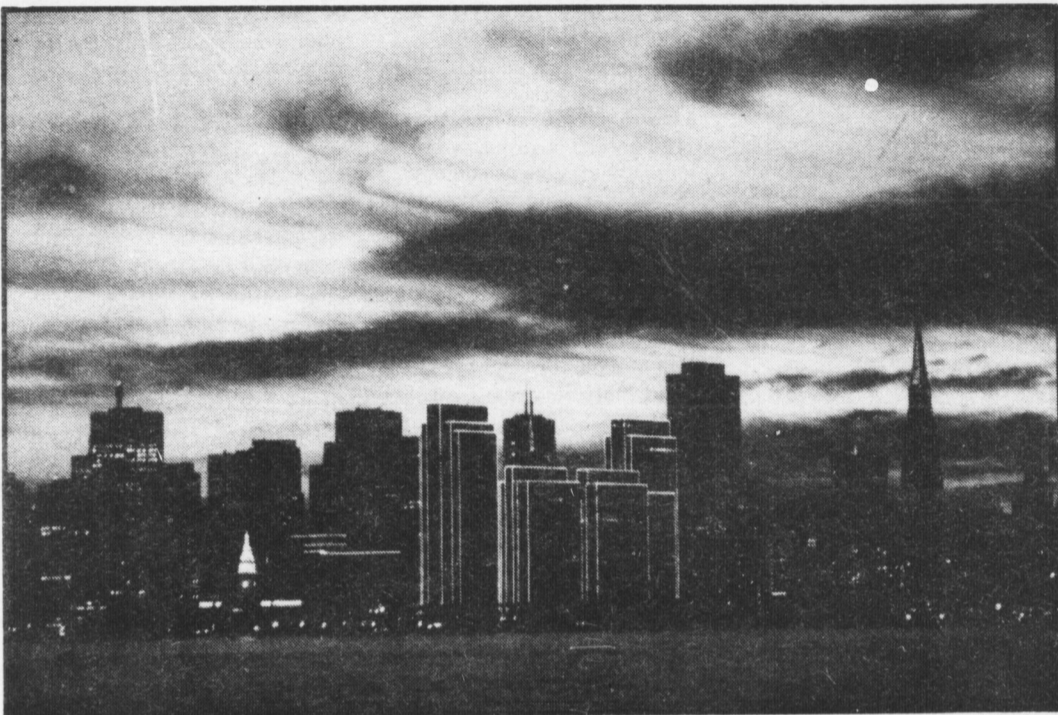


BAY AREA REPORTER

VOL. XIX NO. 1 JANUARY 5, 1989

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The Sun Has Set on 1988

Photographer Robert Pruzan travelled across the bay to catch this moment in the life of the city of San Francisco. May 1989 find you happy and healthy.

1988 in Review

Many Demonstrations and Deaths, Legislation, Political Crusade in News

by Jay Newquist

The year 1988 began with the inauguration of Assemblyman Art Agnos as mayor of San Francisco, but the mood quickly turned somber with the first of many deaths last year from AIDS, Sheldon Andelson, a titan of the gay movement for 30 years. Political newcomer Roberta Achtenberg made a run for the Assembly seat of Agnos. The murder of George Smoot crept into the headlines and would become a major *cause celebre* of the gay community. And a member of the Presidential AIDS Commission blasted the Reagan administration's lack of commitment to fight AIDS once and for all. A staggering total of 82 AIDS bills was introduced into the California Legislature. The number of people memorialized on the AIDS Quilt then stood at 4,000.

A lesbian settled her anti-discrimination suit against the Defense Investigative Service and was reinstated to her supervisory post, receiving \$3,000 in back pay. Jean Kovalich did not

receive the wholehearted support of the gay community, since, as supervisor of investigators, she probed into the lives of other DIS employees, including lesbian and gay men. The capitulation of the

government did not mean that DIS will automatically grant security clearances to gay people in its employ. "The government is out to get us," said Kovalich's lawyer. (Continued on page 19)



(Photo: PhotoGraphics/Darlene)

Dignity to Challenge Priest's Appointment To Rights Commission

To Invoke City Ordinance on Bias

by Allen White

Dignity/San Francisco, the organization of gay Roman Catholics, is planning to demand that Mayor Art Agnos remove Father Peter Sammon from the city's Human Rights Commission. The action, which is expected in the next few days, is the first of many actions Dignity is planning following their expulsion from the archdiocesan church properties last month.

"This is an opportunity to take the gloves off and go after the church's stand against discrimination against gay and lesbian Catholics," said Jim Lonergan, co-chair of Dignity/San Francisco. Dan Cota, the other co-chair of the Dignity chapter, said, "Dignity is all too often trying to work within the system, and I think we have made too many concessions out of undo respect—and that era is over."

Cota confirmed that they have lawyers working to prepare the appropriate process to have Sammon removed from the Human Rights Commission. Their strategy is built around the laws which

prohibit the city from doing business with any organization that discriminates against gay men and lesbians.

Dignity's argument is almost exactly the same argument promoted by Mayor Agnos when he stated his opposition to the homeporting of the battleship *Missouri* in San Francisco. In that case, he stated a major reason the *Missouri* should not come to the city is that the Navy discriminates against gays.

Cota added, "I cannot fathom why Art Agnos appointed a Catholic priest to the Human Rights Commission when the Catholic Church is so anti-human rights, anti-gay rights, and so anti-the city charter."

Lonergan said, "We are going to pursue challenging that appointment. Father Sammon represents an organization that discriminates against lesbian and gay people. We are going to investigate the charter and see if we can legally block his appointment."

The choice of Sammon as a target for Dignity has many im-

(Continued on page 23)

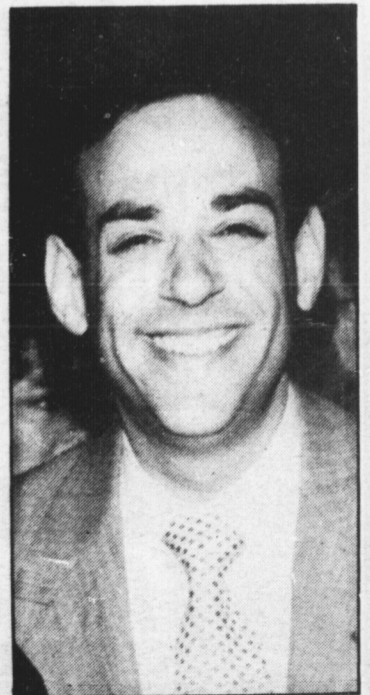
Sour Notes

Controversy Over Obituary Boils Into Homophobic Rage

by Allen White

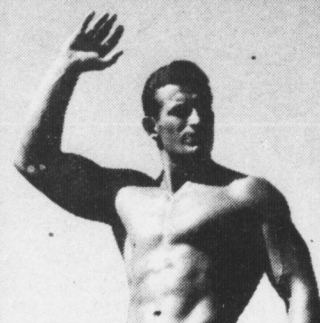
The little community of Pacifica, just south of San Francisco, has been the location for a war of words on the subject of homophobia, anti-Semitism and the AIDS health crisis. The combatants are San Francisco piano dealer Russell Kassman and a small band of local residents. The first shot was fired last July 20 when the Pacifica Tribune newspaper printed five obituaries. The reason for death was stated in four of the five. The fifth, a person with AIDS, died without the Pacifica newspaper readers knowing the cause.

On Aug. 3 Russell Kassman wrote the newspaper, saying they had "a reporting bias in the case of AIDS patients who die." Kassman, who is Jewish, also said the paper "consistently paints a rather sterile, Christian picture of the citizenry of Pacifica." (Continued on page 2)



Russ Kassman. (Photo: Rink)

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Kassman

(Continued from page 1)

He continued, "In addition to your obvious homophobia, in the three years I have read your paper you have yet to run articles about any religious holiday that is not Christian."

Accusing the paper of not running education about AIDS, he asked the question, "Don't you think it is time to bring your editing and reporting staff out of the dark ages?"

For Bill Drake, the paper's publisher, the letter was simply too delicious not to respond immediately. He countered on the same page by stating the paper has reported AIDS as the cause of death in other obituaries.

Drake then said, "In the obituary cited by Kassman, which came to us from Southern California in somewhat abbreviated form, it was our judgment that mention of the ELLIPSE Peninsula AIDS Service within that particular story was sufficient to make the cause of death very clear. Perhaps this was a 'too soft' treatment of the death of a former resident or acquaintance."

But Drake said, "It was no bias."

The following week, on Aug. 10, readers got more action than a *Gerardo* show during ratings week. The letters flowed in.

One reader identified himself as a rider in the 1988 AIDS Bike-A-Thon. He said, "I asked Bill Drake if he would help recruit riders for this year's event." He then explained that the newspaper had published a story encouraging riders to participate, displayed a poster, and was one of two Pacifica locations where riders could pick up applications.

One Pacifica resident said she was an employee on the AIDS ward at San Francisco General Hospital and that "Some would prefer, as many Hollywood stars, to have their privacy respected... Why does it have to be yelled from the rooftops that (he) died of AIDS?"

But another resident wrote to complain that Kassman didn't use his opportunity "to state the basic cause of AIDS and where it is still largely centered." He said, "It is fashionable to condemn smoking, but considered bigoted to be critical of promiscuous sodomy that remains the primary cause of the spread of AIDS among homosexuals."

He continued, "If there were no homosexuals and no drug-shooting, probably there would be no AIDS."

Kassman also returned on the attack, and the paper gave him the space. He said the paper "failed miserably to explain exactly how my allegations were less than accurate in regards to your publishing policy, especially in regards to AIDS."

"Your casual reference in the obituary," said Kassman, "surely was not sufficient in identifying him as an AIDS patient. Your implication that it was enough 'to make the cause of death perfectly clear' implies that unless one died of AIDS, their concerned and bereaved family and friends would never consider donating to an AIDS service organization."

Then, for three months, the pages of the Pacifica Tribune settled down. That was until the paper chose to write a feature on Kassman for their Dec. 14 issue.

Kassman is the same person who owns the multimillion-dollar piano business that counts the San Francisco Opera and the San Francisco Symphony as accounts.

Mt. Zion Hospital Opens Special AIDS Ward

A 12-bed AIDS unit was dedicated Dec. 1 on World AIDS Day at Mount Zion Hospital and Medical Center. The 10-room unit, which has eight private rooms and two semi-private rooms, has been operational since August and at present serves six AIDS patients.

The average number of AIDS patients on the refurbished Ward 5 North has ranged from four to 11. The unit also has a family lounge, staff-patient conference room and satellite nurse's station.

"We are all here to make sure that the many needs of our patients are met, whether those needs be medical, social or spiritual," said Susan Haikalis, Mount Zion's director of Patient and Family Services.

The AIDS cluster unit will utilize a team approach to patient treatment, including the participation of the patient, loved ones, the patient's physician, an infectious disease physician, staff doctors, nurses and a social worker.

AIDS volunteers will provide

emotional support, run errands and provide peer counseling.

Mount Zion currently treats 400 AIDS patients elsewhere in the hospital and in addition to the new AIDS ward offers an infectious disease clinic and a respiratory therapy outpatient clinic where more than 85 AIDS patients are treated against pneumocystis with experimental aerosol pentamidine.

A six-month experimental treatment program using AZT and Ribavirin will also get underway after Jan. 1.

Dr. W. Lawrence Drew is also conducting ongoing research into the increased incidence of cytomegalovirus (CMV) and its complications among AIDS patients.

Dr. Drew is studying to see if CMV may be associated with KS in AIDS patients and whether it may be a key factor in activating latent HIV infection.

Information about Mount Zion's AIDS services is available by calling 885-7777.

Each December the 68 pianos leased by the symphony and the opera go on sale. Last Dec. 3 was no different, as several dozen people put up premium bucks to say they own a piano which sat in the dressing room occupied by the likes of Luciano Pavarotti.

The Pacific Tribune feature didn't stick to the music business, though, and sure enough, the typewriters of the town by the sea were at it again.

Kassman chose to give the reporter all the information which could be expected from a secure, openly gay man. He told of his membership in the Harvey Milk Lesbian/Gay Democratic Club, the Bay Area Physicians for Human Rights, and the Golden Gate Business Association.

He mentioned his membership on the San Francisco Holocaust Commission and that his father was a survivor of the Holocaust.

The article also stated, "He [Kassman] said he is seeing the same venom that was directed toward Jews in the 1930s being aimed at gays and lesbians today."

Last week letters were hand-delivered to Kassman's home, and he began to receive threatening phone calls at his office. This time the writers chose to take off the gloves.

One man wrote the newspaper to say, "I am very definitely dismayed to have to be exposed to the filthy drivel of the homosexual Russell Kassman."

He went to great length to expose Pacifica Tribune readers to a rather bizarre portrait of a gay man's sex life. He stated that "the average homosexual has 2,000 liaisons in a lifetime, or that they may have as many as 30 anonymous encounters in a single weekend." He continued, "There is never any public discussion about 'rimming.' There is no talk about their bestiality."

He states that "the homosexual lobby is pushing for the age of consent to be lowered to 16 so they can legally sodomize young boys." The letter, which appeared last week, also states, "Watch out, people, if they are allowed to continue with this attitude and strategy, it may be your children

or grandchildren who are next."

Another writer said, "I find the homosexual community's hatred and fierce opposition of all things Christian—now that's phobial!" She then said she was "deeply saddened" that the paper did an article on Kassman.

She asked, "What would most parents do if they knew high school authorities across the nation are introducing 'gay couples' to their family?... It's happening," she wrote. "You are not allowed to ask the couple what transpires between them physically or to make any God-oriented comments."

She closed by urging Kassman to "educate himself by drawing close to God" and by saying that "He can change Mr. Kassman from indulging in homosexuality."

The Pacifica Tribune invited Kassman to respond. He did, and his reply was longer than several books of the Bible.

He methodically answered each of the charges on a point-by-point basis. At its conclusion, he stated, "I fail to see exactly what, in the Tribune article about me, brought all of this venom to the surface. Perhaps, since the article portrays a successful gay man who is a responsible member of the community and one who does not fit the zealots' bigoted stereotype, they are concerned that their homophobic rhetoric will have less impact."

He continued, "They will probably be dismayed to learn that, here in Pacifica, we have gay and lesbian doctors, gay and lesbian merchants, gay and lesbian city officials, and, biggest shock of all, gay and lesbian clergy."

Kassman concluded, "Surely being gay or lesbian today and being proud of one's achievements is much easier than in the past. However, letters such as these and the threatening phone calls I have received make me more determined to achieve a greater level of understanding in our community among all of our citizens and across all our ethnic and social boundaries. I see I have much work to do."

This week the letter writers of Pacifica get an opportunity to get off some more shots.

Happy 1989, San Francisco Partygoers Toast New Year

by Allen White

New Year's Eve for 1988 was a time of new beginnings as thousands of people made their way from party to party throughout the Bay Area. The largest gay party in San Francisco was the highly successful AIDS service organization benefit, "San Francisco Under Glass," at One Market Plaza. At \$19.89 per person, thousands gathered at the lower Market Street location to dance in the new year and benefit the AIDS Emergency Fund and Project Open Hand.

The event was successful as a fundraiser and for its ability to bring together so many people representing the diversity of the community. For some it was a time for dancing, while others found the venue ideal for conversation and a time for socializing.

Hampering the event was the emergence of the seemingly ageless problem of slow service. Lines stretched out on the dance floor, with waits of over 30 minutes for a drink not uncommon.

In the early morning hours, the crowd was treated to a special performance of the Weather Girls. The women have been favorites in San Francisco for over a decade. They were known as Two Tons of Fun when they sang with Sylvester. They later became successful with their "It's Raining Men" rendition as they changed to the Weather Girls.

The success of the Weather Girls and the nostalgic music of the S.F. Under Glass party served as a striking contrast to the event at Hero, the new Fourth Street dance club.

Hero is the creation primarily of Ron Baer and Steve Fabus, who have, in the last 1 1/2 years, turned the Sunday night Dreamland parties into commercial and artistic successes.

Hero, which opened a few

weeks ago, had been going through the equivalent of dress rehearsals. New Year's Eve was opening night. "It is a delicate move forward," Ron Baer said.

What has happened to the first major move by a large gay dance club to go beyond the world of disco into the contemporary sounds of "live 105" and KMEL? Unlike the Box, the Stud, or the Phoenix, which have turned to a contemporary sound, this club demands at least a thousand customers a night for success.

At One Market Plaza, the minutes surrounding the midnight hour were filled with the music of "Never Can Say Goodbye" and "That's What Friends Are For." At the same time, the music at Hero was brand-new record cuts only weeks old. Disco is definitely dead at Hero. There is an attempt to create a new market that holds on to the dancer of the old disco



The scene at One Market Plaza.

(Photo: PhotoGraphics/Darlene)

palaces while appealing to a younger gay audience.

Another special event for many gay consumers was the k.d. lang concert at the Fillmore. It was unquestionably women's night as the country singer from Canada played to an enthusiastic, capacity audience. Sharing in the applause and the cheers of the evening was Marga Gomez. This

was an important date for the lesbian comic, as she was acclaimed by the critics as well as the audience.

Activity began early and stayed busy in the Castro, as well as other gay districts throughout the city. The lines seemed never to stop at the Stud on Harrison. On Polk Street, hundreds crammed into Kimo's for their special

entertainment, while, down the street, others listened to Bob Sandner at the New Bell.

Over on 14th Street, Jose was in fully glory as the hostess of the evening at the Galleon. Other gay restaurants reported capacity crowds. Those attempting last-minute reservations found they were out of luck at many gay restaurants.

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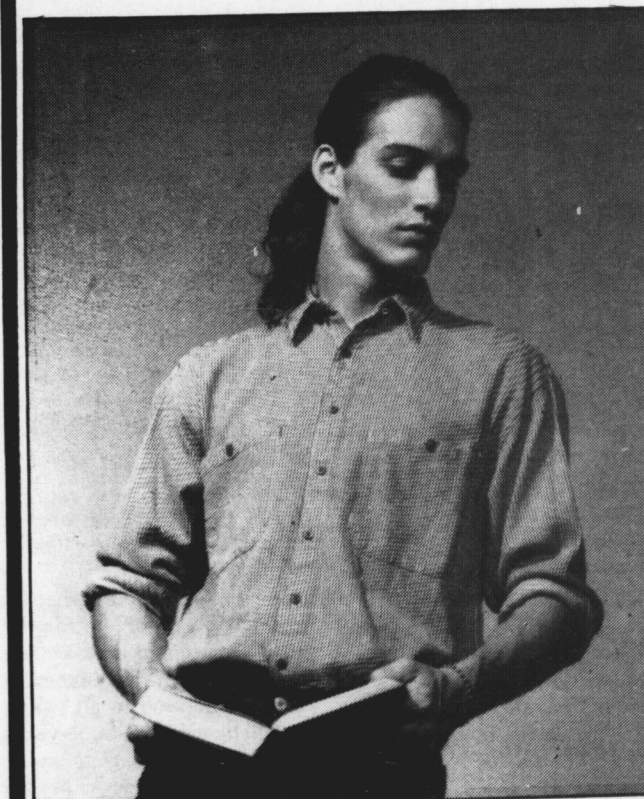
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Britt Assumes Leadership Of Board for Next 2 Years

Presidency Second Most Powerful Post in City

by Allen White

History will be made next Monday, Jan. 9, as Harry Britt becomes the first openly gay president of the San Francisco Board of Supervisors. Following the swearing-in ceremonies, he will take his place as the city's second most powerful elected official. As board president, he will set the tone for the Board of Supervisors for the next two years. His new role gives him the power to influence every law that is passed, every dollar that is spent, and many city government appointments.

He also increases his personal position as one of the leading gay politicians in the country. "If my election shows anything, I hope it shows that gay people who want to be leaders on the highest level in this city can do it," said Britt.

"Whatever vestiges of the closet that are left to us, we should get rid of them, because the city needs us. What we have done around AIDS is a gift to the whole country, and we have to do that same kind of thing. We have lesbians and gay men in leadership roles in every part of the life of this city. In business, in the arts, the unions, the religious institutions. In the next decade, we are in the leadership role in this city, and all those who went before opened those doors for us. We owe it to them to walk through those doors proudly and strongly."

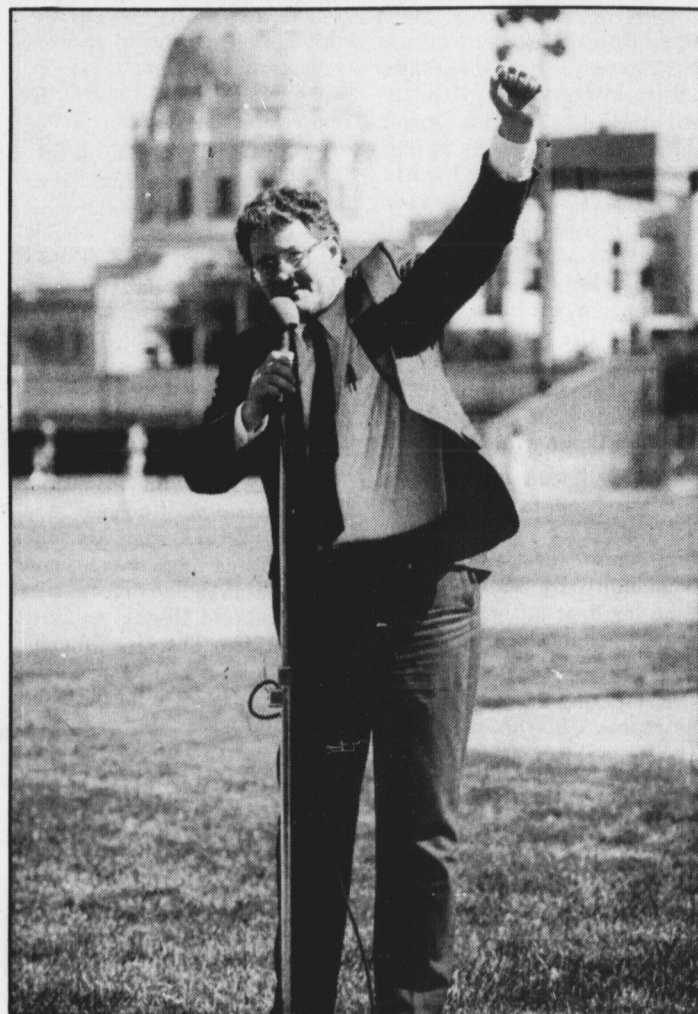
Britt noted that "in terms of the office, it means that I will be the official representative of the City of San Francisco in a lot of situations. My name will appear on every proclamation issued by this board."

"We interact with thousands of people in a year, and all that interaction will have a gay person at the top of it, and everybody will know that I'm gay. I think that everyone who knows me, knows I'm gay. So symbolically it creates an identification."

Britt emphasized that that symbolism is important. "Not that people will think that San Francisco is a gay city. That is not accurate," he said. "But that the idea that a city will elect a gay person to its second highest office sends a message to politicians all over the country that they can associate with our community and it won't hurt them. We have had to make that statement over and over again, that when gay people do their political work correctly, we are an asset, not a liability to the system."

Beyond the symbolism, Harry Britt becomes the second most powerful elected official in the San Francisco government. He has made that role even more important because of the strong ties he has built with Mayor Art Agnos. The makeup of the board's committees are structured to merge the progressive goals of Mayor Agnos with the similar views of Britt. Both have taken great care in the last few months to strike a harmonious tone.

When he came in as the top vote-getter last November, Britt said, "Certainly, with Art as



Supervisor Harry Britt.

(Photo: J. Dusch)

mayor, I don't have any more important job in the next term than to make sure that this mayor succeeds. The message I have heard as I've gone around the city has been that, whatever your politics, people in this city want Mayor Agnos to succeed."

A pleased Agnos responded, "I look forward to putting together an agenda that has been somewhat delayed during my first 11 months. We will make up for lost time next year."

It is this new relationship which will most likely see domestic partnership legislation become a reality in San Francisco. Work has been going on in the mayor's office and Britt's office for weeks. When introduced, it will be structured to go swiftly through the Board of Supervisors and to the mayor for signature. Some form of vacancy control is also expected to now easily move through the government system.

For Harry Britt, becoming president of the Board of Supervisors is the culmination of over a decade of public service as a gay community leader. In the mid-'70s, Britt arrived in San Francisco. Having lived most of his life in Texas, he was an ordained Methodist minister. In San Francisco, he worked at the Post Office and later as a night clerk at the Hilton Hotel.

His night job at the Hilton gave him the day to quickly become involved in the thriving political activities being launched from the Castro district. Harvey Milk had bolted the Alice B. Toklas Democratic Club and, with Britt and others, founded the San Francisco Gay Democratic Club. Harvey Milk was on his

way to being San Francisco's first openly gay elected official and creating history. Milk was elected in November 1977.

Milk used the club to establish a political base, and Harry Britt soon became the president of the club. On Nov. 27, 1978, Milk and Mayor George Moscone were assassinated in their City Hall offices.

The club was renamed the Harvey Milk Gay Democratic Club. When Dianne Feinstein became the new mayor of San Francisco, one of her first steps was to appoint Harry Britt to complete the term of Harvey Milk.

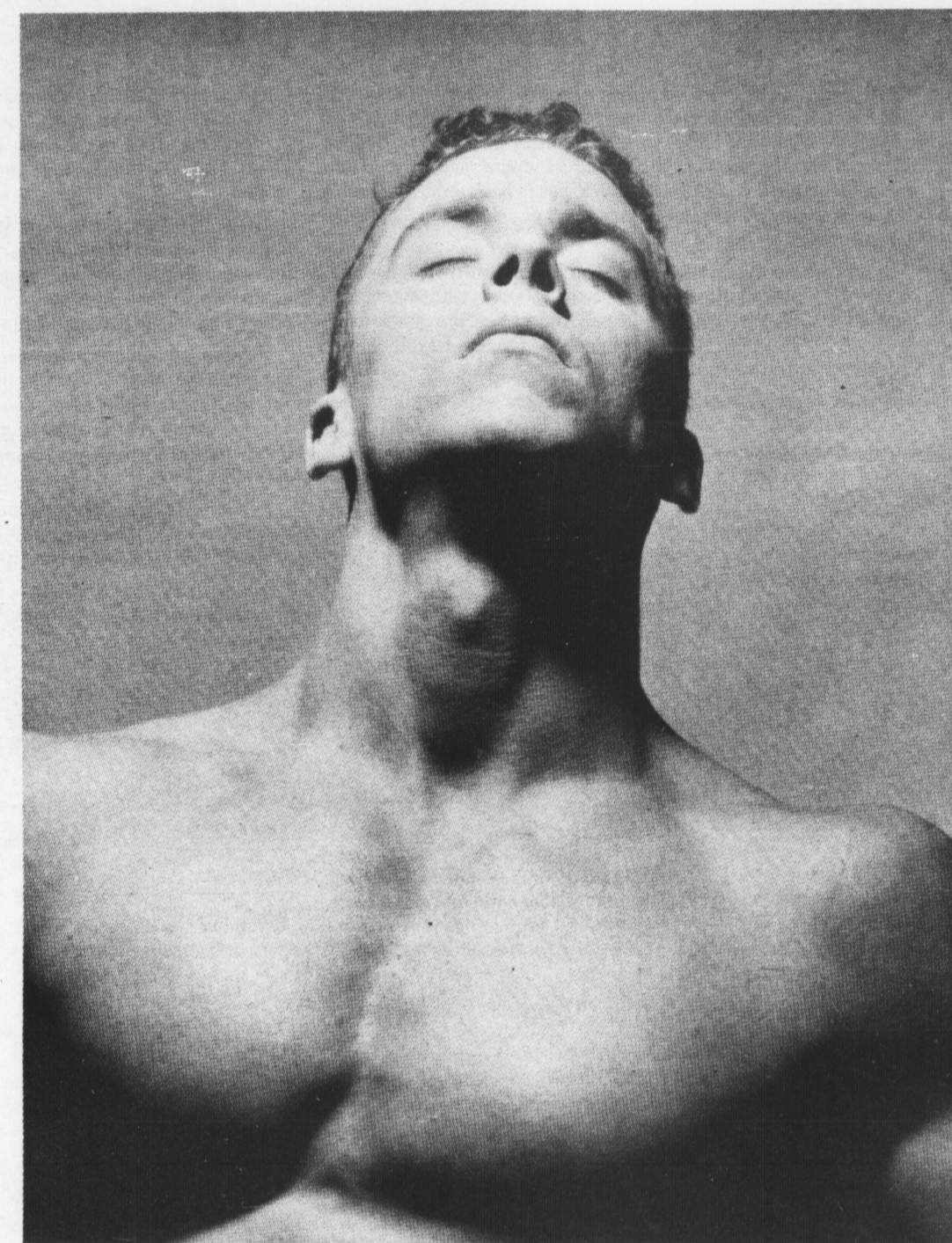
At the time, supervisors were elected by district, and the Castro and the Haight were part of District 6. In 1979 Britt defeated Terrance Hallinan and, for the first time, won political office on his own. It is the same Hallinan who will next week become a Britt ally on the new board.

Britt's consistent record as a progressive in San Francisco politics has assured him reelection. His only loss was in 1987 in a bid for Congress. What he gained from that race was a sizable number of volunteers. Many of those volunteers worked in last November's supervisor campaign.

Ten years later, Harry Britt continues to remember Harvey Milk. As a gay man who next becomes the president of the board, Britt stated, "Harvey's dream for us was that we get rid of all the obstacles that keep us from being first-class citizens. After ten years, we are there in this city." ▼

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EXECUTIVE & EDITORIAL OFFICES:
395 Ninth Street
San Francisco, CA
94103-3831

TELEPHONES:
(415) 861-5019/861-7230

PUBLISHER:
Bob Ross

NEWS EDITOR:
Ray O'Loughlin

FEATURES EDITOR:
Will Snyder

ASSOCIATE EDITOR:
Jay Newquist

FINE ARTS EDITOR:
George Heymont

POLITICAL EDITOR:
Wayne Friday

OFFICE MANAGER:
Tony Lindsey

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING:
Ann S. West

PRODUCTION MANAGER:
Dianne Gregory

CAMERA:
Michael Jay Goldberg

PRODUCTION ARTIST:
Richard Burt

TYPESETTING:
Robert Triptow, Chal Cochran

CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHERS:
Scott Martin,
Photo Graphics/Darlene,
Robert Pruzan, Rink,
Steve Savage

CARTOONISTS:
David Brady, Frisch

AUDITOR/ACCOUNTANT:
Robert J. Derr, C.P.A.

CONTRIBUTORS:
Les Balmain, Philip Campbell,
Gregory Douthwaite,
William Francis, Robert Frank,
Wayne Friday, Mark Friese,
Hal Herkenhoff,
Wayne Herrford,
George Heymont,
Mike Hippler, Frank J. Howell,
John Karr, M.anda Kolbe,
David Lambie, Ron Larsen,
Henry Mach, Mr. Marcus,
Dennis McMillan,
Richard McPherson, Nez Pas,
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EDITORIAL & OPINION

Summing Up the Year

The custom at this time of year is to look back over the past 12 months and try to make some sense of what happened. It's not easy to gain any proper perspective on events as they are happening—and a lot happened in 1988. We rushed or were force-marched from one battle to another. But even a quick glance back reveals a number of accomplishments despite the attacks on our community and some defeats.

In 1988 we saw the first significant and comprehensive federal action on the AIDS epidemic. It was a battle, complete with a cliffhanger finish, but the U.S. Congress did enact the provision of Rep. Henry Waxman's Federal AIDS Policy Act. The law continues anonymous HIV-testing and expedites medical research.

After seven years, our national leadership finally has begun to grasp the seriousness of AIDS. The Presidential Commission on AIDS that was designed to fail was salvaged by Admiral James D. Watkins. He turned in an excellent and thorough report on the crisis despite the flakes on the panel.

Vice Pres. (now Pres.-elect) George Bush was reported as endorsing many of the positive recommendations of the Watkins Report, such as antidiscrimination protections for those with AIDS. How far Bush will go in leading the "kinder, gentler" nation he spoke about on the campaign trail is the number-one question now.

A number of court rulings went our way in 1988. The U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals ruled in favor of Sgt. Perry Watkins, saying that the Army cannot discriminate against gays as a class. But that landmark ruling was put on hold when the court decided to rehear the case. The new ruling could uphold or expand or repeal the first ruling.

A more certain victory came when federal courts decided that people with AIDS were covered by federal law prohibiting discrimination against the handicapped.

The federal scientific bureaucracy began to move a bit faster last year on releasing potential treatments for AIDS and other illnesses. That move by the FDA to expedite their investigation of new drugs was prompted by a series of protests by a new group called ACT UP.

Militant civil disobedience gained in popularity in 1988. In October, the FDA headquarters near Washington were shut down for a day. But across the nation, people fed up with the delays in research took their anger to the streets. And government agencies weren't the only targets. Drug manufacturers such as Burroughs-Wellcome also saw protesters march into their offices, claiming the companies were profiteering in the face of suffering.

OPINION

Tap-Dancing Past Midnight

by Tristano Palermio

It's 2 a.m. I am a man with AIDS who cannot sleep. I am angry and appalled. Though the night is cold, my bed is not empty. I have the love and compassion of my lover David, a man who also has AIDS.

