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News & Review for Santa Cruz County's Gay and Lesbian Community

Published Quarterly

Fall 1987

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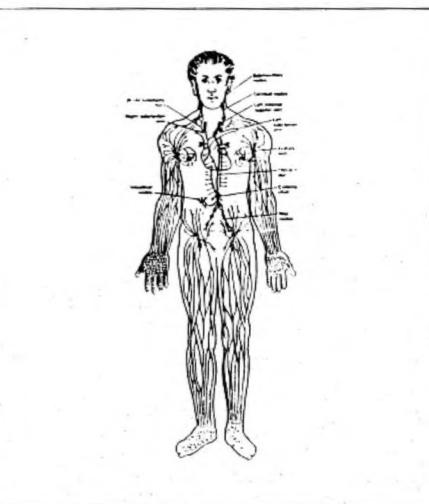
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## OPENING WORD



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## LETTERS

Dear Editors,

"42¢ Between You" is a story about two competent, dignified lesbians dealing with the contradictions of racism, homophobia, and sexism in a small, predominantly Hispanic California town. I am upset because the drawing by Brooke Matteson is not an accurate representation of my story. The woman in skin tight jeans and high heeled cowboy boots, skinny body posed in a semi-crotch shot is not the woman in the story. The woman with her head down, face hidden in her locks, hands drooping helplessly is not the courageous, determined, thinking woman of the story. And face it, how long would a hat like that last on the freeway anyway?

When I open to the page my story's on it looks sleazy and not like my story at all. I feel angry and sad that I trusted you with my work! As a lesbian publisher myself, working on HerBooks, I know just how hard publishing is, how production pressure often competes with ethics. I appreciate that you called me about a title for my piece. May I suggest that you let authors look at and OK illustrations of their work in the future?

Best,  
Irene Reti

Dear Lavender Reader Workers,

Many thanks to you all for putting out the great summer '87 issue! SNAZZY . . . PROFESSIONAL . . . ESTHETIC . . . INFORMATIVE . . .

I know a lot of time was spent in getting it all together. Thank you...

Here's money for a year's subscription and a few extra...

In unity and love,  
Pat Clarke

Dear Editors,

I was sitting in Jerry's Restaurant in Hollister the other day wondering if all the men knew I was a dyke. But I realized that they were just the regular collection of farmers and cowboys that one finds in Hollister and everywhere else. And some of them are even pretty nice.

I just bought gas at a gas station where there are "a lot of Mexicans"—some of whom know I'm a dyke but don't care because we're friends. If the story "42¢ Between You" was about stereotypes and prejudices, which I think it was, I'd like to protest the stereotypes and prejudices that Ms. Reti portrayed.

I work in Hollister and I like it. It has charm, warmth and most people accept me for who I am. Maybe they don't have the same culture as people from Santa Cruz, but that doesn't make them weird, hostile or bigoted.

Sincerely,  
Elizabeth Schick  
P.S. Keep up the good work at the *Reader*.

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Letters:

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## Bye-bye Banana!



*But do they have bananas in Brooklyn?* Peter Bergé, pictured above right with his honey David, most notorious for teaching "safe sex" condom use with the help of a banana, has taken his show on the road to the Big Apple. Up until this summer, Peter was a Physician's Assistant at the Cowell Health Center, UCSC, providing AIDS education to students, as well as volunteering with the Education Committee of the Santa Cruz AIDS Project. Good luck, Peter, we'll miss you!

## Bridge Building

When I came out to my devoutly Orthodox sister, her first response was to ask me to consider the impact of my deviant sexuality on the future population of Jews. She saw my choice to become a lesbian as a forsaking and abandonment of Judaism, as well as the Jewish family. How wrong she was!

My Jewish identity has flourished the past three years, supported by Jewish lesbians in Santa Cruz and Kolaynu, the local chapter of New Jewish Agenda. New Jewish Agenda is a national organization that works to foster Jewish values of peace and social justice and to promote Jewish participation in progressive coalitions.

Recently New Jewish Agenda has published a pamphlet which addresses both my sister's accusations and other topics of concern to the gay and lesbian community. "Coming Out, Coming Home: Lesbian and Gay Jews and the Jewish Community" is the type of essay that you could share with your Gentile lover, your straight

By A. Smith

Jewish friends, your sister who is like my sister, or with a political group interested in coalition building.

The piece starts by identifying commonalities between Jews and Gays/Lesbians, stating, "Each confronts the question of how—and even whether—to affirm an identity about which the dominant culture is largely ignorant and rife with prejudice. . . . In a political climate increasingly dominated by the rhetoric of intolerance, both communities need each other as allies and friends." Other issues explored include homophobia, the Jewish family, AIDS, changing attitudes in the Jewish community, additional resources, and suggestions for action. For those of us interested in coalition building across differences, "Coming Out, Coming Home" is an outstanding model.

This pamphlet, as well as information about an extensive bibliography entitled "Lesbian and Gay Liberation: A Bibliography for the Jewish Community" can be ordered locally from Adrienne Rich, 2420 Paul Minnie Rd., Santa Cruz, CA, 95062. Send SASE and 50 cents.

The Alliance is looking for a few good queers. See page 15.

## Bork's Bite: Rabid Right

The nomination of Robert Bork to the U.S. Supreme Court by President Reagan has stirred considerable controversy and lengthy confirmation hearings are expected this fall.

Immediately following the July 1 announcement, Senator Edward Kennedy (D-Mass.) released a scathing statement from his office denouncing the nomination. According to Kennedy, "Robert Bork's America is a land in which women would be forced into back-alley abortions, blacks would sit at segregated lunch counters, rogue police could break down citizens' doors in midnight raids, schoolchildren could not be taught about evolution, writers and artists could be censored at the whim of the Government, and the doors of the Federal courts would be shut on the fingers of millions of citizens."

If successful, the nomination of Bork could decisively tip the balance of the Supreme Court to the right. Justice Powell, whom Bork would replace, has been a swing voter who helped to create a liberal majority in many 5-to-4 decisions involving the separation of church and state, af-

firmative action, abortion, and other civil rights and civil liberties issues.

In criminal law cases, on the other hand, Powell voted with the conservative justices, thereby helping to steer the Court in a more conservative direction.

On the abortion issue, Powell consistently voted to affirm the 1973 *Roe v. Wade* decision. Bork, on the other hand, has on several occasions criticized the decision, but has never had the occasion to rule on the issue.

During his 1981 confirmation hearings to become a federal judge, Bork told the Senate that: "I am convinced, as I think almost all constitutional scholars are, that *Roe v. Wade* is an unconstitutional decision, a serious and unjustifiable judicial usurpation of state legislative authority. I also think that *Roe v. Wade* is by no means the only example of such unconstitutional behavior by the Supreme Court."

Kate Michelman, executive director of the National Abortion Rights League,

By John Follesdal

recently told the San Francisco Chronicle that the nomination of Bork poses "the biggest threat to legal abortion since *Roe v. Wade* was handed down in 1973." Groups like the National Abortion Rights League and the American Civil Liberties Union have been galvanized by the Bork nomination and have mapped out strategies of how to defeat it.

Bork's view on race discrimination has also generated heated discussions. In 1963 Bork wrote an article for the *New Republic* in which he passionately denounced a civil rights bill, later passed, that barred racial discrimination by owners of restaurants, hotels, and other public accommodations.

Bork called the bill a "dangerous departure from freedom of individuals to decide with whom he will deal." According to the article, civil rights protesters were a "mob" that was "disturbing and coercing private individuals in the exercise of their freedom."

Bork also argued in the article that the majority, who opposed discrimination, should not impose its anti-racism values on the minority. The idea that it had a right

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to do so, Bork wrote, was a principle of "unparalleled ugliness."

Bork later repudiated the article in Senate confirmation hearings in 1970 after he had been appointed Solicitor General by former President Richard Nixon.

He has not, however, repudiated his views on homosexuality. In a 1978 faculty debate at Yale, Bork, who was teaching there at the time, was a vocal opponent of a proposal (eventually adopted) to bar from the school's recruiting facilities employers who discriminate against gays and lesbians. In the debate, Bork argued that the faculty should not "ratify homosexuality," which, according to Bork, was "obviously not an unchangeable condition like race or gender."

Bork again vented his views on homosexuality in *Zech v. Dronenburg*, a 1984 gay rights case. Joined by Antonin Scalia, Bork ruled that the military had an absolute right to fire gays and lesbians no matter how good their military record. The language and the tone of that opinion reveals much about Bork's attitude towards gays and lesbians: according to Bork, Dronenburg's discrimination claims were "frivolous" and "untenable."

In addition to focusing on Bork's views on abortion, race issues, and gay rights, the nomination hearings are likely to focus on

a study of Bork's decisions that was recently published by a liberal lawyer's group. After examining more than 400 court cases that Bork had voted on, the study concluded that Bork's record as a federal appellate judge showed a pervasive bias in favor of businesses and against individual rights.

The study found that in the cases where the judges had disagreed, Bork had consistently voted against consumers and workers and in support of government agencies and businesses. But when the cases pitted businesses against government regulators, Bork sided with the businesses every time.

The study also found that Bork invariably ruled against demonstrators claiming freedom of speech rights.

To be approved, Bork first faces hearings in the Senate Judiciary Committee. The committee has eight Democrats and seven Republicans. A tie vote, which could occur if a member abstains, would send the nomination to the Senate floor for a vote; an 8-7 vote against him would kill the nomination. On the Senate floor, 51 votes against Bork would defeat his nomination, and 41 votes against would insure the success of a filibuster (it takes 60 votes to end a filibuster), thereby also defeating the nomination.

The Senate has rejected Supreme Court nominees 26 times since the founding of

the nation. In 1930, for example, as a result of opposition by the NAACP and the labor movement, the Senate rejected President Hoover's nomination of John Parker because of his anti-union rulings as a lower court judge, and because he thought that black political participation was "a source of evil and danger."

More recently, in 1968, 19 Republican Senators, including Howard Baker, Jr. and Strom Thurmond declared that they would vote against President Lyndon Johnson's nomination of Abe Fortas for Chief Justice, because of his liberal views on law enforcement, obscenity, free speech, capital punishment, and other issues. Johnson did not send another nomination to the Senate, leaving that job for his successor, President Nixon, who nominated Warren Burger to fill the position.

