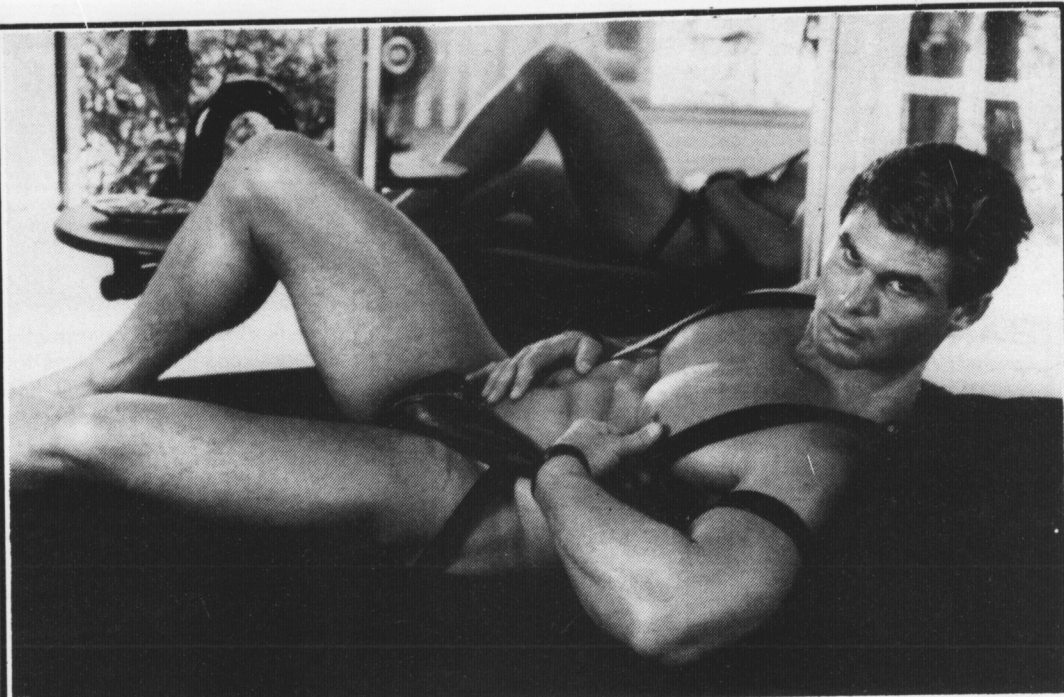
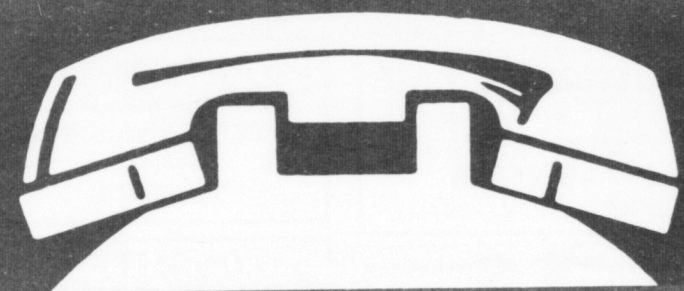


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BAY AREA REPORTER

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1990 Conf. Endangered By U.S. Border Policy

Cost To City Would Exceed \$14 Million

by Allen White

A major AIDS conference might not come to San Francisco next year because of United States policy regarding admittance of HIV-positive persons to the country. The concerns were raised as Hans Paul Verhoef, a Dutch health educator, arrived here last Friday night. He had been imprisoned in Minnesota for five days on his way to San Francisco to attend last week's National Lesbian and Gay Health Conference.

San Francisco is slated to be the host of the Sixth International Conference on AIDS in June 1990. More than 10,000 foreign delegates are expected to attend. The Fifth International Conference on AIDS will be held this June in Montreal.

vent meeting in countries that do not allow freedom of international travel for HIV-infected persons, and we would be supportive of that resolution."

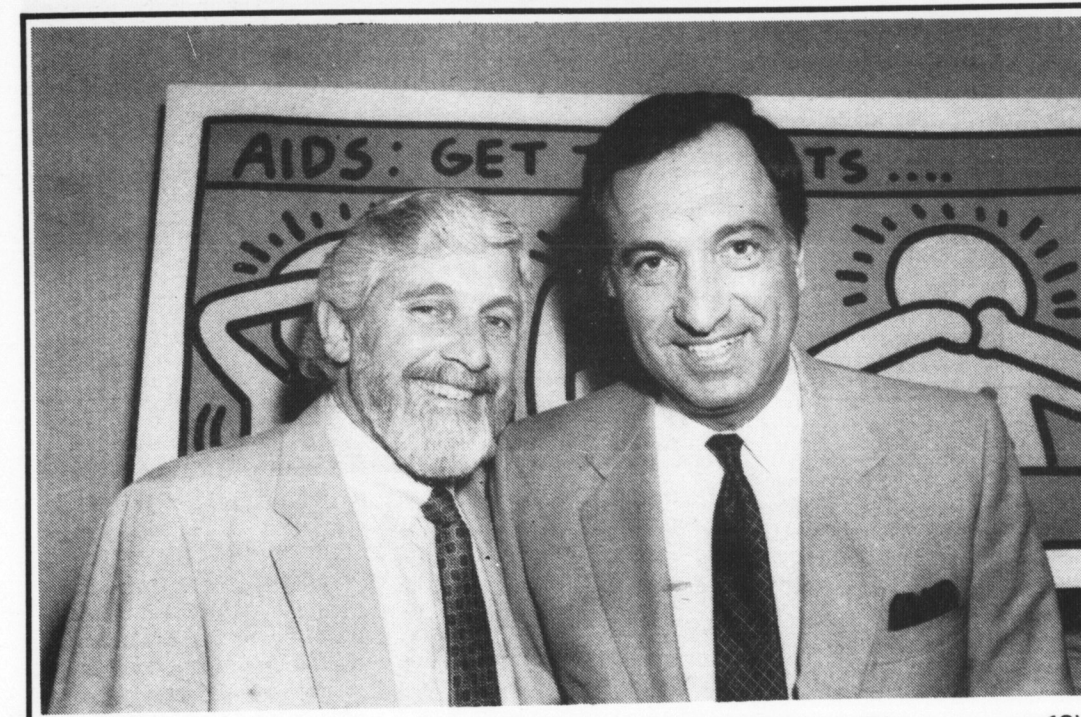
Dr. John Ziegler, a professor of medicine at UC San Francisco who is co-chair of the 1990 conference, could not be reached for comment.

Tim Wolfred, the executive director of the San Francisco AIDS Foundation and a member of the Mayor's HIV Task Force, said concern about the San Francisco conference has been expressed within the task force. "The proposal has been made that we should ask the proper authorities that the conference be moved to another country if this country continues to be hostile to people with AIDS," he said. Though a vote has not been taken, he believes there is support for its passage.

Steve Morin, legislative assistance to Congresswoman Nancy Pelosi, said, "My understanding is that the strategy is to bring a resolution to the Montreal conference which would pre-

If the organizers find it necessary to move the conference out of San Francisco, local businesses would lose at least \$14 million in on-site expenditures. "The numbers keep on increasing," said Dale Hess, vice president of public affairs for the San Francisco Convention and Visitors Bureau. "They keep increasing the number of rooms they need." At present, the convention bureau is lining up some 10,000 hotel rooms for use by conference delegates. According to Hess, that translates into an expected attendance of 15,000 to 17,000 for the four-day conference.

(Continued on page 21)



Dr. Mervyn Silverman and Mayor Art Agnos at the Art Against AIDS kickoff (story on page 13). (Photo: Bruce Forrester)

Senate Bills Attack Gay and Lesbian Youth

by Dennis McMillan

Two bills inspired by conservative interests are scheduled for state Senate hearings in the near future, both affecting gay and lesbian youth, much in the manner of Rev. Lou Sheldon's fundamentalist SHAPE (Stop Homosexual Activity in Public Education) program. Senate Bill 811 will have already been heard by the time B.A.R. goes to press. SB 126 will be heard April 19, in time for public outcry and action.

SB 811 was introduced March 2 by Sen. William Russell, a Los Angeles Republican (part of the super-conservative Wyman and Doolittle group). The bill would prohibit a school district from allowing school counselors, school employees acting as counselors, health care providers, or psychotherapists to refer any pupil to any other person or organization, on or off campus, without specific, written permission of the parent or guardian.

The bill is aimed at programs such as Project Ten, a program in L.A. that is offered to students with concern about their sexual identity. Since most young people worried about sexual identification would not want to have to obtain written permission from a parent and thereby reveal their concerns, they would effectively be blocked from seeking counseling from a professional.

Currently in each high school of the San Francisco Unified

School District, a gay or lesbian-sensitive liaison is available for referral to young people facing sexual identity issues. These services would be destroyed with the passage of SB 811.

The bill would also hinder counseling to other youth problems, not merely sexual and not exclusively gay. For example, if a young person is contemplating the option of leaving home because of physical or psychological

(Continued on page 2)

Dutch PWA Released from Prison Attends Final Hours of Health Conf.

by Jay Newquist

Hans Paul Verhoef, the Dutch man with AIDS who was imprisoned by U.S. immigration officials when he tried to enter the country last week, thanked Americans for their support during his ordeal.

Verhoef was finally permitted to travel to San Francisco last Friday to join 750 others for the final hours of the National Lesbian and Gay Health Conference after a five-day incarceration that ended when the Immigration and Naturalization Service exhausted legal appeals and supporters posted a \$10,000 bond. He was greeted at the airport with a bouquet from supporters, and Mayor Art Agnos' limousine was on hand to transport him into the city.

A 31-year-old Delft educator, Verhoef said he held no grudge against the U.S. despite its 1987 regulation that forbids HIV-infected travellers from entering the U.S.

"I'm really glad to finally get here," the shy, unassuming Verhoef said in heavily accented English at a packed press conference. He was surrounded by a phalanx of gay and lesbian leaders who had worked feverishly to secure his release.

"The law doesn't work very well," Verhoef said. "You can't stop the virus at the border, it's like trying to stop water with a net. Thousands cross the border every day and nothing is done about it, and that's the way it should be."

Verhoef described an ordeal when INS agents found the drug AZT in his luggage. He was handcuffed, fingerprinted, interrogated about his sex life, put in prison

(Continued on page 2)

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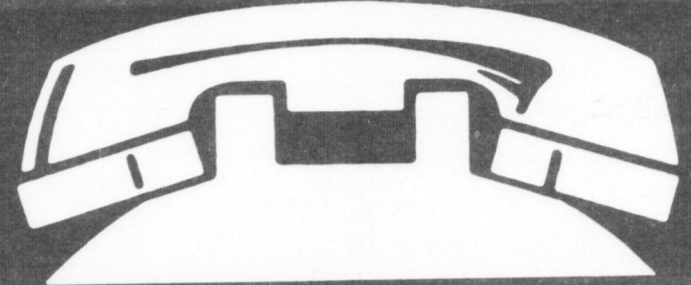
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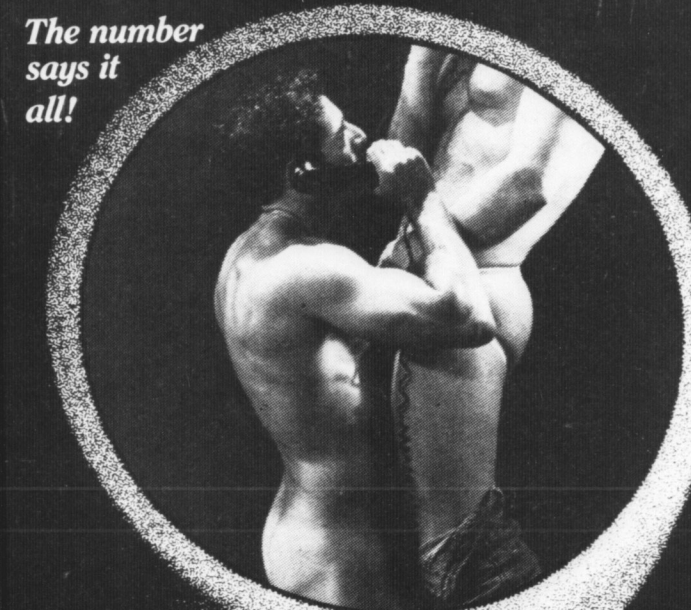
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Emperor Jerry Coletti and Empress Pat Montclair at their investiture (story on page 5). (Photo: Darlene/PhotoGraphics)

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by
Bob Flaws, DOM

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Dutch PWA

(Continued from page 1)
clothes and ordered to clean his cell each morning. He spent a night in the Scott County Jail before being transferred to Oak Park Heights, a maximum-security prison.

The other inmates, he said, bewildered, "[all] seemed to have murdered at least one person."

Verhoef said the INS went so far as to remove a few sex toys from his luggage, and neglected to return them.

He felt he wasn't a threat to public health, as the INS thought. He was asked by the INS if he intended to have sex while in the U.S.

"I think America has a narrow view of the AIDS issue," he said without bitterness, recommending that the U.S. spend more time teaching people to defend themselves against the virus rather than punishing the people who carry it.

Verhoef, who said state officials in Minneapolis, "were embarrassed to have me," also made a special point of thanking a woman who brought him cookies in jail. Her son had died of AIDS.

In that spirit, he said he would like to return to the U.S., possibly to attend the Sixth International AIDS Conference, scheduled to take place in San Francisco in 1990.

"I still love your country and I would like to come back, but if I have to meet the terms of the INS [regulation], it will be difficult."

Verhoef said he freely admitted he had AIDS at the border when the border guards discovered his AZT. At that point, he said, he decided to "do a good job of it" if press attention should focus on his plight.

He also expressed his own philosophy of AIDS to encourage others with the disease. "They must keep their own things going, do things for themselves, and don't rely too much on physicians," he said.

"It's good to be open about having AIDS, it's best, it makes you less vulnerable to society."

Verhoef plans to remain in the U.S. until the end of April and



Dutch AIDS activist Hans Paul Verhoef at the AIDS Conference. (Photo: Rink)

will take advantage of his newfound fame to lobby in Washington for repeal of the immigration law that snagged him at the border.

His remarks were preceded by expressions of outrage by gay and lesbian leaders about his treatment by U.S. officials and its far-reaching consequences.

"This incident has staggering implications for the city of San Francisco, the country as a whole, and our pivotal role in fighting this worldwide pandemic," said Dr. Tim Wolfred, executive director of the San Francisco AIDS Foundation. "IN such ways do holocausts begin."

Wolfred said Verhoef wished to come to the U.S. to share his expertise as an educator battling AIDS in the Netherlands. "[And] the U.S. responded by throwing this good man in jail."

Wolfred said thousands of people would visit San Francisco next year for the Sixth International AIDS Conference. Many of them would be HIV-infected.

Senate Bills

(Continued from page 1)
cal abuse, he or she could not be referred to a therapist unless the parent had been notified and had granted permission beforehand.

"This has very broad implications for emergency services for all youth and endangers our gay liaison programs here in San Francisco," said Chris Nunez, member of the Gay/Lesbian Youth Advocacy Council and chair of the superintendents' advisory committee on health and family life education.

SB 126, also a Russell bill, was introduced on Jan. 3 and amended early this month. It aims at health, sex, and family life education in the schools.

According to existing law, any school district maintaining a public elementary or secondary school may include sex education in its curriculum, but may not require any pupils to attend the class. Parents can request that their children be excluded from the class.

The bill would repeal provisions dealing expressly with

venerable disease education and would specify that the governing board of a public elementary or secondary school "may not require pupils to attend any class in which sexual intercourse, sexually transmitted diseases, AIDS, contraception, abortion, homosexuality, or masturbation are to be described, illustrated, or discussed."

The bill would also require written permission from the parent or guardian before a student may enroll in such a class.

"The guidelines that we presently have are already sufficient to protect the rights of parents with regards to sex education of their children. These bills would just create more unnecessary obstacles," Nunez said.

Nunez said that in 1986 she and a small group went before the Board of Education hearing on health and family life education guidelines requesting that discussions of homosexuality be included in the curriculum. The board had adopted the gay sexuality category despite protests by more than a hundred people.

Under SB 126, any kind of AIDS education and demystification of homosexuality to youth

The Fast Continues

McDonald 'Rapidly Deteriorating' While Senate Lukewarm Over Rights Bill

by Dennis McMillan

Stuart McDonald, a person with AIDS who has been on a hunger strike since Jan. 2, has escalated into a water-only fast. He described his condition as "rapidly deteriorating" as his supporters mounted a telephone campaign aimed at U.S. Sen. Pete Wilson (R-CA). Pro-McDonald people want Wilson to join Sen. Alan Cranston (D-CA) in the co-sponsorship of Senate Bill 47, the lesbian and gay civil rights bill.

Meanwhile, McDonald painted a bleak picture of his health. "It's rapidly deteriorating," he said, "and the things the doctor warned me about originally are now happening—lightheadedness, faintness, extreme fatigue and pain in the joints."

His fast for the enactment of legislation prohibiting anti-gay and anti-AIDS discrimination has gotten nationwide media attention. It will be covered in a press conference orchestrated by National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, Shanti, San Francisco AIDS Foundation and the National Gay Rights Advocates.

Reaction from the U.S. Senate has been lukewarm. McDonald said he received a letter from Sen. Paul Simon (D-IL). Simon said he and Sen. Edward Kennedy (D-MA) are apparently waiting for a grass roots campaign to be established in San Francisco before taking any action. A letter from Sen. John Glenn (D-OH) rationalized that he only supported anti-discrimination laws based on genetics and religious beliefs.

A letter from Sen. Jesse Helms (R-NC) thanked McDonald for his point of view, but that was it. In response, on April 3, McDonald sent an open letter to Pres. George Bush, California Gov. George Deukmejian, Wilson and all federal and California state legislators. In his letter, he informed them of having completed the 91st day of his hunger strike. He judged their lack of action as part of "a systematic extermination—a holocaust—now going on in this country against the homosexual minority." He accused them of murder and genocide, saying "Your failure to implement adequate planning, funding, and programs for AIDS education, prevention, research and treatment is proof of your murderous intent."

McDonald offered any of five different ways to end his fast: Pres. Bush could sign federal legislation adequately prohibiting

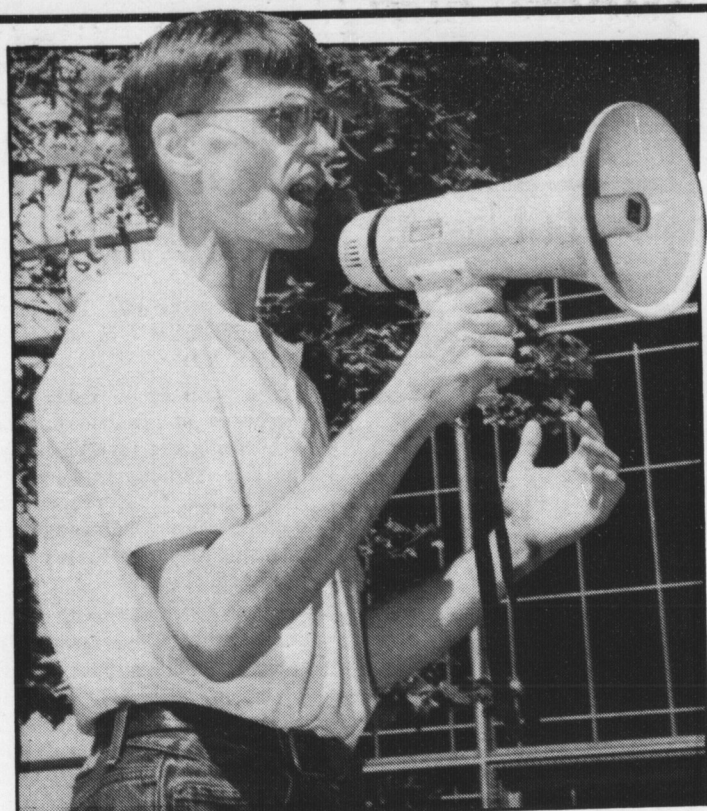
and redressing both anti-homosexual and AIDS-related forms of discrimination; Deukmejian could sign such legislation on a state level; enough federal legislators could commit themselves to vote for and override any presidential vetoes of such legislation; or state legislators could do so for gubernatorial vetoes; Wilson could support and sign such legislation, and co-sponsor the Civil Rights Amendment Act of 1989.

McDonald said that aides for San Francisco president of Supervisors Harry Britt have responded with hostility toward the barrage of phone calls inquiring why Britt has not sponsored

McDonald's resolution to supervisors urging state and federal governments to enact anti-discrimination laws.

In a letter to Britt, McDonald accused him of inaction causing "a serious retreat by the city government as a whole to equal and humane treatment for gay people."

