern California's most respected campaign consultants, having directed campaigns for gay candidates and issues for more than a decade now. A large part of the work, he says, is explaining the political danger of losing a campaign in the hopes that people will volunteer and contribute.



Dick Pabich. (Photo: Rink)

Domestic partners is in deep trouble. Although polls show the gay community nearly unanimous in its support of Prop. S, the enthusiasm has yet to transfer into sufficient numbers of precinct walkers, phone bankers and checkbook contributors. "In a way, we're being penalized by our past successes," Pabich said. "We turned Prop. 102 [last year's Dannemeyer initiative] around from being 3-1 against us in the early polls to a 2-1 victory, so people think that was easy or automatic. In reality, our daily tracking polls showed us in the lead for the first time only four days before that election. The reason we won was that people had been scared enough to contribute enough money to buy media time across the state."

Pabich predicts that only 38 percent of San Francisco voters will go to the polls this November. "Prop. S can win only if gay and lesbian voters vote at twice the rate of others, at 65-70 percent turnout," he said. "And only if we have the money and volunteers to contact and convince undecided straight voters." That's why Pabich is so insistent that the campaign desperately needs help. "If we don't pull this off, we have only ourselves to blame," he said.

Pabich said the situation is critical on Prop. S because the gay community has become overconfident. Although early polls showed a healthy level of political support for domestic partners, they did not take voter turnout into account. The voters most likely to turn out in an off-year election are the voters most opposed to the proposal: those over 50 years old, Republicans, and/or homeowners. The younger Democrats most supportive of domestic partners have the worst voter turnout history.

People who watch political campaigns closely would have to agree with Pabich—we are in real danger of losing the domestic partners ordinance, and we cannot allow the religious zealots who want to take this important legislation away win this one. Volunteers and contributions are badly needed. Call the Yes on S headquarters (864-0860) to volunteer to help. Send a check to Yes on S, 1586 Market St., San Francisco, 94102. Pick up a sign for the window of your home. And above all, get your friends to the polls on Election Day to vote Yes on Proposition S. We cannot afford to lose this one.

"I've never seen an issue where support was so inversely related to likelihood to vote," Pabich said. The results of the most recent poll, conducted the first weekend of October, show the problem clearly. Among those who have voted in every one of the last five elections (about 29 percent of the city) Prop. S is losing, 33 percent to 54 percent. Among those who have voted only once in the past five elections (about 28 percent of the city), Prop. S was winning, 51 percent to 26 percent. The overall results among all voters who have

In the text of his speech, Allen, who is black, asserted that express laws for minority groups are "the beginning of the evil of reducing American blacks to an equality with animals and then seducing other groups to seek the same charitable treatment."

Allen was also criticized by members of Congress and national gay rights organizations for his appearance at the so-called "West Coast Symposium on Homosexuality and Public Policy Implications," which featured speakers such as the notoriously homophobic Rep. William E. Dannemeyer (R-Orange County), who has led fights against gay rights causes in California and Washington.



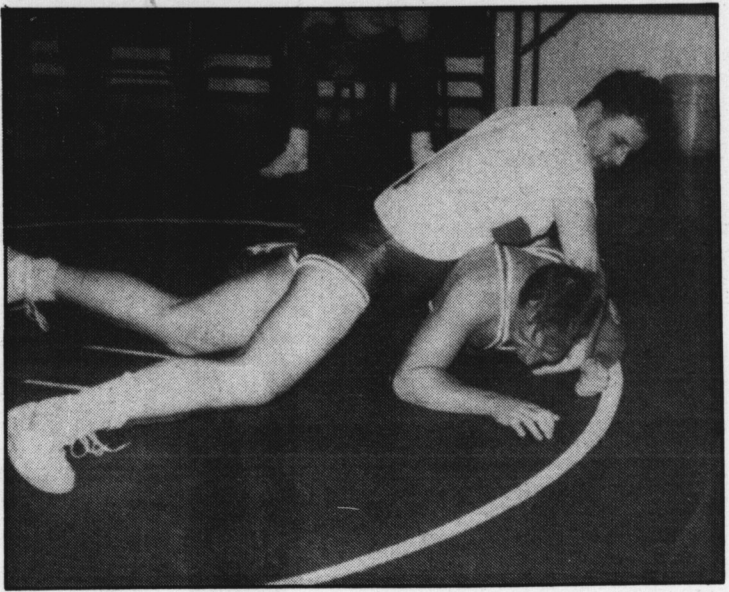
Rep. William Dannemeyer. (Photo: Rink)

One civil rights commissioner, critical of the chairman's action, said Allen's involvement in the Anaheim conference is "just another sad episode in the saga of the unguided missile who is chairman of the panel" and predicted his appearance and the tone of his speech would intensify calls for his quick departure as head of the commission.

In Miami Beach, Florida, Police Chief Kenneth Glassman, speaking at a "roast" for two retiring police officers, joked that the retiring cops would probably go on to make lots of money "printing photos of missing gays on Vaseline jars." After realizing his comments weren't all that funny, and apologizing to the gay community of that city, Chief Glassman suspended himself from the force for two days (at a monetary loss of \$703). His apology was accepted by members of the Gay and Lesbian Community Center and Hotline of Greater Miami.

(Continued on page 17)
 by Kurt Erichsen

Mike Hippler
Wrestling with Sexuality



(Photo: Rink)

Will they let me roll around with them?" my friend Randy wanted to know when I asked him to join me at the Golden Gate Wrestling Club's annual tournament. "If not, I'm not going."

Like many in the gay male community—and outside it—Randy suffers from an unfortunate misconception concerning gay wrestling. He assumes that it centers around sex—which it would, if he had anything to do with it.

"I hate to destroy a fantasy, but actually, sex is the last thing on your mind when you're wrestling," said Gene Dermody, the president of GGWC, when we spoke at the tournament. "It's simply not a part of it. Those who think it is—and who want to join our club because of it—find out otherwise when they attend their first practice. As soon as they see what kind of work it takes, they move on."

Unfortunately, on this particular Saturday, the day of the tournament, the opportunities for this kind of cheap, vulgar satisfaction were drastically reduced when the members of the Los Angeles team cancelled the day before. Although there are gay wrestling clubs in several cities across the nation, only the ones in New York, Los Angeles and San Francisco are well-organized, explained France, and the New Yorkers had already declined San Francisco's invitation due to the expense.

Sex is the last thing on your mind when you're wrestling.

When L.A. failed to show—because team members needed the time to get their Halloween outfits together, according to one source—only one lone wrestler from Sacramento was left to carry the visitor banner to the home gymnasium. Rather than cancel the tournament, officials turned it into an intra-club affair and altered the rules slightly to provide a greater level of interest.

For one thing, team members wrestled one another according to skill level rather than weight class. For another, the first pin didn't count (thus lengthening matches, as if one five-minute period weren't enough). These changes led to some rather interesting contests, such as the one between the highly muscled ebony warrior and the behemoth nearly twice his size—or the one which lasted the full five minutes despite an early pin, with the initial "loser" eventually emerging victorious.

To the untrained eye, alas, one wrestling match is pretty much like another, and, with no Us and Them to engage my partisan proclivities, I found my attention wandering. Turning to the other spectators in the bleachers (a loyal but meager bunch), I tuned back in by asking questions about the group and the sport.

From Louis MacCloy, a member of the less-competitive San Francisco Wrestling Club, I learned that his organization meets every other Saturday only (compared to GGWC's twice-weekly practices) and isn't a sex

club either (although I swear I didn't ask). From Claudine Bailey, the wife of one of the straight wrestlers on the team, I learned that although this group takes itself seriously, it still knows how to have fun. It is the camaraderie, she said, which is the sport's major attraction for her and her husband, Mickey.

Later, the wrestlers themselves began mingling with their friends in the bleachers. Kriston Okuna, a 25-year-old Hawaiian, said he wrestles because "it's fun and I enjoy it," but he refused to divulge the drag nickname I had overheard earlier. Kevin Uzelac, the 21-year-old former high school state champion from Ohio, had no drag name to reveal, because, like Mickey Bailey, Kevin is straight. (Leave it to me to find the only two straight members of a sports organization which is 95 percent gay.)

Uzelac found out about GGWC through a friend only two weeks before the tournament, and his participation on the team marks the first time he has ever wrestled with openly gay wrestlers before. "It doesn't bother me to wrestle with gay men," he said. "Why should it?"

Surprisingly, said Dermody, many straight wrestlers share Bailey and Uzelac's attitude. "Straight wrestlers know that it doesn't turn you gay to touch a gay person. Because they've been touching men all their lives, they're more secure in their sexuality than most people. They're not afraid of us."

Added France, "I've seen a lot of prejudice directed at the members of other gay sports groups," he noted, "but the mainstream wrestling associations have been great at both the local and national level. Our sexual orientation just doesn't matter to them. They like dealing with us because we take the sport seriously, and they give us a lot of support. Our tournament, for instance, was fully sanctioned, and the officials were from the California chapter of the USWA."

If there is one thing that both Dermody and France would like to see change, it is not the attitude or involvement of straight people in the club but the participation of the other half of the gay community—women. As the result of a recent rule change, women may compete in USWA meets, either with men or in their own division.

Ironically, women will not be competing at the Gay Games in Vancouver next year. To the best of Dermody or France's knowledge, there are no USWA freestyle female wrestling teams in the Bay Area, and neither are there any female members of GGWC at present. "We have had them at club practices, but not at meets," said France. "We would like to see them get more involved."

If they did, I asked my friend Randy later, would that make a difference in his interest in the club? "Since you told me what actually goes on at practices," he replied, "I haven't been interested anyway. So what was the name of that other club? Are you sure I can't roll around with them either?" Stereotypes, it seems, are difficult to overcome—at least with some people.

For more information, call GGWC at 821-2991.

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Pets Are Wonderful Support is seeking people who would like to help assure PAWS' future by serving on its board of directors. PAWS improves the quality of life for people with HIV disease (AIDS/SARC) by giving them emotional and practical support so that they can keep the love and companionship of their pets; and by providing information on the benefits and risks of animal companionship.

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Community Expresses Outrage, Disbelief

by Jeff Boswell

Reaction to Friday night's near-riot on Castro Street was quick and consistent—the San Francisco Police Department's use of force and martial law tactics were unjustifiable.

Gwen Craig

Police Commissioner Gwen Craig, a lesbian, said she was trying to determine why the number of police officers deployed was as large as it was, as well as how that command decision was made.

"We need to determine a policy that deals with what types of officers and number of officers need to be deployed in demonstrations like this," Craig said.

Craig said police commanders on the scene told her that "their problem was that they had no communication before hand, no way of knowing who was in charge, what the route was."

ACT UP as a rule never reveals publicly its plans or routes, member Curtis Dennison said. However, the group's police liaison, Bill Haskell, was arrested early Friday evening while approaching officers in an attempt to communicate with them. He was charged with obstruction of justice and resisting arrest, although he told the *Bay Area Reporter* that no resistance was offered.

Haskell was arrested in the street after police gave an order that the group had to march on the sidewalk and not in the street. In past ACT UP marches, including the Lynn Griffiths march from Castro to the Haight, the group was allowed to walk in one lane of the street. ACT UP contends that the march was large enough to justify access to the street.

Craig said a possible reason for the use of force by police on bystanders at Castro and Market could be blamed on the fact that most of the officers were from Northern Station and were therefore unaccustomed to rules and norms in the gay Castro district.

"They didn't have a good enough knowledge of the neighborhood they were in," she said. "It sounds like it was an over-reaction to the fact that the crowd was reacting to their actions."

"Police were taking great pride in the fact that they handled everything by the book for a demonstration that was out of hand. But those who were present don't seem to think this fits that criteria of a demonstration that was out of hand."

Craig said that what happened after the protesters that were sitting in the street were arrested and taken away "is more troubling because it is so unprecedented in that persons remaining that weren't any part of a protest action were told they were subject to arrest. This is what seems so totally uncharacteristic and against the grain of civil liberties as we know them."

"There were police officers, from citizen reports, who were not acting in ways we would expect," Craig said. "We've received a lot of reports of officers engaging in excessive force."

Craig said it appeared that most of the decisions were made on the scene and that higher-ups were not contacted and that "was cause for a great deal of concern," Craig said.

She said the police commission would be investigating who made the decisions and why.

"If charges are sustained, we will speedily get to disciplinary hearings," Craig said. "We need to determine if officers acted independently or whether they were following orders."

Harry Britt

Jean Harris, aide to Sup. Harry Britt, said Britt, who was out of town when the confrontation occurred, would view a videotape of the action on Castro Street before commenting. He had not responded at press time.

Richard Hongisto

Sup. Richard Hongisto, a former police officer, said Friday night as the riot squads were retreating from Castro, "There are people who need the police tonight" elsewhere in the city. "Whenever I see a massive utilization of police resources, I know how much it costs. It's just money that could be better spent."

However, Hongisto added, "The people doing this are trying to make a point, to get people to pay more attention to

what's going on, particularly the AIDS problem. I just have concerns that the people leading this may be doing things that are counterproductive."

Lester Olmstead-Rose

At Community United Against Violence, Lester Olmstead-Rose said about 30-35 people had complained about the police action, and they expect many more.

"It's clear something went wrong," Olmstead-Rose said. "We've received reports of inappropriate police activity. People walking down the street said they were beaten up, detained and told to disperse with no exit route."

He said CUAUV was working with the Office of Citizen Complaints and ACT UP in putting together a detailed account of what happened.

"We're pushing to hold someone accountable," he said. "And responsibility should go higher up than the commanders on the street."

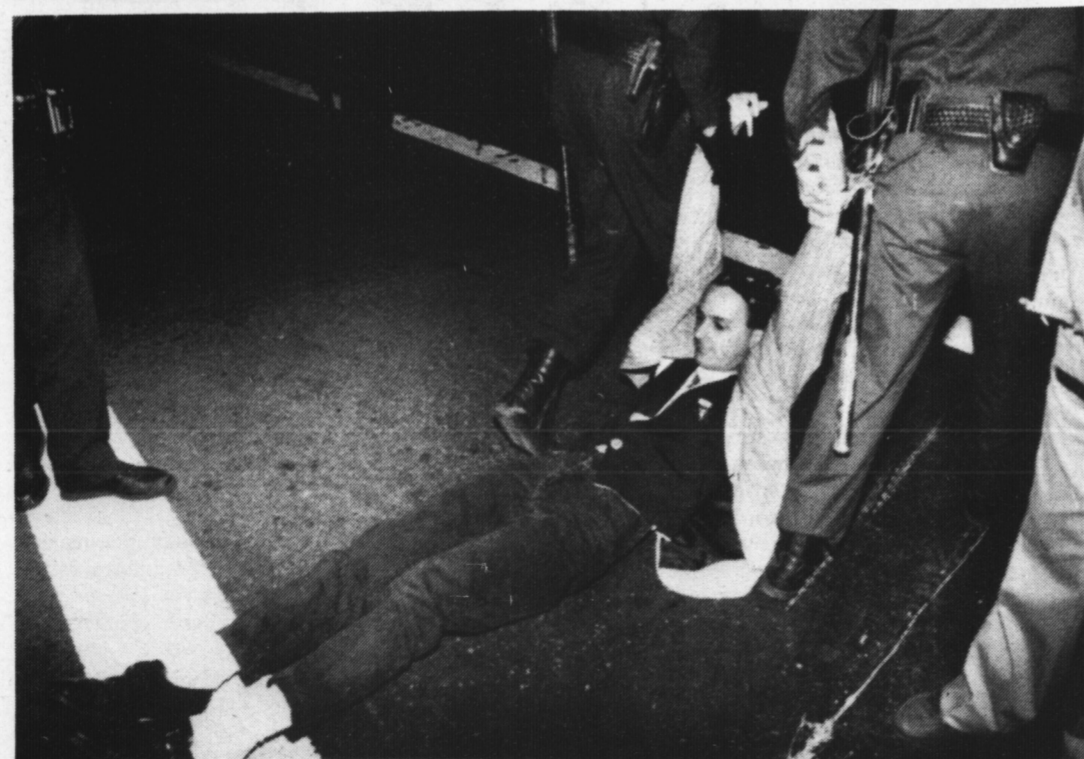
He added that he doubted that the police action was ordered by top echelon in the department.

On Saturday, Oct. 7, a meeting was held with members of ACT



UP and Commissioner Craig, Police Chief Frank Jordan, Olmstead-Rose and others to discuss the scheduled Saturday night rally and march. According to Craig, the meeting was held to make sure that there would not be a

(Continued on page 23)



Top, an officer carries a beanbag launcher. Officers sweep Castro in front of Walgreens. Above, a demonstrator is dragged away by police.

(Photo: Rick Gerharter)

Street Reclaimed at Saturday Rally

by Jeff Boswell

Without incident, a crowd of about 1,500 gays and lesbians "retook" the Castro Saturday, Oct. 7, one day after a violent confrontation between San Francisco police and members of ACT UP and bystanders.

ACT UP organized the rally and march at Harvey Milk Plaza, at Castro and Market streets, as a response to Friday night's police action.

Speakers denounced police violence and the use of motorcycles in and around the crowd, which had assembled to watch an ACT UP demonstration that was being staged in the middle of Castro Street.

Bryndis Tobin, who was injured by police during the confrontation, said she didn't want "what happened last night to ever happen again."

"Why are they so worried that they needed so many police officers?" Tobin asked the crowd.

As more speakers told the crowd of their experiences on the night some are dubbing "Blue Night"—a reference to blue police uniforms that plays on "White Night," a night of rioting that broke out in 1979 when Dan White was convicted of manslaughter instead of murder in the deaths of Mayor George Moscone and Sup. Harvey Milk—people driving down Market Street honked their horns in support and police cruisers began appearing on the scene.

The police, this time from Mission Station, responded professionally and calmly. The police on duty Friday night apparently were assigned from Northern Station, which has less experience dealing with gay demonstrations.

Bill Haskell, who was taken into custody on Polk Street as marchers left the Federal Building where the Friday afternoon ACT UP rally was held, said he was arrested in the street after telling police that he was ACT UP's police liaison.

He told the crowd he had been thrown into a jail cell with crack dealers and others who taunted him and called him "queer" after being told by jail officials who he was.

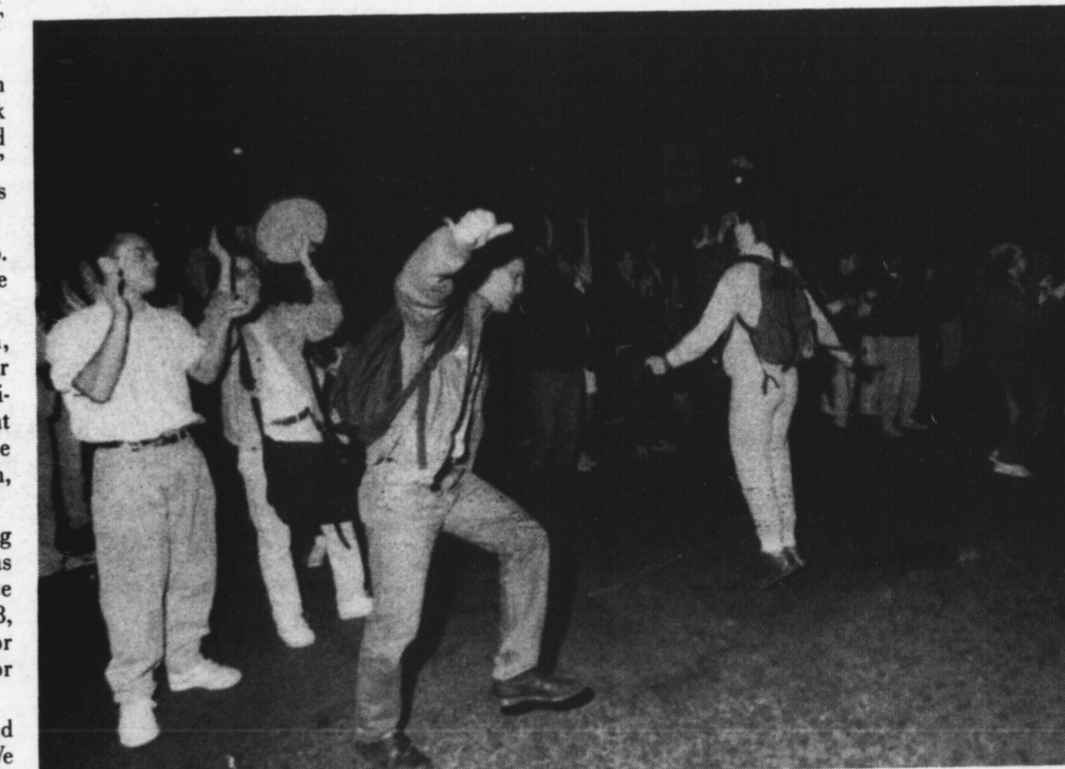
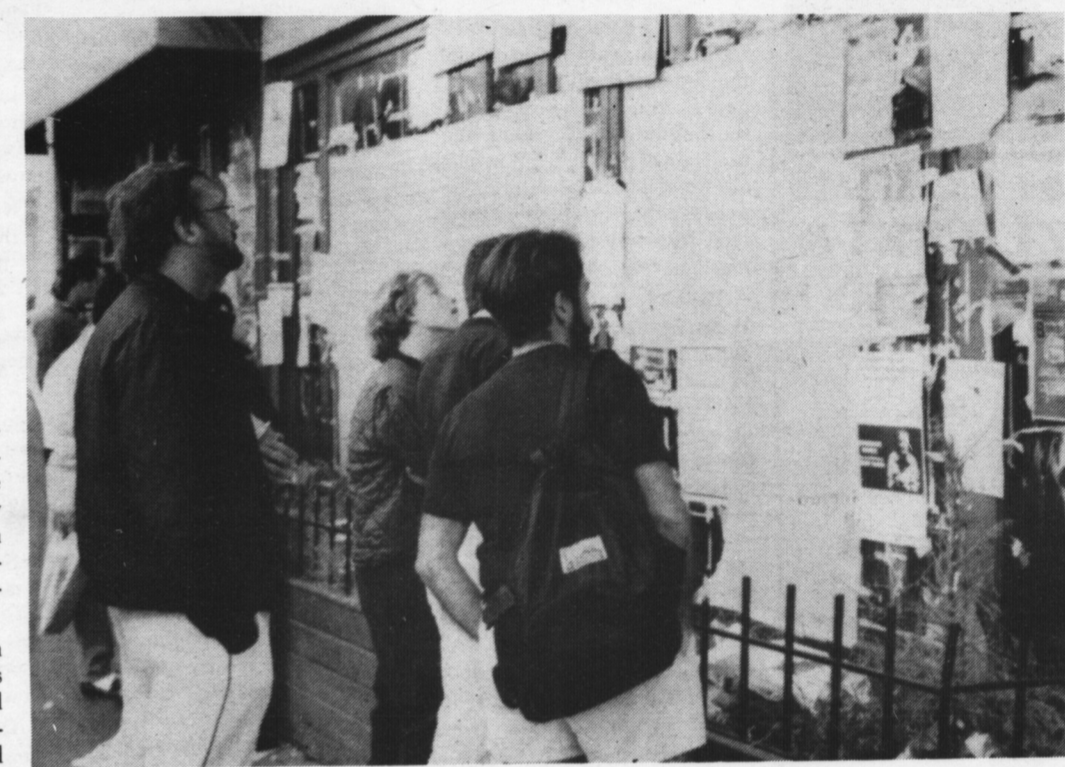
Jean Harris, aide to Sup. Harry Britt, criticized the police commission.

"The police commission, Chief Frank Jordan and Mayor Art Agnos have the responsibility to keep the police department under control," Harris said as the crowd began chanting, "Jordan, resign!"

Cathryn Cusick, representing Dolores Huerta, who herself was injured at the hands of police during a demonstration in 1988, said, "We've been waiting for justice for Dolores Huerta for one year. This is war."

Mike Shriver said he was tired of ACT UP being criticized. "We are not a violent group," Shriver said. He predicted the confrontation would boost ACT UP's cause and asked the crowd to report incidents or arrest or injury.

At 8 p.m. the crowd broke off the sidewalk and began marching down Castro Street. At 8:30 p.m. the crowd sat in a large circle, stopping all northbound traffic on Castro and forcing inbound Market Street traffic to detour through the Arco station and up Castro.



Top of page, marchers retake the Castro neighborhood at Saturday night's march. Passers-by read a sign on the Elephant Walk telling of Friday night's confrontation. Above, partying in the streets after riot police left Friday night.

(Photo: JPC)

(Photo: Rick Gerharter)

ers), then down 18th to Noe, and up to Market Street.

About nine to 10 police officers, not in riot gear, followed the crowd the entire route.

The crowd split and walked down both sides of Market Street

back to the intersection of Castro. At 8:30 p.m. the crowd sat in a large circle, stopping all northbound traffic on Castro and forcing inbound Market Street traffic to detour through the Arco station and up Castro.

"This is what we came here to do yesterday," an ACT UP protester shouted.

At 8:45 p.m. the crowd began dispersing. Market Street reopened at 8:50, and Castro Street reopened at 8:55 p.m.

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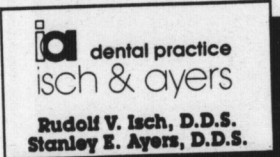
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Protesters leave the federal building Building. (Photo: Rick Gerharter)

Castro

(Continued from page 1)

cessive force. Police spokesmen denied the charges.

In San Francisco, the protest started Friday afternoon outside the federal building. Activists gave speeches and cordoned off the building with several hundred feet of red tape, but at least one protester, Rand Whittaker, a newspaper production assistant, pronounced the proceedings "boring" and departed.

The rally then moved to City Hall, a few blocks away, and it was at that point that tempers started to flare. Police officers who had been assigned to monitor the demonstration stringently enforced traffic laws and crowd-control regulations in a manner that is not usually undertaken with predominantly gay political crowds in San Francisco. Members of ACT UP, the AIDS Coalition to Unleash Power, who have a more distant relationship with the police than is customary here, interpreted the officers' hyper-vigilance as aggression.

Bill Haskell, ACT UP's police liaison, said he was arrested and charged with blocking the street and resisting arrest when he went into the street to identify himself to police.

At City Hall the rhetoric heated up, with T.J. Anthony, a gay aide to Supervisor Richard Hongisto, reportedly telling the crowd that the proposed downtown baseball stadium would cost them their lives. Demonstrators wearing skeleton masks wielded a banner reading "Baseball = Death."

As the throng left City Hall for its march up Market Street to the Castro district, police kept them hemmed in on the sidewalk rather than, as is more usual, allowing them to fan out and take up at least one traffic lane of the four-lane roadway.

That decision, Police Chief Jordan told the *Bay Area Reporter*, was made in advance planning meetings by Deputy Chief of Patrol Frank Reed.

"One of the issues was that, if there were more than 250 demonstrators, that we could allow them a lane of traffic," Jordan said, "but if they were less than 250 demonstrators we would keep them on the side so we could keep traffic moving."

Jordan said the two police captains in charge of supervising the event had decided that the demonstrators numbered "around 250" and that they could therefore be confined to the sidewalk.

When the crowd reached Cas-

tro Street, police formed a barricade to keep protesters on the sidewalk. But the protesters had different ideas.

According to a city official who has been monitoring the fallout from the rally, "When they got to the Castro, the sense among activists was that this was their turf and they weren't going to give ground. I think there was the sense (on the part of police) that the police couldn't let the demonstration take the street or else (the demonstrators) would have 'won.'"

Blocked from the intersection of Castro and Market, activists occupied Castro just off 17th Street. There they lay prone and spray-painted some 40 silhouettes and numerous slogans: "Fight or Die," "Black People Die Faster," "Profits = Death," and so on.

Police said they allowed the demonstrators to occupy the street for 21 minutes, then gave three orders to disperse before declaring the group an "unlawful assembly" and beginning to make arrests, mostly on misdemeanor charges of blocking the street and refusing to disperse. But with tempers riding high, the scene was set for confrontation, and with each arrest the crowd—now numbering an estimated 500 to 600—roared, blew whistles and taunted the police.

As the police finished arresting protesters who were lying in the thoroughfare, they became more aggressive in their efforts to confine spectators to the sidewalks on either side of Castro Street. Dressed in paramilitary uniforms and boots, with visored helmets and riot batons drawn and at the ready, they lined both sides of the street and faced the crowd.

Warren Jones, who said he was walking home from work at about 7:30 p.m., said he stopped to watch the protest but was caught in a crowd outside the Bank of America at Castro and Market. "All of a sudden all these police officers surrounded us and forced us against the wall," he said. "I was really frightened. I thought they were really going to bash me in the head."

A police captain using a loudspeaker was at the time ordering the crowd to disperse, but Jones said the officers who had them penned in refused to let him and others leave.

After a few minutes, the police who had been lining the sidewalks withdrew, and the crowd surged back into the street. Motorcycle police returned and parted the crowd by driving through its midst, using their vehicles to push people back toward the sidewalks.

Over the heads of the crowd an arm could be seen swinging a police riot baton; the crowd roared again, and police with batons drawn suddenly charged into the crowd, first on the west side of the street and then on the east. Frightened spectators screamed and retreated.

A young man who moments before had been uninjured staggered toward the Double Rainbow ice cream store, blood streaming from an upper lip that had been split wide open. A friend banged on the door of the locked shop and convinced the shopkeepers, who had been covering behind the counter, to give him some ice to staunch his friend's bleeding.

"I saw it," said a young woman who identified herself as Kimo and said a police officer wearing star number 1942 had struck the young man in the face with his riot baton.

Scott Shafer, deputy press secretary to Mayor Art Agnos, said officer number 1942 apparently was Capt. Richard Cairns, the tactical commander of the event and one of two officers in charge.

On the west side of the street, newspaper vending boxes had been overturned and another young man, Michael Barnett, lay wounded. A friend, Alex Chee, said, "He was injured when a police officer struck him in the face with a baton, cutting open the flesh right over the eye. Also, his legs were pinned underneath one of the newspaper boxes, and two of the cops were stomping on the box."

Capt. Cairns later offered a different version of events: "One person standing on news racks was knocked off by the crowd, and of course we were blamed for that."

Barnett was taken by ambulance to a local hospital for treatment.

An officer announced over (Continued on next page)

How to File Complaints With OCC, CUAV

To file a complaint with the Office of Citizen Complaints, call 553-1667, visit the office at 555 7th St. near the Hall of Justice, or call and request that a form be mailed. To file a complaint with Community United Against Violence call 864-3112 or visit the office at 514 Castro St.