If the Democrats, who control the Senate, are successful in blocking the Bork nomination, President Reagan will submit another nomination. Given his track record, it is likely that he will nominate another conservative, thus ensuring that the Court will shift to the right. ■

*The Lesbian/Gay Action Alliance is a member of the Santa Cruz Block Bork Coalition along with several other groups. Contact the coalition in care of Planned Parenthood, 212 Laurel Street, Santa Cruz, 425-1551.*

## 4 ISSUES 8 BUCKS

If you're not a member of the Lesbian & Gay Action Alliance (Formerly FDC), and would like to receive the Lavender Reader in the mail, send \$8 to Lavender Reader, PO Box 7293, Santa Cruz, CA 95061

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## the Santa Cruz AIDS Project

The Santa Cruz AIDS Project continues in our efforts to provide support services for people with AIDS/ARC and educational services for the greater Santa Cruz County communities.

\* \* \* \*

As part of these efforts we've hired Terry Cavanagh as a full time Volunteer Coordinator. Terry has set up an ongoing volunteer orientation meeting, every Tuesday from 4 to 6pm at the SCAP office. Anyone interested in working with

## SCAP REPORT

### Support Groups

- *AIDS/ARC Diagnosis Group.* Please call 458-4999 for time and location.
- *HIV Positive Group.* Tuesday 7:30 to 9pm, SCAP Office, 234 Santa Cruz Ave., Aptos.
- *Families, Friends, and Loved Ones Group.* Wednesday 5:30 to 7pm, SCAP Office, 234 Santa Cruz Ave., Aptos.

\* \* \* \*

SCAP is currently focusing on providing education in the Latino communities. Anyone interested in assisting us in organizing or conducting bilingual education forums, please call Terry.

\* \* \* \*

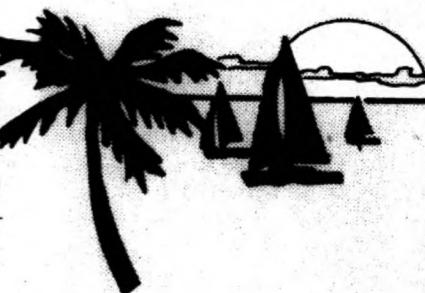
Have you ever wished that you could get up to date, accurate information on safe sex in a small, informal setting? Well, you can—it's called a KOOL AIDS presentation. All you have to do is let SCAP know that you'll invite a few friends over one evening and that you'd like a KOOL AIDS presenter to be there too. Try it—you'll be glad you did. ■

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## '88 Presidential Hopefuls: Mixed Reviews for a Mixed Bag



Steve Sinclair

Just over four months from now, the first delegates to the 1988 Democratic and Republican conventions will be selected. This election will be the first in almost three decades where there is no incumbent running for re-election. As a result, there are now fourteen announced candidates for the two major party nominations.

The Republican candidates must all pander to the right wing of their party to win the nomination—and there is no GOP candidate that has taken good stands on gay or lesbian concerns.

I want to focus on the eight Democratic Party candidates. There's a whole range of opinion and experience among the candidates—let's look at them one by one:

**Bruce Babbitt.** Babbitt, who served as Governor of Arizona until last December, has surprised many observers with his pro-gay rights positions in recent months. He has reportedly been attacked by the reactionary Manchester (N.H.) *Union Leader* for a reasonable position on gay foster parents.

Babbitt has indicated that he would issue an executive order as President prohibiting discrimination in federal employment on the basis of sexual orientation. He has also said that he would sign the federal civil rights bill should it be passed by Congress.

On AIDS issues, Babbitt opposes mandatory testing, advocates teaching of safe sex and use of condoms, and is opposed to quarantine.

These views are consistent with Babbitt's past concern about civil rights in general. He was politicized in the Selma march, and proclaimed Martin Luther King Day in Arizona despite the fact that the legislature defeated such a proposal.

**Joseph Biden.** First elected from Delaware to the U.S. Senate in 1972, Biden became the chair of the Senate Judiciary Committee after the last election. He has gained much publicity in recent months for his opposition to the confirmation of Judge Robert Bork to the Supreme Court.

**By John Laird**

Biden is an unknown quantity on gay/lesbian issues. He has not co-sponsored the civil rights legislation in the Senate, and has made no public statements on gay/lesbian issues to date in the presidential campaign.

On AIDS issues, Biden favors testing of immigrants, but is undecided on the testing of prisoners and marriage license applicants. He favors safe sex teaching in upper grades in schools, and opposes a quarantine.

Biden is generally perceived as a "liberal," scoring 80% in the rating of the Americans for Democratic Action (ADA)—a national liberal lobbying organization.

**Michael Dukakis.** Dukakis was first elected Governor of Massachusetts in 1974, was defeated in 1978, regained his office in 1982 and was re-elected in 1986. His record on gay/lesbian issues is extremely mixed, and has confused most gay political operatives.

Dukakis aroused the ire of the gay community over the last two years for his inept handling of the gay foster parents issues. Two gay men, approved for place-

ment of foster kids, had a child removed from their custody in a highly publicized event almost two years ago. A commission appointed by Dukakis recently recommended that he restore the prior policy of allowing gay foster parents; Dukakis has thus far ignored this recommendation. Gay/lesbian groups in New England have been picketing Dukakis during campaign appearances ever since.

However, in early July, Dukakis vetoed homophobic state budget language that would have prohibited gay foster parents. But he angered gay groups the very next day by reversing the state policy prohibiting insurance companies from testing for HIV. His Insurance Commissioner resigned in protest.

Earlier this year, the Massachusetts lower house approved a gay and lesbian non-discrimination bill—primarily due to personal lobbying by Dukakis. The bill has not yet been considered by the State Senate, but Dukakis has indicated he will sign the bill if it reaches his desk.

**Richard Gephardt.** A fifteen-year member of Congress, and a former alderman from St. Louis, Gephardt had an ADA rating of 70% in the last Congress.

He has been vague on gay and lesbian issues, but opposes mandatory HIV testing because it forces members of high risk groups to go underground. He favors education on safe sex, and the use of condoms. He opposes quarantine of people with AIDS.

**Albert Gore, Jr.** Son of a former Senator from Tennessee, Gore has spent twelve years in Congress—the last three as a Senator from Tennessee. He has a 70% rating from the ADA.

Gore has not taken a position on major gay or lesbian issues, but he has not been a co-sponsor of civil rights legislation. He appeared at the press conference for the launching of the Kennedy-Waxman legislation on AIDS non-discrimination and confidentiality in HIV testing. He is also

a co-sponsor of that legislation.

He opposes mandatory HIV testing, and favors an all-out education campaign on AIDS.

**Jesse Jackson.** Jackson has consistently spoken out in favor of gay/lesbian issues, and was almost the only speaker to mention the words "gay" and "lesbian" from the 1984 Democratic convention platform.

He relies on local grassroots Rainbow Coalition organizations in his campaign and the 1985 platform of the Santa Cruz Rainbow did not make reference to any gay and lesbian issues.

He opposes mandatory testing for HIV. He favors sex education, and says that teaching abstinence as a preventive method should have a high priority in the schools. He opposes a quarantine.

**Paul Simon.** A former Lieutenant Governor and Congressperson from Illinois, Simon is in his first term in the U.S. Senate. He has an 80% ADA rating.

During his service in the House, Simon cast many unfavorable votes on gay/lesbian issues—supporting the homophobic McDonald amendments, and voting to overturn the D.C. sodomy decriminalization bill. He has not been a co-sponsor of civil rights legislation.

In the Senate, Simon's record has improved. He has pledged to vote for civil rights legislation, and voted against the

Jesse Helms attempt to overturn the D.C. HIV insurance law. He is a co-sponsor of the Kennedy-Waxman legislation, which is important because of his membership on the Health and Human Services Committee.

He favors safe sex education in high schools and opposes a quarantine. He favors mandatory testing for prisoners and new immigrants, but opposes it for undocumented residents and marriage license applicants.

**Patricia Schroeder.** First elected in 1972 to represent Denver in Congress, Schroeder has not yet announced her formal entry into the Democratic race. She has a 95% ADA rating.

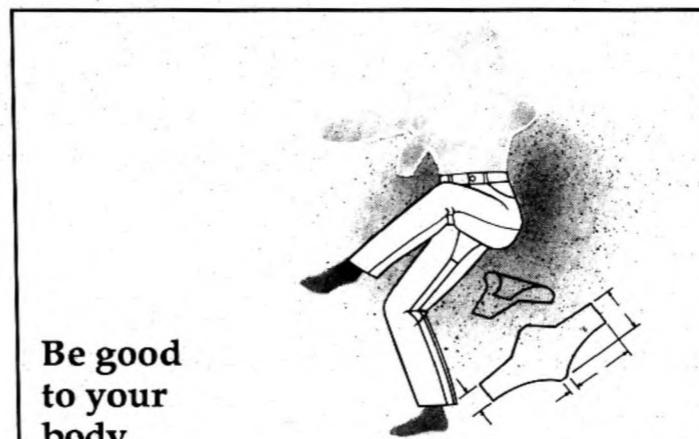
Rep. Schroeder has co-sponsored the gay/lesbian civil rights bill in Congress, and is a co-sponsor of the National March on Washington.

She is a co-sponsor of the Kennedy-Waxman AIDS bill, and has called for a "Manhattan Project" effort against AIDS.

She opposes mandatory testing, and strongly advocates safe sex education. She opposes quarantine.

This is where the eight Democratic candidates begin the race on gay and lesbian issues. It will be interesting to see if they have changed their positions by the nominating conventions next summer. ■

"It will be  
interesting to see  
if they have  
changed their  
positions by next  
summer."