Britt told Bay Area Reporter, "I don't want Stuart to die. I want him to regain his health and play



A fasting, thin Stuart McDonald at the AIDS Vigil Protest. (Photo: Rink)

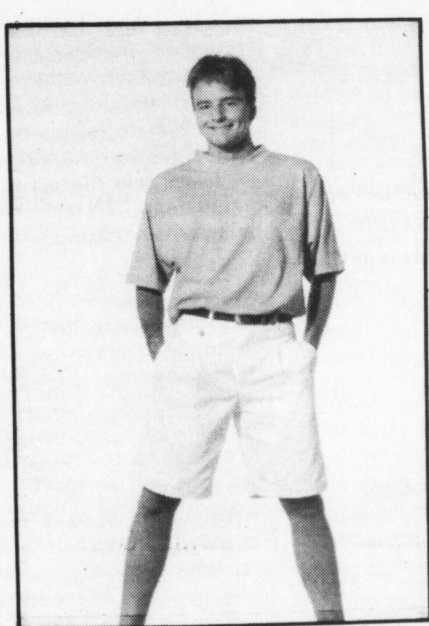
a much needed role in the leadership of our community as we work together to achieve the same goals."

One of Britt's aides, Ric Ruvalo, added, "We wish he would eat and be healthy to become an important part of the struggle we have been making for a long time."

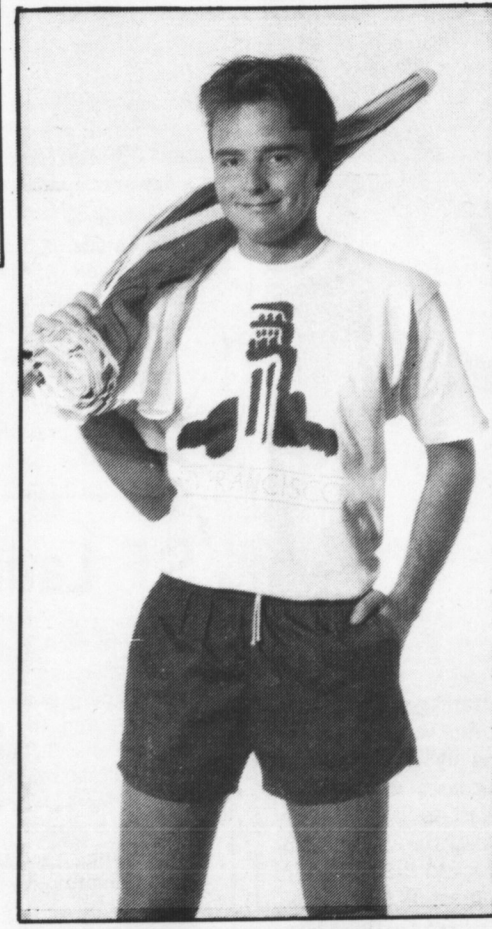
Members of the People with Immune Disorders caucus of ACT UP/San Francisco made an acknowledgement of the fast: "We feel that we have no right to pass moral judgment on the acceptability of Stuart's choice of civil disobedience. We believe each person must engage the battle as they see fit. What is important is for each person to join the fight instead of sitting on the sidelines ignoring the issues or passing judgment on those who are fighting. We challenge the community to support Stuart and his demands."

Supporters for McDonald are now urging immediate response from the gay community in the form of a phone call campaign. They are asking concerned people to call Wilson's local office at (415) 556-4307 or in Washington, D.C. at (202) 224-3841. They want people to demand that Wilson act immediately as a co-sponsor of the anti-gay and anti-AIDS discrimination legislation.

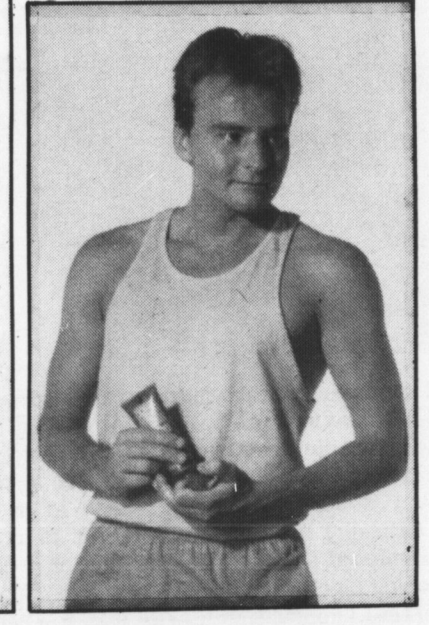
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MURPHY'S MANOR



Wayne Friday

John Van de Kamp's Willie Horton

In an interesting political development last week, Democratic gubernatorial candidate **John Van de Kamp**, now the state attorney general, called a press conference to admit that he had "erred" when, while serving as the Los Angeles District Attorney in 1981, he refused to prosecute **Angelo Buono** on murder charges in the infamous "Hillside Strangler" case. Rather, the then-district attorney decided to prosecute Buono only on sex charges. However, then-Attorney General **George Deukmejian's** office stepped in and went with murder charges against Buono and he was subsequently convicted of the charges. In all, the deaths of ten young women and girls were part of the Hillside Strangler case, so named because some of the victims were strangled and their bodies dumped on hillsides near downtown L.A. in 1977 and 1978. As the district attorney at the time, Van de Kamp has since been criticized for personally making the decision not to prosecute the convicted killer on murder charges, making it necessary for Deukmejian's office to do so. The issue threatens now to become an embarrassing political one for Van de Kamp, who is facing a tough primary race for the Demo gubernatorial nomination against former San Francisco Mayor **Dianne Feinstein**.



Dianne Feinstein.

The issue came up again last week when a Sacramento political columnist wrote that Buono could indeed become the kind of issue for Van de Kamp that convicted murderer **Willie Horton** was for Massachusetts Governor **Michael Dukakis** in last year's presidential campaign. Horton committed crimes after getting a weekend pass from prison under a Massachusetts furlough law that Dukakis, as governor, did not seek to change until Massachusetts community groups took up the cause. Subsequently, Dukakis, in his presidential campaign, was slow to respond when the Republicans hammered him on the furlough issue, accusing him of being soft on crime. Republicans used the Horton issue in television spots and it served to raise doubts in the general public about Dukakis, who was really not well known even after winning the nomination. Dukakis could never shake the feeling with many that he was soft on crime, with the Horton case being the catalyst for the charges.

Clearly hoping to define the Hillside Strangler decision as an issue in the coming campaign, Van de Kamp is trying to face it head-on, and made what could be a decision that will haunt his campaign when he decided to publicly admit he was "wrong." Whether his political opponents will let the issue die is doubtful. Advisers to Senator **Pete Wilson**, the likely GOP nominee for governor in 1990, were barely holding their smiles this week when at least one of the top Wilson advisers suggested aloud that Van de Kamp's decision not to prosecute Buono for murder will find its way into TV commercials should Van de Kamp win the Democratic nomination next year.

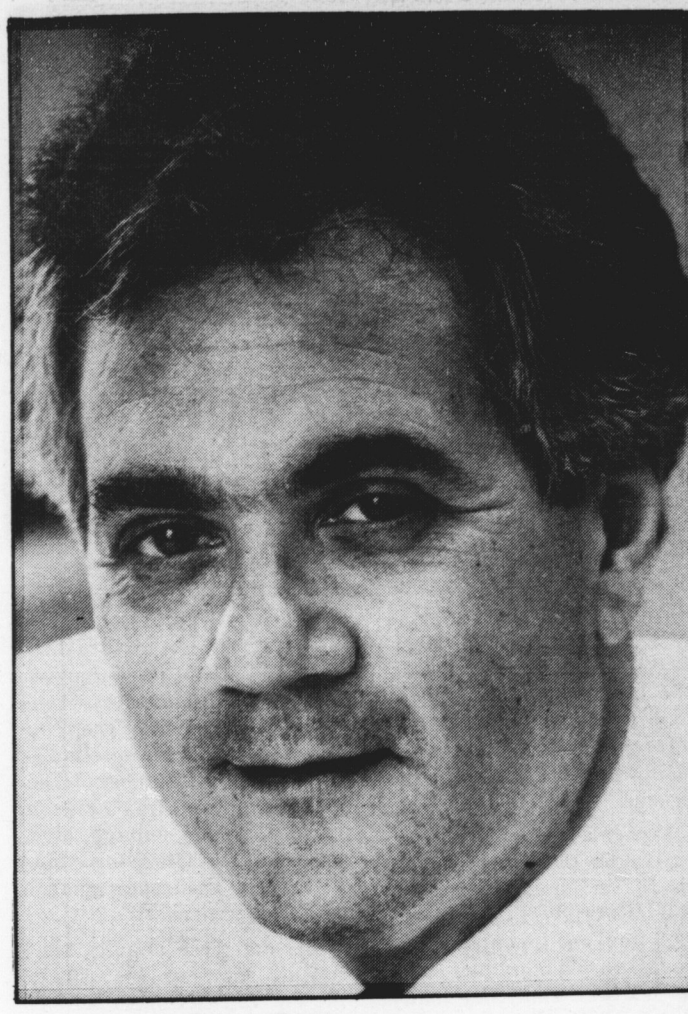
No one from Dianne Feinstein's political organization would publicly discuss the Van de Kamp statement this week, but some close to Feinstein were hinting that the politically savvy former mayor would probably use the Buono issue in the primary fight against Van de Kamp next year. In a campaign trip to Southern California recently, Feinstein questioned Van de Kamp's "toughness"—particularly in light of the fact that as attorney general he is the chief law enforcement officer in the

state. She questioned Van de Kamp's opposition to the death penalty in the state, pointing out that she is in favor of it. Clearly, the Van de Kamp staff is worried about the botched "Strangler" decision becoming an issue this early in the campaign. Van de Kamp press secretary **Duane Peterson** admitted this week, "People are raising this, and there are some political opponents who think this is a knockout blow. Mr. Van de Kamp believed it was time to take the issue on heads-up and end the discussion."

Obviously, Van de Kamp's press people hope that ends the discussion, but the attorney general's political opponents will see that it does not end there. Angelo Buono and the Hillside Strangler case might very well be to John Van de Kamp what Willie Horton and the Massachusetts furlough program were to the Dukakis presidential campaign. Acting on a resolution by state Senate President **Pro Tem David Roberti**, the state legislature has designated this Friday, Saturday, and Sunday as "Statewide Days of Prayer" for the victims of gang violence. The Roberti resolution notes that

(Continued on next page)

by Kurt Erichsen



Congressman Barney Frank.

Friday

(Continued from previous page)

gang-related violence took 452 lives in L.A. last year, and in the state capital of Sacramento there were no less than 622 incidents of deaths or woundings—eight times the number five years earlier. In a separate statement, Sen. Roberti said he hoped that places of worship would set aside special times during worship services for praying.

Though she is keeping quiet about it publicly, those close to First Lady **Barbara Bush** report that she called Sunday's big pro-choice march in Washington, "great." Mrs. Bush will say publicly only that she discusses her feelings on the matter only with her husband, but this all has to be very encouraging to the pro-choice activists.

Word from Florida has it that **Jack Campbell**, longtime gay rights activist and Democratic party worker, who has a lot of friends in California, is running for mayor of Miami.

True words said in jest: former Gov. **Jerry Brown**, speaking at Sup. **Angela Alioto's** party last week, welcomed Angela to "that union of candidates who were elected on their father's name." (And who should know better than Edmund G. Brown, Jr.?)

Seeking a fourth term as New York City Mayor, **Ed Koch** has apparently decided that it is again necessary to publicly announce, as he recently did, that he is heterosexual. While there have occasionally been rumors that Mayor Koch is gay, it is strange that he felt it necessary to again publicly raise the heterosexual-homosexual issue. As a former New Yorker who knew Ed Koch as a councilman and Greenwich Village political activist, I have never met anyone who cared about his sexuality. Koch, a life-long bachelor, has kept his private life private, and some are wondering what he thinks he can gain by now bringing it up. Does he hope to gain an advantage in a predicted rough battle with Republican **Rudolph Giuliani** (who this week was endorsed by New York's Liberal Party)? No one in New York—least of all the gay and lesbian activists—cares who Ed

Koch goes to bed with (if, indeed he does with anyone), so Mayor Ed would be wise to look for other issues in his doomed re-election campaign. Suggested reading for political junkies: *Daughter of Destiny*, by **Benazir Bhutto** (Simon & Schuster, \$19.95)—despite the grandiose title by the Pakistani leader. If you are fascinated by the career of the young Bhutto and her late father and their country as I am, you will find this one hard to put down. Some Metropolitan Community Church members wondering what kind of speech Mayor Agnos gave in October that earned him a \$2,000 fee from Rev. **Troy Perry's** MCC. (And is the church in the habit of paying their speakers?) **Nancy Pelosi, Jr.** leaving the Agnos administration to join the Feinstein for Governor effort, and there are reportedly some upset people in City Hall's Room 200. **Rep. Chuck Douglas**, a Republican from New Hampshire, remarked recently that the House Judiciary Committee was "too liberal" and cited committee member Rep. **Barney Frank's** admitted homosexuality as proof. Reconsidering, Douglas apologized to Frank last week, saying his earlier remark was "a flip aside that was stupid." Playwright/novelist/ AIDS activist **Larry Kramer**, in my opinion one of the heroes in the fight against AIDS, blasted the Reagan family (particularly **Ron Reagan Jr.**) during an appearance on **Larry King's** CNN television show last week. Kramer: "The irony is, Nancy's best friends are gay and their son Ron Reagan is gay—the essence is that Ronald and Nancy Reagan sold their son down the river. Ron Reagan could have been the biggest hero in the world [in the AIDS fight] if he had the courage to come forth and say he was gay, to shame and encourage his parents to do something about this epidemic, but because he didn't, more of us are dead." Ron Jr. responded: "For the thou-

sands afflicted and those who care, AIDS is a medical crisis, not an issue of sexual preference. There is a stark difference between activism on behalf of AIDS victims and base self-promotion. With his thoughtful, pointless remarks, Mr. Kramer has apparently chosen the latter."

New California population figures released recently show a bigger number of state citizens than was anticipated. The new figure is near the 28.4 million mark, and this means that the state could gain as many as seven new congressional seats after the 1990 census—instead of the four or five that had been expected.

Actress **Elizabeth Taylor**, continuing her effort to raise funds for AIDS research, will be in the city next weekend (Saturday, April 22) to attend a cocktail party for the major donors of next month's big Art Against AIDS show. Although the exact location of the party is being kept a secret, don't expect to get invited to meet Ms. Taylor unless you have sent a big check. (\$1,000 is the figure I hear is the least a donor can make to meet Taylor, though even this figure is a rumor.) The Art Against AIDS show takes place starting May 19 at the Butterfield & Butterfield warehouse, 660 3rd Street, and tickets are \$50. (For info on the show and what kind of donation expected to meet Ms. Taylor, call 558-9102.) The entire thing is a good cause, and Elizabeth Taylor deserves thanks for her continuing effort in this fight. Indeed, a great lady.

And don't forget the annual "Mr./Ms. Financial District '89" contest-auction at Scooters Restaurant this Saturday, April 15 (\$10 donation; 864-8232 for info)—a benefit for the AIDS Emergency Fund.

When Downey speaks of his brother, who lives with him now,

Mike Hippler

The Man You Love to Hate — Part Two

Mort Downey, the controversial talk show host, is full of surprises. Although his name is anathema to many gay people, his own brother, Tony, is gay. Downey made this dramatic revelation on his show last June, when he introduced Tony as a guest. The reason for Tony's appearance was that he had AIDS, and to the amazement of critics and fans alike, Mort announced firmly that he loved his brother and supported him in his health struggles.

Before this show aired, Downey expressed his fears that his audience would abandon him when they found out he had a gay brother, and he claimed, "I don't give a shit... If my show [is cancelled] three days after Tony's segment airs, they can all go fuck themselves." His audience, however, surprised him.

"I learned something about my audience. If [they] learn and hear what the hell's going on, the truth, like everyone should, there's not that stigma, because you hug a guy with AIDS or something like that, that you're not going to pick it up. It's just [a] stupid lack of education and a certain bigotry that exists, because people want to knock the gay community. And you've got some people in the gay community that'll knock the hell out of the heterosexual community, which isn't going to bring about any peace."

When Downey speaks of his brother, who lives with him now,

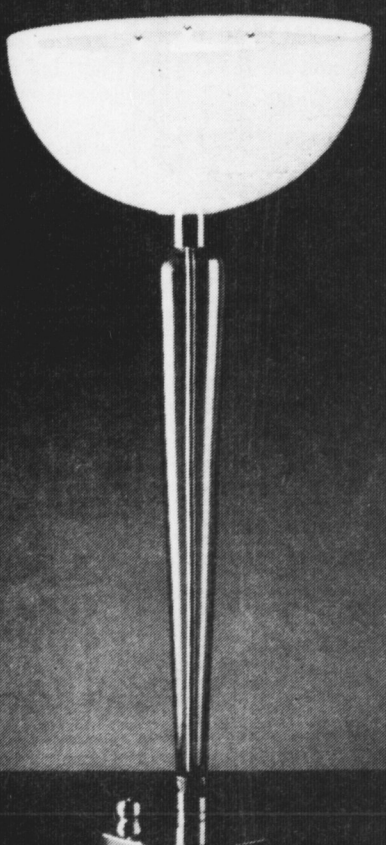
he almost sounds like an AIDS activist himself. "Tony is not dying of AIDS; he's surviving with AIDS. His T-cell count is up to 102 now from 27. I've got him on every single miracle thing we can find, and to hell with the government saying that you can't take it."

Besides his brother, Downey has twenty other friends with AIDS, and, partly because of them, he supports anti-discrimination laws against people with AIDS. He also supports government funding for AIDS research, education and care. Care is his particular concern: "I'm doing six AIDS benefits this year, and they're not with Elizabeth Taylor running around praising Rock Hudson. They're with people who aren't being cared for who have AIDS. No one gives a crap about them... All the research in the world is great, but it's no good if you've got some poor bummer who's dying of it, and no one's taking care of him."

Despite this stance, Downey was surprisingly lenient with the Reagan administration's handling of the AIDS crisis. "Reagan at least saw that plenty of money was available for it," he said. "And you've got to say plenty of money was available when you consider what was available for Alzheimer's disease... There was ten times the amount of money [for AIDS]."

Still, Downey continued, "You've got to pour every dime (Continued on next page)

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The Reverend James Mitulski, Pastor

Hippler

(Continued from previous page)

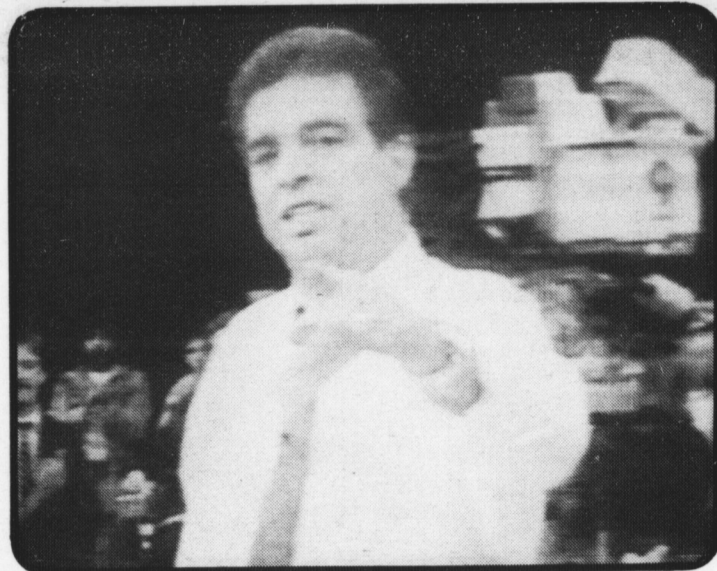
you can at helping this situation being resolved. When we can send thirty billion dollars overseas to help governments that hate our guts, why can't we send thirty billion dollars to take care of people in this country who are hungry, who have diseases, and who are citizens of this nation?"

Although many viewers find Downey's attitude toward AIDS reassuring, the gay community remains, for the most part, hostile. In San Francisco, opposition to his show was so fierce that last year KRON-TV took the show off the air. "So what?" Downey replied. "Good for them." When asked if he were resentful of this, he answered, "I'm resentful only of the fact that they want to be heard, but they don't want anyone else with even a deviation of their opinion to be heard. That's too bad."

One of the reasons many gay people object to Downey is the sensationalist nature of his show. Downey frequently provokes his antagonists by making deliberately outrageous statements, such as calling former Mayor Harold Washington of Chicago a "Communist" and suggesting that the name of the National Organization for Women be changed from NOW to NEVER. (Denying this last charge, Downey insisted that he called the group the "National Organization of Whores" instead, because "they're out of touch with the vast majority of women in this country.")