Following our visit to the Quilt at Moscone Center, David and I stopped by KRON, the local NBC affiliate that was about to air the controversial show *Midnight Caller*. Protest signs and graffiti were the remnants we found of a demonstration earlier that evening that blocked traffic on Van Ness Avenue. Protesters stormed into the lobby of the television station, an action that led to the arrest of six people.

When the controversy surrounding this episode first surfaced, I was disturbed to learn that the fictional story involves a bisexual man intentionally infecting people with AIDS. *Midnight Caller* series protagonist Jack, a late-night radio DJ, hunts him down. The setting is San Francisco, 1988.

In the early days of the epidemic, I had been part of the lonely fight by our city to educate its people about preventing the spread of AIDS. With little help from the state or federal government, this city poured millions into AIDS services. My salary as a social worker at the AIDS Foundation was entirely funded by the city's Department of Public Health. Among the more than 200 men and women with AIDS I have counseled, more often than not the issue of whom they may have infected came up.

Contrary to the way *Midnight Caller* dealt with this issue, in my experience there was almost universal remorse and grief expressed concerning who my clients may have infected. No one with the disease whom I have ever met wanted to infect another person.

So at 10 p.m., David and I, like millions of other Americans, sat down to watch *Midnight Caller*. Within minutes, my blood was boiling. The script was worse than my wildest nightmare. Though I had never seen the original script, it was obvious where changes had

In a demonstration of a different sort, the Names Project Quilt toured U.S. cities, east, west, north, south, and in between. It brought the epidemic home in a very real way. Parts of the huge Quilt will ultimately be placed in the Smithsonian Institution's collection for permanent display.

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The city also saw the killing of a gay man, George Smoot, turn into a lurid scandal that eventually brought some veteran cops in for discipline.

Troubles at Shanti Project made headlines, as that organization faced critics and a temporary loss of city funding. The end result was the resignation of director Jim Geary, who had founded the organization in the early '80s.

This year was, of course, the tenth anniversary of the assassinations of Sup. Harvey Milk and Mayor George Moscone. Thousands marched by candlelight from Castro to City Hall to remember two pioneers in gay rights.

Other deaths made the news, as well. Sheldon Andelson, Divine, Leonard Matlovich, Duke Armstrong, and Sylvester were just some of those we lost this past year.

Those are only some of the newswires from 1988. It was not a great year, but it was not without its successes. We suffered some losses, but we have not really been diminished. We are still here and very much alive and full of fight for those who want to be our opponents. We move into 1989 with the strength we built in 1988.

been made to soften or appease the controversy. Unfortunately, to no avail.

As I watched, I wondered how many Americans still do not know a person with this disease. I wondered how many people believed there was any credibility to the character Michael, the man with AIDS who is described as a charmer who manages to seduce his victims by tap-dancing, flattery, and some "Gershwin in the ear"?

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It would be a rare feat that Ross could be so isolated. Thousands of volunteers, gay and straight, young and old, serve people with AIDS throughout our city.

Safe sex is never mentioned. By anyone. Mutual responsibility is never addressed as an effective protection against contracting the virus. Instead, to further the dramatic interests of the show, an untruth is created that suggests that it is solely the responsibility of infected people to prevent the spread of the disease.

In real-life San Francisco, people share responsibility by practicing safe sex with any and every partner. Consequently, there is no need to hunt down and threaten "aberrant" AIDS carriers, as does the show's late-night DJ, Jack Kelly. But that would have eliminated the memorable scene in which Jack goes on the air to describe the tuxedoed, tap-dancing AIDS carrier in order to save others from his irresponsibility.

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Wish Came True

This is in regards to P.L. Jones' letter in the B.A.R. Dec. 22.

★ P.L. Jones had wished that groups such as A.C.T. would make free tickets to a Christmas Carol available to people with AIDS.

P.L. Jones wish has come true! Actually, A.C.T. has been donating tickets to people with the AIDS for quite some time now. This year alone, A.C.T. will donate almost \$10,000 worth of tickets, mostly through Shanti Project, but also through other groups such as the Godfather Service Fund.

Furthermore, we give tickets as donations for AIDS raffle, auction, and contest prizes to Contra Costa County AIDS Task Force, 976-DIVA, S.F. Lesbian and Gay Chorus, S.F. Band Foundation, GGBA, the AIDS Emergency Fund, and many others.

As long as I can remember, A.C.T. hasn't turned an organization down. Like many others, A.C.T. has suffered a loss from this disease and does as much as it can to help.

Kyle J. Tonazzi
Marketing Associate
American Conservatory Theatre

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★ On the recent police action in the Tenderloin, you reported Dec. 8 that, in "cleaning up" the area, the officers respected the rights of the people in the neighborhood. Unfortunately and in fact, civil liberties were trampled once again. Today, as your reporter notes, the streets are empty.

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Police do not arrest the Christians, who routinely do obstruct the Tenderloin sidewalks in violation of the law. They simply arrest gays and other people who happen to be on the street during their drug sweep.

Will we allow ourselves to be driven back into the bars or accept the abuse of any people's rights in a moral crusade?

Our representatives should demand a stop to these clumsy police raids in gay neighborhoods.

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All *Electric City* is a group of no talents who are trying to pass off their poorly produced home movies as being representatives of the entire lesbian/gay community.

How laughable the show is. How sad and desperate for attention the show's producers are. How foolish the rest of us are for even bothering to acknowledge them.

Katherine J. A. Wagner

Free Choice

★ I take strong exception to Stuart A. McDonald's Dec. 22 opinion about Gerdal Rivera's purported assertion that homosexual behavior is genetically determined. I reject the notion that we are homosexual by genetic pre-disposition; hapless victims of some chromosomal malfunction.

My assertion is that sexual orientation and behavior are learned, be they homosexual or heterosexual. From the moment the delivering physician slapped us on the butt we began learning, our individual sexualities are no exception.

I believe there are three basic principles that support our sexual learning process, the first being free will, which we, as humans, possess uniquely and [which] ultimately allows us to choose our own behaviors of adaptation. Next is the concept of identification, which influences how we learn to view psychosexual relationships around us in early childhood. Third is eroticism, which influences which sex we will attach our strongest emotions to.

Stuart, you possess free will and choose homosexuality because of your own experiences in your early years. You can choose to behave as a heterosexual, but, because you have free will, have chosen to eroticize other men!

You speak of "the extent to which environmental influences can modify that person's genetic predisposition is determined by the strength of that particular person's genetic predisposition." I ask what genetic predisposition are you referring to—none thus far has been affirmed, only theorized.

Human behavior and psychology are far too complex to reduce to a genetic relationship. Societal and familial influences are keys to understanding our homosexual choice. You state that our sexual behavior becomes more set as we age (yes, but so do our other learned behaviors) and that, if we attempt to alter our sexual proclivities, we are doomed to failure, as "once a homosexual, always a homosexual."

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We must view our homosexuality as a natural function of our childhood experience, rather than as inflexible genetic casting.

Lee R. Lasley
Concord

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★ After the Roman church's disgraceful expulsion of the Dignity group, it is time for the city and county tax assessor to take another look at tax abatements enjoyed by the Roman church. As a taxpayer in San Francisco, I am very unhappy that even one penny of my property tax is used to pay for police and fire protection for a hostile and exclusive organization that pays no tax on most of its abundant real estate holdings.

Peter B. Dyer

Pedophiles

★ It seems to me that Stuart McDonald does not understand pedophiles and/or pedophilia at all.

Pedophiles do not molest children, whether they be gay or straight. Pedophiles were not molested as children. Why is it that people who are not pedophiles say what and/or whom pedophile people are? I am a boy-lover, a pedophile, if you wish. I was not molested as a child, and I do not molest children.

I support children in their natural, God-given right to have sex with anyone they wish to. The same right that is given to everyone who is born on this Earth, be he or she gay and/or straight.

It is really strange to me that you and other gay adult people want to deny children the same freedom you have with sex. Do you think that children can wait until the age of 18 years old to suddenly turn on the light of sexuality?

I believe that it is time to get in touch with the real world of children, to find out what damage to them has been created by the senseless age-of-consent laws. What is the real reason children turn to drugs? What is the real reason children commit suicide at an alarming rate? You will hopefully find out why: because they do not have the freedom in this country to have sex and/or express it to anyone.

Please get the facts straight. Pull your head out of the law books. Get to know the facts before talking on a subject you know nothing about.

Kris Joytalk
San Francisco



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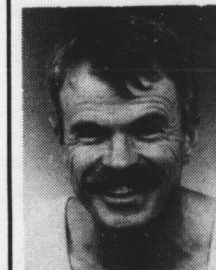
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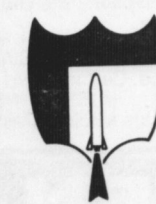
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EXECUTIVE & EDITORIAL OFFICES:
395 Ninth Street
San Francisco, CA
94103-3831

TELEPHONES:
(415) 861-5019/861-7230

PUBLISHER:
Bob Ross

NEWS EDITOR:
Ray O'Loughlin

FEATURES EDITOR:
Will Snyder

ASSOCIATE EDITOR:
Jay Newquist

FINE ARTS EDITOR:
George Heymont

POLITICAL EDITOR:
Wayne Friday

OFFICE MANAGER:
Tony Lindsey

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING:
Ann S. West

PRODUCTION MANAGER:
Dianne Gregory

CAMERA:
Michael Jay Goldberg

PRODUCTION ARTIST:
Richard Burt

TYPESETTING:
Robert Tryptow, Chal Cochran

CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHERS:
Scott Martin,

Photo Graphics/Darlene,
Robert Pruzan, Rink,
Steve Savage

CARTOONISTS:
David Brady, Frisch

AUDITOR/ACCOUNTANT:
Robert J. Derr, C.P.A.

CONTRIBUTORS:
Les Balmain, Philip Campbell,

Gregory Douthwaite,
William Francis, Robert Frank,

Wayne Friday, Mark Friese,
Hal Herkenhoff,

Wayne Herriford,
George Heymont,

Mike Hippler, Frank J. Howell,
John Karr, Miranda Kolbe,

David Lamb, Ron Larsen,
Henry Mach, Mr. Marcus,

Dennis McMillan,
Richard McPherson, Nez Pas,

Matthew Ogden, David Perry,
Paul Reed, Mary Richards,

Joy Schulenberg, Marv. Shaw,
Rick Thoman, Dick Walters,

Lauren Warte, Allen White,
Keith White, Rex Wockner,

Bob Woolhouse



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EDITORIAL & OPINION

Summing Up the Year

The custom at this time of year is to look back over the past 12 months and try to make some sense of what happened. It's not easy to gain any proper perspective on events as they are happening—and a lot happened in 1988. We rushed or were force-marched from one battle to another. But even a quick glance back reveals a number of accomplishments despite the attacks on our community and some defeats.

In 1988 we saw the first significant and comprehensive federal action on the AIDS epidemic. It was a battle, complete with a cliffhanger finish, but the U.S. Congress did enact the provision of Rep. Henry Waxman's Federal AIDS Policy Act. The law continues anonymous HIV-testing and expedites medical research.

After seven years, our national leadership finally has begun to grasp the seriousness of AIDS. The Presidential Commission on AIDS that was designed to fail was salvaged by Admiral James D. Watkins. He turned in an excellent and thorough report on the crisis despite the flakes on the panel.

Vice Pres. (now Pres.-elect) George Bush was reported as endorsing many of the positive recommendations of the Watkins Report, such as antidiscrimination protections for those with AIDS. How far Bush will go in leading the "kinder, gentler" nation he spoke about on the campaign trail is the number-one question now.

A number of court rulings went our way in 1988. The U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals ruled in favor of Sgt. Perry Watkins, saying that the Army cannot discriminate against gays as a class. But that landmark ruling was put on hold when the court decided to rehear the case. The new ruling could uphold or expand or repeal the first ruling.

A more certain victory came when federal courts decided that people with AIDS were covered by federal law prohibiting discrimination against the handicapped.

The federal scientific bureaucracy began to move a bit faster last year on releasing potential treatments for AIDS and other illnesses. That move by the FDA to expedite their investigation of new drugs was prompted by a series of protests by a new group called ACT UP.

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When the controversy surrounding this episode first surfaced, I was disturbed to learn that the fictional story involves a bisexual man intentionally infecting people with AIDS. *Midnight Caller* series protagonist Jack, a late-night radio DJ, hunts him down. The setting is San Francisco, 1988.

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★ It seems to me that Stuart McDonald does not understand pedophiles and/or pedophilia at all.

Pedophiles do not molest children, whether they be gay or straight. Pedophiles were not molested as children. What is it that people who are not pedophiles say what and/or whom pedophile people are? I am a boy-lover, a pedophile, if you wish. I was not molested as a child, and I do not molest children.

I support children in their natural, God-given right to have sex with anyone they wish to. The same right that is given to everyone who is born on this Earth, be he or she gay and/or straight.

It is really strange to me that you and other gay adult people want to deny children the same freedom you have with sex. Do you think that children can wait until the age of 18 years old to suddenly turn on the light of sexuality?

I believe that it is time to get in touch with the real world of children, to find out what damage to them has been created by the senseless age-of-consent laws. What is the real reason children turn to suicide? What is the real reason children commit drugs? At an alarming rate? You will hopefully find out why: because they do not have the freedom in this country to have sex and/or express it to anyone.

Please get the facts straight. Pull your head out of the law books. Get to know the facts before talking on a subject you know nothing about.

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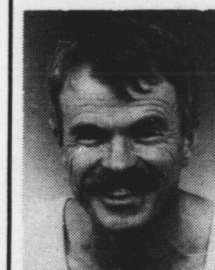
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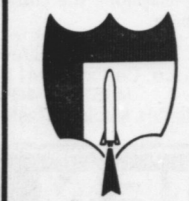
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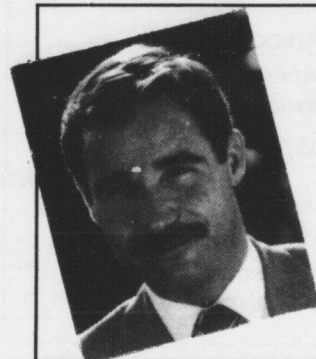
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Joe Kramer

OPINION

Transcends Labels

★ For the past several months, I have been a Names Project volunteer. The letters to the editor and controversial stories in the press have greatly upset me. The Quilt has taught me a lot about grief, love, understanding, and the resilience of the human spirit. The project is so close to my heart, and the criticism hurts. Although I don't always agree with decisions made at the project, I have found that the Quilt always takes care of itself. In the end, the Quilt exceeds all boundaries and lives on as an incredible memorial to thousands of lives cut short by such a terribly ugly disease.

Many are losing sight of what exactly the Quilt is. It is a memorial. It is a beautiful set of patches saying, "I love you. I miss you. You were special to me." The panels say this in fantastically diverse ways. Filled with love, anger, grief, joy, sorrow, and a myriad of other emotions, the Quilt has immense power. Because of that power, many would like to use the Quilt for political purposes. I am very glad to see the staff of the project exerting their best efforts to prevent this.

Some have said that the Quilt is no longer a grassroots movement. Tell that to the thousands of panel-makers. Tell that to the mother from Ohio who flew to San Francisco to turn in a panel. Tell that to the lover from Eureka Valley who spent hundreds of hours painting a panel. Tell that to the man who, while visiting Washington in October, couldn't sleep, wandered onto the Ellipse at dawn, and was so moved [that] he went back to the hotel to retrieve his family.

The Quilt is made for and by people. People who transcend labels. The Quilt encompasses every walk of life. Yes, there are a lot of gay people on it, and being gay was most likely an important part of their lives. However, it is safe to say that their lives were more than just being gay. Advocates of gay rights have justly been screaming for years at the world that "We are people, just like you!"

The Names Project already knows this. It hasn't forgotten that, to a large extent, its staff, volunteers, and panel names are gay. The project chooses to focus on the importance to the living of having ways to deal with the loss of a loved one.

In showing this expression of grief to the world, the project hopes to destroy preconceptions about AIDS and its victims. If you think the project needs to focus more on one thing or another, get involved. Express your opinion from the inside, as well. However, the Quilt should never be used as a banner for gay rights. Those who think it should have forgotten what the Quilt is about.

The Quilt is a creative way to help people work through a difficult time. It will continue to be a moving and educational experience for those who participate. I am proud to say that I am a better person for having been involved with the Names Project.

Scott R. Davis
San Francisco

Prophecy

To Dr. Lou Bordisso:

★ What credibility your letter to the editor of the Bay Area Reporter might have had has been seriously compromised by a number of factual, rhetorical, and philosophical inaccuracies which, in at least two instances, render your meaning all but unintelligible.

In the second paragraph you speak of the 1986 Dignity Florida convention. For the record this convention took place at Bal Harbor, Florida during the summer of 1987, not 1986. In the fifth paragraph you refer to "the suspension, as rendered by the Archbishop of San Francisco and others." We were not "suspended" from anything. Archbishop Quinn made it clear to us that our letter of agreement with St. Boniface parish would be terminated as of Dec. 18. Our imminent departure from St. Boniface facilities can, therefore, be accurately described as an "eviction."

Your statement in the sixth paragraph, "It would be more mature to take responsibility for the choices made rather than displace anger." What do you mean by "displace anger" and where, if at all, does it become an intelligible part of the sentence? You then go on to state in parentheses, "(which is certainly the right, of not at least, perception of moral obligation)." The meaning of this parenthetical comment is completely unclear.

Having been one of the delegates chosen by our chapter to represent it at the archbishop's meeting on Nov. 19, I found it somewhat curious to note that no mention whatever was made by Archbishop Quinn or any of his delegation concerning the Ratzinger "Letter to the Bishops" of October 1986, notwithstanding that each of us in the Dignity delegation, in one way or another, nailed this vicious piece of writing to the wall. Neither do you, anywhere in your letter, make any reference to Ratzinger or his vile pen.

I also represented our chapter as one of its several delegates at the Miami convention. The positions we took there were directly motivated by this "pastoral" letter. Your letter indicates that you are at least aware that we took position at the convention, yet you seem unable or unwilling to come to grips with the fact that our positions were not generated in a vacuum, but were precipitated by this hateful document. You seem curiously impervious to the fact that the entire gay community, Catholic or otherwise, was affected by this homophobic document, and that we were all outraged and pained by its publication as it did nothing except to heap further condemnation on us as a group of people who have known nothing else all our lives.

You further state, "It seems clear to me that Dignity/SF is blaming Archbishop Quinn for circumstances that were actually created by Dignity itself." Archbishop Quinn's actions are consistent with those of other ordinaries throughout the country who have evicted Dignity chapters from church premises. You seem unable to grasp the reality that our eviction from St. Boniface is not a local issue, but is related to the evictions of Dignity chapters across the country, all of which can be linked directly with Ratzinger.

We were not the authors of this infamous document, Lou, we were its targets. How can you say that the present circumstances were created by Dignity itself? Is it your contention that we should sit idly by and do nothing in the face of such a vile attack?

You have made a further statement for which you offer no justification in paragraph five when you state, "Similar action would be rendered should such groups want to use Roman Catholic facilities to espouse dissent." This is an authoritative statement, Lou. Where is your evidence in support of such a contention? How do you know, in the absence of concrete circumstances, that such would be the case? Are you the one who would implement such "similar action?"

Again in paragraph eight you state, "The archbishop, the cardinal, and the pope probably believe as strongly in the rightness of the church's position as Dignity does about its wrongness." Which archbishop, Lou? Which cardinal? Your use of the word "probably" in this context places your position "up for grabs," because you admit by its use that you really do not know with certainty that such is the case.

Your proclivity for prophesy and conjecture seems to have outdistanced your reasoning faculties when you state in the concluding paragraph, "The healthy and functional Dignity pursues change through problem-solving and rational intelligence and recognizes events and positions which cannot now, or ever, be changed." How do you know, in the here and now, that "they cannot now, or ever, be changed?" Furthermore one of the fundamental reasons for our existence as an organization is to bring about changes in the archaic sexual theology of the church to make it conform to the lived experiences of living human beings. Is it not, therefore, an obligation on the part of rational intelligence to stand up for our convictions?

We were well aware of the potential consequences of our actions both at the Miami convention and at the meeting with Archbishop Quinn. What we were not entirely prepared for was the length of time it took Archbishop Quinn to implement his position. We were well aware that the consequences of our actions would be both painful and unsettling, but because we refused to compromise our integrity, we were willing to endure this pain. We have acted out of hurt and outrage, but for all that we have acted responsibly all along the line. No one can accuse of us doing otherwise.

Why you chose to go public with a laundry list of destructive criticisms after your years with us as a loyal member of our chapter is something to which only you have the answer. It is noteworthy that you cited a fundamental principle of ethics in your letter when you stated that "adult choices have adult consequences."

Rejecting one's family or a group to which one was once loyal, and letting it go at that, is one thing. To choose to act in a way which is potentially hurtful to that family or group is something else.

John J. Carr
San Francisco

Caution

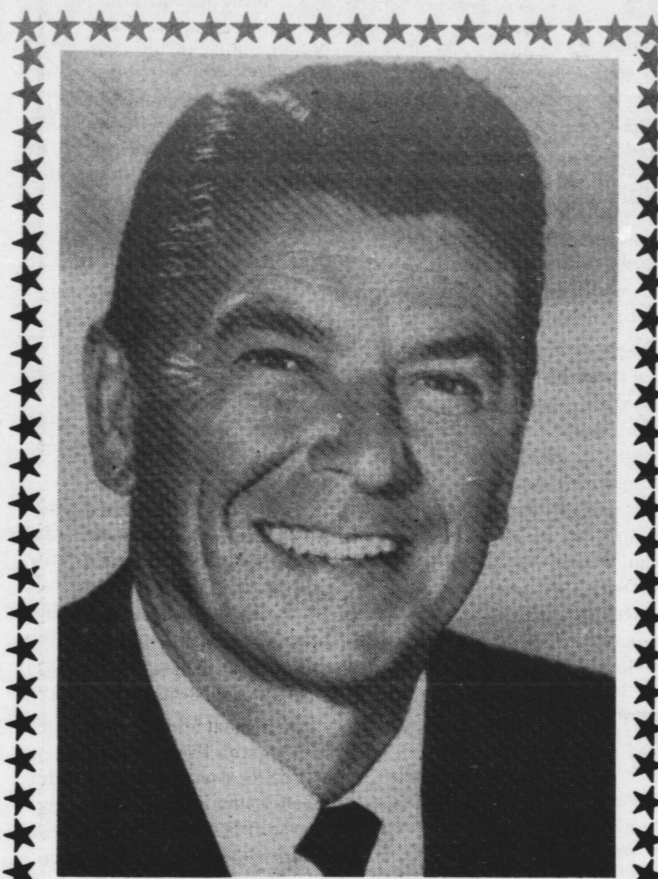
★ People should be cautious when at Land's End or Baker Beach. In the last week there have been a group of guys roaming around that are part of the "skinhead" gangs.

I was almost attacked by two of these guys, but was able to move quickly and be in view of some other people at Land's End.

Roger Bruno
San Francisco

Wayne Friday

The Reagan Era Is Mercifully Coming to Its Dismal End



In two weeks, the Reagan era comes to an end. From this corner, the Reagan presidency can end none too soon. Though the 77-year-old Republican leaves the White House riding a crest of personal popularity seldom enjoyed by a retiring president, I think the Reagan years have, for the most part, been a dismal disappointment.

There goes a president who, while committing millions upon millions to the Contras in Nicaragua, purposely kept down the budget on AIDS research and health care to a bare minimum, while thousands of Americans died and tens of thousands more were infected by the disease.

There, too, goes a president who only this month proclaimed that most of the nation's homeless are sleeping on the city streets because "they prefer to do so."

Ronald Reagan's eight-year administration coddled more felons at the government level than the previous three administrations put together. Appointing a cabinet of political cronies, right-wing zealots, and, yes, even racists and homophobes, the Reagan cabinet has to go in the books as one of the worst ever.

While it is certainly too early to even guess as to what George Bush will bring us, clearly it has to be an improvement over the outgoing Reagan presidency.

After Ron and Nancy vacate the White House, they will move to a \$2.5 million Bel Air mansion (rented from friends for \$15,000 a month) with neighbors such as Elizabeth Taylor, Zsa Zsa Gabor, and Bob Hope. It is rumored that both the President and Mrs. are already busy writing books which will reportedly bring them each over \$1 million. The outgoing President told the New York Times this week that he plans to immediately become a regular on the lecture circuit, and that income, combined with his annual state and federal pension of \$120,000, should keep the Reagans in enough money to live in the style to which the White House has made them accustomed.

Much will change for Reagan after Jan. 20. He loses the trappings of the White House, of course, but life will still be extraordinary for Ronald Reagan as he joins the world's most exclusive "small club"—that of former U.S. presidents. He says he will stay busy writing, riding the horses at his ranch near Santa Barbara. With his extra time, he will help promote a constitutional amendment requiring a balanced federal budget, help get authority for a president to veto individual budget items (line-item veto), wants to see a repeal of the two-term limit on the presidency (can you imagine if that one hadn't been in effect?) and changes in the way congressional districts are apportioned.

Nancy Reagan will stay busy, raising \$10 million for the yet-to-be-built Nancy Reagan Center for teenage drug addicts, being put together in San Fernando Valley, and both of the Reagans will have penthouse offices at the Fox Plaza Building in Century City.

With the 101st Congress opening in Washington this week, Democrats are firmly in control of both the Senate and House. The legislators will do little before the Bush inauguration other than appoint the usual committees, congratulate each other on their political survival in the November election, and await a congressional pay raise of nearly \$45,000 being proposed by the outgoing President—a raise that should pass Congress easily.

The new Senate in the 101st Congress includes two new Democrats, bringing their majority to 55-45. Democrats are also in charge in the House, 260-175, gaining two seats in the recent election.

Despite what they say upfront, those around Mayor Art Agnos, Sen. Pete Wilson, and Reps. Barbara Boxer and Nancy Pelosi are quietly saying that it is curtains for the Presidio. There is no way that the famed base can be saved, and our congressional delegates know it better than anyone.

Did you catch Rep. Pelosi on Channel 4 the night the base closings were announced? Here was the silly-looking Pelosi talking live from a Channel 4 helicopter, looking like a cross between Snoopy and Mike Dukakis in an

Army tank. Pelosi was understandably, virtually conceding she was powerless to do anything about the Presidio closing. But who on her staff gets the credit for letting the woman look like the Red Baron on television? (Maybe jumping with a parachute the next time?)

Proving that nothing matters like winning, East Bay Rep. George Miller appeared on the PBS *The Power Game* series this week, saying that "before you

can save the world, you have to save your seat." So Miller, like other congressmembers, leaves Washington on Thursdays, returning Tuesdays, to spend that time campaigning and raising campaign funds at home.

Do we really have "absentee voting"? Not really, but 14 percent of all California voters cast absentee ballots last November.

Retired Adm. James Watkins, chair of the Presidential AIDS Commission, told Chroni-

cle writer Randy Shilts (who had asked him about prospects for fighting the AIDS epidemic in 1989), "We've got the plane gassed up, taxied down the runway, and ready for a takeoff. This can be the year we do it."

Shilts, the sometimes controversial writer for the Chronicle who specializes in the AIDS epidemic, has his detractors, but always seems to get the important stories. While some disagree with

(Continued on next page)



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OK... LEMME SEE, BLUE HANKY IN THE RIGHT POCKET AND IT'S TUESDAY MEANS...

Mike Dippler
Of Private Matters and Public Affairs

My friend Doug called me a few weeks ago with disturbing news. He and his (ex?) lover Frank were eating at a trendy restaurant on Halloween when the evening suddenly turned sour. A couple at a nearby table—who, he was told, were friends of the owner—started arguing loudly, causing "quite a scene," according to Doug.

"They were drunk and obnoxious," he explained, "and since no one else—neither the waiters nor the management—would do anything about it, Frank and I asked them to keep it down. They responded by turning against us instead of each other. They called us "faggots" and every other name in the book. Then, when Frank went to the bathroom, one of the men invited me to step outside."

Foolishly, Doug admits now, he did so—primarily to avoid an escalation of the conflict inside the restaurant. As soon as he walked outside, however, he was attacked by the couple and a third party, whom he described as "hysterical."

The three held him on the ground and kicked him until three gay men, who happened to be passing by, came to his aid and broke up the fight.

After returning to the restaurant to find Frank, Doug demanded an explanation from the management, whom he held responsible for not intervening. They attempted to mollify him with a free dinner, but this did not satisfy him.

"I could hardly walk due to the blows I received in the groin," said Doug. "A free dinner wasn't going to compensate for that."

Doug considered calling the police, but he didn't think it would do any good. "Because we were dressed like motorcycle accident victims, in full leather, I didn't think they would believe my version of the story. And if they didn't, I knew I would feel like a rape victim—first assaulted, and then accused," he said.

Determined to find satisfaction somehow, Doug called me for advice. I urged him to report the incident to C.U.A.V., and I suggested that he call Ron Huberman, a gay investigator with the district attorney's office. Ron helped me when I was assaulted once. Although I doubted he could do much for Doug, I knew he would offer better advice than I could.

Unfortunately, Huberman told Doug that without a police report at the time of the altercation and without the names and addresses

of witnesses to verify his story, there were no grounds for prosecuting his attackers on criminal charges.

Doug's case was further compromised by his agreement to step outside once challenged and by his decision not to seek medical help following the attack—which would have officially established personal injury.

The most damning facet of the affair, however, was what Huberman called "third-party intervention." "Legally, your friend had no right to intervene," Huberman told me later. "He only had the right to ask the proper authorities to step in and settle the matter. Otherwise, the police and the courts have no choice but to consider this a private affair, a one-on-one situation which he inadvertently helped to instigate."

When I replied that Doug had sought the assistance of the management to no avail, Huberman replied that he still had no case. "Granted, it's a Catch-22 situation," he said, "but those are the breaks. His only choice now is to take his concerns to a private attorney and consider a civil suit. In the meantime, he can learn from the experience."

At present, Doug is doing just that—not against those who assaulted him, but against the owners of the restaurant. The owners are baffled by his attitude.

Said one, "I didn't even know about the incident until after the fight started. Once it did, a waiter and I tried to stop it. I was going

to call the police, as well, but it happened so fast that I didn't have the chance. It's bad for your friend to put me in this position. It was very embarrassing for me to have this happen at my restaurant."

The owner is not the only one baffled by the affair. I, too, am somewhat confused, uncertain if this qualifies as a genuine case of fag-bashing or not. Even if it does not, however, one thing stands out clearly for me which justifies bringing Doug's concerns before the public—the use of the term "faggot."

It was the first word Doug's antagonists used when the altercation began, the one epithet that sprang instantly and (one assumes) naturally to their lips. Like Doug, I've heard it a thousand times before. Like Doug, it makes me so angry that I want to lash back, sometimes against my better judgment.

As Ron Huberman concluded, "Your friend may have no legal case, but that doesn't mean that others in similar situations should throw up their hands in despair. Gay people have the right—and the responsibility—not to allow themselves to be victimized. And despite the outcome of this particular case, as long as they provide us with the information we need, my office is willing, even anxious, to help."

The point of all this is that if you're going to get involved in such altercations, be careful. Contact the proper authorities and be sure to get a police report if any assault occurs.

Friday
(Continued from previous page)

me, I think he is the most informed, sincere, and honest writer on AIDS in any major newspaper today.

Among AIDS bills passed by the California Legislature and signed into law that take effect this month:

Tests: Doctors can test patients for the AIDS virus after obtaining oral, rather than written, consent of the patient and disclose the results in the official medical record.

Confidentiality: State law is loosened to allow physicians to tell other doctors, nurses, and health workers if a patient has AIDS or has tested positive for the AIDS virus, in order to permit them to take steps to protect themselves.

Donors: It will be a felony of offense to donate blood, semen,

breast milk, or body organs to another person if the donor knows that he or she is infected with the AIDS virus.

Cures: It will be a misdemeanor to advertise any unproven drug or device as a cure for AIDS.

Penalties: Three additional years will be tacked onto the prison sentence of persons convicted of certain sex crimes if they knew they were infected with the AIDS virus when they committed the crime.

Notice: Doctors can inform the spouse, sexual partner, or the needle-sharing partner of a patient who tests positive for AIDS, without the patient's written consent, after discussing the test results with the patient.

Prostitutes: It will be a felony for a prostitute to continue to work his or her trade after knowing he or she has been exposed to the AIDS virus.

Second Complaint Filed In Typhoid Vaccine Treatment

Another Patient Alleges High Fees, Little Service; Doctor Says He Charges Less Than Average Rate

by Jay Newquist

A second complaint was reported last week that alleged professional misconduct by a San Francisco physician who administers typhoid vaccine as a treatment against AIDS. The National Gay Rights Advocates (NGRA) has also entered the controversy and has asked all those who believe they were misled by Dr. Lewis E. Mehl and Associates to contact NGRA.

A new complaint against Dr. Mehl was made last week by Mark de Holland, who said he went to the physician's office in the back of a San Francisco restaurant twice in late November and paid \$550, but received limited services.

De Holland, who is HIV-positive, said he is suing Dr. Mehl in Small Claims Court. Holland added that, at his first office visit, he paid \$240 for an interview by an associate of Dr. Mehl.

De Holland, 36, recalled he was asked to rate the stress of his life on a scale of one to ten. He said the interview lasted an hour and included a \$50 fee to enter the information into a computer.