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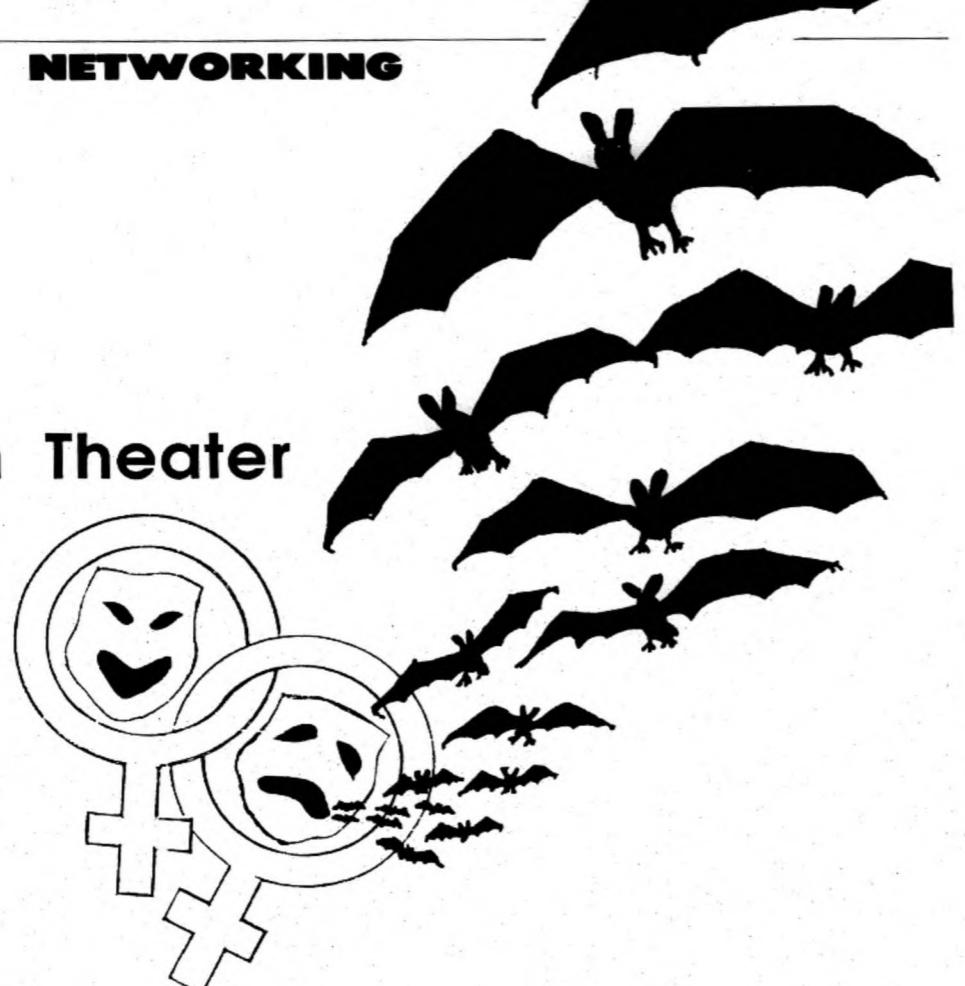


## Novel Idea: Gothic Lesbian Theater

*What shadows haunt the ill-fated manor of Seven Chimneys? What mysteries will Mary Beth, the poor but honorable governess, find there? Did Stephen the moody, riding crop carrying mistress of the household, murder her long-term lover? And who is the tormented soul locked in a hidden closet?*

*This Brooding Sky: A Lesbian Satire of Gothic Novels* by award winning playwright Sarah Dreher, will enjoy its California premiere in Santa Cruz this October. Local director Kate McDermott will produce a staged reading of this hilarious parody to raise seed money for a full-scale production of another lesbian play in spring '88. This flurry of activity may mark the beginning of an ongoing Lesbian Theater Project for Santa Cruz County.

*This Brooding Sky* was born when Ms. Dreher, psychotherapist and playwright, was working with a new lesbian theater project in her hometown of Amherst, Mass. The group was going through the difficult process of defining their political and artistic identity with seemingly endless, tense meetings. For sheer escape, Dreher began reading classic gothic romances like *Jane Eyre*, *Wuthering Heights*, and *Rebecca*. For amusement, she would scribble down bits of decidedly dykey spoofs on the genre. And for comic relief within the group, she shared these during coffee



breaks. The delightful silliness of these early scenes were a huge success, and the company encouraged Dreher to make a play of them.

The resulting one-act satire parodies every conceivable cliche of gothic romance and murder mysteries. Yet you needn't have read the novels Dreher sends up to appreciate the joke—we've all seen the bats-in-belfries movies they spawned.

"Sarah wrote the play to have fun," director McDermott remarks, "It's kind of surprising—she's such a serious

playwright. The topics that she chooses are so critically important to lesbians—yet this is just a frolic. She's always been amusing, even in the most serious plays, but she really let the stops out with this one!"

McDermott will direct *This Brooding Sky* as a staged reading—a form in between reader's theater and full production. As an art form, staged readings are accessible to groups like the lesbian community that lack financial resources. Explains McDermott, "A staged reading lends itself to a type of theater I feel a strong internal commitment to: what's called Theater of the Poor. That's theater with minimal or no set—we'll just have some furniture—and no cos-

By Allison Claire

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tumes other than street clothes. A staged reading is a rehearsed performance with script in hand."

This low-budget, high-energy entertainment will raise the funds to present a full-scale production of another Sarah Dreher play in the spring of '88. *Alumnae News: The Doris Day Years* was the 1987 winner of the Jane Chambers International Lesbian/Gay Playwrighting Contest. It is vintage Dreher: realistic, psychologically complex, delving beneath the surface of relationships between women.

The play is a fictionalized account of an experience Dreher had while a college student in the 50's. A close friendship was destroyed when a jealous third woman reported the not-yet-lesbian to the dean for sexually harrassing her beloved friend. In the play Dreher creates the reunion/confrontation that might have happened (but, in her own life, did not) with all three brought together 10 years later at an alumnae gathering, to face the pain, love, and betrayal that had marked their lives so deeply.

Originally Dreher wrote *Alumnae News* as a two woman show, involving only the estranged friends. It was McDermott's suggestion that the "other

woman", a complex character named Terry, come out of the background and into the action of the play. "She's a fascinating character!" exclaims McDermott. "Sarah did not want to bring Terry into the play, but I told her, I want to meet this woman! I want to see who she is, how she operates. And so she wrote Terry. Sarah hates to write villains, and Terry is a villain. But she's also the catalyst for everything that happens in the play."

Like all Dreher's plays (except *This Brooding Sky*), *Alumnae News* is written in a very realistic style, known as naturalism. "When a minority group starts to find its voice in a new form—in theater, specifically—that voice is first expressed in naturalism," explains McDermott. "It's a natural first step, but not the final step. I believe that eventually lesbian theater, like Black and other ethnic theaters, will evolve into another form—find its own form. Right now, Sarah Dreher's a wonderful exponent of lesbian naturalism."

Director and playwright first met when Kate McDermott began soliciting manuscripts for an anthology of lesbian plays. As a director, McDermott needed such an anthology and none existed—

*continued on page 14*

**"A staged reading  
lends itself to  
a type of theater I feel  
a strong commitment  
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the audience..."**

**I want to find the  
lesbian audience here  
and play to it."**

*continued from page 13*

so she took on the project herself. A friend here in Santa Cruz told her about a play called *Ruby Christmas*, of unknown authorship, and Kate began the search. By coincidence the manuscript arrived in the mail—from Sarah Dreher.

Both *Ruby Christmas* and *8x10 Glossy* (winner of the 1985 National Lesbian Playwriting Contest) appeared in McDermott's book *Places Please: The First Anthology of Lesbian Plays* (Aunt Lute, 1985). "I was so impressed, McDermott recalls, "I asked her to send me everything she'd ever written—which she proceeded to do, in stages."

McDermott decided to direct the newest play, *Alumnae News*, herself after joining Dreher in Los Angeles for the premier. Though the play received excellent reviews, both Dreher and McDermott felt that the director had taken such liberties that the original vision was fundamentally altered. The responsibility of directors to playwrights and the integrity of their scripts is a topic McDermott had written about in *Places, Please*. She felt she wants to do it right.

"With a living playwright, I don't believe it's my right as director to change anything without specific permission. Interpret, sure, but not change. Directors are interpretive artists. We're not

creative artists, we don't originate the work. We interpret it, the way a musician does, or a conductor, or an actor. We have an obligation to try to decipher and be loyal to what was intended. It's a puzzle that you pull out of the script as you work with it." In keeping with this obligation, McDermott is in regular cross-country contact with Dreher as she prepares to direct the plays.

*This Brooding Sky* and *Alumnae News* will be the first directing project for McDermott since she began work on the book. It's the lesbian community that has inspired her, not necessarily the Santa Cruz theater world. "Ever since I've been here, people have tried to convince me that this is a wildly committed theater town. Given the demise of so many theater companies here, I have to question that."

"Santa Cruz is a music town. Dance does pretty well. But theater is a precarious enterprise in Santa Cruz. I think a lot of people here want to *do* theater, but there aren't so many people who want to *go*. Theater depends upon its audience for survival. I hope to find an audience and build a rapport and loyalty going both ways. Maybe something can grow from that."

Certainly an audience for lesbian theater exists—and not just in places like Santa Cruz. Lesbian theater groups have sprung up in such places as Orange

County and small Midwestern cities. Today there is a flowering of community-based lesbian theater companies across the country. As lesbians we are always looking for affirmations for our lives in the arts—we have created our own music and poetry to meet that need, and there is a profound hunger to see ourselves on the stage.

"I hope this project can present enough skills so that the work feeds the hunger of the lesbian audience but also enlivens that audience and makes it feel a sense of reward from the quality of the work. That takes a lot of work from the theater company. But just because lesbians are hungry doesn't mean it's OK to put anything in front of them because they'll eat it..."

"Without comparing ourselves to outside standards, we need to seek our best and make it available to other lesbians. Even in a low-budget, local, grass-roots lesbian project we *can* seek excellence and offer something of quality to our community. We are capable of excellence and have a right to expect it of ourselves."

When Kate McDermott talks about an ongoing Lesbian Theater Project in our area, her vision is not grandiose. "The size of the project will be determined by the audience," she explains. And the community she wants to serve is Santa Cruz County lesbians. "If other folks want to attend from other points on the compass, or other points on the sexual compass, that's great—but incidental. I want to find the lesbian audience here, and play to it..."

"If it becomes apparent that in order for this project to exist in Santa Cruz I have to go looking over the hill or in Monterey for an audience, then I don't want to do it. If there's a small audience, that's fine—it will be a small project." McDermott hopes there will be enough community enthusiasm to support one play annually, for starters.