(Photo: JPC)

loudspeakers that the entire area would be swept, including sidewalks, and that any civilians still in the area would be arrested. Police officers formed a phalanx stretching from sidewalk to sidewalk and slowly began advancing down Castro Street toward 18th, driving enraged protesters ahead of them.

"Go home!" people shouted. "This is our street!" screamed a young man, urging demonstrators to hold their ground against the armed advance.

A few were arrested who sat in the street or who moved too slowly in clearing the sidewalks, but most retreated. With every act of defiance, the police advanced further, and with redoubled determination.

The police paused at 18th Street, then continued toward 19th when the crowd facing them advanced back into the intersection, hands linked. The demonstrators retreated again, all except one man, who sat, cross-legged, on the yellow divider lines. The crowd cheered and blew police whistles as he was handcuffed and taken away.

A large crowd advancing down Castro Street behind the police line was greeted with massive cheers and blowing of whistles. But their appearance seemed to anger the police, who quickly herded them onto the sidewalks.

"This is an unlawful assembly," a police officer said, in a strained voice, over a loudspeaker. "This is about your 50th warning. You are subject to arrest now. To the people coming out of the establishments [lining the street], stay inside until we march past and march past again. The people behind me at 18th and Castro: In about two minutes of officers will march back down the street. If you are there, the officers have the power to use their batons to move you."

Danes

(Continued from page 3)

Copenhagen's four daily newspapers gave overwhelmingly positive coverage to the weddings, with large color photographs of the grooms kissing and carrying each other over the threshold. But both state television channels buried the story in their newscasts, with TV1 running only a three-minute report at the very end of an hour-long broadcast.

Some Danish activists, however, insisted that the sparse TV coverage was proof that homosexuality really is "no big deal" in Denmark. They said they found it incredible that the BBC, the *New York Times* and the American gay press had come all the way to Copenhagen for their "little wedding."

The police continued sweeping Castro in the direction of 19th Street, and then, a few minutes later, returned to 18th. It appeared at that point that a conscious decision had been made to withdraw, for the police marched in military formation up to Market Street, leaving about 300 cheering, dancing demonstrators to take over the intersection at 18th and Castro.

A few minutes later four motorcycle officers rolled back to the street. If you are there, the officers have the power to use their batons to move you."

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crowd, stopped in front of them, and, confronted with the chant, "Go home," turned around and retreated.

The crowd slowly followed the motorcycle police up Castro to Market, occupying the entire street, but the police stayed in the background for the rest of the evening, and shortly afterward, at around 10 p.m., withdrew from the area entirely.

Asked whether there had been a conscious command decision to withdraw from the scene even though the stated goal of keeping the streets clear had not been at-

tained, Police Chief Jordan said, "That's part of our after-action report, to see whether it was a decision on the spot."

An informed source indicated that Mayor Art Agnos had been notified about the demonstration, arrests and injuries at about 9 p.m., while they were still going on, and an anonymous flier, presumably printed by demonstrators, alleged that, "According to someone monitoring a police radio, the mayor intervened at 9:00."

Scott Shafer, the mayor's spokesman, said, however, that Agnos had been incapable of intervening because he had not been notified by police about the incident until it was over. He said the usual practice was for the mayor to be notified when a demonstration erupts into violence.

"In this case, for whatever reason, the police chief did not feel it was necessary to call the mayor," Shafer said. Agnos corroborated Shafer's account.

Chief Jordan said he had been monitoring the events in the Castro but had not notified the mayor because he "had no idea" of their severity.

By the end of the evening, some 45 to 50 people had been arrested, most on minor misdemeanor charges but a few for resisting arrest and one for felony

assault on a police officer. In that case, a demonstrator was being held aloft by police and, while thrashing, appeared on a television videotape, to have accidentally kicked a police officer in the jaw.

At least 10 demonstrators and bystanders have reported having been injured.

"They hit me with their billy-clubs when I went to help a woman," said Gilbert Criswell Saturday afternoon, displaying a bruised, abraded arm. "This is terrible. I was just on my way home from work. I wasn't even part of the protest."

Others reported that police had threatened the use of force against them. Ray Russ, who was one of the first to be arrested when the demonstration reached the Castro, said he had gone limp, requiring the arresting officers to drag him toward the paddywagon. He changed his mind, he said, when a police officer, who was holding his arm in a painful, contorted position, told him, "We want you to walk. We will use pain management to get you to walk."

According to Police Chief Jordan, four police officers also were injured and treated. Aside from the one who apparently was hit in the jaw, one reported contusions and abrasions on his legs and

(Continued on page 23)

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Fiddling While The City Burns

Gay Political Clubs Bicker Over Ballpark As Domestic Partners Edges Toward Defeat

by Allen White

With less than one month until the November election on domestic partners, the Yes on S campaign office has released both good news and disturbing news. Meanwhile, the city's gay political clubs have been finding their energies distracted by internal bickering on the issue of the proposed downtown ballpark.

Dick Pabich, who is directing the Yes on S campaign, reported having reached the campaign's goal of registering more than 10,000 new voters for the November election. This was accomplished through an intensive effort in gay areas throughout the city and at recent street fairs.

The campaign's highest priority will now become the identification of voters in favor of domestic partners. Pabich said the campaign now needs volunteers who can help with making phone calls or who can serve as precinct captains. Voters identified as supportive of domestic partners will be targeted in the get-out-the-vote effort on Election Day.

Pabich said 70 percent of the city's gay and lesbian voters must vote in the election for domestic partners to pass. He said money is needed to pay for mailings to those who are still undecided on how they will vote on the issue.

He emphasized the closeness of the vote, according to recently released polling data. In a poll conducted by ballpark proponents, 43 percent would vote yes on domestic partners, 17 percent favor a no position, and 17 percent are undecided. Among those who have voted in each of the last five elections, the tally is 33 percent for and 54 percent against domestic partners.

Political strategists continue to state that the turnout by the lesbian and gay community will be the deciding factor in this election. With that in mind, Mayor Art Agnos and his wife Sherry appeared at Crew last Saturday night for a "Dance for Domestic Partnerships." The intent of the event was to register voters and to encourage people to volunteer for the campaign.

A minor irritant for the domestic partnership campaign con-

tinues to be the internal bickering among members of gay political clubs over their positions on the ballpark issue. Pabich said, "People's energies have been siphoned off. I wish people on both sides would cool their tempers on the issues and not bring Proposition S into the battle. They are essentially using Proposition S to beat up on people for reasons that have absolutely nothing to do with the proposition."

Jean Harris, an aide to Supervisor Harry Britt, said, "I think we are being clubbed from both sides."

Members of the Stonewall Club are presently locked in a battle over their endorsement process. Club member John Wahl characterized it as "a parliamentary dispute," over whether a vote to overturn the endorsement of the ballpark was made before or after adjournment of the club's meeting last week. Richmond Young, president of the club, said the dispute has had an adverse effect on the club's ability to focus on the Yes on S campaign. "I have to spend time protecting the endorsement process of my club which I could spend on Prop. S," Young said. The club will hold a special meeting on Oct. 18 attempting to resolve its problems.

John Wahl says the club is in turmoil because, he says, Mayor Agnos has not been supportive enough of Proposition S in non-gay venues.

"What we want is for this mayor to stop going to gay bars. Probably everyone in a gay bar is for Proposition S," he said.

Larry Bush, an aide to Agnos, said the mayor is exactly where he should be on Proposition S. He pointed to the generally accepted campaign strategy that gay and lesbian voters must become involved in the domestic partners campaign and said the mayor is working to make that effort successful.

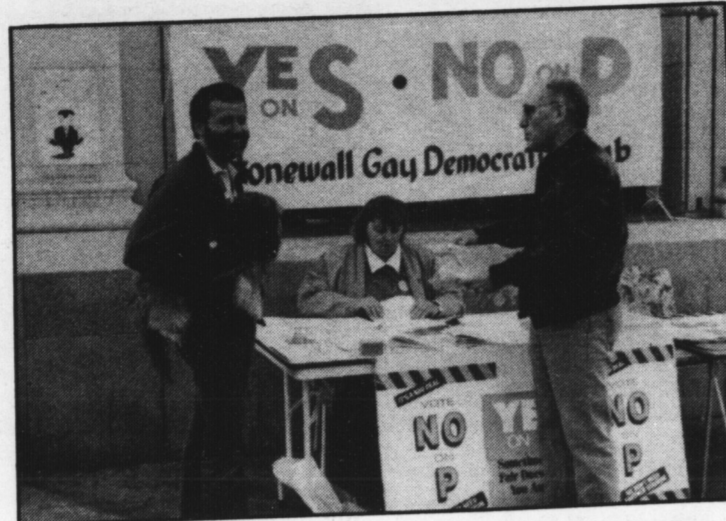
Bush emphasized that many in the gay community still have done relatively little to support domestic partners and said there is a high level of apathy to this issue and to voting, especially in

an off-year election.

When asked directly what he was doing for Proposition S, John Wahl said he hoped to have a sign in his window soon, had contributed money to the campaign and was generally supportive. Dick Pabich responded, "John Wahl's conduct is the height of hypocrisy."

More evidence of the dispute in the clubs showed up in conflict over the provenance of a booth last weekend at 18th and Castro streets. The booth has been identified both as the Stonewall Club's booth and as simply a neighborhood club staffed primarily by people who are not gay.

Straights at the booth were reluctant to discuss the domestic partner issue. "We asked them to put a volunteer sign-in sheet for Prop. S to work in the campaign and get out the vote. They wouldn't do it and said they were too busy doing other things," Harris said. Richmond Young,



The booth that either was—or was not—set up by the Stonewall Club.

Stonewall's president, said people at the booth were approached last Saturday and Sunday and each time refused to accept Proposition S material.

In other election matters, Bob Barnes, a vice president of the Alice B. Toklas Club, has complained to Supervisor Richard Hongisto of the conduct of his gay aide, T.J. Anthony, who has been vociferous in his opposition to the ballpark.

"I told him that many of the actions of his aide were not helpful to him and were looked on unfavorably by the club. I said that much of the hysteria being whipped up against Prop. P was damaging both to him and the community and I hoped he would put a stop to it," said Barnes.

Hongisto said Monday he supports and respects the effort of Anthony. "My only criticism," he said, "is he is being a little rough on the mayor."

Marchers Against Death Penalty Sacramento to San Quentin Route Planned

A broad coalition of human rights and civil liberties organizations will undertake a historic 120-mile march to protest the death penalty in California. "The March Against State Killing" begins at the state Capitol in Sacramento on Oct. 13. The participants will walk to San Quentin, where the state's gas chamber—dormant since 1967—awaits more than 240 people on death row.

The march is organized by the statewide abolitionist group Death Penalty Focus and supported by organizations such as Amnesty International, ACLU, NAACP, and the International Indian Treaty Council. The purpose of the march is to demonstrate that substantial opposition to the death penalty exists in California and to provide a 10-day forum for unmasking the myths surrounding the death penalty.

Presentations and other events along the march route will focus on the immorality of the death penalty. The abolition movement believes that capital punishment is the ultimate cruel, inhuman, and degrading punishment, brutalizing to all involved in the process, and that no government has the right to take a life and that no system of capital punishment can ensure that death will be fairly and consistently applied.

In addition, at various points along the march route, marchers will demonstrate that the death penalty is arbitrarily applied, racially biased, and reserved for the poor.

The march coincides with Amnesty International's Worldwide Week of Action for the Abolition of the Death Penalty. The march will travel through Davis, Dixon, Vacaville, Fairfield,

Vallejo, Richmond, Berkeley and San Francisco.

On Saturday, Oct. 21, a rally will be held in San Francisco at Justin Herman Plaza with speeches and entertainment. The march will conclude with a vigil outside the gates of San Quentin on Sunday, Oct. 22.

The March Against State Killing has picked up the endorsements of such notable people as Cesar Chavez, Coretta Scott King and Elie Wiesel.

In her endorsement letter, King explained her long-felt opposition to the death penalty: "Although my husband was assassinated and my mother-in-law was murdered, I refuse to accept the cynical judgment that their killers deserve to be executed. To do so would perpetuate the tragic cycle of violence that feeds on itself."

Friday

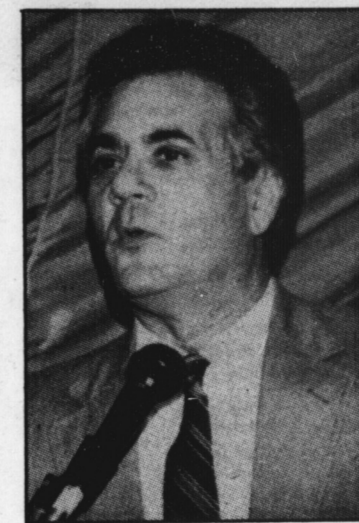
(Continued from page 10)

In New York, Rudolph Giuliani, a Republican who was once favored to become the next mayor, was booed and jeered by gay activists as he marched in New York's Columbus Day Parade. The activists accuse Giuliani, now an underdog in the mayoral race, of not having a plan to cope with the city's AIDS epidemic, and jeered him for his opposition to domestic partnership for gays and lesbians.

Dr. C. Everett Koop, the outspoken former surgeon general, will host a series of one-hour specials about health care for NBC next year on the subject of AIDS, care for the aged, medical malpractice, and skyrocketing health costs.

L.A. broadcast personality Bill Press, who once ran briefly for the U.S. Senate, and who has a lot of friends in the Bay Area, announced his candidacy this week for state insurance commissioner. Press is popular with liberals and gay rights activists, and among his early endorsers is San Francisco Congresswoman Barbara Boxer. Press is a refreshing alternative to the other announced Democrat, Conway Collis, who is best known for raising political megabucks and for his ties to party cronies.

Elizabeth Taylor, Madonna, Jack Nicholson and other Hollywood celebrities are expected to raise big bucks at an Oct. 24 premiere of *It Had To Be You* at Beverly Hills' Goldwyn Theatre as a benefit to fight AIDS. A number of San Franciscans will be coughing up the money to attend this good cause.



Barney Frank. (Photo: Rink)

Longtime activist David Goldman is holding a Yes on S champagne reception fundraiser at his home, 246-B Sanchez, in the city, October 28, from 1-3 p.m. (\$35 donation asked), and all are welcome.

And in New Orleans, the Gay and Lesbian Business Association urged strong criminal penalties against four gay-bashers charged with attacking the patrons of a French Quarter gay bar last week. Attacks on gays in the Quarter have been on an increase, and gays in the tourist-favored city are demanding action from the police department and the mayor's office.

Rep. Barney Frank, facing a House ethics committee investigation, found an unlikely ally when Rep. Newt Gingrich, the ultra-conservative, second-ranking Republican in the House and the man who brought the charges that ultimately forced the downfall of former House Speaker Jim Wright, told

reporters that the ethics committee should "proceed cautiously" as it investigates Frank. Gingrich, never known as a friend of gays, drew a distinction between cases that involve abuse of public office and official power (such as in Wright's case) and cases that merely involve bad judgment in personal lives. Saying that Rep. Frank "deserves his day in court," Gingrich added: "If Barney Frank did nothing which was officially wrong, if he did not misuse his office or his power, then you have a case of lousy judgment; you have a case of a person going through a personal crisis. We can all have personal feelings about that, but I don't think there's an ethics case at that point."

New AIDS-Related Databases

The National Library of Medicine, which announced the availability of AIDSLine in 1988, has added two new AIDS-related databases to its nationwide computer system. The databases—AIDS Trials and AIDS Drugs—provide online access to information on clinical trials of AIDS drugs and vaccines, including the general criteria for participating in those trials.

The Health Omnibus Programs Extension Act of 1988 (Public Law 100-607), passed by Congress in fall 1988, called for the establishment of a databank of information on clinical trials and treatment for AIDS. The two

databases, AIDS Trials and AIDS Drugs, represent the Public Health Service's response to that mandate.

PHS makes this information available through its toll-free confidential telephone service, 1-800-TRIALS-A.

For further information about the specific content of AIDS Trials or AIDS Drugs, contact NLM's Specialized Information Services (301) 496-3147. For information about how to have access to the two databases on NLM's system, call the Library's Medlars Management Section—(301) 496-6193 or (800) 638-8480. ▼

Alice Club Backs Van de Kamp Over Feinstein for Governor

by Allen White

The Alice B. Toklas Lesbian/Gay Democratic Club endorsed Attorney General John Van de Kamp for governor at its meeting Monday night, becoming one of the first political clubs in California to make such an endorsement.

With barely 10 percent of the membership present, the club voted 35 for Van de Kamp, 1 for Feinstein, and three for no endorsement position. The percentage for Van de Kamp was 89.4 percent.

"It is very significant because it sends a message that lesbians

and gay men in San Francisco support John Van de Kamp for governor," said Ron Braitwaite, club president. "We think he will make an excellent governor, and we think he is the one on lesbian and gay rights and our agenda. We want to make sure lesbians and gay men across the state know that."

Neither Van de Kamp or his opponent, former San Francisco Mayor Dianne Feinstein, were present at the meeting. Both candidates, in fact, were fairly certain of the outcome before the meeting began.

Feinstein, in an open letter to Alice club members, said she was

surprised the club was moving so early to make an endorsement "and that the endorsement, in fact, is locked up for my opponent."

At the Monday club meeting neither candidate's representatives would state a position on the San Francisco domestic partners ballot issue.

Van de Kamp said in an open letter to Alice club members that as governor he would sign AB1, the gay and lesbian civil rights bill. He also said he would dramatically increase funding for the treatment, care and protection of people with AIDS. ▼

Rainbow Deaf Society Meets AIDS Groups

Last month, members of the Rainbow Deaf Society's Deaf Community AIDS Project met with several AIDS service organizations in order to establish and implement services to the deaf community.

Guest speakers included Darrell Yee, AIDS Emergency Fund; Brent Hawk, Visiting Nurses/Hospice; Rene Durazzo, AIDS Foundation; Marcel Morand, Names Project; and Ali Marrero, Shanti Project.

Each representative spoke on the services available through their programs and promised to improve accessibility to the deaf.

Marrero from Shanti acknowledged that in the past Shanti had not been receptive to the needs of the deaf and vowed to expand their services to include teletype machines (TTDs), interpreter services, training for deaf participants and sign language instruction for staff members.

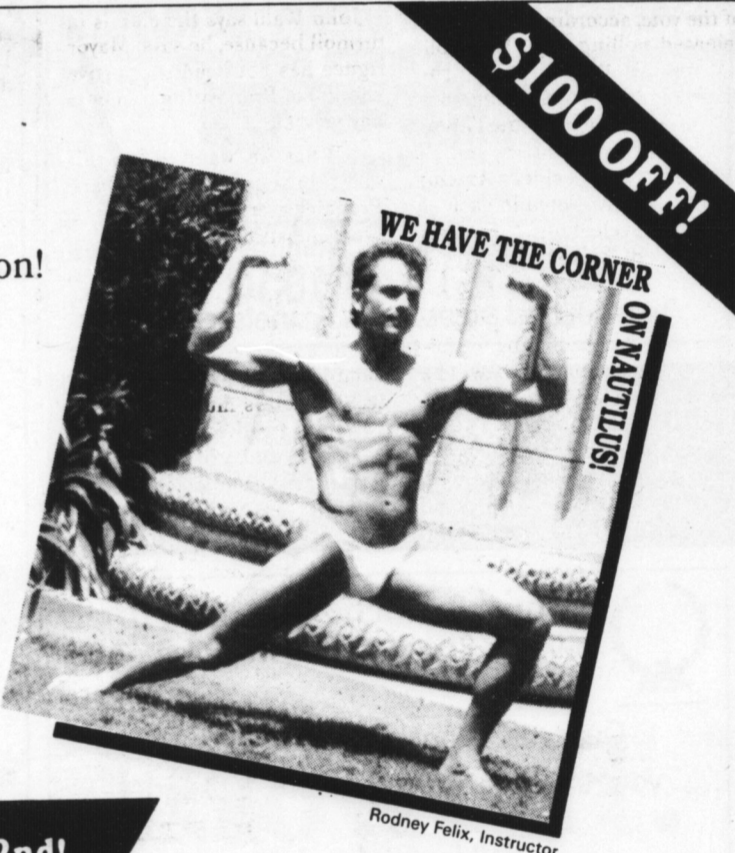
Although studies have not been conducted, it is estimated that deaf persons in San Francisco alone have contracted ARCAIDS and have died at an almost two-to-one ratio compared to the general population.

A Rainbow Deaf Society spokesperson expressed hope that improved relations with these organizations will enable deaf people to benefit from these services unavailable in the past.

More information can be obtained by contacting the Rainbow Deaf Society at P.O. Box 1606, San Francisco, 94114, in care of Angelo Rosado-Marquez, acting Deaf CAP director. ▼

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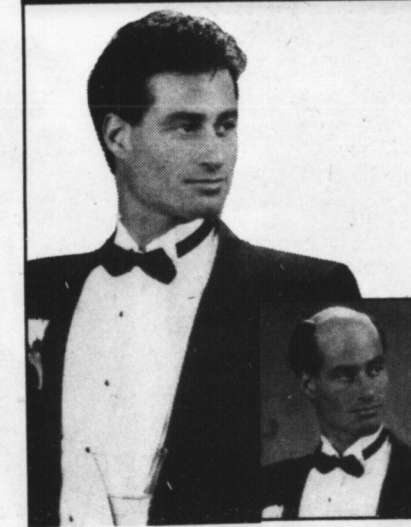
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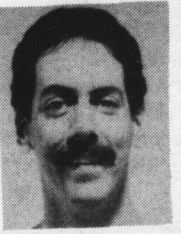
DEATHS

Donald L. Dragoni, M.D.

Nov. 17, 1947-Oct. 4, 1989

Don grew up in Avon, Conn., where, as a youngster, he liked to go shopping with his mom for hats at G. Fox & Co. in Hartford, and liked helping his dad gardening.

Don graduated from Fordham University, Georgetown Medical School, and the Albany Medical Center. Moving to San Francisco in 1976, he practiced medicine for 11 years in Willows, Ca., commuting from the city. An avid orchid collector, Don was a past board member of the San Francisco Orchid Society. Don also discovered the gym and built himself into a hunk before becoming ill with AIDS, and he did a pretty good Texas two-step at the Rawhide.



To know Don was to love him. He was a gentle man with a quick sense of humor who touched hearts. Contributions to Shanti requested in lieu of flowers.

Vincent R. Conte

Jan. 10, 1953-Sept. 25, 1989

Vince was born on Jan. 10, 1953, and his spirit departed this world on Monday, Sept. 25, 1989. His wish was fulfilled for he was at home with his friend, Chas, when he died.

Vince will be remembered for his stubbornness, his knowledge, his passion for liberal causes, his Christmas trees, his bliss in Mexico, catalogues, coupons, free issues of magazines, weekend hibernations, pms parties with his neighbor, frustrations, joy, tears, the kindness he brought to his friends, but most of all he will be remembered for his eyes and his laughter and the very essence of his soul that touched those who knew him.

A memorial service will be held on Sat., Oct. 14, at 2 p.m. at the Columbarium, #1 Loraine Court. Call 864-4550 for details.

John Strother "Big John"

May 14, 1949-Sept. 29, 1989

John peacefully slipped from this life the morning of Sept. 29, thus ending his 3 1/2 year battle with AIDS and suffering.

He drifted away at home in his sleep with his mother by his side, who has been caring for him with love and tenderness during the final months of his young life.

Best known to his customers as "Big John," John had been a very popular bartender at the Watering Hole Saloon for the past nine years until ill health forced his retirement this past May. He will be sorely missed by his co-workers and many friends.

Though his departure from us has left a very deep void, we are all comforted in knowing that at last his struggle and suffering is over. His loving soul, escorted by bands of angels to eternal life, is at peace with his life's inspiration, his lover, Mike Antonio, who went before him last year. His wit, friendship, willingness to listen, caring nature, encouragement and zest for life can never be erased from our hearts.

During his long struggle as a person with AIDS, John's condition became second in importance as his incredible strength, deep love, compassion, determination, understanding, friendship and support given to his very ill lover was an inspiration to us all.

John is survived by his loving family; his mother, Doris, brothers Dave and LaMar and sister Donna. To celebrate the life of our dear friend, John, memorial services will be held at 7:30 p.m. Oct. 14 at the Neptune Society Columbarium, 1 Loraine Court (at Anza) in the city. John would like contributions to be made to either Open Hand, 2720 17th Street, S.E. 94110 or NIH Research Services, 2200 O'Farrell, S.E. 94115 in lieu of flowers. If you need directions to the Columbarium, call Stuard-Mikhail at 346-3699.

Mariposas sin libros, amigos—butterflies are free—and now you're finally free, too. Via con Dios from us. We love you and will deeply miss you. Thank you for your love.

Neil B. Smith

May 28, 1946-Oct. 3, 1989

Neil Smith was a dear, sweet man, stubborn and bossy at times, but always giving and loving and caring. He was a teacher, a friend, a brother, a son.

Neil finally succumbed to the dreaded AIDS after an 18-month struggle; his final days were spent at Garden Sullivan Hospital. During this bleak period, his agony was lessened through the efforts of their dedicated staff.

Neil was a recovering addict who found meaning in life through the 12-Step Program of Narcotics Anonymous, in which he actively participated; he was a very spirited man who carried a message!

Neil Smith was born of Irish and Swedish parents, and raised in Kearny, New Jersey. His early years were spent in the New York City area. He served in the U.S. Navy from 1963 to 1968, being discharged as a Radarman Second Class Petty Officer. During these service years, Neil traveled extensively throughout the world. It was at this time that he decided to make San Francisco his home.

Neil was employed for many years with the Matson Company Shipline; he also worked as a carpenter and general handyman. For the past five years he was associated with the Yellow Cab Coop of San Francisco as a driver.

He is survived by his mother, Catherine, sisters Agnes and Patricia and their respective families. In addition, Neil has left behind many loving close friends.

A special thanks to Shanti, the AIDS Emergency Fund, Hospice and Visiting Nurses, the Food Bank, Open Hand, and all the other caring support services.

Correction

The name of the subject of an obituary was misspelled in our Oct. 5 issue. The correct spelling is David G. Schlageter.

A memorial service will be held on the East Coast on Monday, Oct. 9, and in San Francisco on Sunday, Oct. 15, at MCC, 150 Eureka St. between the hours of 1:30 and 4 p.m. His ashes will be scattered in a private ceremony at another time, outside the Golden Gate Bridge.

Donations in Neil's name may be made at any of the AIDS support services.

For any additional information, call Jim D. at 752-4910, Michael L. at 621-1496 or Terry L. at 530-1699.

Neil, we hurt now, as we bid you farewell, but you will live in our hearts forever, and in the arms of the "Higher Power" you so completely committed your life to.—Your Earth Family.

Stephen Alden Downs

On the evening of Sept. 22 at 11:40 p.m. Stephen died peacefully at home with his lover of 15 years at his side. His was a difficult year-long battle against AIDS which he fought with intelligence, information and even humor.

Steven moved to San Francisco five years ago from Boston, where he was assistant manager of medical records for

Mass. General Hospital for more than 10 years. After spending almost two years working at Image Leather, he settled back into a medical setting at UCSF, where his sometimes smiling face greeted patients to the AIDS clinic.

He loved the outdoors, particularly gardening and hiking. The community gardens he built and organized will long be remembered along Marlborough Street in Boston's Back Bay. But hiking was a special pleasure for him. My fondest memories with him are along trails from the Rockies and Sierras. Or along quiet beaches here in California, or in Cape Cod and Fire Island.

Steve will be missed by many friends on both coasts but especially by the crew at the UC AIDS Clinic, where he worked very hard most of the last three years organizing them, as was his way.

He is survived by his mother, Mildred Fischer, grandmother, Emma Guenzler, both of Ill., and his lover Dennis Ferguson. No services are planned at this time.

Martin E. "Marty" Walls

March 28, 1950-Sept. 23, 1989

Marty crossed over Sept. 23 at Pacific Presbyterian after a short battle with PCP. Upon being diagnosed over a year ago, Marty never lost his optimism or hope.

Marty, the battle is finally over. We, your family and friends, loved you and will miss your joyful and generous nature. Peace be with you.

Private memorial services were held Sept. 26 at San Bruno Funeral Home in San Bruno, Ca. For any further information please contact Jim Willis at 255-9550.

John Henglein

July 6, 1940-Sept. 14, 1989

Our dear friend John passed away Sept. 14 after a two-year struggle with AIDS.

John was born and raised in New York and moved to San Francisco in 1974. For the past 10 years John worked in Food Services at Mt. Zion Hospital. John was known for his wonderful sense of humor, his kindness and generosity, and his love of a good garage sale. He was the best of friends and family and many friends mourn his passing. We'll miss you, Big John.

A gathering of friends to commemorate John's life will be held at Julie's Supper Club, Folsom at 7th Street, on Sunday, Oct. 29, at 1 p.m.

Randy Burs

March 26, 1955-Oct. 3, 1989

Randy was born in Parma, Ohio, on March 26, 1955. He moved with family to Eau Claire, Wis. in 1962, schooled in Madison, Wis. studying zoology and Swahili in 1973. Then U. of Minnesota in Minneapolis 1974-75 where he studied

modern dance also from 1975-78. He moved to San Francisco in 1979.

Randy made the transition Tuesday evening, Oct. 3, in the company of loving friends. He had survived the diagnosis of cryptosporidiosis since the spring of 1987. A determined, energetic personality, he was a marvel to his doctors and medical staff with his astute knowledge and practical application in the medical field.

His adventurous and inquisitive nature endeared him to all whether it be raising reptiles, bird/whale watching or hiking on Mt. Tam. Randy loved nature and gained his strength and spiritual solace from immersing himself in all its forms. Modern dance, or giving education and artistic application were his hallmarks!

His last employment with Hang-Ups was probably the most fulfilling, allowing him to use his artistic and practical skills in hanging upholstery. Prior to that he worked as a waiter at the Big Four and Domaine Chandon.

Surviving Randy are a sister, Cheryl of Eau Claire, Wis. and his mother Rheta of Boca Raton, Fla., as well as many loving friends and care-givers in San Francisco. Any donations in Randy's memory may be made to Visiting Nurses and Hospice of San Francisco or Open Hand.

AIDS Public Service Phone Line Threatened

Project DIAL Inc. (Disseminate Information on AIDS Line) is a 501(c)(3) tax exempt, non-profit organization started by a person with AIDS that may soon be forced to cease operations as a result of the lack of financial and community support of the very communities it has attempted to serve.

Project DIAL is a non-political, religiously neutral, information/referral public service, which has endeavored to provide concise AIDS related/AIDS specific information in and around the Bay Area, providing a one-to-three-minute narrative of services offered for each listing by utilizing voice mail and computer-relational data-bases providing discrete electronic resource guides to the all.