"I spent a big chunk of the time trying in vain to extract information from a research assistant about the 'tests,' [the typhoid] protocol, and the usefulness of rating my stress, and she told me not to worry—that I would receive a complete 'evaluation' and status of health in the end."

Ben Schatz of NGRA said he was considering a class-action lawsuit against Dr. Mehl in order to set a legal precedent that would protect patients receiving such experimental AIDS treatments.

"The gay community is caught between a rock and a hard place," Schatz said. "On the one hand, we want to make new drug treatments against AIDS available. But on the other hand, we don't want profiteers to seize on the fears of people with AIDS and make a fast buck for providing them services."

The original complaint against Dr. Mehl was lodged recently with the California Board of Medical Quality Assurance by a 36-year-old person with AIDS.

Craig Black reported that he hadn't received the promised services for his \$200 from Dr. Learie Tuille, the then-associate of Dr. Mehl. Black said he received one typhoid shot, but had no physical examination nor full laboratory blood work. He was later given an \$80 refund.

De Holland said Dr. Mehl's research assistant was "unprofessional and evasive" about explaining the office confusion and the expectations of the so-called Catapano protocol against AIDS with the typhoid vaccine.

"I always got the answer that [Dr. Mehl's staff] were just getting organized and they were trying to pull it all together," said de Holland.

"I could only conclude that I had been misled by a series of lies, deceptions, and circuitous answers. The preliminary tests are, in fact, a money-making scheme designed to hook a person into

spending more money on massage, psychiatric help, and nutritional supplements that Dr. Mehl sells in his office," he said.

De Holland was further upset that Dr. Mehl's practice was located in the back of a restaurant on Presidio Avenue.

"You literally have to walk through the tables of people eating to get to the office," de Holland recalled. "I wasn't impressed, but I wanted the typhoid shots. I had heard and read that typhoid was an immune-boosting thing, and that's what I wanted at this time for my health."

A professional musician, de Holland paid \$200 on his second visit the next day for urine analysis and \$100 for a five-minute "soft-tissue analysis" when he was examined by an associate of Dr. Mehl named Dr. Crowfoot.

"Dr. Crowfoot had me lie on a table fully clothed," de Holland said. "After pushing a few muscles on my back, groin, calves, and ankles, he told me I had a 'blockage' and needed some massage—a service they could provide at an extra charge."

De Holland said he was skeptical about Dr. Mehl's practice, but he shelved his fears because he thought the typhoid vaccine was "a good thing to try." He didn't receive a typhoid shot before he left Dr. Mehl's office for the last time.

De Holland said he was surprised when Dr. Mehl reported that de Holland needed a permission slip from his personal physician before he could receive a typhoid shot.

"At that point I expressed considerable dismay over having paid \$540 for a superficial series of tests, a surprise permission slip, and the fact that no 'evaluation' was taking place.

"Dr. Mehl then added that I would, of course, have to establish a 'doctor-patient' relationship with the doctor who signed it.

"In other words—pay them to sign it," he said.

De Holland took the slip to his doctor, who wouldn't sign it because the physician felt, according to de Holland, that it appeared Dr. Mehl was trying to "exculpate himself from responsibility and make it appear as though my doctor endorsed this treatment."

De Holland said Dr. Mehl also provided the names of four physicians who would sign the form with no questions asked.

A memo written on Dr. Mehl's personal stationery lists the names of Dr. Allen Levine and Dr. Jeremy Berge, both of San Francisco, and Dr. Jeffrey Anderson and Dr. Michael Rosenbaum, both of Corte Madera.

De Holland has contacted his attorney, who wrote Mehl a letter which demanded a \$540 refund. He said Dr. Mehl didn't reply.

In an interview with the B.A.R., Dr. Mehl said the controversy was so demoralizing he thought he might stop giving the typhoid vaccine against AIDS.

"I make no salary from this practice, and I would go broke if

I did," Dr. Mehl said. "This criticism is just beyond me. I don't get it. It's no fun when you get hassled and you're working for free."

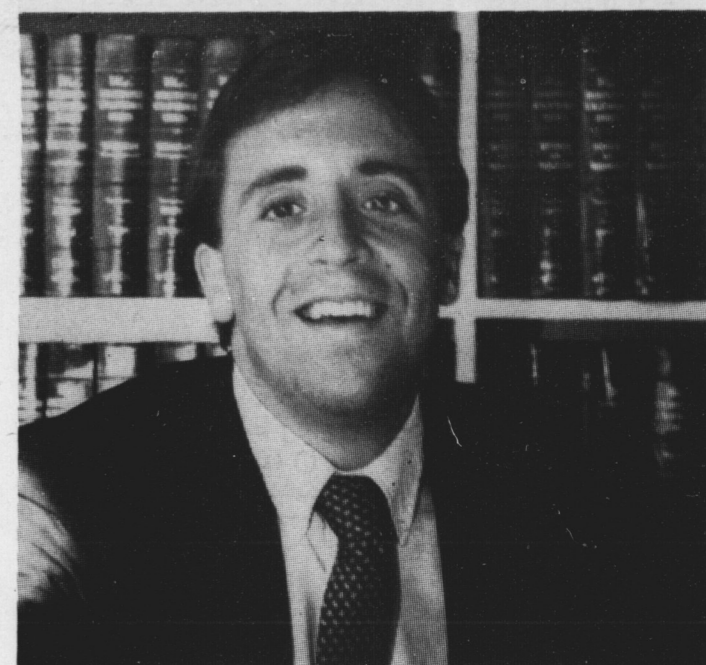
Dr. Mehl said he didn't "want to run a shot factory" and he simply wished to get a thorough evaluation of a patient before giving the typhoid vaccine.

"The problem we're running into is that patients feel they should walk in and get a shot without an evaluation. I feel, in general, the charges here are less than the average.

"We won't give the vaccine if the patient's physician won't approve. I feel that's within the realm of good medical practice. I need to have a really good sense of the patients, and it costs money to get to know them."

Dr. Mehl said he would nonetheless continue to administer the Catapano protocol because "we have people doing phenomenally well, and it's better to have hassles from nonpatients than patients."

In a letter signed by Dr. Mehl that he directed his patients to present to their personal physicians, Dr. Mehl stated in a study of 50 men taking the Catapano protocol that 25 percent "have some astonishing results from



Ben Schatz. (Photo: Scott Martin)

the treatment."

Another 25 percent have no effect, Dr. Mehl continued, while 50 percent "seem to be gaining some benefit, but it will require extensive data analysis to determine the significance of this effect."

He concluded he is studying the question that the positive result is a placebo effect that Dr. Mehl said was "very interesting of itself as a possible phenomenon."

Dr. Mehl also observed there was a chance he could decide that he couldn't treat certain patients, adding, "That's the risk they take, and we can't give them their money back."

De Holland complained specifically about two sets of fees for services at Dr. Mehl's practice. De Holland reported he was charged \$200 for a urine analysis from one list of fees, but on a sec-

ond list the urine analysis cost only \$25.

The \$100 soft-tissue fee he paid was recorded on the second list at \$40. The apparent discrepancies in fees was one point that interested the NGRA's Ben Schatz, who sought documentation of fees paid other patients of Dr. Mehl.

Dr. Mehl dismissed these discrepancies in fees when he said that an "overzealous" employee distributed a list of fees without his permission. Dr. Mehl said his patients were charged the lesser amount in all cases.

De Holland's two cancelled checks for \$240 and \$300 show he paid the full freight: \$100 for the soft-tissue exam; \$200 for urine analysis; and \$240 for an interview.

Dr. Yuille has a practice in Oakland where he also administers typhoid vaccine.

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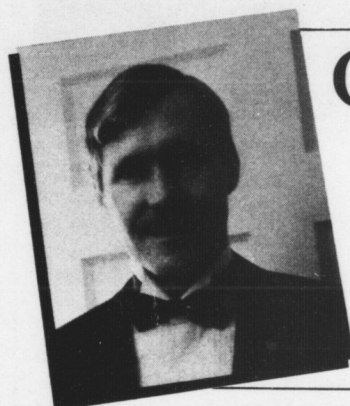
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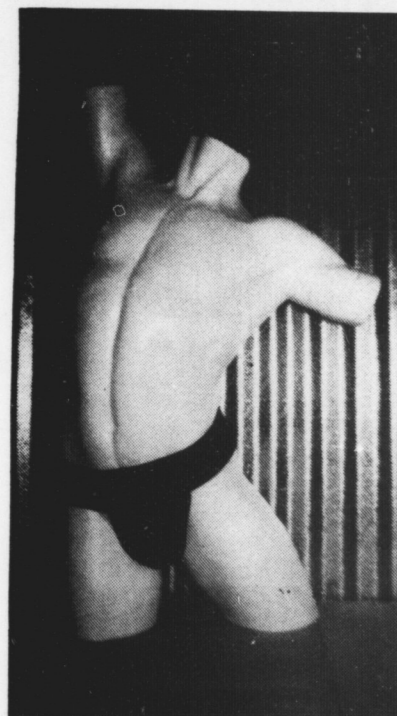
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Man Abducted, Raped By Four Men in the Presidio

Being in Drag May Have Fooled Assailants, Saved His Life

by Dennis McMillan

A San Francisco character entertainer named Dolly, who does a comic drag impersonation of country singer/superstar Dolly Parton, was abducted, beaten, and raped Sunday morning, Dec. 18, by a gang of four men. Fearful of further attacks, he preferred to remain anonymous, using only his stage name, Dolly, which he has gone by for nine years.

According to his account, he had been entertaining at a Nob Hill holiday party. He left the party around 1:00 a.m. to hail a cab and was accosted by four men. One of the men held a knife to his throat, while the others tied, blindfolded, and gagged him, then threw him in the trunk of their older model Ford with out-of-state license plates.

"They were playing really loud music, and the trunk was mildewy and smelled nasty," he said.

They then drove to the Presidio by the Golden Gate Bridge, where they pulled him from the trunk. One man ripped the satin jumpsuit and nylons with a knife, lacerating his left leg in the process.

"They removed the blindfold, but I could barely see them because I had to put my face down while they kept spitting at me and urinating on me," he said.

They proceeded to rape their victim, periodically kicking him in the face. At one point a man bit him in the left eye, splitting the skin of the eyelid. Dolly retaliated with a bite on his nose.

After receiving a blow with a baseball bat, Dolly apparently passed out. Later he was kicked awake by his assailants and raped with the small end of the bat.

He awoke around 5 a.m., alone and bleeding in his torn clothing. The attackers had stolen his fake jewelry, most likely assuming it to be real, and about \$30 in cash that he was carrying.

He made his way to Van Ness Avenue, attempting to flag cars down for help. He was eventually picked up by a police car near Broadway. He said the police

drove him home without making out a report or offering medical attention.

Later that morning Dolly made a phone call to a friend, who arrived at his home to find him passed out.

He was subsequently taken by ambulance to UCSF Medical Center and later sent to the S.F. General sexual trauma center. Doctors at S.F. General said that he had narrowly escaped needing major surgery, which would have included a colostomy. They treated his wounds and wrapped his three bruised ribs.

According to Dolly, the men did not realize they were attack-

ing a male. "If they had known I was a man, they probably would have killed me, he said. "They called me 'pretty white mama' several times."

He has yet to report the incident to Community United Against Violence, wanting to postpone the ordeal of retelling the painful details of the incident.

"I've been through quite a bit, but I'm going to be fine," he said.

True to the personality he emulates, a strong survivor and not one to be kept down, he went out the next night in Dolly drag to work a benefit.

\$500,000 Raised By 'Art Against AIDS'

LOS ANGELES—A glittering array of talent from the worlds of art and entertainment joined forces with the business community to produce a successful launch for the National "Art Against AIDS" campaign in Los Angeles.

Some 750 guests turned out for the Dec. 14 exhibition reception at the Murray Feldman Gallery at the Pacific Design Center, the first in a series of local events benefitting both the American Foundation for AIDS Research and AIDS Project Los Angeles.

More than \$500,000 has been raised by the Los Angeles campaign to date, with organizers expecting to meet their goal of \$1.5 million. The fully illustrated exhibit catalog was underwritten with a \$45,000 grant from Ford Motor Company.

"It is particularly poignant that the creative community, so ravaged by AIDS, has rallied together to fight the disease," said Hockney. "Using the message of art as our weapon, Art Against AIDS proclaims our commitment to make a signifi-

cant contribution to ending the nightmare of AIDS."

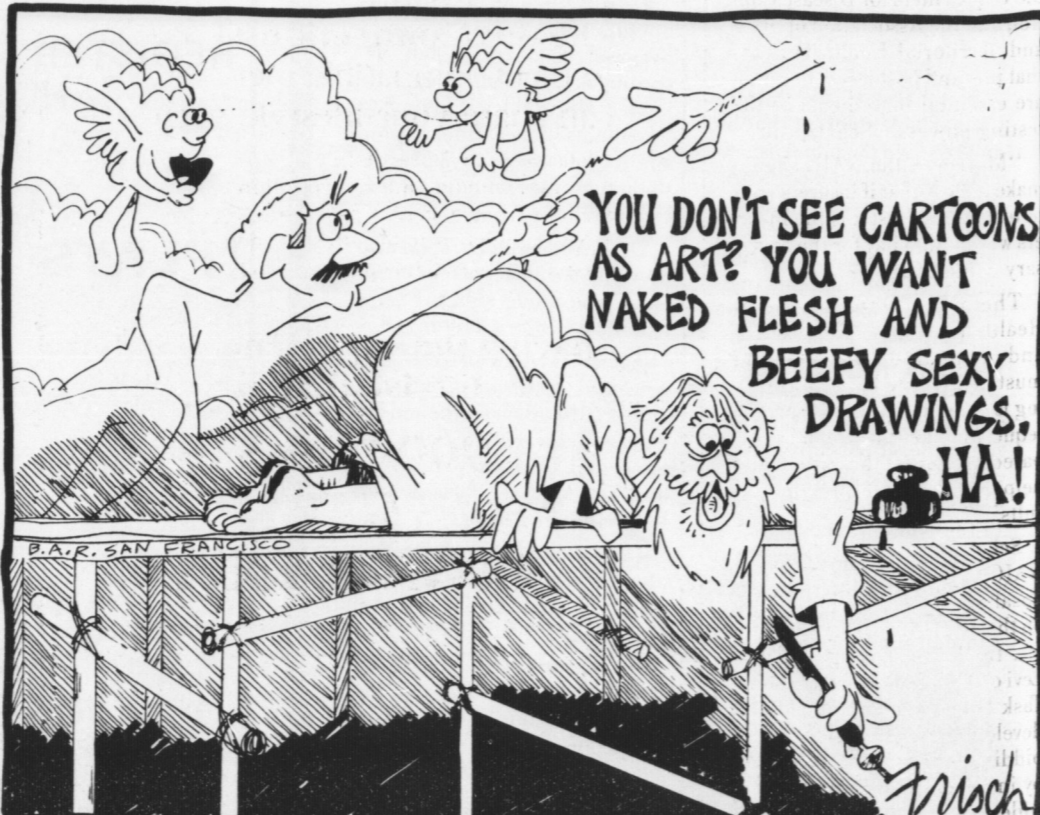
The exhibition runs through Feb. 5 and is open to the public without charge. Gallery hours are Tuesday-Friday, 11 a.m.-6 p.m., and Saturday and Sunday from noon to 6 p.m.

A gala \$1,000 per-person dinner will be held at Greenacres, the Beverly Hills home of Susie and Ted Field, on Jan. 29.

Following its conclusion in Los Angeles, the national Art Against AIDS campaign will travel to other U.S. cities throughout 1989, including San Francisco, Seattle and Minneapolis. Proceeds from all events will be divided between AmFAR and local AIDS service organizations in each city.

National Art Against AIDS was modeled after a highly successful series of art auctions and benefits held in 1987 in New York City, which raised more than \$2.5 million. The campaign was conceived by Stephen Reichard and Anne Livet of the Livet Reichard Co., Inc., and Susan Martin of Susan Martin Public Relations, both based in New York.

Frisch



Insurance Form For HIV Cases Is 'Inadequate'

No Required Counseling on Test Results

by Dennis McMillan

The National Association of Insurance Commissioners (NAIC) was challenged recently when their proposed "notice and consent" form for use in AIDS-related testing was criticized severely by legal experts. BNut at its annual writers meeting in New Orleans Dec. 11-16, NAIC rejected an alternative proposal submitted by National Gay Rights Advocates.

According to Ben Schatz, director of NGRA's AIDS Civil Rights Project, NAIC, the national organization of insurance regulators, ignored all the substantive issues raised by NGRA and went ahead with the originally drafted form with a few minor changes.

The NAIC, represented by their associate counsel Carole Olson, explained that they were reluctant to take any policy stands on the controversial testing issue.

Schatz pointed out that by ignoring the basic elements of the testing requirements protocol, they had in fact taken a stand of ignorance.

"What we have here is yet another situation in which AIDS policy is being formulated by people who know nothing about AIDS," commented Schatz, referring to the board of insurance commissioners. "Therefore, they do not know how glaring the omissions really are," he said.

The proposed form is brief and makes no mention of the means of transmission of HIV, its prevention, availability of treatments, potential for discrimination, probable emotional and psychological responses, or possible false results. The form states that any counseling concurrent with or following the test is completely voluntary and must be paid for by insurance applicants, not the insurance provider.

"The proposal's implication that counseling is a mere luxury contradicts the insistence of the National Academy of Sciences, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control, and the Association of State and Territorial Health Officers that pre- and post-test counseling are essential ingredients of the testing process," Schatz said.

"Moreover, the NAIC should make it clear that if insurers want to test applicants, it is the insurers who should pay for the necessary counseling."

The Ohio Department of Health has stated, "Counseling and education programming must be in place before any testing is completed, and the person requesting the test should be prepared to counsel the patient and help him/her interpret the results."

Schatz had been invited by the NAIC to comment on their proposal, having served in the past on their AIDS Advisory Committee. In 1986 he, along with Jeff Levi of National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, was instrumental in developing NAIC guidelines forbidding anti-gay discrimination by insurance companies nationwide.

Olson has suggested NGRA contact the head of NAIC and perhaps revive the issue.

Schatz has no predictions on the success of such a plan. But he said he will attempt another meeting in the future. "It's all very discouraging," he said. "This will not really affect the informed gay community, but it will have a devastating effect on people who do not understand the implications of the test."

Schatz suggests the concerned general public write to the head of the NAIC, who is also the insurance commissioner for Nevada. Letters of protest should be addressed to David Gates, 201 S. Fall St., Nye Building, Carson City, NV 89701.



In Memory of Friends

A check for \$32,200 was presented to the AIDS Emergency Fund from the In Memory of Friends benefit: (l. to r.) Jerry Colletti, Louise Molinari, Danny Williams, Pat Montclair, and Darrell Yee, the new president of the AIDS Emergency Fund. (Photo: Steve Savage)

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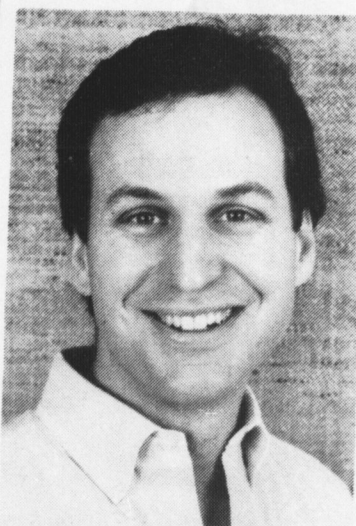
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Practical Resolves

Be Prepared to Bite the Bullet for 1989
If You Must Make New Year Resolutions

by Dennis McMillan

It is now 1989. Do you know where your last year's resolutions are? No doubt they were long ago broken and forgotten, just like every other new year's resolution you have made before.

Maybe the problem is that you are picking goals that are just too difficult: "I promise to give up smoking, drinking, overeating, drugging, compulsive shopping, and sleazing." Oh, sure, if you have a lifetime pass to the Betty Ford Clinic.

Perhaps your goals are a tad vague: "I will be a better person next year." You and the Ayatollah Khomeini, right?

Might I suggest a few resolves that are just a little more realistic, down to earth (maybe even in the gutter), and applicable to your particular, personal lifestyle?

I resolve to have Pac Bell put a block on my telephone to prevent me from making those frenzied 976 calls in the middle of the night. This should reduce the monthly bill to a more manageable, three-digit number. And while you're at it (okay, big guy, bite the bullet here), resolve the block the new 900 numbers, as well.

If I can't bring myself to get the phone-sex block installed, then I resolve to describe myself over the phone with just a little more accuracy, no longer adding inches here and subtracting inches there. This goes, as well, for my modem communications with computer bulletin boards.

For the would-be monogamous: I resolve to stop hearing wedding bells and planning our china patterns when I go out with someone for the first time. At least wait until you find out if they snore or if they have a lover.

For the would-not-be monogamous: I resolve to gather all the phone numbers I've collected last year from various overnight visitors (to euphemize), alphabetize the stack into 26 neat piles, and begin actually calling some of them. "Hi, you probably don't remember me, but we met in the dairy section of the Safeway six months ago, and..."

I resolve to actually keep some of these dates and go out somewhere, especially since my VCR is in the shop for repairs again. Speaking of which, I resolve to leave the clear plastic, protective cover on the VCR and reduce the amount of Crisco buildup in the machine.

I resolve to show up at functions five minutes early and stop using my not-so-clever-any-more excuse, "Oh, I figured you meant gay time and added an hour." (Note: If you're the type who always arrives an hour early—"Gee, I hope I didn't interrupt anything between you two"—you need to resolve to show up five minutes late.)

I resolve to give my neighbors a rest and aim my telescope at the sky, for a change. After all, I bought that thing to be able to see the red planet Mars in the galaxy this year, not the red-hot hunks in the apartment across the street.

I resolve to stop being an exhibitionist in my window to what,



I resolve not to fall among the party hats next year.

(Photo: PhotoGraphics/Darlene)

in reality, is my neighbor's potted palm tree or floor lamp and not my neighbor himself. While I'm at it, I resolve to get a new prescription for my eyeglasses.

I resolve to be slightly more unique in my prerecorded phone machine outgoing messages: "I'm not able to come to the phone right now, but if you'll leave your name and number at the beep, I'll get right back to you." I thought gay people were supposed to be witty.

But, at the very least, start telling the truth in your outgoing phone messages: "I will not get right back to you. Why do you think I bought this machine in the first place, if not to avoid talking to bozos like you?"

If even these resolutions are too challenging for you, how about this one? I resolve to stop making new year's resolutions.

I dare you to break that one! Happy '89.

Tap-Dancing

(Continued from page 6)

about the teenagers I often speak to on the subject of AIDS in San Francisco's high schools. What will they think about tonight's show? I have learned that teens rely heavily on television for information about the world around them. Could an inflammatory one-hour drama lead some of them into acts of violence against gays, lesbians, and people with HIV infection, in the mistaken belief that they are protecting others from the source of infection? Sadly, I think so.

As a disease, AIDS has always had an image problem. Those of us who suffer with the disease know this all too well. I am not for censorship; however, I struggle with NBC's right to air this kind of garbage. There have been more sensitive portrayals, such as an episode on *Designing Women*. More shows need to be produced with characters who have AIDS, because most Americans do not know the true story of living with this disease.

Television is no novice when it comes to exploiting the issues of our time. The tragedies of child molestation, incest, and teen suicide have been depicted with varying levels of accuracy and compassion. Unfortunately, when facts are sacrificed on the altar of entertainment, a dangerous level of misinformation is distributed to the audience.

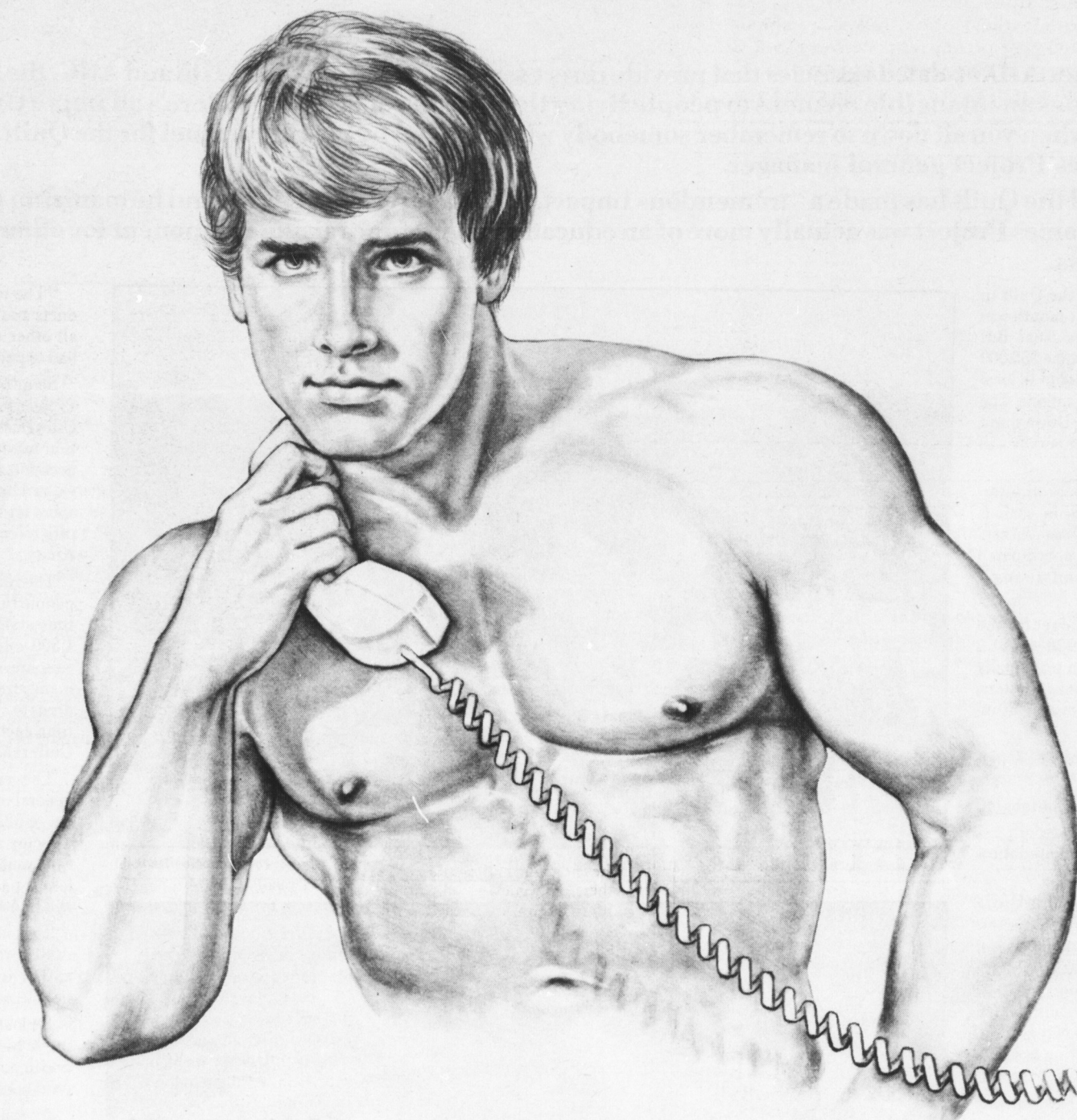
If one is offended by the portrayal of a heterosexual father molesting his daughter, one can switch the channel many times in an evening and see responsible heterosexual fathers who are not "abberant." The same is not true of people with AIDS. There are too few positive portrayals of people with AIDS on television and even fewer of those who have AIDS and are gay or bisexual.

In one scene, Michael defends his behavior by saying that he knows he is going to die and so intends to spend his "remaining 100 nights" doing what he has always done, incapable of change. I hope I live long enough to see sensationalistic portrayals of people with this disease off the air. I hope for more frequent, sensitive portrayals of men, women, and children with AIDS—and for the true story of the gay community's heroic response to this disease. That would cause me another sleepless night, but one of utter joy.

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BAY AREA REPORTER JANUARY 5, 1989 PAGE 15

Names Project Helps AIDS Awareness, Raises Funds for Local Services

Doesn't Expect to Increase Budget, Staff Despite More Panels; Quilt Tours Planned for 1989 to 'Humanize the Epidemic'

by Jay Newquist

Unlike other AIDS-related agencies that provide direct services to people with AIDS and ARC, the Names Project says it provides an intangible element to people living through the epidemic. "There's an important process you go through when you sit down to remember somebody who has died by making a panel for the Quilt," said Michael Smith, Names Project general manager.

Smith said the Quilt has made a "tremendous impact on the awareness of AIDS and humanizing the epidemic." He felt the Names Project was actually more of an educational and fundraising component for other direct-service organizations.

The unfurling of the Quilt in Moscone Center last month was free to the public, as usual. But visitors contributed some \$35,000 that will be distributed to 18 local AIDS-related organizations. The national tour for the Quilt raised \$400,000 in 1987 for services in numerous cities.

"We've tried to work with various AIDS agencies in various cities and have the Quilt as a centerpiece for locally coordinated education and fundraising," Smith said.

The operating budget for the Names Project in 1988 was \$1.2 million, which came principally from the sale of books, posters, and T-shirts. The sources of income are:

- Sale of merchandise (40 percent).
- Individual contributions (40 percent).
- Corporate and foundation grants (10 percent).
- Fundraising, non-Quilt events (10 percent).

Smith estimated that between 20,000 and 30,000 copies have been sold of the Simon and Shuster book about the Quilt, which is sold for \$20 in the Names Project workshop and for up to \$25 in retail stores.

The publishers have already recovered their printing costs, and now the Names Project receives all profits. Most books are sold at places where the Quilt is displayed.

The 40 percent of the budget that comes from individual contributions is further broken down to 25 percent from direct-mail responses and 15 percent from unsolicited gifts.

"The average gift for an individual by direct mail is \$45, which is higher than the norm," Smith said. He added that the panel-makers often make a sizable donation when a panel is completed.

Smith estimated that 85 percent of the Names Project donor base of 12,000 is from outside the Bay Area. The majority are gay, and there are now chapters in 45 cities.

He added that the 10 percent of revenue secured from corporations and foundations may be low. These donors "are less likely to give money, but more likely to give services," he said.

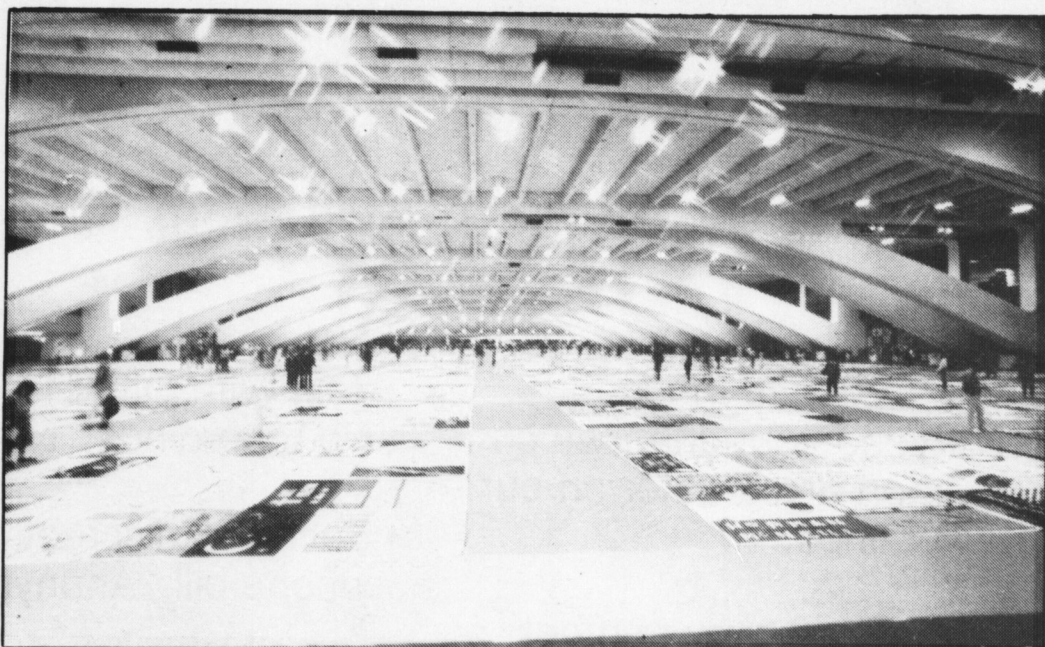
These services include donated legal and accounting help, office furniture and equipment, computers, publishing and printing help, facilities rental, creation of public service announcements, advertising time and space, video production, and vehicle use.

A computer company, for example, donated 18 computers at a cost of \$100,000.