Downey answered that leftists, feminists, and progressives are not his only targets. "Anyone who is an extremist against the survival of this country is a target. You bet your life." This includes certain gay activists as well as Lyndon LaRouche; militant Iranians as well as Ku Klux Klansmen, Aryan Nationalists and neo-Nazis.

Downey denied that he is the "ultra-conservative" described by the press. (Rolling Stone labelled him a "Rambo-variety reactionary" and a "yahoo messiah.") He prefers to call himself a "radical centrist" instead. "The press doesn't pay any attention to my issues," he says. "They haven't looked at my welfare position, my Medicare position, my aging position. All they have to do is to pick up the book *Mort Mort Mort* and read it, and that will explain it very well.



Morton Downey, Jr. to appear on Channel 20

"But because I give my point of view in decibels that are louder than Ted Koppel, I instantly become a radical right-winger... Before they label me, [they should] find out what's in the package."

Downey admitted that he is abrasive, but there is a reason for this. In New York Magazine, he said, "I'm rude. I'm overbearing... You get [people] angry enough, they'll blow their stack and tell you what they really think." Although some critics have accused him of being nothing more than a showman, he added that there is more to it than that. In American Film, he likened himself to a "clarion... screaming through the town square," and stated, "They want to be entertained. If the message gets through, something has been accomplished."

Primarily, said Downey, "I still consider myself a distributor of

information. I like to serve it up in a way that's palatable for everyone." His message, he continued, is to encourage people to get excited and to become involved in their government. "The message is that you've been frustrated long enough, that there are segments of this country that have been totally ignored by the government."

Despite these populist sentiments, not everyone considers the way in which Downey delivers his message palatable. And not everyone chooses him for a messenger. But this does not bother Downey either. Affecting modesty, he dismissed the notion that he is anyone's spokesperson. "No," he concludes, "I feel I'm a dummy for [my audience]. They are the ventriloquists. I just speak their words."

This article appears courtesy of the *Windy City Times*.

San Mateo Schools Project Needs Help

A new program designed to encourage young people to protect themselves against the spread of HIV and to help them to develop a more realistic, caring approach to the AIDS epidemic, is underway in San Mateo County. The program, called AIDS Is Real (A.I.R.), brings people with AIDS/ARC into the classroom as part of a three-day presentation, in order to share their experience of the disease with the teenagers.

People with AIDS/ARC who live in San Mateo County and are looking for a way to feel they can have some impact on the epidemic

are encouraged to come to a training on Friday, April 14, 2-5 p.m., and Saturday, April 15, 9:30-4:30.

Volunteers will be given support and an opportunity to develop the skills needed for sharing their experiences and working with young people. This work has proven invaluable in moving teenagers toward positive behavior change and greater consciousness about AIDS.

If you are interested in participating, please call Jonathan at 573-2588 by Wednesday, April 12.

Frisch



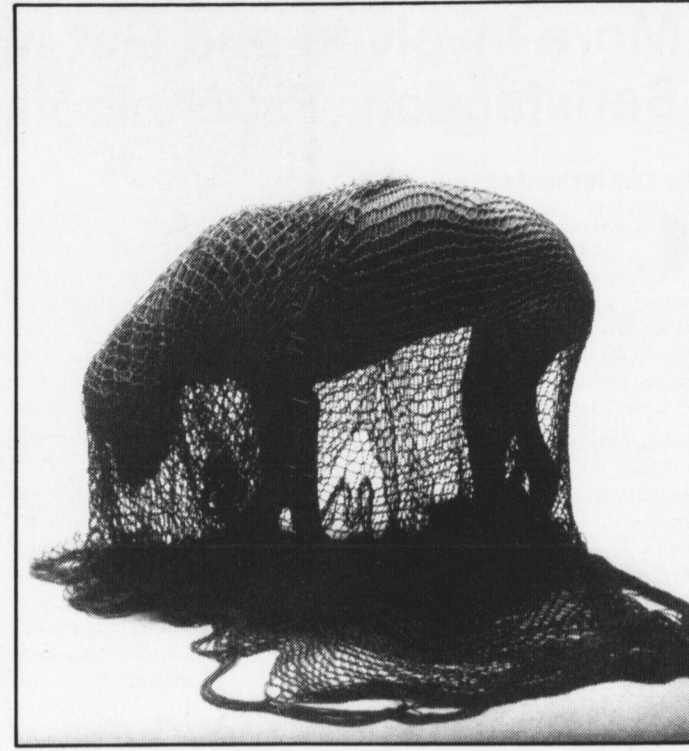
Art Against AIDS Launches Campaign

by Will Snyder

A major campaign against AIDS has been launched by members of the San Francisco artistic and business communities. The campaign, known as "Art Against AIDS," was announced at a Monday press conference/luncheon at the Fairmont Hotel. The proceeds of this campaign will be donated to American Foundation for AIDS Research (AmFAR), Instituto Familiar de la Raza of San Francisco, the San Francisco AIDS Foundation, and the Minority AIDS Health Initiative of Oakland.

The campaign got started with monetary gifts from two corporations. Esprit, a San Francisco clothing manufacturer, presented a \$30,000 check to Art Against AIDS co-chair Roselyne (Cissy) Swig, and the Chevron Corporation followed with a \$10,000 donation. The "Triple A" campaign will kick into high gear within the next month with an extensive AIDS education campaign on bus shelters, kiosks, exterior bus posters and other public art sites. There will also be two major fundraisers and a month-long public auction of the art.

The first fundraiser will be a cocktail party for major supporters which will be hosted by actress and AmFAR national chair Elizabeth Taylor. The party will be held on April 22 at a site yet to be determined. The second fundraiser will be held on May 18



Art Against AIDS: William Wegman's art titled "Billboard Mock-up"

at Butterfield & Butterfield Warehouse, 660 Third Street, just one day before the launching of the month long auction of art work at the Butterfield site. The cost is \$50 per person.

A galaxy of artists will have their work featured in this drive against AIDS. In the bus shelter campaign, artists featured in-

clude Terry Allen, Keith Haring, John Baldessari and Laurie Simmons. The Butterfield exhibit and auction will feature the works of the late Robert Mapplethorpe, Wayne Thiebaud, Mark diSuro, William T. Wiley, Robert Arneson, Roy deForest, Doug Hall, Tom Maroni, Nathan Oliveira, Janis Provisor, Pat Steir and Peter Voulkos.

The fact that the exhibit will feature work by Mapplethorpe didn't escape another AAA co-chair, San Francisco Mayor Art Agnos. "There is a poignant reminder to us that one of the artists who contributed will be Robert Mapplethorpe, who died of AIDS," said Agnos.

But there was another important fact brought out again at the press conference, according to AmFAR president Dr. Mervyn Silverman.

"I think when you look closely at who we're trying to help here," said Silverman, pointing to minority-oriented groups such as Instituto Familiar de la Raza and the Minority AIDS Health Initiative, "it becomes very obvious that more people are starting to understand that AIDS is no longer just what they used to think was a 'gay, white disease.'"

According to spokesperson Susan Collins, Art Against AIDS hopes to raise \$1 million in the Bay Area. She said that half of the money raised would go to AmFAR with the other 50 percent divided among the three Bay Area AIDS groups.

The theme of the day was, perhaps, best described by Agnos. "Four years ago, people thought that San Francisco was hardest hit by AIDS," said Agnos. "Now they're finding out that San Francisco fights back."

Screenwriting Seminar to Focus On Story Structure

Without a firm grasp of story telling as it applies to filmmaking, the screenplay is apt to fail. Film Arts Foundation and instructor Ken Valentine have designed this workshop to focus on this most crucial screenwriting aspect, which most weekend seminars only skim.

Story Structure: The Heart of a Screenplay is crafted to appeal to all of the people involved intimately with the telling of a story on film, such as writers, directors, editors, and producers. Participants will analyze the works of Joseph Campbell, John Howard Lawson, Vladimir Propp, and Robert McKee, by showing how their approaches are used in popular films. Film clips and a popular film will be screened and analyzed to determine key elements, such as character development, premise, theme, act structure, plots and turning points.

Valentine is a screenwriter, teacher of screenwriting at City College in San Francisco, former AFI Directing Fellow, and founder/director of The Screenwriter's Workshop sponsored by FAI. Last year he presented a highly successful dramatic reading of Academy Award winning Jeremy Lerner's (*The Candidate*) work-in-progress screenplay.

To register, contact the Film Arts Foundation at 552-8760.

MORE GAY MEN AND LESBIANS HAVE DIED FROM CHEMICAL DEPENDENCY THAN FROM AIDS.

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Find out about volunteer opportunities and training at Shanti on Wednesday, May 10. Training in Practical Support begins June 9, and in Emotional Support on April 28. Call 777-CARE.



Gay Couples Are Different More Involved and Get More Satisfaction, Psychologist Finds

by Dell Richards

Clinical psychologist Ellie Zacks knows all the jokes about butch and femme roles in gay couples. But contrary to stereotypes, she sees a very different picture of the gay couples she's counseled and the lesbian couples she's studied.

According to Zacks, lesbian couples don't follow traditional heterosexual models and don't play out typical male-female roles. As a result, lesbian couples are more involved, have more equality in the decision-making process and more ability to change as circumstances demand.

What's more, lesbians are more satisfied with their relationships as a result of this freedom.

“I found that lesbian couples studied were more satisfied with their relationships than heterosexual couples that were studied,” said Zacks. “Lesbians were more involved in the relationship and more flexible about rules and roles.”

For decades, the accepted theory on lesbian couples—a theory based on heterosexual models—put them in the category of unhappy and unstable. Not only is the heterosexual model highly questionable, but Zacks found in her study of more than 50 pairs, that lesbian and gay couples are much better adjusted than previously thought—more so than heterosexual couples.

This good news comes in spite of the fact that so many social structures work against lesbian and gay couples.

“Because lesbian couples aren't encouraged to stay together, they tend to split up if they're not in relationships that are working for them,” said Zacks. “I would guess that the ones who do stay together are probably going to be better functioning and more satisfied with their relationship.”

Zacks defined a functioning relationship as one that can handle conflict; allows each person to assert himself or herself; finds a balance between time the couple spends together and apart as well as between the relationship and careers; and has some degree of intimacy.

And lesbians aren't the only ones who show these particular characteristics. Contrary to the stereotype of gay men as cold and aloof even in relationships, gay men also fall along the same end of the spectrum that lesbian couples do.

“A colleague of mine, Michael Bettinger, found that gay men—contrary to the hypothesis—were also more cohesive than heterosexual couples. They were less cohesive than lesbians but more than heterosexuals,” said Zacks. “We were thinking originally that gay men would be more disengaged.”

“When people come into therapy, they are usually pretty nervous and often feeling pretty badly about themselves,” said Zacks. “They are anxious about what they are doing and what's not working. All these therapists who were writing articles were talking about couples who were

in therapy. And merging—or enmeshment—had a distinctly negative connotation.”

Zacks had seen this phenomenon often in 13 years of private practice but she thought it might be a healthy response to an unhealthy environment.

“As a minority in a majority culture, we've had to deal with homophobia without a lot of support from our families or the community as a whole. The tendency is to turn to each other and become more cohesive. I saw it as functional or helpful, rather than detrimental.”

If that were true, she assumed that lesbians who weren't in therapy would show the same characteristics.

“These may be indications of health, particularly if the couple itself is satisfied with the levels of cohesion and adaptability,” said Zacks.

When Zacks started writing her dissertation in 1986, she set up a study to test her ideas.

“There had been a lot of articles and discussion of fusion and enmeshment in lesbian couples, but there had been no research to see whether that was actually true,” said Zacks.

She looked at the negative aspects of involvement called “fusion,” “merging,” or “enmeshment.” Basically, this happens when two people lose their individual identities and become merged into one psychological self.

She also looked at the positive
(Continued on next page)

Gay Therapists Changing Couples' Model

by Dell Richards

Research by gay therapists is leading to new theories on how couples function.

In her research, Citrus Heights psychologist Ellie Zacks found that lesbian couples were more satisfied than heterosexual couples that had been studied, even though lesbians were more involved and more adaptable—two concepts that had been used to signify problems in the past.

As such, Zacks stressed that therapists should not use the traditional, heterosexual mold on gay relationships.

“Clinicians should not attempt to fit the lesbian couple into a heterosexual model,” said Zacks. Instead, “the therapist should strive to understand how a lesbian couple's patterns help or hinder its functioning within the majority and minority subcultures as well as the relationship.”

Zacks thinks that the lack of social and family support often gives lesbian and gay couples little choice but to rely on each other.

“Unfortunately, we don't get support to stay together, either from our own community or the community-at-large,” said Zacks. “And you don't get to turn to your family for support as often as a heterosexual couple might.”

Whatever their sexual orientation, therapists need to understand how some patterns that are thought to be problems might give strength to the relationship.

“There are reasons for high levels of cohesion,” said Zacks.

“Rather than therapists blaming their clients, we need to look at why it's happened and validate the relationship as a whole—and then find ways to look at being individuals while still maintaining intimacy.”

According to Zacks, that means taking another look at emotional responses such as “merging” or “enmeshment.”

“We need to look at merging as having a basis in reality, that we are two women living in a homophobic culture,” said Zacks.

“Attachment can be a strength,” said Zacks. “But it can be a liability, too. In order to have intimacy, you must have two individuals.”



Clinical psychologist Ellie Zacks.

(Photo: Dell Richards)

Couples

(Continued from previous page)

side, called “cohesion.” That occurs when a couple is emotionally involved but still retains two separate identities.

What Zacks found confirmed her instincts.

Lesbians have high levels of cohesion. They tended to make decisions jointly and spent a lot of time together. They also tended to switch roles as necessary, taking turns at bolstering each other in times of stress, which led to higher levels of adaptability.

But contrary to previous research, these high levels didn't lead to problems. Instead, Zacks found high levels of satisfaction—higher levels than heterosexuals.

“Women prefer more flexible roles,” said Zacks. “Lesbian

couples showed a high level of flexibility. That might explain why lesbian couples were more satisfied with their relationships.”

To therapists all over the country, Zacks' and other psychologists' work is leading to a change in the definition of healthy relationships, especially for gay couples.

“More rigid roles might work well for heterosexual couples, but not for lesbian or gay couples,” said Zacks. “There's a certain cultural norm you have to look at. For instance, if a couple answered ‘almost always’ to the question ‘We jointly make decisions,’ it would indicate a chaotic relationship.”

“The measure tended to be fairly heterosexual. It looked at adaptability from the point of view of fairly rigid roles.”

Since Zacks' research, other therapists have begun to ques-

tion the definition of a healthy relationship. Some research has even shown that a high level of involvement leads to a higher level of satisfaction.

“Highly cohesive couples tend to be more functioning,” said Zacks. “We should look at the traditional male values of independence, distance and separateness to see whether they are always functional. Maybe they're not as functional for relationships anymore. Maybe some of the more traditional female values are more helpful—the kinds of things that lesbians have been criticized for. We may have skills of intimacy and connectedness that should be paid attention to.”

Although Zacks hasn't yet studied the reasons for this type of behavior, she believes the high levels of closeness could come from the emphasis on love and care-giving that women learn as children.

“As women, we are taught to be more relationship-oriented,” said Zacks. “Because both members of a lesbian couple have been socialized to be more attached, we show more caring, nurturing behavior. We're able to get into the ‘other person's shoes.’”

Gay couples have talked about changing the values of society for decades, but the research Zacks and other psychologists have done shows that lesbians and gay men are not just talking but creating new types of relationships.

“As we have questioned the old models, we have had to establish new ones,” said Zacks.

And researchers are finding that these flexible, equal partnerships work well and are more satisfying.

Domestic Partner Policy Challenged in Minneapolis

Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund has filed a potentially precedent-setting challenge to the refusal by the Minneapolis Library Board to extend health-care benefits to the domestic partners of three lesbian employees. The complaints were filed with the Minneapolis Department of Civil Rights after extensive negotiations with the library board failed.

Lambda represents three lesbian librarians who claim that the denial of health insurance to their domestic partners violates the city ordinance banning discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and marital status. Like most employment policies, the Minneapolis Library Board extends health-care coverage to the spouses of its heterosexual employees, but not to unmarried partners.

One of the complainants, Jane Anglin, has also filed a union grievance that will go to arbitration within the next few months. Her partner, Amy Goetz, is a law student who was required by her law school to have a health insurance policy as a precondition for admission. Jane and Amy, who have been together for eight years, were forced to buy the policy outright since the library refused to add Amy to Jane's policy.

Of the other two complainants, Marie Hanson's partner is a part-time city employee who has no health-insurance coverage. They have been together for nearly 11 years. Judith Bagan's partner, though currently employed full-time, would like to leave her job for personal reasons, but is afraid

to lose her health-insurance benefits.

“These cases really highlight the outrageous injustices cast upon lesbian and gay relationships that are not recognized by the law, by employers, or by society in general,” stated Paula L. Eitelbrick, Lambda's legal director and lead attorney on the case.

The Minneapolis case follows the filing of a landmark challenge against the New York City Board of Education last year. In that case, two women and one man were denied insurance coverage for their partners.

“In a society where one-third of an employee's compensation consists of benefits, most of which is insurance, every lesbian, gay and unmarried employee in the country is essentially paid less than their married, heterosexual counterparts who get these benefits for their partners,” said Eitelbrick.

New Dates For Shanti Training

Shanti's April Emotional Support Volunteer Training was scheduled at a time that conflicted with some of the spiritual and cultural rituals connected with Passover. For this reason, they are moving the next Emotional Support Volunteer Training one week later, to the weekends of April 28, 29, 30 and May 5, 6, 7.

It is the commitment of the Project to be inclusive of cultural differences and sensitive to the community at large.

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NGLTF Launches Project To Secure Recognition Of Lesbian and Gay Families

The National Gay and Lesbian Task Force will launch the only national organizing project on behalf of lesbian and gay families on May 1 with the hiring of veteran feminist and black activist Ivy Young as project director. The Lesbian and Gay Families Project was formed through a collaboration between NGLTF and the San Francisco-based National Center for Lesbian Rights.

The Lesbian and Gay Families Project will educate, advocate, and organize for full societal recognition of lesbian and gay relationships and for the protection of lesbian and gay families. The Families Project will confront barriers facing lesbian and gay partners and parents and will tackle issues such as securing equal benefits for gay and lesbian partners, fair and equal treatment for gay and lesbian parents in custody, visitation and

co-parenting arrangements, passage of non-discrimination laws regarding adoption, foster care, and artificial insemination, and securing survivors' rights and the right to be involved in medical decisions and treatment.

Young joins the Families Project with a strong background in media, grassroots organizing, and politics. She is the former general manager of WWOZ-FM in New Orleans and served as the director of public affairs for WBAI-FM in New York City from 1986 to 1988. Young was editor and anchor of daily newscasts at WHUR-FM in Washington, D.C., from 1978 to 1982. She was communications director for the Center for Black Education in Washington from 1969 to 1973. Her political organizing work involved her in the 1988 presidential election campaign during which she helped organize Lesbians and Gays for Jesse Jackson

in New York City.

"As we stand at the edge of the 21st century, it is untenable that a very small but vociferous segment of our nation's population still has the ability to make its definition of family one that must be adhered to by millions of citizens," Young said. "It is the non-traditional family which has become traditional."

National Center for Lesbian Rights' Executive Director Roberta Achtenberg said, "We are delighted that Ivy Young will lead the Lesbian and Gay Families Project. Our families across the country are in crisis, and this project is of vital importance. Ms. Young's vast experience in media, coalition-building and organizing ensures that the urgent needs of our gay and lesbian families will be very well served."



Ivy Young, director of the NGLTF Lesbian & Gay Families Project. (Photo: Tom D. Maria)

AIDS Hysteria Still Rampant, Silverman Says

AmFAR Director Favors Needle Exchange

by Jay Newquist

Society has progressed little beyond the hysteria and scapegoating that accompanied the bubonic plague of the Middle Ages, and AIDS has become the modern equivalent, says Dr. Mervyn Silverman, president of the American Foundation for AIDS Research.

In his keynote address before the 11th National Lesbian and Gay Health Conference last week, the former director of the San Francisco Health Department said the enemy is the virus, not the people who carry it.

He dedicated his remarks to

Hans Paul Verhoef, the Dutch educator with AIDS who was jailed when he tried to enter the United States in Minnesota in order to attend the conference in San Francisco. Verhoef was later released and attended the final hours of the conference.

Silverman, whose sense of humor didn't offend even in the bleak context of the epidemic, was in rare form. "AIDS is really here," he said, referring to the bigotry that accompanies the disease, "and it should be called Acquired Intelligence Deficiency Syndrome."

He said a classic epidemic created two problems—the disease itself and society's reaction to it, which in the case of AIDS was the search for a scapegoat, fear of infection, and bizarre attempts to isolate carriers of the disease.

