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

Published Quarterly

Summer 1988



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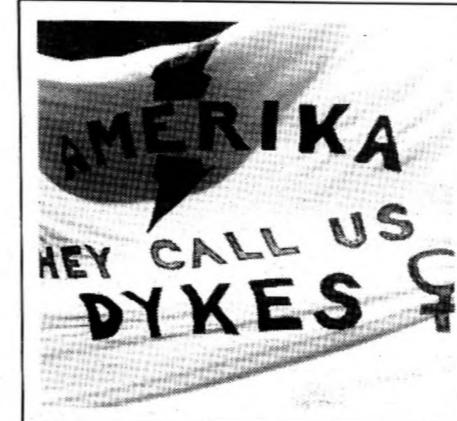
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CONTENTS



Page 16



Page 18



Page 28

- 4 OPENING WORD
- 5 VERBATIM
- 6 LETTERS
- 7 SANTA CRUZ AIDS PROJECT REPORT
By Jo Kenny
- 8 COMMUNITY AT LARGE
- 14 THE POLITICAL CLIMATE
- We've Earned Our Theme—"Rightfully Proud"
By John Laird
- 16 MAKING WAVES
- Is Politics A Four-Letter Word?
By Allison Claire
- 18 A PHOTO OPPORTUNITY
The Sacramento March
By Robin White
- 20 THE FURTHER ADVENTURES OF THE CONDOM LADY
By Scott Brookie
- 23 THE 1988 SANTA CRUZ GAY & LESBIAN PRIDE WEEK PROGRAM
Presented by the Freedom Foundation
- 27 POETRY
By Adrienne Rich
- 28 The AIDS FILE
Current Options for HIV Therapy
By Dr. Keith Barton
- 32 TO YOUR HEALTH
Psychosomatics: You Are What You Think
By Lorraine Lipani
- 34 BOOKSHELF
Fantasy on a Summer Day: Lesbian, Gay and Feminist Fiction
By Gail Groves
- 36 REPRINT
Cece
By Cecilia Pinhiero
- 42 SUMMER CALENDAR
Compiled by Will Russell
- 46 COMMUNITY RESOURCES

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VOLUME 2 NUMBER 4
SUMMER 1988

LAVENDER READER
PO BOX 7293
SANTA CRUZ, CA 95061
(408)684-1542

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OPENING WORD

As if you didn't need another reminder as to how fast a year can pass, it is once again time for our annual Gay & Lesbian Pride Celebration.

Gay Pride is a time to reflect on our triumphs as well as the challenges that lie ahead. It is a time to remember that we live in a culture that twenty years ago would not have tolerated such an explicit public demonstration of our sexuality. While we've made progress over the years, we are still the citizens of a society in which homophobia and racism are widespread. The AIDS crisis continues to bring this to light.

As a community we are fighting for our survival. On a daily basis, our energies and resources are bound to the struggle against the political extremism of the likes of LaRouche. We are further challenged by our responsibility to provide for those dealing with AIDS. The weight of that responsibility is often overwhelming and has forever changed our lives. Out of this crisis, however, we will emerge stronger and more united. Therefore, when we march in Santa Cruz on the 18th, we have the opportunity to step back from the daily work, and celebrate ourselves.

Let's also give special thanks to those who comprise the Freedom Foundation. Their efforts each year make it possible for all of us to enjoy a celebration that now runs a full week. The fact that a community the size of Santa Cruz can initiate and support so many events and organizations - Gay Pride, the Santa Cruz AIDS Project, the Lesbian/Gay Action Alliance, Lavender Reader, the soon-to-be-organized Lesbian/Gay Community Center, Great Outdoors, the Campaign for Responsible AIDS Action, AGEM, the list goes on - points to the fact that we are a diverse, committed group of people. When we gather on the 18th - our most important day - let's take a moment to reflect on how fortunate we are to live in such a place.

Speaking of celebrations, we of the Reader are thrilled to point out that with the publication of this issue, we come to the close of our second year serving the gay and lesbian community. Our fall issue is slated for October, and with its publication, we hope to throw a Lavender Reader Anniversary party. We'll keep you posted.

On behalf of the Lavender Reader - the editors, writers, artists, and production people who make this publication possible - thank you!