Founder and President-Elect W. Gary Varnell said that Project DIAL's board of directors may have little choice as it cannot meet operating expenses.

To date, all financial obligations for operations expenses such as voice mail, telephone service charges, postage, printing, advertising and labor costs for countless hours of research, clipping of articles and writing of documents have been handled by Varnell and a few volunteer interim board members.

Regrettably, if the organization is forced into bankruptcy, all efforts of chronicling AIDS articles and the various treatments and services will have to be transferred or lost.

Telephone inquiries may be made by calling (408) 241-9143. Any donations and services to preserve this organization are tax-deductible to the extent permissible by law and may be sent to: Project DIAL Inc., 584 Castro Street, Suite 118, San Francisco, CA 94114-2588.

Video Game Fights AIDS With Education

by Keith Clark

"Blocky" certainly isn't as familiar to American kids as Ms. Pacman or Donkey Kong, but two AIDS researchers with the University of Texas are using the character in their video game, BLOCKAIDS, to score some important points about the epidemic with teen-agers and pre-adolescents who visit the Houston Museum of Medical Science.

As the kids stand in line to play the one-of-a-kind game, the most popular exhibit at the museum, BLOCKAIDS' developers, professors William Fetter and Craig Johnson, will be accomplishing several things with the tic-tac-toe arcade game. To play the game, the kids first have to answer a brief, anonymous demographic questionnaire at the computer. Players get points for answering any of some 250 AIDS-related questions correctly or by asking for "hints" which give the player information about the virus.

The kids try to work their way through the gameboard, where the nasty AIDS virus can pop up in any square at any time. "Blocky" is used to zap the virus and remove it from a square which the player can then move to and get another question. When a player completes a vertical, horizontal or diagonal line, the screen changes to a new game of increased difficulty.

But Fetter and Johnson are gleaming a wealth of information from this seemingly innocent arcade game: which age group of kids is best and worst informed about AIDS, what about the epidemic is best and least understood, what demographic information most influences what the kids know about AIDS. For each kid who plays BLOCKAIDS, in fact, the two researchers are accumulating a mass of random research data that might not be obtainable any other way.

In the process, the kids are also

learning a lot about AIDS—how it's transmitted, how it's not transmitted, and so on, in a form that's palatable to them—if the lengths of the daily lines at the game are any indication.

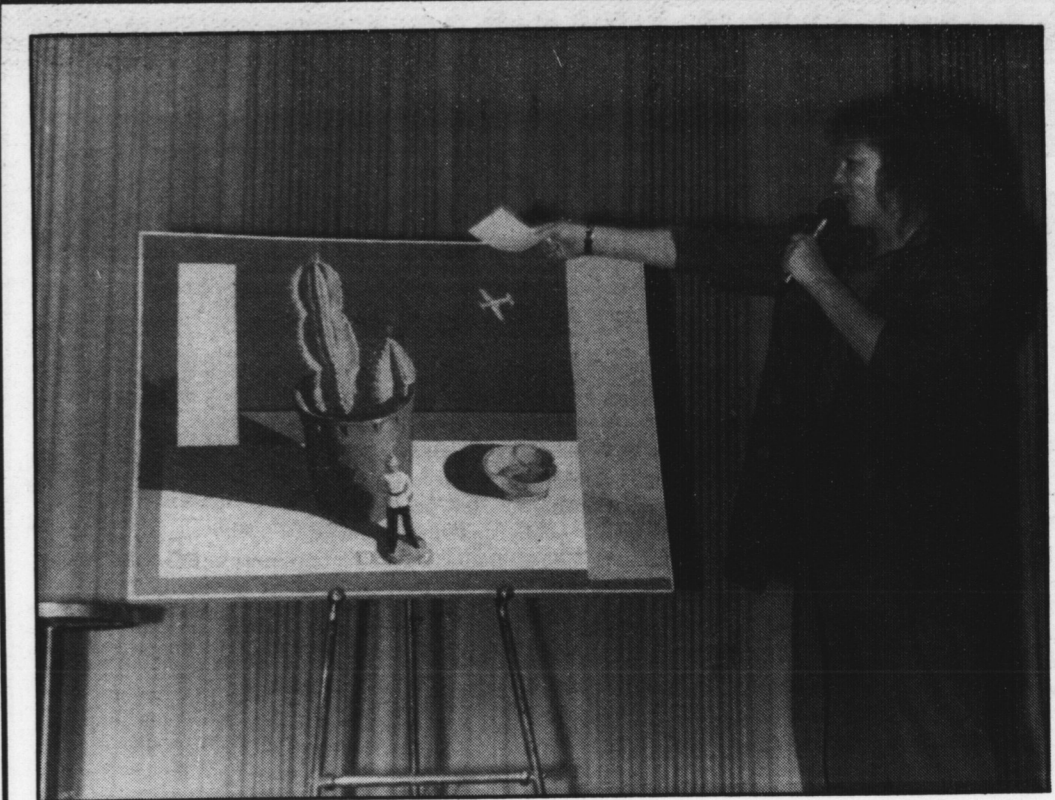
The questions and information in the game come from the U.S. surgeon general's report on the epidemic, which is where Johnson and Fetter originally got the idea. The report, first prepared in 1986, identified adolescents as perhaps the age group least informed about AIDS.

"It was apparent there is a strong need for AIDS education among kids," Johnson said. "An entire generation could be at risk. There was a need to put this information into a format that would grab and hold the attention of youngsters. After all, how many teen-agers are actually going to read the surgeon general's report?"

Although BLOCKAIDS is designed so that it could readily be packaged and distributed, with new information about the epidemic easily added or updated, it's unlikely the video game will be showing up at local arcades, or even in school sex-education classes, because of what school boards consider its graphic language. Words like penis, vagina, and condom necessarily appear throughout the questions and clues. And school districts in this country typically balk at anything so explicit.

Fetter hopes this ceases to be the case. (Due to the Columbus Day holiday, San Francisco public school officials could not be reached for comment on whether they would encourage the use here of video educational materials using explicit language.)

"We've gotten calls from educators all over the country asking about getting copies of BLOCKAIDS for school use,"



Art for Life

Pat Kerrigan of radio station KMGG in Sonoma County bringing down the gavel on one of over 100 pieces donated by Sonoma County artists for the second annual Art for Life auction on Sept. 24. The auction, held at the Flamingo Hotel in Santa Rosa, raised more than \$15,000 for Face to Face, the Sonoma County AIDS organization. (Photo: Patrick Satterthwaite)

Fetter said. "Since there's no cure for AIDS, knowledge about the disease is the most important

thing anyone can have. And it's time we gave these kids the best inoculation we've got.

"It's either that," Fetter said, "or let them die of innocence." ▼

Live 105 to Air Gay Programs

After three months of negotiations with KITS-FM concerning disc jockeys Alex Bennett and Perry Stone, the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation, San Francisco Bay Area Chapter, has reached several unprecedented agreements with the San Francisco radio station.

The agreements are based on two primary conditions: that homophobic content will not be tolerated on the station, and that Perry Stone will initiate positive images of lesbians and gay men on the morning show.

Although Stone has been slow in responding, anti-gay material has been dropped from his act and station manager Ed Krampf has assured GLAAD/SFBA that

Stone will incorporate positive comments as the show progresses.

In response to GLAAD/SFBA's request Live 105 has agreed to air one public service announcement per hour in its morning drive time for lesbian and gay community organizations and events.

This is the first time any radio or television station has made such a generous offer to the community.

Organizations interested in participating should contact GLAAD at 861-4588.

In addition, the station has agreed to dedicate one of its Sunday morning public affairs programs for lesbian and gay men's

issues. Every other program will concern women's issues.

This will be the first regular program for lesbians on a commercial radio station in the history of broadcasting. These programs will air during the station's normal public affairs time of 7:30 a.m.

KITS-FM has also agreed to develop one promotion per quarter for lesbian and gay events and to invite openly lesbian and gay comedians and other personalities on the morning show.

GLAAD/SFBA commends the management of Live 105 for these commitments and encourages other radio and television stations to begin a more realistic and sensitive approach to gay and lesbian issues. ▼

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To make an appointment (in Spanish or English) for testing, call: **621-4858**

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.

Gay Men, IV Drug Users Barred from N.Y. Sperm Banks

by Keith Clark

New York's sperm banks were ordered by state health department officials Oct. 2 to begin giving HIV tests to all prospective donors, and gay men and IV-drug users have been ordered permanently barred from donating sperm at any of the state's banks.

Under the newly adopted regulations, men seeking to donate sperm must first take two HIV tests six months apart. Only when both tests are negative will prospective donors be accepted. Mary Anne Gardineer, of the state health department's regulatory affairs office, said, "The department has been concerned for quite some time, and not just about HIV. The basic issue is the risk to the recipient and the baby."

But the blanket restriction on gay men and IV-drug users has set off a controversy among gay-rights and AIDS activists.

The regulations restrict anyone from donating sperm who has been exposed to HIV, anyone

who has had sexual contact with a "high-risk" individual, taken drugs intravenously or has engaged in any homosexual activity since 1977.

Libby Post of the New York Lesbian/Gay Lobby called the regulations "homophobic and discriminatory" and accused state health officials of "pandering to a public that is generally ignorant."

"They're making a blanket assumption that every single gay man out there is HIV-positive and is carrying around a death sentence with him," Post said. She also wondered how the new restrictions were going to be enforced. "We don't have big Ls and Gs tattooed on our foreheads, you know. We don't carry around lesbian and gay ID cards."

But Carissa Cunningham of New York's Gay Men's Health Crisis said her organization had no objection to the new regulations as long as testing confiden-

tiality is maintained and those who test positive are provided with counseling. "We have the same concerns as the state health department does about the safety of the sperm banks here," Cunningham said.

Gardineer said the new regulations barring specific categories of sperm donors are identical to those already used by blood banks in screening bone-marrow donors. She said testing confidentiality and counseling were already ensured by state legislation passed earlier this year.

The regulations do not apply in cases where a donor's sperm is designated exclusively for his wife.

The federal Centers for Disease Control in 1985 recommended that HIV testing be used for all blood, tissue and semen donations. CDC officials say there are no documented cases in this country of HIV infection through donated semen.

ACT UP/Portland Sues Over Strip Searches

Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund has announced that the Portland chapter of AIDS Coalition to Unleash Power, an international AIDS protest group, has filed suit in federal District Court of Oregon against the U.S. Marshal for the District of Oregon, Kernon Bagley.

The lawsuit alleges that federal marshals in Portland strip searched 10 ACT UP demonstrators following their arrest for non-violent civil disobedience at a Portland protest regarding Food and Drug Administration AIDS policies, specifically, bureaucratic delays in the approval of drug treatments for ailments associated with AIDS that are safe as well as promising, but which have not been scientifically proven effective to the satisfaction of the FDA in strictly controlled drug trials.

Some of these drugs are licensed in Europe or Asia, but remain unapproved for use in the United States.

The demonstrators, all lesbians and gay men, claim that the strip search was unjustified and that the marshals violated their Fourth Amendment right to be free from unreasonable searches.

The lawsuit seeks money damages and injunctive relief against future strip searches under similar circumstances.

The lawsuit stems from a Feb. 27 protest at which the demonstrators blew whistles and chanted slogans in the hallway outside FDA offices in a federal office building in Portland. The FDA

office had been closed in anticipation of the demonstration.

More than 100 ACT UP demonstrators circled the building on the sidewalk carrying picket signs with messages critical of government policy. Twelve demonstrators were arrested. Eleven were taken into federal custody for creating the noisy disturbance in the hallway. A 12th was taken into custody by Portland police after throwing himself in front of the marshal's van transporting other arrestees. He was held briefly in a police car, given a citation and released. He later paid a \$25 fine.

The protesters arrested on federal charges claim they were subjected to a pat search at the scene, handcuffed and transported in a van to the U.S. courthouse for processing by the marshal's office. There, they were charged with creating a disturbance in a federal office building, a petty offense under federal law. Each was photographed, fingerprinted, asked to present identification, given a citation and released within three hours.

However, prior to their release, the AIDS activists claim that the marshals, who were wearing rubber gloves, subjected each demonstrator to a degrading and intrusive strip search in which the men were ordered to lift their genitalia and the women their breasts. All were ordered to bend over and spread their buttocks for inspection. Several of the searches were conducted in full view of other officers and detainees. (Continued on page 22)

BAY AREA REPORTER GREATER BAY NEWS

Gay Sports Fans Hunker Down For Baseball

by Allen White

World Series fever has hit the gay community on both sides of San Francisco Bay. Bars from the Giraffe and the Rendezvous on Polk to the Bear on Castro to the Spoiled Brat in Hayward are preparing for the opening game, which starts at 5:24 p.m. on Saturday at the Oakland Coliseum.

For most, the way they will see it is on television. Coverage begins for all games at 5 p.m. on Channel 7.

Not all the action will be at the ballpark. Gay bars and clubs are planning parties and drink specials, and television sets are being fine-tuned and readied for the weekend.

Surprisingly, sports fans' loyalties are not always tied to geographical location. Bob Cramer, an avid sports fan who lives in San Francisco, speaks for many when he says, "I was raised an American League fan, and I'm going to be for the A's. I like the Giants, and the only time you have to make a decision is when they play against each other, and this is that time."

Bob McManus at the Bench and Bar in Oakland reports that "Everyone is excited, but the battle lines have been drawn." He concedes there are divided

loyalties between the Giants and the A's at this bar. The Bench and Bar will have three sets going for the series and they are working to prepare some kind of "bay cocktail."

Around the corner at the Paradise Bar & Grill, bartender Carlos Vargas said, "All I know is we are going to have a party every day of the World Series."

Louis Francisco at the Spoiled Brat in Hayward said most of the fans there are for the Giants. They will be serving hot dogs, decorations have been put up, and the bar boasts three 26-inch monitors and a solid stereo system. By contrast, the bartender at the Town & Country on Telegraph in Oakland says, "You're going to have a hard time finding any Giants fans in this bar."

Amelia's, the lesbian bar on Valencia Street in San Francisco, will open each day of the World Series at 3 p.m. Rikki Streicher, owner of the bar, says, "Since we are the bar of the bay softball women's champions, we want the Giants to know they can come here and be with the champions."

The Midnight Sun on 18th Street in the Castro will broadcast all the games on its huge

screens. The twist, as they did with the Super Bowl Games, is to show music videos during the commercials. Virtually all the other gay bars in the Castro will be broadcasting the games and, as happened during the playoffs, will be packed to capacity.

The Mint, which has been jammed for all the playoff games, will continue with its presentation of the World Series games. The Galleon is planning free schnapps, courtesy of the San Francisco Emperor and Empress, every time the Giants score a run. They will also have free hot dogs, and several television sets will be positioned for easy viewing of the games.

The Giraffe, on Polk Street, will again use its several giant screens for showing the games. The New Belle Saloon and the Polk Gulch Saloon will also be carrying the games. Like the Mint on Market, the Rendezvous on Polk will have easy access to the food of Hot n' Hunky.

Down at the Eagle on 12th Street, all of the ball games will be shown on the bar's many television sets. They will also have hot dogs. Like many of the other bars, they report that loyalties are with both teams.

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Boatwright Endorsement Raises Ire

by Keith Clark

The Nov. 7 Concord City Council campaign of anti-gay rights fundamentalist minister Lloyd Mashore—as well as the political future of state Sen. Dan Boatwright within the Democratic Party—has become the subject of controversy here over what Mashore claims is an endorsement by Boatwright and what Boatwright's staff claims isn't.

Rumors began circulating last week that Mashore—who in June turned in over 10,000 signatures to repeal the recently enacted Concord AIDS anti-discrimination ordinance and has long opposed Concord gay rights advocates—was in the process of preparing a campaign piece centered around a Boatwright endorsement and featuring a recent photo of the senator shaking hands with Mashore.

Barry Brokaw, Sen. Boatwright's chief of staff, however, said the controversial senator hadn't made any endorsement of Mashore at all. "There is no endorsement of Rev. Mashore," Brokaw said. Brokaw said the photo of the two politicians shaking hands was "just a sign of friendliness" but not an endorsement.

But Mashore was adamant. "Boatwright's definitely endorsed me," Mashore said. "That's what the photo opportunity was all about. Why set something like

that up if you're not going to endorse someone?" When told Brokaw had already denied any endorsement, Mashore said, "Who's that? I don't know him. But Boatwright has definitely endorsed me in the election."

Sen. Boatwright's Sacramento office could offer no further clarification of the disputed endorsement because the senator is on vacation and unavailable for comment.

The appearance of a Boatwright endorsement of Mashore has caused some East Bay Democrats and gay rights activists to express concern that the controversial senator is positioning himself politically with the far-right fundamentalist movement, which has recently coalesced here under the guidance of the Anaheim-based Traditional Values Coalition. TVC now has a branch in Concord.

A report in the *Oakland Tribune* indicated that Boatwright has taken the unprecedented step of endorsing three Republicans in the upcoming election: Nancy Gore, Byron Campbell and Beverly Williscroft. Williscroft, another TVC affiliate, also aggressively opposed the Concord AIDS anti-discrimination legislation.

Contra Costa County Democratic Coalition chairwoman

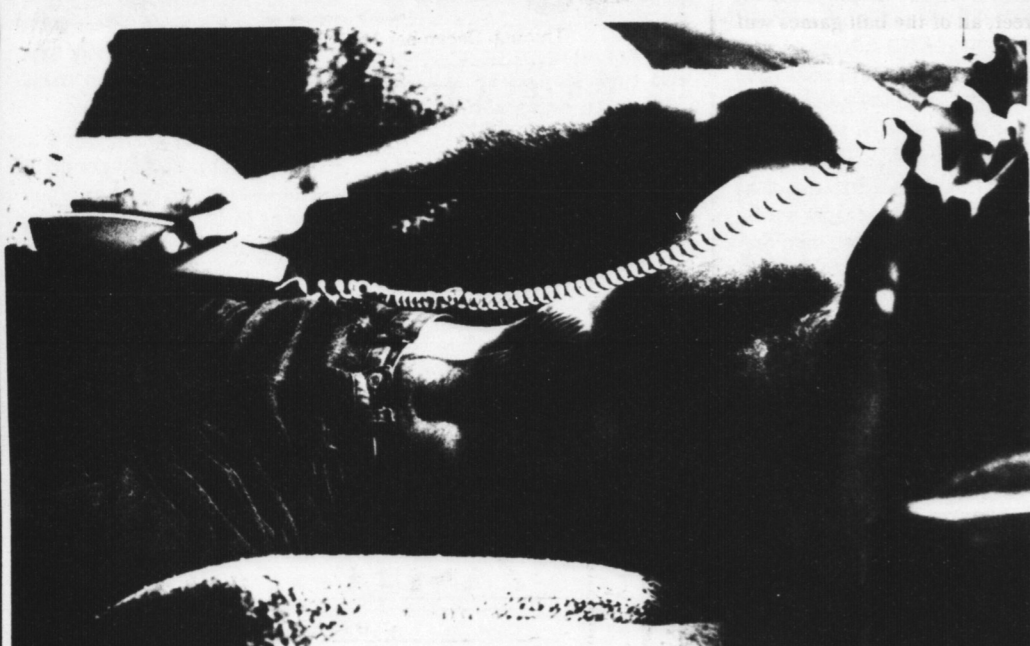
Bobbie Arnold said Boatwright "might be trying to have it both ways."

"It would be very questionable for him [Boatwright] to endorse someone like Mashore whose repeal move against the Concord AIDS law is in direct opposition to the party platform and whose election we oppose," Arnold said.

Allan Shore, president of the East Bay Lesbian/Gay Democratic Club, said, "Dan Boatwright has aligned himself with the Traditional Values Coalition fundamentalists and the things that group stands for and is opposed to by failing to immediately clarify his endorsement of Mashore." Shore also said he believed the issue "will be cleared up when the Democratic Party establishment refutes Boatwright's endorsement of Mashore and TVC."

Boatwright, a 17-year veteran of the Legislature, has increasingly come under fire from gay rights activists in the East Bay over what they claim is his "waffling" on important issues like AIDS, lesbian/gay rights and abortion. In 1986 Boatwright angered AIDS activists throughout the state when he gutted a major provision of an AIDS vaccine funding bill that had been introduced by Assemblyman John Vasconcellos (D-San Jose).

The Man you've been waiting for could be on our line . . .
... right now.



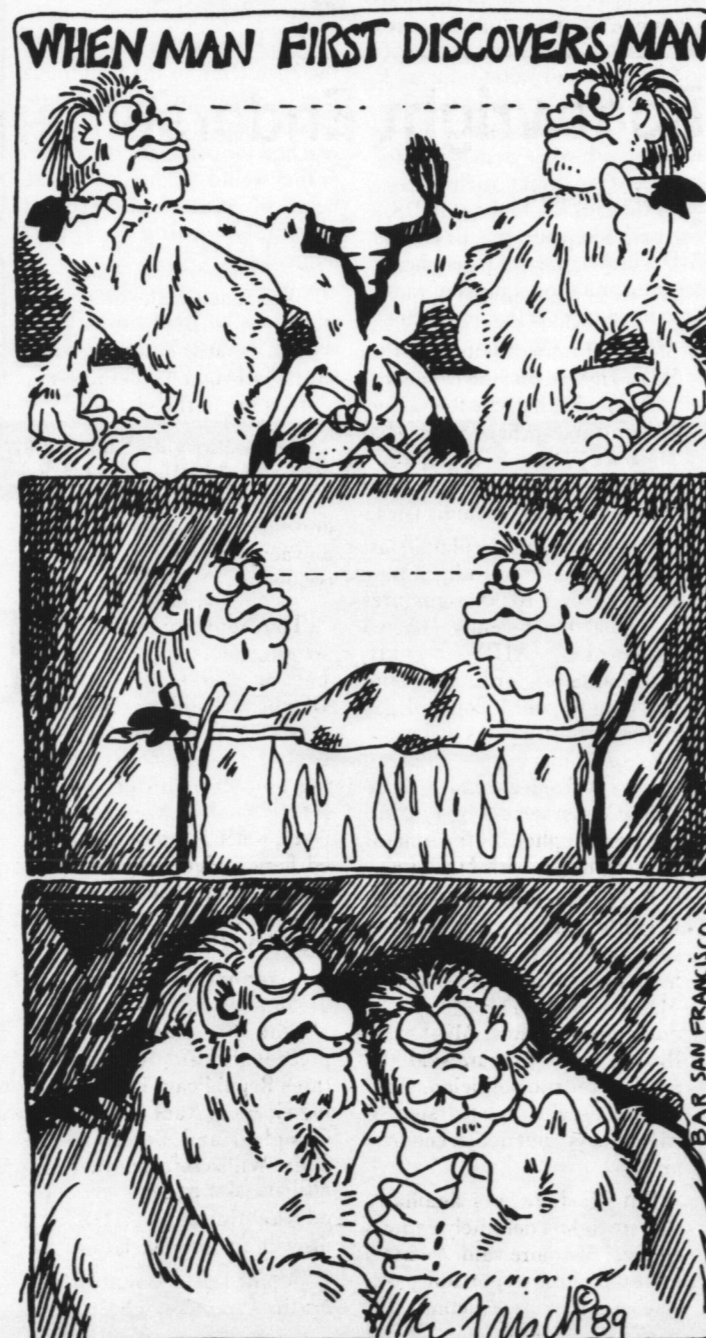
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Nez Pas Hearsay and Prattle

Phantasmagoria Palpability
(A "Canard" Nose)

It is only hearsay and prattle, and I got wind of it second hand, but there seems to be enough substance to warrant its public airing. "Parts is parts," and facts are facts, and if certain parts are actually broken then that becomes a fact...right?

Anyway, the word on the street is that after ISE's Coronation '89, a certain couple retired to its suite at the hosting hotel and proceeded to "celebrate" the outcome of the voting with oral and

physical abuse of each other. The violations didn't remain just with the two parties. It seems that a window was broken and some furniture wrecked. Accounts vary from one chair leg being broken to an entire room being trashed—you know how those things go. Facts remain, however, that, indeed, there was an altercation between the "lovers" and there was a broken window at the hotel. The two parties in question were not in attendance at the victory brunch the next day, don't you know!

Even though ISE was assessed for and will pay for said material damage, much more harm was done than just a broken window pane. Not only is the incident casting a pall over an outstanding old reign and a promising new one, but also it is giving the gay community in Alameda County an undesired and unearned negative reputation in the eyes of the straight business establishment and straight community as well.

Great strides had been made to even have the Coronation at the Oakland Hyatt International, and the behavior and attitude of those in attendance belied any apprehensions that the hotel may have had. Giant steps forward were established that night—for a brief moment in Camelot.

Because of that one asinine incident between two "staunch members of the gay community," those steps forward were negated and, once again, we fell miles back.

One can only hope that when ISE pays for the damages, the dastards will get their just desserts, too. Wouldn't that be a great way to start a reign?

L Count 'Em L
(A "Think Roman Numeral" Nose)

The Turf Club is fanatic about Football, Foxrot, Films, Fiddles, Fire, and Fifty!

On Sundays, enjoy the 49ers on TV, along with fantastic hot dogs. On Monday nights, enjoy the evening game of the week, also on TV, and still more hot dogs. Tuesday nights bring country/western dance lessons. Wednesdays are Country Video Nights. DJ John spins the best C/W music on Thursdays. Friday and Saturdays are reserved for the fantastic Wild Fire Band, from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m.

And an Extra Special treat this month. The Turf Club will celebrate its—hang on to your whatever!—50th anniversary! It will be a four-day weekend not to be missed. It all begins on Thursday, Oct. 19, with entertainment by the fabulous Dena Kaye. It continues on Friday and Satur-



Current and past royalty at the P for P picnic. Top row: Chuckles (Emperor II & Empress VIII); Suzie, Empress I; Fina & Tim, (Empress & Emperor X). Bottom row: Carlos (Empress II & Emperor IX); Bobbie, Paul Vierra, Emperor VII.

day, Oct. 20 and 21 with "50 Years of the Turf" and "Do You Remember 1939?" I hate to give away my age—Geeese! I can't sell it or give it away!—but do the terms Trylon and Perisphere ring any bells or bells out there?

On Sunday, Oct. 22, the *Finale* will be celebrated with Kustom Stars and Rose Bud Band.

I understand that there will be a \$1 million prize for anyone able to produce positive evidence/proof that anyone ever answered any of the dates/invitations that were written/carved on the walls of that infamous tearoom out back of the Turf Club. (Just in case that someone should produce proof of such play, the \$1 million will be available only in play money.)

Frumpy, Daniel, Larry and the entire staff of the Turf Club have lots of surprises and prizes lined up for the four-day bash. It's almost a "command performance/attendance" for those of us mature enough to remember waaaaay back when!

Omnium-Gatherum
(A "Melange" Nose)

Sienna Productions is back with yet another wonderful show, on Saturday, Oct. 28, at Bella Napoli, the cast of Witches of EastOak will present "The Magic Continues."

Tiffany informs me that along with the locals, there will be cast members from San Francisco and Los Angeles, and, perhaps a big surprise that can't be mentioned yet but you won't want to miss it just in case it comes about.

There will be a \$5 admission charge, and all proceeds will go to East Bay Assistance Fund.

No, I really can't say why there has not been any financial report from EBAF for several months.

ACT UP

(Continued from page 20)

"The question the government will have to explain to the jury is why. Why were these people strip searched? I can think of no legitimate reason," said Tom Steenson, a Portland attorney representing the demonstrators.

Most of the arrestees settled the charges by paying the government \$50. One arrestee went to trial and was fined \$50. In that trial, U.S. Magistrate George Juba rejected the federal prosecutor's attempt to force the demonstrator to pay restitution

for clean up costs to remove red paint from the exterior of the building and stickers from its walls on the ground that the government failed to present evidence linking the individual defendant to any activity beyond noise making.

"The FDA limits access to potentially life-saving treatments for people with AIDS. AIDS activists are fighting for their lives and the lives of their loved ones," said David Barr, an attorney at Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund, which is co-counsel on the case. "This case will send a clear message to law enforcement officials

Alternate Social Setting Is Offered

The Living Room, Revival Inc., is now open. The Living Room is an alternate social setting for individuals seeking a quality atmosphere. It is not a support group, not a bar, but a social club for people with AIDS/ARC/HIV+ and all who are concerned and care.

The Living Room is open daily from noon to 10 p.m. and is located across from Headlines at 544-A Castro St. in San Francisco. For more information call 255-8555.

One Demonstrator's Experience

by Jeff Boswell

Bill Haskell, ACT UP's police liaison, was arrested on Polk Street shortly after the marchers left the federal building en route to the Castro.

Haskell told the *Bay Area Reporter* that after he was taken to a holding cell at the Hall of Justice he was left in plastic handcuffs and chained to a wall in the cell for several hours.

In the holding cell were two men who had been arrested for crack possession, Haskell said. The two men were taken from the cell, but Haskell remained.

"I asked the jailers why I was being punished," Haskell said. "And they said, 'You faggots are bigger threats than crack and heroin addicts.' They told me, 'We're knocking head in the Castro.'"

Haskell said police were listening on a police radio to what was going on in the Castro. One offi-

cer told Haskell that an officer had been kicked in the face but that "we've taken care of the situation."

When asked what the officers meant, they told Haskell that shots had been fired and that one demonstrator had been critically wounded.

Haskell said the officers at the jail were demonstrating to Haskell how they were "putting faggots in neckholds," he said.

When Haskell first arrived at the jail he told officers he needed to see a doctor, a request that was never met.

At 10 p.m., Haskell said, officers were watching the news on Channel 2, which showed footage of Haskell being arrested.

"They all started cheering and saying, 'That's the faggot we got right here,'" Haskell said.

Haskell was released at 11 p.m.



(Photo: Rick Gerharter)

Police in riot formation advancing down Castro Street last Friday night. (Photo: Jane Philomen Cleland)

Anger

(Continued from page 12)

repeat of Friday night. Olmstead-Rose said that the Friday night incident was not dealt with in great detail and that Jordan clearly did not want to discuss it.

Concerning reporting of the confrontation, Olmstead-Rose said, "I feel very strongly that the media did not cover this very well. We need to get some more stories out about what happened. We need to do some correction in the media."

John Crew

John Crew, attorney and director of the police practice project at the American Civil Liberties Union in San Francisco, said it was disturbing to hear that police had arrested Haskell, ACT UP's police liaison, because the police have been complaining they need communication with the group.

"Why the batons? Why did they go after people on the sidewalks?" Crew asked. "But the big question is Why? And that needs to be answered in a credible fashion."

"The San Francisco Police Department works for all San Franciscans," Crew said. "And it should reflect what the community wants. This was unjustifiable."