She already has lots of support from local community groups. The two upcoming plays are being sponsored by Cabrillo Lesbians Together, UCSC Women's Center, Matrix, KZSC Women's Department, Monterey Bay Women's Alliance, Bookshop Santa Cruz and the Lesbian and Gay Action Alliance. If, perish the thought, the project should fold after *Alumnae News*, any remaining funds will be donated to local organizations serving lesbians. Ideally, however, both the performers and the theater-goers among us will make these upcoming events the beginning of a new Santa Cruz tradition. ■

This *Brooding Sky* is currently in rehearsal. Performances are as follows:

#### SCHEDULE OF PERFORMANCES

In Santa Cruz

Moraga Hall, at Seabright & Broadway  
Sundays: October 11, 18, 25 at 8pm

Cabrillo College, Rm. 456 (small forum)  
Saturday: October 10, at 8pm

UCSC Women's Center, Cardiff House  
Saturday: October 24, at 2:30pm (afternoon)

In San Jose

ONLY ONE PERFORMANCE!  
Billy De Frank Center, 1040 Park Ave.  
Saturday: October 17, at 8pm

To get involved in the Santa Cruz Lesbian Theater Project, call 684-1280.

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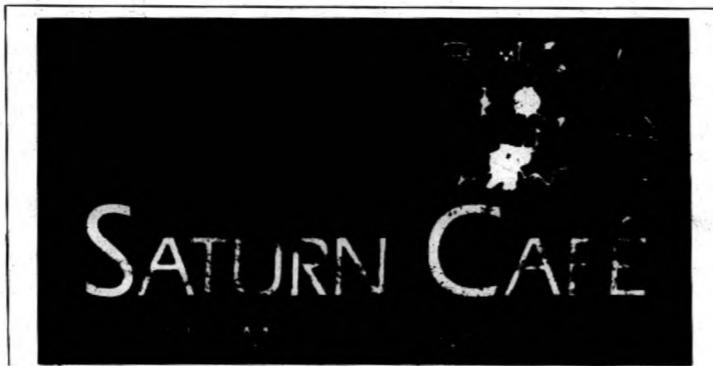
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The March on Washington and after --

# Rage, Rebellion and Renaissance

I had a dream a little while ago. I was riding with my lover in a car driven by a man we didn't really know. After a bit, I noticed people along the side of the road who had been horribly disfigured and then half-buried—still alive—alongside the street, for all to see. Friends of these people, horrified, were just coming to the rescue, unearthing them and tending to their wounds.

"Shouldn't we stop?" I said to the driver. He continued. We stopped at a stop sign, and I leaned out the window, getting the attention of two passing women. "Has anybody called the police?" I asked. Silently, they pointed to the driver of the car. He was responsible, they indicated.

I woke up shaking, terrified. "Another AIDS dream," I thought, trying to calm myself in the blackness of the night. The people in control, who were supposed to be taking care of us, were killing us, and only our friends were intervening.

Is it me? Am I being paranoid?

**"I woke up shaking, terrified. 'Another AIDS dream,' I thought, trying to calm myself in the blackness of the night."**

*At nine o'clock on the morning of Sunday October 11, hundreds of thousands of lesbians and gay men will begin assembling on the Ellipse behind the White House for the National March on Washington for Lesbian and Gay Rights. The March, which begins at noon, will probably be the largest gathering of gay people in history. By the time people begin to gather, workers from the Names Project will have finished unfolding the Quilt they started putting together last spring. It will cover 4,000 square feet and will be made up of individual panels, three feet by six feet. Each panel will contain the name of a person who has died of AIDS.*

"You have to be a special person to work on the Names Project," reflected Cleve Jones, the Project's director, speaking at a recent forum in Santa Cruz. "People come into our office every day carrying a quilt piece with the name of a sister or brother or lover or friend or father or mother—someone they loved. There's a lot of emotion. We have a crying room on the mezzanine in the office. We cry every day."

Jones asks the audience to clear an area in the center of the room. He and his co-workers unfold a section of the quilt, perhaps twelve feet square. A deep, emotional silence falls over the room. Some read, many eyes fill with tears. "Every day, in every way, I will always love you," reads one piece, in small letters below the larger letters of the name. Another says simply "Harry" as a little shower of pink triangles turns into pink hearts.

*The people in control, who were supposed to be taking care of us, were killing us, and only our friends were intervening.*

I have a friend who's a doctor. He told me about one patient of his who was having pull-it-out-before-he-cums sex. Now this person tests positive for HIV. A very

dear friend of mine was on a trip to another city. He found some company for the night, and they used a condom and some hand lotion. The hand lotion was oil-based, the condom broke. Now this beautiful man tests HIV positive. To check my paranoia, I made a quiz for myself.

**Question #1:** You are the leader of a large and wealthy country which has suddenly been struck by a mysterious, fatal disease. So far, the only prevention is telling people how to avoid becoming infected. You propose spending lots of money

a. telling people how to avoid becoming infected.  
b. testing to see who's infected, then putting them on lists.

In Australia, if you turn on the TV, you are likely to see government-paid AIDS prevention ads featuring the Grim Reaper. In the subways of Britain, your senses will be assaulted by billboards reading, "Don't die of ignorance." Most of Western Europe has followed suit. In the US? In large metropolitan areas, you might see a TV ad for condoms, paid for by people who sell condoms. In most of the country, such ads are prohibited by TV executives. The government here certainly won't pay for them. They're arguing about how to push abstinence and the virtues of marriage. Can you relate?

**Question #2:** There's a lot you don't know about the disease. So you appoint a group to help you make decisions about it. For this group, you choose  
a. people who have expertise in research

and treatment, knowledge about prevention, compassion for those who are sick.

b. people who have no experience in research, treatment or prevention, and who despise the people who are getting sick.

One doesn't have to say much about the members of Reagan's AIDS Commission; their records do the talking. Cardinal John O'Connor, Archbishop of New York, opposed the city's gay rights bill and ordered meetings of Dignity—the gay Catholics—thrown out of churches in his jurisdiction. Theresa Crenshaw of San Diego is a physician; she supported Prop 64 last year and has suggested that AIDS is spread through toilet seats and insects. Penny Pullen, who led the anti-ERA movement in Illinois, supports mandatory testing and tracing of partners of people with AIDS and has been quoted as saying that gay people engage in "blood terrorism" by deliberately donating HIV-infected blood. Cory SerVaas, publisher of the *Saturday Evening Post*, dispenses advice from her 34-foot "AIDS Mobile," which has been criticized for inadequate counseling safeguards. She supports Pat Robertson for president. Richard DeVos, president of Amway, and the largest contributor to Reagan's reelection, recently suggested that gay people don't "act responsibly" about AIDS. John Creedon, president of Metropolitan Life Insurance Co., wants insurance companies to be able to test applicants for HIV. The chair of the Commission, Dr. Eugene Mayberry, head of the Mayo Clinic, declared on the day the Commission was announced, "I'm not an

expert on AIDS." There's a few others, including one gay doctor (wouldn't you want to be in his shoes?). Good bunch, eh?

**T**here was a man who used to visit my friend around the corner. He was striking, with long black hair. His boyfriend was under 18, though, so now he's in jail for that reason. A boyfriend of mine across the country is facing a prison sentence for a political action. What will happen to their sexuality—to their health—in prison?

**Question #3:** A small, inexpensive rubber product prevents the disease. You are responsible for the health of lots of people in prisons and mental institutions, and you order that in those places the rubber products

a. be immediately distributed.  
b. be banned.

The Feds say that they have a "policy" against sex in prisons. Passing out condoms would acknowledge that—stop the presses!—people are getting it on in there. Seems like that's about the second thing you learn about prisons, right after you learn that the doors are always locked. But the Reaganites would rather have people die than admit that the administration can't control people's sex lives.

**Question #4:** This disease is caused by a small virus. Most of the people who get it, in this large and wealthy nation, belong to groups that people don't like. The two main political parties avoid these groups, they have no representation in the government, and for most of what they do, you can arrest them. Therefore, you blame the spread of the disease on

a. the virus.  
b. the tremendous political clout of the groups that get sick.

George Bush, the leading Republican

candidate for president, refers to a "gay conspiracy" when he talks about AIDS. One of the appointees to Reagan's AIDS Commission, Penny Pullen, says that "standard public health approaches" (read testing and quarantine) aren't being used because of "the political clout of organized homosexuals." Ooh, clout! It must've arrived when I wasn't looking. Girlfriend, what are we going to do with all this power??

Well, let's see what we homosexuals (organized) have done with our omnipotence so far. We're so powerful that we haven't taken care of the minor matter of being arrested, tried and jailed for making love. Our lofty position means that we haven't bothered to make sure we can without interference keep our children in our care, visit our lovers in the hospital, or share our partner's medical benefits. Our influence is so far-reaching that members of our communities are getting fatally sick in droves, our might so vast that thousands of our loved ones are already dead, while those in government—these are

*continued on next page*

**"You have to be a special person to work on the Names Project.**

**People come into our office every day carrying a quilt piece with the name of someone they loved. There's a lot of emotion. We cry every day."**

By Scott Brookie

## The Events

### Friday October 9

National Lobby Day • March Against Death and Violence, through Sunday

### Saturday October 10

The Wedding, non-sectarian union ceremony • Lesbian and Gay Bands of America

### Sunday October 11

Veterans Memorial Service • Display of *Names Project* memorial  
**March and Rally**

### Monday October 12

National Lesbian/Gay Rights Congress Planning Meeting

### Tuesday October 13

Civil Disobedience at the Supreme Court for Lesbian/Gay Rights

## The Demands

### *National*

- Legal recognition of lesbian and gay relationships.
- Reproductive freedom—the right to control our own bodies, and an end to sexist oppression.
- An end to racism in this country and apartheid in South Africa.
- The repeal of all laws that make sodomy between consenting adults a crime.
- An end to discrimination against people with AIDS, ARC, HIV positive status or those perceived to have AIDS. Massive increase in funding for AIDS education, research and patient care. Money for AIDS, not for war.
- Passage of the congressional lesbian and gay rights bill.
- A presidential order banning anti-gay discrimination by the federal government.

## The Names Project

The Names Project, piecing together a quilt with the names of people who have died of AIDS, is an ongoing project. Although the deadline to have a quilt piece included in October 11 display was September 15, the quilt created by the Project will go on a national tour, with the funds raised going to local AIDS service providers in communities throughout the US. Write to: *The NAMES Project, PO Box 14573, San Francisco, CA 94114. (415) 626-5725.*

## Travel Arrangements

Pacific Harbor Travel, 476-5020. (Although any travel agent can make arrangements for you, the people at Pacific Harbor are donating part of their fee to the March.)

## Local Contacts

Gary Reynolds, 429-1388 • Michael Balliro, 423-4752

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our lackeys, understand—joke about us, won't mention the name of the disease, and—most incredibly—leave millions of dollars in AIDS research money unspent.