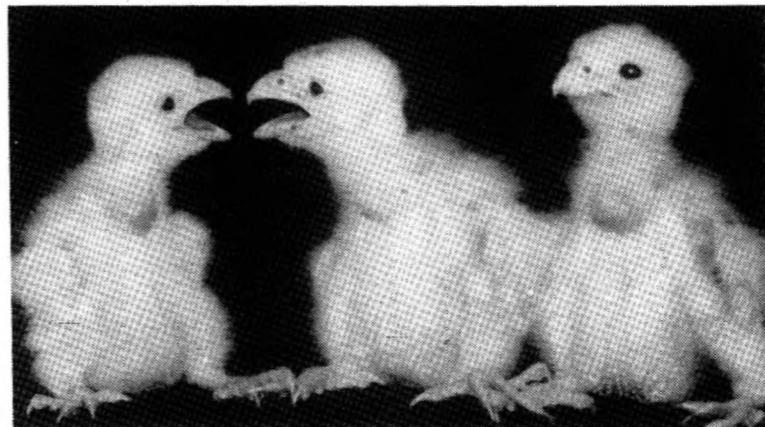
-Michael Perlman

NEXT ISSUE: FALL 1988**Publication Date: October 1**

Lesbian Fiction The AIDS File: The Syphilis Connection
November Election Coverage A Survey of AIDS Books
Lesbian & Gay Artists: A Gay Guide to the Open Studio
Poetry Legal Affairs And More



Editorial Deadline: Sept 1 Advertising/Calendar: Sept 15

VERBATIM

"For seven and half years, I've worked along side him, and am proud to be his partner. We've had triumphs, we've made mistakes, we've had sex.

"Setbacks," he quickly corrected, "we've had setbacks."

-Vice-President George Bush talking to the College of Southern Idaho, describing his close relationship to President Reagan, as reported in the San Francisco Chronicle and wire services the week of May 9



"I have always been like that for as long as I can remember, since I was about six."

-Erica Morley Punshon, a 105 year-old woman who has been appointed roving ambassador for World Expo'88, to be held next year in Brisbane, Australia, on being a lesbian, as quoted in the British monthly Gay Times



"It is crude in its concept, slanderous in its drafting, vicious in its purpose. It is an assault on the civil rights of thought and expression of everyone in its catch-all provision against promotion. And no limpид assurances from Ministers can change the fact that the output of geniuses, like the mundane work of teachers who want to prepare and counsel pupils for the realities of life, can fall foul of this pink triangle clause produced and supported by a bunch of bigots."

-Neil Kinnock, leader of the Labour Party, condemning Clause 28 of the Local Government Bill, which bans "promotion" of homosexuality by local authorities in England



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LETTERS

Dear Editor,

As a lesbian who works as an AIDS educator I am offended by Sonia Johnson's interview in Lesbian News (April 1988). I find her, and Shoshone's (the interviewer) moralizing to be outrageous. The old split between "men's work and women's work" misses the mark and simplifies the complexities of our lives. It's rather more like wishful thinking to imagine that all we need to do is pick-up our bags and move on so that patriarchy will fold. Really, wouldn't it be nice if it were so easy.



not believe that will or must exclude women. In fact, the patriarchy requires this kind of splitting—the "us against them"—in order to survive.

Finally, Sonia's article has helped me see the other side of the coin; has reminded me of the strength I gain by doing 'AIDS work.'

In the four years I have worked for the Santa Cruz AIDS Project I have been honored to have the opportunity to know so many wonderful gay and straight men. Together, as lesbians and gays, women and men, we have done tremendous work building coalitions, struggling for understanding, and maintaining compassion. We are fighting a terrible disease, but even more frustrating is trying to wage that fight within an oppressive and uncaring system. Sonia Johnson, and those who maintain similar attitudes, only add salt to the wound. We have enough to deal with without splitting within our own community.

Those of us who do AIDS work are doing an outstanding job. I am proud to be a part of this movement.

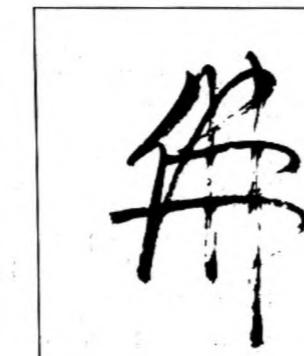
—Robin K. Roberts
Education Committee Coordinator
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SCAP REPORT



Terry Cavanagh, Jo Kenny and Laine Demetria of the Santa Cruz AIDS Project

Transition is the word at SCAP these days. New location, new staff and new programs are on the horizon for the next two months.

The frustrations we were feeling about not being able to rent a new office because of some people's AIDS phobia reached the breaking point with our fourth rejection in mid-May. We felt that it was time that the community found out what was going on, so we called the press. The positive response to the front page article in the Sentinel was very heartening. We're still looking at a few locations and are confident we'll be moved by the end of June. Anyone who's interested in helping us move or get settled, please call the office.