Crew speculated the police would probably defend their actions by citing the anger of the crowds on the sidewalks.

"But anger is a constitutionally protected expression," Crew said. "I'm concerned that they

even made an announcement that people on the sidewalk would be arrested. I'm also concerned that they held people inside businesses, which was effectively house arrest."

ACT UP is considering pursuing an ACLU lawsuit against the City of San Francisco concerning the police violence.

ACT UP Members

Members of ACT UP said that they were totally surprised by the police response to Friday's demonstration and that ultimately they hold Jordan responsible.

"If there's ever a time the police want to crack down on someone, ours is an easy target," ACT UP member Gil Block said. "Although it's interesting how they selectively decide which groups they are going to take advantage of... And if they really did have a new, consistent policy of how to deal with riots as the mayor has talked about, then how come they didn't come back Saturday night when we were 1,500 people instead of 400 people and do the same thing?"

"Is it that Frank Jordan is playing politics with Art Agnos or is it that the Smoot case is now coming before public attention or is it that Huerta thing added on top of everything else that they decided to flex a little muscle?" Block asked. "There are any number of theories and they all make sense."

Ryan Rubio said the police probably had a sore spot concerning the opening night at the opera demonstration by Stop AIDS Now or Else.

"They got away with it, now we're going to get them," Rubio speculated.

"The worst civil disobedience of the night was the spray painting of a quilt on Castro Street," ACT UP member Curtis Dennison said. "And no one was charged with that."

Rubio, who was arrested and taken to the Hall of Justice for booking, said the officers at the jail were all AIDS phobic. When asked if any of the arrestees had AIDS, all said yes. They were then told to stand back from the counter.

"Many of the people in ACT UP have AIDS and are weak," Block said. "They can't take this kind of physical abuse."

Dennison said ACT UP would hold a public meeting with ACT NOW, the AIDS Coalition to Network, Organize and Win, Friday, Oct. 13, at 7:30 p.m. at the Women's Building, 3548 18th St., to discuss the event. Eyewitnesses, those injured and arrested will speak.

Video Footage Of Demonstration To Be Shown

Electric City, a gay/lesbian cable television program, will show a tape of Friday night's demonstration and police action, Sunday night at 10 p.m. on Viacom Cable Channel 35. Footage of Saturday night's march through the Castro will also be featured.

Stanford Experimenting with Drug That Slows Development of HIV

A new approach to improve AIDS therapy, using a common non-toxic drug, has been demonstrated by Stanford University scientists.

The drug, N-acetylcysteine (NAC), has been shown to block the lethal HIV or AIDS virus in test-tube experiments, thus increasing prospects of slowing the virus inside the body.

The findings on how the drug works are also consistent with theories of how the AIDS virus gets activated after lying dormant for years in infected persons, they said.

"NAC is not a cure for AIDS," the scientists said. "But if it works in patients as well as it does in the test tube, it could slow down the AIDS virus assault on the immune system, as well as prolong and improve the patient's quality of life when used in combination with AZT, or

other drugs approved for treating AIDS.

NAC is available in liquid form in the United States and in tablet form in Europe. It is used for treating chronic bronchitis and other obstructions of the lungs, and as an antidote to acetaminophen overdose.

Plans to conduct randomized testing of NAC in AIDS patients in collaboration with Bay Area physicians are under review, said Dr. Leonard Herzenberg, professor of genetics at the Stanford University School of Medicine.

"If you keep glutathione levels high, the cells are 'happy'; if you reduce them, the cells are 'sick,'" Herzenberg said.

AIDS patients have low thiol levels in their blood cells. In fact, the more advanced the stage of their infection, the lower the thiol levels.

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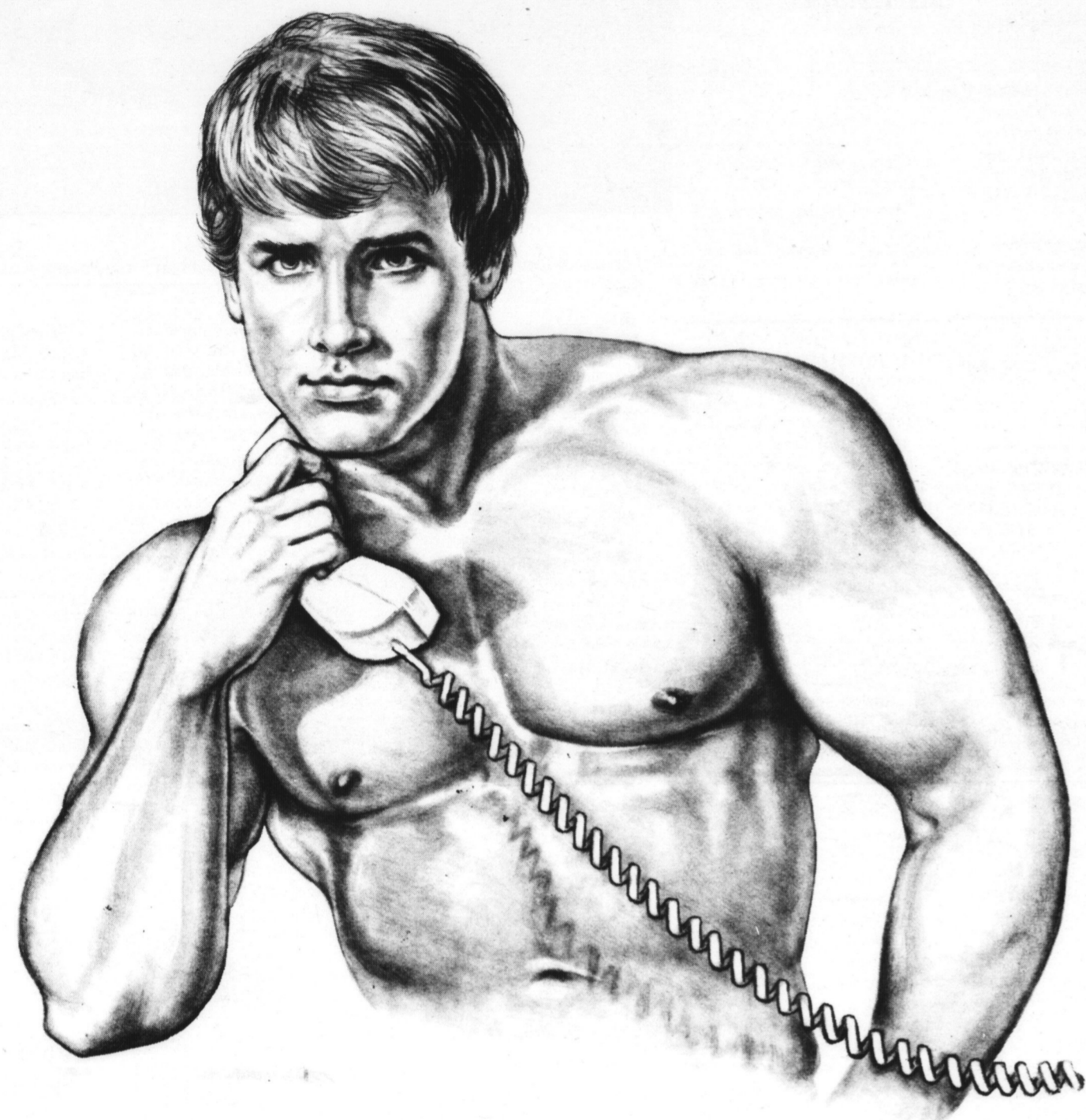
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BAY AREA REPORTER ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Dealing with Violent Behavior

Workshop Teaches Basic Self-Defense

by Darlene Cappitelli

Did you ever wonder what you would do if you were assaulted? Jumped from behind? Or, if someone held a knife to your throat?

Would you panic in the shock of the situation, or would you act? Bill Dewart's, *Dealing With Violent Behavior Workshop*, ended my wondering.

The Workshop combines security measures; common sense advice regarding your home, car and workplace; using every day items you're carrying to protect yourself; with hands on self defense.

Dewart breaks these up into: passive and active resistance, and cooperative submission.

Active resistance is the most enlightening. KICKS and PUNCHES. By-passing the unnatural motions of martial arts techniques Dewart uses only two types of kicks: the instep front kick, and the mule kick. The instep front kick utilizes the top of the foot to strike upward into the groin area. This gives you a bigger target area and allows for less accuracy on your part. This is the only technique that employs the kick to the groin as a primary action. In all the other techniques it's used as a secondary one.

But, Dewart smiles, and says, "Just as every mother has taught her daughter where to kick, every father has taught his son where to protect!"

The other kick more often less anticipated is the mule kick, a back kick to the shin or knee area of your assailant.

Instead of fist punches Dewart uses the palm, elbow and forearm strikes. Close, hard, painful blows with your elbows and palms come as quite a surprise to your attacker and, can give you enough time to escape the situation.

According to Geri Gilbert, (Coming Home Alive; Karate Nov. '86): "Statistics prove that 70 percent of sexual assaults are initiated from a rear grab."

Dewart introduces each student to an attack with a knife and

have a mental disorder by talking or yelling in an unusual manner, will not only draw attention to you both, but will make you look like quite an unattractive target if their purpose is a sexual assault.

someone with a knife, your options are better than you think. The person has to be within range of your body, close range. They could be directly in front of you. If so, go directly into a hands up surrender position. Say things like, "OK, don't hurt me. I'll cooperate." Let the person know that you are going to make it easy for them. Then when the assailant is within arm range, swiftly bring down your arms in a scissor fashion onto the wrist holding the knife. The knife pops out of his hand, or, is thwarted and you can run. This works for any small weapon held in front of you within close range.

If the knife is held under your chin to one side, place your hands again in the surrender position. Then place your head in the crook of his (or her) arm, and whichever side your head is on, take your arm on that side and place it over your head as far as you can reach and lock your head to his arm. This is so that wherever his arm goes your head is secured. At his point the knife is not within reach of your throat. Now bring your other arm down and hold his other hand and turn under the arm that's holding you, and Voila! you're holding him with the knife.

I know that's it's hard to believe, but it really does work, and you don't have to be big and muscular to accomplish these techniques.

The next area is weaponry defense. This includes protecting yourself with whatever objects

(Continued on page 52)



Instructor Bill Dewart demonstrating (as subject) how to get your throat away from a knife. (Photo: Darlene/PhotoGraphics)

Dewart also shows one-finger strike areas, which he gives catchy names like "knock, knock"; and "Let me run my fingers through your hair." The names sound a lot tamer than the gouging that follows.

The logic here is that when your assailant has a gun they usually are a distance away from you. First, give up any material possessions. They can be replaced. Second. Faking a seizure, heart attack or pretending you

If the gun is within close range of your back, by twisting to either side the gun will still be pointed straight ahead, and you are in a position to grab their hand and get your fingers into their eyes.

If you're held or jumped by

Pro-Gay and -Lesbian Books Targeted for Censorship

by Jorjet Harper

In 1982 homophobes attempted to have Troy Perry's book *The Lord is My Shepherd and He Knows I'm Gay* removed from the shelves of a Michigan public library, saying it was "pornographic." They also tried to remove Janet Bodes' *View from Another Closet*, charging that it was "a devious attempt to recruit young people into the homosexual lifestyle."

The same year, homophobes tried to remove *Understanding Gay Relatives and Friends* from a public library in Indiana because they said it attempts to "get people to accept the homosexual lifestyle, like there is nothing wrong with it."

In 1984 Pat Califia's *Sapphistry*, Winston Leyland's anthology of Latin American Gay Literature, and a number of other gay publications on their way to Gay's The Word Bookstore in London were seized and shredded by the British customs office.

Earlier this year Alyson Publications' *Young, Gay and Proud* was challenged at the Saginaw, Mich., public libraries because it "appears to qualify as obscene material."

Even straight authors come in for homophobic attack: Jerzy Kozinski's *Being There* was removed from a Pennsylvania High School library this year because "the main character has a homosexual experience."

These are only a few of the recent examples of censorship that impact on the gay and lesbian community. In the past Oscar Wilde, Radclyffe Hall, Jean Genet, Allen Ginsberg—along with many others—have had their work suppressed because the content was "offensive" to someone or other.

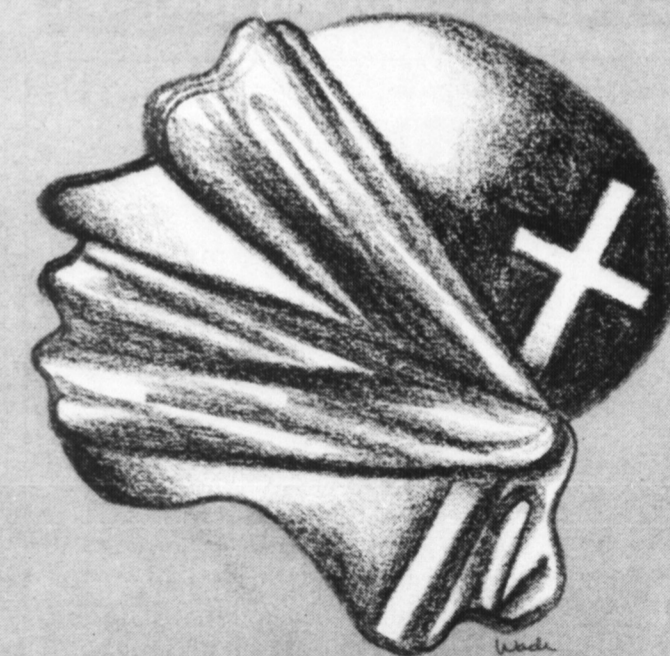
The American Library Association, American Booksellers Association, the Association of American Publishers, the Amer-

ican Society of Journalists and Authors, and the Association of College Stores sponsor Banned Books Week in late September every year, to draw attention to all censorship attempts and educate the public about the importance of a free press.

Libraries and bookstores participate with window displays and other programs. Gay and lesbian bookstores around the country, well aware of the issue of censorship, often join in this effort.

In practice, what does the banning of a book mean to a publisher, and what can they do about it?

"Obviously there are direct losses of sales," Dan O'Connell at Alyson says. "It's very difficult for a small company to mobilize itself to challenge something like that, it's a very expensive process. Generally what we do is rely upon the larger organizations like the American Library Association and the American Booksellers Association who often will take



up matters like this."

Recently, Alyson was forced to delay publication of a book that included photos of safe sex because of a new obscenity law. The ABA filed suit against the legis-

lation and won—the law was overturned as unconstitutional because it "imposed onerous burdens on material that is protected by the First Amendment." But pressures to censor free (Continued on page 52)

'Immediate Family'

One-Woman Play to Benefit Domestic Partner's Campaign

by Noreen C. Barnes

Terry Baum will perform her one woman play, *Immediate Family*, as a special benefit this Friday and Saturday nights for the Domestic Partners Initiative (Proposition S), at the New Performance Gallery at 8 p.m.

Immediate Family concerns Virginia, a woman "caught between the desire to fit in and the love of her partner of more than 20 years" as she confronts the reality of Rosie's coma, homophobia, and the red tape and

"life support" systems that separate them. Through her reflections on their relationship, Virginia struggles with a range of emotions, blending humor and sadness.

Coming to terms with the fact that her lover is dying, Virginia finally demonstrates the extent of her love for Rosie, which the morally myopic "immediate family" cannot.

The play was originally written in 1983, and first performed by Baum at the first National

Women's Theatre Festival in Santa Cruz. For Baum, whose best known works are *Dos Lesbos* (which she co-authored with Carolyn Myers) and the comic "tour de farce," *One Fool, Or How I Learned To Stop Worrying And Love The Dutch*, *Immediate Family* was her first serious dramatic writing.

Baum, a San Francisco playwright and actress, was founder and artistic director of the San Francisco women's theatre, Liliith, and has directed and taught at a number of theatres and schools in New York and California. She spent much of 1986/87 in Amsterdam, and toured Europe with *One Fool*. Last year *One Fool's* San Francisco run at Theatre Rhinoceros enjoyed a sold-out engagement.

Immediate Family has been performed throughout the United States and internationally, translated into Dutch, French, Hebrew and German, and filmed for Dutch television (with a Dutch actress as Virginia).

She first conceived of the play, originally called *Death's Angel*, to be about the moral issue of life support systems, based on the real-life case of a Las Vegas nurse accused of turning off patients' respirators. In staging what "can be a compassionate, humane act," Baum realized that for the woman, it "has to be the first time" and it was more effective to have the patient's lover struggle with hospital rules and the wishes of the so-called "immediate family."

What began as a piece about moral dilemmas and modern medical technology evolved into a gay issue, as Baum substituted the character of Virginia for the nurse.

When asked by a friend if she was doing the play before November, Baum realized that it was an "obvious" choice to perform in connection with the Domestic Partners Initiative.

"My piece is about the fact that gay and lesbian relationships are not recognized," Baum says. "Many gay people do want marriages in a conventional way, and that should be possible. The character of Virginia would want that."

Baum's performance as Virginia has been praised by the *New York Native* as "impressive in her restraint and moving in her simplicity," and the *Village Voice's* Alisa Solomon said that "seeing a working-class, middle-aged lesbian on stage is a rarity, and Baum acts with an understated dignity and authenticity."

Although Baum has performed *Immediate Family* more than 100 times, this is the first time that she will be doing it "in a specifically political context," which is what she views as "the highest function of theatre."

The play's content speaks with even greater urgency to us—and its effect as performance is even more immediate—when we consider what has happened in terms of legal recognition of gay relationships in the six years since Baum wrote it.

Terry Baum as Virginia in *Immediate Family*. (Photo: Cammie Tolou)

Now, we are in the wake of Sharon Kowolski and Karen Thompson's painful case, and last week gay couples could be legally married in Denmark for the first time.

In San Francisco, perched on the eve of the November election and the determination of the rights of those who are domestic partners—gay, lesbian or heterosexual—we ask for

recognition of our chosen, not biological "immediate" families.

Immediate Family will be performed Friday and Saturday, Oct. 13-14 at 8 p.m. at the New Performance Gallery, 3153 17th St., San Francisco (between Shotwell and South Van Ness). Tickets are \$10, and can be reserved at the New Performance Gallery box office at 863-9834, or at BASS/STBS outlets.

Exotic Erotic Ball To Benefit AIDS Groups

Louis Abolafia and Perry Mann, producers of the Exotic Erotic Ball, along with Ditano Amenta, fine arts publisher and proprietor of San Francisco's new Fine Arts Center, will present the First Annual Exotic Erotic Arts Benefit Fundraiser, Thursday through Saturday, Oct. 12, 13, and 14, at the Fine Arts Center, 1500 Howard St. (at 11th) in San Francisco. Hours are from 5 to 11 p.m. each day, plus daytime hours from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. on the 14th.

Beneficiaries of the event, which promises to be one of the more interesting art shows of the year, will be the San Francisco AIDS Foundation, Project Open Hand, Hospice and Dr. John Kaiser.

Tickets are \$35 in advance and \$50 at the door, with the first 250 ticket buyers to receive a free art poster. Ticket holders will also be admitted free on Oct. 12 to The Oasis/Live 105 party, (both The Oasis and Live 105 are also participating in the fundraising effort) to hear Zulu Spear and LZ.

Advance tickets are available at all BASS/Ticketmaster locations, including Warehouse and Tower stores, or can be charged by phone by calling (415) 762-BASS, (408) 998-BASS, or (916) 923-BASS.

For further information, call (415) 567-BALL.

In addition to the erotic lithographs of John Lennon, the show will present works by a wide array of artists, including the renowned sculptor Erte, Montserrat Guggenheim, E. Mary Martin, and Peter Max, among others.

A highlight of the show will be personal appearances by both Ms. Guggenheim and Ms. Martin. In finest Exotic Erotic Ball tradition, dress is "creative," and the evenings' attractions will include "outrageous libations" and hors d'oeuvres donated by several of San Francisco's finest restaurants.

The Fine Arts Center, site of the benefit, is the city's newest fine arts showplace. Under the guidance of Ditano Amenta, San Francisco-based fine arts publisher and one of the country's few licensed publishers of the works of John Lennon, the Fine Arts Center has devoted itself, to date, to hosting art show fundraisers for worthy causes.

A beautifully appointed, mid-sized facility with three galleries on the main floor, the Fine Arts Center is the result of a multi-million dollar renovation of the former Winston Tire Co. The building's South of Market location and innovative programs have already made it a sought after venue for private parties and art exhibits.

Ranson's 'Secrets' Right on the Mark

by David Perry

It won't be a secret for long. Rebecca Ranson's *Secrets* at the Theatre Rhinoceros Studio is one of the simplest, best directed, finely-acted, and beautifully written pieces of theatre to whisper across the transom in quite some time. It is exactly what Theatre Rhinoceros should be doing; totally right in concept, production, and performance quality for the often daunting Rhino studio space. After an hour and a half, you will leave the theatre smiling, nodding and wishing there was more.

Playwright Ranson's fifty-seven year chronicle of a bi-racial lesbian couple in rural North Carolina is eloquently served by director Donna Davis. Eschewing the ludicrous and impossible task of aging through stage makeup in so intimate a space, Davis relies instead on clear, straightforward staging and a trio of superb actors. It's the rare and welcome confluence of all the right elements in a cool, drawing stream.

It's 1930 in Carborrow, North Carolina. The 17-year-old Rosetta (Cheryl Wilson), a poor black girl from Baltimore, is writhing in painful childbirth in a bare boarding house room. Leland Satterfield (R. Michael Fierro), a kindly and unprejudiced white man, brings his sister Phoebe (Candace Hemrich) to act as midwife. The serendipitous meeting spawns a familial relationship among the three, encompassing integration, civil disobedience,

and lesbian and gay rights. In structure, it is similar to the recent *Driving Miss Daisy* starring Julie Harris; in acting, it is equally as powerful.

Cheryl Wilson is the evening's standout, with no insult to Fierro or Hemrich. From innocent teenager, to feminist septuagenarian, hers is a portrayal never doubted. You can almost feel the pain of childbirth, the dichotomous sting of racial and orientational intolerance which is uniquely Rosetta's. As the mannishly-tender Phoebe Satterfield, Candace Hemrich shines like the moon. How easy it would have been to dip into dykish stereotype for the pants-wearing tomboy, but Hemrich never does. Through Rosetta's love, she learns to say the word "sweetheart" for the very first time, a pronouncement deep with emotion as played by Hemrich. Likewise, the childlike innocence of Leland might lead other actors to portraits of mental simplicity. Not so R. Michael Fierro. Throughout, his byword is understatement. Leland's quiet, unquestioning love for his sister and her lover is vividly and proudly painted. It is masculine warmth in a clearly-articulated performance too rarely seen in life, or on stage. What an ensemble.

Ranson, a prolific writer of gay and lesbian drama, has captured the rural South—a land of tolerance and bigotry—with

After delivering her child, Phoebe urges Rosetta to rest, in *Secrets*, by Rebecca Ranson, directed by Donna Davis, at the Studio at Theatre Rhinoceros Oct. 6-Nov. 15. (Photo: Steve Savage)

direct efficiency. There are no pronouncements, no speeches or horrible lynchings in *Secrets*, just one story of three people who lived and loved through a lot. The unspoken "secret" of the play's title should be readily apparent to everyone by the end of the piece, but is not nearly so important to its outcome as its placement would lead one to believe. If there is a weakness to Ranson's script, it is that it doesn't tackle

more. The turbulent sixties are portrayed perhaps a bit too thinly; we get to know less about Carborrow, North Carolina than we should. The first act ends too patly. You could never say this play is over-wordy. If anything, scenes could be stretched, the characters fleshed out even more.

Without sticky sentimentality, Ranson has given us spunky, "down home" people we really like. We'd like to know them bet-

ter. Minor quibbles. On the whole, the package of this playwright, this director, and these fine, fine actors produce what is indeed, "a play well met." Kudos.

★★½
Secrets
runs through November 5
Thursday-Sundays, 8:30 p.m.
Theatre Rhinoceros Studio, 2926 16th
Street; \$9-\$10; 861-5079.

Conference To Focus On Art Law

Censorship, the First Amendment and the politics of public art support promise to provoke debate when California Lawyers for the Arts hosts "Practicing Art Law in the 1990s," the third day of a national conference on "The Art/Law Agenda for the '90s," Oct. 12-14 in San Francisco.

Keynote speaker Anne Murphy, executive director of the American Arts Alliance, will address more than 100 artists, arts administrators and lawyers from throughout the country in setting an agenda for the future of art law. Following the conference, participants will join California Lawyers for the Arts in celebrating its 15th year of legal and educational service to the arts community at a birthday reception.

Speakers at the conference will include Ted Potter, executive director of the Southeastern Center for Contemporary Art, one of two organizations facing a possible five year ban from federal arts funding.

The afternoon panel, "Focus on Intellectual Property Issues" will feature speakers Lee Bendekgey, San Francisco attorney with Graham & James; Thomas Goetzl, professor at Golden Gate University; and Leonard DuBoff, professor at Lewis & Clark Law School.

Workshops will follow, with morning topics including the First Amendment, federal tax policy, affirmative action and multicultural issues, copyright issues in the new artistic technologies, and representing museums. Afternoon topics will include new trademark regulations, moral rights, employment in the arts, contract negotiations, and copyright litigation and alternatives.

The program, scheduled for 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Oct. 14 at Hastings College of the Law in San Francisco, is one of four to be presented at the Third National Volunteer Lawyers for the Arts Conference Oct. 12-14. The conference is open to the public, with fees ranging from \$65 for one day to \$125 for three days with pre-registration by Oct. 10. A student rate of \$20 per day is available.

For more information, please call California Lawyers for the Arts at 775-7200.

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'The Beat'

Comeback Stories of 1989

by David Taylor-Wilson

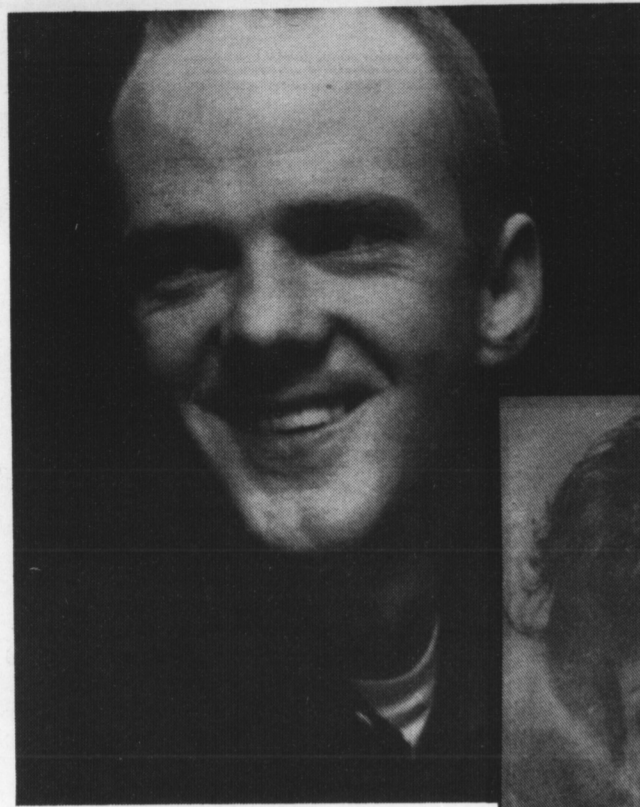
As 1989 inches toward its final days, one more group qualifies for comeback status. Joining Donny Osmond, Donna Summer, and the Doobie Brothers are the Bee Gees with their Top 10 hit "One." Their first Top 10 hit since "Love Me Inside Out" went to No. 1 in June 1979.

Don't close out the yearbook yet though, the just released LP from Peter Frampton, *When All The Pieces Fit*, contains some strong hit contenders. The man is back in fine form and could very well close the book on comeback stories of '89.

The new Regina Belle album, *Stay With Me*, just arrived and has since been doing overtime on my CD player. This woman sings with enough fire and emotion to set off the smoke alarm.

The initial release "Baby Come To Me" is already Top 10 on the Black Singles chart, and hopefully, Pop radio will soon be intelligent enough to pick up on it and give this artist the crossover attention she deserves.

Though the album does sport a few cuts that could be turned loose on the dance floor, it main-



Former Bronski Beat/Communards lead singer Jimmy Somerville is working on a solo project and Aretha Franklin has just released a single with James Brown.

ly showcases Belle's talents in lush, jazzy, soulful arrangements. If you're an Anita Baker fan, trust me, buy this album. I guarantee you'll like it too.

Radio Grapevine

Talk around town is that KOFYAM & FM is in the process of being purchased from owner Jim Gabbert by VIACOM for \$20 million.

Also, KXXX-FM, aka X-100 is

supermodel Paulina Porizkove on the Caribbean island of St. Barthelémy.

German duo Milli Vanilli has now captured its third No. 1 hit in a row with "Girl I'm Gonna Miss You." Has anybody noticed that all three of their hits are made of titles that are five words long? "Baby Don't Forget My Number" and "Girl You Know It's True"... and you thought we weren't paying attention.



also on the selling block. The owners have decided to sell it as part of a package deal with other stations that it owns. The decision to include X-100 came after a year of disappointing ratings of its performance, and its inability to make a dent in chief competitor KMEL-FM's ratings.

Beats and Pieces

Ric Ocasek of the CARS was recently wed to Estee Lauder

Love! I can't really explain it, it just seems too loud. Too much noise going on all at once. Which is too bad, you would think these two monarchs of soul would've made a great pairing.

Another artist deserving of crossover radio attention is Miki Howard. Her new single, "Ain't Nuthin In The World," will soon find a home on local dance floors. The forthcoming LP is "Miki Miki," and I can't wait to hear it. I'm still listening to her first release "Come Share My Love," and that's almost two years old now.

I haven't heard the new Belinda Carlisle single "Leave A Light On" but I understand it's not half-bad.

Due this week from Geffen Records is the new LP *Flying Cowboys* by Ricki Lee Jones.

Arista Records turns 15 years old in spring 1990, and to celebrate the event the label will be throwing itself a birthday party at Radio City Music Hall. The event will benefit the New York Gay Men's Health Crisis along with AIDS organizations nationwide.

Scheduled to perform are Dionne Warwick, Whitney Houston, Kenny G., the Eurythmics, Barry Manilow and The Grateful Dead. The artists and the Radio City Music Hall staff will be donating their time in hopes to raise \$5 million.

Jett Jets

While performing recently in Pennsylvania, Joan Jett was struck in the face with a bracelet that was tossed at her from the audience. Jett stood at the edge of the stage and shouted "Who did that?" When no one owned up to it, Jett left the stage.

Later a crew member told the crowd, "The show is over... I'm sorry there had to be one jerk in the audience."

Jett was treated for a minor cut under her right eye.