Let's face it, marches to press demands are not really the province of the powerful. I am straining to recall the last Securities Analysts' March and Rally, or the most recent Fortune 500 Day of Protest and Celebration, but nothing is coming. Marches are the province of those who are supremely frustrated, pushed up—again and again—against a wall of indifference and hostility, and have little other recourse.

Not that we should underestimate ourselves. Last fall, we decimated LaRouche's AIDS panic initiative, Proposition 64, educating millions of people about AIDS in the process. In 1978, we came from behind—two to one—to convince California voters that the Briggs Initiative against gay teachers was wrong. Wisconsin has had statewide lesbian/gay rights legislation for years now; lots of cities have it as well. And every year, over a million of us take to the streets in cities all over the world. There are a lot of other victories. We are canny and formidable. We can kick ass (is that too violent?). But, we are facing a crisis of nearly genocidal proportions. And the people in government are not helping, they are making it worse. Should this surprise us? Let's check.

**Question #5:** When you become the leader of this country, millions of people don't have a place to live. You

- a. create shelters all over the country and spend lots of money on housing.
- b. don't create shelters, and take more money away from housing programs than from any other.

Well, the answer is (b), and now there are more people sleeping on the streets than at any time since the Great Depression.

**Question #6:** More Black people and Latino people are unemployed than any other group of people in the country. To change this, you

a. vigorously support ways to guard against prejudice in hiring. You affirm that those who have suffered have the right to recourse. You act aggressively against poverty.

b. appoint Civil Rights Commissioners who declare it's "a mistake" to make quotas for hiring people who don't usually get hired. You oppose civil rights legislation and holidays honoring Black leaders. You declare that when served to school kids, ketchup is a vegetable.

You guessed it, the answer is (b) again. Seems like there's a certain consistency, a kind of homicidal disregard for the disenfranchised here. But. These people, these creatures who declare that sauces are nourishment, these great leaders too embarrassed to talk about a rubber—if we just get rid of them, will everything be all right? I'm not so sure. Remember: although it wasn't a majority of all the people in the US, *somebody* elected these dodos.

A poll taken by the San Francisco Chronicle reveals that 46% of Bay Area adults think that gayness is "morally wrong."

In Massachusetts, a boy goes to live with two gay men—the adoption agency places him there. The Boston Globe decides this is a "story." The boy is taken away, bounced from home to home. The state then declares that gay men and lesbians shouldn't be foster parents. The governor, Michael Dukakis—currently the great hope of liberal Democrats—refuses to revoke the policy.

Today I passed a pickup truck with three of those little stickers on it, the stickers with the red circle and slash. The first one had a slash through a picture of Bozo the Clown: no bozos. The second one I missed.

## massage and bodywork

- massage
- movement re-education
- trager sessions
- workshops/classes
- therapeutic movement systems

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The third said "No fags!" with a slash through "Fags." These are commercially printed. They must sell well enough to make money.

A recent poll in the San Francisco Examiner asked Catholics questions about birth control, school prayer, the role of church leaders. The fourth question was, "Do you favor or oppose mandatory AIDS testing of homosexuals, drug users, prostitutes, immigrants, prisoners and high risk groups?" More favored than opposed it. What does HIV testing have to do with Catholicism? Why are they asking this question?

In Florida, three boys who test HIV-positive win a court battle, and go to public school. A few days later, their house is burned down.

Look close, or maybe step back. All this stuff, it's the writing on the wall and it's getting pretty ugly.

"I remember standing at the base of the Washington Monument," recalls Patrick Meyer of Santa Cruz, "and looking into a sea - literally a sea - of gay and lesbian heads. All these people gathered in one place, saying they were gay! It was so powerful."

Patrick is recalling the one other occasion that the nation's gay men and lesbians gathered in Washington D.C. to remind the world, dramatically, of our existence. The time was October of 1979, and over 100,000 people marched in The National March on Washington for Lesbian and Gay Rights.

The sheer numbers of people also made a strong impression on Allison Claire, now from Santa Cruz, who lived in Connecticut at the time. "It was incredible, this enormous space full of queers! Before that, I

had never been with more than 10 gay people at a time," she remembers. "It was one of those moments where you feel like you are part of something really historic, really important."

Both Patrick and Allison remember clearly the impact of experiencing ordinary things in extraordinary company. "I'd been before," recalls Patrick. "I remembered Washington being full of small nuclear families bustling around buying tourist things. But going to monuments, the Smithsonian, the galleries—experiencing these 'monuments to freedom' surrounded by gay people—it was like seeing the place for the first time. I felt connected, not like an isolated person."

Allison remembers the ride home. "Driving back to Connecticut along the turnpike—every tollbooth, every rest room, every gas station, every Howard Johnsons, if you can imagine—all full of excited lesbians and gay men!"

Boston's *Gay Community News*, in reporting on the March, commented that, "Three themes dominated the rally: the 1980's as a new era for gay rights, gay people being everywhere, and Harvey Milk's assassination." Little could we have known the way AIDS would change our lives, our communities, our politics. But still, we are strong.

"The [AIDS] crisis brings out the somberness in our gatherings," reflects Patrick. "But it also makes us stronger. And the public needs to see it, to see us, over and over, in large numbers."

And they will see us. We will be very visible, filling the streets (they're really wide) in this seat of power. We will be visible covering a large space with the names of our loved ones. We will be visible

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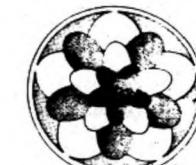
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# A LTERNATIVE HEALING & AIDS

PART THREE: THE  
LYMPHATIC  
SYSTEM  
BY LORRAINE LIPANI

*The following is the final installment in our three-part series on alternative healing and AIDS. Lorraine Lipani, a certified massage therapist in our community, provides us with a layperson's view of the lymphatic system. Also included is a simple recipe for maintaining healthy lymph tissue. Although this article concludes our series, we look forward to bringing you additional information on the maintenance of the immune system in future issues of the Reader.*

Exactly Where Is My Sista-who?

In your belly, and that's cisterna chyli (sis-TER-na-KI-le). It is a central part of your lymphatic system, and helps pass a cleansing fluid through your body which bathes the cells, collecting wastes and toxins to be dismantled. Lymphatic fluid, organs, glands, and vessels are essential to your body's immunity, and essential to homeostasis—the body's inherent desire to maintain a consistent internal environment. Your brain and nerve centers constantly monitor the stress affecting your internal and external environments. Maintaining equilibrium and promoting optimal health is often the work of the lymphatic system. That is why a basic premise of natural health care emphasizes support of the body's detoxification process and homeostatic rhythms.

Here is how your lymphatic system works: when oxygenated blood leaves your heart via the arteries, it nourishes all your cells. When the blood is deoxy-

genated, the red and white corpuscles return to the heart by separate routes. The red blood cells pass up the body through the veins; the white blood cells pass up the body through the lymphatic vessels. Both the veins and lymphatic vessels have valves inside that keep the fluids moving towards the heart. While the veins are pumped by the rhythmic contractions of the heart, the lymphatic vessels are not. Lymphatic fluid moves in response to respiration, and skeletal muscle contraction. For example, deep breathing engages the diaphragm muscle, and that stimulates lymphatic flow. The red and white blood cells regroup in the major chest veins before returning to your heart, and then to the lungs to pick up more oxygen.

Strategically located along lymphatic vessels are the lymphatic nodes, or glands. You have probably felt swollen lymph glands behind your ears or under your jaw when you've had a flu. Those swollen glands were working hard to dismantle the toxins they had filtered from the lymphatic fluid. The lymphatic fluid in turn had transported these toxins from cellular excretions. In the glands, specialized cells called phagocytes engulf and devour the toxic substance. If there's a real battle going on, the glands feel swollen. Lymph glands can be felt behind the knees, in the groin, between the ribs close to the breastbone, under the armpits, and in the neck.

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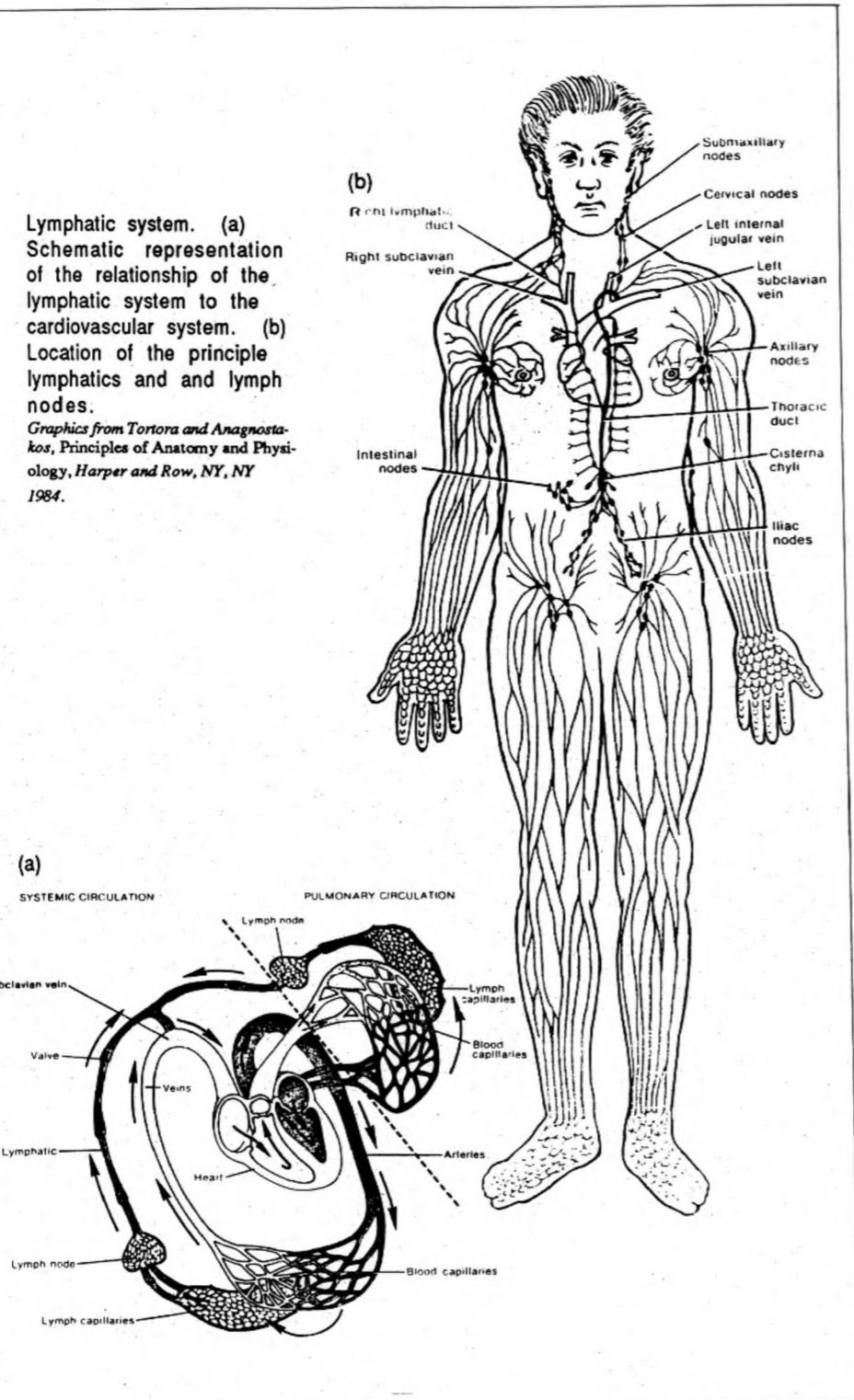
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In addition to the vessels and glands, other lymphoid tissue is scattered throughout your body. The tonsils protect the throat area, while the spleen and thymus gland help create the cells that make antibodies and destroy toxins. The intestines are wrapped in lymph glands, and lined with lymph tissue. In fact, the intestines are a most accessible area of your body to stimulate lymphatic flow, because of the enormous amount of lymph tissue working there. As lymph fluid moves up from the legs, it is collected in the belly by the cisterna chyli, and then passed along with lymph collected from the digestive organs. The liver, not a lymphatic organ itself, is yet another major detoxification center in your belly that interacts with blood and lymph.