Three new paid staff will be hired and begin working on AIDS education in early July. This program, funded through the State Office of AIDS, will direct its efforts at gay and bisexual men and their female sex partners throughout the county and IV drug users in the northern part of the county. Salud Para la Gente, a community health clinic in Watsonville, will be providing a similar program for IV drug users in south county. We'll be working very closely, providing joint trainings for volunteers and sharing resources.

These programs are based on a street outreach model, using volunteers and paid staff to talk one-on-one with people who may be having high-risk sex and/or are sharing intravenous needles. SCAP already has two groups of committed volunteers out in the community and the addition of paid staff will help us to expand these programs to all the folks we need to reach.

The Community Health Outreach Workers or CHOW's have been working with IV drug users in the Beach Flats neighborhood of S. C. City since the late spring. Similar programs in San Francisco have had tremendous success in educating IV drug users about AIDS and prevention techniques, and we're very optimistic that we can prevent the further spread of AIDS in this community.

Our Peer Educators, who are talking with gay and bisexual men at local bars and cruising areas is, as far as we've been able to tell, the first program of its kind in the AIDS field.

Continued on page 15

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Corner of Escalona in Capitola

COMMUNITY AT LARGE

AIDS Research Tax Credit Initiative Fails For '88 Ballot



Hopes have been dashed for qualifying the AIDS Research Tax Credit Initiative for the November ballot to offset the negative effects of the Dannemeyer and Block initiatives.

While these two potentially devastating initiatives easily collected 600,000 signatures in less than the required time, AIDS activists were able to only get 250,000 to 300,000 names statewide--and 6,000 locally--thus falling far short of the goal of 400,000 to 500,000 needed to assure a ballot position.

How could such seemingly uncontroversial issue coming at a time of media overkill about AIDS fail? How is it that anti-People With AIDS initiatives are finding their way into the ballot booth and we aren't getting to first base? Are we wrong in playing the "Initiative Game" like our adversaries? These are crucial questions gay and AIDS activists

must ask ourselves.

Hours and hours of volunteer efforts went into gathering signatures for an initiative to create a 180 million dollar superfund for AIDS research by giving individual and corporate contributors a tax write-off. A Northern and Southern state campaign office coordinated efforts, raised funds, did publicity and for a time even hired a company to collect paid signatures. In many counties like Santa Cruz, signature gathering and anti-LaRouche (Prop. 69) work were connected.

Yet for all our political organization, the fact is that virtually every state proposition that qualifies for the ballot gets there primarily by paying people working for money and not for political gratification. While the state campaign was aware of this from the onset, it never came near its minimum goal of establishing a \$500,000 war chest to bankroll this kind of campaign.

At a time when the gay community is financially taxed from its focus on providing AIDS services, it would have been wise to have had the money in the bank before launching a campaign. We ended up depending on volunteer effort for most of the signatures

Continued on page 15

A Gay Evening In May Raises \$12,000

A Gay Evening in May was an unqualified success both artistically and financially. It seems as each year goes by it just gets bigger and better. The Santa Cruz AIDS Project should net nearly \$7,000, contributions to the Campaign for Responsible AIDS Action were \$2,212, and expenses were approximately \$3,000 for a gross revenue of nearly \$12,000.

The success of this show would not have been possible without the enormous

help and expertise of Mary Bryant, Chris Freel, Marti Brown, Gilbert Moreno, Mark Gillard, Will Russell, Katy Krieg, Steve Sinclair, the Players, and the hundreds of others who sacrificed significant amounts of their time and energy to put on this marvelous extravaganza. Special thanks to all the businesses and individuals who contributed dollars and merchandise without which there would not have been a show.

John LaRiviere

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COMMUNITY AT LARGE

Women's Music Festival

The UCSC Women's Center along with several other organizations and many dedicated volunteers presented the 3rd Annual Women's Music Festival on Sunday, May 15 at UCSC. Over 350 people danced and made merry, listening to the program representing a very broad field of women's music, from the Cabrillo Women's Choir to the Women from Hell. One highlight of the day was the Santa Clara-based band "Watch Out" whose music had the entire quarry dancing up a storm.



Lesbian/Gay Community Center Begins in June

The dream of a Lesbian/Gay community center has taken on a new dimension with the recent organizing efforts of a broadly based coalition of lesbians and gay men. What began with an Alliance Community Forum has evolved into a group made up of people whose other affiliations have included MBWA, SCAP, GO, LGAA, and the Community Center of Hollywood. In addition, people who have not been involved with any group from Santa Cruz are finding the niche they wanted in this new coalition.