When the classic plague was at its peak and people were tossed into cathedrals to die, 500 people died each day, according to Silverman. He said in turn that Jews were blamed for the plague, while cholera was believed to be a punishment for people unwilling to change their lives.

Italian immigrants, he added, were blamed in the United States for polio.

"It took 3,000 years to understand the spread of plague, 35 years to find its cause and 10 to find a cure," Silverman said, adding that denial of the facts of AIDS at the highest levels of power and influence jeopardized the finding of a speedy cure.

Silverman titled his address "AIDS in Context" and said the anxiety level about the epidemic had been intensified because society as a rule didn't handle the reality of sexually transmitted diseases very well.

He said further anxiety was caused by public discomfort about the gay lifestyle, the long incubation period of AIDS, the absence of a cure, and the perception that the disease is universally fatal.

Silverman said such turmoil was intensified by misinformation and "bigoted" doctors who say things like women "don't

have to worry about AIDS." The result, he said, is a terrible sense of false security.

The scapegoats of the disease continue to be gay men, said Silverman, who gave his personal *chutzpah* award to the Texas Medical Association. He reported that this august body had declared that doctors in the Lone Star State did not have to treat the HIV-infected, but if a physician is infected himself, he isn't required to tell his patient.

Silverman also slammed an insurance company in Colorado that refused to insure an HIV-negative gay man merely because he had taken the AIDS antibody test.

Silverman said he was also disgusted when he saw exploitive advertisements that promised an enhanced immune system "by this and that."

There was, however, a bright light in the heroism of the gay and lesbian community and its supporters who have rallied around their own, according to Silverman, who urged President Bush to support anti-discrimination legislation, expand drug testing, speed up the drug review process, and adopt a national health policy and plan of attack against AIDS.

He called for needle-exchange programs for IV drug users and enactment of immediate outreach to the affected population in the second wave of the epidemic—Blacks, women and Hispanics.

"The sad fact," Silverman concluded, "is that AIDS will outlive all of us."

Church Uses Lent To Raise PWA Funds

St. Mark's Lutheran Church in San Francisco raised over \$1,000 for indigent people with AIDS and ARC during this last year.

The money collected will go to the Martin Luther Reconciliation Fund. This fund is available to cover emergency needs for people with AIDS and ARC within the territory of the Northern California/Northern Nevada Synod of the ELCA. Since its inception in 1988, the fund has given almost \$10,000 to cover needs as diverse as housing and flying mothers to the bedsides of their dying children.

Cops' Attorneys Win New Hearing

Neglect Charges in Smoot Case Slated For Police Commission On April 26

by Dennis McMillan

Attorneys for the four police investigators accused of allegedly neglecting their duties during the November, 1987 killing of George Smoot were granted a continuance by the San Francisco Police Commission (SFPC) at its Wednesday, April 5 meeting. The attorneys will meet again with the SFPC on Wednesday, April 26 to decide whether Frank McCoy, Marvin Dean, William Kidd and Antonio Casillas were neglectful when they investigated the slaying of Smoot, a gay man, by his 17-year-old Portola District neighbor.

Dean and his partner McCoy have been charged with failure to collect any evidence regarding the juvenile suspect after discovering that the victim was gay. Casillas and Kidd were accused of not having the crime scene investigation unit take any photographs of the suspect's home and stopping the investigation when they learned that the case may become a homicide.

The Office of Citizens' Complaints (OCC) upheld those charges and San Francisco Police Chief Frank Jordan concurred with the OCC's findings. The commission was composed of President Louis Girardo, Vice-president Alfred Nelder, Pius Lee, and Jose Medina.

On March 15, the defendants' attorneys had been granted a continuance so they could sue in federal court for custody of documents they considered relevant to the case. When they lost their suit, attorneys for the Police Management Control Section assumed the hearing could then proceed.

But the defense argued again for continuance, claiming the city had violated the confidentiality rights of the officers by filing the documents in court. This was an action City Attorney

piddly, administrative disciplinary hearing," John Crew, ACLU staff attorney and director of Police Practices Project, said. "This is more complicated than the Ollie North trial."

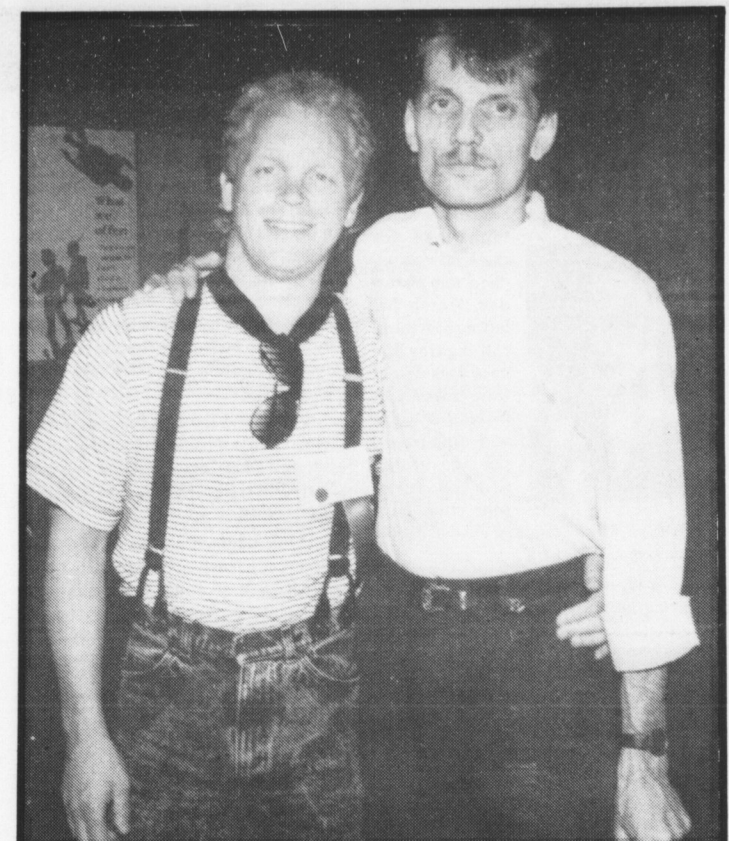
He believes, along with attorney Michael Gash of the San Francisco PMCS, that the defense is using stall tactics and trying to wear everyone out. Crew pointed out that the strategy would appear to be working, since the original roomful of watchful concerned gay and lesbian citizens has been reduced to gay activist Bill Paul and one other man besides Crew.

"They have worn down public interest in this case through these delays," Crew said. "Are they going to come up with something new? I fully expect so," he predicted.

Crew also asked, "If this were not an OCC case but one generated completely by the police department, would we be seeing these sorts of delays and wrangling?"

Paul is worried about the lack of a fifth commissioner, too. "I sincerely hope the mayor appoints the next police commissioner soon," said the Stonewall Club activist, "and that this commission has contempt powers, because the confusion spread at this point would seem to be direct contempt of the commission."

Crew is worried that because of the many delays that people will have lost interest in the hearing once it finally gets underway. For this reason he recommends the public call the police commission at 553-1667 to assure that the hearing will actually occur April 26, and if so, he encourages gay and lesbian attendance.



Kjell Erik Oie of Norway and Richard Rector of Copenhagen, two participants at the S.F. Health Conference. (Photo: Rink)

Cable Cars Set for Channel 6 On April 18

Male Entertainment Network (M.E.N.) announced Tuesday that the video of the 15th annual Cable Car Awards show will be televised in San Francisco on Viacom Channel 6 on Tuesday, April 18 at 8 p.m. This year the show has been condensed to one hour and yet nearly every award will be shown.

The featured emcees are Louise Renne, Tom Horn, Ginger Casey, Hank Plante, Susan Fahey and Rick Brattin. The theme of the show is "Outstanding," emphasizing recognition of the very best achievements in the lesbian and gay community. The entertainment highlight of the show is a special "Tribute to Sylvester" performed by Jeannie Tracie and Arnold Lz. The show also includes a short comedy stand-up by Marga Gomez, who was recognized with the award for "Entertainer of the Year."

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Illustration by Laura H. Young

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1990 Conf.

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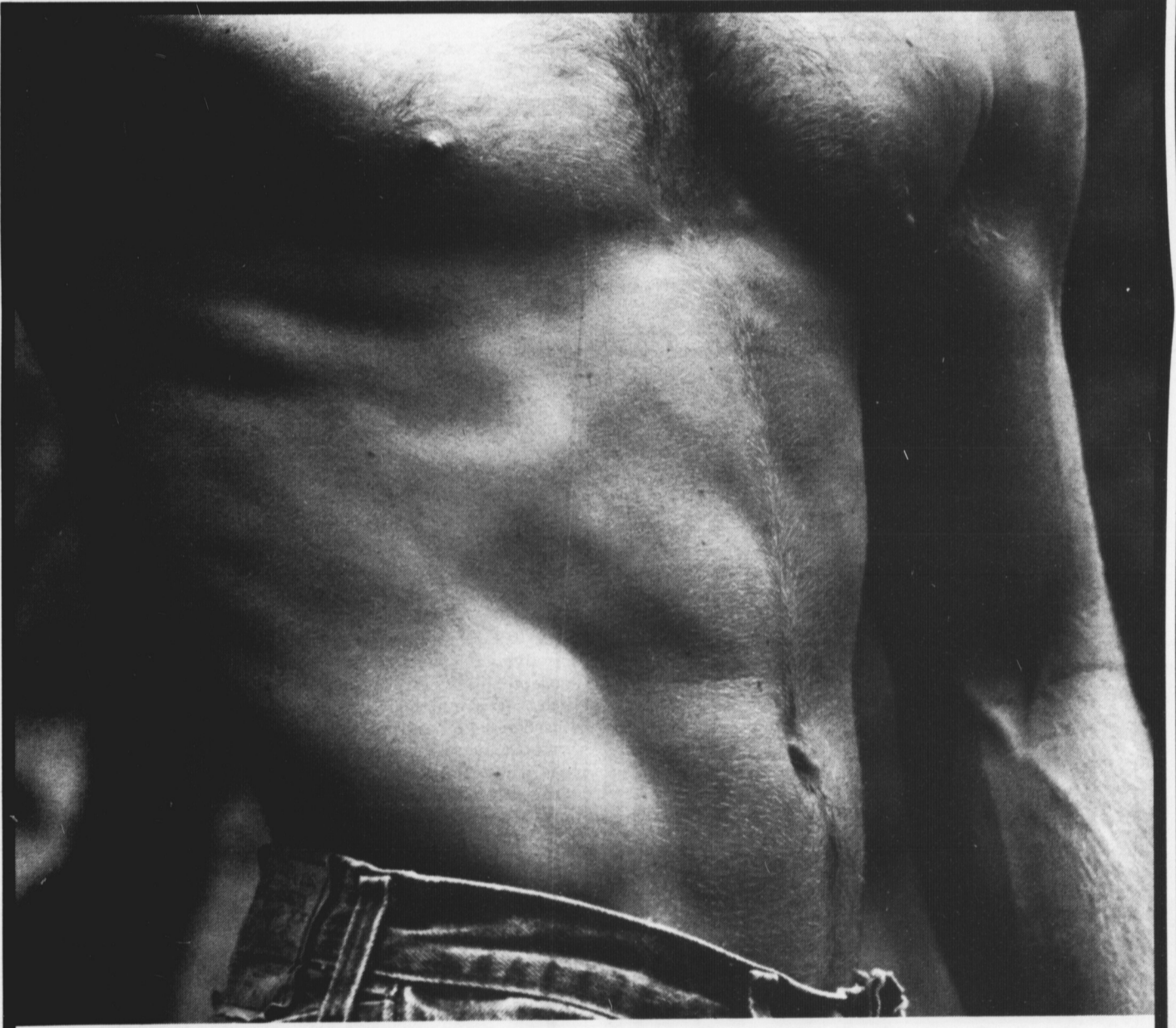
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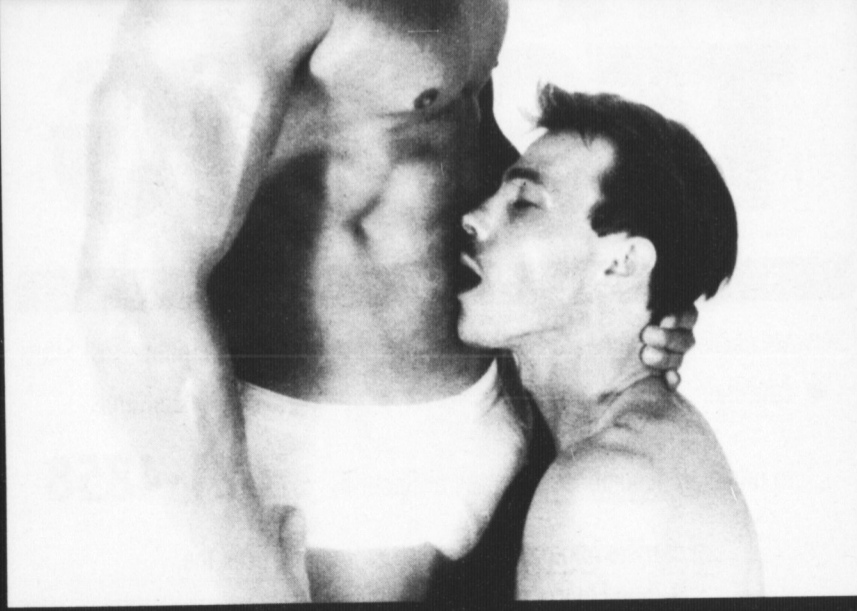
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years. The lease to the apartment was in his lover's name.

When his lover died, the landlord moved to evict Braschi from the home. However, New York City regulations permit surviving spouses and family members who lived in the apartment, to remain in the apartment and take over the rent control lease if the tenant dies.

Braschi has argued throughout this case that, as a gay life partner, he is a member of his deceased lover's family and therefore entitled to the lease.

"We are asking the court to analyze family in functional terms. There is no question that our client and his partner functioned as a family," declared Nan D. Hunter, director of the ACLU's Lesbian and Gay Rights Project.

The trial court agreed that Braschi was a member of his lover's family. The court prohibited the landlord from evicting Braschi. However, an intermediate appellate court found for the landlord and reversed the trial court's decision. Appeal to the Court of Appeals was permitted and on Jan. 23, the ACLU filed its brief on Braschi's behalf. The case will be argued this spring.

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"In this, the 20th year of Stonewall, we can create a new covenant that respects the dignity of lesbians and gay men in our society, protects them against violence and punishes those who try to harm them, whether it is in the workplace or on the streets," Agnos said.

"That is why Hans Paul Verhoef is important to more than just this conference," the mayor concluded, stressing that honoring the Dutch educator thereby recognized "our common struggle."

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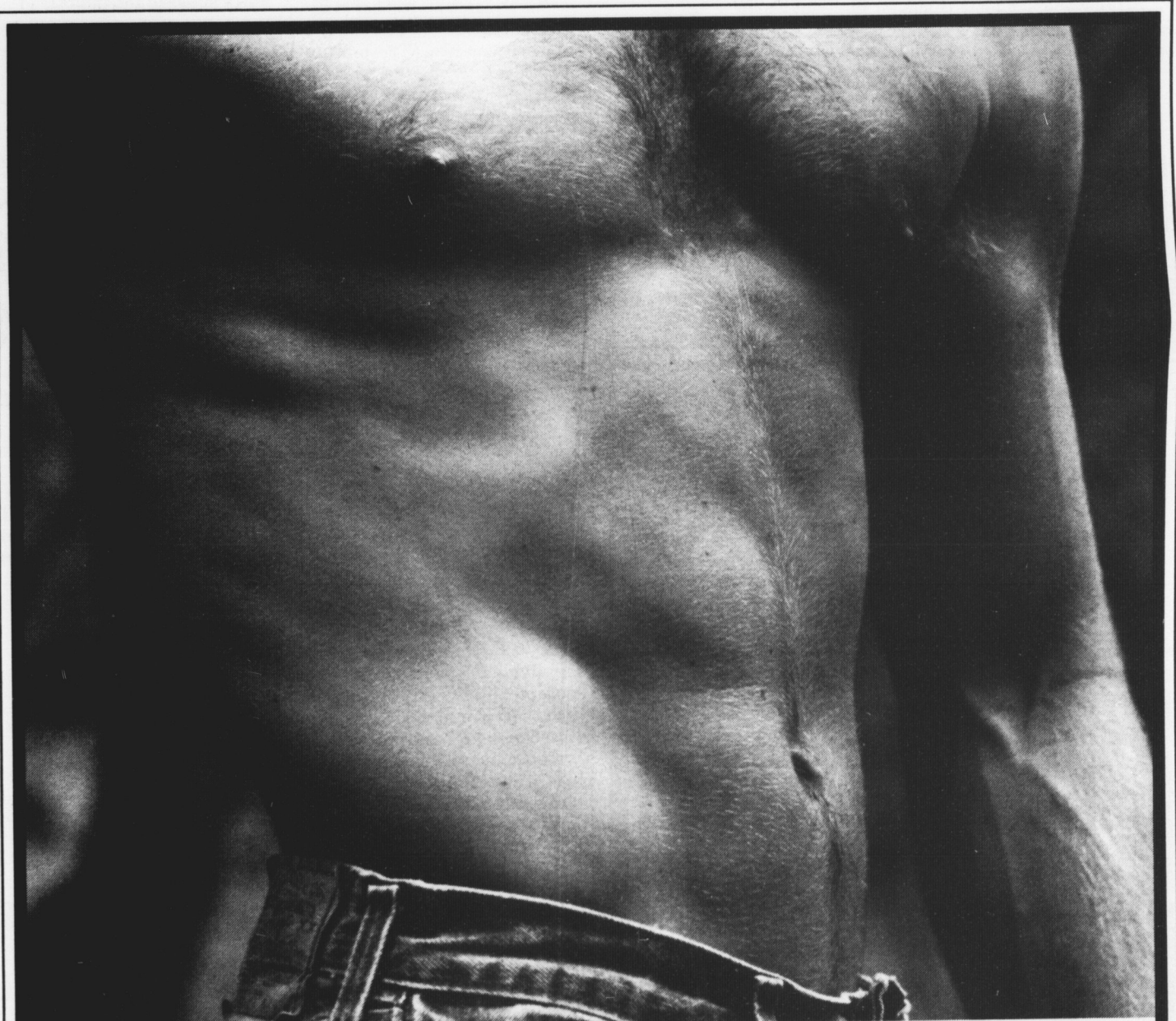
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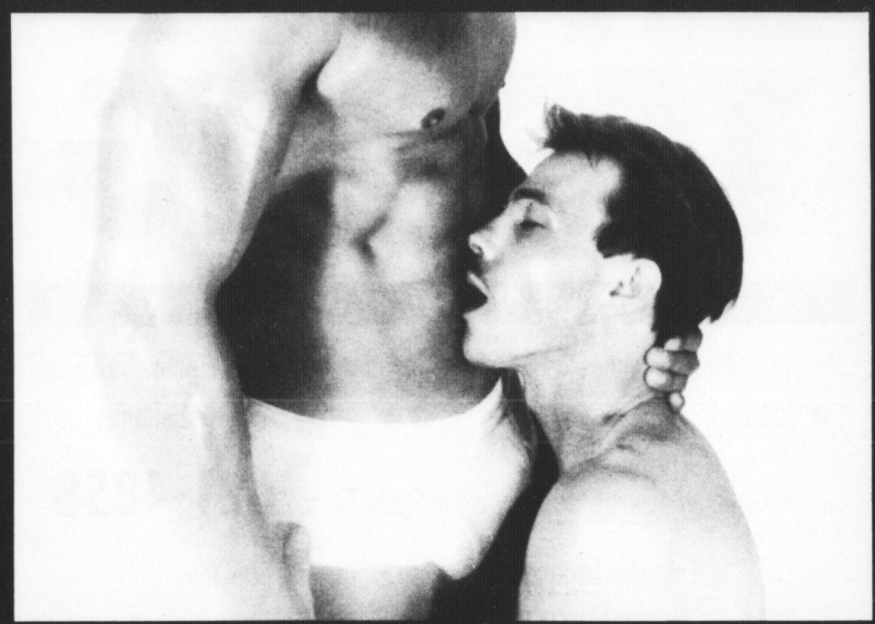
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Roy The Ruthless

Eureka Staged Reading Explores The 'Wonderful' World of Roy Cohn

by Will Snyder

Next weekend, Eureka Theatre will hold a two day staged reading of a new play called *Angels In America*. This production, planned for Footworks Studio, appears to be a good chance for San Francisco theater-goers to take part in an exciting process—watching the development of a potentially exciting new play.

But there's more to this lengthy look at a play in its embryonic stage than merely the observation. Playwright Tony Kushner's new work offers us one more opportunity to explore that burning question for the ages: can any person be gay and Republican?