Many simple things enhance the integrity of your immune system. In fact, you are probably doing more of them than you realize. Aerobic exercising, drinking plenty of water, eating raw fruits and vegetables, minimizing the use of salt, sugar, fats, drugs and alcohol in your diet—all decrease the stress on your immunity. In addition, various forms of massage, hydrotherapy, acupuncture, nutritional and chiropractic treatments are geared to support your body's ability to clean and repair itself. Yoga, T'ai chi, professionally supervised fasting and herbal therapies are also well worth exploring.

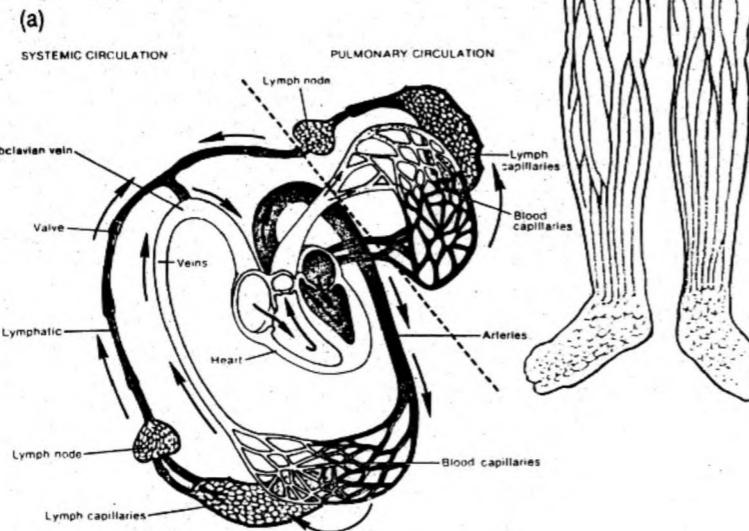
Not as well known, yet something simple, consistent and effective you can do for yourself, is applying a hot castor oil poultice on your belly. Castor oil, from the castor bean plant, is respected in folk medicine as an oil that promotes healing of damaged tissue, particularly muscle and tendon. From the Edgar Cayce Foundation comes the use of a poultice on the belly to stimulate the lymphatic system, balance nerve forces, detoxify the liver and gall bladder, improve both assimilation of nutrients and eliminations. Poultices are recommended for ailments ranging from simple constipation to epilepsy. Apparently the oil has properties similar to the lymphatic fluid itself, and is absorbed readily through the skin and intestines.

**TO DO AN ABDOMINAL CASTOR OIL POULTICE**, you'll need a pint of castor oil from a local health food store, a heating pad, and a large pampers-type diaper (traditionally, a poultice is made with several thicknesses of wool flannel; a diaper backed with plastic is a welcomed modern convenience.) Saturate the diaper with a



Lymphatic system. (a) Schematic representation of the relationship of the lymphatic system to the cardiovascular system. (b) Location of the principle lymphatics and lymph nodes.

*Graphics from Tortora and Anagnosatos, Principles of Anatomy and Physiology, Harper and Row, NY, NY 1984.*



half cup of oil, more if needed. Set the diaper, plastic side down, on the heating pad. Let it heat through for five minutes. Turn the whole thing, oil side down, onto your abdomen. Cover the area from your pubic bone to just below the breasts. Tuck a towel around your middle to keep the poultice and heating pad in place. Adjust the heat to your comfort. Lie quietly for an hour, either napping or reading. When you remove the poultice, sponge the excess oil from

your skin with baking soda and water, or simply wipe your belly with a paper towel. That's all there is to it. Fold the diaper and store it in a plastic bag in a cool place. Adding oil as needed, reuse it until it falls apart. To prevent toxic exchange, do not let anyone else use your pack.

Castor oil poultices are particularly gentle, safe to do without supervision, and will not interfere with medications you may be taking. (However, if there is

any question of an inflamed appendix, do not apply heat.) A three day series of poultices cleans your system as well as a three day fruit diet.

As an excellent preventive measure, consider doing a three week cycle of poultices, in series of three days on, four days off. Set aside a consistent time of the day or evening to do them, and wait at least two hours after a meal. Also, women are advised to schedule a series around, not during, their menses.

You probably won't observe dramatic changes during three weeks, except sleeping more soundly and feeling a better quality of energy, but you are sure to be doing your body a good turn. You can continue doing the poultices, either occasionally, when you feel a cold coming on, or in regular cycles. Choose a cycle that's realistic for you to maintain for awhile, i.e., two days a week, or a three day series once a month. Your immune system will be happier for it. ■

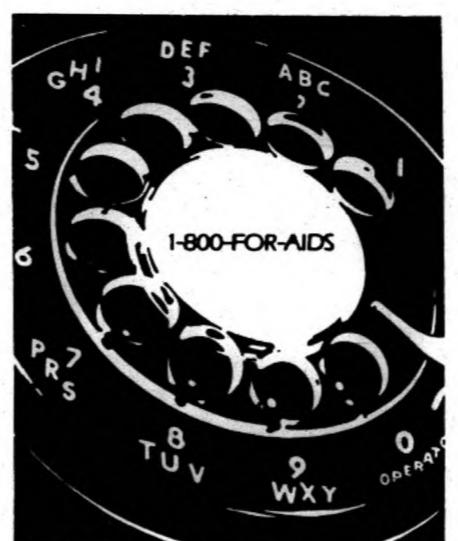
**Lorraine Lipani** is a certified massage therapist, a member of The American Massage Therapy Association. She was the resident masseuse for the Edgar Cayce Foundation, and is a health writer for various publications. She lives in Santa Cruz, CA.

Persons seriously ill or on medications should consult their physicians before using other healing methods.

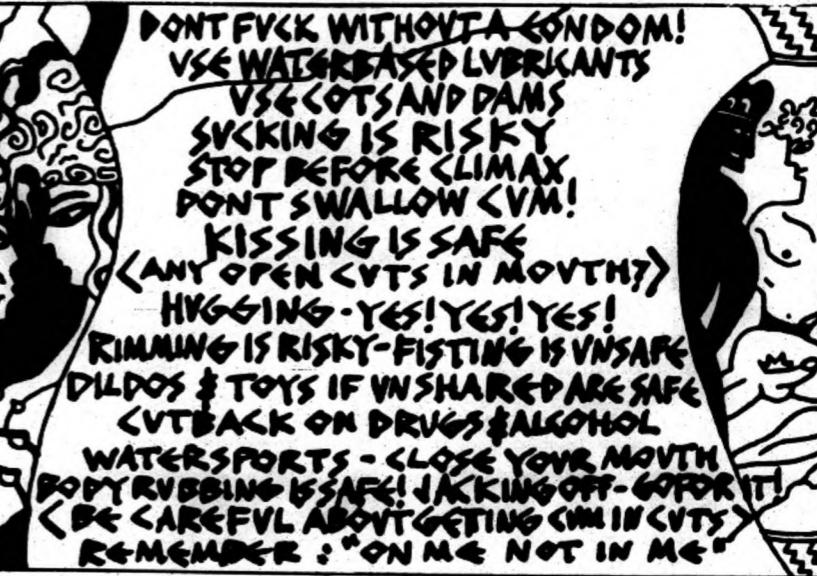
William A. McGarey, M.D., *Edgar Cayce and the Palma Christi*. A.R.E. Press, Virginia Beach, VA.

H.J. Reilly, D.Ph.T., D.S., *The Edgar Cayce Handbook for Health Through Drugless Therapy*. Macmillan Publishing Co., New York, N.Y. 1975.

Tortora and Anagnosatos, *Principles of Anatomy and Physiology*. Harper and Row, New York, N.Y. 1984.

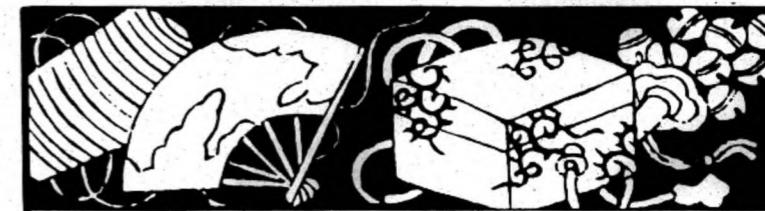


## Safe Sex Guidelines



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## Women in SCAP:

### The Struggle Continues ... and Continues ...

**M**Y decision to work with the Santa Cruz AIDS Project (SCAP) in the summer of 1985 marked a turning point in my life. For the first time in years, I was choosing to work with men. Like many other women, I had grown tired of dealing with the sexism characteristic of most "mixed" groups, and had thus limited my volunteer work to women's and lesbian organizations.