Guest Beats

Thanks to Steve Buser and the gang at Oakland's Bench & Bar for having me guest DJ, the last two Friday nights. I had a great time. And thanks to Marissa and Karen of Just Rewards in Walnut Creek for the guest DJ, night last Saturday. What a crowd. Hope to be back at both places real soon.

Rear-View

TEN YEARS AGO this week The Knack was at No.1 with "My Sharona"... TWENTY YEARS AGO this week The Archies were at No. 1 with "Sugar, Sugar." ▼

Black-Tie Gala To Benefit DeFrank Center

"Isn't It Romantic?" a fundraiser for the Billy DeFrank Lesbian and Gay Community Center of San Jose, will be held Saturday, Oct. 14, in the Imperial Ballroom of the Fairmont Hotel in San Jose.

The formal black-tie affair will feature City Swing with Gail Wilson.

Tickets for the 9 p.m.-1 a.m. dance are \$25 in advance or \$35 at the door and can be purchased at the DeFrank Center, by mail order and at Bass/Ticketron outlets.

I'm not too thrilled about the

John Karr

Bring 'Em Back Alive

Did Judy Garland ever share a vaudeville bill with Jimmy Durante and his song and dance partners, Eddie Jackson and Lou Clayton? If they didn't during their lifetimes, they could this month in San Francisco, where two elaborate stage shows are recreating the stars in all their glory. Native son Evan Pappas is playing Eddie Jackson in the Broadway bound musical *Durante*, now at the Golden Gate Theatre, and local favorite Jim Bailey has brought a new Judy Garland concert to the Waterfront Theatre. If they could meet on some stage between their two theatres, they just might bring back the two-a-day!

Evan Pappas—raised in Daly City, a former student at Serramonte High School and alumnae of *Beach Blanket Babylon*—is both excited and relieved about playing Eddie Jackson. Pappas gets to do the exuberant song and dance turns of once famous vaudevillian Jackson, yet because Jackson is little remembered, Pappas isn't pressured into delivering an exacting recreation—unlike the show's star, Lonny Price, who has a big nose to fill in playing the better remembered Durante.

Jim Bailey—aka Phylis Diller, Peggy Lee and Barbra Streisand—has been Judy Garland for so long now, that, totally possessed with Judy's spirit, he's able to go beyond the historical confines of the actual date of her death, and bring her new, contemporary songs to sing—thus revivifying her concert career today the way concerts resuscitated her career when her movie work was derailed in the late '40s.

I spoke to Evan and Jim before their shows opened. Here's some of the interesting tidbits they told me.

"I always list *Beach Blanket Babylon* in my credits, because it was my first professional job," Evan Pappas told me. "And now that I'm coming home with *Durante*, I want everyone to know how proud I was of that show. It was one of the finest times I've ever had in the business. I was with the show for a year and a half, and then I went on the road with *A Chorus Line*."

"How I got into that show is such a fairy tale. I went to New York on a vacation, to see shows, and on a whim, knocked on the stage door. Steve Silver had been meeting with Michael Bennett to see if they would work together, so they'd heard of *Beach Blanket* and let me have an appointment for a private audition! I didn't have any music with me, but when I was asking a friend for help in the restaurant where he worked, the music director of *Chorus Line* overheard the conversation. I told him I knew *West Side Story*, and he said he'd bring the score to my audition. So I read and sang for them, and went home with the role!

"I was with *Chorus Line* for almost five years, on the road, in Canada and New York. I played Al, the husband, in San Francisco in 1982, and Paul San Marco in New York. But the show starts working against you—the security is so good that people think you'll never leave, and they don't cast you. It was killing me artistically to stay with the show so long. But then they were casting the London version of *Follies*, and the guy who was playing



(l. to r.) Evans Pappas as Eddie Jackson, Lonny Price as Jimmy Durante and Joel Blum as Lou Clayton in a scene from *Durante*.

Buddy was an American who'd lived in London for many years. They couldn't find an English actor to play his younger self who had that American kind of energy he had. So they asked me to come over from New York, and I got fifteen months in London—it was pretty exciting. I gotta say, to create a Sondheim show. There's just no comparison.

But I love being Eddie Jackson—he's so much fun. In *Follies* I had to break down in tears eight times a week. When I did Paul in *Chorus Line* I had to break down in tears eight times a week. It's kinda nice I don't have to do that in this show—I just get to go out and play this fun loving, endearing guy.

"The team of Clayton, Durantee and Jackson was a real ensemble. Joel Blum—another San Francisco native—plays Lou Clayton, and he's a fabulous tapper. I'm the singer and Jimmy is the front, the star. We do all this ensemble work. The love that the three of us have works on stage—it's a buddy kind of show. Eddy Jackson was called 'The Struttin' Fool.' He'd just sit around and watch until they said, you're on, and then he'd go for it. So that's what I do in the show."

"People think being a comic sidekick is easy work. It's not. It's difficult to not pull focus away from the lead, and at the same time remain a person, have your moments, and not look as if you're trying to outshine everybody. Still, playing Eddie is not

dramatic, and I don't have to cry, so I'm enjoying this vaudeville breather. What a period that must have been. I know a lot of people say, 'Yeah, but is it art?' Of course it is. It was then, and it certainly is now, because you have to recreate it. It's very gratifying. And fun."

"I'm doing a brand new two act concert," Jim Bailey said, "called 'Judy Garland in Broadway and Hollywood.' Of course it's got lots of Judy's standards in it, but it also has some songs she didn't do, but that she would have done, I'm sure. So I've had fun with it. I always had to stay within the boundaries of her material. And I felt hemmed in. But then I heard 'I'm Still Here,' and I thought, 'Judy would have sung

(Continued on page 44)

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Philip Campbell

Shostakovich's 'Fourth' On Oct. 19-21 Program

With the San Francisco Symphony on tour in Northern California—playing Sacramento, Fresno, Chico, Weed and Santa Rosa during the month of October—local music lovers can take a closer look at the opera season, analyze the disappointing recent performance by violinist Cho-Liang Lin at Davies Hall and, most emphatically, gear up for the important consolidated municipal election on Tuesday, Nov. 7. They might also make some plans for future symphony attendance.

Cho-Liang Lin is making a strong reputation for himself in America since his memorable December 1987 appearance in a New York Federal courtroom, playing unaccompanied Bach, at proceedings where he and many others attained U.S. citizenship.

His discography is growing and has been received with glowing reviews.

His performance of Tchaikovsky's Violin Concerto in October 1987, with Michael Tilson Thomas conducting, won him the admiration of San Francisco audiences.

Next month Lin will join Herbert Blomstedt and the San

Francisco Symphony in Carnegie Hall and in Worcester, Mass., for concerts featuring the Violin Concerto by Alban Berg. Let us hope things turn out better than they did last week at Davies.

The Berg Concerto is essentially a virtuosic piece that requires a tremendous range of expression and a poet's sense of form and line. Lin should be more than capable. His technique leaves little to be desired, and his architectural grasp of other scores has won him praise ever since he started playing in this country upon his arrival from Taiwan at the age of 15.

If the initial performances of the soon to be toured concerto were unsatisfactory, part of the blame lies with the acoustics of Davies Hall.

Isaac Stern, the old pro of pros, knows enough to plant himself securely toward the front of the stage apron. He boasts a stronger sound than Lin to begin with, but he also realizes the dangers of standing too close to the podium and sacrificing power amidst the other players.

Lin sounded thin and unsteady, impure in pitch and,

(Continued on page 52)

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BAY AREA REPORTER OCTOBER 12, 1989 PAGE 29

Jim's a Spectacular Judy

by David Perry

If Judy Garland were alive, she'd be singing Jim Bailey's material. In two never flagging hours at Ghirardelli Square's Waterfront Theatre, the master illusionist wipes that moniker from your vocabulary and becomes. Illusion? What illusion? By the end of the first half you are applauding for Judy Garland. By the final encore of Garland's classic interpretation of "San Francisco," you are simply applauding for a great performer.

Bailey, for those who don't yet know, has made a career of his uncanny, often eerie portrayals of women singers and actresses. He "does" Barbra Streisand, Peggy

Lee, Phyllis Diller, and most famously, Judy Garland. It is for this last, and most defied of tragic torch figures, that Bailey is best known. The reason is clear, and not just from the advertising hype which proclaims "Jim Bailey is Judy Garland." If anyone is, it's him. Not to knock the honored term "female impersonator," let it be known, that is not what Bailey does.

Jim Bailey is a musician, a singing artist in his own right. You can buy Jim Bailey singing as Jim Bailey albums. However, one side will always be Jim Bailey as somebody else. It is his own, firmly rooted training as a singer that sets Bailey apart—that, and

the respectfulness of his near-flawless recreations. At times, it's like watching a hologram of Judy Garland in live performance.

Bailey is aware of the spell he casts, but doesn't let it make him dip into obvious caricature. The songs he chooses are culled from the standard Garland repertoire—as would have been any Judy concert—plus a healthy smattering of modern day hits and classics. We get "Zing Went the Strings of My Heart," "Clang, Clang, Clang Went the Trolley," "Swanee" and other Garland favorites sung, well, like Garland sang them. Bailey leans on the piano, pulls on his/her hair, leaves off the ends of syllables, patters on too long between numbers, and belts out final lines from just below the pitch exactly like Garland did. It's sometimes frighteningly real. He does look like her—a little at first, but then later and at certain carefully lit times, exactly like her. "The Man that Got Away" and "Old Man River" are exquisitely crafted interpretations, a seamless match of Bailey's talent and Garland's soul. You listen to Bailey/Garland sing the lines "I'm tired of living and scared of dying" and try to suppress a throat clutch. It's her.

What makes Bailey's current act special, and different, is the feeling that Garland is still with us. If she were still alive, she'd be singing Stephen Sondheim and selections from *Phantom of the Opera*. Bailey does. Ever imagined what Judy would sound like singing "Losing My Mind" from *Follies* (a show which Garland's death preceded by about eight years)? Bailey does, and how right it sounds. What with Liza Minelli's current top-40 version of that Sondheim barn-burner, you almost expect mother and daughter to do a duet. It's one of those eerie moments I was talking about. When Bailey pulls out



Jim Bailey as Judy Garland in *Broadway to Hollywood*.

"I'm Still Here," the gut-wrenching chronicle of a once great singer's career also from *Follies*, you would swear that Sondheim had written it specifically for Garland. Judy would have sung it. Bailey makes time travel possible. The only weak link in the show is an overly pompous orchestral introduction, played by either lazy or second rate musicians. We get first rate vocals, and sometimes second rate playing.

Bailey knows how to work a crowd, and so comfortable in the persona of Judy Garland that he works it like she did. As members of the audience, clearly of the Judy Garland cult, scream out, "We love you," in answer to Bailey's thrown kisses from the

stage, who knows to whom the affection is proffered, Judy or Jim—another one of those eerie moments. When the lights go down to a spot around that famous face, and that voice sings "Over the Rainbow" with a microphone and without musical accompaniment, something beyond words occurs. It's like being in a temple, and for a moment—a real tangible moment—Jim Bailey is Judy Garland.

★★★½
Waterfront Theatre
Ghirardelli Square, Beach at Polk
Street, Tuesday-Sunday, 8 p.m.;
through Oct. 28; 861-6895

Therapeutic Stories on 'Healing Tales'

Tales of mythic proportions, humor and escape, each selected for its special therapeutic qualities, will be featured in a new radio series on KALW, 91.7 FM, San Francisco, running through Dec. 25.

The thirteen-part series *Healing Tales*, funded by the San Francisco Foundation, is produced by noted Bay Area storyteller, writer and family nurse practitioner, Mark Freeman.

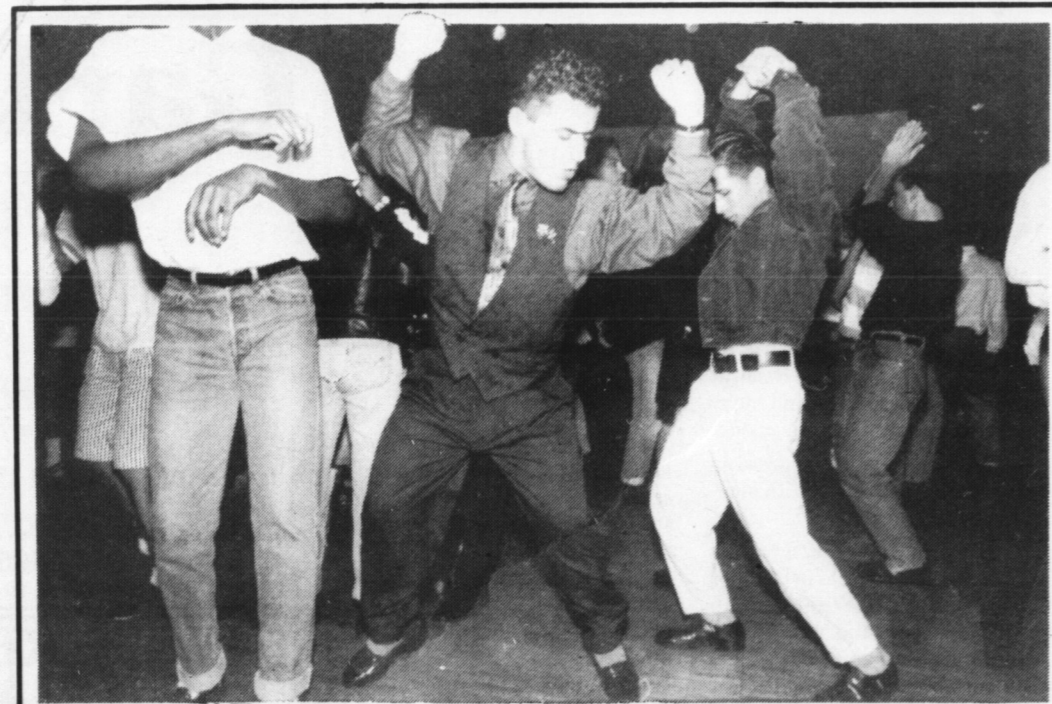
Tapes of the series will be available free to 100 Bay Area AIDS service agencies, hospitals, hospices and multi-cultural programs providing support to AIDS patients.

The concept of *Healing Tales* is ancient, according to Freeman.

"Stories have been used in every culture throughout history in times of trouble and crisis such as we currently face with the AIDS epidemic," he said.

"Most people with AIDS are living creative, useful lives," Freeman said, "but even adults like to hear an encouraging story now and then. Healing has to do with how we feel about ourselves as well as actual physical improvements."

Healing Tales follows *All Things Considered* on Monday evenings at KALW 91.7 FM. ▼



Yes on S fundraiser at Crew last Saturday night.

(Photo: Rick Gerharter)

George Heymont

More Female Trouble

Whenever opera's leading ladies are threatened, their standard reaction is to desperately wave their arms in the air and sink into spasms of acute diva-itis. Long before the heroine jumps off a cliff or balustrade, reality flies out the window and is replaced with heavily mannered operatic shtick. As a result, what could have become an extremely dramatic moment disintegrates into a futile exercise in ridiculously stacy histrionics.

That's why it's such a blessed relief when opera's most desperate women begin to act in some sort of believable fashion. It's a rare phenomenon, to be sure, but when it does happen, it forces a whole new perspective on the opera in question.

Lightning struck twice this year (on opposite coasts) and the results were nothing short of astonishing. In each case, a classic came to life as the standard habits associated with its performance practice were tossed out the window and replaced with a new, and carefully thought out interpretation.

See Jane Jump!

The Los Angeles Music Center Opera opened its 1989-90 season with a new production of *Tosca* directed with tremendous psychological insight and dramatic acuity by Ian Judge. Although John Gunter's evocative sets (deliciously skewed to avoid the standard look) helped to create a great sense of dramatic urgency, there were moments when the angling of the walls in Scarpia's chamber prevented a good deal of the audience from witnessing crucial bits of stage action.

Updating *Tosca* to the period in which it was written, costume designer Liz da Costa gave Scarpia a much more dapper look than usual. By putting a softer edge on the heroine, she made *Tosca* appear a lot more feminine than when clad in the standard "Here is my Empire gown, now I stab you to death" costume.

The only problem with da Costa's costume designs is that they make Scarpia's henchmen look like a bunch of sweetly benign art students, which they certainly are not.

LAMCO scored strongly with its Scarpia (the seductively evil and eternally malevolent Justino Diaz), Cavaradossi (tenor Neil Shicoff singing like an angel with high notes to spare) and conductor (Placido Domingo shaping the music as sympathetically as possible around his soloists.) But there could be no doubt that this *Tosca* was Maria Ewing's show from start to finish.

In her first attempt at performing *Tosca*, Miss Ewing (who has developed into a phenomenal singing actress) reached down deep into levels of the diva's psyche which are rarely explored by her peers. Her body language never became a hysterical exercise in semaphore techniques. Instead, by keeping her arms close in to her body, Ewing acted with her eyes, face, shoulders and mind so that the audience became aware of and sympathetic to this extremely jealous woman's most terrifying fears and petty insecurities.

Whether teasing Cavaradossi, receding in horror at his shrieks of tortured pain, or begging the

sadistic Scarpia for her lover's release, Ewing held the stage with a magnificent sense of poise and theatricality.

The greatest compliment I could give the soprano is not to say that she sang the role well, but to stress that she made me believe—completely and uncompromisingly—in *Tosca*'s seething passions, complex persona and appalling predicament.

This was one of the few operatic performances I have ever wanted to see again, from start to finish, as soon as the final curtain came down. Next time Ewing sings this role in America, don't miss it. She's putting the stamp of greatness on Floria Tosca.

Harlem On Her Mind

If LAMCO's *Tosca* offered fresh insights into Puccini's "shabby little shocker," just imagine what it was like to see Mozart's *Don Giovanni* set in Spanish Harlem! In its final season, PepsiCo Summerfare presented all three of the Peter

Sellars Mozart stagings, with *Don Giovanni* the most cynical interpretation by far.

In Sellars' production, Donna Anna is hiding out in the slums in order to conceal a nasty little drug habit from her upscale father and policeman boyfriend. Donna Elvira is the punked-out loser who can't hold onto a man and (when all else fails) discovers God, becomes "born again" and tries to convert a rather dubious Don Giovanni.

The action in this *Don Giovanni*, which takes place on the street in front of designer George Tsypin's decrepit tenement, is hardly the kind of stage picture seen in most productions of Mozart's masterpiece. Don Giovanni, Leporello and Masetto all move with the agility of kids who grew up on the street and had to fight for their lives while the policeman (Don Ottavio) is seen as a rigid prig whose off-duty casual clothing reeks of polyester.

The women seem to lack con-



Maria Ewing and Neil Shicoff were the romantic leads in LAMCO's new production of Puccini's *Tosca*. (Photo: Frederic Ohringer)

(Continued on page 39)

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'(This Is Not) An AIDS Reading' Dispels Myths, Boosts Compassion

by Noreen C. Barnes

On Thursday evening, Oct. 19, at the Victoria Theatre the Words Project for AIDS will sponsor "(This Is Not) An AIDS Reading." Curated by City Lights editor Amy Scholder and writer Dorothy Allison, this reading is the inaugural presentation in San Francisco of this one-year-old Los Angeles-based organization.

WPA's mission is to "present the work of an organized literary community that recognizes the impact of AIDS, and is creating a sensibility that dispels myths and furthers understanding and compassion."

Participants will include Pat Califia, Jewell Gomez, Essex Hemphill, June Jordan and Paul Monette. WPA's objective is to "present the work of an organized literary community that recognizes the impact of AIDS and is creating a sensibility that

dispels myths and furthers understanding and compassion."

WPA is a national, non-profit and for public benefit and serves, according to Amy Scholder, as a "bridge between the publishing industry and writers and AIDS service organizations."

Scholder and Allison also aver a "timeliness" to the reading, due not only to WPA's purpose and the program's content, but one that has also extended to the selection of the writers who will be presenting their work.

All have themselves experienced censorship or the threat of censorship of their writing. In this era of the capitulation of Congress and the National Endowment for the Arts to the fascism of Jesse Helms and company, it is particularly imperative that these voices be heard.

The event will feature five prominent authors, whose books will be for sale at the reading, and will be available for signings after the program.

Pat Califia, adviser columnist for the *Advocate*, is working on a sequel to *Macho Sluts* and lives in San Francisco.

Jewell Gomez, a New York poet, writer and critic, is writing a novel.

Essex Hemphill, who lives in Washington, D.C., received the NEA's 1986 Fellowship in Poetry, is continuing the work of Joseph Beam as editor of the second volume of *In the Life: A Black Gay Anthology*.

June Jordan, recently appointed a professor in Women's Studies at UC Berkeley, is anticipating the publication of a new collection of poetry.

Paul Monette, a Los Angeles novelist and poet, is the author of *Borrowed Time: An AIDS Memoir and Love Alone: Eighteen Elegies for Rog*.

The event is supported in part by the Poetry Center of San Francisco State University, and Poets and Writers Inc. A \$5 donation at the door is requested. Tickets will be available in advance through City Lights, A Different Light and Modern Times bookstores in San Francisco. Proceeds will be donated to local AIDS/human service organizations.

"(This Is Not) An AIDS



June Jordan, author of *Naming Our Destiny: New & Selected Poems*. (Photo: Sandi Klein)

Reading," a public reading sponsored by Word Project for AIDS, Thursday, Oct. 19, 7:30 p.m. The Victoria Theater, 2961 16th St., San Francisco

Donation: \$5
Tickets available at City Lights Bookstore, A Different Light Bookstore, Modern Times Bookstore.

New Art Show Opening at Moby Dick

"Horror Vacui" will be presented at Moby Dick, from Friday, Oct. 6, through Halloween. Moby Dick will exhibit "Horror Vacui," a collection of work by artist Jim Echols, as part of their continuing involvement with artists from the gay community.

Twenty-five percent of sales will benefit Project Open Hand, which provides nutritious meals to homebound people with AIDS.

Moby Dick will host a champagne reception for the artist on Wednesday, Oct. 11, from 7-9 p.m.

"Horror Vacui" is a collection of drawings, collages and assemblages in a potpourri of media, characterized by an almost obsessive attention to visual detail and image density.

Analogous with the multiple levels of allegory contained within the namesake novel of the saloon Moby Dick, multiple resonances of interpretations avail themselves of both the individual artworks, and the context of their presentation at a location in the midst of the gay community.

Artist Jim Echols has shown work in regional, national and international museum-sponsored exhibitions. This will be the first presentation of his work in San Francisco following a two year seclusion from public presentations, during which he recovered from tragic losses to the AIDS epidemic and subsequent alcoholism.

Gay/Lesbian Programs

Helping Hands
Monday, 7 p.m., S.F. Viacom 6
Wednesday, 7:30 p.m., S.F. Viacom 6

Kevin Gladstone's "Straight Talk"
Wednesday, (1st, 3rd) 4:30 p.m., S.F. Viacom 25: The Popstitutes, The High Risk Group, Cory Monroe, Jim Bentley & Hal Call, pioneer pornographer & founder of the Mattachine Society.

Community Action Network News
Monday, 7:30 p.m., Mountain View Cable 30
Thursday, (1st, 3rd) 6:30 p.m., S.F. Viacom 6: Award Winning Stories.

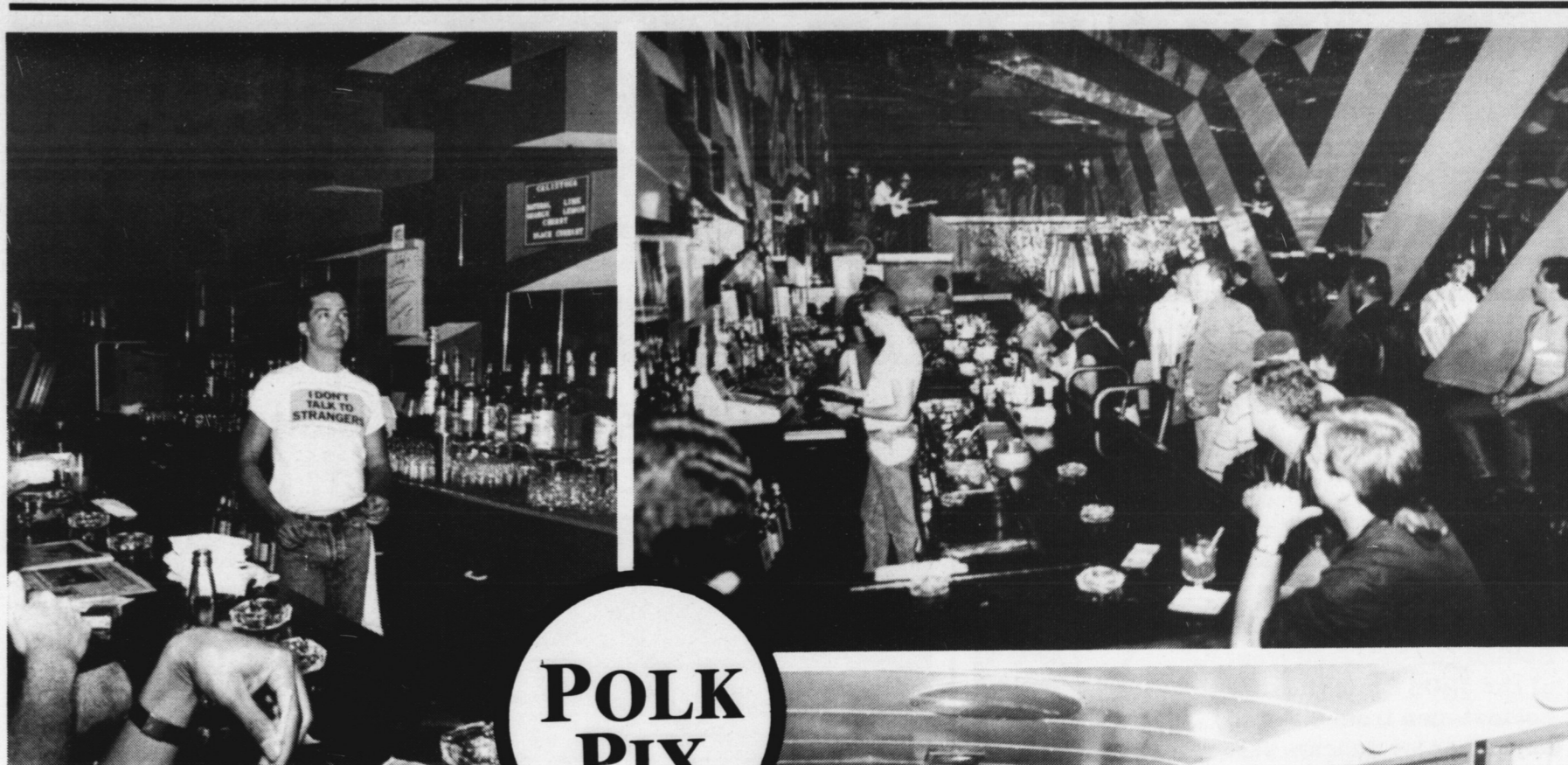
Outlook
Monday, (4th) 6:30 p.m., S.F. Viacom 6
Wednesday, (1st & 3rd) 9 p.m., PCTV (Oakland, NE Bay)
Thursday, 8:30 p.m., Mountain View Cable 30; (4th), 6:30 p.m., S.F. Viacom 6
Friday (2nd, 4th) 7:30 p.m., Los Altos Cupertino Cable 30: Goodbye to Maud's; David Lambie of Fruit Punch Radio; African gay activist Simon Nkoi.

Electric City TV
Sunday, 10 p.m., S.F. Viacom Cable 35
Tuesday, 10 p.m., Mountain View Cable 30
Wednesday, 8 p.m., S.F. Viacom 35
Friday, 7:30 p.m., KCAT South Bay Cable: Jim Bailey; the Coming Out Day Dance at SFSU; Living With AIDS Demonstration.

Rubyfruit Terrace & Hibernia Beach
Sundays, 8 a.m., KITS 105.3 FM: Laurie McBride hosts "Rubyfruit Terrace," a show focusing on, but not limited to, issues of concern to women. Ken McPherson hosts "Hibernia Beach," which deals with issues from a male point of view. These are the only locally-produced gay-oriented programs on commercial radio in the Bay Area. The debut show will feature both hosts in an introductory program.

Fruit Punch
Wednesday, 10 p.m., KPFA 94.1 FM: News, interviews, reviews.

Healing Tales
Monday, 8:30 p.m., KALW 91.7 FM: A radio program of stories from many cultures for people living with AIDS and those who care for them.



POLK PIX

It's a rainy Tuesday evening, and Polk Street looks deserted and somewhat lonely. People avoid the puddles in front of vacated storefronts. Young men stand in doorways, not just to avoid the rain, but to make a contact for drugs or sex. Music echoes from a few bars, but otherwise all is quiet.

The street is not what it used to be, anyone who remembers its past can tell you that. What it could be, or what it's going to be, is another matter.

Two businesses in close proximity have survived the changes on Polk. They still offer good service, and they both care about what happens to their community. They are proof that there is still hope in the '90s for an area that was famous in the gay '70s.

Jay Noonan has been manager of the Grubstake on Pine Street for about two years. He says that Grubstake I "was a little tiny hole in the wall." It started out on Mason Street and sold so many hamburgers that it moved up in the world. Today's Grubstake II began in an old railroad car, which expanded in 1975 to include a larger room and a slightly more stylish look.

The diner-type restaurant has always been intriguing to the passer-by with its San Francisco murals and colorful charm. Only a picture of Emperor Norton is left now in token remembrance to the past.

Another reference to the past adorns one long wall inside. Here the management has recreated a temporary replica of a stone wall to commemorate the beginning of gay liberation.

"I call it a wall of memories," Noonan says.

Each person who has written their particular dedication to a lost friend contributed a dollar for the AIDS Emergency Fund penny jar.

The menu reads "Open Almost 24 Hours," which is one way to say that for reasonable prices people can enjoy basic good food from 7 a.m. to 5 a.m. the next morning (every day except Thanksgiving and Christmas).