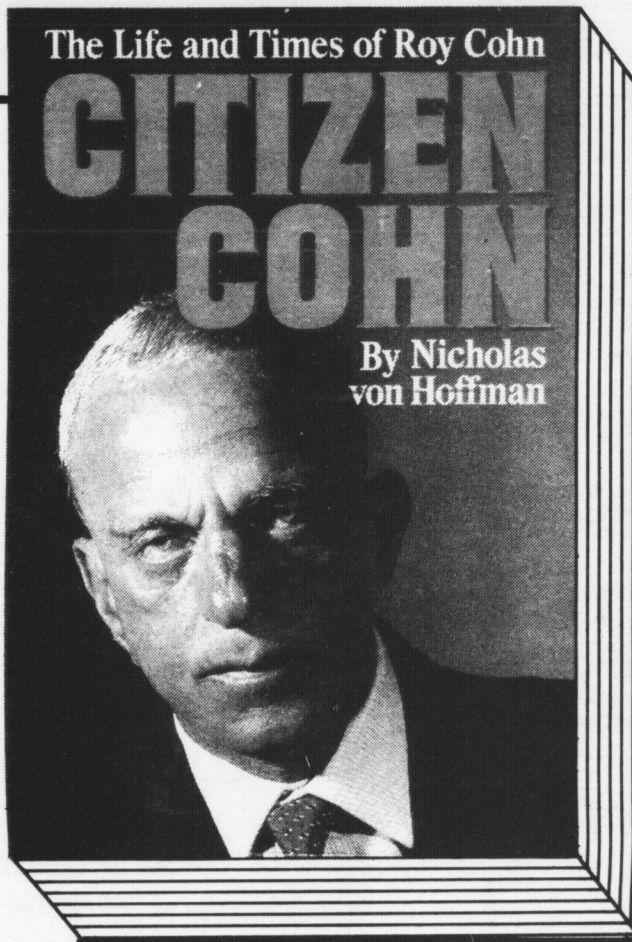
Indeed, there have been many questions asked about this subject and many sincere answers given. Q: "How can you be gay and Republican? That's like a chicken admiring the works of Col. Sanders or a Jew admiring Hitler or a black joining the Ku Klux Klan." A: "Well, I happen to believe in the economic stability of this country and we all know what the Democrats do when they get their welfare-grubbing little fingers on the money that I worked my buns off for!" Etc., etc., etc.

Angels In America happens to have as one of its main characters one of the seedier gay Republicans of all time, Roy Cohn. If the late Mr. Cohn were alive, he would protest, saying that he actually was a Democrat, had a Democratic daddy, etc. However, he served Republican leaders, worked for one of the most unscrupulous monsters ever to work in the Senate, Sen. Joseph McCarthy (R-WI), and didn't express views which would normally be associated with the mainstream Democratic Party in the last half of this century.

"Roy Cohn is an amazing character," said the bearded, curly-haired Kushner. "I've been obsessed with him ever since I was a child. I never knew people could be as bad as Roy Cohn." Kushner said that he considered people such as Cohn and the late Terry Dolan (who was head of a conservative lobbying group) as "incredible contradictions." He didn't dwell too much on Dolan, though.

Cohn occupied a special spot in his heart.

"When he was alive in New York, he was totally sexually active—everyone knew that," said Kushner, "and yet he fought against gay rights legislation. And, he seemed to have a stranglehold on everyone. When Nicholas von Hoffman tried to do



research on his book, (*Citizen Cohn*), he put ads in the papers like the New York Native. He wanted to get people to come forward and talk about this man. "People were extremely reluctant to do that."

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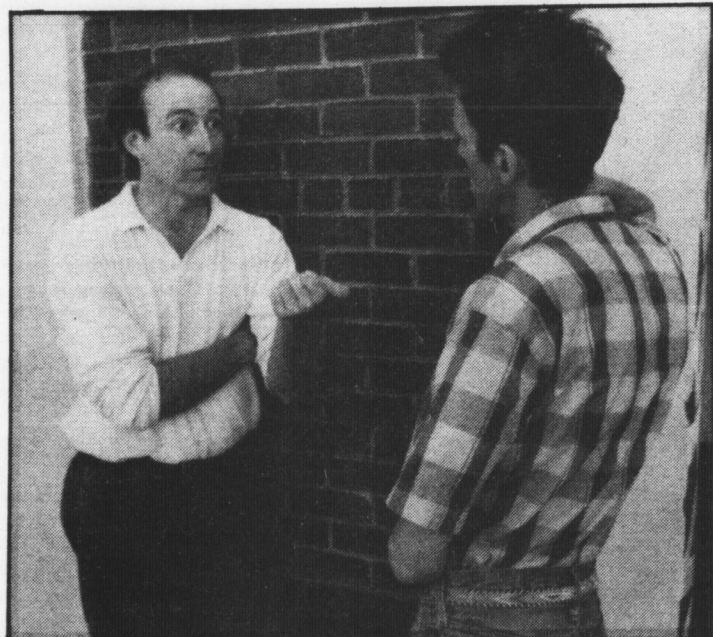
—Playwright Tony Kushner

That type of scene is more typical of the 1950s when Cohn was an arrogant New York attorney who caught the eye of McCarthy. The latter, of course, was trying to put anyone with liberal leanings behind bars for alleged hanky-panky with the Commies. Screenwriters who went to single Communist Party meetings as youths went to jail because of the hate of Joe McCarthy. Homosexuality was a good excuse for locking up souls from society, too, and Cohn was a willing participant in the 1950s update of the Salem Witch Hunts.

That's some of the background of this bigger-than-life contradiction known as Roy Cohn. Kushner's play zips ahead to 1985, not long before Cohn becomes stricken with AIDS and dies. It deals with two couples, one gay and the other allegedly straight. The latter is a Mormon couple with the husband a complete closet case as well as a protegee of Cohn.

Cohn presides the closet case a job in President Reagan's Justice Department. Meanwhile, the gay couple has to deal with the trauma of AIDS.

But there's more to this story. Later, presumably during the se-



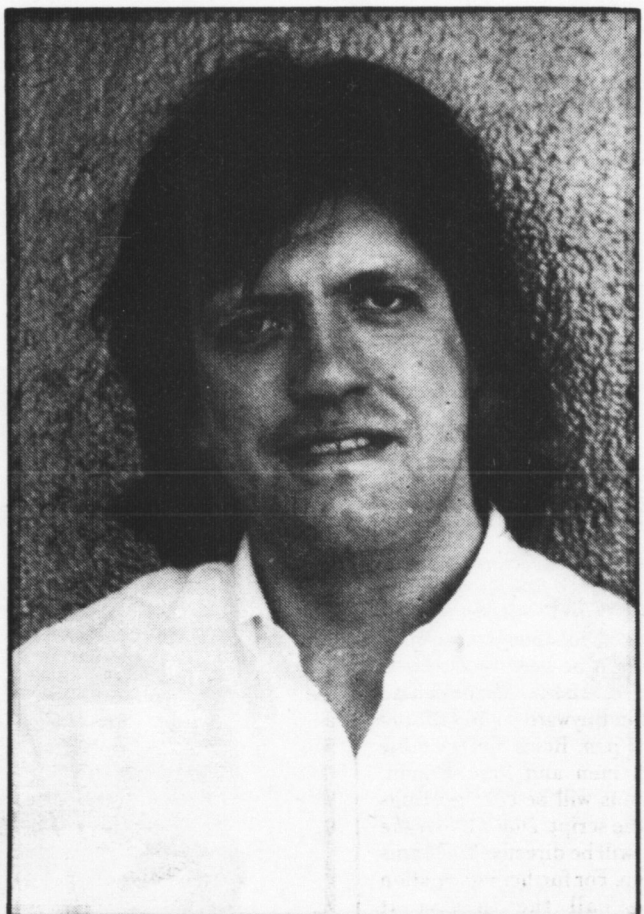
(L.) A biography of the notorious Roy Cohn. (Above) Bruce Williams (l.) as Cohn lusts after a young man (Stephen Spinella) in Eureka Theatre's production of *Angels In America* by playwright Tony Kushner (below).

(Photo: Rink)

Kushner, the director of Literary Services for Theatre Communications Group in New York, is the author of *The Illusion Hydriolaphia, or The Death of Dr. Browne and Bright Room Called Day*, the latter of which was produced at Eureka last season. So, San Francisco audiences know his work.

With Eureka artistic director Oskar Eustis at the helm, *Angels*

In America will be presented in two parts. This *Little Dorrit* structure will begin with presentations of "Performance A" on Friday, April 14 and Saturday, April 15 at 7:30 p.m. "Performance B" will be presented on Sunday, April 16 at 2:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. Tickets for the entire performance series will be \$12. Footwork is located at 3221 22nd Street at Mission.



(Photo: Rink)

Alyson Publications Busy With History

by Will Snyder

History books are considered the bane of many high school students, which, of course, is a shame. You can learn much from history since history seems to repeat itself so often.

This is what Sasha Alyson found out while he was growing up. Alyson, the mover and shaker behind Alyson Publications, the Boston-based lesbian and gay publishing house, admits he was like many other students.

"I grew up hating history," he said, "but then one day, I picked up a book—I don't even remember what history it was—and I was fascinated with it. Since then, I have loved history because I have come to realize it is more than just naming dates."

What we learned was that history is made up of people and what people do to create history. Alyson's upcoming list of books reflects Sasha's reverence for the past.

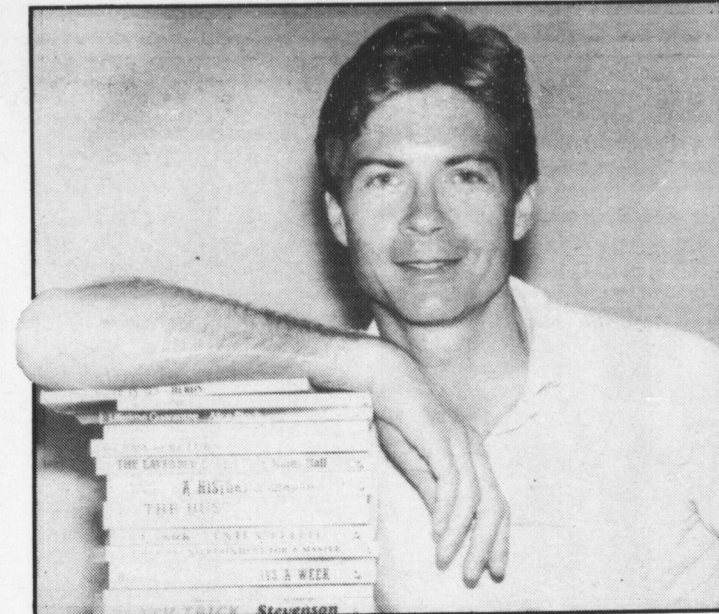
"We have a biography on Harry Hay that is tentative for spring of 1990," said Alyson. "We think this is a good way to

do history because Harry is one person who can give us a good look at the early gay movement. In one way or another, he has been active in many aspects of the gay movement."

But before the book on Hay, tentatively titled *Hanging Fire*, hits the market, there will be other titles which should interest gay and lesbian history buffs. The biggest of the summer will be B.A.R. columnist Mike Hippler's eagerly-awaited biography on the late gay military hero, Leonard Matlovich.

Alyson says that one of his company's most ambitious projects will be out around Christmas time. It's called *Gay Fireside Companion*. The hard-back book (a rarity for Alyson) by Lee Rutledge brought a chuckle to Alyson.

"We just decided to go with the title of *Gay Fireside Companion*," he said. "Before that, we almost decided to call it



Publisher Sasha Alyson.

Liberace's Mother and Other Footnotes From Gay History.

"We think it will make a great Christmas gift," he added. "We're aiming for having it to the public sometime in November."

Even before *Fireside* is out, there will be a book of lesbian lists in bookshops. That should be sometime in the fall. Thus, history is well-covered with Alyson.

But if someone thinks Alyson is dealing strictly with history, they would be sadly mistaken. The publishing house has been turning out quality gay fiction with good, tasteful story lines for quite some time. However, the emphasis on quality history only means more diversification for a company which no longer has the lesbian and gay market to itself.

"More and more of the mainstream companies are setting up what could be termed 'gay lines' of books," he said. "Companies such as St. Martin's Press and Harper & Row are seeing there's a legitimate market out there and they are going for it."

Alyson has been able to work closely with mainstream publishers on AIDS projects. Last year, he did all the legwork in getting funding from many of the mainstainers for the publication of a special soft-cover called *What You Can Do About AIDS*. It was a fine, educational look at the strategy for conquering this disease and contained short essays by people such as Surgeon General Dr. C. Everett Koop, film star Elizabeth Taylor and Olympic diving champion Greg Louganis.

"Because we have been more successful in recent years, I had the time to take off and work on a great project like that," he said. "It was a lot of work, but it certainly was worth all the effort."

So, the next time you're in a bookshop, check out the fine literature and histories from Alyson Publications. You'll find a lot of quality.

Rinker's 'Four' Set For 'New Performance'

The West Coast premiere of inventive post-modern choreographer Kenneth Rinker's *Four* will highlight 8 p.m. shows on Friday, April 14 and Saturday, April 15, as presented by the Ruth Langridge Dance Company at San Francisco's New Performance Gallery.

Four will be Rinker's second work for the Langridge Company. Rinker's 1988 setting for the company of his *Tongues of Men and Angels* will also be performed, as will *Four Screaming Women* by New York post-modernist choreographer Jane Comfort.

Company artistic director Ruth Langridge will premiere *Fits and Starts*, set to such big band hits as "Begin the Beguine," and reprise her popular 1988 Cajun work, *Beausoleil*.

Rinker, a principal dancer with Twyla Tharp for nine years, formed the Kenneth Rinker Dance Company in New York in 1979. His choreographic personal trademark comprises fast-paced action, humor and quirky themes.

New Performance Gallery is located at 3154 17th St., San Francisco. Tickets are \$11, or \$9 for students and senior citizens. Ticket information and reservations are available at the NPG box office at 863-9834, by calling 435-2771, or at the door.

Hayward Auditions For Allen Play

HAYWARD—Auditions for Woody Allen's *Don't Drink the Water* will be held at the Little Theatre, 22311 North Third Street in Hayward on May 22 and 23 at 7 p.m. Roles are available for 12 men and four women. Auditions will be cold readings from the script. *Don't Drink the Water* will be directed by Dennis Gleason. For further information please call the theatre at 881-6777.

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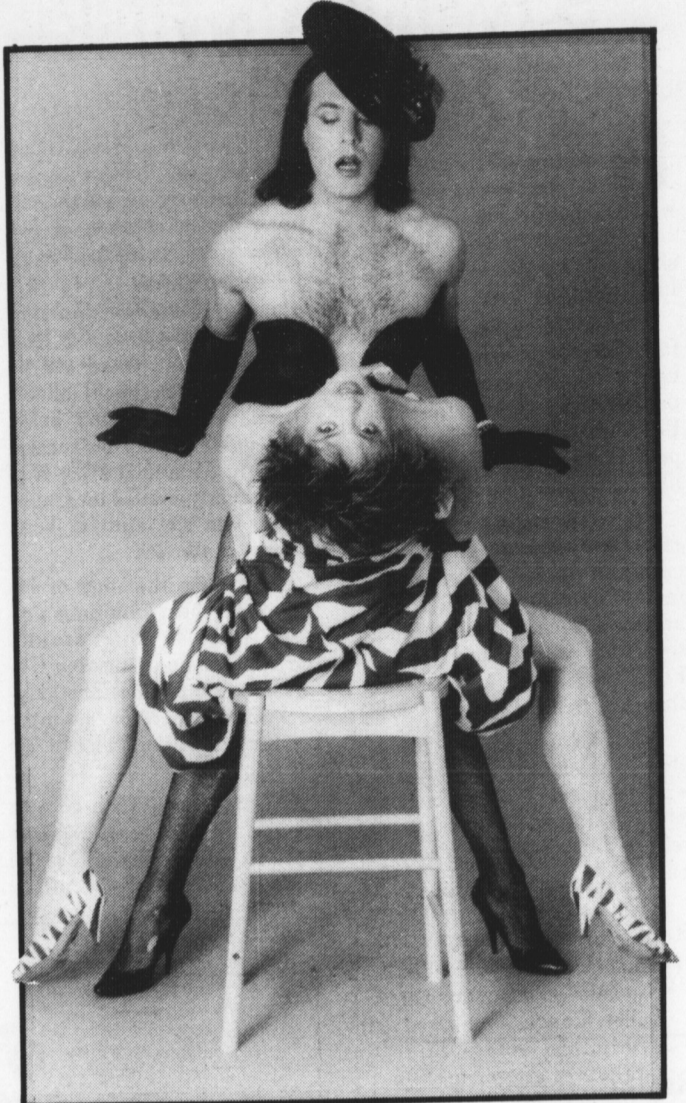
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Two of Z Fabulous French Poodles (Photo: Barbara Sansome)

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 - Outstanding Musical Group:** The Jesters, Menage.
 - Outstanding Piano Entertainer:** Bill DeLisle, Lauren Mayer.
 - Outstanding Musical Director/Accompanist:** Lauren Mayer, Donald Wescoat.
 - Entertainer of the Year:** Margie Baker, Lynda Bergren, Darlene Popovic.
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Keith White

S.F. Ballet's Risky Reflections

In terms of his choreography, you have to give credit to San Francisco Ballet's artistic director, Helgi Tomasson, for one thing at least: He has explored a different direction with every new ballet he has made since coming to San Francisco. Unfortunately, his choices have revealed creative inexperience and an unformed aesthetic. Tomasson's style registers clearest at its most derivative, when he makes dances in proven neoclassical tradition. But he obviously isn't content with those boundaries, and I doubt that the sameness of the product they would dictate.

In conceiving his disastrous April 4 premiere, *Reflections of St. Joan*, Tomasson says he was initially seduced by the score. Norman Dello Joio's "Triumph of St. Joan" is strongly suggestive music, lyrical, occasionally somewhat liturgical in style, lushly dissonant. It was originally written for Martha Graham, who made her *Seraphic Dialogue* to a later version. For a narrative ballet, though, as opposed to the symbolic abstractions of Graham's genre, neither the score nor the libretto are serviceable.

One of George Balanchine's quintessential mots points us toward the central problem with *Reflections of St. Joan*. Someone once proposed to Balanchine a libretto involving a husband, his wife, his mistress, and her brother-in-law. Balanchine is said to have listened patiently and thoughtfully. Then he said: "In ballet I can tell the audience that a man is in love with a woman, but—alas—there is no choreographic method of showing that the other fellow is her brother-in-law."

The aspects of St. Joan's life—divine visitation, the audacity to don men's clothing and lead an army into battle, her political involvement, and eventual execution for heresy, all while still in her teens—were extraordinary and irrational. The occult inspiration of such a life could probably be justified in ballet terms, and Tomasson has tried to recount the whole story, semi-literally, in the space of a 27-minute, one-act ballet. This St. Joan is so busy with the events of her life that her spiritual nature almost has to be taken for granted. Because her virtue is never made palpable in this rushed retelling, we have little admiration or sympathy for her character in the end.

I resisted reading up on St. Joan before the performance, wondering how clearly her story would emerge from the ballet. It didn't, and there were no program notes. We know Joan is religious, because she's praying as the ballet opens. We know her parents tilled the soil, because Tomasson has given them a scooping arm motif that could indicate no other activity.

From there, it's anyone's guess. When Pascal Benichou, Kristine Peary and Grace Maduell enter, dressed in snow-white finery of the period, and Joan flings herself at Benichou's feet, he could as easily be her errant upscale lover (a la Giselle and Albrecht) as her patron Saint Michael (which is who he is supposed to be).

The events of Joan's life fly past in sketchy succession until, finally, she is being led to a scaffold. I believe it is Tomasson's decision to end the ballet with Joan's burning that dampens the audience so thoroughly. I've never seen a cooler reception to a world premiere of anything, anywhere. But if Tomasson had given his work a more inspiring ending, it would have been a little better received despite its fundamental flaws.

There were admirable aspects of Robert Perdziola's designs—his first for San Francisco Ballet—and of the lighting created by the masterful Nick Cernovitch. But they didn't make a ballet. And Sabina Alleman's conscientious work as Joan didn't either. It couldn't have.

It would be a waste of time to try to salvage *St. Joan* with revisions. Tomasson should shelve the ballet after this season, and approach any new projects with the utmost advisement.