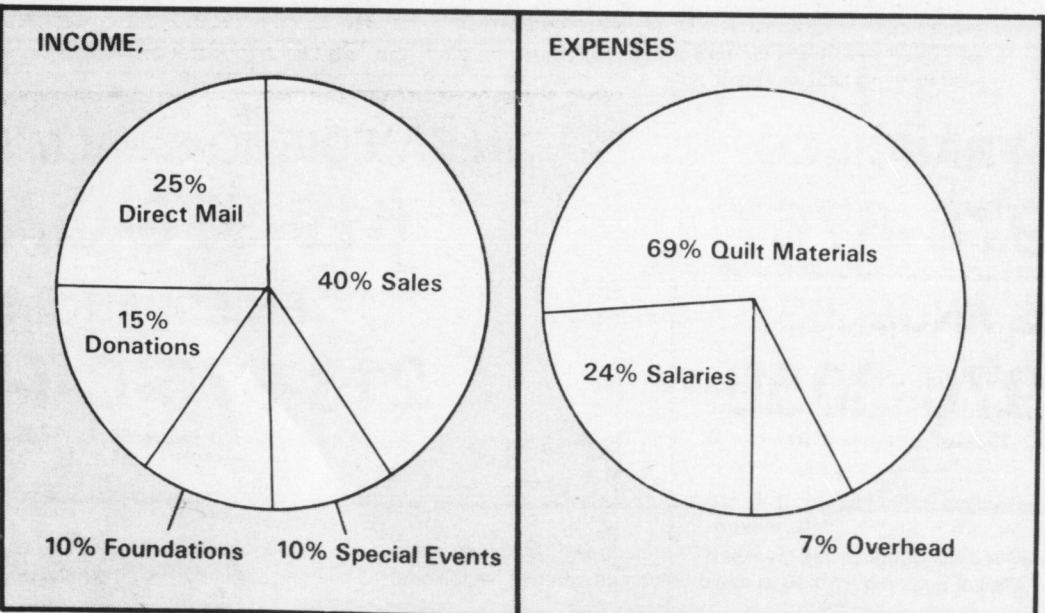
The inaugural display of the Quilt in Washington.

(Photo: PhotoGraphics/Darlène)



The return of the Quilt to Moscone.

(Photo: Rink)



Another in a Series On AIDS Organizations

"The total value of these products and services would exceed all other sources of funds if we had to pay for them," Smith said.

Some 69 percent of the Names Project funding goes directly to Quilt-related expenses (materials, tour expenses). Some 24 percent accounts for salaries, payroll taxes, and benefits; and 7 percent is spent for items like workshop and office rent, telephone, and electricity.

The Names Project employs 18 people full-time and has no part-time staff. There are more than 1,500 volunteers in the Bay Area who are mostly gay, along with many straight women. One hundred to 150 volunteers donate time each week, especially for a Quilt-related event.

The executive director and general manager each earn a salary of \$25,200; the development director and media coordinator each make \$21,600; and the four lowest-paid positions are pegged at \$15,600.

The staff of the Names Project is 40 percent female, 70 percent gay or lesbian, and 20 percent people of color.

"A lot of these people are making a big sacrifice to be here," Smith said. "People should be paid a lot more than they are."

A result is a significant staff turnover of people who can't work at a lower wage indefinitely.

"This past year has been a very rough one because we've really grown from a little workshop. There are expectations in many cities that we can bring the Quilt there, and we really are a national project with a lot of obligations.

"We need 18 people on staff. The only way to do that is not to pay them a lot of money. There's a continual discussion here that 'We need a new person on staff to do this or that, so let's postpone raises.'"

"There's only a finite amount of money, and we need people on staff to get the job done, so we allocate it so no one is making a lot of money."

Unlike other AIDS organizations, the Names Project doesn't predict much growth from 1988 to 1989, when the budget will increase marginally from \$1.2 million to \$1.5 million.

The number of displays and activities involving the Quilt will remain about the same in 1989 as in 1988. There was the major outdoor display of the Quilt in Washington in 1988, as well as some 24 major indoor displays and 50 smaller displays.

At this point, Smith is pleased about the balanced posture of funding sources. "I don't think

(Continued on next page)



Carol Hull and Geppetto work on the Quilt.

(Photo: PhotoGraphics/Darlène)

(Continued from previous page)

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Cleve Jones with the '88 Quilt tour panel.

(Photo: PhotoGraphics/Darlène)



The return of the Quilt to Moscone came later.

(Photo: R. Pruzan)

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Names Project Helps AIDS Awareness, Raises Funds for Local Services

Doesn't Expect to Increase Budget, Staff Despite More Panels; Quilt Tours Planned for 1989 to 'Humanize the Epidemic'

by Jay Newquist

Unlike other AIDS-related agencies that provide direct services to people with AIDS and ARC, the Names Project says it provides an intangible element to people living through the epidemic. "There's an important process you go through when you sit down to remember somebody who has died by making a panel for the Quilt," said Michael Smith, Names Project general manager.

Smith said the Quilt has made a "tremendous impact on the awareness of AIDS and humanizing the epidemic." He felt the Names Project was actually more of an educational and fundraising component for other direct-service organizations.

The unfurling of the Quilt in Moscone Center last month was free to the public, as usual. But visitors contributed some \$35,000 that will be distributed to 18 local AIDS-related organizations. The national tour for the Quilt raised \$400,000 in 1987 for services in numerous cities.

"We've tried to work with various AIDS agencies in various cities and have the Quilt as a centerpiece for locally coordinated education and fundraising," Smith said.

The operating budget for the Names Project in 1988 was \$1.2 million, which came principally from the sale of books, posters, and T-shirts. The sources of income are:

- Sale of merchandise (40 percent).
- Individual contributions (40 percent).
- Corporate and foundation grants (10 percent).
- Fundraising, non-Quilt events (10 percent).

Smith estimated that between 20,000 and 30,000 copies have been sold of the Simon and Shuster book about the Quilt, which is sold for \$20 in the Names Project workshop and for up to \$25 in retail stores.

The publishers have already recovered their printing costs, and now the Names Project receives all profits. Most books are sold at places where the Quilt is displayed.

The 40 percent of the budget that comes from individual contributions is further broken down to 25 percent from direct-mail responses and 15 percent from unsolicited gifts.

"The average gift for an individual by direct mail is \$45, which is higher than the norm," Smith said. He added that the panel-makers often make a sizable donation when a panel is completed.

Smith estimated that 85 percent of the Names Project donor base of 12,000 is from outside the Bay Area. The majority are gay, and there are now chapters in 45 cities.

He added that the 10 percent of revenue secured from corporations and foundations may be low. These donors "are less likely to give money, but more likely to give services," he said.

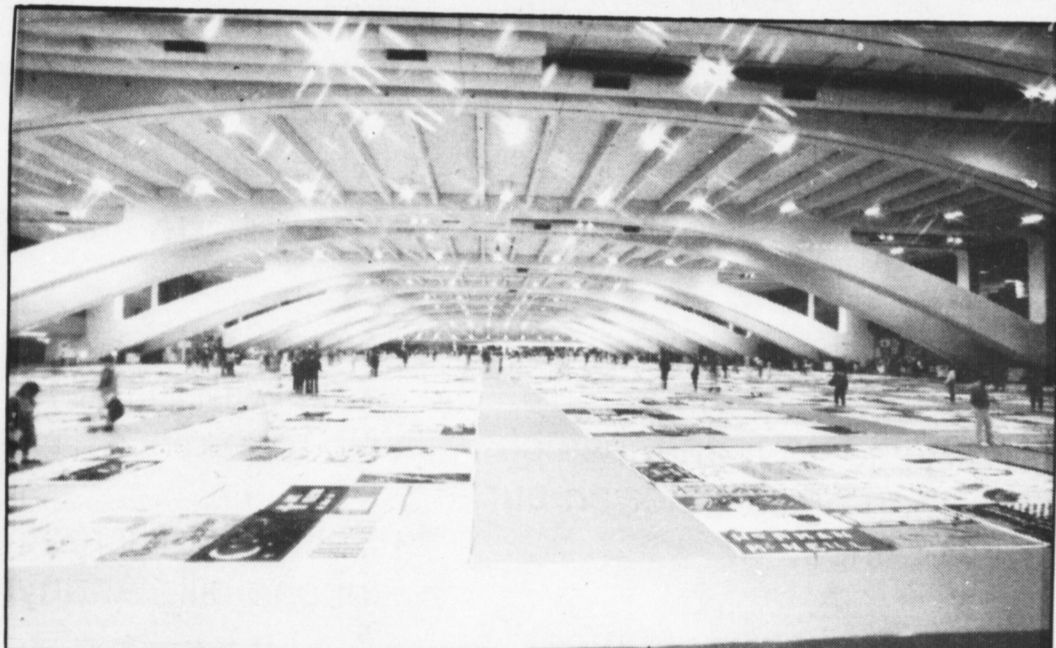
These services include donated legal and accounting help, office furniture and equipment, computers, publishing and printing help, facilities rental, creation of public service announcements, advertising time and space, video production, and vehicle use.

A computer company, for example, donated 18 computers at a cost of \$100,000.



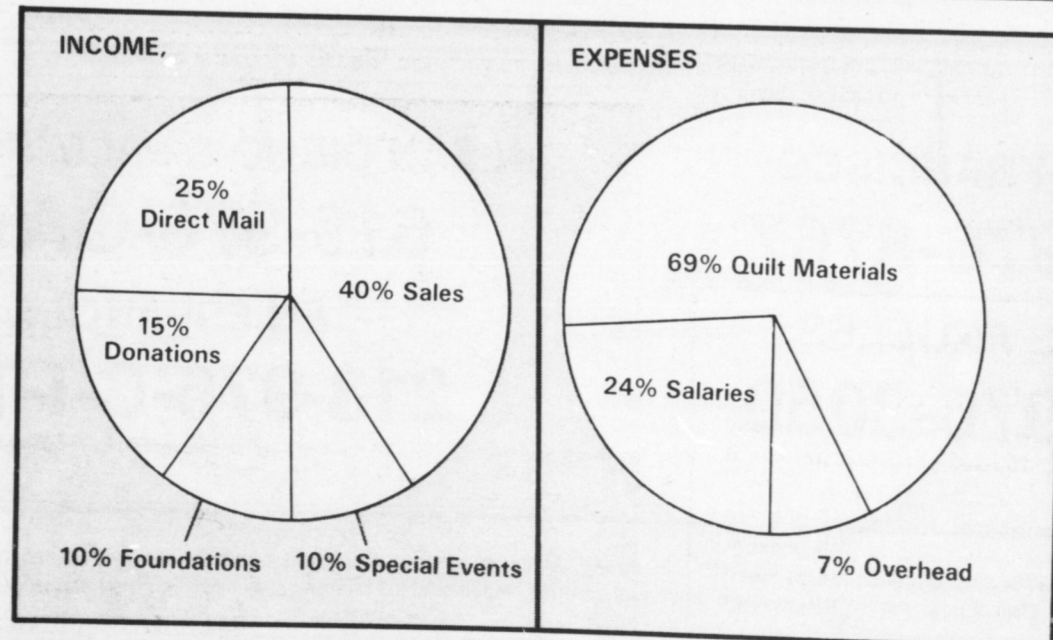
The inaugural display of the Quilt in Washington.

(Photo: PhotoGraphics/Darlene)



The return of the Quilt to Moscone.

(Photo: Rink)



Another in a Series On AIDS Organizations

"The total value of these products and services would exceed all other sources of funds if we had to pay for them," Smith said.

Some 69 percent of the Names Project funding goes directly to Quilt-related expenses (materials, tour expenses). Some 24 percent accounts for salaries, payroll taxes, and benefits; and 7 percent is spent for items like workshop and office rent, telephone, and electricity.

The Names Project employs 18 people full-time and has no part-time staff. There are more than 1,500 volunteers in the Bay Area who are mostly gay, along with many straight women. One hundred to 150 volunteers donate time each week, especially for a Quilt-related event.

The executive director and general manager each earn a salary of \$25,200; the development director and media coordinator each make \$21,600; and the four lowest-paid positions are pegged at \$15,600.

The staff of the Names Project is 40 percent female, 70 percent gay or lesbian, and 20 percent people of color.

"A lot of these people are making a big sacrifice to be here," Smith said. "People should be paid a lot more than they are."

A result is a significant staff turnover of people who can't work at a lower wage indefinitely.

"This past year has been a very rough one because we've really grown from a little workshop. There are expectations in many cities that we can bring the Quilt there, and we really are a national project with a lot of obligations.

"We need 18 people on staff. The only way to do that is not to pay them a lot of money. There's a continual discussion here that 'We need a new person on staff to do this or that, so let's postpone raises.'"

"There's only a finite amount of money, and we need people on staff to get the job done, so we allocate it so no one is making a lot of money."

Unlike other AIDS organizations, the Names Project doesn't predict much growth from 1988 to 1989, when the budget will increase marginally from \$1.2 million to \$1.5 million.

The number of displays and activities involving the Quilt will remain about the same in 1989 as in 1988. There was the major outdoor display of the Quilt in Washington in 1988, as well as some 24 major indoor displays and 50 smaller displays.

At this point, Smith is pleased about the balanced posture of funding sources. "I don't think

(Continued on next page)



Carol Hull and Geppetto work on the Quilt.

(Photo: PhotoGraphics/Darlene)

(Continued from previous page)

"we're at the point where we're relying on any one corporation or on direct mail to provide all of our income."

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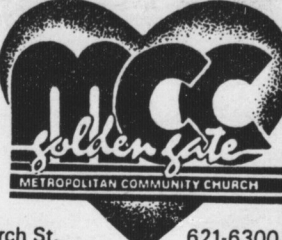
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DEATHS

Paul Alan Casto
 Paul Alan Casto passed away shortly before 10 a.m. on Dec. 26, two days before his 36th birthday, in Davies Hospital in the company of his parents Ruth and Dave and his lover Steve. For several weeks he had battled various lung infections brought on by AIDS.

Paul fought his illness with a curious and unique blend of ignoring the virus and actively helping other persons with AIDS. He became known among his friend and colleagues for his resilience and his unfailing disregard that he was ill. In his 3 1/2-year bout with AIDS, Paul learned to hang glide, made his first trip out of the U.S. to Europe, and continued his active participation in the SAGA ski club. He also coordinated the speakers bureau for the San Francisco AIDS Foundation, was a member of the 1986 AIDS Candlelight March Committee, and became one of the first people with AIDS to become a Shanti Project volunteer. He later went on to become a Shanti volunteer coordinator, a position he cherished up until a few weeks before his death, when his illness forced him to give up his duties.

Paul is survived by his parents Ruth and Dave, his lover Steve, brothers Bill and Don, former Shanti volunteer Wilma, and many dear friends from Shanti, SAGA, and Other Ways, a now-disbanded group where Paul met many of his friends. He was especially well cared-for throughout his illness by the staff of Ralph K. Davies Hospital, especially by John, Annetta, Jim, and Dana.

All who knew Paul are invited to a celebration of his life at 4 p.m. on Saturday, Jan. 7, at Paul's and Steve's home at 131 Saturn St.

Clifford Nathan 'John' Colton, Jr.
 July 2, 1948-Jan. 1, 1989
 John died peacefully on New Year's Day at 4 p.m. in Kaiser Hospital, seven weeks after being diagnosed with pancreatic cancer.

The handsome, intelligent, witty little man was courageous and spiritually confident as he surrendered to his short but often painful illness and was lovingly supported by his partner of 10 1/2 years, Danny Castelow; his parents Mr. and Mrs. Clifford Colton, Sr., of Tillamook, Oregon; his sister Lynn; brother Ron; and a circle of close friends.

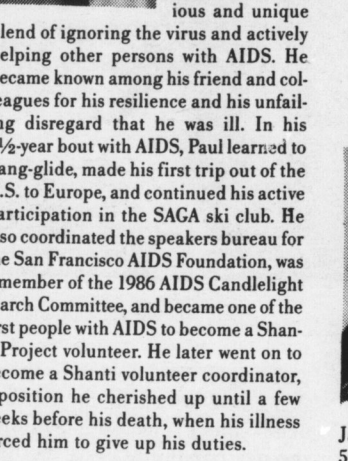
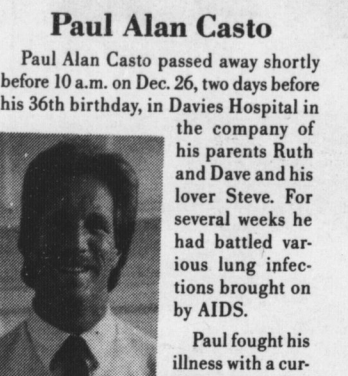
A contract specialist for the federal government, John was overwhelmed by the love and support he received from his co-workers from the General Services Administration who donated over 400 hours of leave time on his behalf.

Heartfelt thanks to Dr. Breeden, Dr. Kampman, and nurse Pat Clark of Kaiser Hospital, whose extraordinary efforts helped in keeping John as comfortable as possible during his final days.

John's spirit of love and integrity, with a sprinkling of mischief, will live on in the hearts of his family and Daddy; dear friends Ken, Veronica, Frank, Barbara, and Pearl; his co-workers; and neighbors.

A memorial service was held at Trinity Episcopal Church on Jan. 4. John's ashes will be scattered on his family's estate in Tillamook, Oregon.

Donations in memory of John may be made to the American Cancer Society.



We shall always carry Tom's spirited and beautiful song in our hearts and shall attempt to live in the gracious manner that he lives on, in peace, acceptance, and love.

He ceased breathing so he could truly dance freely among all of us. And when all our hands meet again in another dream, we shall all sing and dance together.

No funeral, but a memorial celebration is planned; (707) 578-4328. If preferred, donations in Tom's memory may be made to Face to Face, P.O. Box 1599, Guerneville 95446, so that another person with AIDS might benefit, as Tom did, by this extraordinary volunteer organization.

Donnell Isaac Robinson
 Aug. 11, 1956-Dec. 21, 1988

Donnell died peacefully at his home in Santa Rosa in the presence of his doctor and friend, Christina, and his spiritual partner, Tom.

A celebration of his life will be held on Sunday, Jan. 15, in Santa Rosa. Please call (707) 542-1801 or (707) 528-3011 for more information.

Ralph Nishimi
 March 18, 1955-Dec. 26, 1988

Ralph died peacefully in his sleep the night after Christmas, falling at last to AIDS and its many complications. With him was his lover Stephan at their home at the Russian River. A longtime San Francisco resident, Ralph preferred it to even his native Hawaii.

He had been surrounded by his friends for the holidays, who will congregate again in Honolulu on Jan. 14 for final services. Always the most gracious of hosts, Ralph had made plans for his final luau in Waikeiki, with his ashes being scattered in the Hawaiian waters. His plans are being carried out to the letter as his guests depart Jan. 13 for Honolulu.

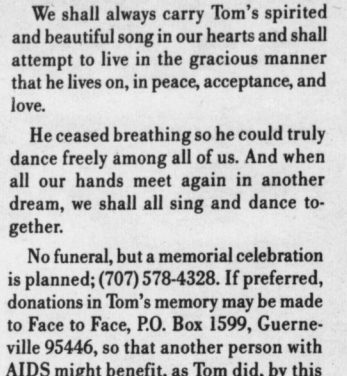
Ralph attended Stanford, and then graduated from UC Berkeley. He was an expert in business management, and his clients included many prominent gay businesses and professional people in the San Francisco area, including Alternate Publishing. He was business manager of Touring Gear Unlimited Motorcycles and owner of Rich and Famous Computers on 7th Street.

Surviving Ralph are his mother Martha, who was also with him his last week, his sister Phyllis, as well as Stephan Price, his mate and partner of recent years.

The two-year battle is over, Ralphie. You gave it one magnificent fight. No general was ever more organized, and no campaign more courageous nor complete with meticulous detail. Nor was any fighter ever more surrounded by a more dedicated and loving staff. Rest well until we see you again. *Mahalo and aloha.*

It has been requested that donations in Ralph's memory be made to Face to Face in gratitude for their generous and tireless support.

Baron, where's Ralph?



George William Davis
 George William (Bill) Davis died an accidental death Nov. 24, Thanksgiving Day, while visiting friends in Grass Valley. He was 44 years old last July 13.

Bill lived in San Francisco for many years, having moved here in 1965 after leaving Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, where he was born and grew up. He resided in the Castro most of those years, first on States Street and later in his home on 15th Street.

He was widely known and respected as one of the finest gardeners in the Bay Area. He ran his own landscape and gardening business with a special personal and professional style. He possessed skill and knowledge of plants and growing conditions equaled by few in the profession. And he demonstrated a concern for his clients and a responsibility for their gardens which surpassed ordinary professional standards. He loved his gardens, designing them, planting them, tending their growth and development.

He is survived by his mother, Sarah Davis of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, and by three sisters: Mary Linda Smith of Houston, Texas; Patricia Linden of Fenton, Michigan; and Sarah Brim of Mars, Pennsylvania.

For those of us who knew him, he will be remembered as a warm and loving friend, caring of others and generous in sharing his life with them. Bill met the world with a warm smile and a friendly greeting. His friends are invited to say goodbye to him at a memorial service to be held Jan. 13 at 7:30 in the chapel at Calvary Presbyterian Church, Jackson and Fillmore. Donations in Bill's memory can be made to the Strybing Arboretum.

Royal Liner
 June 12, 1937-Dec. 25, 1988

An active community leader died of AIDS complications.

Royal was from South Carolina and was surrounded by family and friends. Royal gave of himself generously and often. His involvement with Coits, Lighthouse for the Blind, the Gay Softball League, among many other efforts, will be greatly missed.

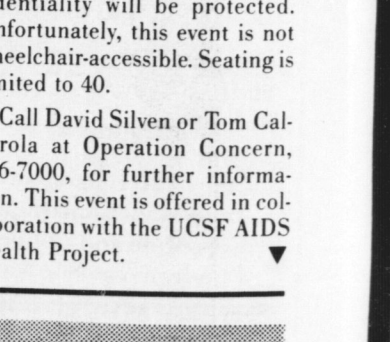
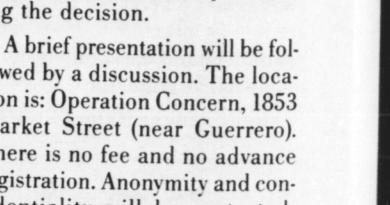
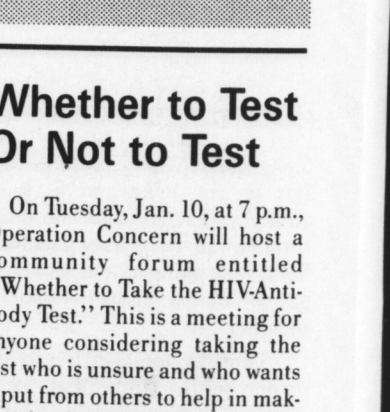
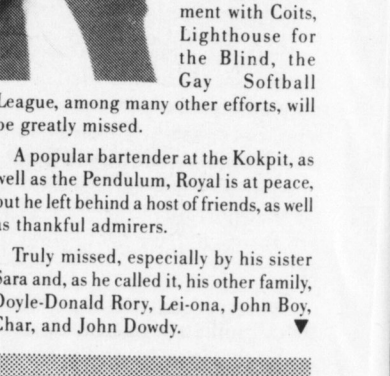
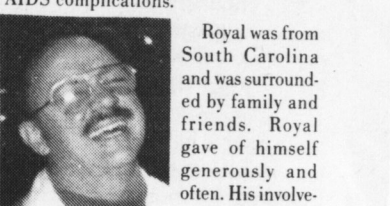
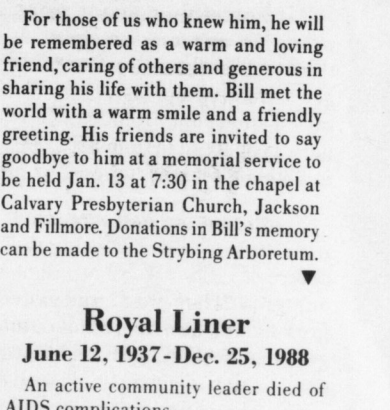
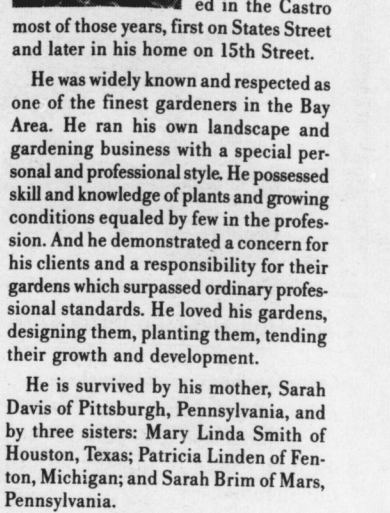
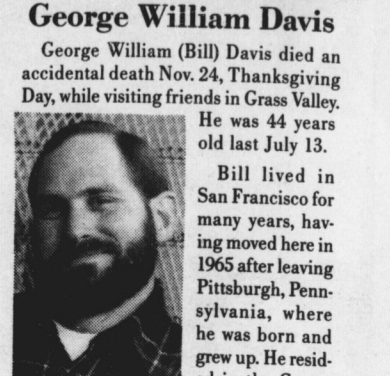
A popular bartender at the Kokpit, as well as the Pendulum, Royal is at peace, but he left behind a host of friends, as well as thankful admirers.

Truly missed, especially by his sister Sara and, as he called it, his other family, Doyle-Donald Rory, Leiona, John Boy, Char, and John Dowdy.

Whether to Test Or Not to Test
 On Tuesday, Jan. 10, at 7 p.m., Operation Concern will host a community forum entitled "Whether to Take the HIV-Antibody Test." This is a meeting for anyone considering taking the test who is unsure and who wants input from others to help in making the decision.

A brief presentation will be followed by a discussion. The location is: Operation Concern, 1853 Market Street (near Guerrero). There is no fee and no advance registration. Anonymity and confidentiality will be protected. Unfortunately, this event is not wheelchair-accessible. Seating is limited to 40.

Call David Silven or Tom Caldarola at Operation Concern, 626-7000, for further information. This event is offered in collaboration with the UCSF AIDS Health Project.



Perry Watkins. (Photo: PhotoGraphics/Darlene)

Year Review
 (Continued from page 1)

The State Senate passed AB 87, which created a state commission on AIDS, prohibited discrimination against people with AIDS in housing and employment, and loosened the requirement on the confidentiality of some medical records regarding AIDS.

Local gay demonstrators converged on an armed forces recruitment center to protest federal aid to the Contras in Nicaragua instead of going to AIDS research.

More than 100 gay and lesbian activists through California started organizing to defeat the second LaRouche-inspired AIDS quarantine initiative, Prop. 69. The strategy urged support for a gay pro-active AIDS initiative that was planned for the November ballot, but never made it.

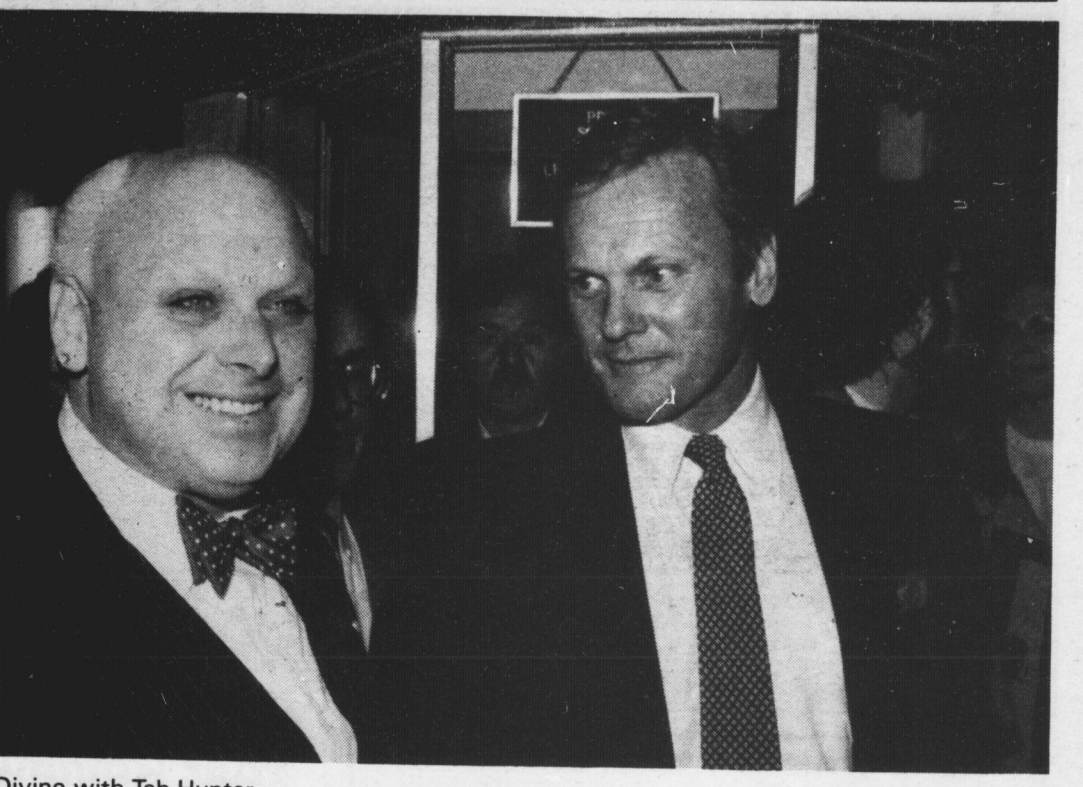
Some 53 people were arrested at the AIDS Vigil, including Sup. Harry Britt and Walter Johnson, head of the San Francisco Labor Council. The protest was aimed to escalate pressure and focus attention on the federal government's lack of leadership in the AIDS health crisis. The demonstrators were arrested when they chained themselves to the doors of the Federal Building during several days of protest.

A gay couple denied a house insurance policy sued Farmers Insurance Company through the national Gay Rights Advocates when the firm resisted a settlement. Farmers said the policy was available to married couples, but a single person living with another single person must each take out his own policy.

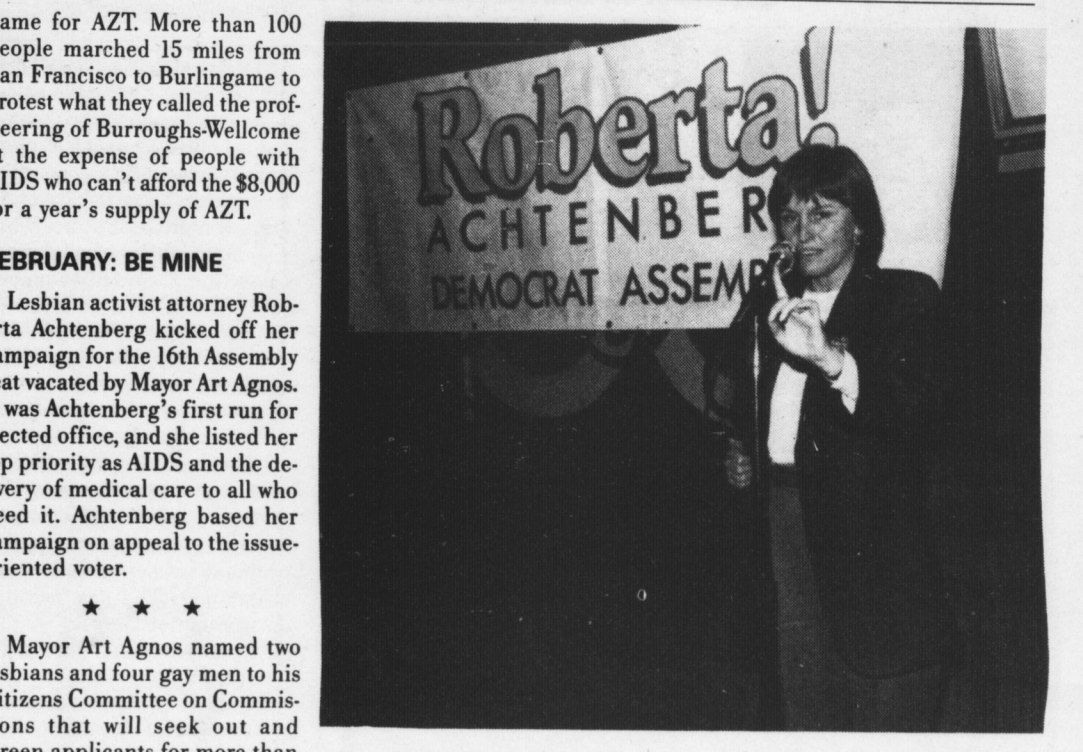
Dan Bradley, 47, died of AIDS. Bradley became the symbol of pride for the gay community in 1982 when he came out publicly while he was president of the federal Legal Services Corporation.

The San Francisco Police Department enacted a tough new policy on sexual discrimination and harassment that specifically prohibits harassment on the basis of sexual orientation. The policy comes with detailed complaint procedures for formal and informal complaints. Supervisors are required to act upon all complaints on the same day the complaints are received. A Police Commission member said the new policy was needed and that most people were pleased with it.

A total of 19 protesters were arrested by Burlingame police when they trespassed on the property of Burroughs-Wellcome, the pharmaceutical firm that has a virtual monopoly on the manufacture of Retrovir, the trade





Divine with Tab Hunter. (Photo: Steve Savage)



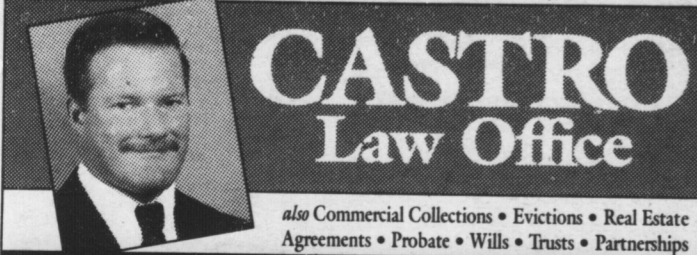
Roberta Achtenberg. (Photo: Steve Savage)

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Photo: Kingmond Young

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The San Francisco Department of Public Health offers AIDS Antibody Testing which is **voluntary, free and anonymous**. Counseling and referrals are also available. To make an appointment for testing, call **621-4858**

YES **NO**

GET THE FACTS. CONSIDER YOUR FEELINGS. THEN DECIDE.