Clockwise from top left, QT's bartender doesn't talk to strangers, but introduce yourself. Inside QT. The Grubstake II. Jay Noonan, Grubstake manager. (Photo: Darlene/PhotoGraphics)



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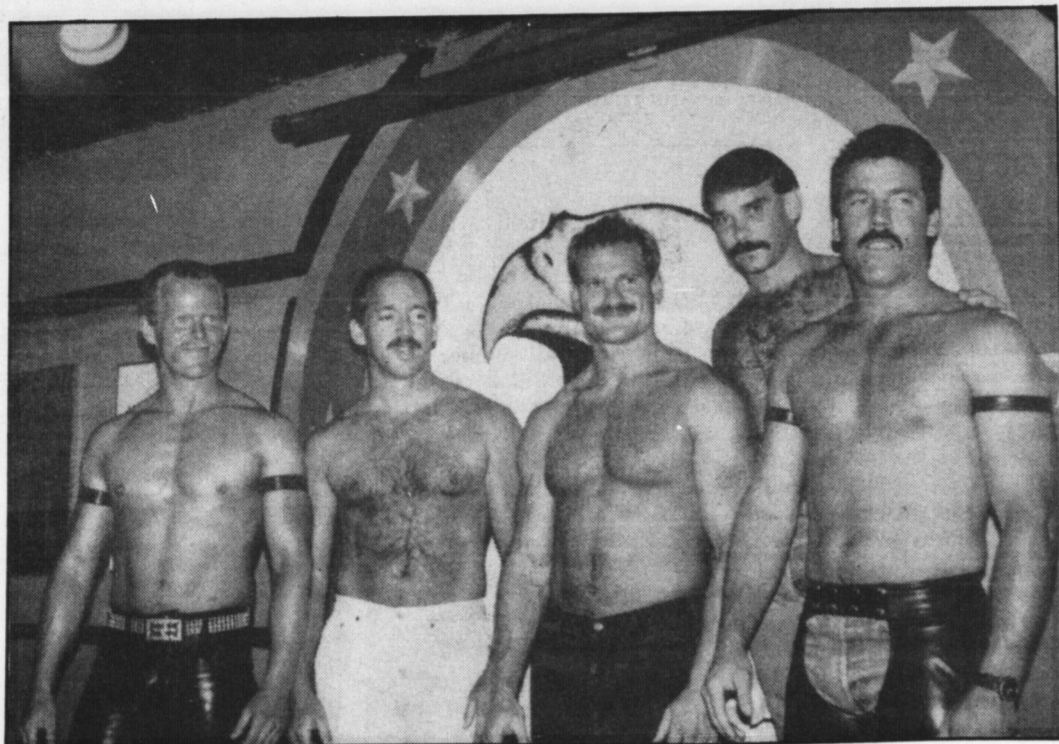
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Mr. Marcus

'90 Bare Chest Calendar To Debut on Oct. 22



Five of the twelve bare chest contest winners shown here will be auctioned off for a dinner date on Oct. 22 when the 1990 calendar goes on sale to benefit the AIDS Emergency Fund. (Photo: Marcus)

Stop the presses! The 1990 Eagle Bare Chest Calendar was to have made its official appearance this coming Sunday, but due to printing problems, the date has been re-scheduled for the Sunday, Oct. 22 beer bust. As a result of this shift, this Sunday, Oct. 15, the Cheaters M/C will host the weekly booze and cruise interlude, a tradition that grows stronger and stronger with each passing year.

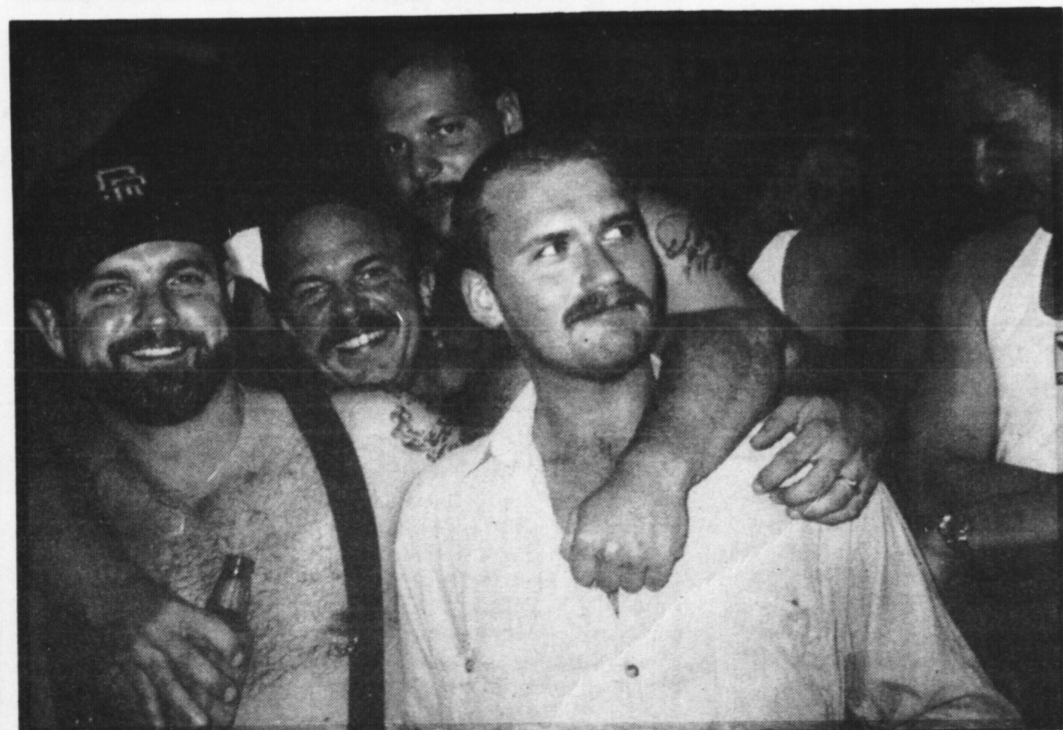
All the bare chest contest winners will be on hand on the 22nd to autograph your calendar which (I haven't seen yet!) was photographed by Joe Altman. Each monthly winner will be auctioned off for a dinner date and there are a lot of other surprises. So plan now to be there. It's a \$7 beer bust from 1500 to 1800, all proceeds of the beer bust and calendar sales are for, of course,

the AIDS Emergency Fund. The calendar is a lasting testimony to the support this community has always given and continues to give to AEF. I hope you'll all be on hand to get your copy (great Xmas gifts!) for local friends and those unfortunate souls who live in the provinces! See you all there? There were some very hot winners for the 1990 edition, you will not want to miss this event! At my deadline, Danny Williams' co-emcee had not been determined.

Aside from all the hoopla in the baseball world, the 49ers' win over New Orleans and the National Leather Association weekend in Portland, all was not at a standstill around this campus. Saturday, it was tuxedo junction at the San Francisco Hilton as a

record crowd turned out for The Alliance's sixth annual achievement awards dinner. Co-chaired by David Bell and Todd Dickinson, the awards were given to Bob Stipicevich, the Fremont Unified School District President facing a recall battle; John James for his AIDS Treatment News; Peter Alvarado for producing Viacom 6's "Helping Hands"; Frank McCulloch, Examiner managing editor for his all-encompassing "Gay in America" series earlier this year; and Assemblywoman Jackie Speier, author of Assembly Bill 1600—AIDS Early Intervention Program. Marga Gomez managed to flit through a riotous stand-up routine that the crowd just loved. Marga—too much!

With all the riotous activity going on in the Castro as a result of ACT UP's "demonstration," out



Jubilant A's fans at the SF Eagle last Sunday night may have had more than baseball on their minds! (Photo: Marcus)



Marga Gomez, District Attorney Arlo Smith and Vinnie Russell at the Alliance Dinner on Oct. 7. (Photo: Marcus)

of towners (and there were many, believe me!) were aghast at the whole situation that went on for two nights. Irate Castro businessmen were definitely not amused! Whether you're for or against these demonstrations, it did attract attention to the government's lack of action. In the final analysis of the whole AIDS crisis, history will determine the effectiveness of these demonstrations. What really bothers a lot of people is that with so many gay men and women on the police force, how do these things happen? Is there a breakdown between the SFPD and community activists?

With radios and TVs blasting away baseball playoffs, the A's clinching the pennant over the weekend and the Giants clinching on Monday, plus the 49ers going 4-1 for the season, every bar with video kept the crowds at high levels and fever pitch, even more fervent than in some of the straight jock bars. Hey, with Indian Summer at its apex this past weekend, it was just wonderful. A's, Giants and 49ers caps, buttons and all kinds of memorabilia were everywhere both north and south of Market and east and west of Van Ness. Now for a Bay Bridge series—whose side are you on? Be careful.



(Photo: Jim James)

Update: Halloween. It's on a Tuesday this year! But not to worry. Saturday, Oct. 28, the biggie is at the Gift Center Pavilion from 2100 to 0300. Tix are \$20 advance, \$25 at the door by William Roderick Associates. The theme is Gotham; Michael Jorba spinning; costume prizes; sound by Eri Pariser. Buses to and from the event at selected pick-up points. Stay tuned for more.

Monday, Oct. 30, S.F. Eagle Leather and Feathers annual costume party. Cash prizes are \$100 best group; \$100 individual costume; \$150 for in-theme costume. No entry or admission fee; beginning at 2100.

Tuesday, at the Mint, Oct. 31, with judging from 1800 to midnight. First prize \$100, second prize \$75, third prize \$50 drink certificate. No emcee mentioned.

And while you're getting your costume ideas together, remember, Ms. Marcel still does those fabulous wigs—don't be left stranded with a messy head. She's at 3931 18th St., for color and combed wigs. Call 863-5187 for your appointment. I'm sure there's a lot more coming your way, so stay tuned!

Update: This weekend. In case you didn't know it, all this week is Pan-International Global J/O week up to Oct. 15. They call



Only two and a half weeks until Halloween.

it PIGJO and was created by the Kthar Sissies to encourage cosmogasm. This is supposed to be going on all over the world, but I have my doubts!

Friday, Oct. 13, is supposed to be an unlucky day for superstitious people, but not at the Lone Star Saloon (7th and Howard)! They're having a beer bust from 2000 to midnight. Call Rick at 552-8121 for details.

On Friday also and Saturday, Terry Baum will act her heart out at the New Performance Gallery (3153 17th St.) for the domestic partnership campaign, tix \$10. Reserve by calling 863-9834. Terry performs *Immediate Family*—an acclaimed one-woman play.

Also on Saturday, at 1300, auditions for Men Behind Bars—1519 Mission St., and again on Sunday, same place at noon. Auditions are open to everyone.

Same night, the GDI's present A Date at Minsky's, doors open at 1830, curtain at 1930. Tickets \$10 advance, \$12 at the door.

Available at Kimo's, Men's Room and Transfer, but nowhere South of Market—how strange!

If you're in Omaha that same night (and I know some of you will be), it's the Mr. Gay Nebraska Contest at the Airport Ramada Inn. If you're in St. Paul, it's the Mr./Ms. Minnesota Leather Contest. IML '88 Mike Pereyra will emcee the event—stepping in for someone who couldn't make it.

San Francisco Leathernecks men's play party going on at 2100, you know who, where and what time. Jim Ward, master piercer will be piercing at San Jose's newest "Heat" that night too. Jim Leff, artist extraordinaire, opens his house Oct. 14 and 15 for this year's show at 170 Duboce, #8. Call 431-7662 for details.

Sunday, Oct. 15, heavy-duty action all day and half the night. Kairos House celebrates its second annual fundraiser at the Green Room for \$35 a person from 1500 to 1800. Danny Williams emcee. Kairos House is (Continued on next page)

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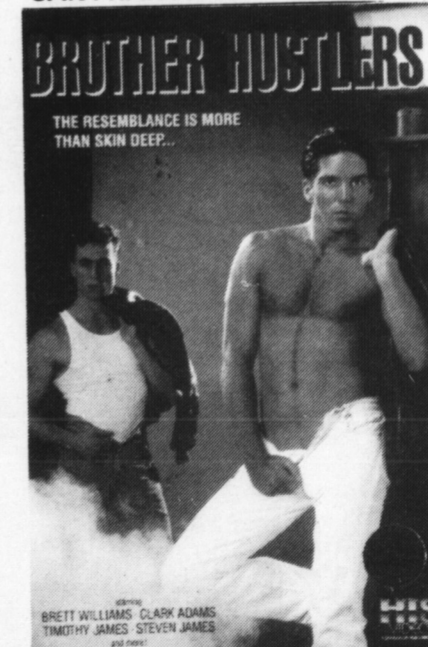
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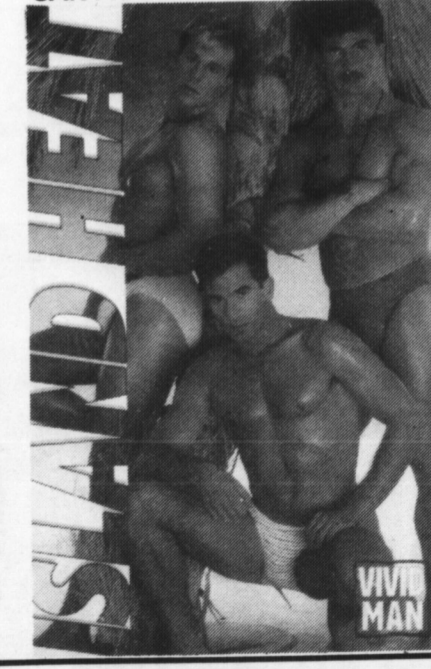
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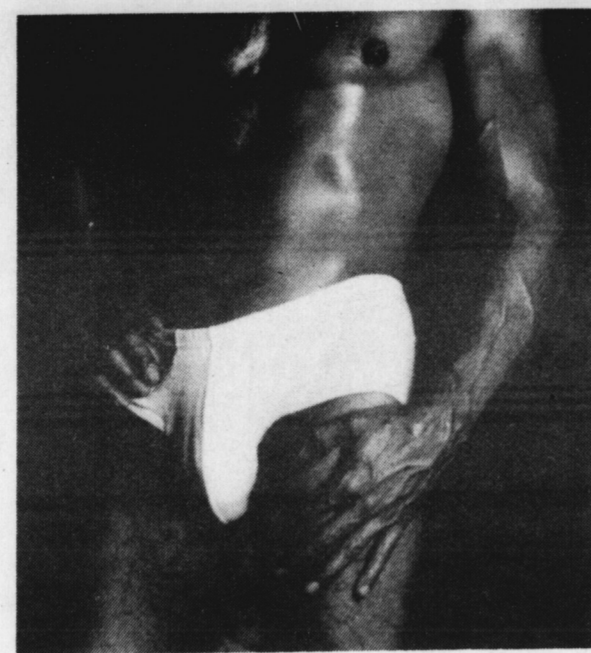
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Don't forget the SF Eagle Leather and Feather annual costume party on Monday, Oct. 30. (Photo: Rink)



A Brief Affair for AIDS at the I-Beam on Sunday, Oct. 15, where nearly everyone will be in their underwear, benefits the AIDS Emergency Fund.

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Marcus

(continued from previous page)

a resource center for AIDS caregivers offering non-judgmental confidential support, healing and encouragement. Entertainment by Gay Men's Chorus, Gregg Tallman, "Special Delivery" and others with hors d'oeuvres and door prizes. Call 861-0877 for reservations or more info.

Also Sunday, Oct. 15, progressive dinner (benefit for Xmas Eve Dinner for PWA's, their families and friends). Virtually every leather title holder is involved with this one where you check in at the Paradise Lounge (11th and Folsom) between 1800 and 1900; soup at the Powerhouse from 1900 to 1930; salad at My Place from 1930 to 2000; entree at the Half Shell from 2000 to 2100; dessert at the Watering Hole from 2100 to 2130; and check out at the S.F. Eagle from 2130 to 2200. Only \$10 for all this! These progressive dinners are always a lot of fun and with David Devereaux and Vinnie Russel heading up the committee, it should be flawless. Tickets are available now at all the aforementioned establishments and the Galleon and Mister S Products. Join the gang as they wine and dine all over the Miracle Mile!

And if you're still up to it, another \$10 donation at the I-Beam is a little more risque. It's called "A Brief Affair for AIDS" and by that, Ralph Purcell, the volunteer producer asks you to come in—make that arrive in—your underwear—from 1700 hours on. Everyone on the staff will donate 50 percent of their tips. And there's a \$100 cash prize for the hottest person in underwear. Also, it's a benefit for the AIDS Emergency Fund. Five bartenders will pick five judges from those in attendance. Every kind of underwear is acceptable. The entire staff will work in underwear. Customers are encouraged to check all their clothes—except underwear. David Purcell has the right idea. Do you have the nerve? Will we see Sanford Kellman in underwear? Will any body builders show up? Don't miss this one!

Dish-tribution Point

Everyone who went to Portland last weekend for the National Leather Association's Living in Leather Conference report that the Portland Eagle (also known as Eagle-PDX,

the airport designation code) is the hottest Eagle bar to date. Decorated with chain link fencing and hot bartenders, they raised over \$2000 at an auction there with IML Guy Baldwin, IMsL Susie Shepherd, Mr. Drummer Brian Dawson and Ms National Leather Association Jan Lyons. They say the Dirty Duck is a leather bar, but held drag shows all weekend! Biggest accolades to Steve Suss' "Embers" in Portland—the final event there was the best of all according to many who were there. Living in leather 1990 (Oct. 5 weekend) will be at the fledgling chapter in San Diego in spite of all the rumble that came out of that city over one of the founders' drug activity. The NLA chose San Francisco's own Geoff Mains posthumously as Man of the Year for his outstanding contribution to the leather lifestyle, and Cynthia Slater was chosen for her contributions including co-founding the Society of Janus.

If you're one of the many who want the plans/blueprints to that S&M machine used by Mr. Rocky Mountain Drummer Dave Nicholson at the Mr. Drummer finals, you are hereby advised that they sell for \$25, have step-by-step instructions with suggested hardware. Write to Dave Nicholson, 1020 East 17th St., #11, Denver, CO 80218, or call (303) 832-6241. Naturally you can build it yourself. Naturally.

And finally, Gary Ross at the Powerhouse is celebrating his 34th on Friday, Oct. 27 with a big party and (his words) "You're all invited to cum." Hmmm.

Hey, pick up on one of the fun things going on this weekend and while you're at it—do it in leather!



Grand Dame Bette Davis, gone but never forgotten!

Sweet Lips

A Lot's Happening on Polk

This Friday nite at 8 p.m. the New Hob Nob Lounge will be having a party to celebrate Ms. Ronnie Lynn's birthday, so come on down and join in the fun with a buffet by Tony Lasagna and Jackie (Queen of the Polk Gulch), there will be entertainment... Ronnie won't say how old, but we'll find out, ya' hear me?

Also on Saturday the 14th, Woody, the Tomato or better known as Bob Dunn's, the Mayor of Geary Street's other half, will be celebrating his birthday in Las Vegas where they now live, congrats. Rockin' Rodney is now at Shane's at 147 Taylor St. on Monday thru Thursdays 10-6 so drop in and have a libation with him.

And on Monday and Sundays from 6-noon you can catch Rotten Lorraine on the plank at the popular Aunt Charlie's on Turk Street... glad you are feeling better, Marty. Halloween Night the Tenderloin Silver Strip is having a Halloween Party starting at the Peter Pan at 9 p.m. then to Shane's, Blue and Gold, Aunt Charlie's and the Kokpit with two prizes... \$4000 Best Male Costume and \$400 Best Female Costume... so check with those bars for more information. It promises to be a lot of fun.

Overheard at the Yacht Club on Polk Street: Greta Grass, Jay "Ethyl" Noonan and Sweet Lips playing their game "Name That Chin."

Vote Yes on S. Saturday evening at 7 p.m. at the California Club, the S.F.C.D.I.'s will be presenting

their fantastic show "Minsky's—A Musical Revue" and it promises to be hot. That is this Saturday the 14th.

The Gate Restaurant and Bar is now serving dinners Fridays and Saturdays and Sunday brunch with chefs Donna and Steve doing the honors. Drop by and give them a try. They do put out some great meals. Have you seen the new paint job and decor?

On Wednesday the 18th from 5 to 7 p.m. the fabulous Mr. Eddie Bellpepper invites you all to join him and the gang at the popular Yacht Club on Polk Street for a Taco Feast with all donations going to the AIDS Emergency Fund... and if you have never eaten any of Bellpepper's tacos, you don't know what you are missing. So come early and stay late.

Mark Sunday the 22nd down on your calendar for a birthday party for Empress Tina Tanner at the New Hob Nob Lounge from 11 a.m. till 1 p.m. with a brunch being served by Hal, and, yes, Tina will be on the plank for this event... Then at 2 p.m. it's the meeting of the Silver Jubilee Committee to help finalize the event... incidentally we got some more checks in the mail from interested people so that the event at the Yacht Club has raised \$2,140 for this biggie coming up... that is great.

Yes, you can still find that popular and personable Mr. Craig on the plank at Kimo's Tuesday thru Saturday from 10-6.

He sure does make you feel welcome.

In case you haven't figured out whose picture is in this column... he is a buddy of Dolly Dale's and tends bar at Reflections on Polk Street—yes, Dick Cook from his very early days.

Hope that you all are enjoying this week's indian summer, it sure helps when you are out on Castro Street to see some of the gorgeous hunks parading around... Polk Street isn't bad either.

Thank you, Jim Spillman, for the bike ride last Sunday even though I do have a hard time getting on the bike... we'll have to get a step for me.

There will be four contenders for the title of the 25th Empress de San Francisco and believe it or not three of them work on Polk Street... so it should be a fun campaign.

Yes, you can find Prince Jesse on the plank at Alvin's on Geary Street doing his thing.

Well, Bella is gone and Blossom now has the Carriage Trade on Castro Street... how things do repeat themselves if you wait long enough... But Bella is still around and looking just great.



Guess who? Hint: You might find him at Reflections on Polk.

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Santa Cruz Lesbian/Gay Film Festival Oct. 14-17

The best of the 1989 San Francisco and Los Angeles Gay and Lesbian Film Festivals will be brought to Santa Cruz in October as a benefit for the Santa Cruz AIDS Project.

The Film Festival will include mainstream, commercial movies as well as independent films and videos.

The festival, co-sponsored by the Santa Cruz AIDS Project and The Movies, will screen two films each evening (one lesbian, one gay). Films will be shown at The Movies, 324 Front St., on Sunday, Oct. 15 (matinee), Monday, Oct. 16, and Tuesday Oct. 17.

In addition, on Saturday, Oct. 14, a series of videos will be presented at the Bulkhead Gallery, 129 Bulkhead St., behind the town clock.

The videos shown at the Bulkhead will include programs from the highly acclaimed British television series on gay and lesbian life, *Out on Tuesday*.

Material from this series will include *Crimes of Passion*—interviews with such lesbian detective writers as Mary Wings and Katherine Forrest; *Playing Gay*—interviews with actors portraying gays such as Patricia Charbonneau (Dessert Hearts), and Harvey Fierstein (*Torch Song Trilogy*); *Out in Africa* is a moving tribute to two gay South Africans, Simon Nkoli and Ivan Toms, who have spent lengthy periods in prison in the struggle against apartheid and for lesbian and gay rights; *Looking for*

Langston is a stylish and sensual "poetic meditation" on the black poet Langston Hughes—original footage of The Cotton Club in the 1920s and period blues numbers set the scene.

Short art videos will complete the 4 p.m. and 8 p.m. programs. At 11 p.m., the most controversial segment of the festival will be screened: *Perverted Video*, the presentation of recent videos produced by the lesbian and gay SM community. Admission to video events is \$4.

The gala opening of the film festival will occur the following day, Sunday at 1 p.m., with the matinee screening of *The Outsiders*, at The Movies. *The Outsiders* is the first film about homosexuality to be licensed by the government of Taiwan.

The film embraces light comedy and dark drama in a complex plot dealing with a gay slice of life in Taiwan.

At 3 p.m., directly following the film, a reception will be held at Cafe Cameleon. The \$10 ticket price for the opening matinee includes admission to the special reception. The reception, to be catered by Michael's Catering, will feature music videos by such local favorites as k.d. lang.

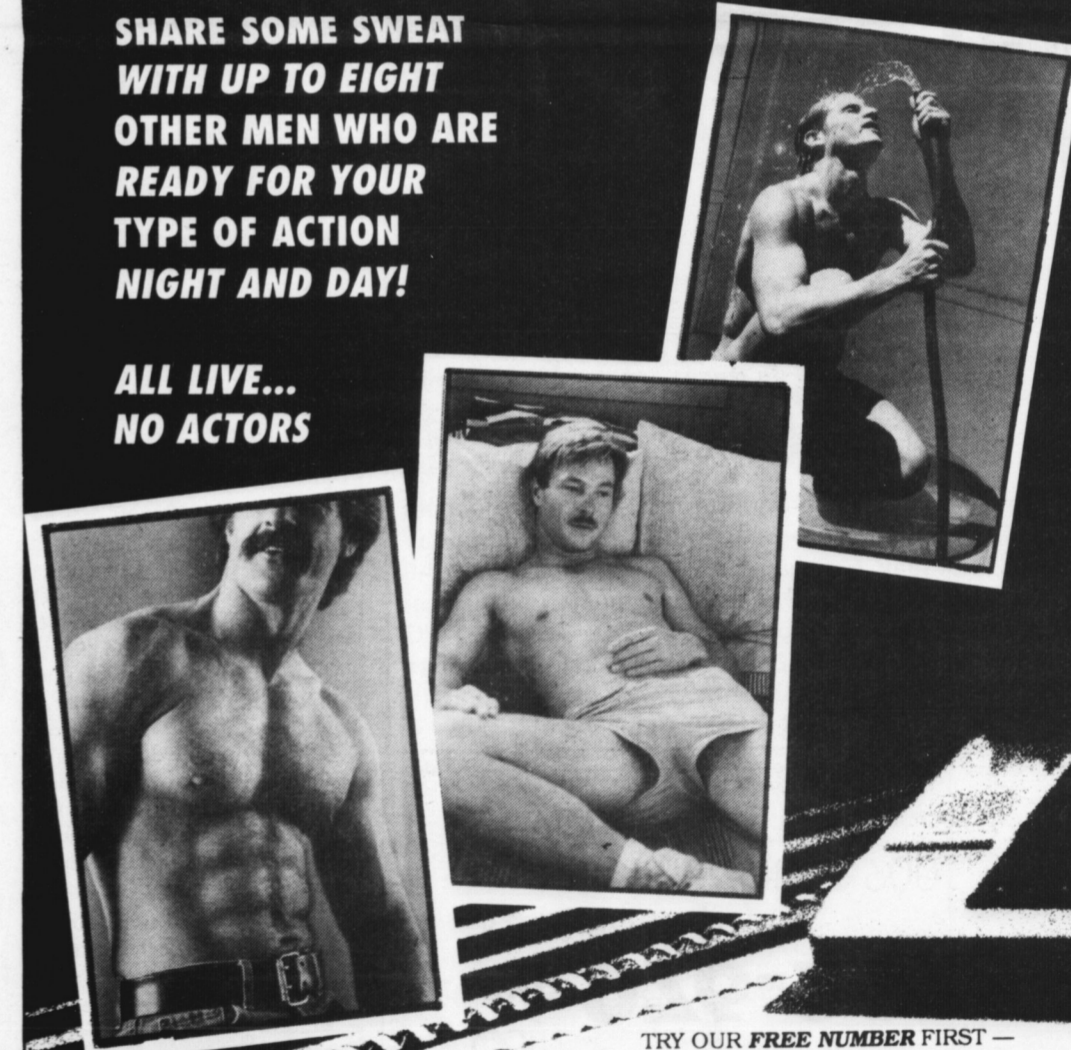
Proceeds from all festival events will go to benefit the Santa Cruz AIDS Project.

For more information on the films and videos call (408) 459-4777.

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10th Anniversary

A Different Light's LA Store Celebrates

by Steve Dambach

Marking its 10th year of business on Oct. 8, A Different Light Bookstore in Los Angeles is continuing its commitment to bringing gay and lesbian writers together with readers.

A Different Light, named a decade ago after Elizabeth Lynn's then just finished first

novel of the same name, has from inception been dedicated to making available every gay and lesbian interest title in and sometimes out of print.

Now, with three stores, one on Castro Street and another in New York and a second planned for Los Angeles, computerized and connected, A Different Light is



A Different Light Bookstore on Castro.

(Photo: Darlene/PhotoGraphics)

the widest resource of its kind outside of various gay and lesbian archives.

The stores feature books, records, tapes, art, magazines, cards, newspapers, video and fashion for and about our lives. And their "If we don't have it, we'll order it" policy is the kind of shopping tradition that brings people back.

So many people have come back through the years that the original store was doubled in size. Instead of 1,200 books displayed on handcrafted wooden shelves today you'll find 25,000 items including 10,000 book, magazine and video titles.

The stores' continued success has something to do with its community involvement as well as its discriminating discrimination. It does not merely present one part of the community but, although rooted in the printed word, uses the spectrum of gay and lesbian creativity to construct a realistic portrait of the whole community. A Different Light shows how we communicate in many modes now, becoming multi-media-linguistic: speaking the language of video metaphors as easily as we might poetry. In other words, our means of communication are crossing and stores like A Different Light provide a place for information and conversation.

A Different Light has power to connect the gay and lesbian cultural community. Each store features appearances by local and national gay and lesbian authors, visual artists and musicians. Since the first event on Christmas Eve 1979 when Quentin Crisp presided over a book-signing tea party, hundreds of creative types have presented their work at what San Francisco store manager Richard Labonte calls this "bracelet" of stores.

Fittingly, the original store in Los Angeles is celebrating 10 years by hosting an anniversary party with a store full of invited writers and probably more patrons. The party coincides with the opening reception of Robert Giard's photograph series "Particular Voices: Portraits of Gay & Lesbian Writers" on Oct. 8.

Locally, Labonte and series coordinator Darrell-Lynn Alvarez have fit the two-year-old San Francisco A Different Light into the community with five different regular monthly happenings: ArtWords, Gay Writer, Lesbian Writer, Community Space and the enigmatic Social Studies lecture series.

Labonte, who worked with Norman Laurila and George

Leigh, store co-founders, to establish and maintain the Los Angeles link, has in his first 10 months in the Bay Area used his Southern California experience to establish the store as the cultural/information center of the Castro and the entire San Francisco gay community.

the store the person who is working there isn't just a clerk but someone who is active outside the store. It gives the store a different feeling."

Including monthly art exhibits, Labonte incorporates many of the successful elements of the Los Angeles store into the Castro store and recognizes similarity in the way the store operates in the community.

Speaking from the recently opened deck during the Castro Street Fair, the afternoon after inventory, Labonte spoke about the state of homosexual writing.

"For the past several years I've been doing kind of an analysis of books and such for *The Advocate*. Using the computer we use for inventory I can keep track of new books that arrive. I can tell how many new books are coming out and there will be more in 1989 than there were in '88, and than there were in '87. And a continuing flood of new writers too. Not just new books by old writers. Proof of that is that in 1984 we sent invitations out to every gay and lesbian writer in Southern California whose address we could find. We sent out 50 or 60 invitations. This year we sent out about 175."