Sabina Alleman in *Reflections of Saint Joan*. (Photo: Marty Sohl)

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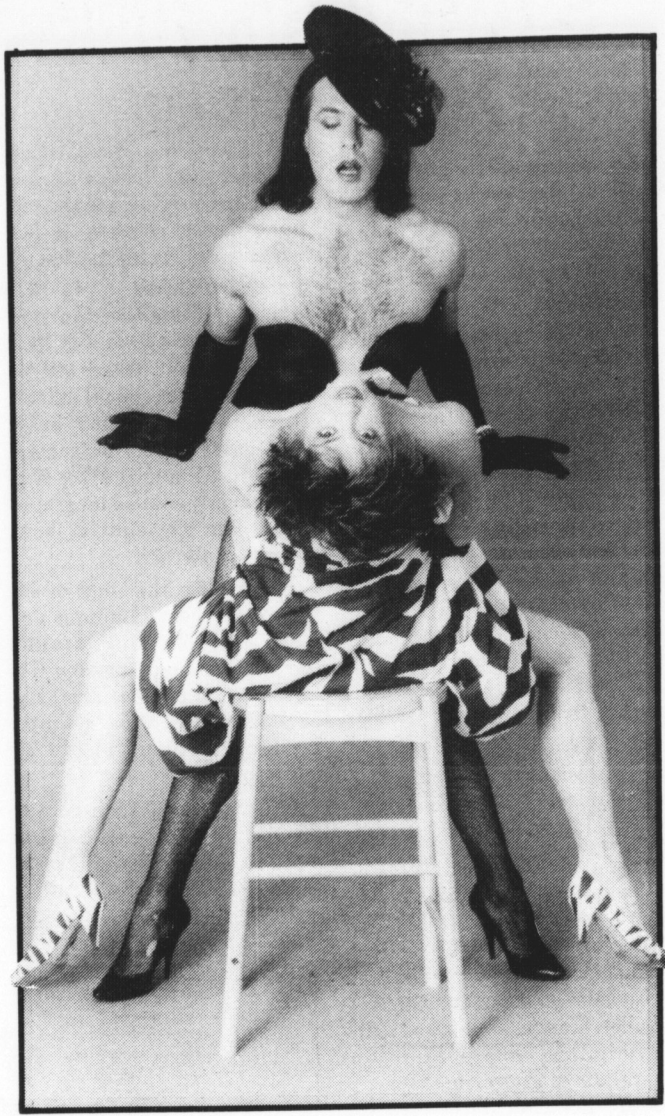
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 - Outstanding Musical Group:** The Jesters, Menage.
 - Outstanding Piano Entertainer:** Bill DeLisle, Lauren Mayer.
 - Outstanding Musical Director/Accompanist:** Lauren Mayer, Donald Wescoat.
 - Entertainer of the Year:** Margie Baker, Lynda Bergren, Darlene Popovic.
- The 1988 Gold Awards Ceremony will be presented Monday, April 17, 1989 at the Venetian Room of the Fairmont Hotel. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. and the ceremony begins promptly at 7:30 p.m. For ticket information, call 979-4202.

Keith White

S.F. Ballet's Risky Reflections

In terms of his choreography, you have to give credit to San Francisco Ballet's artistic director, Helgi Tomasson, for one thing at least: He has explored a different direction with every new ballet he has made since coming to San Francisco. Unfortunately, his choices have revealed creative inexperience and an unformed aesthetic. Tomasson's style registers clearest at its most derivative, when he makes dances in proven neoclassical tradition. But he obviously isn't content with those boundaries, and I doubt that we would be content with the sameness of the product they would dictate.

In conceiving his disastrous April 4 premiere, *Reflections of St. Joan*, Tomasson says he was initially seduced by the score. Norman Dello Joio's "Triumph of St. Joan" is strongly suggestive music, lyrical, occasionally somewhat liturgical in style, lushly dissonant. It was originally written for Martha Graham, who made her *Seraphic Dialogue* to a later version. For a narrative ballet, though, as opposed to the symbolic abstractions of Graham's genre, neither the score nor the libretto are serviceable.

One of George Balanchine's quintessential mots points us toward the central problem with *Reflections of St. Joan*. Someone once proposed to Balanchine a libretto involving a husband, his wife, his mistress, and her brother-in-law. Balanchine is said to have listened patiently and thoughtfully. Then he said: "In ballet I can tell the audience that a man is in love with a woman, but—alas—there is no choreographic method of showing that the other fellow is her brother-in-law."

The aspects of St. Joan's life—divine visitation, the audacity to don men's clothing and lead an army into battle, her political involvement, and eventual execution for heresy, all while still in her teens—were extraordinary and irrational. The occult inspiration of such a life could probably be justified in ballet terms, and Tomasson has tried to recount the whole story, semi-literally, in the space of a 27-minute, one-act ballet. This St. Joan is so busy with the events of her life that her spiritual nature almost has to be taken for granted. Because her virtue is never made palpable in this rushed retelling, we have little admiration or sympathy for her character in the end.

I resisted reading up on St. Joan before the performance, wondering how clearly her story would emerge from the ballet. It didn't, and there were no program notes. We know Joan is religious, because she's praying as the ballet opens. We know her parents tilled the soil, because Tomasson has given them a scooping arm motif that could indicate no other activity.

From there, it's anyone's guess. When Pascal Benichou, Kristine Peary and Grace Maduell enter, dressed in snow-white finery of the period, and Joan flings herself at Benichou's feet, he could as easily be her errant upscale lover (a la Giselle and Albrecht) as her patron Saint Michael (which is who he is supposed to be).

The events of Joan's life fly past in sketchy succession until, finally, she is being led to a scaffold. I believe it is Tomasson's decision to end the ballet with Joan's burning that dampens the audience so thoroughly. I've never seen a cooler reception to a world premiere of anything, anywhere. But if Tomasson had given his work a more inspiring ending, it would have been a little better received despite its fundamental flaws.

There were admirable aspects of Robert Perdziola's designs—his first for San Francisco Ballet—and of the lighting created by the masterful Nick Chernovitch. But they didn't make a ballet. And Sabina Alleman's conscientious work as Joan didn't either. It couldn't have.

It would be a waste of time to try to salvage *St. Joan* with revisions. Tomasson should shelve the ballet after this season, and approach any new projects with the utmost advisement.

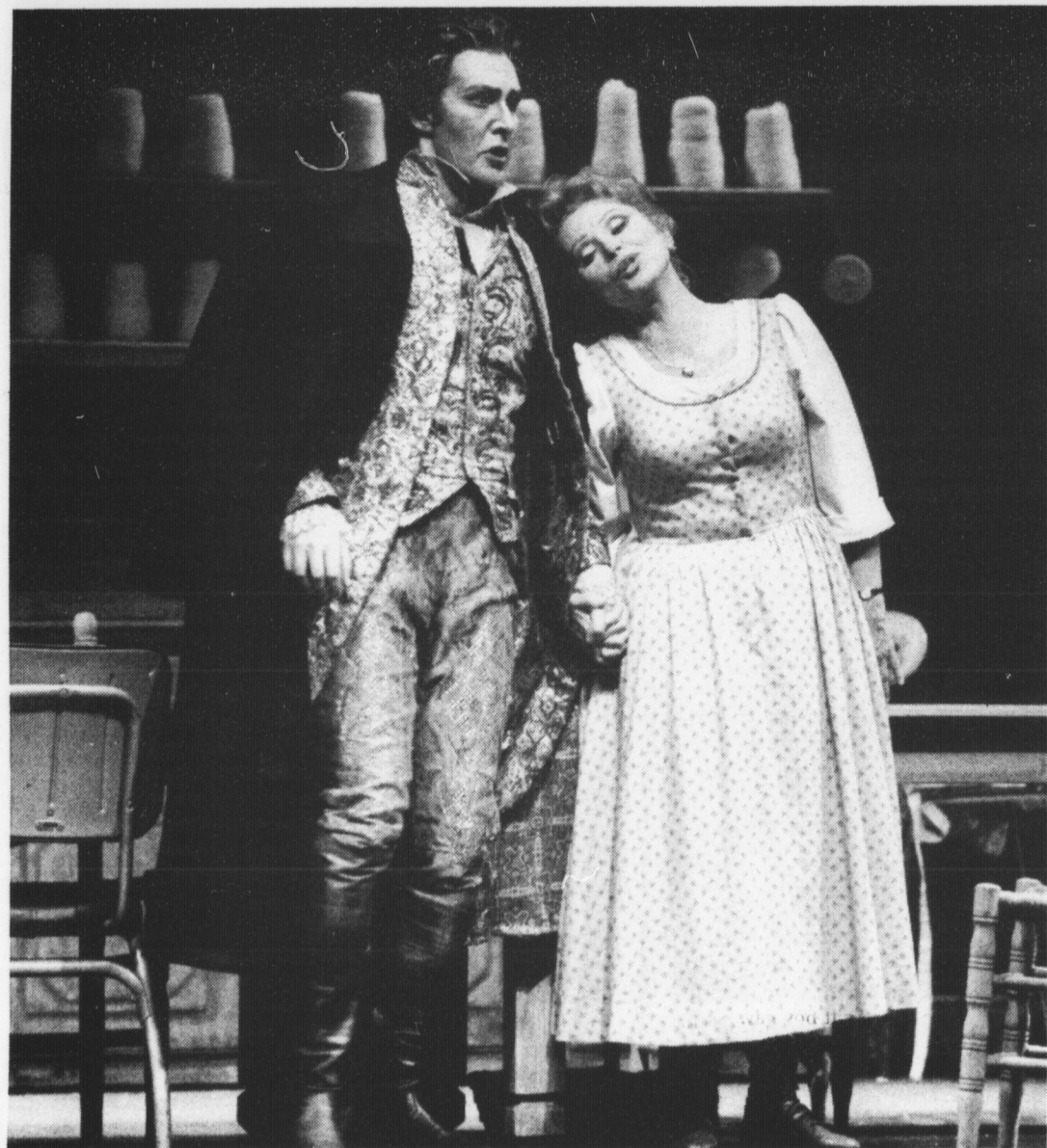


Sabina Alleman in *Reflections of Saint Joan*. (Photo: Marty Sohl)



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Roger Roloff as the Dutchman and Marilyn Zschau as Senta in Wagner's *The Flying Dutchman* (Photo: M.N. McVay)

George Heymont

Bringing Opera Up To Date

In recent years, Handel's baroque masterpiece, *Julius Caesar*, has been updated so that it takes place beside the Cairo Hilton's swimming pool, the action in Mozart's *The Marriage of Figaro* transposed to a penthouse apartment on the 61st floor of Manhattan's Trump Tower and *Così Fan Tutte* repopulated with a group of punkettes hanging out at Despina's diner. The first scene of Wagner's *Tannhäuser* has been staged in a tawdry motel room with Venus dressed as a prostitute (and *Tannhäuser* bearing an uncanny resemblance to televangelist Jimmy Swaggart) while Mozart's Don Giovanni has roamed the crack-infested slums of the South Bronx with no intentions whatsoever of practicing safe sex.

Such brazen applications of artistic license have subjected opera lovers to the curious experience of seeing their favorite works performed in bizarre settings and historical eras that the composers of these pieces could never have imagined possible. Often, when stage directors attempt to update an opera (in order to achieve greater dramatic impact and make the piece more relevant to modern audiences), traditionalists are quick to scream "foul play." Hard-core musicologists accuse such people of raping the greatest works of art in their pursuit of self-aggrandizement and professional notoriety.

Why do stage directors feel the burning need to take such extreme approaches when staging popular operas? "Because many opera companies have been producing the traditional repertory in a way that would never inspire anyone to do anything but go jump in the lake," says Peter Sellars. "The purpose of the performing arts is to explain to the public that large issues—profound, moral issues—are not abstract. They are the most concrete possible things in the world. Our task as directors is to see how alive we can make these pieces because it is not enough to just get through a piece while making a big noise. Our real task is to see how alive we can make ourselves."

Although easier said than done, that phenomenon recently took place with two productions staged by enterprising opera companies on the West Coast. The results are, in more ways than one, electrifying.

DON'T CRY FOR ME, MARZELLINE

Several years ago (working with director Francesca Zambello and designer Neil Peter Jampolis) the Houston Grand Opera unveiled a striking production of Beethoven's *Fidelio* set in modern times in an unnamed Central American banana republic which was under the obvious rule of a military dictatorship. In February, the San Diego Opera borrowed Houston's sets (along with Scott Heumann's deftly-translated supertitles) and, with Robert Tannenbaum directing, tried to make Beethoven relevant to audiences in Southern California. The results were a smashing success.

Jampolis' sets (which consist mostly of cyclone fencing, barb-

ed wire and oppressive prison lighting) proved most effective in establishing a mood of severe political oppression. Although staged with great simplicity, the scene in which Pizarro's prisoners are let into the courtyard for some fresh air became extremely poignant. While much of Tannenbaum's stage direction was quite strong, in the final moments of the opera, the director indulged himself in an orgy of flag-waving designed to give the impression that the CIA was not only actively interfering in the political life of the Central American banana republic in question but that, to a large extent, U.S. agents were carefully manipulating the media to make themselves appear as heroic as John Wayne.

While I understand and support Tannenbaum, my own political views caused such jingoism and Sylvester Stallone clichés to stick in my throat. However, it's only fair to report that the San Diego audience (which has a high percentage of retired military personnel) absolutely loved watching people wave the American flag back and forth onstage. Whether or not they understood the dramatic point Tannenbaum was trying to make, they left the theatre with big smiles and self-satisfied grins on their faces.

There was, of course, much to be happy about for, with Edward Downes on the podium, this production of Beethoven's only opera was blessed with extremely strong musical values. Sabine Hass was a stalwart Leonore; Arthur Korn a compassionate Rocco. I was particularly impressed by the forcefulness of Graeme Matheson-Bruce's Florestan and the overwhelming evil of Tom Fox's sadistic Pizarro. In a rare return to American shores, soprano Sunny Joy Langton was a sympathetic Marzelline (who was courted by tenor Randall Outland's appealing Jaquino).

DUTCH TREAT

Up in the Pacific Northwest, the Seattle Opera triumphantly unveiled a new production of *The Flying Dutchman* which must rank as the most dramatically satisfying staging of this Wagnerian work I have encountered in nearly 25 years of opera-going. This was one instance where the efforts of the entire creative team meshed with astonishing strength (Thomas Lynch's sets, Dunya Ramicova's costumes and Peter Kaczowski's lighting were, in many ways, as sensitive to the needs of Wagner's opera as Gerard Schwarz's conducting and Stephen Wadsworth's direction). What's more, unlike Jean-Pierre Ponnelle's highly-stylized dream concept (or the theatrical fraud perpetrated by the Santa Fe Opera on last summer's audiences) Wadsworth's updated concept of *The Flying Dutchman* not only made good sense, it clearly communicated the director's artistic intentions to his audience.

For once, both the director and his designers understood how important it was to make it perfectly clear to the audience that if this legendary Dutchman has been wandering the seven seas for several centuries, his ship and

(Continued on page 35)

Flirtations Overflow With Talent



The Flirtations (l. to r.) Aurelio Font, T.J. Myers, Elliot Pilshaw, Jon Arterton, and Michael Callen.

by Dennis McMillan

The hottest new a capella doo-wop quintet out of the Big Apple just made a five-day stop in the city by the Bay to teach us all what it is to sing for a solid hour with nothing more than a pitch-pipe for musical accompaniment. Now that takes guts. And talent. Not to mention panache—all of which The Flirtations fairly overflow with.

And as if that weren't enough to make it worth the price of admission, the group stirs up enough gay pride to start up a parade! Intermingled between numbers, the Flirts give us their individual coming-out histories, a little poignant past with some oh-so-relatable present.

As the audience sits in pitch dark, the usual pre-performance warning about no flash photography or tape recorders booms out, followed by the deadpan disclaimer: "Caution: exposure to the Flirtations has been known to cause homosexuality."

So that right from the beginning with "Why Do Fools Fall in Love?" you can only say you have been warned. The combo asks the musical question, "Why do birds seem so gay?" but requires no answer after listening to these five songbirds warble and flit about.

When the Flirts do fifties, they don't miss a thing—from a she-bop to an oo-wah. Thanks to Elliot Pilshaw's strong bass foundation and the four others' fine harmony in "To Know Him is to Love Him," they sound like a reincarnation of the Modernaires in their heyday. Not to mention T.J. Myers' campy, talky recitation, "Oh Darlin'."

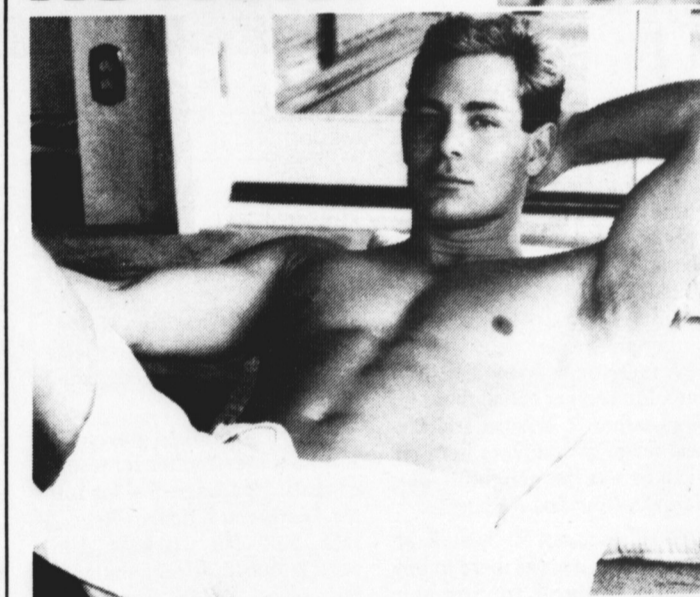
They try to tell us they're "Not That Kind of Man," who changes emotions as often as he changes clothes, but we see their sly asides (all five could easily teach a course in Camp 101 at Gay High), and somehow know better. After all, they ARE the Flirts, ya know.

Their rendition of Sweet Honey in the Rock's "Biko" was just a little too serious too soon. We were not quite ready for such a sudden, drastic change of mood, even though their use of crescendo and decrescendo was rather effective.

Where they really shine is as musical proselytizing poofers, calling us all to a time of open love with their "Gay Spirit." The meaningful lyrics—"We are the

outlaws of this lovesick land"—mixed with crisp harmonies and blended with sincere emotions—could turn a straight boy gay.

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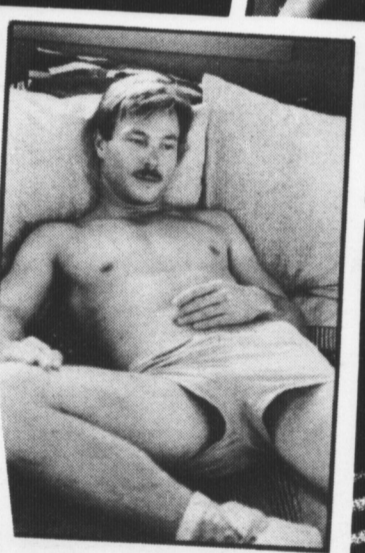
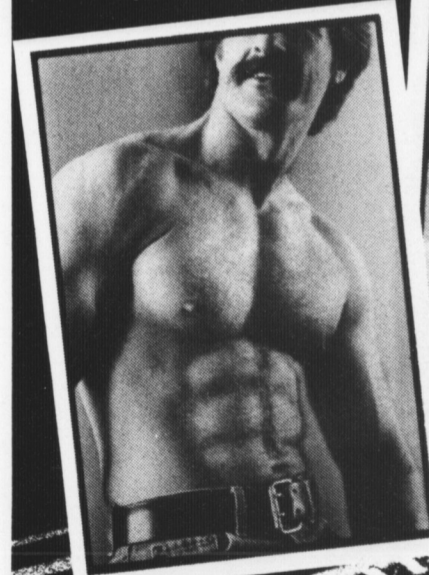
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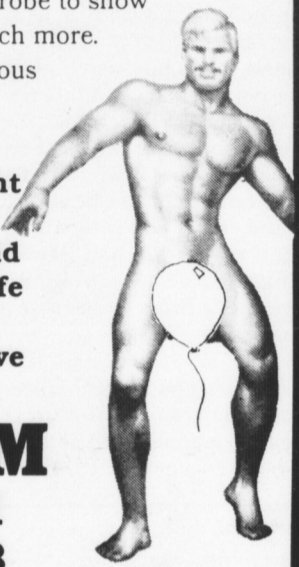
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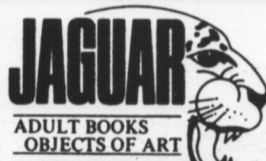
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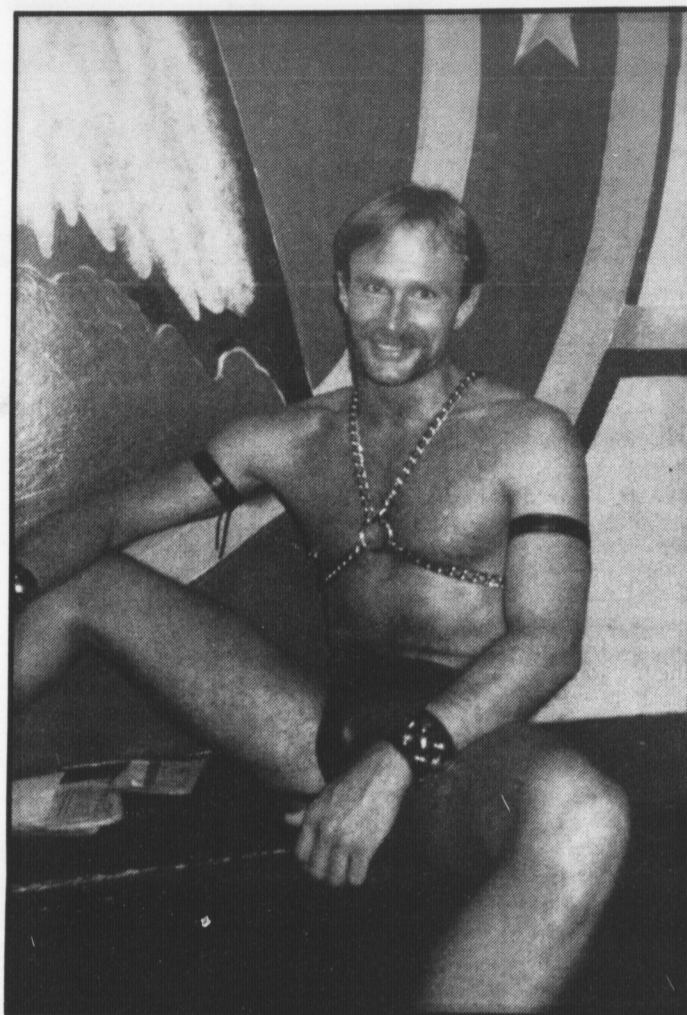
Last Saturday night, April 7, culminated two grueling months of leather competition around the city which saw preliminary contests at the Bear, Watering Hole, Transfer and the S.F. Eagle. Only last Wednesday, April 5, the S.F. Eagle held its finals and not only did Peter Austin win that one, but he went on Saturday night to capture the title which will take him to Chicago on Memorial Day Weekend. It will be the 11th annual International Mr. Leather Contest, the gay community's paean to leathermen.