Funding for this message provided by the S.F. Department of Public Health.



Emperor Steve Rascher and Empress Lily Street. (Photo: R. Puzan)

Year Review

(Continued from previous page)

200 board and commission posts appointed by the mayor.

In an effort to curtail tourists in tour buses who wish to photograph the generic gay couple in their natural Castro habitat, the Department of Public Works ruled that it would prohibit tour buses from Castro Street upward to Market Street on 18th. The proposed ban was scheduled to go before the Board of Supervisors for action.

The city council in Raleigh, N.C., the home town of Sen. Jesse Helms, voted by seven-to-one to amend its antidiscrimination ordinance to now include sexual orientation. The new law bans discrimination in city employment and city-funded housing.

Vic Macia, deputy police chief, retired after 30 years in the San Francisco Police Department. Macia was well-liked by the gay community, especially for his

ability to reform Mission Station at a time when it was under extreme pressure because of homophobia and anti-gay violence by police officers.

Mayor Art Agnos endorsed the call to ban the Olympics in San Francisco in the wake of the controversy caused when the U.S. Olympic Committee refused to allow the Gay Games to use the word "Olympic" in its name. Supervisor Harry Britt sponsored a resolution to ban the 1996 Olympics in S.F. until the USOC rescinds its ban.

Saint Valentine's Day once again coincided with National Condom Week, and the San Francisco AIDS Foundation celebrated by handing out condoms, literature, and Valentine's Day cards at 18th and Castro streets.

A three-judge panel of the 9th Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals ruled that the Army can't discharge soldiers solely on the basis that they are lesbian or gay. The decision sets the stage for

still another Supreme Court battle for gay rights where the Army is expected to appeal. The ruling stems from a 1981 lawsuit brought by then-Sgt. Perry Watkins, who enlisted in 1967, openly admitting he was gay. Watkins was later discharged against his will.

An era in San Francisco nightlife ended when the Trocadero Transfer was closed by owner Dick Collier and became part of the musical empire of I-Beam owner Sanford Kellman.

A capacity crowd showered their love and dollars on two AIDS organizations at the final benefit performance of Julie Harris starring in the one-woman show about the later life of writer Charlotte Bronte. A supper followed at Ivy's for special ticket-holders.

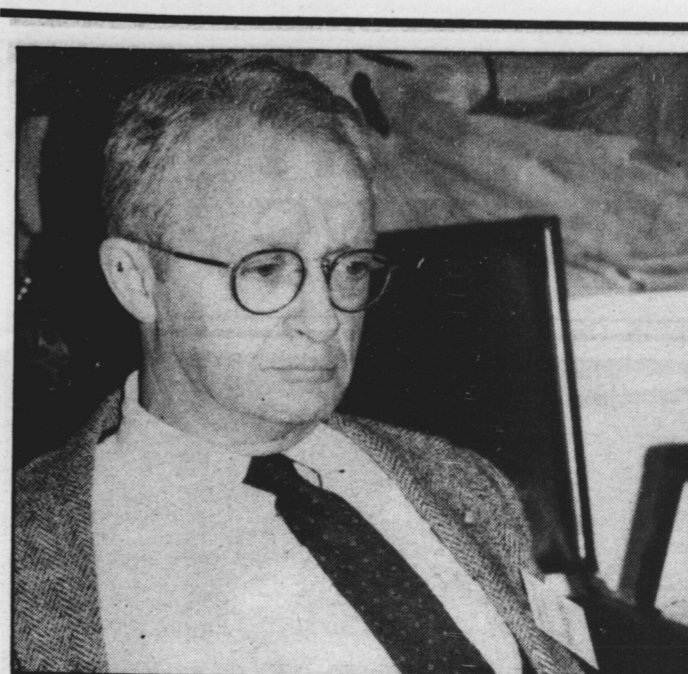
Steven Rascher and Lily Street were elected San Francisco's 16th emperor and 23rd empress, respectively. They were crowned in Coronation '88 at the Sheraton Palace Hotel.

Concerned Republicans for Individual Rights endorsed the anti-gay Olympic Games attorney Vaughn Walker for his nomination to the U.S. Federal District Court for Northern California. CRIR backed Walker despite his harassment of the late Dr. Tom Waddell during the landmark suit to use the name "Olympic" in Gay Games.

MARCH: WINDY MONTH
 UCLA's Lambda Delta Lambda became the first lesbian sorority in the country to gain official recognition, causing a flood of interest from the media for interviews and talk shows, as well as offers of money and other aid.

The Episcopal Diocese of California dropped its threat of formal charges against Rev. Robert Cromey when he violated a church ban on the blessing of same-sex relationships. Reverend Cromey, rector of Trinity Episcopal, apologized in a letter to Bishop William Swing, but said afterwards that he didn't promise to adhere to the injunction against such blessing, but promised loyalty to the doctrine of the church.

A coalition of gay groups demanded a full inquiry into allegations of police and judicial misconduct in the investigation of the stabbing death of George Smoot by a McAteer High School



Dr. Frank Lilly (Photo: R. Rink)

student. The Stonewall Club led the charge against Inspector Frank McCoy and three others for what it called the biased and inadequate investigation by police of the Smoot case.

The 1988 Cable Car Awards honored Cleve Jones of the Names Project, Del Martin and Phyllis Lyon, Rev. Bill Barcus of Grace Cathedral, Dr. Don Francis of the Centers for Disease Control, who all received Board of Directors Awards. Mike Hippler of the B.A.R. was also inducted into the Cable Car Hall of Fame as outstanding columnist.

Divine—born Harris Glenn Milstead—died in his sleep at the age of 42. A cult movie star known for his outrageous drag comedy in the works of director John Waters, Divine last appeared in *Hairspray*, which crossed over to appeal to mainstream audiences.

Three gay students at a Lutheran seminary in Berkeley were certified for ordination as long as they didn't engage in gay sex. Church officials reported the gay men may then become ministers, although they are not actually ordained until a parish offers them a ministry. A placement for a gay minister in the Lutheran Church is considered remote.

Project Open Hand received a \$125,000 grant from Chevron USA that went toward a down payment on a new building on

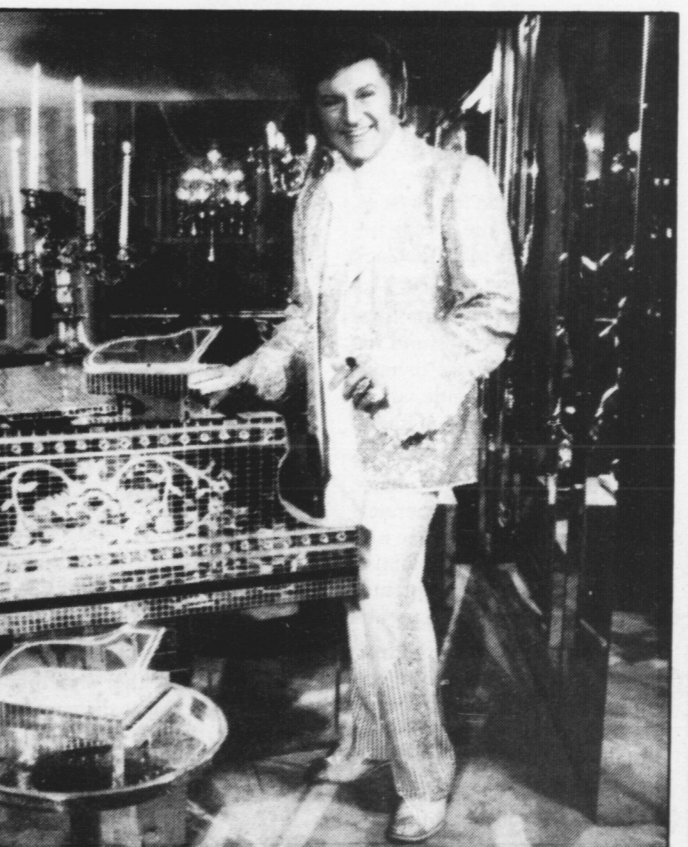
17th Street. Open Hand expected a move from its quarters at Trinity Episcopal Church in January 1989.

Lily Tomlin and Jane Wagner received the thanks of San Francisco and the Names Project for their repeated fundraising activities for Bay Area AIDS-related organizations.

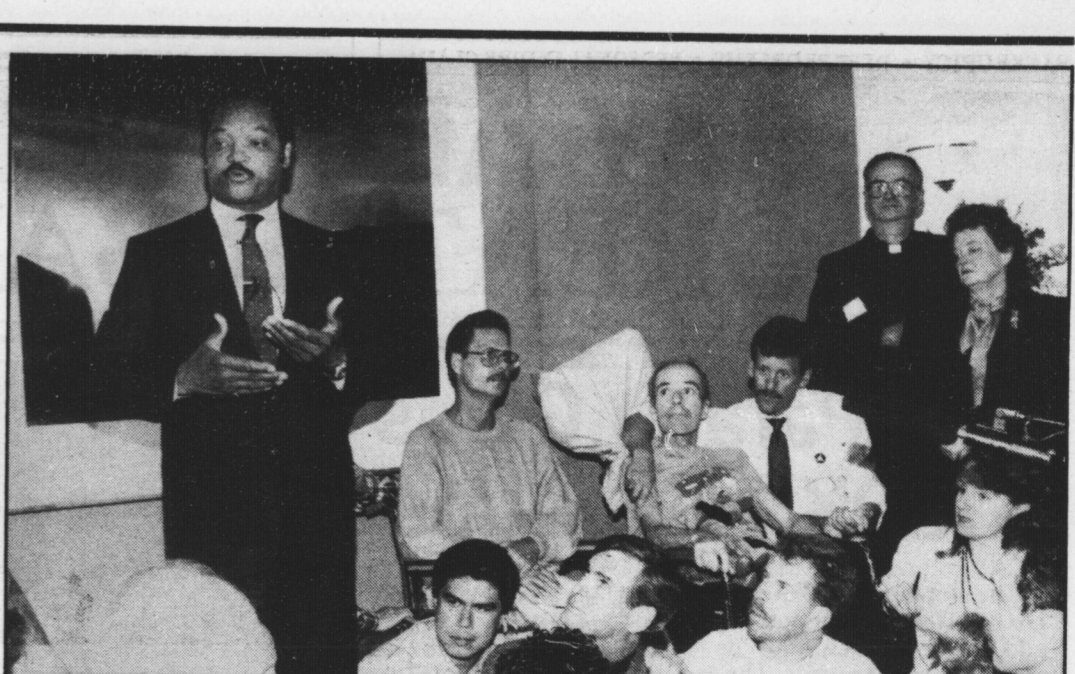
A San Francisco man was found guilty of first-degree murder of an unidentified transient whose mutilated body was discovered wrapped in trash bags. The male victim's body was drained of blood, his testicles were sliced open, and a pentagram was carved in his chest. Police said the killer was a member of a gay satanic cult.

The estate of the late Liberace, including the furnishings and various collections of pieces from his various homes, went on auction at the Los Angeles Convention Center. The proceeds will benefit the nonprofit Liberace Foundation for the Performing and Creative Arts that funds scholarships at 28 schools and colleges in the U.S.

Edwin L. Stark died of heart failure following a brief illness. A native of Kansas, Ed opened Nothing Special in the Castro 18 years ago. Ed made an annual appearance in *Men Behind Bars* and *The Nutcracker*, and he was always on perfect point.



Liberace with his riches.



Jesse Jackson at Coming Home Hospice. (Photo: PhotoGraphics/Darlene)

A remark by a guest speaker at Berkeley High School that Aristotle was a "faggot" led school officials to decide to screen all future presentations at the high school. The school assembly was supposed to celebrate Black History Month.

A new lawsuit was filed against Disneyland on behalf of three gay men who alleged they were discriminated against because the amusement park prohibited same-sex dancing. When a gay couple was dancing to a slow ballad, the men were told by security officials that "touch-dancing is reserved for heterosexual couples only." The lawsuit sought a court injunction in Orange County to bar Disneyland from stopping dancing of whatever type for all couples.

The United Way of the Bay

Area awarded \$1.1 million to AIDS-related charities in the Bay Area as part of its AIDS Crisis Fund. Donors were able to choose the fund as a special giving option.

Democratic presidential candidate Jesse Jackson said his support of lesbian and gay rights won't hurt his chances for the presidential nomination. Jackson said there were no exceptions under equal protection. "We must provide, under law, equal protection for every American citizen. That cannot be excepted based on race or sex or sexual preference or religion."

Dr. Frank Lilly, a member of the Presidential AIDS Commission, blamed Ronald Reagan for the deaths of many from AIDS because the President had his head in the sand when he should have acted fast to fight AIDS with

money and resolve. "I think he just hopes it will go away," Lilly said of Reagan. "I don't know how aware he is beyond the statistics."

Beverly Mesch, the former director of a shelter for battered women in Hawaii, was named executive director of Community United Against Violence (CUAV).

The 17-year-old killer of George Smoot was ordered to the California Youth Authority in Sacramento for 90 days of psychiatric evaluation. The unidentified youth was himself the object of a gruesome hazing ritual by high school football teammates.

To Be Continued Next Week

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BAY AREA REPORTER GREATER BAY NEWS

L.A. Parade Gives \$100K to Groups

Christopher Street West/Los Angeles (CSW) announced Dec. 13 the recipients of their 1988 grant awards. The total amount given back to the gay and lesbian community in 1988 set a record of \$100,000.

Christopher Street West/Los Angeles traditionally makes grants to organizations that serve the gay and lesbian community. Priority is given to organizations that benefit a wide cross section of the community and the greatest number of gay men and lesbians served.

In addition to the grants announced today, as well as a sizable contribution to the battle against Prop. 102, CSW contributed to organizations such as Alcoholics Together, A.S.H. Orange County, Great American Yankee Freedom Band, the U.S. Mission, The Pioneer Home in the Valley (an AIDS hospice), Nevada AIDS Foundation, and the Gay Mens Chorus of Los Angeles.

The board of directors had voted eight years ago to embark on a 20-year, long-range plan to establish a home for senior gay men and lesbians. Each year a portion of the proceeds of the Gay and Lesbian Pride Festival were put aside in a money market account, with the intention of eventually establishing a home for gay and lesbian seniors.

With the onslaught of the AIDS epidemic, the board recognized the immediate need that AIDS placed on the gay and lesbian community. Last month, Christopher Street West purchased an apartment complex in Hollywood with the intention of leasing the property to Casa del Sol Hospice of the Greater Los Angeles AIDS Hospice Foundation, to establish an 18-bed AIDS Hospice. Renovation will begin in January, with a scheduled opening date of June, 1989.

Christopher Street West/Los Angeles, a nonprofit California corporation, produces the annual Los Angeles Gay and Lesbian Pride Celebration in West Hollywood. Last year, Christopher Street West provided more than \$75,000 to gay and lesbian organizations through community grant programs.

The 1989 Los Angeles Gay and Lesbian Pride Festival is scheduled for June 24 and 25 at West Hollywood Park. The Gay and Lesbian Pride Parade will take place Sunday, June 25.

The celebration will mark the 20th Anniversary of the rebellion at Stonewall Inn, a gay bar on Christopher Street in New York's Greenwich Village. The celebration commemorates that event which sparked the modern Gay and Lesbian rights movement in this country.

GAY CITY — GAY PAPER.
BAY AREA REPORTER

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BAY AREA REPORTER JANUARY 5, 1989 PAGE 22



Stanford University scientists with SCID-hu mouse.

Stanford Develops Model For Study of HIV in Mice

Mouse With Human Tissues Provides New System to Study AIDS

A laboratory mouse with human immune tissues has been infected with the AIDS virus, Stanford University researchers reported in the Dec. 23 issue of *Science*. The report comes three months after the same research team described in *Science* their creation of the powerful new research tool—experimental mice possessing elements of the human immune system.

The new report confirms what the scientists had previously predicted—that the mice, called "SCID-hu," are suitable hosts for infection by the AIDS virus. The finding paves the way for the mice to serve as a model for humans, allowing scientists to study in heretofore impossible detail how the immune system reacts to infection by the human immunodeficiency virus.

Scientists have been hampered in studying AIDS because HIV does not infect normal laboratory mice and does not cause disease in any species other than humans.

Since humans cannot be experimented upon, "there has been a need for a small animal model in which one can directly

study the human immune system and infection with HIV," said Dr. Joseph M. McCune, a post-doctoral fellow at Stanford and an author of the *Science* paper. "Now we have an animal that can be studied in a rational and systematic manner in the laboratory."

McCune's colleagues on the latest *Science* report are visiting Japanese scientists Dr. Reiko Namikawa of Aichi Medical University and Dr. Hideto Kaneshima of Nagoya University; Dr. Miriam Lieberman, a Stanford research associate; and Dr. Irving Weissman, Beekhuis professor of cancer biology and pathology at Stanford University School of Medicine.

Since HIV infects and causes disease in certain cells in the human immune system, the researchers need to create an animal that contains those particular cells, McCune explained.

In their previous report, the scientists described how they transplanted human fetal tissues, which give rise to the human immune system, into mice that lack their own immune defenses.

They injected human fetal liver cells into the mice and implanted pieces of fetal thymus, spleen, and lymph node, all required for development of immunity.

In subsequent experiments, the research team deliberately infected some of these mice with the AIDS virus by inoculating HIV directly into the implanted human thymus or lymph tissues.

Tissue samples removed from the mice at one, two, four, and eight weeks following HIV inoculation revealed that the virus had infected the human cells and was spreading.

There was no sign that the mice developed AIDS, however, because the experiments were terminated after eight weeks, too short a time for the virus to cause

obvious clinical signs of disease.

"By limiting the study to eight weeks, we cannot yet predict whether the mice would get the full AIDS syndrome. It's too early to tell. This experiment wasn't designed to mimic AIDS in human patients exactly," Weissman said.

For one thing, the virus was inoculated directly into the human lymphoid organs in the mice, whereas in patients the virus is acquired through blood or sexual contact.

"The experiments were designed so that we could analyze in the safest way the most important question—does the virus infect and spread?" McCune pointed out.

The researchers said that their results indicate the mice will provide a good model for what happens to the human immune system during the crucial, very early stages of infection by the AIDS virus. It's particularly important to study these early stages because, by the time symptoms are present, the immune system has already been destroyed, McCune pointed out.

"There are a lot of steps in the biology of the virus that we can study now," McCune explained. Among the problems to solve are which cells the virus attacks and whether there is a way to block HIV from infecting those cells or to block its replication after infection, he noted.

In addition to helping biologists piece together a picture of how HIV begins to dismantle the immune system, the mice will provide a living system in which to study promising drugs before they are tried out in humans. It may also allow the testing of candidate vaccines, sparing the only other HIV animal model, chimpanzees, Weissman said.

Dignity

(Continued from page 1)

lications. Sammon is one of the most respected clergymen in the Bay Area. He has received national attention for his support of the sanctuary movement, which gives haven for political exiles from Central and South America. He is also the pastor of St. Teresa's Catholic Church on Potrero Hill.

Dignity hopes to use the high regard held for Sammon as a method of assuring that the focus of their actions stays with the Archdiocese of San Francisco. Cota repeatedly said that Dignity's plan is not an attack on Sammon, but on an organization he represents.

Cota said their challenge of Sammon is the first of many moves planned by Dignity against the archdiocese. He said they will be moving on political, economic, and spiritual levels against the Roman Catholic Church.

Their second move is going to be economic. Cota said, "They clearly discriminate. Are they to be given city money and city contracts? We are going to start investigating and take them to court."

These plans by Dignity come at a time when the organization is worshipping in a non-Catholic church for the first time since its founding over 15 years ago. Last Sunday night, Dignity held mass in their new home, the Dolores Street Baptist Church.

A crowd of several hundred braved the chill night air for the service. Ironically, they are meeting in a church which is also severed from its main church body. The Baptist Church "withdrew fellowship" from the Dolores Street Baptist Church in April 1986.

Reverend Jim Lowder of Dolores Street Baptist said, "The decisive issue that exiled us is that we accept gay men and lesbians into our congregation." He said that "essentially we were excommunicated from that body. We are not recognized."

The difference between the Baptists and Dignity, said Lowder, is that "In our structure, each parish owns its own property. So, unlike Dignity that has to leave, we are able to stay and continue."

He explained the similarity, saying, "My sense is we are both in exile. We have been cut off from our roots and our heritage and from the structure that nurtured and brought us into being."

The mood was one of hospitality as Dignity held its first mass in the Baptist Church. A big sign of welcome was constructed. It carried the signatures of several Dolores Street Baptist Church members.

Though Dignity is exiled from the archdiocese, their presence was still at the service. When asked, Londergan said, "Yes, there are spies. They want to know what we are doing. The archbishop knows what we are doing, step by step."

The reason for the spies, he said, is because Quinn "has forbade priests in the archdiocese from celebrating the eucharist" for Dignity.

The fight for our rights goes on. Stay informed with the B.A.R.

Nez Pas

'Ketching Up' With EBAF

ADSCITIOUS ANIMATEDNESS (An 'Ogden Nash' Nose?)

I'm not sure, but I think I know why I am reminded of a bit of verse from Ogden Nash about ketchup. (Incidentally, *ketchup* is now the preferred spelling, and soon the term *catsup* will go on the way of Par-T-Pak Cola, Blue Jay Potato Chips, and Bit-O-Honey candy bars. So if you have a container with the word *catsup* on it, you might want to save it for a collector's item—but I digress.) Anyway, Mr. Nash wrote something like, "It's a strange thing, that ketchup bottle. First none will come, and then a lot'll!"

That same tenet holds true for East Bay Assistance Fund board of directors! Many requests have been put out over the years for replacements for the original board—it has served for over five years. There were no takers. Even when individuals were approached directly, their responses always boiled down to something like: (1) "No way, I don't want that responsibility!"; (2) "Gee, I just don't have the time right now"; or (3) "I don't want to get that involved!"

Well, dear reader, since the mailing of letters of resignation from two of the board members and the publication of the plight in last week's column, it seems that the dams have broken and offers of "sitting on the board" are inundating the organization. The proof of the pudding, as it were, will happen on Monday, Jan. 16, 7 p.m., second floor, Administration Building, Fairmont Hospital, San Leandro.

Those who have expressed interest will have to cope with, accept, and adhere to the following:

- Work on the board for no compensation.
- Make public their addresses and phone numbers to receive any and all mailings and calls concerning the organization.

• Meet the following Tuesday at EBAF's bank to sign the new checking account signature cards.

• Undertake the responsibility of screening all applications for validity, eligibility, and credibility.

• Keep in contact with such beneficiaries as Different Spokes, Friends of Oscar, Horizons, Ed Paulson, Little Mother, etc.

• Take the task of keeping responsible, accurate books, adhering to all the rules and regulations of a tax-exempt entity with the state and federal governments.

• Become responsible for all written communications connected with EBAF, including, but not limited to, letters of application for benefits, thank-you letters to donees, acceptance or denial letters to applicants, etc.

• Provide finances for postage for outgoing board members so EBAF business can be forwarded to the new board members.

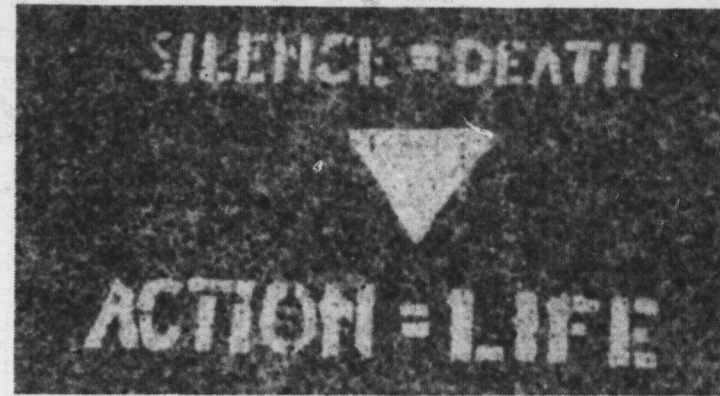
• Publish quarterly the income and the assistance payouts, so the public will be informed.

• Reconcile to the fact the EBAF business is not limited to the once-a-month meeting, but is a daily, ongoing responsibility to those who have AIDS/ARC and are in need of emergency financial assistance.

I'm curious to see just how much the foregoing will thin out the ranks of those currently feigning interest. It will most certainly be a case of putting one's time and energy where one's mouth is!

LUNATION COLLIMATION (A Divulging Nose)

With the title of "Everything You Always Wanted to Know About HIV—But Were Afraid to Ask...," the AIDS Project of the East Bay is sponsoring a monthly orientation for people who are HIV-positive. All are welcome,



(Photo: Rink)

and there is no admission fee. The next orientation will be tonight, Thursday, Jan. 5, at 7 p.m. The location is 3421 Martin Luther King Jr. Way in Oakland.

For more information about this meeting and other services available from AIDS Project of the East Bay, call 420-8181.

FARRAGO (A Goulash Nose)

CCC AIDS Task Force Sunday at D.J.'s in Walnut Creek will be Sunday, Jan. 8, from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. This is the monthly happening to benefit AIDS patients in Contra Costa County. This first of 1989 will be "The Best of 1988," featuring the Wet Dream Girls, comedienne Sandy Van, and others returning by popular demand.

Buy a \$5 coupon and get drinks at happy-hour prices, plus a free drink (well, domestic beer, and wine) and chances at fabulous doorprizes donated by local merchants. D.J.'s is located at 1535 Olympic Boulevard, Walnut Creek.

Bob Sandner is back at D.J.'s on Tuesdays, starting Jan. 10 from 8:30 p.m. to 1 a.m. He'll be there to play all your old favorites, so come on down and sing along, laugh, and welcome him back. David Kelsey continues on Friday and Saturday evenings.

On Sunday, Jan. 15, at Big Mama's, Ed Paulson will hold his annual auction, with proceeds going to benefit the East Bay Food Pantry. Take your sellable items to Big Mama's prior to Friday, Jan. 13. For large items, pick-

up can be arranged. For further information, call 881-9310.

Oh, yes, the latest on Little Mother: (1) The reason she is so short is that her parents had an argument with God... and lost!

(2) She complained to her husband John that his paycheck wasn't big enough. She was told that if she didn't like it, she could go out and get a real job! When last seen, Little Mother had broken out with a severe case of rashes and hives!

Did you know or even care that there is no comma in "Louie Louie," no period in Dr Pepper, and no apostrophe in Grants Pass? There should be, but there isn't. Also, those round, white bumps you see on the highway, the ones that let you know when you're drifting out of your lane—they actually have a name. They're called "Botts dots," named after the Caltrans engineer who invented them, Dr. Elbert D. Botts.

If you made any, how many of your New Year's resolutions have you broken already? I made several standards, such as: quit smoking; drink less; go on a diet; save money; read more; watch less TV; temper my temper, and answer letters from Mom promptly. At the stroke of midnight, I immediately broke them all! Oh, well, there's always next year—1990!

If I had to live my life all over again, I'd probably make all the same mistakes—only much sooner! I can smile at that. My first love to you in '89.

—Nez

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Illustration by Laura H. Young

BAY AREA REPORTER ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

However, the Show Is a Shocker

'Dead Marilyn': The Dead Don't Come Back

by Matthew Ogden

The stage is dark. Through a filmy cobweb of a curtain, night mist seeps out over the audience. In the foreground, a star's dressing table and a chaise lounge, which doubles as a crypt, dominate the stage. Behind the curtain, a steep flight of stairs is our link to the heavens from which descends Dead Marilyn.

As portrayed by performance artist Peter Stack, Marilyn is not how we remember her. Oh, the gowns (recreated by Liz Tee) evoke some of her famous film roles—the billowy white number from *The Seven Year Itch*, for example—but they are musty now and serve as shrouds for Marilyn herself.

She hasn't aged well: Her platinum blonde wigs are in disarray, her makeup overdone. She is decomposing—carrion hangs from her left cheek and shapely gams, and dark circles hollow out her bloodshot eyes. Dried earth clings to her body like a second skin, reminding us that even a star of Marilyn's magnitude must claw her way out of the grave.

One might laugh at the almost pretentious walk she takes down the stairs to greet her audience. It is a stately one—full of near stumbles, but always regal and feminine.



Dead Marilyn.

One might laugh, except for the morbid curiosity she evokes. Marilyn, in life, was the epitome of the waif who searched in vain for love and understanding. In death, through the lyrics and performance of Peter Stack, she finds a sharp tongue, a quick wit, and vindication.

Clutching the microphone like a last hope, Dead Marilyn begins an hour of non-stop therapy—blending camp

with outright bad taste. To appreciate her act, you must be aware of the "conspiracy" theories which have come to light since the deaths of the Lawfords, the Hoovers, and the Kennedys. After her anthem, "Pray for Death," DM frantically rummages through the drawers of her vanity until she finds a dusty tapestry depicting JFK sitting in the Oval Office with Old Glory hanging stately in the background. Dead Marilyn kisses it sweetly, pulls it slowly

down her body, lingering around her loins, then hurls it down to the ground and digs one spiked heel into the president's face.

Grimacing with orgasmic satisfaction, she chants, "If you think that's tacky, wait 'til you see Jackie!" And see Jackie we do—replete with JFK's brains splayed all over her mink stole. Playing the dual roles of Dead Marilyn and Jackie, Stack begins the devilishly catchy "Jackie Has a Photo," in which we learn that

Jackie wanted Marilyn dead so that the world wouldn't find out about her marital trouble in Camelot.

It is so appalling that it's appealing.

Tour de force is an oft-used phrase, but it befits Stack's one-character show. Given the moderate length of an hour, Dead Marilyn's omnipresence is excusable and even welcome. During the fleeting moments he is off-stage to effect a costume change, silent 16mm black-and-white film images of Dead Marilyn coyly blowing a kiss, then snatching it back, are projecting on two giant screens.

When Dead Marilyn is performing, still photographs of live Marilyn in her Hollywood days are projected like alter egos, and, eerily, they take a back seat to the incarnation onstage. Whether swallowing endless handfuls of barbituates, stumbling over empty champagne bottles, or calling a press conference to "blow the lid" off her clandestine affairs, Dead Marilyn has the audience rooting for Marilyn as if—maybe this time—she won't have to die.

As she must die (otherwise there would be no need for Dead Marilyn), and—just as we have accepted the convention of Stack as Marilyn—we witness a jarring resur-

(Continued on next page)

VIDEO

Classic Film 'The Bad and the Beautiful' Heads Off 'Leading Man' Video Series

by William Francis

MGM/UA Home Video is in the middle of an aggressive promotional campaign. One of MGM/UA's newest series for the home video market is what it calls the "Leading Man" series. The series will spotlight some of Hollywood's top male stars from the 1950s.

Films include *The Bad and the Beautiful*, *Executive Suite* (William Holden), *Bad Day at Black Rock* (Spencer Tracy), *Sweet Smell of Success* (Burt Lancaster and Tony Curtis), *Some Came Running* (Frank Sinatra and Dean Martin), and *Somebody Up There Likes Me* (Paul Newman).

The kickoff feature will be *The Bad and the Beautiful*, Vincente Minnelli's 1952 camp classic which stars Kirk Douglas, Walter Pidgeon, Dick Powell, Barry Sullivan, and Gilbert Roland. They are joined by Lana Turner and Gloria Grahame, who won a supporting actress Oscar for the film.

As Jonathan Shields, leading man Kirk Douglas is at his manipulative best in his climb to the top of the movie industry pile. Scion of a ruthless movie mogul, he is penniless. His only inheritance is the spark of his dead father's genius. Through flashbacks, we see him suavely use and discard

Sullivan, Turner, and Powell, leaving them disillusioned, alienated, and famous, in his wake.

This is behind-the-scenes Hollywood done without perversion or drooling voyeurism, but, rather, with impact and continuity. Above all, there is glamor and style.

Minnelli's artistry remains undiffused by colorization in this version. He directs with a lavish hand, drawing limpid performances from the excellent cast.

His camera angles produce some stunning visual moments. He caresses with light and shadow. In one brief scene, wearing sables, Turner looks shockingly like Dietrich in *Witness for the Prosecution*. The scenes where Turner is shaken (physically and emotionally) by Douglas, and her resultant breakdown in a rain-spattered coupe, swathed in white fox, are unforgettable.

Minnelli captures briefly a smoldering, barefoot Elaine Stewart, half in, half out of a strapless velvet gown, slinking down a spiral staircase. (She smoldered, but never caught fire.)

There are also some unanswered questions. Was Lana too important a star to use her own legs in the Crow's

Nest loft scene, or did she dub the voice later? Why were the Oscars and automobiles given a matte finish? How did the grafito of Shields' *pere* get framed and on the wall from late night to early the next morning?

David Raksin's lush theme music at times envelops entire scenes. Its perfumed melody exudes glamor and the sensuality which could not be expressed visually due to Hays Office restrictions of the time.

The final dissolve shows the faces of Sullivan, Turner, and Powell, heads together, listening rapturously on an extension phone as Jonathan spins yet another web. Does he know they're listening? The haunting theme lingers.