A DIFFERENT LIGHT

"In Los Angeles," he said, "almost everybody who is on staff is also involved with ACT UP, with theatre groups, with writing groups. They do writing for newspapers, so there is a real sense of connection to the community. That's developing with the staff here, too. That way, I think, for people who walk into

Poets, Actors Honor AIDS Victims At Living Word Memorial Benefit

Poets who have died of AIDS will be paid tribute by leading poets and actors of the Bay Area at National Poetry Week's Living Word Memorial benefit on Sunday, Oct. 15, 7:30 p.m. at Fort Mason Conference Hall, Building A, Marina at Laguna Street in San Francisco.

Among the many poets being honored will be Dan Allen, poet and professor of Gay Studies at City College of San Francisco, and many other well-known poets who have died in the past five years, including: Sutter Marin, Richard Irwin, Sam D'Allesandro, John Selby, Ted Aldrich, along with Berkeley's John Herlin, two Mexican poets, Alejandro Renan and Joaquin Espino, and Jim Holmes of Holland. Others like Charlie Hinkle and Jack Sharpless will be remembered in a program that features reading selected works of the poets who have died of AIDS.

Readers and actors who will be honoring the departed poets include: Steve Abbott, Tede Matthews, Thom Gunn, Neeli Cherkovski, Ron Johnson, Paul

Mariah, Julia Vinograd, Harold Norse, Herman Berlandt, Piri Thomas, and Poet Jeffrey Lilly, curator of this special National Poetry Week Festival Benefit.

In the closing segment of the evening's benefit, a group of poetry notables will add their own poetry about the crisis. These poets will include Harold Norse, author of such classics as *Beat Hotel* and *Carnivorous Saint*.

Admission is \$7.50 for general admission or \$5 for students and seniors. Tickets may be procured through BASS ticket outlets or by writing Living Word Memorial, National Poetry Association, Fort Mason Center, Building D, San Francisco, CA 94123.

The proceeds of this event will go toward the publication of a memorial anthology by the National Poetry Association. The event itself comes on the third day of the National Poetry Week Festival which begins on Oct. 13 and closes on Oct. 22. For more information, contact the National Poetry Association at 776-6602.

Macy's 'Passport '89' Show Benefits 9 AIDS Groups

Macy's gala Passport fashion show, the largest of its kind in the nation, will return to San Francisco Oct. 12-13, with its most ambitious and spectacular production yet.

"Macy's Passport '89 Rocks Against AIDS" will unite the worlds of international fashion and rock music in a dazzling theatrical display of this year's premiere fall fashions for men and women, choreographed to live concert performances by rock artists from Europe, Canada and the United States.

Nine San Francisco AIDS agencies will benefit from proceeds of the seventh annual Macy's Passport show, which takes place at Fort Mason's Pier 3.

From the north comes the

Heymont

(Continued from page 31)

control of their bodies, which, in a male-dominated street society can, at best, be used to curry favor. Donna Elvira's hormones are shooting off in all directions, Zerlina is well on her way to becoming an abused wife and Donna Anna desperately craves a fix. The clash in body language styles comes to a head in a hilariously ironic moment as the cop and his two women friends join Don Giovanni's party and try to "dance cool" while the Don is snorting coke and prancing around in his underwear.

When a friend of mine complained that he just couldn't imagine Leontyne Price appearing in a production like this, I suggested that he leave Leontyne outside the theater and pay closer attention to the fact that Eugene Perry's Don Giovanni boasts magnificent thighs and a dynamite ass.

In casting this revival, Sellars chose to use identical twins Herbert and Eugene Perry as Leporello and Don Giovanni. Their physical similarity made one wonder what hold Don Giovanni could possibly have had over Leporello (other than supplying him with drugs) that could keep the man enslaved as his gofer.

Ultimately, this casting gimmick (which sounded great on paper) became secondary to the fact that both baritones are superb performers.

Musically, this was another one of those great evenings of ensemble singing under the baton of Craig Smith. While some might complain about the roughness with which some music was sung, the sounds produced were always theatrically motivated and dramatically justified.

As the women, Ai-Lan Zhu offered a touching Zerlina, while Lorraine Hunt raged helplessly as Donna Elvira. I was most fascinated, however, with Dominique Labelle's pathetic portrayal of Donna Anna (which packed bundles of rage and sadness into the soprano's short and stocky body). Her characterization was so startlingly different from the standard operatic shtick that, like Miss Ewing's Tosca, it left one with a great deal to think about after the curtain came down.

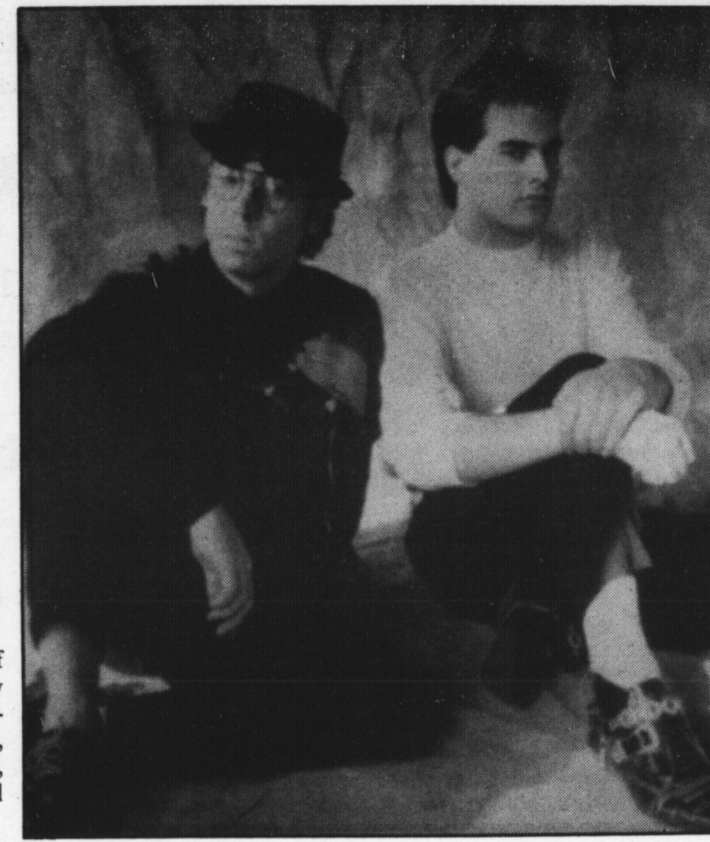
If only we could anticipate more performances like this on a regular basis!

Canadian dance band Kon Kan, whose first single, "I Beg Your Pardon," topped the charts earlier this year. They'll be joined by British soul singer Mica Paris and her band, and the campy vocals of California's own Del Rubio Triplets.

Their live performances will be woven into eight "fashion fantasy" segments, featuring the fall designs of Giorgio Armani, Byblos, Jean Paul Gaultier, Patrick Kelly, Ann Klein, Matsuda and Thierry Mugler, among others.

An elaborate system of moveable stages, sets and runway is being constructed to accommodate the show's musicians, singers, dancers, fashion models, multi-media projections and other special effects.

"Macy's Passport '89 Rocks Against AIDS" is a combined effort of the fashion and music industries—two groups hard hit by AIDS. Nine AIDS Walk agencies in San Francisco will receive \$50,000 in proceeds from the show. Mayor and Mrs. Art Agnos will host Passport '89, along with



Barry Harris (l.) and Kevin Wynne (r.) are Kon Kan.

V.I.P. Committee Chair Harry de Wildt and other prominent San Franciscans.

Passport's opening night, Thursday, Oct. 12, features Mica

Paris, Kon Kan and the Del Rubio Triplets with a special reception and buffet at 6:30 p.m. preceding the 8 p.m. show. Tickets are \$100 for preferred

seating and \$30-35 for bleacher seats. All seating is reserved.

The next night includes Kon Kan, the Del Rubios and a third performer to be announced, with a wine reception at 7 p.m. Reserved seating is \$22.50, general admission \$18.50.

Tickets for "Macy's Passport '89 Rocks Against AIDS" may be purchased at all BASS TICKET-MASTER Ticket Centers or by calling 762-BASS.

Old Lesbians to 'Reportback' To Community

A "Reportback" to the community from a regional conference by and for old lesbians will be held at the Women's Building on Wednesday, Oct. 18, at 7:30 p.m.

The presenters are Ruth Palmisano Morales, MSW, ("The Pleasures of Aging"), Natalie Zarchin ("Old Lesbians' Consciousness Raising"), Frances Lorraine ("The Artist: The Iconoclast Within"), Elaine Porter ("Current Services for Lesbian Elders"), and Sarah Davis ("What's Next?—Old Lesbians Organizing for Change").

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CAUTION!

Message, Quality Outrank Commercialism at Redwood

Seventeen years ago Holly Near, activist, actress and singer, formed Redwood Records. Into the world of the quick buck and the endless ego came a company dedicated to producing and promoting music by performers who care about human dignity, peace and equality.

The musicians who Redwood represents are from Canada and Central America, South America and Australia. Many of them performed at the recent Redwood Music Festival in Berkeley, where 3,000 people turned out to see African dancers and drummers, Puerto Rican and Nicaraguan salsa, and a choir from Oakland.

Joanie Shoemaker is executive director of Redwood. Speaking of their work throughout the years she said, "It hasn't been easy in the past, and it's not easy now. I think people value culture but they don't always give it a high priority in their lives."

Jo-Lynne Worley is Joanie's lover and Redwood's artistic director. The two women have been together for 13 years and became partners with Near in 1980.

Commenting about the talent at the festival, Jo-Lynne says, "They're all performers that sang about socially relevant issues, whether it's about gay and lesbian rights or about Central America. I think one of the things that's really unique about

Redwood is that we put all those things together. You have a lesbian performer on the same stage as someone from Nicaragua who is fighting for a different kind of freedom. It's coalition building, and that's the exciting part of it to us."

It may be exciting, but it's hardly profitable. Because they felt more like a cultural arts organization than a money-making record company, this year the people at Redwood merged themselves into a non-profit organization. Redwood Cultural Work, as it's called, specializes in "Music that Rocks the Boat."

Some of this rocking will take place on Nov. 10-11, when Near teams with Mercedes Sosa at the Calvin Simmonds Theatre in Oakland. Three years ago the two did a concert together at the Royal Albert Hall in London, which Jo-Lynne remembers as "a breathtaking event."

"Mercedes Sosa has been performing for 30 years and is the grand dame of neva cancion (new song)," Jo-Lynne says.

"New song originated in Latin America," Joanie says, "as a way of expressing protest music without having the government officials know that it was protest music. You talk about the doves, and you talk about birds flying, and it's really about prison and escape."

Many of the Redwood artists make powerful statements. One

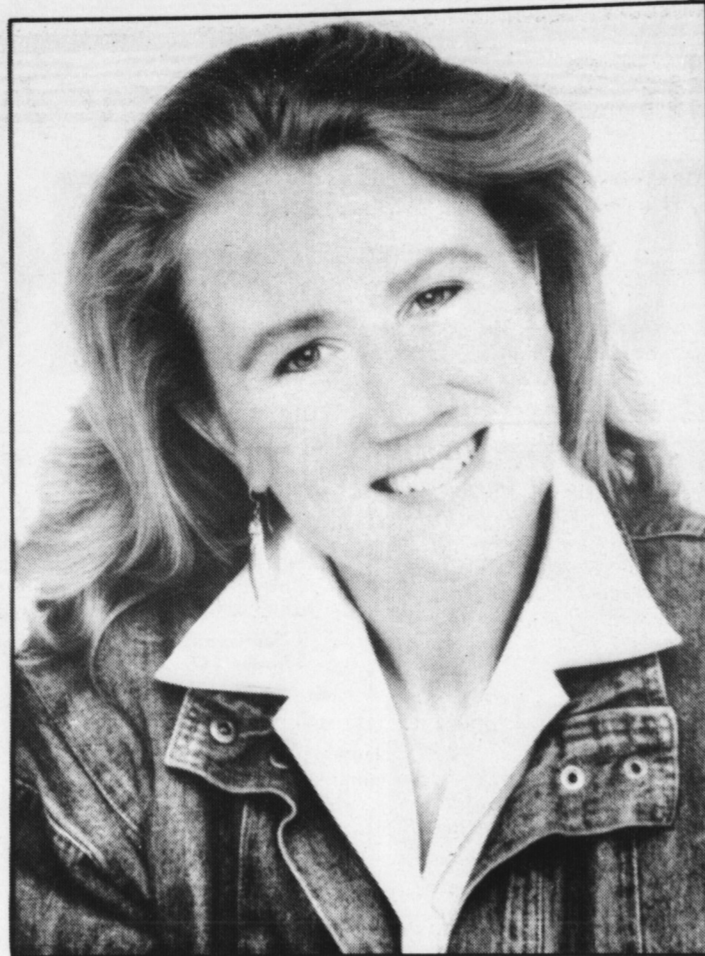
of those artists is Faith Nolan, who Joanie describes as "a Canadian lesbian blues singer with Communist leanings." Her latest album, *Freedom to Love*, is "about her life as a black woman and as a lesbian, and also a lot about the culture of growing up black in Canada in a poor town."

There are few issues that escape the scrutiny of Redwood performers. Jo-Lynne says, "A variety of our artists, particularly Holly, have done a lot around the issue of AIDS for a number of years. Her recent album, *Sky Dances*, which was released in June of this year, was really in response to her traveling all over the country and people saying to her that they were dealing with loss in their lives. It's an album about the life cycle, about life and death and carrying on."

Redwood Cultural Work employs 10 people, and in their brochures they acknowledge that "each record is a labor of love."

"The promotional campaign we structure around each album is unique and different to it, because we promote lesbians, Latin American men, Canadians, Australians," Joanie says.

"We don't necessarily select the albums because we think they're going to be so commercially successful. We select them because we think they're musically good and the artists are displaying humanitarian politics in one way or another."



Holly Near of Redwood Records. (Photo: Irene Young)

Now that it has become non-profit, the Redwood organization is implementing a new membership plan. Various discounts are offered on most items in their catalog based on the particular type of membership purchased. If customers aren't satisfied, they can exchange what they bought.

"We're very open to people's suggestions—who they would like to see on our label, who they would like to see at the festival,

why they like Redwood or criticisms that they have. We feel like we're really here for the peace community, for the women's community, for the lesbian community, and we want to more and more also be here for the gay men's community. We need interaction, and feedback too."

The latest Redwood catalog can be obtained by writing to: Redwood Records, 600 Grand Ave., Oakland, CA 94610. ▼

'In Search of Gay America'

In Search of Gay America: Women & Men in A Time of Change by Neil Miller; Atlantic Monthly Press; \$18.95.

by Frank Howell

"I didn't want to take the well trodden path through the urban gay ghettos. Acceptance and self acceptance amidst the anonymity of cities like New York and Los Angeles and even Boston meant little, I was convinced. One had to travel beyond the large metropolitan areas on the two coasts to places where diversity was less acceptable... that was where the majority of gay people lived."

Upon graduation from a small liberal arts college in 1960, I was itching to gain entry into the "real world." I spent the first 11 years of my life in a small, stifling, one-horse town where football and the annual rodeo held sway. You were truly a nerd if your heart didn't yearn for such a butch agenda. I saw no value in living a gay life in Smalltown, USA. No ventilation seemed to air the closets in places with a population of less than 50,000.

In the Bay Area, for example, one can live a pedestrian life in one area and let your hair down in another.

Neil Miller has ranged widely in his quest for the other homosexual Americana. In Selma, Ala., where closet doors are sealed shut with concrete, we learn that folks here would rather embrace blacks than gays. Anita Bryant once ran a dress shop there.

In Bunceon, Mo., an openly gay mayor is casually accepted but any deviant outsiders are rejected. We are introduced to a lesbian coal miner in West Virginia and a male couple in Minnesota who are successful dairy farmers.

In some places—Bismarck, N.D., and Rapid City, S.D.—life is homophobic and rigid. Others, like Key West, Fla., are so tolerant that no civil rights laws are deemed necessary.

Miller found that gay couples tend to flourish in rural areas and that the best way to survive is through vigorous activity in civic affairs. One needs to blend in.

Miller hails from New York state. He earned his writing stripes in Boston as editor of the *Gay Community News*. He has also written for *Glamour* and *Travel and Leisure*.

Our travel guide states at the outset that he intends to concentrate on the countryside and steer clear of the cities. But after visiting several places in the South and Midwest he abandons his original plans and includes Boston, San Francisco, New York City and Washington, D.C. Even though he concentrates on everyday folk who in their own small way fight the series of skirmishes that slowly add up to the major victories. Some are small town politicians, office workers and farmers. But they all share a single bond: freedom to live out their lives in peace and experience the absence of fear.

AIDS tends to assume more of a quiet background in "the sticks." In larger areas we find unique ways of coping with the big A (jerk-off parties, dating workshops and references to early death, i.e., "bereavement overload"). Gays are determined not to surrender their sexual uniqueness and knuckle under to Puritan pressures.

Lesbians are now reaching out to find more sexually aggressive approaches. They often quarrel among themselves about which position is politically correct.

Miller covers other diverse concerns such as a Methodist Church trial of a lesbian minister who dared to leave her closet in New Hampshire.

A Presbyterian "More Light" church in Louisville, Ky., defies the national organization to provide support to gays.

In Washington, D.C., the Rev. Tinney, pastor of an all-black gay congregation battles the hostility of the minority community who believes that same-sex love is a filthy white disease that corrupts black men.

In Memphis, Tenn., Ed and Mike, who are quite active in Black and White Men Together, wax livid over a speaker at one of their conventions who asserts

that white males only use Negroes for sexual exploitation. Much uproar ensues.

Miller visits couples who are attempting to adopt children. In most cases they buck the system at every step.

At times we may feel that Miller has bitten off more than he can comfortably chew. But he manages to encompass the dazzling variety of lavender passion that colors America from sea to shining sea.

All this has occurred in spite of a sharp kick in the belly by AIDS and the ravages of Reaganism. In many ways we have endured and grown stronger. There is both a renewed sense of sadness and maturity.

Miller demonstrates that we all can do our part in the relentless battle for love and joy. There simply isn't time for geographical snipings. ▼

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Entertainment Event To Aid Cancer Center

by Noreen C. Barnes

On Saturday, Oct. 14, at Wheeler Hall on the University of California at Berkeley campus at 8 p.m., an evening of comedy, music and reading will be held to support the nearly 40,000 women with cancer in the Bay Area and to increase awareness of the needs of women with cancer, as well as raise money to meet those needs.

Proceeds from the event will benefit the Women's Cancer Resource Center and the Charlotte Maxwell Complementary Clinic.

The resource center provides support, advocacy and resource services, and is controlled by and for women with cancer; the clinic offers "alternative health care such as acupuncture, massage, homeopathy and counseling for women with cancer on a low cost or donation basis."

The Resource Center is "dedicated to empowering women with cancer to be active and informed consumers and survivors" and serves those who have been neglected by other programs, such as women of color, older women, low-income women and lesbians. Jackie Winnow, one of the founders of the center, states:

Cancer, like AIDS, is about living, it's about living with a life-threatening disease, in whatever stage, in whatever condition. Many people equate cancer with death. Yet we live until we die, so cancer is not so much about dying but about living. Although each of us experiences cancer individually, it is through collective

support and action that changes take place. As an activist I always believed that and my own cancer experiences strengthened that belief even more.

The impressive line-up of performers for the benefit include Linda Tillery and Band; Carolyn Brandy, Mary Watkins and Ernie Mansfield; Over Our Heads Comedy Troupe; and Judy Grahn.

Tillery's R&B performances, frequent tours and three albums are familiar to many. The Brandy, Watkins and Mansfield trio's unique music fuses jazz with original acoustic sound, with latin and classical inspirations. The improvisational comedy team of Over Our Heads (Annie Larson, Marion Damon, Theresa Chandler and Karen Ripley) are one of the Bay Area's most popular women's entertainment groups.

And, Judy Grahn, influential and accomplished writer and poet, will read her own work as well as that of the late Pat Parker, who died of cancer in June.

The Boalt Hall Women's Association is sponsoring the event, and it is requested that there be no scents or smoking. It will be wheelchair accessible, sign interpreted, and child care will be provided. Tickets are \$10-25, and are available in advance from La Pena, Mama Bears, Old Wives Tales, Modern Times and A Different Light bookstores, and at the door on the evening of the benefit.

For more information, call the Women's Cancer Resource Center at 548-9272. ▼

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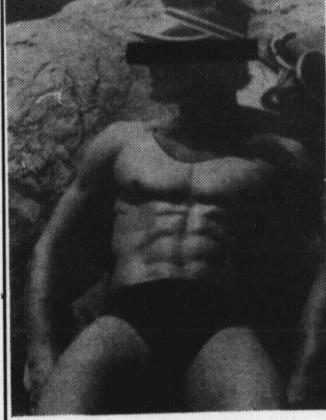
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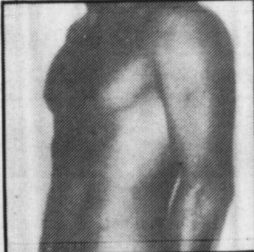
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BAY AREA REPORTER SPORTS & FITNESS

BOWLING

Park Bowl

Reluctant Nomad Finds You Can Go Home Again

by Jerry R. DeYoung

During the 25-years that have elapsed since the establishment of the first gay bowling league in San Francisco (the Monday Tavern Guild League) there has been a sizable, exuberant, dependable core of bowlers who have, season after season, returned to claim their spots on their favorite bowling teams.

Some, however, because of poor health, job relocation and various other reasons have found it necessary to abandon their leagues.

Eventually though, as fate allows, a surprisingly large number of these involuntarily inactive bowlers follow their bliss back to their bowling leagues and resume an active role in the sport so many of us enjoy.

A heart-warming example of this almost spiritual devotion to sport and team is epitomized in the fortunes of Chuck Miller, who, in 1981, with heavy heart, and even heavier bowling ball in hand, reluctantly relocated to Cleveland.

It was eight long years of intense toil and unending drudgery before cruel, cruel fate finally left the door of opportunity ajar, thereby permitting an exhausted, yet exhilarated, reluctant nomad to immediately engage a covered, multi-horsepowered U-Haul truck and set out on his long, perilous journey toward the setting sun.

After a few days and several minor adventures, at the entrance to the Golden Gate, kismet kindly kissed the intrepid wanderer with a gentle, sweet breeze, enticing him to accelerate his entrance into his beloved city-by-the-bay.

Presently, Chuck is once again happily ensconced in his favorite bowling league and being adored by an ecstatic Rat Lady, his other teammates, and the league in general.

In the event some of you, of late, may be perplexed as to why the pins on the lanes at Park Bowl appear to have a smoother, brighter surface and even react livelier to each ball's determined disruption of their usually regimented ranks—well, wonder no more my phantom perusers, it's the direct result of PB management's decision to install new pins.

A decision, I might add, with which most of we PB league bowlers can live quite happily.

While the new pins may not have had that much to do with it,

recently, Don Cambell of CUinBC team on the Thursday IGBO/GG League ignored the incredibly high odds-against it and deftly picked up the 4-7-10 split.

Now that he has absolutely mastered bowling, Don has expressed an interest in taking up skating. Will the Mystery Masked Super Skater ever be livid with envy if he is equally successful in this new athletic endeavor!

Continuing in this same vein, here are some of the outstanding achievements realized by Tavern Guild bowlers since the last article.

Tavern Guild Monday Bowling League October 2:
Ed Hamm (177) 221; Dave Lilly (196) 218; Luis Garcia (178) 201, 217 and a 600 series; Sam Kipu (160) 215; Larry McBroom (173) 214; Rob Levi (157) 212, 201; Jim Hahn (170) 208.

Tavern Guild Wednesday Bowling League October 4:
Kevin Schwabe (209) 257, 236, 203 and a 696 series; Dave Lilly (189) 245, 210, and a 629 series; Don Gambell (178) 204, 233, and a 606 series; Roger Asai (168) 222; Lowell Hill (173) 219; Greg Bickel (177) 200, 215; Rick Brat-tin (142) 214; Ernie Wilson (178) 209, 201, 212, and a 622 series; Tom Sipple (174) 212; Tim Ben-ton (183) 203; Darrel Haven (184) 201.

Tavern Guild Thursday Bowling League September 28:
J.C. Halstead (201) 258 and a 621 series; Don Gambell (203) 244 and a 614 series; Dan Becker (162) 228; Tim Mulvenon (196) 213, 214 and a 614 series; Fred Doherty (162) 212; Bob Bates (165) 208; Rob Levi (164) 204; John Glynn (159) 204.

IGBO/GG September 28:
Don Gambell (175) 247, 203 and a 620 series; Tom Marquart (167) 234, 206, 223 and a 663 series; Kevin Schwabe (212) 219, 207, 222 and a 648 series; Vince Dicolla (172) 208; Don McPher-son (158) 202; J.C. Halstead (193) 201

The two bowlers of the above leagues with the lowest averages (as of this accounting) and the highest games are Ed Lewis, TCMBL, Rolo's Too, 132 avg./203 HG; and Tim Veraldo, TGWB, Gutter Girls, 134 avg./201 HG. Congratulations, guys, you are now members of the celebrated High Rollers Club and entitled to all the benefits this honor entails.

Till next time bowlers, stay happy and have fun on the lanes.



Happy Park Bowl bowlers.

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Team San Francisco Sports Reps To Meet

by Rick Thoman

There will be a meeting of all Team San Francisco sports representatives and sports co-chairs next Thursday, Oct. 19, at 7 p.m., at the Metropolitan Community Church, 150 Eureka St., Room 204.

The meeting will include discussions on the latest developments in housing and travel to Gay Games III and an alternative proposal for Gay Games III warm-ups.

Most important, though, sports reps should bring any questions regarding Gay Games II that they have received from athletes in their particular sport.

"We know some sports representatives are getting queries regarding registration for their sport or about other Gay Games issues that aren't clear at this time," Team San Francisco board member Susan Kennedy said. "These concerns should be expressed at this meeting so we can take them directly to Vancouver and present them to the appropriate people there."

Kennedy and fellow Team SF board member Kathi Slott will travel to Vancouver the day after the Team SF sports rep meeting to attend One for the Money, the final planning conference on the Gay Games prior to Opening Ceremonies next August.

This three-day event will allow

representatives from all cities intending to participate in the games to meet with the organizers and sports chairpersons and exchange ideas or iron out any existing problems.

According to One for the Money conference coordinator Ken McBane, "This is the last planning conference before the Games happen, and it is the last chance to question the co-chairs of the sporting and cultural events. This will enable each city or region planning to participate in Gay Games III to get the best answers from the very best possible people to answer them."

The meeting will discuss housing and travel to Gay Games III.

"We hope to come back from Vancouver with a final action plan to get San Francisco's athletes to the Games next August," Team SF's Kennedy said. "The groundwork is fairly well set and this is our opportunity to make sure everything is in place for a smooth transition to Celebration '90."

For more information about the Team San Francisco sports representatives meeting, contact Kennedy at 824-4697.

From Gay Run to Gay Games

by Rick Thoman

It's more than 900 miles from the site of the Gay Run in Golden Gate Park to the start of the Gay Games III marathon in Vancouver. By the time the gun goes off to start the marathon on Saturday morning, Aug. 11, 1990, San Francisco's Mary Edna Harrell figures she will have logged close to 900 miles in preparation for the race. And she's starting her training base with a jubilant romp through Golden Gate Park at the 10th annual Gay Run, Sunday, Oct. 15.

"I can't think of a better way to start preparing for the Games than to take part in the traditional Gay Run event," Harrell said.

She's been running for close to 25 years now, but never on a competitive basis.

"I participate in a lot of 10-kilometer road races during the year, but I never enter with the thought of trying to be the first across the finish line. I race against myself and see if I can go faster each time I run," she said.

Her running philosophy clearly mirrors the ideals of Gay Games founder Tom Waddell, who envisioned games open to all individuals who would compete not for the gold and the glory, but for an opportunity to achieve one's personal best.

Although Harrell hasn't picked up any medals or trophies in her running career, she con-



sistently strives to do her best.

Gay Run '89 will be one of many 10-K races Harrell will participate in on the road to Vancouver, but she's just beginning as a marathon runner. She ran her first 26.2 miler in May at the Avenue of the Giants Marathon in Humboldt County on the Northern California coast.

"It was good for a first marathon because it was a flat course and the cool weather was conducive to long-distance running," she said.

Although rarely keeping track of where she finishes in a race, Harrell does try to remember what her times are in order to improve the next time she races.

"I don't remember my exact time for the Avenue marathon because I was really just trying to reach the finish line," Harrell said. "In my second marathon (the San Francisco, in July) I did a 4:19, which was definitely better than the first one."

Harrell is now aiming for a faster time at the San Diego Marathon in December.

"I hope to do four hours flat. I'm chipping away at the time little by little. You need to have realistic goals," she said.

"Marathon running takes a lot of time and training but it's not

out of reach. I used to think marathon runners were crazy, racing for over 26 miles. Then I started running with a friend of mine who competed in ultramarathons, distances of 35 to 50 miles," Harrell said. "I discovered she wasn't crazy and I figured if she could do those distances, then I could run a marathon. All it takes is a reasonable training plan and a willingness to stick with it."

"Once you establish your conditioning base, you can slowly increase your mileage," Harrell said. "I try to increase about 10 percent each week, which isn't much if you spread it out over the entire week. If you're running 10 miles per week, the next week you'd increase it by 1 mile. You could add that mile in quarter-mile increments during the week or all at once... whatever you feel you're ready to take on."

Harrell will be competing in her first Gay Games in 1990. And though she's never participated in the Games, she knows from running with the San Francisco Frontrunners and competing in Gay Run last year that athletics are important to the gay and lesbian community, and not just from a health standpoint.

"I think an event like the Gay Games provides a unique opportunity to interact with others in our own gay community and with people from across the country and around the world," she said. "The atmosphere I've felt at events like Gay Run has always been supportive and I'm looking forward to taking part in the Vancouver Games."

After the Gay Run this Sunday, and the San Diego Marathon in December, Harrell is looking toward the Los Angeles Marathon in March as her next point of reference on the way to Gay Games III.

As she sees it, "I may not be in the race for the gold medal, but I hope to run my best marathon yet. It's an event I'll be proud to take part in."

And she's certainly someone San Francisco will be proud to have representing the city, someone challenging herself for a personal best in the true spirit of the Games.

POOL

Teams Gearing Up For Head Butting

The San Francisco Pool Association's 30 teams have passed the fall season's point of no return as equally ranked teams have begun the head butting that will continue in the coming weeks.

Division I took some heat last week as its first place team, Park Bowl, was shut down by the Division II league leaders, Sn. Marcos Cafe Quakers, by a 13-3 margin.