However, I felt strongly motivated to work in the area of AIDS and was willing to step out of the almost exclusively female world I had inhabited to do so. I assumed that working with gay men would be similar to working with women; after all we shared a common reality as gay people. In an era of increasing homophobia and tragedy in the gay community, I also felt a personal need to expand my own sense of community.

I soon discovered that working with gay men is not at all like working with women (with the possible exception of backrubs and giggling during meetings). This was only one of many personal myths that were to unravel for me in my work with SCAP. What follows is a retrospective of these last two years and some thoughts about what it means for lesbians and gay men to work together.

When I began to work with SCAP's community education component I was one of two women in a group of about ten, a breakdown which has remained until recently fairly consistent. Robin Roberts, the other woman, and I proved



to be each others lifeline, meeting regularly if furtively to translate, "reality check", groan, get angry and laugh over anecdotes with the "boys".

Initially, I was struck by the way the men in the group related to us. There was some variance in this depending, I believe, on how much experience they had with women in their lives. A few had worked/socialized extensively with women and had familiarity with feminism, collective process, etc. Yet most seemed to have had limited involvement, and thus treated us as somewhat of an anomaly.

This did not take the form of ignoring us, by any means. It appeared that every-

**By Laura Giges**

thing we said was treated with the utmost respect, and in fact anytime anyone spoke, we were scrutinized for our reaction. This felt very different from working with straight men who most consistently ignore women, yet not necessarily more comfortable.

Then there was the language issue. At one of the first meetings I attended, I interjected "chairperson" after someone said chairman. The first time I felt OK about it, but the third and fourth times I was resentful, despite the fact that my corrections were accepted and even welcomed. Eventually the language began to change as proud glances towards Robin and me accompanied each self-correction.

Another myth, that gay men are exempt from sexism, down the tubes.

Accustomed to the world of collectives, I was unprepared to find that SCAP was structured in a highly hierarchical fashion. There were committees headed by chairmen (I mean chairpersons), who prepared the agendas, took responsibility for meetings and overseeing tasks, and in general were "in charge". Rather than finding this oppressive, I enjoyed this structure since I was primarily interested in doing community outreach and not in the administration of the organization. At first I marvelled at the speed with which the system functioned. More recently I've begun to see the familiar pitfalls: burnout among those who assume the bulk of the responsibility and a sense of dis-

connection from the power structure among those who don't.

Related to structure is of course process (refer to Feminism 101) and in this area I have had more difficulties. Frequently Robin and I have done the emotional work of the group. In one particular meeting I was stunned by the group's willingness to bypass an intense emotional conflict in which one person was clearly in pain and feeling powerless. I remember the moment: Robin and I looked at each other and proceeded to do the "women's work".

Perhaps harder for me than the overt sexism of language and process has been the more subtle manifestations as reflected in the work itself. Until recently the only people in the group who seemed to know much about women and AIDS were Robin, myself and other women who now work with SCAP. Funny thing, we began to fall into the "expert" syndrome. Someone wants to know about women or lesbians and AIDS, call Laura or Robin. Throw children in too; they usually go together.

While this is disturbing in terms of the sexual politics of the group, it has also made me wonder whether indepth information on women is included in all SCAP community presentations. Robin and I recently provided an inservice training on the topic, yet I still believe that most men in SCAP would have a more difficult time talking to a woman about the details of safe sex and AIDS

prevention, than the women in SCAP would have with a man. Unfortunately this is characteristic of AIDS services in general, and it is painful to see the way this is so easily institutionalized.

As for the other side of the coin, I have certainly had to face my ignorance about gay men in my work with SCAP. A vital function of the meetings between Robin and me has been to compare notes on new words and concepts about what men "did" and how they related to sexuality. I like to think that our naivete was a little less obvious than theirs, but we probably fooled no one with our practiced cool. I remember a dinner meeting we had with a shy man who could barely look at us without blushing. Yet he went into great detail about the pros and cons of being inside a condom from a tactile point of view without blinking an eye. Ours were certainly blinking.

Despite the difficulties, I look forward to future work with SCAP. I am encouraged to see more women getting involved, and am experiencing some positive changes as the organization grows older. While I have shed many of my idealized images about an easy connection between lesbians and gay men, I have gained a sense of myself as belonging to a broader gay community. I feel a real joy in having men in SCAP in my life, and feel a loving acceptance and warmth among us, despite the differences. ■

**"I still believe that most men in SCAP would have a more difficult time talking to a woman about the details of safe sex than the women would have with a man."**

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## BOOKSHELF

### BETWEEN THE LINES



An Anthology by Pacific/Asian Lesbians of Santa Cruz, California

*Between the Lines, An Anthology by Pacific/Asian Lesbians of Santa Cruz, California* ends with Alison Kim's valuable "Pacific/Asian Lesbian Bibliography," but you won't find a book like this one listed there. *Between the Lines*, edited by Cristy Chung, Alison Kim, and A. Kaweah Lemeshewsky, is a silence-breaking book, the first of its kind. Pacific/Asian Lesbian writers have been represented, as the Bibliography notes, in other anthologies or have published books as individual authors, but *Between the Lines* is the first anthology dedicated to exploring the broad spectrum of the concerns and experiences of Pacific/Asian Lesbians.

As Kim explains in the introduction, "[We] write and gather writings by other Pacific/Asian Lesbians to create an anthology, a community. Though each individual work does not represent the whole, the existence of the collection—the visibility—begins to define our community. . . . We are breaking the stereotype of the silent, the seen-but-not-heard or in

the case of Pacific/Asian Lesbians, the unseen-and-unheard."

The community this book offers is rich and reflective, its members Chinese, Japanese, Korean, Puerto Rican, Filipina, Indian, Hawaiian, American Indian. Essayists, poets, photographers describe the search for community, the role of sexuality within South Asian culture, lovemaking, assimilation, self defense and rape survival, and childhood experiences (including a wonderful page of photos of real Baby Dykes).

One particular strength of this anthology is its representation of hapas—mixed-heritage women. In "Living Between the Lines: A Mixed-Heritage Woman's Search for Community," A. Kaweah Lemeshewsky relates her efforts to create a sense of identity that draws on her Japanese, Pacific/Asian Lesbians of Santa Cruz. On a larger scale, they're creating a community through their dedication to seeing this collection into print.

And this book is only the start. According to the preface, "We see this anthology as a seed, a beginning. There are many more issues we want to see addressed. We look forward to national and international collections of writing by Asian/Pacific lesbians and with that hope in mind we plant this seed." ■

frustrations, but to move beyond them, to celebrate and find strength in her identity as well. In another poem, "Silence," she explains, "Knowing only too well/the harsh, immobilizing pain of silence/ . . . i find myself/blurtling out unclear words/recklessly struggling with the silence/that threatens my existence/ . . . my spoken words/declare inner healing."

The writers in this book voice again and again the need for a community that is both Asian and Lesbian. As Akemi puts it in "Claiming an Asian Lesbian Identity," "There were lesbians and there were Asians, but there weren't any Asian Lesbians. I needed someone to understand both parts in me." The editors of this anthology have done much to create such a community. Locally, they've created PALS, Pacific/Asian Lesbians of Santa Cruz. On a larger scale, they're creating a community through their dedication to seeing this collection into print.

And this book is only the start. According to the preface, "We see this anthology as a seed, a beginning. There are many more issues we want to see addressed. We look forward to national and international collections of writing by Asian/Pacific lesbians and with that hope in mind we plant this seed." ■

—Reviewed by Sarah-Hope Parmeter

*Between the Lines* is published by Dancing Bird Press, P. O. Box 8187, Santa Cruz, CA 95061 and is distributed by HerBooks, P. O. Box 7467, Santa Cruz, CA 95061. For more information on PALS, call Kaweah at 476-8249, Cristy at 425-8487, or Aly at 426-4342. The editors would also like to tell you of a forthcoming book, *Born at the Crossroads: Voices of Mixed Heritage Women*, which is being edited by Aurora Levins Morales. The submission deadline is October 1, and work can be sent to 5251 Broadway, Box 543, Oakland, CA 94618.



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## HER WITS ABOUT HER

*Self-Defense Success Stories by Women*

*I could hear him trying to get into my house, but I ran outside and shouted at him and he ran away. I called to the people in my neighborhood, and they helped me catch him. I held him in a chokehold for a long time before the police came, and I felt really strong and powerful.*

This isn't a story from *Her Wits About Her*. This is a dream I had the night I stayed up late reading the book. Another woman who read the book before bed also had powerful dreams of defending herself. It's obvious that this book can change our dreams. And if it can change our dreams, . . . well, who knows what else might happen?

*Her Wits About Her: Self Defense Success Stories by Women* is a book with a purpose. Its purpose is to prove false the images we have been fed of women getting beaten to a pulp while they futilely try to resist the overpowering strength of male attackers. The success of the book is a testament to the strength and audacity of the women who tell these tales as well as to the skills and vision of the two editors, Denise Caignon and Gail Groves.

The women in this book have lived through many of our worst fears. They have been attacked on dark streets, in their cars, on the beach, in elevators, in deserted buildings, and in their own beds. They have been attacked by strangers, by gangs, by

drunks, and by husbands. But these stories don't end the way our nightmares do. In these stories, the women win.

Some of us don't want to read books about women who have been attacked, because we are afraid that the stories will be too overwhelming and that we will end up more frightened than ever. Rest assured that this isn't the case with *Her Wits About Her*. The stories are upbeat and positive, and the message of the book is one of power and celebration.

*Her Wits About Her* is divided into several sections. One contains stories of women who were attacked as children. Other sections tell how women have foiled attacks using only their voices or objects at hand, such as combs, flowerpots or paint brushes. Others describe women escaping from life threatening situations. Stories are written by straight women and lesbians, able-bodied and physically challenged women, black, brown, white, and Asian, thin and fat, old and young. There are stories here for all of us.

If the heart of the book is in the stories, the mind of the book is in the sections written by the editors. Drawing on their years of self-defense experience, the editors have included succinct, informative, and enjoyable introductions to each chapter. The introductions give some basic information about self-defense techniques and strategies, but they mainly encourage women to trust the skills we inherently have—our skills of intuition, yelling, determination, and will. We can learn a lot about defending ourselves from reading *Her Wits About Her*, but the best thing to learn is that we can.