The Bad and the Beautiful
MGM/UA Home Video
Approximate running time: 2:03
B&W; available in VHS Hi-Fi and Beta Hi-Fi; no MPAA rating
Suggested price: \$29.95

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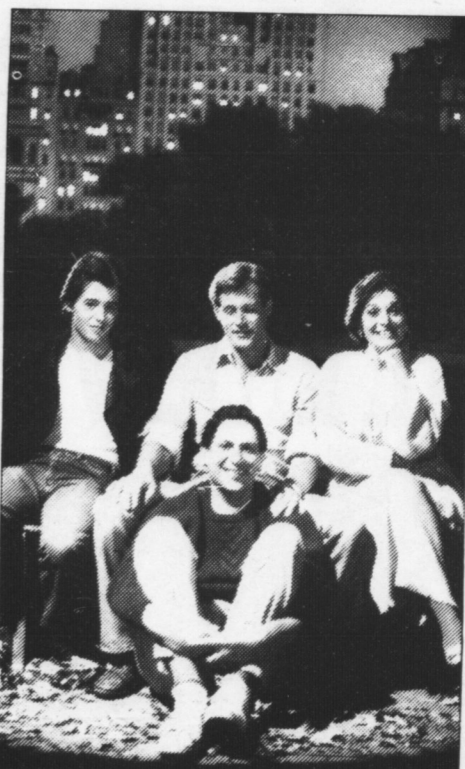
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'Last Supper'

Comedy and Tragedy for a Nuclear Family

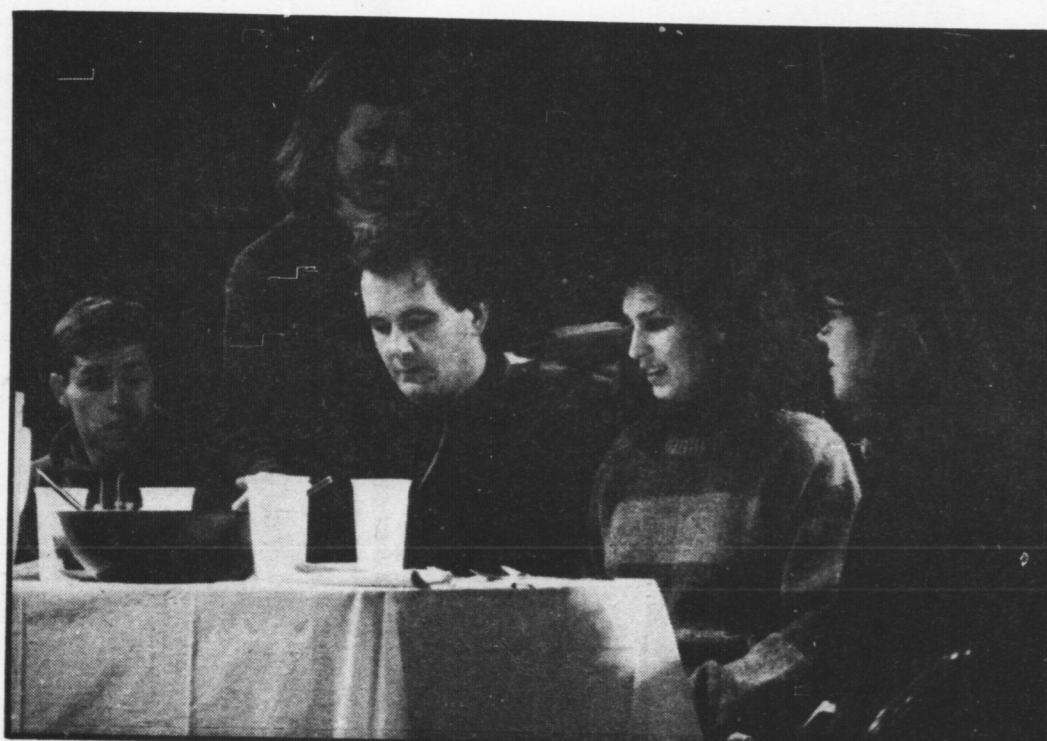
by Noreen C. Barnes

Scene: a typical family dinner somewhere in middle-class America, circa 1968. But something is wrong with this picture—what should be happy faces are, instead, full of fear and pain.

The mother, sunny in the afternoon, is downright surly now. Dad, who doesn't really listen to the children, keeps handing out money to keep what little peace there is. The kids include the long-suffering daughter Jane, who serves as peacemaker and nurse; the confrontational Mark; Joey, obsessed with magic and knives; and Alicia, the forgotten child (quite literally, as neither parent can even remember her name) who finds refuge in religious fervor and the hall closet.

Last Supper by Dean Reeve is the inaugural production of New Works Theatre. It is described as "a dysfunctional comedy"—and it certainly is. Each member of the appropriately named De Niles family has found a way to cope with the reality of their unhappy household, be it through the comfort of a bottle or plans to escape.

Mom, very well played by Sydney Erskine, is a kind of Maybelined Mary Tyler Moore (with a twist) who cannot preserve the



The cast of *Last Supper*.

(Photo: C. Bologna)

facade of the ideal home and marriage. She blames her "ungrateful" children for her unhappiness, breaks appliances, quotes *Reader's Digest*, ponders the sex lives of salmon, then keeps re-treating to the kitchen she shouldn't be left alone in.

Her relationship with Jane is perfectly stated in their rearrangements of each other's table settings. But Mom ultimately depends upon her daughter for everything, including all of the housework, and tries to prevent Jane's own escape with a young

grocery clerk (Mark Burkholder).

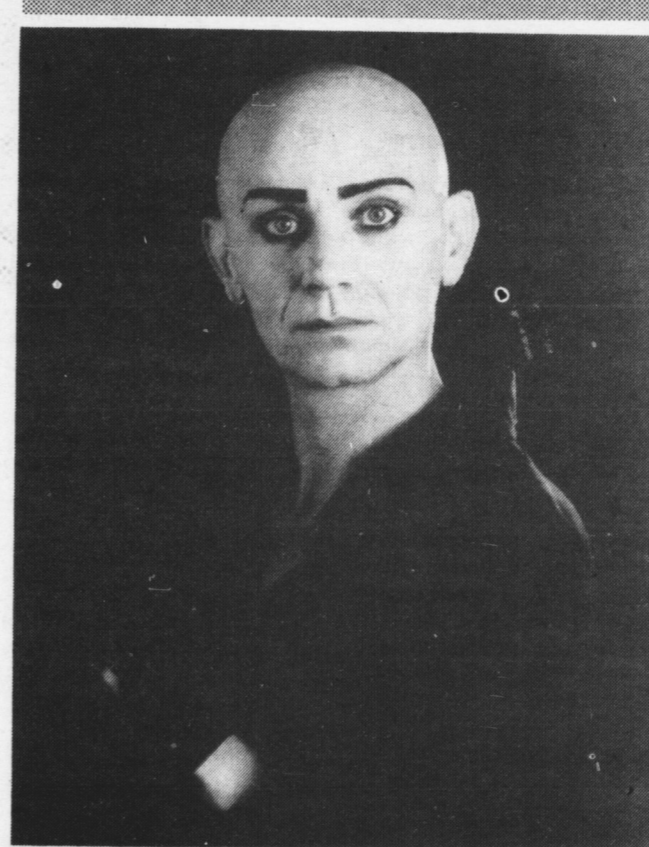
Dad (Michael Giradin) evades his wife ("I'll kiss you goodbye when I get back") and believes he can buy his children's love. The hapless

Joey (Branch Hastings), desperate for attention, attempts to entertain with card tricks, while the every-hungry Alicia (Jean Mullis captures the child's pathos beautifully), resigned to the fact that no attention will ever be paid to her, opts for a "spiritual calling" with Sister Ruth (Elsa Larsen), a kind of Christian Moonie. And Dan Evans, as the hostile Mark, finds a final poignant moment where he can empathize with his mother.

Reeve's play has, on the whole, provided both comic and tragic insight into the modern nuclear family.

Although *Last Supper* could have used some honing in its initial and final moments, its writing, directing, and performances signal a promising beginning for a new theater company which is devoted to "showcasing the writings of aspiring Bay Area playwrights."

Last Supper
Bannan Place Theatre
50-A Bannan Place, North Beach, S.F.
Thursday-Sunday through Jan. 22 at 8 p.m.
Tickets: \$8; reservations: 885-1042



Peter Stack.

Marilyn

(Continued from previous page)

rection. Stack returns, sans wigs, and his bald head contrasts sharply with the dark pencilled eyebrows and the circles under her sleep-starved eyes.

"Thank you for calling her back," he says, breaking character, and then begins a speeded up, slightly altered version of "Diamonds Are a Girl's Best Friend," drawing special emphasis to the line, "we all lose our charms in the end" by pulling a handful of flesh from her face.

Dead Marilyn's final number is effectively cathartic. Beginning with an electronically manipulated recording of Peter Lawford's introduction of Marilyn to sing

"Happy Birthday to JFK and ending with a simple substitution of the Fword for the preposition "to" in her rendition, Dead Marilyn alternates between the Pavlovian puppet who smiles, pouts, flirts, shimmies, and waves on cue when she hears the name her image-makers gave her and the shit-upon castoff who can articulate in death what she probably felt like saying in life that night in 1962: "Happy birthday, Mr. President/Happy birthday, fuck you!"

There is no encore. As Stack reminds us, the dead don't come back. In this case, however, the exception is appropriate.

Dead Marilyn

Hopelessly Lost in the Stars

Gay Signs
by J. E. Kneeland, Hay House, Inc.; \$9.95
by Ron Larsen

It had to happen. With astrology once more in the ascendant (thanks in part to Nancy Reagan & Friends), it seemed inevitable that some enterprising writer with stars in his eyes would burst forth with an astrology book just for gays.

Gay Signs: An Astrological Approach to Homosexuality is such a book—one more lackluster entry in the ever-expanding galaxy

of run-of-the-mill astrology books, this one distinguishable only by the fact that it is aimed specifically at gay men. And mighty gullible gay men, at that.

Packaged as "an astrological guide for homosexual men," the slight and highly speculative book promises a whole lot more than it delivers. Rising above those who would blame the AIDS epidemic on homosexuals, *Gay Signs* goes at least a light-year further, blaming both homosexuality and AIDS on the stars.

In his preface, author J. E. Kneeland states that his theories, findings, and conclusions are based on a "random" sampling of some 160 gay astrological charts (he cut it off at 160, he says, in order to finish the book "in a timely fashion"). Working with this admittedly limited pool of astro-data, Kneeland takes a quantum leap in inductive reasoning when he asserts that homosexuality is directly rooted in the relationship between Uranus and the Moon—a relationship that held true in over 90 percent of the 160 gay and bisexual men he surveyed. The challenge of the Uranus-Moon connection, Kneeland tells us, is for gays to learn Acceptance of Self through Love of Self. Simply profound.

The Uranus-Moon connection, the Venus-Mars-Pluto challenge, the Saturn connection, the Nep-

(Continued on page 36)

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J. E. KNEELAND
Foreword by Louise L. Hav

Prickly Poet of Gay Pride

I, of All People: An Autobiography of Youth
by James Kirkup, St. Martin's Press; \$24.95

by Marv. Shaw

Difficult people often have fascinating biographies, especially if they write their own. Of course the autobiography is their most natural form because intense self-absorption is the prime factor that makes them difficult. James Kirkup, a contemporary British poet of a certain age, makes that connection brilliantly clear in this, the third installment of his life story.

Though the first two volumes covered his childhood and earlier adolescence, Kirkup carefully flashes back enough here to help us understand how his asthmatic, effeminate, sensitive younger self made inevitable the socially isolated, pacifistic, sexually promiscuous college undergraduate who was a trial to his working-class parents and often opprobrium itself to most of his fellow Britons just before and during World War II. As a conscientious objector, occasional fugitive, and irascible young poet, he found little solace even in post-war Britain, finally emigrating to Japan, where he has resided most of the last 30 years.

Contradictions abound in Kirkup's life and personality. Born into a lower middle class milieu of rough manners and common tastes, he opted early for art and culture. Girlish and withdrawn, he still bravely, stubbornly clung to his pacifist convictions even when pressed into physical labor his weak constitution could hardly stand. Persecuted, he was still rebellious to authority.

One of Kirkup's least endearing traits is his bitterly expressed misanthropy. In 1948, frustrated at his inability to settle into an occupation, he realized that "...

I had the utmost difficulty in getting on with people, and even in just speaking to them." Discovering the suicidal Virginia Woolf had suffered from the same feelings was cold comfort. Nonetheless, he was prone to form intense affections, as with Madame Sheba, his black African landlady, and with J.R. Ackerley, editor of *The Listener* and fellow autobiographer (*My Father and Myself*).

Additionally, Kirkup's self-acceptance was strong from an early age. Aware from adolescence that others would immediately realize that he was gay, he gloried in the fact. Also, with the barest of rationalizations, he would prostitute his slim, blonde self when circumstances suggested he could. But then that same pride could become ridiculous arrogance, as when he crowed that his legs in Elizabethan hose were far superior to those of his fellow thespians.

Kirkup's wildly various opinions pop up frequently. For example, he calls Einstein an "idiot genius" (for fathering the atomic bomb). But then he was right on target by characterizing Quentin Crisp as "Britain's answer to Mother Teresa." One highly revealing demonstration is his depiction of British literati as a pit of vipers.

Often, Kirkup is an outrage. Sometimes, he seems little more than an eccentric out of an Ealing film comedy. But he is also a feelingful, superbly talented poet, as in "A Correct Compassion," about a four-hour heart operation he witnessed. And he stands as a most steadfast exponent of gay individuality. Read this book!

An Assembled Revelation

The Letters of John Cheever
Edited by Benjamin Cheever; Simon and Schuster; \$19.95

by Marv. Shaw

On at least three important counts, there is a lovely justice about this book. First, there is the son's effort, a lasting, affectionate, respectful tribute to his father. Then there is the personal dimension that only letters can give, a look straight into the heart of the artist, a fulsome perspective that goes way beyond mere biography. Finally, there is a splendid correspondence with the imaginative works. The letters stand in aesthetic equality with the fiction.

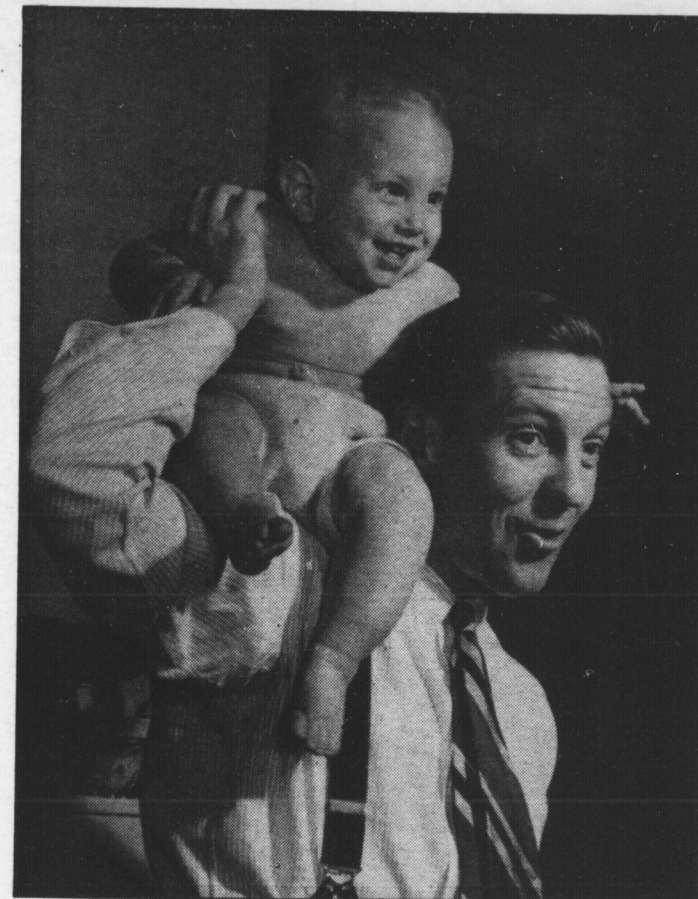
Ironically, John Cheever never wanted his letters kept, saying repeatedly, "Saving letters is like trying to preserve a kiss." But such was his talent and so high was the esteem in which he was held by his addressees that many were saved. Son Benjamin persuasively and painstakingly collected and arranged them to compose this revelation.

Some of that revelation was

highly uncomfortable to John Cheever's son, especially his father's adulterous bisexuality. In addition to the hetero affairs, such as the one with the actress Hope Lange, who characterized him as "the horniest man I have ever known," there were affairs with a number of men.

Some of these men permitted their names to be used. For example, Ned Rorem confided to the editor that Cheever said that orgasm "was always accompanied by a vision of sunshine or flowers." Another was Alan Gurganis, a young writing protégé Cheever met at the University of Iowa.

A third might have been the most passionate affair of all. Yet another protégé, the young man gave the editor letters, but would not permit his identity to be revealed. A possible reason is that, like his mentor, he is bisexual. But the heat of the affair was still



The editor on the shoulders of his subject.

high after many months when Cheever wrote, "I want your soft balls. I want to take off your glasses, I want your ass, your laughter, and your loving mouth." The editor admits such passages might hurt his mother, who is still living.

Cheever's homosexuality appeared in his fiction as early as *The Wapshot Chronicles* (1957), suggesting that his own gay sex activity dates from that time or possibly even before. It reappears in spades in Cheever's last long work, *Falconer* (1977). But in all those years in between, Cheever was also contemptuous of openly gay men and didn't even think of himself as homosexual—at the same time he was declaring that his steamy love for Mr. Anonymous Stud was perfectly natural!

Thankfully, John Cheever comes off as much more than a terribly confused case of internalized homophobia. The honesty, power, humor, and compassion in these letters demonstrate repeatedly that Cheever was even more than a literary artist of the first rank; he was a flawed but loving human being, fully aware and proud of his natural complexity.

Linda Hunt To Narrate AIDS Show on PBS

The first reports of a strange new disease striking gay men came in 1981. At first it hit only a handful, but the numbers grew steadily. Today, AIDS has become one of the most feared diseases in America, ranking only second behind cancer.

Fighting For Our Lives: Facing AIDS In San Francisco, an award-winning half-hour documentary narrated by actress Linda Hunt, explores the political and social effects that the AIDS epidemic has had on San Francisco's gay community. The documentary airs Sunday, Jan. 8 at 2:30 p.m. and Wednesday, Jan. 11 at 8:30 p.m. on KQED-TV.

The documentary traces the history of the epidemic in the gay community and the early debate about how best to deal with the disease. It also looks at the support structures that developed, the changes in gay social life and the psychological impact that loss and grief has had upon this once vibrant community. Included in the program are interviews with author Randy Shilts and civil rights attorney Roberta Achtenberg.

The documentary was produced, written and directed by Ellen Seidler and Patrick DuNah. It was produced as a master's project through the facilities of the Graduate School of Journalism at the University of California, Berkeley.



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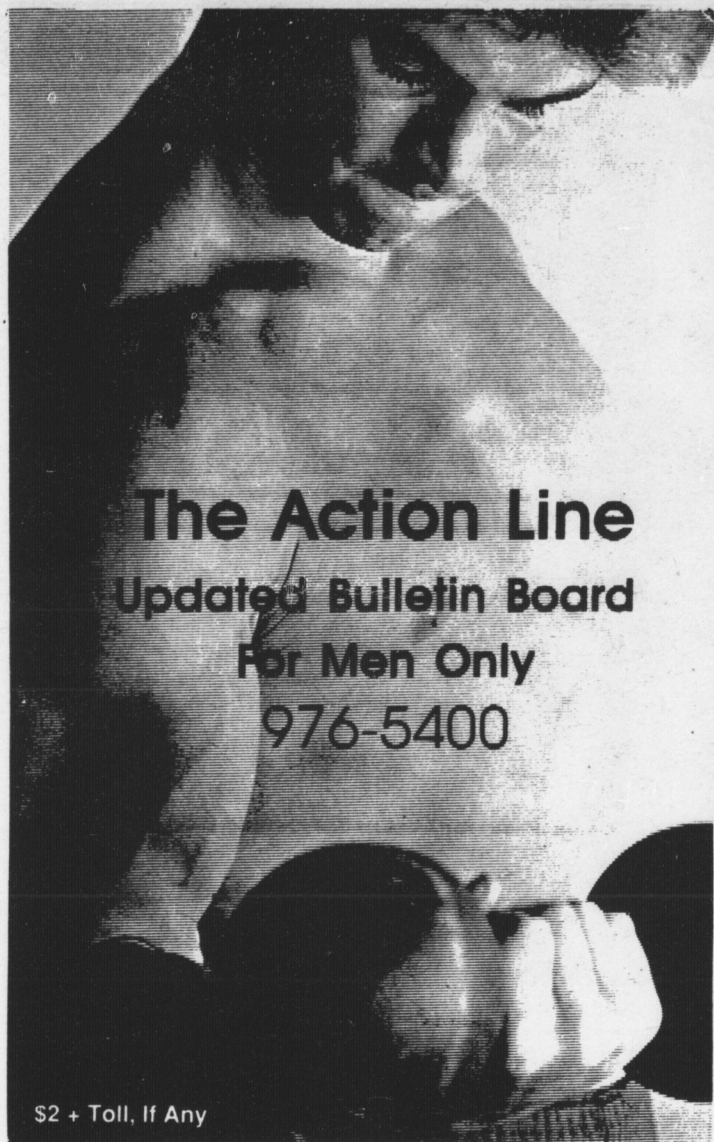
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George Heymont

Singing as Solid as Stone

Last month, while attending the annual Opera America conference at the Fairmont Hotel, I was surprised and delighted to hear Alan Stone (the ever-persnickety and perspicacious founder/artistic director of Chicago Opera Theatre) voice a grudge which many in the operatic community have silently nurtured but precious few have had the balls to vent. Stone's bone of contention was that each year, with depressing regularity, Opera America's membership convenes and spends several days bitching about marketing strategies, fundraising goals, electronic databases, artistic cancellations, board relationships, postal subsidies, publicity problems, minority outreach, union negotiations, educational programs, stage directors, management crisis and, when all else fails, the pathetically insufficient levels of funding received from the National Endowment for the Arts. According to Stone, no one at these conferences ever talks about singing, anymore!

As a result, I was particularly delighted to hear Stone, Opera San Jose's Irene Dalis, the Greater Miami Opera's Willie Waters,



Sisters Under the Scrim—Ellen Shade (Freia) and Hanna Schwarz (Fricka) were featured in the Met's recent revival of Wagner's *Das Rheingold*.

and the National Institute for Music Theatre's John Ludwig lock horns on the thorny issue of just how much America's operatic community is accomplishing in its efforts to train and develop young artists for careers as professional singers. During a meeting of artistic administrators, it became obvious that this delicate subject—the ongoing care and nurturing of the young American artist—is of grave concern to those who shoulder the responsibility of recruiting and developing future generations of operatic talent. It is also quite obvious that Opera America's artistic administrators don't feel as if they have enough of a forum (other than these once-a-year ad hoc meetings) in which to discuss the subject that got them into the opera business in the first place: singing.

While many critics claim that we live in the era of the stage director (and that the stage director's influence unfairly dominates any operatic production) the success of two recent performances depended almost entirely on good singing. That's not to say that the stage director's concept was unimportant to either production—it's just that when the chips were down, singers—the performers around whom this art form revolves—ultimately were the ones who were called upon to deliver the goods. And, when push came to shove, they were able to do so with an impressive amount of professionalism and artistry.

As the Metropolitan Opera gears up for its presentation of three complete Ring cycles in April (using its new production designed by Gunther Schneider-Siemssen, directed by Otto Schenk and conducted by James Levine), the company is taking advantage of its calendar of subscription series performances as a means of putting the finishing touches of all four segments of Wagner's tetralogy (*Das Rheingold*, *Die Walkure*, *Siegfried*, and *Gotterdammerung*). In early October, I attended a performance of *Das Rheingold* which was one of the more satisfying evenings I had spent at the Met in recent years. With the exception of Hans Sotin's rather

scratchy performance as Wotan, the cast was about as close to perfection as one could reasonably hope for.

The women were in particularly fine voice, with Hanna Schwarz offering a robust Fricka, Ellen Shade a powerfully feminine Freia and Birgitta Svenden a portrayal of Erda, the Earth Mother, which was (for once) beautiful in both voice and body. The trio of Rhine maidens (Kaaren Erickson, Diane Keslig and Meredith Parsons) went at their watery prologue with solid musicianship.

Meanwhile, Horst Hiester-mann's Mime and Franz Mazura's Alberich dominated the actin down in Nibelheim. Upstairs, in Valhalla, strong artistic contributions came from Gregg Baker's Donner, Mark Baker's Froh, John Macurdy's Fasolt and Matti Salminen's Fafner.

The major surprise of the evening was Siegfried Jerusalem's artistic triumph as Loge, the fire god. When last I heard this tenor, he was struggling to find both his pitch and sufficient voice to get through the New Orleans Opera's production of *Lohengrin*. His Loge at the Met was, by contrast, a superbly realized vocal and dramatic portrayal.

James Levine conducted this performance of *Das Rheingold* with a keen ear to the dynamics of Wagner's score. The only drawback to the evening, as usual, was Levine's ban on the use of Super-titles (a technological wonder which could probably have kept 25 percent of the Met's audience awake for the final two hours of the performance).

Along as we're talking about narcolepsy, mention should be made of another sleep-related phenomenon: the recent revival of *La Sonnambula* by the Lyric Opera of Chicago. Because of my travel schedule, I did not get to hear soprano Cecilia Gasdia sing the title role of Bellini's opera. Instead, I caught the final performance, at which Ruth Welting sang Amina.

I'm very glad I did. Welting hasn't been singing on American stage very much in recent seasons and, as anyone

(Continued on page 36)

John Karr

The Cutting Edge of Fashion

It's never too late to be up to date, I always say. Keep on top even if you're a bottom. So here's what's new for 1989, what's old, what has passed, and what's coming. Moving right along.

New Year's Eve found me discovering the razor's edge, the latest rage for 1989: ritual scarring. Cutting the flesh carefully so that the resulting scar forms a decorative or symbolic design. You've seen it in the pages of *National Geographic* and found it pretty exotic—aren't those natives colorful. Well, now it's being done by native San Franciscans, so Blanche, don't blanch when you see it on Castro Street.

As has been sung, many a lady has been through "Reefers and vino, rest cures, religion, and pills." Most of us could sing our version—reefers and vino, fistfucks, tit-piercing, and frills. And maybe a tattoo or two; but that was a fad of last year. What could possibly be next?

Leave it to our lesbian sisters to bring us the new. They are so progressive. On New Year's Eve, one very together and good-looking dyke proudly showed me her newest adornment. Nothing so passé as a tattoo, dear, and her tits were already pierced. She had a two-inch welt in the form of a snake crawling up her flesh, from her breast toward her collarbone. Incredibly subtle, so much more discrete than a tattoo. Done to her in a ceremony the week before by a woman who knew how and had a very sharp blade. Gay men are stereotypically cutting, but with words, dear.

What's old? For certain, the mysteries of the Catholic Church, which continue to confuse me. There He was, safely distant from the huddled masses, yet close enough for the illusion of comfort to flow from his outspread arms. Pope John Paul II, making his traditional Christmas address from the balcony of St. Peter's Basilica. He appealed for greater efforts to cure AIDS. What would it take? The "concerted efforts of science and love," said the Pope.

While we've never expected His office to have efficacy over matters scientific, it's been bombing out recently on its professed home territory, love. As reported fully in news pages everywhere, the church's idea of love is manifest in dreary pronouncements about our immortality, followed by the trouncing of Dignity. The actuality of love comes only in the exhortation of the Christmas address for someone else to do it.

The only thing I can read in this tell-em-you-love-em-while-you-leave-em round of papal pronouncements is that it's not as much fun to deride a dead homosexual; disdain for the living is more immediately rewarding. I'm glad to see Dignity both leaving the church and vowing to fight back. Sort of a Stonewall for gay Catholics, and God knows, they deserve it.

What's passed is ACT's happy little Christmas gift, their homegrown production of *Side by Side* by *Sondheim*. I had been so distressed by director Paul Blake's coarsening of ACT's *Diamond Lil* and his parodies of musicals during last summer's aborted Geary Theatre mini-season that I was critically disarmed to find him at home—and rather sophisticated—in this revue.

While it had some choreographically busy moments, it also had many creative ones. Blake dispersed the songs intriguingly among his singers, grouped them in some pretty stage pictures, and then simply stood back to let them do their work.

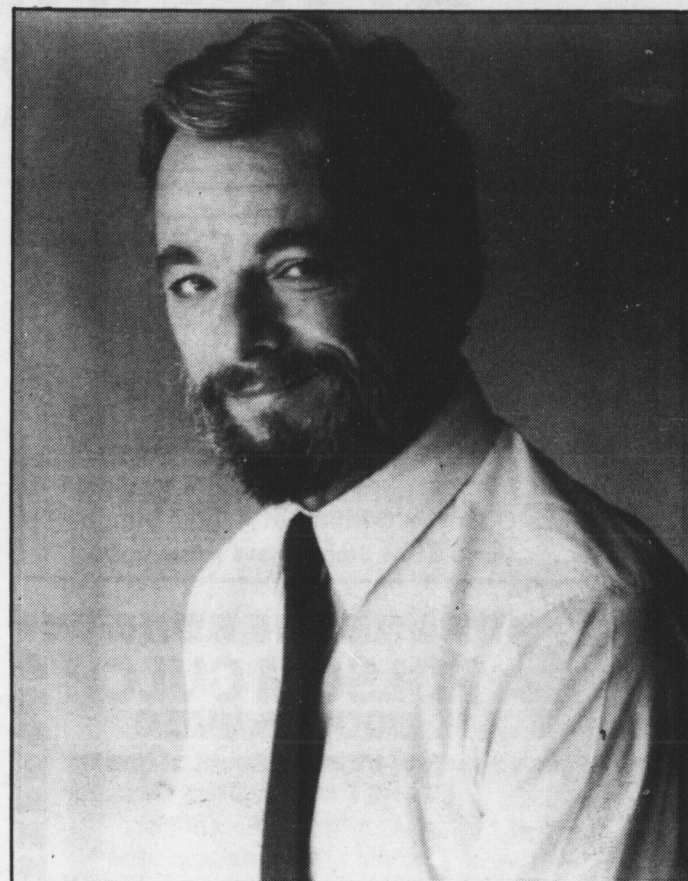
Which they did finely—with the exception of Richard Butterfield, who makes me feel like John Simon. I knew he was born with it, but he has a smarmy face and seems proud of it. He sang wanly and was generally ill-at-ease onstage. And the only thing that can be interesting in this progression of—let's face it—oft-heard songs is the savvy of the performers. Write Butterfield off, but the others came through.

How swell to hear Sondheim sung by adults. Gretchen Wyler is an old pro who knows when to go over the top and, better yet, when not to. She croaked her way smartly through the material. (And I hope she wins the *Diamond Lil* sweepstakes: Everyone wants to do it on Broadway. Even Edie Adams has announced her candidacy.) Gina Ferrall, long an

unsung favorite in cameo roles, warmed slowly to reveal several facets of her skills.

But ultimately, besides a freshening and flattering of Sondheim, it was the Debbie and George Show. Deborah May and George Deloy are married, but that doesn't keep me from coveting her talent and his looks. He sings with the simple elegance his suave handsomeness leads us to expect; his cheekbones are rivalled only by his wife's; and when they both wear pants, he looks better in them (although I'm sure she can bake a pie). But Deborah dazzled, singing high and low, soprano and alto, opera and torch.

What's arriving, after all the capital-L literature that I recommended just prior to Christmas, are several books that are totally irrelevant, yet may get you through a few hard moments. Gay Sunshine Press presents more in their limitless series of stroke books, the latest being *Aussie Hot* by the dependable Rusty Winter and (Continued on page 36)



Stephen Sondheim.