Toni Macante beefed up her roster with the addition of Tavern League veteran Michelle Hansen, who, along with Karen Brandman, are poised to lead the Sn Marcos Maniacs into the Division I lead.

Both Uncle Bert's Nephews and Cinch You've Been Gone are also within striking distance of first place here with Rick Bradford standing out at 20/5 for the Cinch.

The aforementioned Quakers are soaring over Division II with an incredible 27 game lead and posting five players in the top 10, including league leader Lauren Ward. She and Luby Pelletier composed half of last week's 4/0 club and were joined by Lisa Duncan in posting three-quarters of last week's table runs.

This division's other playoff contenders include the Special Tease, Cinchgespielers, Le Quippe Detour and Badlands Buddies.

Division III is surprising the analysts with strong performances by both the Castro Station Express and Overpass Toddlers coupled with a slow fade by the Cinch Shooting Stars. The Toddlers made a key acquisition

off the Quakers' pace. Jim Russo leads their offense at 26/4 with Rick Mariani and Lynn Westhoven both placing in the top 16.

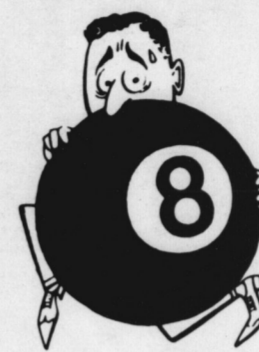
The White Swallow International and Powerhouse, We Are remain firmly entrenched in their respective second and third places here.

Nine-Ball Fever

Half the field has been determined for the annual 9-Ball Championship. Ramon Rodriguez, Royal Senn, Jim Russo, Mark Miller, David Lee, Ching Ng, Bernie King and Jack Dunbar have all secured their spots.

Qualifier hopefuls descend tonight on the Transfer and Saturday at the Watering Hole, after which just two more opportunities remain before the Oct. 28 finals at Park Bowl.

Dial JOE-POOL for SFPA information.



in David Lee last week who, along with Bernie King, will probably lead their team into the top spot. The Express hosts the dreaded Quakers in this week's action.

Division IV is led by the league's second highest scoring team, the Overpassers, 10 games

CSAP Seeks Submissions For AIDS Art Symposium

Community Spirit Art Program, which offers ongoing art events and activities to boost positive morale during the AIDS epidemic, is seeking submissions for its February 1990 art symposium. Artists and presenters interested in applying are requested to send for the exhibition guidelines and entry form now. Deadline for submissions is Oct. 25.

Celebrating the healing power of love as realized by artists, CSAP will present *Expressions of Love: Art About Healing During the Epidemic*, at a major San Francisco art gallery.

The symposium will feature a slide/video survey and panel presentations about art celebrating love during the health crisis and about creating inspirational artworks in the face of AIDS in today's art world.

With this symposium, CSAP will advance the pioneering August '89 *Art & Self-Healing: Living Well With The Epidemic* AIDS art show, which demonstrated the regenerative aspects of art and self-expression, and benefitted an art therapy pro-

gram at a residence for People With AIDS.

Proceeds from *Expressions of Love* and related events will benefit CSAP activities offering professional encouragement and emotional support through art.

To enter: Artworks and presentations for *Expressions of Love* will be selected from work submitted in slides or videotapes (for the survey), performances recorded on videotape (for the live performance) and written proposals (for the panel presentation), with an accompanying entry form.

Apply now by sending a self-addressed stamped envelope to: CSAP Group, Box 42, 2370 Market St., San Francisco, CA 94114. The symposium guidelines and entry form will be mailed to you. Deadline: Submissions with completed entry form must be postmarked Oct. 25, or received by mail no later than Nov. 1.

CSAP's sister-group, Community Spirit Healing Circle, which gathers on Sunday nights, 7 p.m. at Zen Center Guest House in San Francisco, is co-sponsoring the symposium. For information about Circle dates and locations, call 673-7397.

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S.F. B.E.A.R. Benefit At Japantown Bowl

by Will Snyder

No-tap bowling tournaments usually are loads of fun. And, sometimes, bowlers can combine fun with something meaningful, too. This will be the case this weekend at Japantown Bowl.

J-Town will be the sight of a mini-no-tap tournament Saturday with the proceeds going to the tourney's sponsor, San Francisco Bowler Emergency Aid Relief (S.F. B.E.A.R.).

This organization, which is about one year old, distributes funds to past and present members of San Francisco gay and lesbian bowling leagues who may become terminally ill with AIDS, cancer or some other similar disease.

This tournament is designed as a three-person team event. No-tap, itself, is a fun type of bowling event because all one needs to do is knock down nine pins on the first ball to get credit for a

strike. There's no worry over cross-alley bowling for that elusive ten-pin if cross-alley bowling isn't right up your alley.

B.E.A.R. officials said that the trios' teams may be all men, all women, or combinations of the sexes. Handicap for the tourney will be 80 percent of the difference between team average and 600. The minimum entering average for handicapping purposes will be 390 per team while the maximum entering average is 540.

B.E.A.R. officials added that the averages used would be the 1988-89 book averages. If a person doesn't have a 1988-89 book average, an '89 summer average or a current fall average (nine games or more) will be sufficient.

Bowlers have three different times to pick from to bowl: 11 a.m., 1:30 p.m. and 4 p.m.

(Continued on next page)

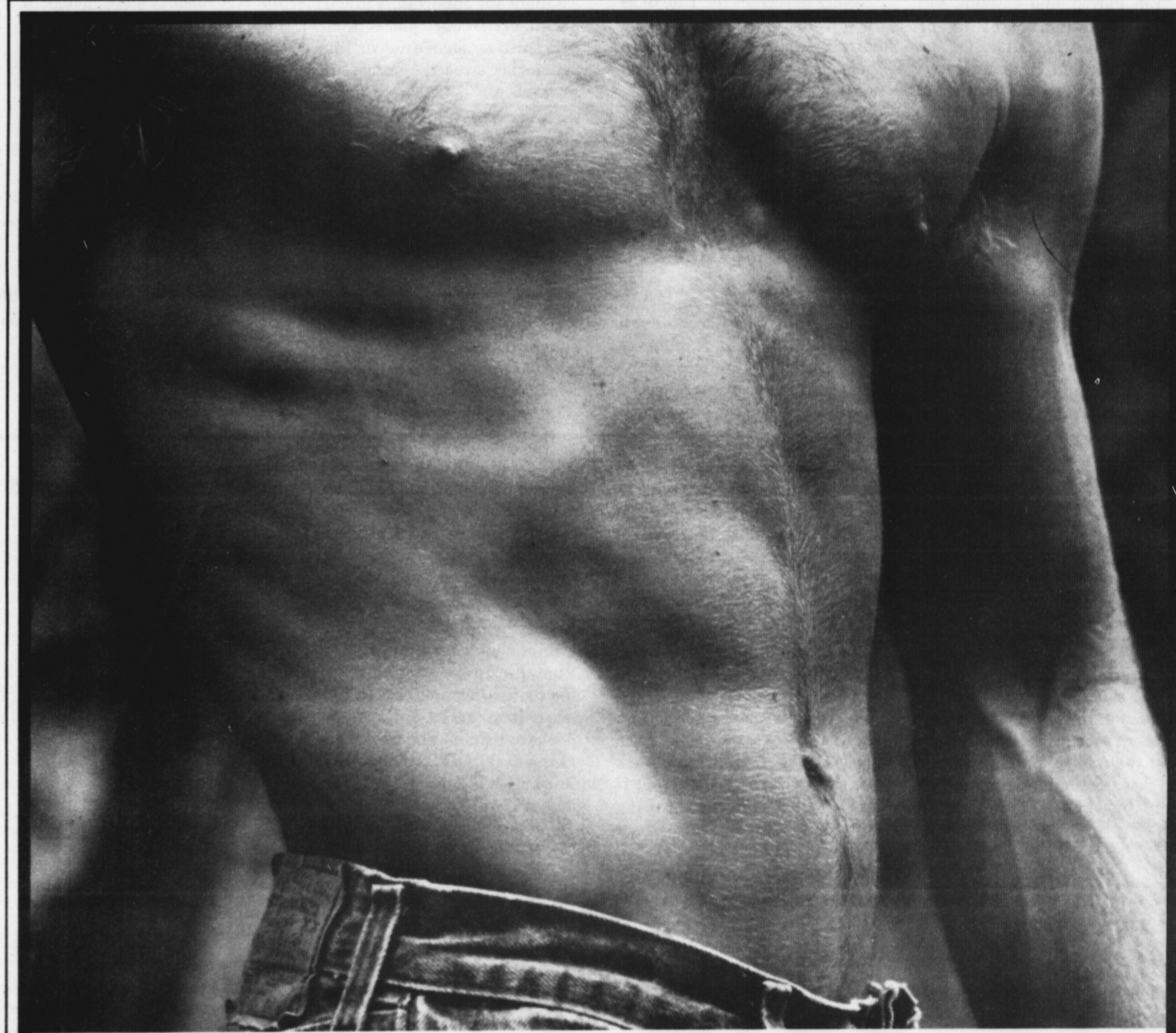
Bowling

(Continued from previous page)

Japantown Bowl is located at 1790 Post St., at the corner of Post and Webster. There is plenty of free parking in a garage located across the street from the bowling center.



For more information, contact Don George (495-7848), Elizabeth Yesowitch (753-2918), Robyn Trost (530-3539) or Chuck Adkins (457-9843).



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Campbell

(Continued from page 29)

strangely at odds with the flow of the piece. Blomstedt provided sympathetic support and the orchestra never detracted. It was clearly the soloist who needs to rethink his approach.

Dedicated "To the Memory of an Angel," the Violin Concerto was intended as a requiem for Manon Gropius, the 18-year-old daughter of Alma Mahler-Werfel.

Berg revived the great composer Gustav Mahler and so, was attached to his wife, Alma. His affection extended to Alma's lovely and talented daughter by marriage to architect Walter Gropius.

It seems everyone who knew Manon fell under her charming spell, and Berg was deeply shaken when she died from the spinal paralysis resulting from her contraction of poli.

The concerto is a lyric outpouring, filled with anguish, but ultimately soothed and comforted by a quotation from a chorale by Bach, "Es ist genug!" (It is enough!). Berg's harmonization with Bach's adventurous chromaticism is exquisitely subtle and, in the right hands, wonderfully moving.

Lin played well enough, but without much emotion or strength and his attack of the long sustained final note was painfully under the mark. He struggled to his target and finally was on pitch by the conclusion, but the effect was spoiled and the audience seemed more than a little bewildered.

It might have been no more than an off night, still Lin definitely requires more rehearsal and interpretive insight before he can comfortably include the Berg Concerto in his repertoire.

For anyone who complains that the symphony keeps programming the same old same

old, the upcoming performances of Shostakovich's massive Symphony No. 4 should provide a healthy jolt.

Among the amazing canon of 15, the Fourth remains one of the least understood and undervalued. Written at a time when the composer was justifiably worried about the political climate in Russia, it was suppressed by him in the fear that it might provide the authorities the damning evidence they needed to silence his music forever.

Pravda had condemned the once wildly popular opera *Lady Macbeth of the Mtsensk District* as a "cacophony of chaotic, nonsensical sounds," and Shostakovich's friendship with marshal Tukhachevsky, executed by Stalin during the 1937 purges, gave him good reason to fear a failure with the Fourth Symphony.

The composer officially blamed Conductor Fritz Siedry for misunderstanding the score and called the rehearsals not merely bad, but outrageous.

Shostakovich waited 26 years to hear the work premiered and, by that time, it was overshadowed by the triumphant Fifth Symphony and other successful works.

In *Music and Musical Life in Soviet Russia, 1917-70*, Boris Schwarz describes the Fourth as "a volcanic eruption, the eruption of an unbridled imagination, spewing forth music almost at random."

One can only agree that it is a work of visionary power and disturbing, at the very least.

The Fourth Symphony requires a huge orchestra, and it will be interesting to see which "first call" players join the regulars when Gunther Herbig takes the podium to conduct at Davies Hall, Thursday through Saturday, Oct. 19-21. It promises to be a major highlight of the season. Mozart's Symphony No. 25 will also be on the program. ▼

Self-Defense

(Continued from page 25)

you're carrying: keys, magazines, a book, cane or umbrella, a pen, or as in past days, a belt. Since none of these items are illegal, they are easily obtained as well as concealed until needed.

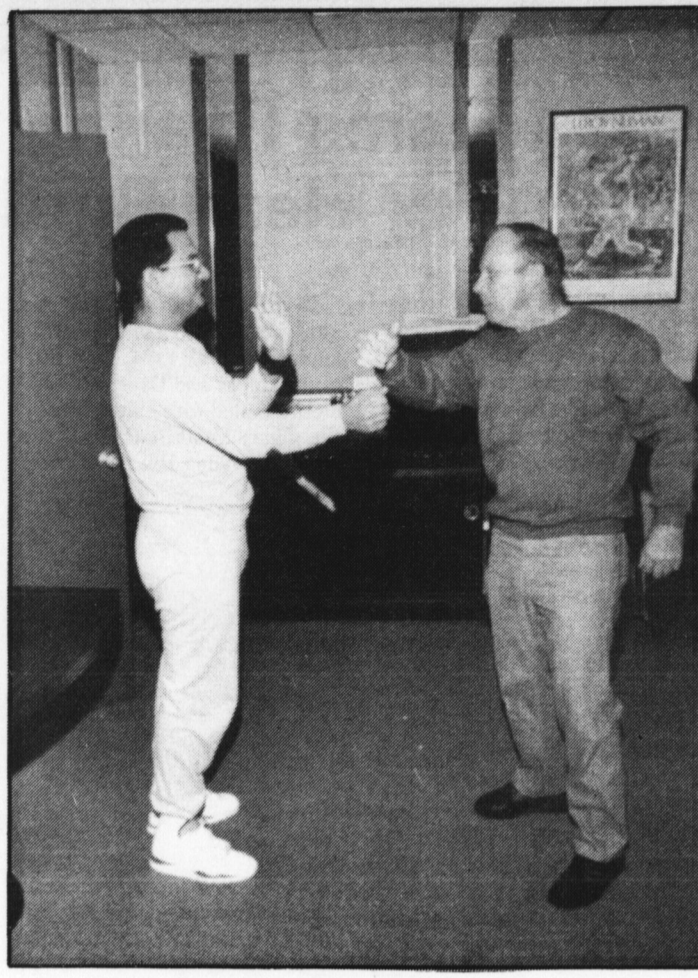
Keys can be positioned within a fist and can pose quite a threat if hit on the face and hands. A pen to the eye area will certainly stop anyone long enough to escape. An umbrella or cane can knock them off their feet, and a good shot to their shins could keep them from chasing you. The leather or Garrison belt from the '50s can be swung overhead until enough speed has built up, and who would mess with a 30 mile an hour metal buckle? A handbag or purse can be rammed into the groin. And, we all know that what's carried in purses should be licensed.

Dewart, with more than 20 years of training in the martial arts, is one of San Francisco's Tae Kwon Do experts. He wants his students to feel comfortable using a few techniques.

The course of passive resistance comprises preventive measures as well as ways to diffuse the assailant. The best way to stop an attack is to not give the assailant any opportunity to start an attack. Dewart places these preventive measures in four categories: street, home, car and workplace.

Street. Don't be on it if your awareness is impaired. Walk with confidence, with purpose and briskly. Face traffic, don't wear headphones, stay in familiar neighborhoods, preferably well lighted.

Home. Always ask who is at the door. Never leave a message on your answering machine that states you are not home. Never give your phone number when a wrong number calls, ask them which number they are dialing. If



Practicing the scissor technique to jar a knife out of the hand of an assailant... see the knife fly. (Photo: Darlene/PhotoGraphics)

you ever suspect some change in your apartment or home, either in smell, sound or lights that you might have left on, leave immediately! Go to a friend or ask them not to see you. Often your "gut" reaction is the right one. It may save your life.

Car. Keep your car in good shape. Breakdowns on the road can place you in danger, either from those who stop, or those who don't see you. Keep a can of flat-fixers handy, a quick safe answer to a dangerous roadside hazard. Check the backseat.

Workplace. Make sure that if you're working late that security personnel know and are aware of

you and your location. Make sure others are working also. When you leave your work area, notify a co-worker where you are going.

Dewart will be having workshops on Oct. 21 and 28 in San Francisco. The fee for two consecutive sessions, 4 hours each, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. will be \$50. Up to 26 people can enroll. Fees from the 12th through 26th persons will be donated to the AIDS Emergency Fund. For information call 864-4827 or 459-0318. Please mention that you've seen this *The Bay Area Reporter* article to enter this class that benefits the AIDS Emergency Fund. ▼

Censorship

(Continued from page 25)

speech continue.

The lesbian-owned Naiad Press has also been a target for censorship.

"We've had lots of books banned," publisher Barbara Grier said. "My experience has been for the most part that it doesn't succeed, and all it does is get you a lot of publicity, which makes people feel sorry for you and buy books. The most for-

tunate banning we had was when the Archbishop of Boston banned *Lesbian Nuns*. I consider that the best fun we've ever had. It caused the book to sell like crazy."

Citing the public outcry in the United States surrounding the Salman Rushdie affair, Grier says, "We are a people who do not like or respect censorship. When a bunch of people come up and say, 'We're going to burn these books,' it still brings back too many visions of World War II with Hitler's Youth throwing

books onto the burning pile. There's a fairly strong undercurrent of people who basically feel that the right to read is what's in question and that everyone has the right to read."

Ed Hermance of Giovanni's Room, the Philadelphia gay and lesbian bookstore, became an "undicted co-conspirator" in the British customs case in 1984 when he sent an order of gay books to Britain. The British government seized \$20,000 worth of books, and Gay's the Word owners were faced with jail

sentences, charged with conspiracy. All charges were dropped two years later.

"The British said, 'Reimport these one by one, send us a copy of each, and we will tell you whether we will seize it or not.'"

This procedure of "preapproval" is in the courts now. Laws about importing books from Europe are different from the laws for importing from the United States, adding to the confusion.

"The stores in Britain that buy from us don't buy as much as they normally would because of the harassment," Hermance said.

Britain is not the only censor, however.

"U.S. customs in Philadelphia has over the last year and a half seized nine issues of *Gai Pied*, the French magazine, and every time we have asked for those magazines—that is, appealed the seizure—the U.S. attorney's office has returned them to us. It's never been to court. Nobody at the customs office will say why they seize something."

Hermance says he feels the situation is getting worse, beginning from the time of the Meese Commission report.

Canadian customs officials have also been seizing gay material. Glad Day in Toronto, L'Androgynie in Montreal and Little Sisters in Vancouver have all had problems receiving American gay and lesbian books.

But it's not a specifically bookstore sort of censorship problem, says Hermance—rather, it's a general censorship

problem that gays run into all the time.

"When Bayard Rustin died there were obituaries on the front pages of the *Philadelphia Enquirer*, the *Washington Post*, the *New York Times*, and every other big newspaper in the country, and not one of them said anything about his being gay or how he had worked in gay organizations for the last 10 or 15 years. So there's just that suppression of information. I think that's really as big a problem about censorship—the failure to state the obvious."

Hermance says that judging by the gay and lesbian clientele at Giovanni's Room, the gay and lesbian community itself is growing more tolerant of free speech.

"It used to be that people would complain about this or that on the shelves about once a month; now it's about once a year. Gay people have been told long enough what not to read, and I think they've had enough of it."

Wooly's words of isdom

Wooly's words of isdom

INSPIRATIONAL GOSSIP

If you know all the people Who are friends I often see, If you can't speak well about them, Come sit here next to me.

—Bob Woolhouse

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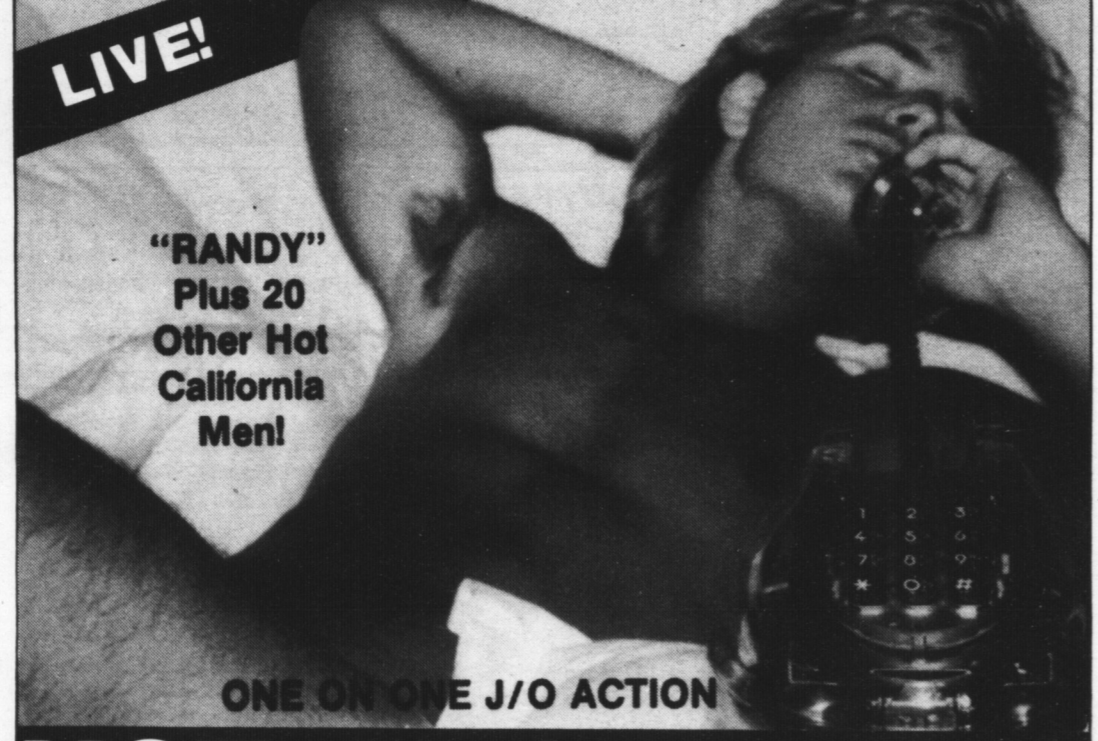
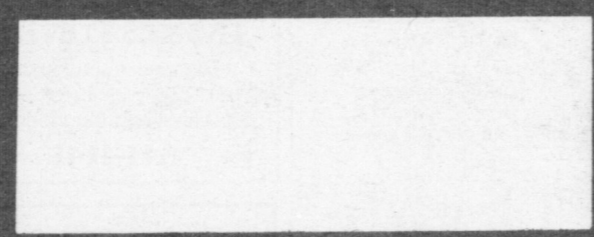
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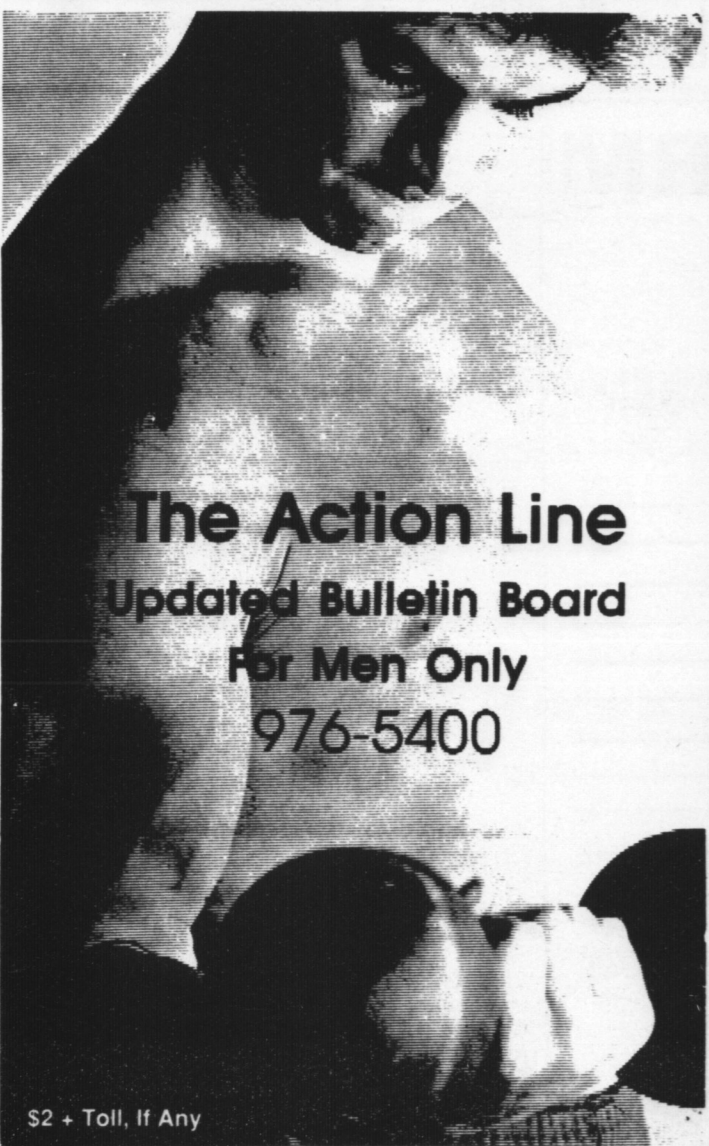
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BAY AREA REPORTER

VOL. XIX NO. 42 OCTOBER 19, 1989

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CASTRO CALM IN WAKE OF KILLER QUAKE

by Henry Mach

While Castro residents with flashlights and flares directed traffic Tuesday night at the corner of Castro and 18th streets and the neighborhood Walgreen's offered free batteries and wishes of "Have a safe night," others drank beer at the doorway of Castro Station bar.

A gay man who passed through the neighborhood an hour after the 7.0 earthquake, which rocked the Bay Area Tuesday, Oct. 17, at 5:04 p.m., reported, "There were crowds in all the bars that opened onto Castro Street."

Neighborhood gays who had already assessed the damage to their homes as little more than shattered pottery and traumatized pets mingled with stranded East Bay commuters, sharing experiences, rumors and anxieties.

The Castro and Mission districts suffered relatively mild damage -- fallen chimneys, jammed doors, backed-up sewers. The Marina district was devastated by fire, and in South of Market, a collapsed building at Sixth and Townsend streets took six lives.

Nearly 300 people were killed throughout the Bay Area, with the heaviest fatalities resulting from the collapse of a half-mile-long section of the Nimitz Freeway in Oakland. A 25-foot section of the Bay Bridge to San Francisco also collapsed.

Another gay resident reported a "communal atmosphere" on Castro Street at 8 p.m. "There was a feeling we'd all been through something together."

At that hour there were lines at Cliff's Hardware, Marcello's Pizza and other establishments that had remained open offering limited service. In nearby locations, residents crowded together on porches or around corner stores that were lit by candles, flashlights or auto headlights.

Reportedly fearing fire hazard from candles, police asked all bars to close at about 9 p.m.

A gay couple who passed through the Castro at 11 p.m. on the night of the quake reported "an eerie quality. No place was open, but people were walking around with flashlights."

Mayor Agnos said, "Crime was way below normal in San Francisco" in the aftermath of the earthquake. Author Rob Goldstein, however, reportedly witnessed two homophobic attacks along Market Street. He said the attacks occurred near the Powell Street BART station as a fundamentalist minister urged passersby to "repent" and blamed the quake on homosexuals.

Castro Aftermath

AGNOS: SEND OCC FINDINGS TO POLICE COMMISSIONERS

Action Would Bypass Chief Jordan

by Dennis Conkin

Mayor Art Agnos has asked the Office of Citizens Complaint to turn over findings concerning the investigation of alleged police brutality and misconduct at an Oct. 6 ACT UP demonstration and police sweep in the Castro directly to the Police Commission, effectively circumventing Police Chief Frank Jordan.

Agnos, in an Oct. 17 statement to the lesbian and gay community, also requested that the OCC determine why there were so many police in the Castro that night, and why the police sweep occurred.

"Since the incident occurred, I've met personally with police officials, including the chief of police, and I have met with eyewitnesses from the community, including ACT UP's police liaison, Bill Haskell," Agnos stated. "What I have heard is deeply disturbing, and if even 25 percent of the allegations turn out to be true, then what happened Oct. 6 is unacceptable."

(Continued on page 2)



Doris Ward appears at the Harvey Milk Democratic Club's annual dinner.
(Photo: Phyllis Christopher)

Ward Deflects Criticism While Speaking Out On Black, Gay Issues

by Karen M. Everett

Alarmed at the decreasing population of African Americans compared to other minority groups in San Francisco, some black leaders have recently criticized Supervisor Doris Ward for supporting gay issues—such as the domestic partners ballot initiative—at the perceived expense of black concerns. Ward, one of two black members of the Board of Supervisors, dismisses the charges and has announced plans next month to assemble the city's black and gay leaders in an unparalleled effort to turn the two communities' competition for political clout into cooperation.

"The more conservative side of the black community often takes Doris [Ward] to task for standing up for the rights of lesbians and gays," noted Brandy Moore, vice president of the Black Leadership Forum and an aide to Assembly Speaker Willie Brown.

One of her critics, Rev. Amos Brown, objects in particular to Prop. S, the domestic partners initiative, which Ward champions. "The gay community must keep in mind... that they came to freedom on our backs," said Brown. "Why should they get to the freedom land before we do?"

To the consternation of some black constituents, Ward has been "an absolutely stalwart supporter" of gay issues, according to Larry Bush, the openly gay speechwriter for Mayor Art Agnos.

Last year she alienated some

blacks by campaigning to keep the battleship *Missouri* and the Olympics out of town because both discriminated against gays. Ward won her first of four terms on the San Francisco Board of Supervisors in 1979 by pledging to represent all "second-class citizens."

More recently Ward has irked conservative black leaders with her frequent appearances at black forums in which she has championed the domestic partners legislation as being beneficial for all San Francisco citizens, not just lesbians and gays.

"She's totally on our side," said Dick Pabich, head of the Yes on S campaign. "Doris Ward was totally against homeporting the *Missouri*, whereas blacks, by and large, were in favor of it. She may have offended a one-time constituency of hers by being perceived as too left or too gay."

Leaders of the city's black ministerial brotherhood agree. "I don't think [Ward] is representative of the religious black community," said Rev. Lance Whiteside, president of the San Francisco Religious Council.

San Francisco's black population dropped from 14 percent in 1970 to 9 percent in 1980, according to U.S. Census figures. Once the city's largest minority, blacks now rank fourth. Mayor Art Agnos is handing fewer commission and board appointments to blacks while increasing the number of lesbian and gay appointments nearly 100 percent.

Recently some black

(Continued on page 10)