While Peter holds the title, others from Our Town are headed there including Leather Daddy Jason Ladd, a candidate from the Detour and another from Mister S. Mr. Austin won \$200 in cash, round trip airfare to Chicago and the opportunity to represent this leather community in Chicago.

The first runner up was Jason Ladd sponsored by the Galleon and Mister S and the second runner up was John Caldera, Mr. Bear Leather. The judges this year were the outgoing Mr. Leather S.F., Stephen Mistler, Nick Veratki, former Mr. S.F. Eagle Leather, and Jerry Winberg, the dashing man-about-South of Market.

Between the jock attire and the final appearance, Deena Jones belted out some upbeat renditions that had the crowd applauding wildly. And what a crowd! The entire patio of the Eagle was wall-to-wall bodies. With a lot of the audience composed of delegates to the AIDS Conference, there were a lot of new faces and some familiar ones. Mr. Leather of San Antonio, Mr. Leather of Arizona and Mr. Leather of Sacramento were on hand as was the delightful Guy Baldwin from Los Angeles.

Needless to say, Ms. Leather of S.F., Nina Dars, was there to bid a fond farewell to Stephen



Peter Austin won the Mr. SF Eagle Leather contest last Wednesday, April 5, then went on to win the Mr. Leather of SF contest on Friday, April 7! (Photo: Marcus)

Mistler and to embrace her new counterpart, Peter. Even Emperor Jerry Coletti was on hand, swathed in leather in spite of the heat. Werner Kuhn, the AIDS coordinator from Orange County was there too, never missing a visit to the Eagle when he's in town.

As I've mentioned previously, May 15 is the deadline for reserved seating/package deal for Intl. Mr. Leather in Chicago. Write to IML, 5025 No. Clark St., Chicago, IL 60640. To my knowledge, no one has yet put together a

"package" deal for this year's event. All prospective contestants should contact me for entry forms. The reserved seating package in Chicago is \$65, so don't be left out!

Earlier last week, the three-way art show with artistic renditions by Snowflake, Mad Dog and Max opened Wednesday at My Place and should still be hanging if you hurry.

On Thursday, April 6, another group jumped into the bare chest competition at the S.F. Eagle for



Ms. SF Leather Nina Darst meets the winners (l. to r.) Jason Ladd, 1st runner-up, Peter Austin, Mr. Leather S.F. and John Caldera, 2nd runner-up. (Photo: Marcus)



Mr. SF Leather Peter Austin with his female counterpart, Nina Darst, Ms. SF Leather, last Friday. (Photo: Marcus)

the Mr. June 1990 spot on the benefit calendar. Judges Mark Abramson of the Special, photographer extraordinaire Joe Altman and Mr. Arizona Leather Rick Conder had their hands full and in the end, a 44-year-old educator, John Dopp, grabbed the sixth spot on the calendar. The runner up was Chris Minor, who vows he'll get on that calendar yet!

Our GG Wrestling Club traveled to Phoenix where they put on exhibition wrestling with the Los Angeles club on Friday at the Bum Steer and on Saturday at Charlie's (Phoenix country/western bar). GCWC Vice-Prez Gary France fell in love with a Phoenix man and our team reports that Phoenix is getting into the fray too; they recruited some half-dozen new men for their team during the weekend down there.

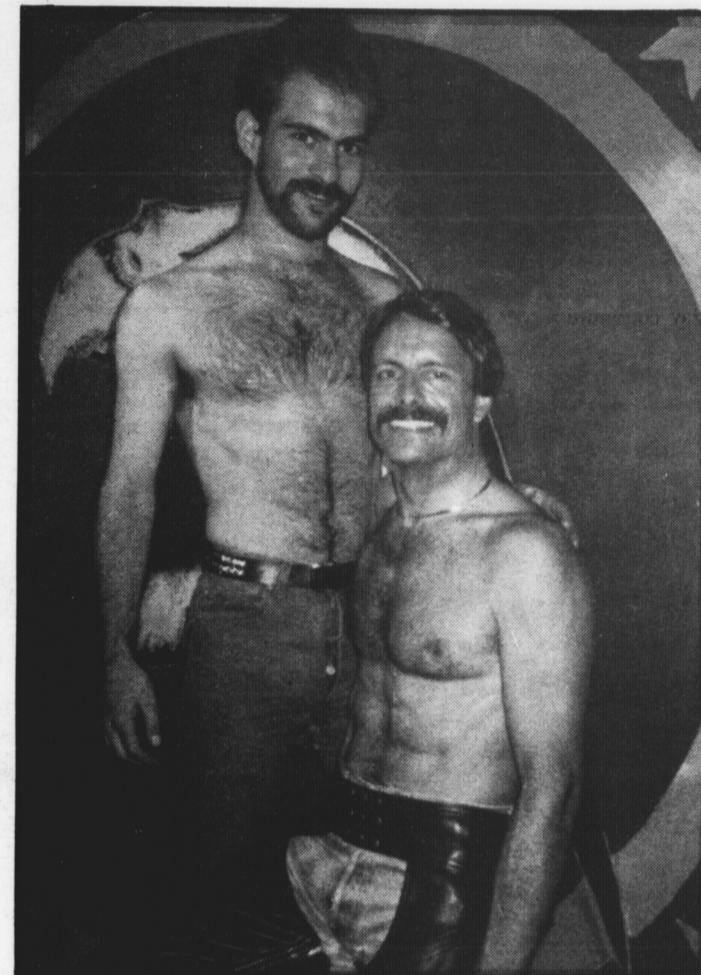
By Saturday night here in Faghdad by the Bay, the temperatures were soaring high and Castro was a sea of bare chests, buns, legs and pels galore. It was absolutely sweltering. Two home-town boys just got back from Hawaii expecting to find the cool, gray fog here on the campus, and were among a lot of surprised people experiencing the same shock.

Allan Lloyd flew in from Austin, Texas, to entertain Saturday night, April 8, at the Investiture of Jerry and Pat's court. Allan was shocked, he said, at seeing every drag queen's makeup just sliding all over the place. "A great evening and lots of fun" were the reports on the investiture. May Jerry and Pat have a very successful reign.

Sunday, the Cheaters had their annual Cherry Blossom Festival beer bust at the Eagle. The cherry blossoms wilted but there were a lot of hunks on hand to swill down the beer! Mike Polansky really got a workout pouring gallons of beer all afternoon.

By Monday, the fog rolled in and the temperatures should be back to normal by the time you read this. This weekend has a treasure trove of things you might want to savor. Tomorrow night, Friday, April 14, it's the second heat in the Mr. Powerhouse contest. The action begins at 2200, so drape on your skins and come on down and show it off.

Friday, too, the Uniform Fantasy Ball begins at 2100 at the Kennel Club for men and women. The tariff for this one is \$10, but if you're in uniform or in leather it's only \$7. Bullwhip master Dick Carlson will perform and there will be prizes for the Best Uniform Persona and the Best Duo. This is an Audrey Joseph (Fantastic Realities UnLtd) production, so it should be hot! MST enjoys with Audrey, so it will sizzle.



John Dopp (r.) who won the Mr. June 1990 spot at the Bare Chest contest last Thursday is seen with Chris Minor, the runner-up. (Photo: Marcus)

On Saturday, April 15, it's the Mr. and Ms. Financial District contest at Scooters (22 Fourth St.) beginning at 1830 with door prizes, an auction and celebrity guests. Tickets are \$10 at the door and contestant entry fee is \$30. It's a benefit for the AIDS Emergency Fund and if you want to join in, call Andre at 864-8232 or at 566-2241 after 2000 hours.

If you find yourself in the vicinity of Long Beach, it's the sixth annual Mr. Long Beach

Leather contest at Mike's Corral in North Long Beach. Gary Starr is producing so it should be fun.

On Sunday, April 16, the S.F. GDIs are having a Bag Lunch Social. Check in at the Transfer between 1100 and 12:30. There's bike, buddy and people events and they're picking a Miss Bag Lunch Social (another title!). Bring your own bag lunch and if you need more info, call Bruce at 585-0276.

(Continued on next page)

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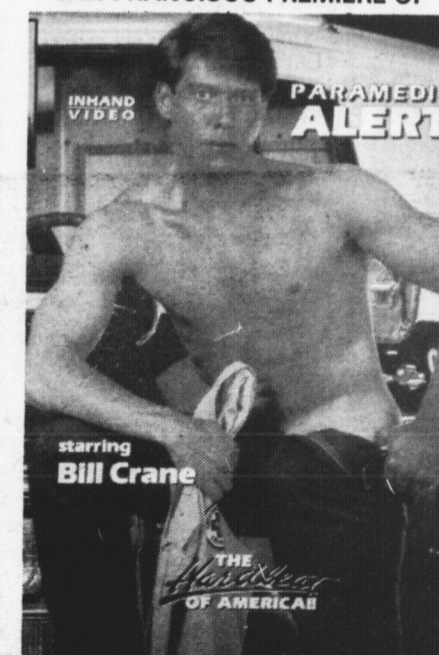


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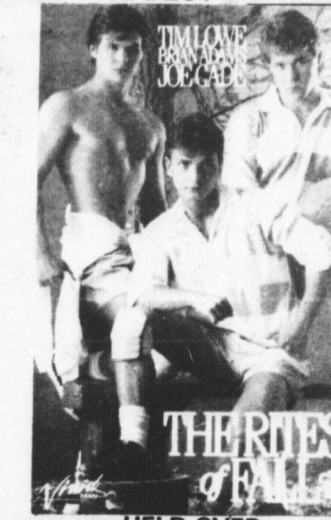
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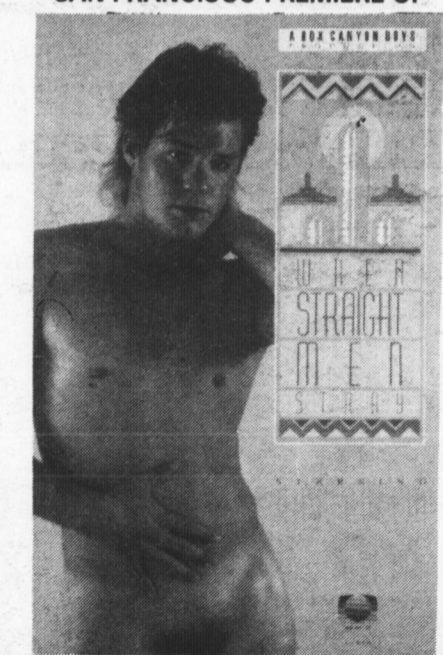
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Emperor Jerry Coletti and Empress Pat Montclaira were crowned at their Investiture at Bimbo's (Photo: Darlene/PhotoGraphics)

Marcus
(continued from previous page)

Next week, the S.F. Eagle celebrates its eighth anniversary.



Three days of madness will take place. Monday, April 17, is pin night. Make your collection complete. On Tuesday, April 18, it's T-shirt night—some 300 will be given away and this year, you'll have to stand in line to get one. Stella says he refuses to get trampled this year! Wednesday, April 19, it's the big buffet and show. This year, Marga Gomez will emote with some witty repartee while Ms. E.C. Scott will perform her dynamic musical

renditions. Don't miss any of the three nights! Also on Tuesday, April 18, the Cable Car Awards will be telecast on Viacom Cable 6 beginning at 2000.

Wednesday, April 19, Emperor Steve Rascher, who just stepped aside from the throne, is having his Boys' Night Out party at Kimo's to benefit the S.F. AIDS Food Bank with strippers, entertainment and surprises. Ms. Nova is doing the show, so it will be hot! Nova is a hot entertainer.

On Thursday, April 20, the Blazing Redheads perform South of Market at Slim's, 333 11th St., with the Cairo Cats. Don't miss it! If that's not enough or you'd rather stay home, check out Palm Drive Video's latest release; it's a very different porn video with wizard Jack Fritscher glomming onto several art works by The Hun! The considerable out put from The Hun is stunningly captured for you from the printed page to video via a new concept called choreo-pictography. Lots of the pictorial comes from private patrons and the unique presentation is a feast for homosexual maven. It's all in color and 60 minutes long. If your favorite video store doesn't have it yet, it's available from Palm Drive Video for only \$59.95 (plus \$4 postage/handling, Californians add 6.5% sales tax). Send your dough to P.O. Box 3653, San Francisco, CA 94119. This one is a must for the serious collector.

You're interested in joining this esoteric group for the fun, write to Club Mud, P.O. Box 277, Rio Nido, CA 95471 or call Brother Duke at (707) 869-0546. This is one time you can legally sling the mud!

There being a shortage of daddies around these parts, Jeffrey Wilmouth was overjoyed last week when a local judge declared him the legal son of George Benedict and I can't think of many more daddies as handsome as George! And talk about sick, the latest craze in Florida is a bar gimmick called dwarf tossing! Needless to say, opponents of this new fad are up in arms and it all sounds real sick to me.

From time to time, appreciative people drop me lines about their favorite DJs around town (Norman and Joshua at the Eagle for instance or Larry Larue at the Stud a lot). Last week, I had almost a dozen letters and postcards and almost as many phone calls about the DJ at the Endup Friday nights. The accolades are gushing about Rick Lawrence who plays only one night a week and is packing them in already! On top of everything else, I learned that Rick works for Al Parker as the general manager at Surge Studios. It's nice to know so many people appreciate the artistic efforts of a disc jockey. I don't know about you, but every time I see an ad for a DJ appearing here from the Big Apple or the Big Banana (L.A.), I get turned off! If they're so great, what are they doing here? Anyway, everyone advises to check out Mr. Rick at the Endup on Friday nights. Be there or else!

Phil Slatin, aka The Prince de Topaz, celebrated his 40th last week with a subtly chic but subdued tete-a-tete. Over on the lower slopes of Knob Hill, Bob Koelzow, the only gay porno star that actually starred in a straight porno flick celebrated his 50th. Some rude queen had the audacity to send Bob a card that read: "Happy 50th! When are they going to colorize your life?" Is that rude?

Hey, the heat wave is over, so cool off. Enjoy life. Enjoy lust. Keep supporting those worthy causes coming your way. Until next time, then, keep living, and keep loving and more importantly, keep smiling—but do it in leather!

Sweet Lips

Well Hung

Presented to Richard "Sweet Lips" Walters in celebration of the 20th "Hanging" of Sweet Lips, held the weekend of the 1st and 2nd, and in recognition of his many worthwhile deeds, countless fundraisers for AIDS and other charities, and his more than 40 years' service as a bartender/bar manager in the city. "Sweet Lips" is truly one of the characters that makes San Francisco a unique city. This Certificate of Honor was presented to me by the Board of Supervisors, and a special "thank you" from me to Supervisor Richard Hongisto for presenting it to me. I am honored.

One of our favorite people, Peter Switzer, is coming back to San Francisco for a visit this fall. You probably remember Peter from the old Sutter Mill days. A lot of us are waiting for your visit, Peter.

Is there going to be a Ginger's 3 opening shortly on Turk Street? There is a rumor to that effect, but Don Rogers hasn't said yes or no. Incidentally, I wish to thank Don Rogers, Beverly Hopkins, and the staff of Ginger's Too for the fantastic buffet dinner on Saturday the 1st for the "Hanging," and also a thank you to

Emperor Jerry and Empress Pat for the honoree and the fantastic "funeral arrangements." Lots of fun.

Tuesday the 18th is the next Tavern Guild meeting at the Blue and Gold on Turk Street, and the Guardian Angels will be there—I don't know whether as speakers or to protect President LeOna, but it should prove to be an interesting meeting. It starts at 1 p.m., so don't miss it.

Understand the Saturday's investiture was a smash at Bimbo's and that just about everyone was there in all their regality.

Flash: Charpe's on Gough Street now has the one and only David Kelsey playing on Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays, and on Fridays and Saturdays, Mr. Frank Banks. Isn't it nice to have David Kelsey back in the city doing his thing? Thank you, Charlotte and Peggy.

Starting Wednesdays from 5 till 8 p.m. the Yacht Club at 2155 Polk Street will be having yours truly serving canapes and other dirt with Jackie and Jerry on the plank, so come on down and join in the festivities and we can relieve some old times. Nice to have seen T.J. there the other day. Did your ears burn, Don Cavallo?

From April 6th to the 22nd

Heymont

(Continued from page 30)

The performance I attended was handsomely sung, with Gabor Andrassy offering a sturdy and sonorous portrayal of Daland, Peter Kazaras delivering a frustrated cameo as the jilted Erik and Hubert Delamboye performing one of the most sweetly-sung renditions of the Steersman's song to be heard in a long

time. Although the top of her range showed a bit of strain, soprano Marilyn Zschau was in much better vocal condition than when I heard her sing Senta in Santa Fe last summer and delivered an intensely focused characterization of Wagner's heroine. The brilliance of her concentration provided a nice foil to Roger Roloff's restrained, ghostly Dutchman which was sung with great finesse and musicianship.

This was the kind of solid opera/musical theatre event that justifies updating an opera to another period, plays well to an audience, and never ever loses its artistic validity. While such performances make my travels seem worthwhile, they also offer shining examples of the type of rich operatic theatre experiences which more general directors could and should aspire to. Any impresario would be proud to present a production matching the high artistic standards of the Seattle Opera's recent *Flying Dutchman*. If only more did.

6 New Plays For Women At EXITheatre

EXITheatre presents *Sadie's Turn—Tenderloin Women's Writers* from April 13 thru May 6. The selection of six plays by women writers continues EXITheatre's tradition of developing new works in San Francisco's Tenderloin.

The six-year-old Tenderloin theater company has previously produced original plays by Tenderloin seniors, homeless, disabled, Vietnam vets, and Cambodian refugees. EXITheatre also produces established authors and will end this season

with *The Picture* by Eugene Ionesco.

The title play, *Sadie's Turn*, by Lauren Lundgren and Mary Tall-Mountain, was developed from a piece first presented as part of EXITheatre's Staged Readings Series last summer. Mary Tall-Mountain is a published poet and this is her first play. Lauren Lundgren's plays have been presented at EXITheatre where she has also acted and directed.

The plays are directed by Christina Augello, Lisa Coussell and Lauren Lundgren.



Three "Flame" Look-A-Likes at "The Hanging."

They will be having nominations for the Gay Community Awards at different locations, and voting will be on the 29th in front of the old Hibernia Bank on 18th and Castro from 9 till 4, so watch your favorite bar for more announcements... and the 6th of May is "The envelope, please" at 240 Golden Gate Avenue. Tickets are \$15.

The S.F.G.D.I. Club on Sunday the 16th will be having a Miss Bag Lunch Social Contest for only \$5, and if you need more info on this, contact the Transfer Bar on Bruce McCutcheon, the road captain, at 585-0276. This sounds like a fun, fun event that

even I might attend if I can get into my leathers.