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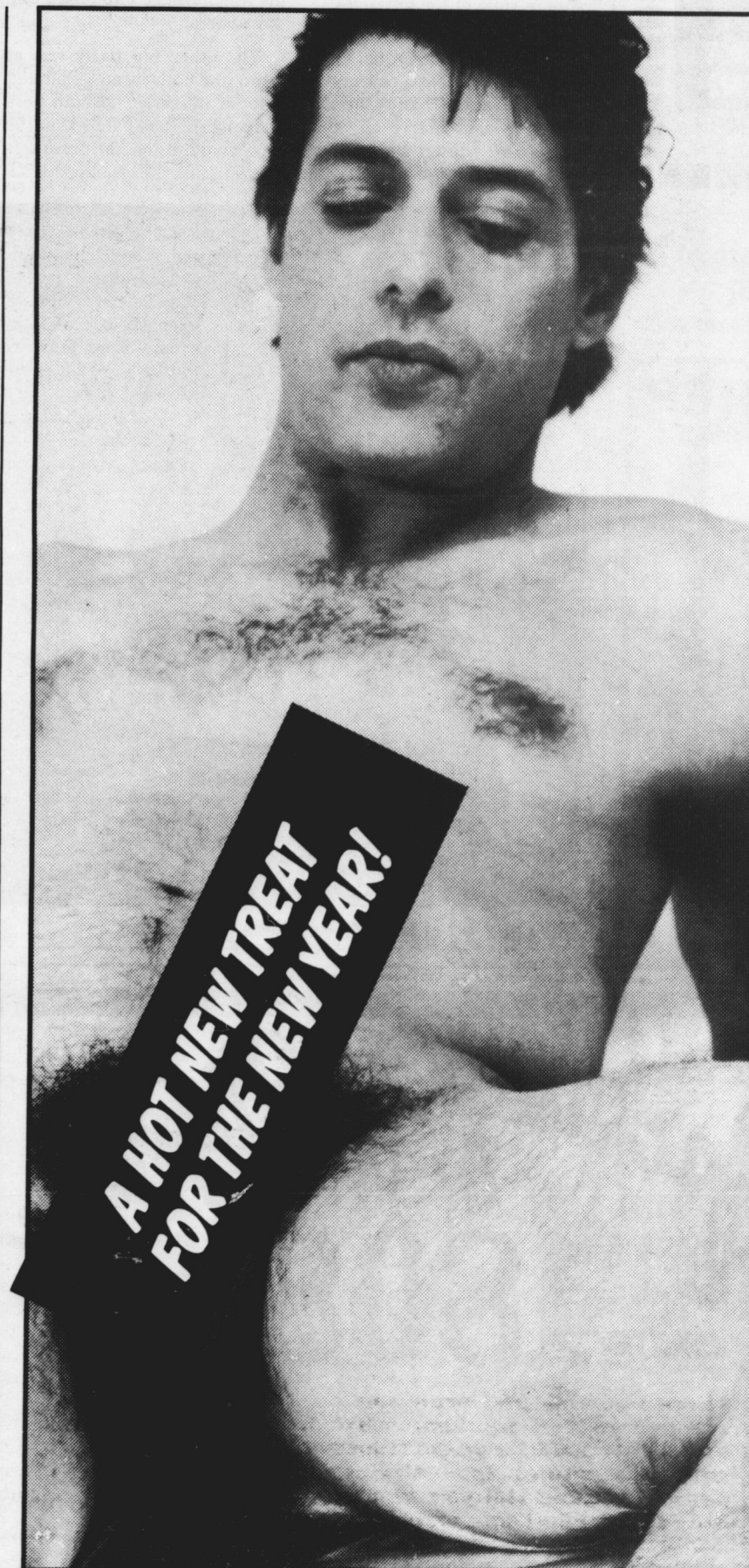
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Wake up! Wake up! It's 1989. Time for new commitments, new plans, new approaches... maybe even a new lover!

Spanking-new 1989 was ushered into San Francisco at the magic hour thousands waited for. Revelry was everywhere, both north and south of Market. It's a pity such a beautiful space like One Market Plaza is not acceptably conducive to the sound of the disco beat. San Francisco's premiere DJ, Joshua Perky, had an uphill battle all the way, not only with the acoustical arrangements in that space, but faulty DJ equipment that made his spinning odyssey all the more admirable in spite of the obstacles.

Men and women, dressed to the nines in leather, formal wear, and just plain sleaze, converged en masse on the "San Francisco Under Glass" party on New Year's Eve. Gilbert Baker once again proved his mastery, draping that awesome space in shimmering silver. The Weather Girls fared little better with their dynamic delivery of acclaimed hits. Let's face it, One Market Plaza is just not the right space for sound and is hereby dead.

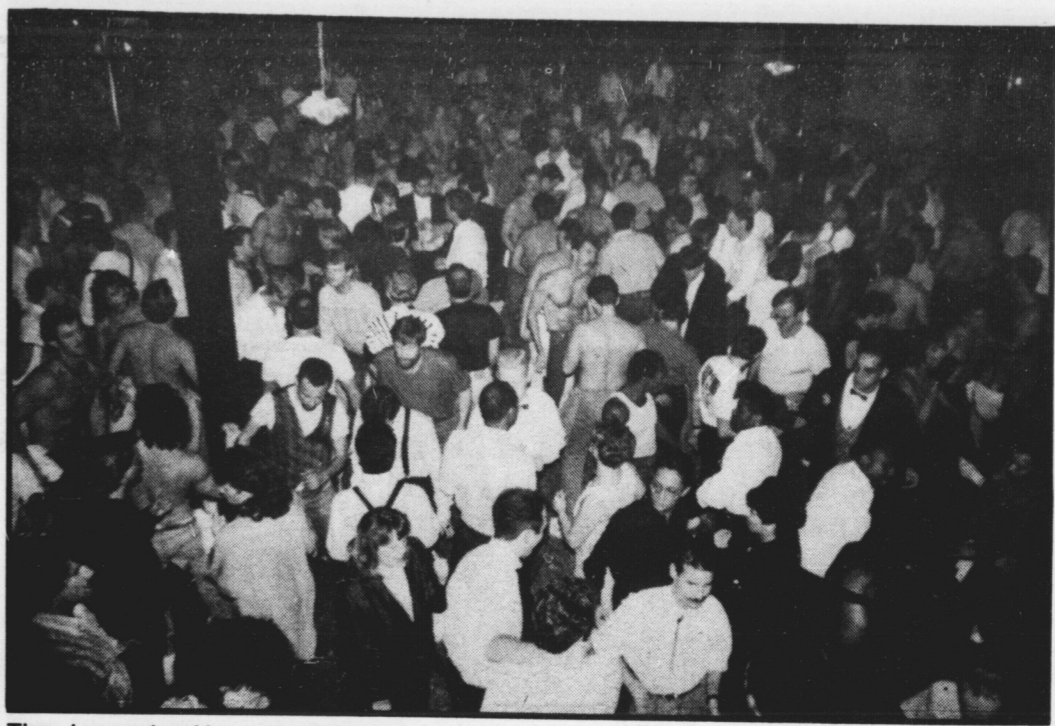
A worthy effort by Frank Weist and his talented cohorts. "San Francisco Under Glass" was definitely a class act. All it needed was better acoustics and more than one tearoom. It didn't rain that night, but every side street around One Market Plaza was flooded the next morning—or so the streetcleaners said. The AIDS Emergency Fund and Project Open Hand benefitted from this effort with a handsome bundle which will be publicized any day now.

The other big party was at Hero, and both events generated a lot of interest, and both were successful. Steve Fabus kept the crowd enraptured, the decor was flawless, and the crowd, depending on when you arrived, was hot, handsome, and in a definite party mood. You can bet your boots that hundreds of people made it to both events. A worthy distribution all around.

Folsom Street was madness; the yuppification of our beloved Miracle Mile is a travesty abhorred by veterans of the leather strip. A lot of gay men have been trashy, but the wild abandon and disregard for the neighborhood by all these out-of-town freaks is nauseating, to say the least. Too bad, too bad.

Over at Hamburger Mary's, it was total ecstasy. (They even have their own brand of wine now!) Rose, Dale, and the Mary-ettes managed to keep everyone wine and dined, and their Xmas decorations are a marvel.

Leather hordes were on hand at the S.F. Eagle—a massive, gentlemanly display of brotherhood—everyone wishing everyone else a happy new year. Disc jockey



They bopped at Hero all night long. (Photo: R. Pruzan)

Norm Mason kept things jumping—the fireworks were absolutely flawless. It was wall-to-wall leather at the Powerhouse, an abundance of shiny black leather.

Bill Mole embarked on his pork-and-beans marathon. He'll probably stay in the mess over 157 hours and is raising money all over town. All the TV stations converged on the Eagle to record the scene for posterity. Thanks, all of you, for your donations and pledges. Thank to you, too, Bill! Talk about mucky-muck!

My Place and the Watering Hole got a lot of the action, too, and the Stud was utter chaos, as well. All around the town, much merry-making, partying, drinking, and ushering in of the new year. At 0600 the next morning, the faithful slid into the Powerhouse, where Rev. Gary Ross and Sister Mary Vernetta dispensed the necessary "hair of the dog" to get everyone in motion again for the day's action.

Less than 2,000 no-shows at the 'Stick for the 49ers' triumph (ah, sweet revenge!) over the Minnesota Vikings. It was no-contest, and, again, the crowd went wild. The weather cooperated magnificently for the previous night's fun, though a bit chilly.

Mr. Leather of Ohio, Dan (the Man) Davis, blew into town from L.A./San Diego on Sunday night and managed to turn a dozen or more heads on his goodwill tour. Whoever thought the city of Cleveland would send such a hunky ambassador to Fagdad by the Bay? In the end, a youngish, sluttish type from San Ramon, who was celebrating his recent discharge from the U.S. Air Force, managed to snag the pride of Cleveland—what bliss!

If you want to learn how to square dance, they're giving lessons at the GC Central YMCA (220 Golden Gate Ave.) next Wed., Jan. 11, from 2015 to 2215—and again on Jan. 22-24. The first two lessons are free, but call Eddie Smith at 431-0254 for more info.

Passing World opens at Theatre Rhino on Jan. 11, directed by Kelly Hill. It's about the lover and parents of a terminally ill man clashing as they stand a bedside vigil. Call 861-5079 for reservations.

Gonna be in Washington, D.C., next weekend (Jan. 13-15)? The fifth annual Mr. Mid-Atlantic Leather Contest if going on at Trax, with a myriad of other activities in conjunction with the competition. Just fall into the D.C. Eagle for all the details.

They're having Leather Smut Night (with a Mexican buffet) at Corona's Arena (31 Ridgewood) to benefit the Intl Ms. Leather Contest. It's \$10 and starts at 1900 hours on Sat., Jan. 14; that same night is the Miss Gay West Coast



They bopped at One Market Plaza, too. (Photo: PhotoGraphics/Darlene)

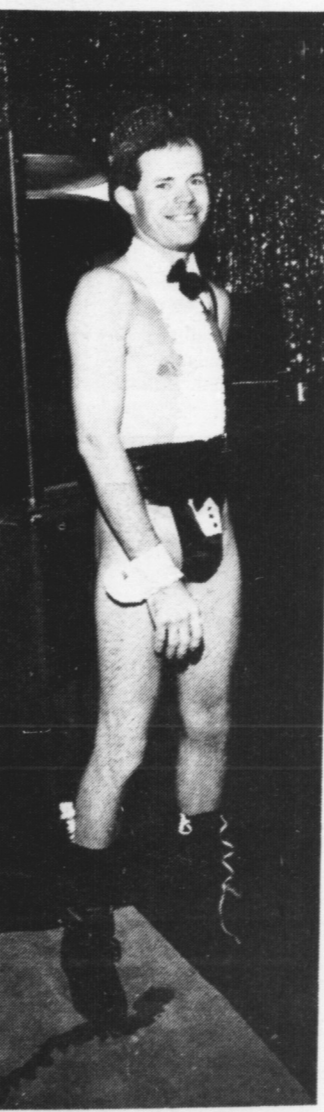
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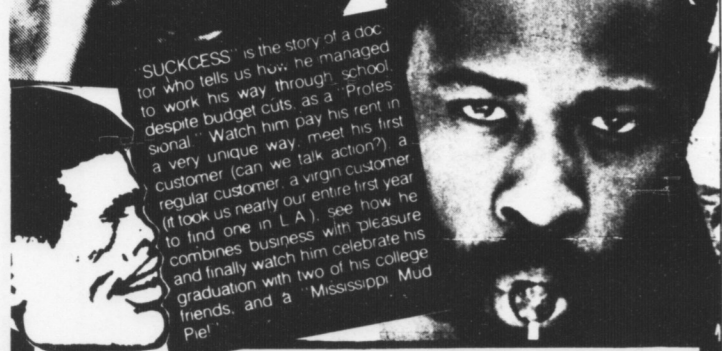
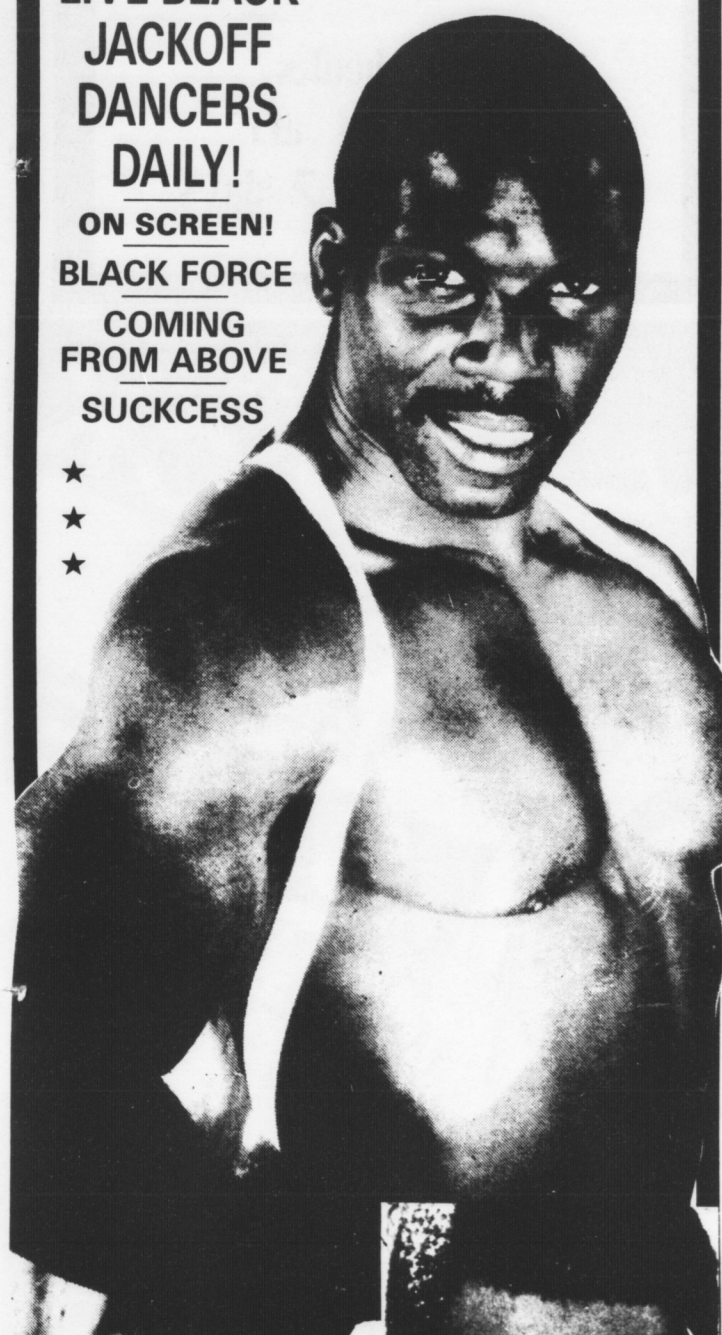


A reveler at One Market Plaza. (Photo: PhotoGraphics/Darlene)

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Marcus

(Continued from previous page)
USA Pageant at 240 Golden Gate Ave. Tickets are \$20, \$15, and \$12.50. Also on Saturday, 14 Jan., Deena Jones will be in concert at Milestones (5th and Folsom) in what used to be the Hot House! More next week, if that's not enough for you.

Sad to report that the first lesbian ever appointed to a royal court passed away in the Russian River area. Charlene "Scotty" Scott, former owner of Scott's Pit, died on Dec. 14. She was one of the first women to embrace the title, emperor of S.F. During my reign with HIM Maxine VIII, numerous court functions were held in that warm, friendly lesbian bar.

Scotty was a fighter far what she believed in. Her loving personality endeared her to many men and women alike. She took a stand on unpopular issues and held steadfast to her convictions. After many years in her beloved San Francisco, she moved to the Russian River, where she became an instant success with her personality, wit, and charm. She never forgot her friends, and I am deeply saddened to learn of her passing over.

A celebration of her life will be held this Friday, Jan. 6, at St. Elizabeth's Church in Guerneville at 1900 hours. You're all invited, and I hope you can join us for the celebration. My royal lady, my friend, my pal, my confidante—God, I'm gonna miss you, Scotty!

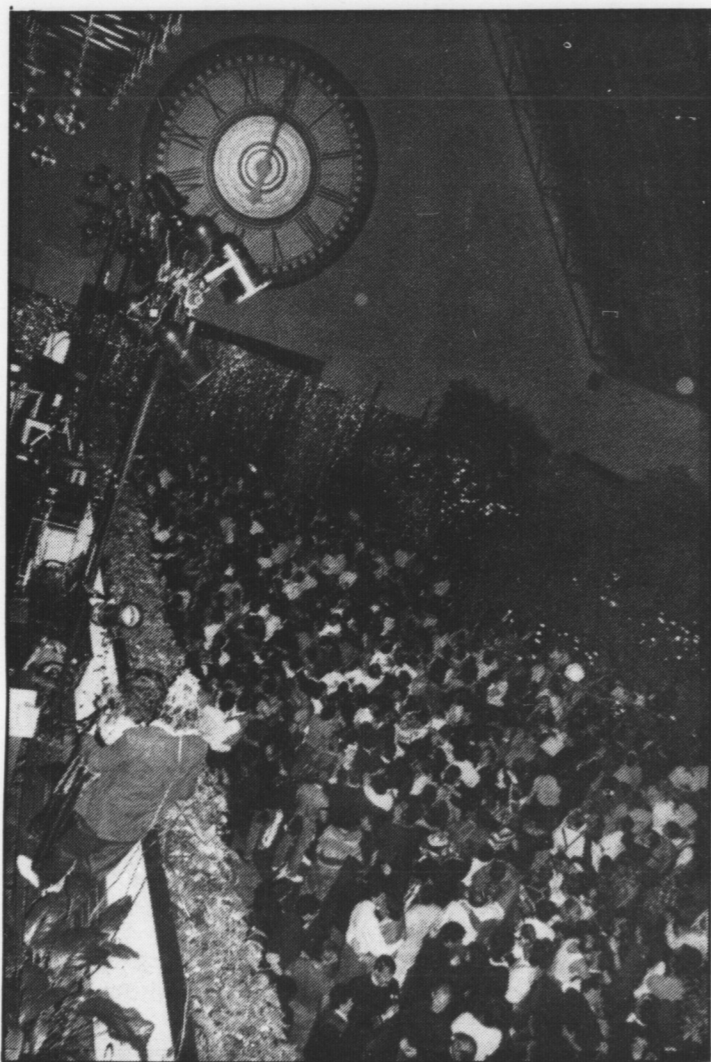
I'd also like to alert you that although my friend and yours, Duke Armstrong, didn't want any memorial service, this just cannot go by us without some sort of event to commemorate this wonderful leatherman's memory. A celebration of his life is being planned soon. You'll be duly notified in B.A.R. as soon as final plans are made.

Hey, it's about time they had a good old-fashioned roast in our community, isn't it? Friends of George Burgess are planning a big one for him on Tuesday, 24 Jan., at the Holiday Inn (Pine and California) beginning at 1830. As one of the guiding lights of the AIDS Emergency Fund, George deserves high accolades, and boy, is he going to get them! While it's a roast, everyone knows Mr. B's penchant for boots, so they're going to "give the boot" to our favorite leatherman.

Tickets are only \$25, and need I tell you it's a benefit for the AIDS Emergency Fund? Send your check, payable to the AEF for \$25, to Zach Long, 929 Stan-



A celebration of Duke Armstrong's life is planned. (Photo: R. Pruzan)

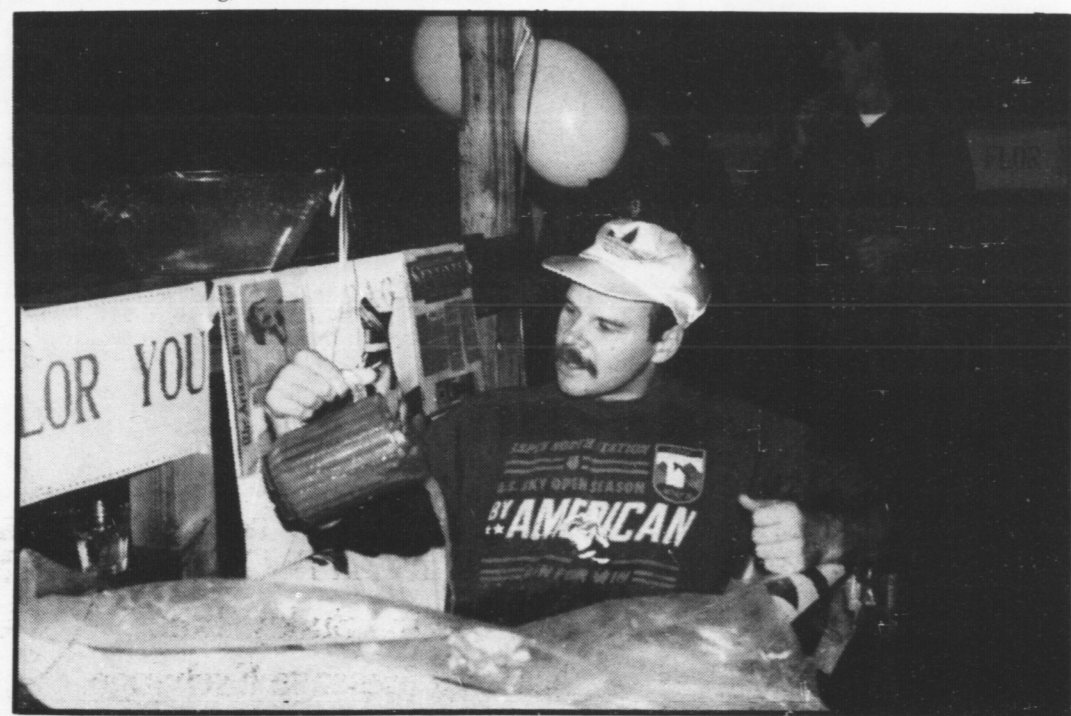


The stroke of midnight at One Market Plaza. (Photo: R. Pruzan)

yan St., S.F. 94117, and do it now! This one will be a sellout, and George will get his licks (on the boots, of course). Do I hear your open scratching out a check? Do I hear your lips licking a stamp? Do I hear the mail box clang as you drop your check in the mail? I believe I do!

Yes, boys and girls, that was Emperor Steve at the S.F. Eagle last Sunday with the ever-loving Empress Lily. Deep down, the emperor does love leather! He was wearing a leather jacket with a fur collar that day!

(Continued on page 36)



Bill Mole began his 157-hour stint in a tub of pork and beans at the Eagle on New Year's Eve. (Photo: R. Pruzan)

Sweet Lips

Emperor Steve's Last Stand

I hope everyone enjoyed New Year's Eve as much as I did with Lucious Lonelei and Henri LeLeu at the Gate for dinner. As you know, Paul Bentley has sold all of his business and is retired, temporarily. Incidentally, he and I saw *Torch Song Trilogy* last week, and a bit of advice—don't miss it.

You probably have heard by now that I am currently working for Ed Scott as manager of both the Hob Nob and Yacht Club. There will be no changes in personnel at either place, and the only thing different at that Yacht Club at 2155 Polk St. will be that it will be opening at 10 a.m. on Saturdays and Sundays, with yours truly on the planks until noon, followed by the ever-popular Tony Lesagna. The Yacht Club opens at noon on all other days, so do drop by Saturday or Sunday morning and join me in a drink. And yes, the Hob Nob still has the popular Empress Maxine on the planks, noon 'til 7 p.m. weekdays, and of course the one and only Billy Bunz does the 6 a.m. shift.

Ed and Preston Scott are in Hawaii on a much-needed vacation and will be gone for a week.

The New Bell presents the great Bob Sandner Wednesdays through Saturdays from 9 p.m. on and Sunday afternoons from 5 'til 9 p.m. This is a very talented and great musician who shouldn't be missed. Thank you, Chuck, for bringing him back to Polk Street.

For a very pleasant luncheon, stop in at the 'R' Cafe in the Americana Hotel on 7th Street, just off Mission, and have Dennis be your waiter while the fabulous Ms. Toni is your hostess. You'll be pleasantly surprised at the quality of the food—right, Dick Cook of Reflections and Delmar Dale of the popular Polk Gulch? We had luncheon there last week, and it was great, thanks to Dennis and Toni, and of course the great chefs—hi, Joe.

Danny Canning, formerly a bartender at Toti's, is now the proprietor of the Twin Palms Resort at 140 Short St. in Clearlake Oaks, (707) 998-1970. It is truly a beautiful place to go to for a relaxing weekend or week. He is a good friend of Billy Bunz, so you know he has to be a nice guy and run a nice resort.

So many great people around town on the planks: Greta Grass doing the Sunday afternoon shift (beside other days) at the Kokpit and packing in the celebs. Billy Fogelman on Saturday and Sunday mornings at the popular Special on Castro Street, besides his other night shifts, and of course our own Dixon doing guest spots at the very popular Mint. Let's have lunch soon, Salvatore. Bobby Dale's Tuesday and Wednesday a.m. at the popular Gulch Saloon, for which Jesse hasn't quite finished the new neon yet. And of course the one and only Totie, aka Frankie, at the popular New Bell afternoons during the week.

That madwoman of mirth, Mame, says to wish all a happy New Year and that she will be one of the official hostesses, as per usual, for the 20th hanging of Sweet Lips, which will be coming on the 1st and 2nd of April, a Saturday and Sunday, so watch for more about this crazy event. Mame is currently on the planks Sunday in Portland at the Dirty Duck Saloon—and does a great job.

The wonderful Little Mother is having an auction at the New Bell Saloon on Sunday, the 15th of January, from 2 'til 6 p.m. This is for Ms. Pauline, who is quite ill and needs help, so kindly mark the date down and leave donations on items for an auction at Aunt Charlie's or the New Bell.

Understand that Rattlesnake Reba is planning a biggie for this coronation, because it will be her 20th anniversary as empress. You must have been only 15 years old when you were a reigning monarch, Reba 4.

Coronation 1989: 976—HMIM will be Saturday, the 25th of February, at the Giftcenter Pavilion, so start making your plans and get your tickets in advance.

Nice to have my two good friends, Chet and Rick from Milwaukee, here for a ten-day vacation, but they were hoping that the weather would be a little warmer than it was back home for them. Incidentally, they had a great New Year's Eve here. See you guys for lunch this week.

The Emperor's Last Stand, Boys' Night Out, will be held on Wednesday the 18th from 8 'til 10 p.m. at the New Bell Saloon, when the Court of the Shakey Quake and Resources celebrate their last fundraiser, so don't miss this final fun event of Steven's.

On Saturday the 14th, the Miss Gay West Coast Pageant will be held at 240 Golden Gate Ave. It will be put on by Ms. Janet Corey and your truly. Empress Rey of Los Angeles and Pat and Jerry—you all know who they are—will be the four emcees for this fun-filled evening, so get your tickets early.

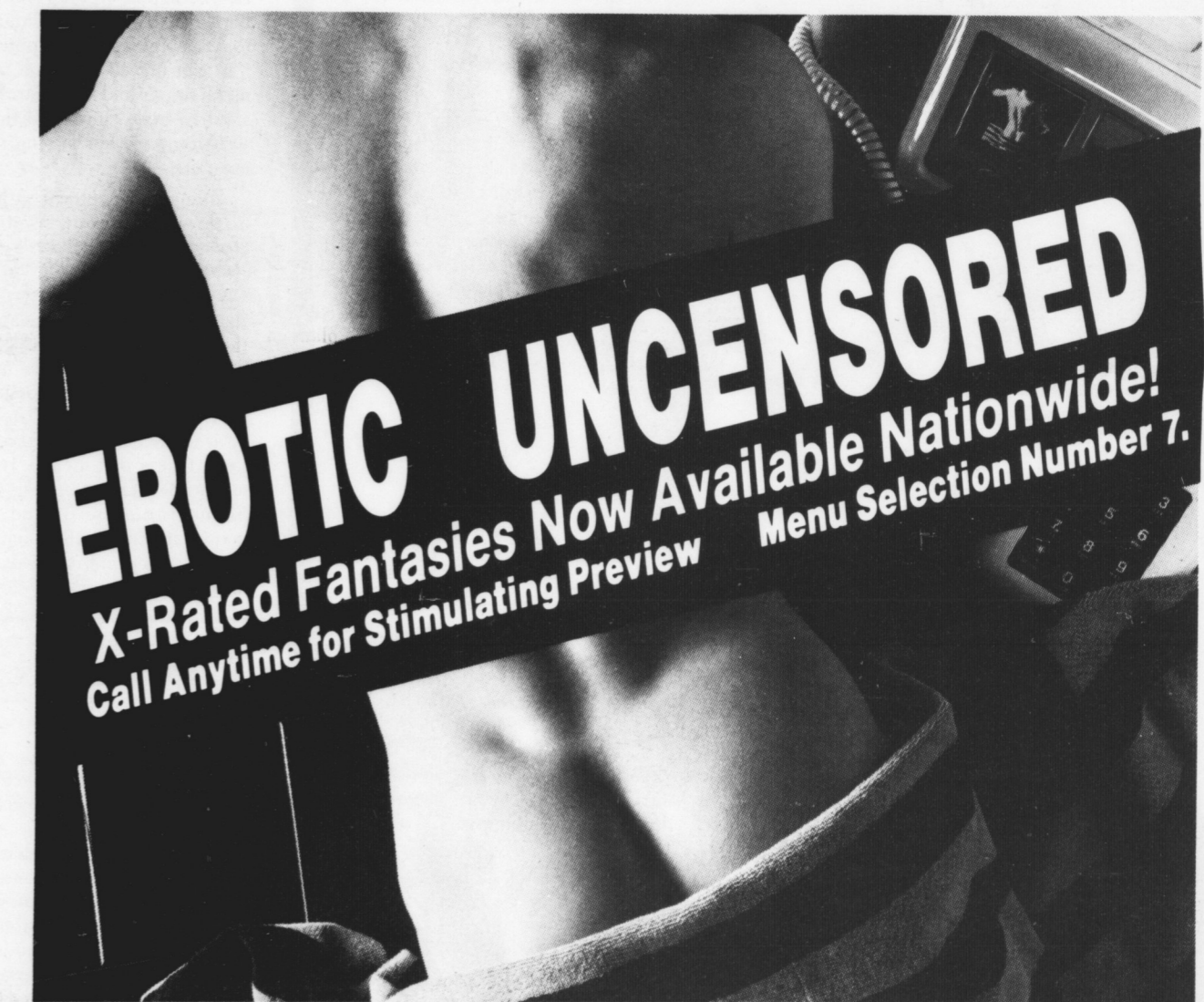
Tuesday the 10th is the last meeting of the Imperial Court of the Shakey Quake Empire, to be held at the Mint at 8 p.m. You are all invited.

Start watching for all of the parties and events for the upcoming individuals who are going to be running for Emperor and Empress 24. Funny, I already hear of people who want to run for the title next year, the 25th. That is planning way ahead.



Jerry Coletti and Pat Montclair gave a party at the Galleon Dec. 29. (Photo: Jennifer)

Remember, coronation week starts on Wednesday, the 22nd of February, with coronation on Saturday the 25th and an imperial brunch on Sunday the 26th in the Crystal Ballroom of the San Francisco Hotel. Contact a member of the court for more info, because this is a fun-filled, long weekend.



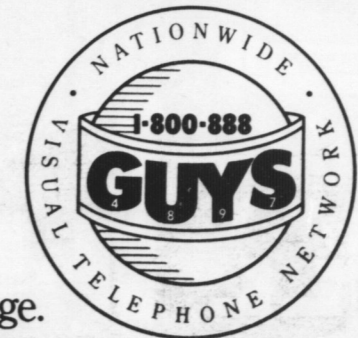
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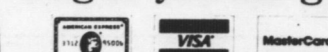
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BAY AREA REPORTER JANUARY 5, 1989 PAGE 36

Marcus

(Continued from page 34)

Hey, the foot-fetish dudes are back in action! Their hot new mag, *Foot Guys*, is out, and you can join by inquiring at P.O. Box 786, S.F. 94101. They've got a hot new poster coming out real soon by "Leon" that I hear is to die over. Get hopping!

And here's some good dish: At their annual Xmas party, the management and staff of the Midnight Sun raised some \$4,300 for AIDS. The bartenders not only donated all their tips, but their salaries for that one night. The management turned over their entire bar sales receipts for that day and boy, do they all deserve a big hand! Let's hear it for the Midnight Sun—hi, Charlie, Remy, Kim!

And how responsible can you get? The ACT UP people published their financial statement,

and they are definitely not in the red. What's more, they individually thank all contributors—and need I say it? They are effective! So let's hear it for ACT UP—and keep it up!

If I've received one, I've received at least 30 letters from all over the Bay area asking what happened to the J/O Buddies. Inquiring (and horny) minds want to know. Can anybody shed some light on this subject? Frank Browne is the most inquisitive.

Speaking of inquisitive, I can tell you that super DJ Michael Garrett isn't a bit worried about the suggestion that if he changes his name, he could spin at the latest hot spots; nor does he believe he has an "identity" crisis. Puhleeze! Michael Garrett's name is synonymous with success in the DJ world!

Hey, boys and girls, that's all for a while. Hope you all had a great New Year's Eve—see you next week. Until then, keep on dishin'!

Heymont

(Continued from page 30)

who is in the music business knows, it's largely because of her stand against the backstage going-on at the Met. Several years ago, after one of her biggest career triumphs, Welting (who is a born-again Christian) announced that the Metropolitan Opera was "an evil place" and that, after much prayer and soul-searching, she had been convinced that it was wrong for her to sing there anymore.

Although her career continues to thrive in Europe, Welting's absence from the domestic opera scene is a source of great disappointment to those who have always admired her musicianship and delighted in the strength of her high notes. Next season, she is scheduled to sing Ophelia opposite Sherrill Milnes in Ambroise Thomas's *Hamlet* at the Lyric Opera of Chicago. In the meantime, her appearance in *La Sonnambula* confirmed that many have known all along: that this petite soprano is a rock-solid musician whose artistry contin-

ues to grow stronger over the years.