*Her Wits About Her: Self Defense Success Stories by Women* is an inspiring, exciting book. It tells the truth about women—that we are a bold and audacious bunch and that anyone attacking us will get a hell of a lot more than he bargained for!

*Her Wits About Her: Self Defense Success Stories by Women*, edited by Denise Caignon and Gail Groves (Harper and Row, New York, 1987). ■

—Reviewed by Dinah Phillips

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## March on Washington

*continued from page 19*

climbing the steps of the Supreme Court building, and sitting down, and not moving until we are taken away.

The people who, George Bush and Penny Pullen notwithstanding, really do have power in this country will be watching this event, like they were watching us fight Briggs and LaRouche. We say we are showing our strength. We'd better show it, then. For some of us, a less-than-dramatic showing—and this is very hard to say—could be fatal.

But still, long after the hoarse throats have recovered from chanting, and the last condom package has been swept from Pennsylvania Avenue, there'll be things to do. A few high-energy catharses—like this March—strung together with more humdrum activity, week in, week out: that's how things change. A lot of politics is a sort of pleasant drudgery; it reminds me of doing the dishes.

This ordinary work—this listening and talking and meeting and writing and reading—it's more crucial now than ever. Writing in the *Village Voice*, Richard Goldstein offers a grim reminder. "We may be loved by our families, honored in our work and happy in our heads, but fundamentally we, too, are expendable. Our civil rights are revokable. Our carefully crafted rituals of normalcy can be shattered with a knock on the door. . . . This is the greatest civil liberties emergency of our generation," he concludes. "This is the long-distance call."

It's true; there is a determined urgency to this March. For the long run, in Washington and after Washington, we work for a time when lesbians and gay men are respected and honored, and in those lovely quiet moments, left the hell alone. But in the meantime, circumstances mean that we must demand—with whatever it takes—the demise of this government of violent actions, and murderous inactions. We must demand the right not to wake up, terrified, in the middle of the night. ■

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Companionship Training  
Program  
Gene Ford  
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**SUN ▽ SEP 20**  
Pot Luck Lunch  
Gay and Lesbian  
Vegetarians  
in Palo Alto  
Car pooling avail.  
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**MON ▽ SEP 21**  
"Unmasking The Enemy"  
Information about the  
Soviet Union  
12-1pm  
Cabrillo Women's  
Center  
479-6249

**TUE ▽ SEP 22**  
Support Group  
for PWA and ARC  
7-9pm every Tuesday  
MCAP 424-5550

**WED ▽ SEP 23**  
Support Group  
for HIV Positive  
Monterey  
MCAP 424-5550

**FRI ▽ SEP 25**  
Dialogue:  
Disabled Women &  
Able-Bodied Women  
7-9pm  
Cabrillo  
Fireside Lounge

#### HOPPY SAYS

So long,  
Andrew!



**FRI ▽ SEP 25**  
GO - Capitola  
Cliff Walk  
Brett 427-2722

**FRI ▽ SEP 25 - 27**  
Companionship Training  
Program

Gene Ford  
MCAP 424-5550

**SUN ▽ SEP 27**  
GO - Santa Cruz  
Mountain Hike  
Tom 429-5481

**TUE ▽ SEP 29**  
"Surviving with  
Teenagers"  
12-1pm  
Cabrillo Women's  
Center  
479-6249

**TUE ▽ SEP 29**  
Support Group  
for PWA and ARC  
7-9pm every Tuesday  
MCAP 424-5550

**FRI ▽ OCT 2 - 4**  
SJ MCC Retreat  
at Clear Lake  
\$60 includes food  
and lodging for  
the weekend  
279-2711

**SAT ▽ OCT 3**  
"AIDS Awareness  
Workshop"  
10-1pm  
986 Hilby Ave  
Seaside  
424-5550

**SAT ▽ OCT 3**  
March On Washington  
Benefit Night  
and Raffle  
Prizes include:  
Brunch for 2 at India Joze  
One year GO membership  
A beautiful framed  
original water-color  
art piece and more...  
8:30pm  
Blue Lagoon  
429-1388

**FRI ▽ OCT 9**  
Lobby Day in  
Washington D.C.  
and Santa Cruz  
Call Leon Panetta's  
office in support  
of March demands at:  
429-1976



**SAT ▽ OCT 3**  
Sue Fink!  
8pm

Kuumbwa Jazz Center  
Lea Lawson Production  
458-3053

**SAT ▽ OCT 3**  
Matrix Women's Dance  
8pm every first Sat.  
YWCA 303 Walnut St. SC  
Salsa Rock Blues

and Oldies  
\$3-8 sliding scale  
423-4734  
429-1238

**SUN ▽ OCT 4**  
GO Potluck/Meeting  
Gary 662-0102

**TUE ▽ OCT 6**  
"Why Do I Need  
Insurance?"  
(and how to get it  
if you don't have  
any money)  
12-1pm

Cabrillo Women's  
Center  
479-6249

**TUE ▽ OCT 6**  
Support Group  
for PWA and ARC  
7-9pm every Tuesday  
MCAP 424-5550

**FRI ▽ OCT 9**  
Lobby Day in  
Washington D.C.  
and Santa Cruz  
Call Leon Panetta's  
office in support  
of March demands at:  
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**FRI ▽ OCT 9**  
"Your Rights as  
a GAIN Client"  
7-9pm  
Cabrillo  
Fireside lounge  
479-6249

## C A L E N D A R



**SAT ▽ OCT 10**  
"This Brooding Sky"  
(see preview this issue)  
8pm \$4  
Rm 456 Forum Bldg  
Cabrillo Coll.  
423-7287

**SAT ▽ OCT 10 - 11**  
GO - Fremont  
Peak Car Camp  
Dean 423-7287

**SUN ▽ OCT 11**  
The March  
On Washington D.C.  
The Santa Cruz  
Contingent will meet  
at John Paul Jones'  
Statue 10am  
429-1388

**SUN ▽ OCT 11**  
"This Brooding Sky"  
8pm \$4  
Moraga Hall SC  
Seabright&Broadway  
423-7287

**TUE ▽ OCT 13**  
Support Group  
for PWA and ARC  
7-9pm every Tuesday  
MCAP 424-5550

**FRI ▽ OCT 16 - 18**  
GO - State  
Conference  
Buzz 425-3939

**SAT ▽ OCT 17 - 18**  
S.C.A.P. Rummage Sale  
Donations can be made  
prior to these dates  
Location to be announced  
Call: 688-7641

**SAT ▽ OCT 17**  
"This Brooding Sky"  
8pm \$4  
Billy DeFranc Center  
1040 Park Ave. SJ  
423-7287

**SUN ▽ OCT 18**  
GO - Downtown  
Historical Walk  
Terry - 425-5491

**SUN ▽ OCT 18**  
"This Brooding Sky"  
8pm \$4  
Moraga Hall SC  
Seabright&Broadway  
423-7287

**TUE ▽ OCT 20**  
Support Group  
for PWA and ARC  
7-9pm every Tuesday  
MCAP 424-5550

**FRI ▽ OCT 23 - 25**  
"Women as Creative  
Agents"

6:30pm Friday  
9-4pm Sat. and Sun.  
\$1 for this weekend  
class  
Rm 426, Cabrillo Coll.  
479-6249

**SAT ▽ OCT 24**  
GO - Alcatraz Tour  
Buzz 425-3959

**SAT ▽ OCT 24**  
"This Brooding Sky"  
2:30pm \$4

UCSC Women's Center  
Cardiff House  
423-7287

**SUN ▽ OCT 25**  
"This Brooding Sky"  
8pm \$4  
Moraga Hall SC  
Seabright&Broadway  
423-7287

**TUE ▽ OCT 27**  
Support Group  
for PWA and ARC  
7-9pm every Tuesday  
MCAP 424-5550

**MON ▽ OCT 29**  
"Step Families:  
Issues and  
Guidelines"  
12-1pm  
Cabrillo Women's  
Center  
479-6249

**SUN ▽ NOV 1**  
GO Potluck/Meeting  
Tony 423-4367

**MON ▽ NOV 2**  
"Mothers and Sons"  
12-1pm  
Cabrillo Women's  
Center  
479-6249

**TUE ▽ NOV 3**  
Support Group  
for PWA and ARC  
7-9pm every Tuesday  
MCAP 424-5550

**FRI ▽ NOV 6 - 8**  
"Spiritual Renewal"  
SJ MCC Rev. Valrejean  
7:30pm Fri and Sat  
6:30pm Sunday  
10th & San Fernando SJ  
279-2711

**SAT ▽ NOV 7**  
GO - Boulder Creek  
Breakfast and  
day hike  
Dean 425-1675

**SAT ▽ NOV 7**  
"How to Get and  
Keep a Lover"  
SJ MCC workshop  
10am  
10th & San Fernando SJ  
279-2711

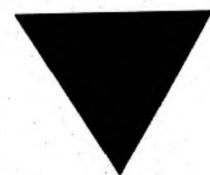
**SAT ▽ NOV 7**  
Nancy Vogl and  
Tracy Parker  
8pm  
Kuumbwa Jazz Center  
Lea Lawson Production  
458-3053

**SAT ▽ DEC 5**  
Deidre McCalla  
8pm  
Kuumbwa Jazz Center  
Lea Lawson Production  
458-3053

**SUN ▽ DEC 6**  
GO - Potluck/Meeting  
Contact  
Marti Winters



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Gateway School  
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Gay Men's Group  
Mondays: 8pm  
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UCSC, 95064  
429-2811  
For info call  
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CLT: Mondays 7:30pm  
Cabrillo Women's Center  
Fridays 1:30-3:30 drop in.  
All women welcome.  
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Jo Kenny: 423-7287  
Wesley Harris: 688-9409

**GAY & LESBIAN VEGETARIANS**  
c/o Rick Haze  
P.O. Box 7971, SC 95061  
426-7315

**GAY LESBIAN & BISEXUAL NETWORK**  
UCSC  
429-2468

**GAY MEN'S SUPPORT GROUP**  
Tuesdays: 7pm  
Calvary Episcopal  
523 Center St. SC  
Gilbert Moreno  
426-5044

**GAYS AND LESBIANS OVER FORTY**  
Second Friday of each month.  
Gene  
462-2746

**LESLIAN & GAY VOLLEYBALL**  
Wednesdays: 5pm  
Santa Cruz Main Beach Between Wharf and Boardwalk Will  
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Brett  
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