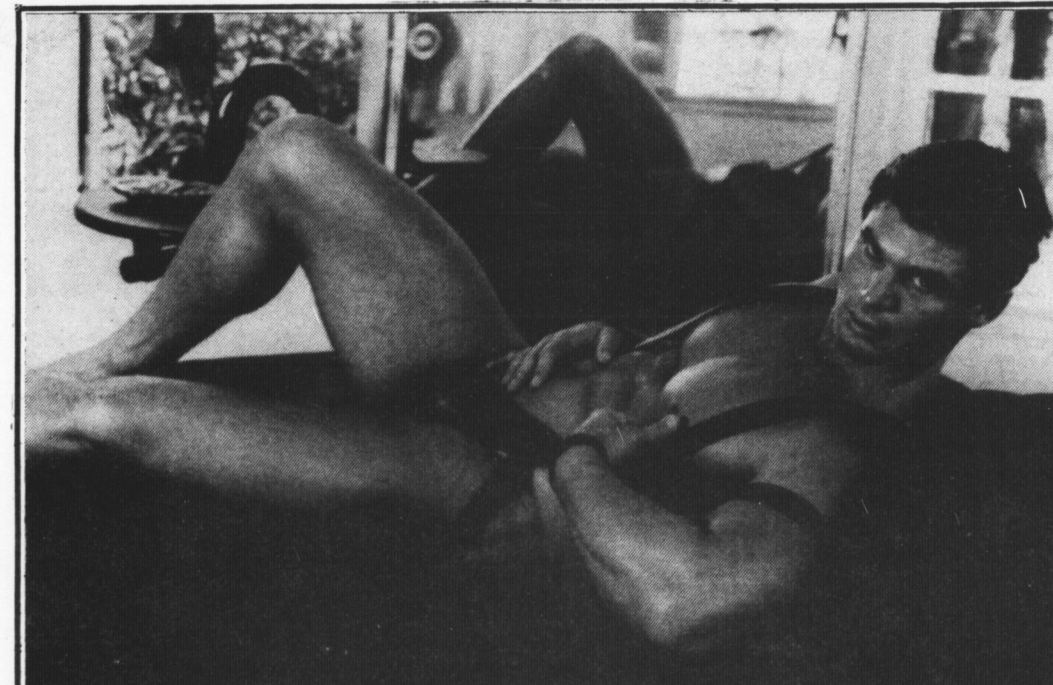
"Boys' Night Out" on Wednesday the 19th from 7:30 to 10 p.m. at Kimo's Penthouse will be a benefit for the S.F. AIDS Food Bank hosted by Emperor 16 A.N. Steven Rascher with entertainment and strippers. Incidentally, Steven and Lily, I wish to thank you both for all your help and sun during the "Hanging." It was a blast.

Luscious Lorelei and yours truly took Lenny Mollet's "X" lover Danny Woodland to the Chez Mollet for a great Saturday brunch, and of course Lenny was on the plank and being his ever-

gracious self. And thank you for signing the luncheon tab, Danny.

Hungry any time of the day or night? Try the Grubstake on Pine just past the Kimo's Bar and you'll be able to get some great culinary delights—right, Jay Noonan?

The last bit about the "Hanging" for another five years: just want to thank all of the out-of-town people and all the local people and those who helped make it a truly fun-filled weekend. From all I hear, everyone had a fabulous time, and I personally want to thank all of the bars that let us do this madness. Thanks, Greta.



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A Particular Charm

Slow Dancing At Miss Polly's
by Sheila Ortiz Taylor Naiaid Press, 1989. 76 pp. \$7.95
by Noreen C. Barnes

Sheila Ortiz Taylor's slim volume of poetic observations of life in the 1980s, and reflections on childhood and beyond is that of a world rich in memory and metaphor.

Each poem is a slice of a life that each of us can find some kind of identification with — we recognize ourselves in her words, as they are not the obscure elusive images that mangles much of contemporary poetry.

In Part One, "Album," Taylor composes vivid word-pictures of a past still sharply etched in memory. Each piece conjures up a moment — of a dinner, a family drive, work in bakery, a death. Several poems concern her mother, to whom she dedicated

this collection. In "How To Please Your Mother," Taylor concludes that there is no way to satisfy the task suggested by the poem's title. And in "Certifiable" and "35MM," she plays with self-reference:

*without spectacles
without light
I write
this poem
This poem is a camera
... I am the film.*

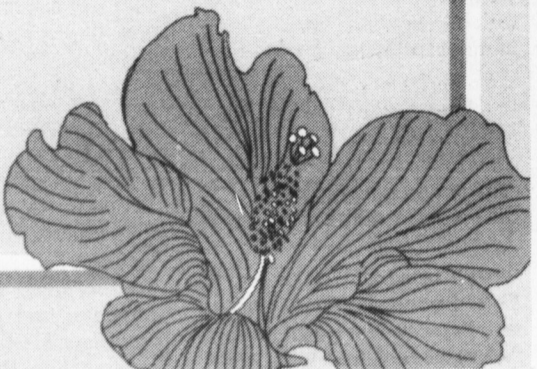
In Part Two, "Dyke Patrol," Taylor finds the images provided by contemporary high-tech life evocative, from telephones to answering machines and computers. Both "Equal Access" and "After the Beep" use the metaphor of the telephone for relationships. In "Equal Access," a lover whose "calls are always collect," reverses "the charges, to say you are thinking of me." Nothing is truer than Taylor's observation in "After the Beep":

*... when you called
an answering machine,
left your message
then you could draw a line
through another obligation.*

Other poems, about lovers, her daughter, naming, the contemplation of escaping, space, cold carbonara and llamas, abalone and Grace Kelly — all possess a particular charm in their brief lives on the page and a richer sense of image and character than most writers can manage to turn out in tenfold an amount of material. ▼

SLOW
DANCING
AT
MISS
POLLY'S

SHEILA ORTIZ TAYLOR



Fine Lines

With Selected Short Stories
by Gerard Curry
Banned Books, Austin, TX, paperback, \$7.95

by Will Snyder

This writer has been particularly critical of the trend in modern literature toward the short novel or short story which brings new meaning to the word, "short." Depth is missing from most of these books. The chance to get to know and understand a character is an impossibility.

On the surface, it would appear as though *Fine Lines*, a novel by Gerard Curry, would fit into this mold. It is a mere 94 pages in length. Before you know it, you're done with it. But *Fine Lines* has depth. Curry says much in those 94 pages about alcoholism in the lesbian and gay community and how it ruins a relationship. Some of the material here will probably hit close to home for some people.

The main character in *Fine Lines* is Eric Brennan, an early 40-ish smart-aleck who drinks way too much scotch. And, when Eric has been into the J&B too much, his self-destructive behavior begins to eat away at his chance for a happy life. He talks with a snippy tongue. He baits people. He acts like a perfect ass.

Eric's friend, Dan, has just been killed in an automobile accident and it is up to Eric to take care of Dan's legal business. One of the things he has to do is look up Perry Culver, Dan's extremely handsome boyfriend who is living in Arizona. Perry is the person who is inheriting Dan's fortune of money and art work. He was the subject of the art work at certain times.

Soon, Eric and Perry fall in love. Twenty years separate the two, but not much else once they hit the sheets. And, there appears to be more than sex involved. They really seem to enjoy each other's company.

But Curry drops little hints that a storm is on the way. Earlier in the book, before Eric and Perry meet, Curry gives us a tell-

ing line about Eric when referring to an observation by a one-night stand: Brian had noticed that Eric liked his scotch too much.

When the relationship begins, Curry slips in a line about Eric having a need for his alcohol. Without using an abundance of words, we understand that Eric is a lush, and then some.

And, in the latter pages, Eric introduces Perry to scotch. All of a sudden, Perry experiences that feeling that only "the morning after" can bring to a drinker. All of a sudden, he is critical of Eric's friends in public. All of a sudden, Eric is berating his lover in public.

And then, the truth comes out during a dinner date: Perry is illiterate. Though the allegedly urbane, educated Eric promises to help him learn to read (which he does), he also cheats on Perry after the two have a fight. Soon the relationship is over.

True to the nature of alcoholics, Eric tries desperately to get the relationship going again, only to do the same destructive things (turning to booze and anger). Perry, on the other hand, gets stronger with the break-up. He finds a new boyfriend who tutors him until he learns to read, and takes great pride in that ability. While Perry gives in to Eric's stab at a new start, he also realizes the relationship won't work and cuts it short.

Curry says a lot in his short story. He molds two strong characterizations in Eric and Perry. It is a fine effort.

As for his short stories, "Male Nude" is the best of the five stories. It is the story of an older man who lusts after a relative of his employer. But none of these stories have the impact of *Fine Lines* are are really out of place in the same book. They belong in a collection of short stories the able Curry would have no trouble putting together. ▼

Ambivalent New Manhood

Home Boy
by Jimmy Chesire, New American Library, \$18.95
by Marv. Shaw

In this powerful first novel, "Home" is a Catholic school for neglected boys, much like Father Flanagan's Boys' Town, where the author lived as a youth. "Boy" is 17-year-old Frederick Gamble, who is struggling through his adolescence, alternately indulging and fighting his gay inclinations. The time is the early 1960s. We get the story in Fred's voice, with the experience strained and illuminated by his sensibilities.

Frederick's younger brother Franklin is in the home too. Their mother is dead, their father an alcoholic who can be mildly benevolent but sometimes violent. In this school's all-male environment, the authorities are sometimes brutal, the counselors often incompetent, neurotic, and exploitive. The students are generally antagonistic to their peers, fearful of their superiors, and inwardly desperate for love.

It is small wonder, then, that as their testosterone wells up within them, they turn to each other for both affection and sexual release. But their encounters are disturbing combinations of burning lust and chilling, guilty apprehension. Frederick, smitten with the strong, warm, handsome Winston, thinks to himself, "He would never guess in a million years that we are all queer around here. He does not know that you cannot resist it."

One of the ways Fred copes is a familiar but modified male teenage rationalization: "If you don't talk about it, you can pretend it isn't happening, that it isn't real, that you aren't the fucking fairy you know you are."

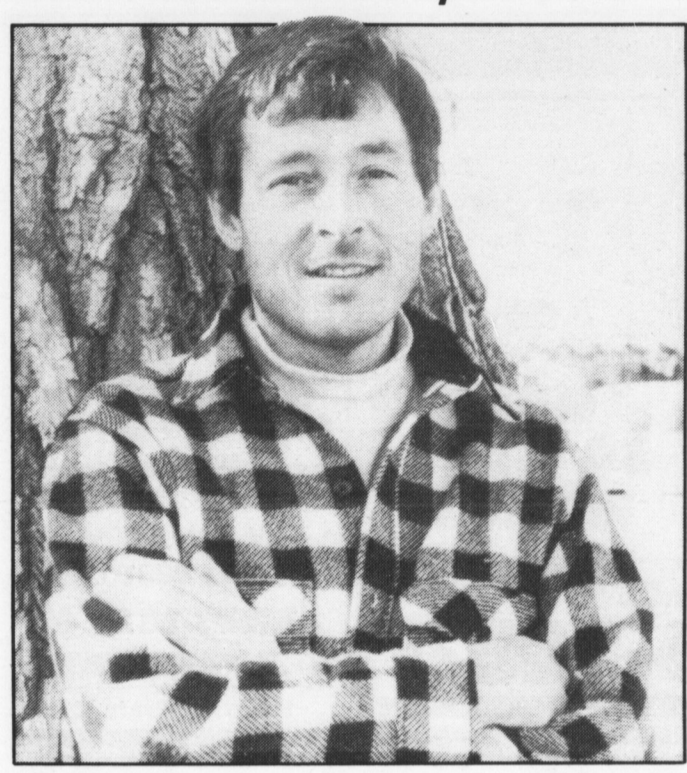
But the sexuality issue is only one element in his struggles to grow up. The larger one is relating to other males generally—younger, older, the same age—in ways that are productive and personally honorable.

Fred has at least two distinguished literary ancestors — Huck Finn and Holden Caulfield, two guys who also told their own stories in their own ways. He matches both in perception but lacks Huck's gift for metaphor and Holden's sensitivity.

Also, both his spoken and silent thoughts are so loaded with obscenities, that they seem distortions of natural human discourse. For example, the term "asshole," meaning another guy, must be used a thousand times. Of course this rough milieu of immature males generates such language, but Chesire piles it on unnecessarily.

Just how much *Home Boy* is autobiographical is unknown, but in the 20 years since his time at Boys' Town, the author has become a counselor himself, has married, and fathered a daughter. There is some indication that Frederick Gamble could be pointed toward the same professional goal, but there is no clear sign that his adulthood will see him naturally attaining a heterosexual orientation. ▼

The Thriller/Reality Problem



Author Paul Monette

The Gold Diggers by Paul Monette, Alyson \$8.95
by Marv. Shaw

Paul Monette's power to involve a reader in poignant and even gut-wrenching realities has been amply demonstrated in his two recent, very different, books: *Borrowed Time: An AIDS Memoir* and *Love Alone: Eighteen Elegies for Rog*. The prime virtue of both is the natural combination of the hard facts and the vital pulse of true feeling.

Now, as gay publishing is enjoying a hopeful boomlet, a Monette novel of ten years ago has been re-published, *The Gold Diggers* stands in stark and unfortunate contrast to the memoir and the elegy. Granted, a thriller novel

is quite a different creature and is intended to evoke a different response from a reader, but the literary technicalities aside, plausibility must not be so heavily compromised in favor of melodrama that credibility can't be sustained.

A first, realism seems pretty well served. Rita, a 30-ish woman who works in the art and decorating worlds and is too romantically vulnerable, is brought to L.A. by two longtime lovers, Nick and Peter. Nick is a super salesman of real estate, and Peter is a top decorator. They take Rita to their Bel Air home, Crook House, built by

silent movie director Rusty Varda. It appears that the novel will develop from this trio relationship, with the complications coming from such sources as Pete's new passion for painting and Rita's accustoming herself to her new milieu, plus Nick's masochistic involvement with a beautiful but utterly vacant young hustler named Sam. But this is only partly true.

The improbability starts tumbling in and doesn't stop. As Hey, the houseboy, a former Balanchine dancer, observes, Rita discovers a secret room crammed with stolen art treasures. Nick takes Sam to a newly-bought ranch, where their sex is interrupted by a rattlesnake in the bunkhouse. The real fate of Frances Dean, a junky star of silent movies and Varda's longtime ward, is revealed. If the fantastic had been treated campily, as in *The Secrets of Mabel Eastlake*, there would be some amusement, but the strain of suspending disbelief is too great.

That's regrettable because Monette's character development is skilful. For example, Sam's evolution from ignored son of wealthy parents through prep school drug dealer to valueless hustler is most convincingly done. ▼

'English Song' At Musicalliance

On Friday, April 14, at 8 p.m., the Musicalliance Concert Series will present "An Evening of English Song" featuring Timothy Morningstar, tenor. Assisting musicians include Elaine Lust, piano, Krista Smith, french horn and Anna-Maria Mendieta, harp. This concert will feature the music of Dowland, Purcell, Arne, Quilter and Britten. For tickets and information call Musicalliance at 931-7970. ▼

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New AIDS Drug Looks Promising In the Lab

First-Stage Trials to Start Soon on Compound Q

by Jay Newquist

A new experimental AIDS drug, still untested in humans, appears to kill HIV-infected cells without affecting healthy cells, researchers at UC San Francisco reported last week.

Dr. Michael McGrath, a UCSF scientist, developed the drug—GLQ223, or Compound Q—from a highly purified form of the plant protein trichosanthin from the root of a plant in the Chinese cucumber family.

The UCSF/Genelabs team also showed for the first time that HIV-infected macrophages are a reservoir of infected cells in HIV patients. The drug appears to block HIV replication in infected T cells and kills the body's scavenger cells in cell cultures.

Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences and was co-authored by UCSF researchers; Genelabs Inc., a private biotechnology firm in Redwood City; and Chinese University of Hong Kong.

"These results apply solely to laboratory studies," cautioned McGrath, a UCSF assistant professor of medicine and director of the AIDS/Immunobiology Research Laboratory at San Francisco General Hospital.

McGrath reported the team's findings in the current issue of

"The drug has been tested in laboratory animals for toxicity, but not for its effectiveness with AIDS-related viruses," McGrath reported. "It has never been administered to humans, and extensive clinical studies will be required to determine its safety and effectiveness in AIDS patients."

(Continued on page 2)



Contestants and winners of the Mr. & Mrs. Financial District contest, held Saturday, April 15 at Scooters. From left to right: Thomas Lukens, Lance, David Brickman (Mr. Financial District), and Susan Maloof (Ms. Financial District). See story, page 15.

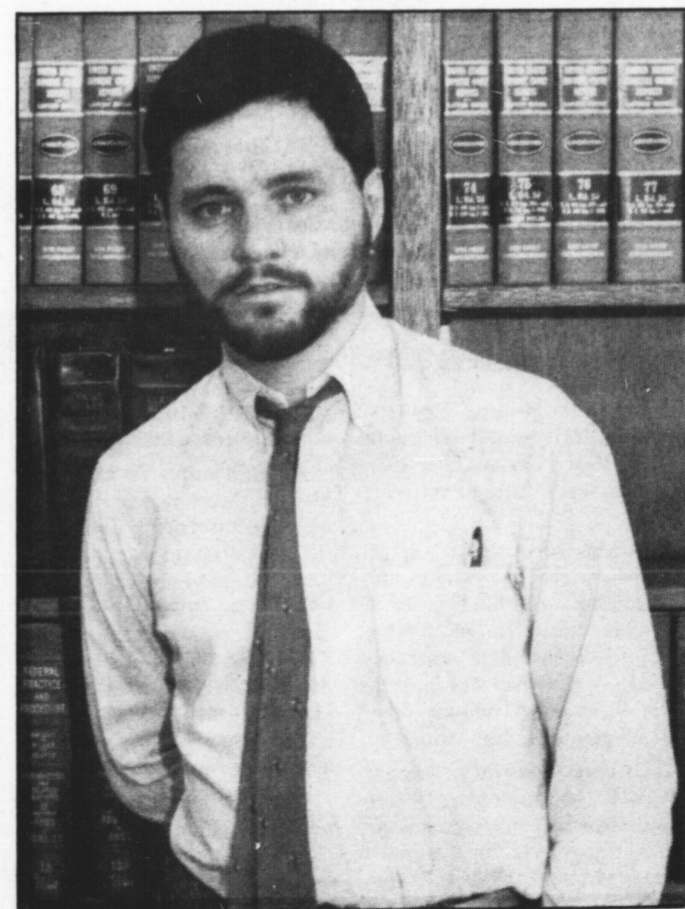
(Photo: Darlene/PhotoGraphics)

Walker Re-Nomination Sparks Opposition

Cranston Opposes Nomination to U.S. Court Attorney Led Fight Against Gay Games

by Jay Newquist

Gay activists have vowed to resume battle against Vaughn Walker now that Sen. Pete Wilson (R.-CA) has re-nominated the controversial attorney to serve a lifetime appointment to the federal bench. Walker's first nomination to the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of California was effectively killed last October when the nomination was prevented from coming to a vote in Congress. U.S. Sen. Alan Cranston is opposed to Walker's nomination.



T.J. Anthony

(Photo: S. Savage)

(Continued on page 2)

THIS PAPER IN TWO SECTIONS

Man Murdered In Castro

Suspect Convicted In '84 Biting of Cop

by Allen White

A man convicted of biting a police officer in 1984 reportedly has confessed to killing his roommate in the Castro last Sunday night. According to police, Lyle Earl Julius has confessed to the killing, which took place at 4528 19th St. The victim was David Koerner, 47, who lived at that address.

Police reports indicate that a call was received by police at 10:15 p.m. Sunday night. The caller was Lyle Earle Julius, 31, who apparently was living with Koerner at the location where the murder occurred. Julius told police that he came home and found his roommate lying in the kitchen in a pool of blood.

When police responded, he allegedly told police, "No, that's not the truth, I did it." A few minutes later he reportedly said, "I don't know why I said this, I shouldn't take the blame for this."

Inspector Jim Crowley of the police homicide department said the suspect was taken to Mission Station. There, according to Crowley, "a statement was taken and he basically admitted being responsible."

Julius is said to have told police that there had been a dispute because he had not paid rent to the victim for 18 months. It is alleged that an argument ensued and that Julius took a knife and killed Koerner.

Lyle Earl Julius has been booked by the police for murder. The case is now under investigation by the district attorney.

Julius was arrested in 1984 and convicted of biting a police officer. The incident became noteworthy when the officer attempted to have Julius tested for the HIV virus. It was one of the first attempts by a law-enforcement officer to have a person tested for the AIDS virus following an arrest.