Boasting high F's for days, Welting sailed through the difficult coloratura passages of Amina's "Ah, non giunge!" with the ease and clarity of a consummate professional. Matching her in a stunning display of bel canto technique and macho lyricism was tenor Frank Lapardo as Elvino. Dmitri Kavrakos lent sturdy support as Count Rodolfo while Martha Jane Howe made her presence known as Teresa. Donato Renzetti ruled over musical matters from the pit.

Alas, the dramatic conceit which forms the basis of Sandro Sequi's *La Sonnambula* production (borrowed from the Teatro San Carlo in Naples) is more than mildly ridiculous. But, as anyone will tell you, so is Felice Romani's libretto from Bellini's opera. What is of critical importance in a work like *La Sonnambula* is the singing and I was thrilled to hear Ruth Welting, Frank Lapardo and Dmitri Kavrakos go about their work in Chicago with the surety and stylistic grace of skilled artists who are practiced professionals.

Karr

(Continued from page 31)

Humongous: True Gay Encounters by a plethora of pornographers (both paper, \$10).

Winter presents eight short sex stories, comic and serious. He can employ both the invigorating, hard edge of porno and a gratifying, soft edge of emotion—sometimes simultaneously, embuing steamy sex with a haze of emotion. That does it for me. One doesn't look for literature in books of this sort, but Winters has skill and imagination—in

one of these stories, a mother's boyfriend touchingly becomes her son's daddy in all ways possible.

Humongous is a grab-bag anthology, most of which has appeared in the glossy magazines. They're pretty predictable tales, but if you're not distracted, they'll still probably get you to squirt. As in earlier volumes, Jason Fury does well in two stories, eating things you never expected in the corner diner, and then sharing a dorm with a jock.

That's it. Best of all possible health, and in whatever way you do it—have a gay year.

Gay Signs

(Continued from page 28)

tune connection, the Neptune-Pluto era, the Libra-Scorpio connection. With all these interplanetary connections and more, it's hard to know just where to get off this ride through the zodiac, so that the hapless reader at last ends up lost in the stars, adrift in space.

Beyond all the far-fetched theories and simplistic didacticism, what we have here is a pretty standard if superficial (less than 300 pages, not counting the glossary) astrology book slanted

toward gays. Like most other astrology books, this one emphasizes the importance of rising signs vs. sun signs. What's more, it provides a general formula for figuring out how compatible you are with your mate based on your combined Suns and Ascendants, followed by a discussion of the "numerology of astrology" for those who want to reduce their relationships to the lowest common denominator.

Ultimately, *Gay Signs* is a forgettable little book that's hard to pick up again once you've put it down. It takes itself too seriously to be fun or entertaining, and it's much too speculative and superficial to be taken seriously. Stargazers, beware!

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People

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Info & Schedule: 552-7339

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People

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Monty's dad died six months ago, and Uncle David is 18 months since his AIDS diagnosis. I have decided a new home now for Monty is the best decision. We are looking for a situation in which the household consists of at least two healthy and stable adults, one of whom is male (she's partial to men). I fear Monty's being displaced again by the ill health of her parents, so I would hope for a home which is at least now healthy. Monty is used to being the only pet in the house and is accustomed to having a yard to play in. She is a feisty and playful, mature feline without any bad habits. She is a good cat: no scratching of furniture, no accidents, eats anything. She is neutered. She has medium-length, all-white fur which does attach itself to everything. If you can help, please call David at 415/885-9260. I am prepared to wait for the right home.

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FF Network. 400 guys! Third social soon. For details: A.S.P., POB 14543, S.F. 94114.

Gay people make a gay paper. Bay Area Reporter.

Apex

(Continued from previous page)

Bimbo's is located at Columbus and Lombard. Ticket prices are \$20, \$15, and \$10 and are available at Headlines, the Women's Training Center, and the Gallean. They also may be obtained by calling 753-0740.

Reserved tables of ten may also be obtained by phone. Visa and Mastercard will be accepted.

JUST LIKE OLD TIMES

The variety of places one man can catch the 49ers in the gay community is heartening. Whether it is on Polk Street or Castro or South of Market, there are plenty of watering holes to watch



(Photo: Steve Savage)

Jerry Rice befuddle the enemies. A few of us caught the Red and Gold at the Mint on Sunday, and you couldn't beat the atmosphere.

The crowd was loud. It was fun. And if anyone got hungry, it was just a few steps to the right to Hot'n'Hunky for a burger.

As for the 49ers, it was like a trip in time back to that grand and glorious Super Bowl year in 1984. Jerry Burns, the very fine Minnesota coach, put it best when he talked about "how sharp" Joe Montana was.

That could bode well for San Francisco this Sunday when they play the Bears at Soldier Field. Chicago has a great defense, but their offense is hurting, with both quarterbacks Mike Tomczak and Jim McMahon under the weather.

The defenses will dominate this NFC championship game. A healthy Joe with a few throws in the clutch could make a difference.

This corner gave you a pre-season prediction of a Super Bowl between the Giants and the Browns. With that in mind, I'll try and bring the Niners some luck and pick the Bears.

It would be nice to see Castro Street swarming with happy Niners fans again. Get the champagne on ice.

HERE COMES SOFTBALL

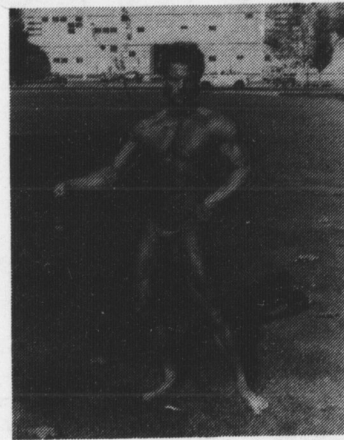
Rick Ritt called to remind all of our readers that we should start thinking about softball again. The Gay Softball League will hold a meeting Saturday at Uncle Bert's Place at noon. Dis-

cussion topics will include acceptance of deposits for new teams and the possibility of a major national softball tournament here in San Francisco around Memorial Day.

Uncle Bert's is located at 18th and Castro. For more information, give Rick a buzz at 626-6454. ▼



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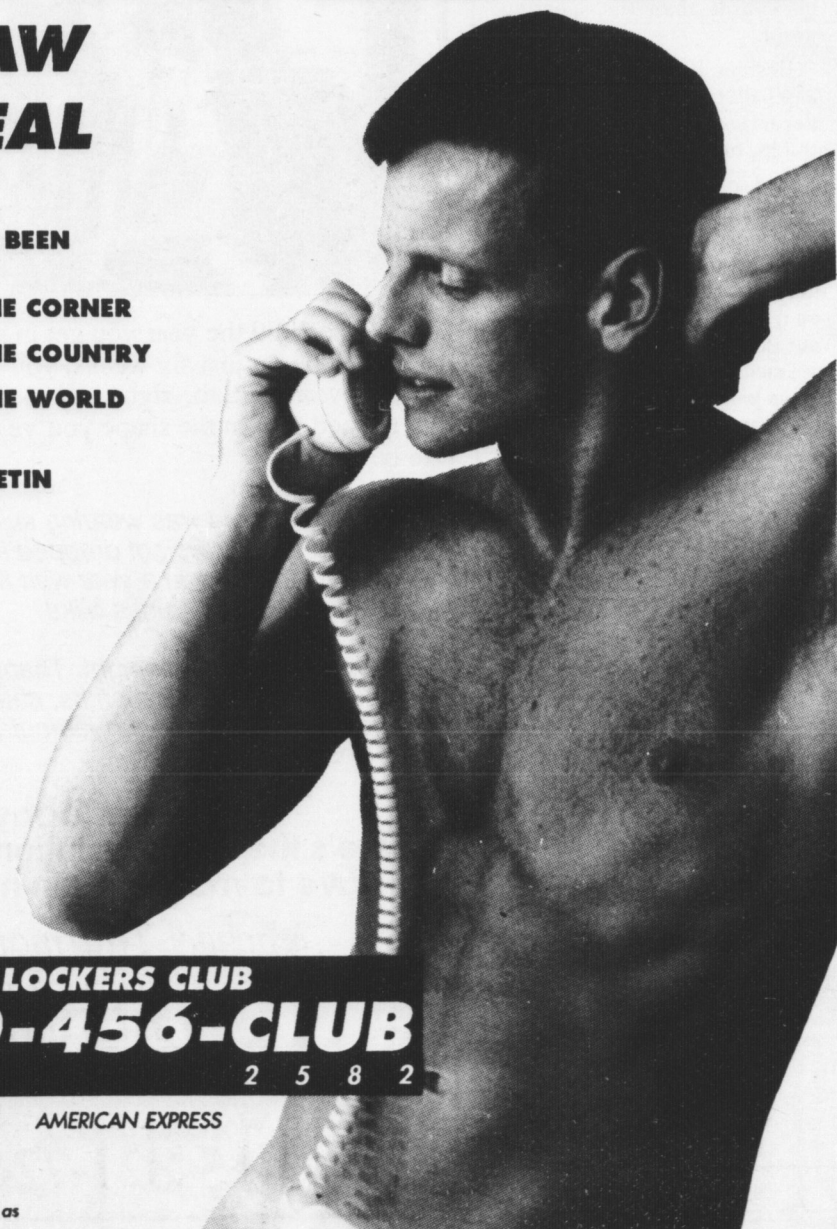
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BOWLING

BEAR: An Idea for Right Now!

by Richard McPherson

BEAR... an idea whose time has come. Bowlers are coming together to help their own in a time of need. BEAR (Bowler's Emergency Aid Relief) is a newly formed, nonprofit organization established to provide financial support and assistance for terminally ill S.F. gay league bowlers, past and present.

The concept for BEAR was sparked by the Gay Softball League's players who raise funds to offer softball teammates with AIDS, says BEAR board president Mal Garcia. A small group of bowlers came together in August of this year to brainstorm about the feasibility of starting such an organization. Now, only a few months later, a board of directors formulated a series of fundraisers to create seed money to get things off the ground. At the beginning of this winter season, all the Tavern Guild leagues at Park Bowl voted to pledge 25 cents per bowler per league night, to the BEAR kitty. The board is now in the process of approaching the Community Leagues at Japantown Bowl with the same proposal. This project alone will raise thousands of dollars each year in available funds.

This month and next, fundraisers are organized for both Park and Japantown bowls in the form of 50/50 raffles and an S.F. BEAR Tournament Fundraiser.

The raffles will take place in each league in the middle of January and again a month later. At the end of February, the BEAR committee will pull out the stops in an effort to raise \$20,000 in the form of the BEAR Tournament Fundraiser. Individual gay league bowlers will be asked to collect pledges for the Feb. 25-26 fundraiser.

Additionally, a beer bust is slated for the S.F. Eagle bar on Sunday, Feb. 5.

Once the funds begin to accumulate, terminally ill gay and lesbian bowlers may apply for financial assistance. Garcia points out that the money is earmarked for all terminally ill bowlers, not just persons with AIDS or ARC.

The directors and tournament co-chairs, Jim Hahn and Vickie Schenider, are currently seeking persons to assist in the preparation and running of the fundraising events. The next BEAR meeting will be Tuesday, Jan. 10, at 7:30 p.m. in the meeting room at Park Bowl. Interested persons are welcome to come and sit in on a meeting or may call Mal Garcia at Park Bowl (752-2366) for further information. Anyone who would like to donate merchandise or gift certificates for upcoming raffles may also contact Mal. Japantown Community League

bowlers are especially encouraged to join in.

Because of the Christmas holiday, only two Tavern Guild leagues bowled the week of Dec. 19 at Park Bowl; Don Gambell, 175 average, was the top achiever with a 213, 217/623 effort in the Monday TGL. Jeff Hettmansperger (190) is having a tough season in the Tavern Guild Trios, but he also hit the 600 mark with 223, 217/608. Congratulations to Angelo Maggio, who has been in an *el slump* this past few months, on his 209, 216/606 score. He says he's waiting for Park to resurface the lanes this month. Then he'll be on his mark, he says. We'll see.

Bowlers shooting 215+ games: Hunter Bauman (177 average) 242, 212; Peter Bassford (154), 238; Greg Casinelli (183), 237; Doug Litwin (184), 222.

Special congrats to John Wiggin, a 136 average in the TG Trios, on a 214 game. In the 160 and under average category,

Steve Franceschi (142) shot a 202, and Roger Spencer (155) a 201.

All TGL leagues are breaking this week and will begin again Wednesday, Jan. 4.

One of my informants told me that the all the Community leagues at Japantown Bowl were also off this week... not true. The Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday leagues will be bowling right through the holidays.

Bowling for beginner's luck, Richard Cooper, a 169 average, shot a fine 240 game in the Tuesday league, but missed his 600 by eight pins.

JTown bowlers shooting 210+ the week of 12/19: Tom Snyder (152), 214; Dennis Hale (175), 214; Takeshi Hirano (157), 212; David Heranney (164), 210.

Honorable mention (160 average and under): Bill Wood (160), 205; Chuck Boehm (155), 202; and C. Russell (157), 202. Good work, Gerry Labuda, a 131 average, on an even 200 game. ▼



(Photo: Rink)

POOL

Wave Caps Year in Pool

The White Swallow Wave slapped the last piece into the S.F. Pool Association's 1988 puzzle with an upset victory over the defending team champion Deluxe Ducks, culminating the league's tenth year.

The two teams had split the first two matches in the best-of-three series, both winning on their home tables. All the matches were characterized by numerous multiple-ball runouts and many table runs, making for one of the most intense, high quality face-offs in league history.

Fittingly, the Wave won the series with a brilliant Jim Russo table run from the break which propels them into the team competition at WCC XVIII. Congratulations to team captain, Rick Mariani, and members, Jim Russo, Colin Bradley, Yutaka Moriyama, Lynn Westhoven, and Chuck Numbers.

The team crown was the last to be decided preceding the tradition and spectacle of West Coast Challenge XVIII to be hosted by S.F., Jan. 13-15, at the Slovenian Hall on the corner of Vermont and Mariposa.

In addition to the league's team competition, a number of individual tournaments are held during the spring and fall season each year. At 1988's major tournaments, players from the Deluxe Ducks showed their winning ways.

Last spring, Ducks captain Elliot Zalta won the annual Miller Lite Eight Ball Championship and the All Star. Lauren Ward won another MVP and Lisa Duncan won the Women's WCC Qualifier. To this they added the team championship. E.Z. went on to win the Individual Championship at WCC XVII in Hollywood.

Additional spring tournament winners included Gene Miller at the Captain's tournament, Bill Von Prillwitz at the Rising Star and the Larry Fyvie-Jim Dreer team at the Hi-Lo Tournament.

The Ducks had additional individual victories this fall as Lauren Ward won the annual Bud Light Nine Ball Championship, Lisa Duncan repeated at the Women's WCC Qualifier, and E.Z. won the MVP and scored his third consecutive All Star victory.

They are joined in the fall winners' circle by Captain's Tournament winner, Toni Macante and Rising Star victor, Brandon Bridges.

The SFPA will celebrate all its winners and kick off West Coast Challenge week at Amelia's on Tuesday, Jan. 10, with their fall season awards party. Thanks to all the players and sponsors for ten successful years of organized pool competition.

Next week this space will feature a complete list of this fall's achievers and more on West Coast Challenge XVIII.

Dial JOE-POOL for SFPA information. ▼

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BOWLING

PARK BOWL
Tavern Guild Leagues

TAVERN GUILD MONDAY TRIOS		MONDAY TAVERN GUILD	
	W L		W L
1. Golden Girls	32 12	1. Pilsner Pinguins	38½ 13½
2. The Cave Men	28 16	2. Puhio Rolo's	38 14
3. The No Name So Far Team	27½ 16½	3. Bassett Hounds	37 15
4. Play With It, Ltd.	25 19	4. Welcome Home	33 19
5. Uncle Bert's Place	24 20	5. All American Trophy	32 20
6. Park Bowl	23½ 20½	6. Urasis Dragon	30 22
7. Main Course	23½ 20½	7. Park Bowl	30 22
8. Capricorn Coffees	23 21	8. Frantic Finishers	29½ 22½
9. Inches	23 21	9. The Barking Lot	28 24
10. J J's Immortals	23 21	10. Castro Station	27 25
11. Zona Rosa	22 22	11. Pet Stop Cocktails	27 25
12. Pilsner Pinguins	21 23	12. Rolo's	26½ 25½
13. Pin-Curls	21 23	13. S F Gay Band	26½ 25½
14. The Funcuts	21 23	14. Rawhide II	23 19
15. Contourettes	20½ 23½	15. Sheela Wood HFC	22 30
16. S. F. Eagle	20 24	16. Allgood and Associates	22 30
17. Pilsner Pin Pals	20 24	17. Tom Clark Painting	22 26
18. Bowler Types	20 24	18. Pendulum White	21 31
19. Beck's Bed Bugs	20 24	19. Always Tan	19½ 28½
20. 3 Blind Dykes	17 27	20. Pendulum	18½ 33½
21. All American	16 28	21. Spare-Us	12 40
22. Bosco's Brigade	16 28	22. Team 22	0 52

JAPANTOWN BOWL
Community Leagues

TUESDAY COMMUNITY		WEDNESDAY COMMUNITY	
	W L		W L
1. "Baby Dolls"	40 16	1. Missing Persons	35 21
2. Quittersnipes	38½ 17½	2. Your Worst Nightmare	35 21
3. Tender Vittles	33 23	3. Dead Yuppies	35 21
4. Serenity Sisters	33 23	4. 14-Karat Jewels	35½ 22½
5. 976-Bowl	31 25	5. Unique Custom Framers	32 24
6. Lois Lanes 2	31 25	6. Rawhide Balls In Hand	31½ 24½
7. Dignity/S F Holy Bowlers	30 26	7. AIDS Emergency Fund	31 25
8. The Bowlerinas	29 27	8. Hana N R Sisters	31 25
9. Men Behind Balls	28½ 27½	9. Names Project Quilters	28 28
10. Easy Pickups	28 28	10. Bobby Rays Ribs	25½ 30½
11. Juan's Deadwood	28 28	11. Spare Me	25 31
12. Gilmore's	27 29	12. Split Sisters	24½ 31½
13. Thundergutters	27 29	13. Ball Spinners	22 34
14. Town & Country	26 30	14. Team 11	22 34
15. Bowling For Husbands	26 30	15. Alvin's Bears	18 38
16. Sleazy Palms	22½ 33½	16. Shantis Queens For A Day	14 42
17. Island Snow	20 36		
18. Beginners' Luck	19 37		
19. Hot Rollers	17½ 38½		

BWMT to Hold Monthly Socials
 6:30-10 p.m. on Friday, Jan. 20, and from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday, Jan. 21.

Black and White Men Together/Bay Area will begin hosting monthly interracial relationship workshop/social mixers. The first will be held on Jan. 21 from 7 to 10 p.m. in San Francisco at the All Saints Episcopal Church, 1350 Waller St. (one block south of Haight Street between Mason and Ashbury streets).

Everybody in attendance will have an opportunity to meet everyone there through a series of facilitated small group discussions. Also, there will be an unstructured social period at the end during which refreshments will be served. This event will begin exactly at 7 p.m. The doors will open at 6:30 p.m. Please arrive early. A \$5 donation is required at the door. Donations will be contributed toward the 1990 national BWMT convention to be held in San Francisco.

Reservations are not required. So if you are interested in exploring an interracial relationship, come join us. If you know someone you think might be interested, invite them as well! For more information, call (415) 641-5706.

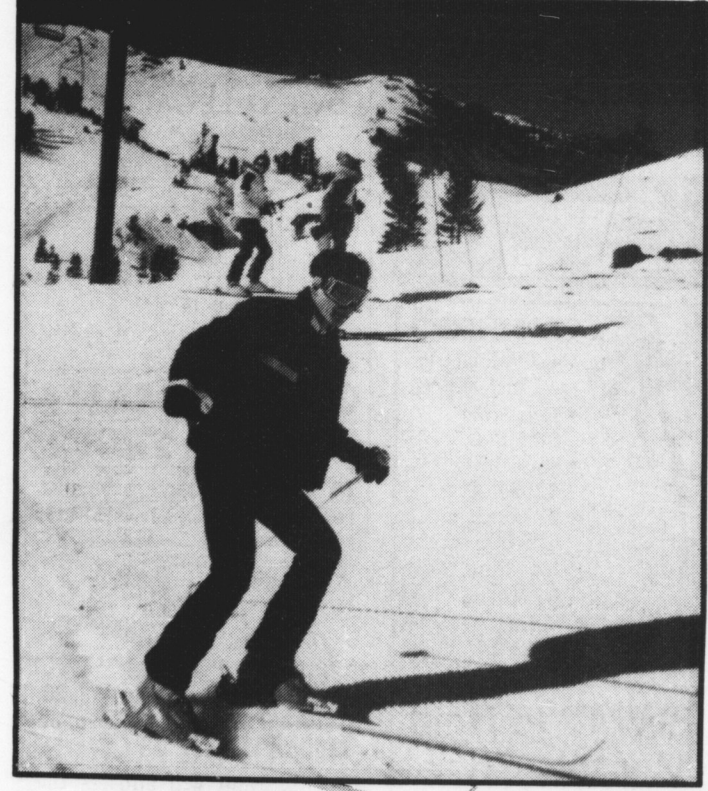
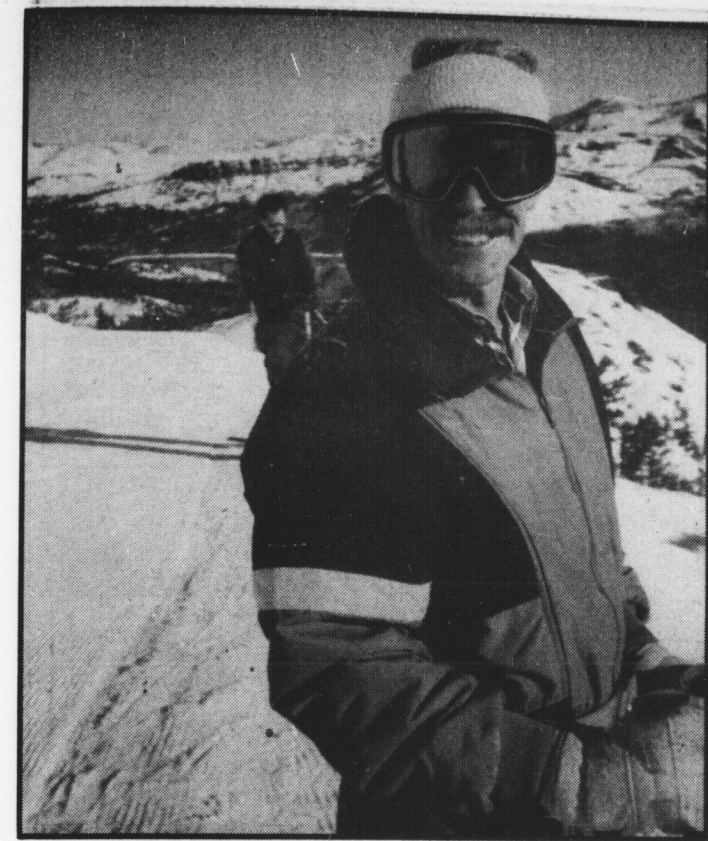
Artsy Attorneys Plan Workshop On Labor Ideas

California Lawyers for the Arts, a nonprofit organization providing legal information and education to artists, will present a workshop entitled "Employee vs. Independent Contractor." The workshop will be held on Wednesday evening, Jan. 25, from 7 to 8:30 p.m. in the Fort Mason Center, Building B, Room 300. Rod Bushnell, an experienced labor attorney, will explain the difference between an employee and an independent contractor.

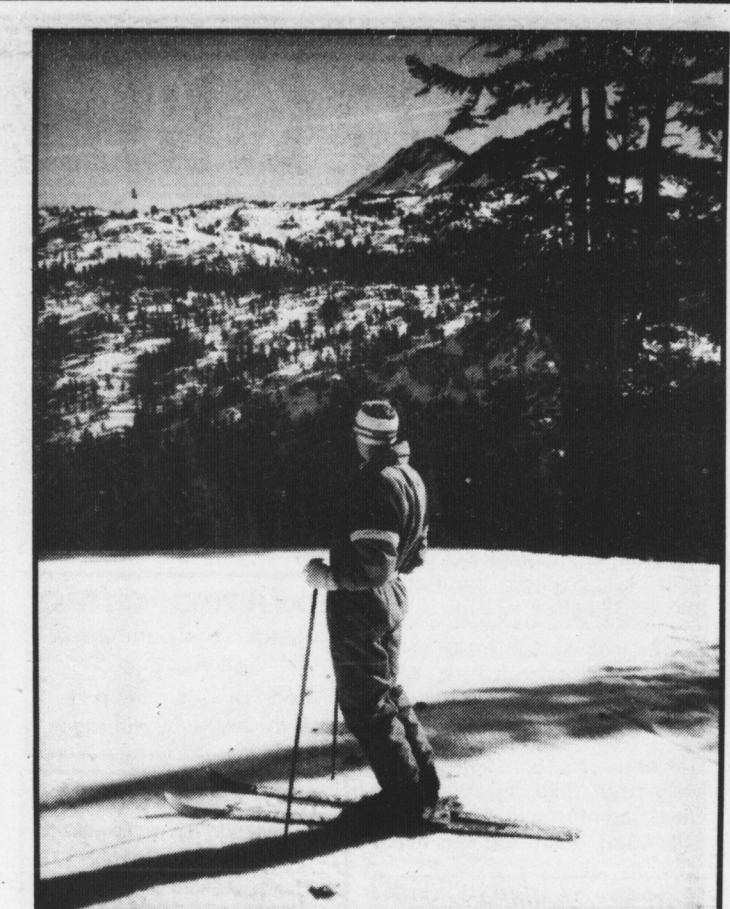
The cost of the workshop is \$5 for members, \$15 general. For more information, please call California Lawyers for the Arts at 775-7200.

Lesbian Caregivers Plan AIDS Conf.

A conference entitled Lesbian Caregivers and the AIDS Epidemic is being organized for January 1989. The conference will be held at the Seven Hills Conference Center at San Francisco State University from



SAGA-North went skiing at Kirkwood recently, and everybody seemed to have a good time. Other ski excursions planned this season include: Alpine Meadows (Jan. 6-9); Aspen (Jan. 21-28); Heavenly Valley (Feb. 10-13); Squaw Valley (March 3-6); Kitbuhel, Austria (March 13-19); and Jackson Hole (March 29-April 2). Call 995-2772 for more information.



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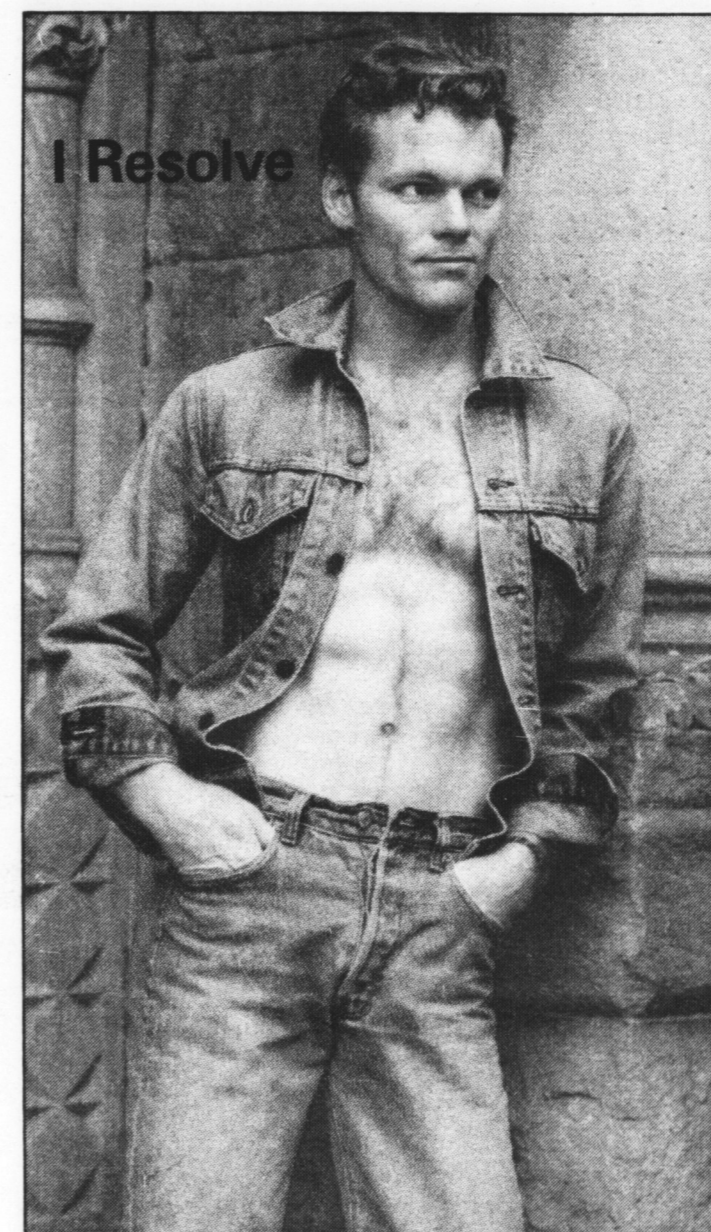
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BAY AREA REPORTER

VOL. XIX NO. 2 JANUARY 12, 1989

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A new year's resolution waiting to be broken? (Photo: S. Savage)

We Beat Larouche Again; City Blocks Shanti Funds

by Ray O'Loughlin

It was a cold spring in San Francisco last year. Shanti appeared to be in trouble as the city withheld funds. Voters chose the Olympics over gay rights, thanks to a ballot initiative supported by pro-games Sen. Quentin Kopp. Once again, the

remnants of the Burton machine blocked lesbian and gay efforts to achieve political office, as John Burton beat Roberta Achtenberg for the Assembly.

But we beat Lyndon LaRouche for the second time. And despite it all, over a

quarter million people proudly turned out for a festive Freedom Day Parade.

Year in Review
Part Two of Four

(Continued on page 17)

Insurance Co. Settlement Calls for Charity Donation

Suit Settled Over AIDS Insurance Policy Claims

by Ray O'Loughlin

A major lawsuit against an insurance company that had briefly offered an AIDS insurance policy reached settlement last week. Coastal Insurance agreed Jan. 5 to pay an undisclosed sum to be divided among six Bay Area charities. The settlement came one week after a San Francisco Superior Court judge ordered the suit proceed to trial set for May.

The settlement was hailed by attorney Alice Philipson of Berkeley as "a great victory." She added, "Anytime we get an insurance company to agree to anything, it's a victory."

Philipson represented Gary Frantz, who had purchased a Coastal policy for AIDS medical expense insurance in August 1985. The policy, known as the AIDS 1000 policy, was advertised as providing coverage for medi-

cal treatments, hospitalization, and disability due to AIDS.

In March 1986, Frantz was diagnosed with AIDS. He applied for benefits under his Coastal policy in April.

The following February, Coastal sent a written denial to Frantz, refusing to pay any of his claims. The company claimed it was not liable to pay because Frantz' illness was a preexisting condition not covered by the policy.

Frantz sued Coastal in September 1987 for failure to pay \$78,000 in claimed benefits. The suit also asked for punitive and compensatory damages. The suit charged the insurance company with breach of contract and fraudulent advertising.

Frantz died in December 1987. He was 41.

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

The company had hoped to sell at least 5,000 policies. But only 1,000 customers signed up before the company dropped the plan in May 1986. It had been on the market for 18 months.

The reason that Frantz was denied, said company officials, is that his medical records showed he had been suffering from pre-AIDS symptoms prior to applying for the policy. They claimed he had lied on his application about his health status.

Philipson did not buy that. "When someone gets AIDS and files an insurance claim, [insurance companies] go back into medical records and look for anything," she said. "It happens that AIDS and ARC symptoms can be the same as the flu, so they

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Britt Urges Supes To Work Together

Calls for End to Fragmentation; Alioto, Hallinan Join the Board

by Allen White

Harry Britt was sworn in Jan. 9 as the first openly gay president of the San Francisco Board of Supervisors. The moment came when outgoing Pres. Nancy Walker said, "It is now with great pleasure that I ask Sup. Doris Ward and Sup. Richard Hongisto to escort Sup. Britt to this podium."

As he made his way to the chair, the audience rose to its feet in sustained applause. Britt then took his seat as the second highest elected official in San Francisco and one of the highest ranking gay officials in the country.

Mayor Art Agnos told the hundreds crammed into the supervisors chambers that "The board that takes office today will serve until 1991 and thus will help us begin the decade of the '90s. That, in turn, will help us prepare for the next century."

He then noted that Harry Britt "takes office with a vote from the people of this city that broke a historical barrier, because he becomes the first person from his community to become president of this board. He also comes in with a vote and a mandate to continue to help break the barriers."

Agnos then welcomed Britt and the entire new board, which he described as "the class of '89." That new class includes two new members to the board and the election of two others from San Francisco's minority communities.

The two newest members of the board, Angela Alioto and Terrence Hallinan, are products of two of San Francisco's best-known families.

Sitting in the audience was former Mayor Joseph Alioto. The crowd sensed the historical sig-



Supervisor Nancy Walker with Sup. Britt at the inaugural. (Photo: S. Savage)

nificance as the mayor who had served San Francisco over 15 years ago was introduced to the audience by his daughter. Super-

visor Alioto then attempted to name the many Aliotos in the crowd, pointing out the connec-

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