At the last organizational meeting on May 24th, over thirty people showed up and committed themselves to actively pursue our collective goals. Co-facilitator Mindy Storch: "I was extremely encouraged at the number of people who showed up, the quantity and quality of support from both women and men was exceptional... I think we're about evenly balanced and that's good."

John LaRiviere, a dedicated organizer and a coalition of groups all by himself, presented a summary of the results of a "needs and resources" survey. Some of the immediate projects which were favored both by the survey and the people present were senior and PWA outreach, a tele-queer information line, and coffee-houses or regular social events.

Continued on page 41

College 8 and the Crossing Press helped pay for sign language interpretation of the entire event. Women Against Rape and the Commission for the Prevention of Violence Against Women were there along with the Santa Cruz Women's Health Center selling their novel "condom jewelry."

A number of community organizations set up information tables. The \$800 raised will be used by the UCSC Women's Center to continue providing meeting space, programs and services to the community and the campus. Thank you! □

—Will Russell

"because people thought we were serious. We explored a lot of negative stereotypes and reassured ourselves that we don't have to be, and aren't like that."

Miller emceed the Women's Music Festival in addition to helping prepare for other Lesbian/Gay Awareness Week events.

Each day of the week brought events which were scheduled to touch every college on campus. On Monday Randy Clark directed an anthology of lesbian and gay plays. On Tuesday the San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus received a standing ovation from a mostly straight audience at Stevenson's College Night, and on Wednesday there was a discussion of lesbian and gay parenting which participants hailed as a well-spent evening.

Hernandez summed up the feelings he got from working on Awareness Week by describing the opening ceremony: "Bill Graham, co-founder of the Urvedic Center and one of the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence, spoke at the opening rally and ended by encouraging people not to be afraid of being outrageous. As he was doing this he started to take off his clothes, and beneath was this rainbow jumper and tutu. The crowd went wild, there was a very good spirit and it helped set the tone for the whole week." □ —Will Russell

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COMMUNITY AT LARGE

The Good And The Bad Of The First Annual Lesbian And Gay Experimental Film Festival:

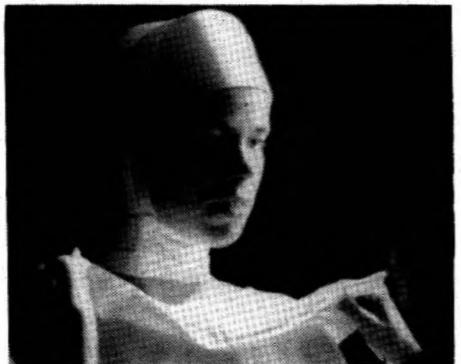
To this viewer, the First Annual Lesbian and Gay Experimental Film Festival, which was shown at the Sash Mill Cinema May 12 and 13, was a disappointment.

Sarah Schulman, an organizer of the New York festival of which this was an offshoot, introduced the films as philosophical and aesthetic experiments and not merely narrative entertainment. Unfortunately, most of the films, even at their best, seemed to use the excuse of being "experimental" to conceal the filmmakers' true dilemma: that they didn't know how to edit.

Out of the nine films, I preferred those which were more narrative to those which were more photographic or filmic exercises. In *Eileen Myles: The Poet Speaks*, by Andrea Kirsch, for example, a woman recites to the camera the poetry that is her life—dental bills and unaffordable housing in Manhattan—which stands in contrast to her supposed American ideal upbringing in a wealthy, influential Boston family.

The film's focus is specific, underscored by the use of only head and torso shots. She exposes the mythology of leadership: Despite being a lesbian and choosing the most "ludicrous" profession that she could think of—that of a poet—she "rose to the top of her field" within a year. "After all," she says with her Boston accent creeping in, "we are all Kennedys. And I am your president." Her story serves as a succinct microcosm of disillusionment and succeeds as a particular lesbian gaze.

Su Friedrich's *Damned If You Don't* plays with an even more taboo subject: The sensual and sexual awakening of a nun by the "wench" of a girl next door. Each observes the other's life. The "wench" educates herself about a nun's dilemma of



spiritual versus physical sensibility by watching the Gothic film *Black Narcissus* on TV, where sexual desire separates the good nun from the evil nun in a simple, black and white morality play. She then moves on to a rather flat reading of excerpts from *Immodest Acts*, history of a lesbian nun in 16th century Italy. The nun in the film becomes entranced by the sensual rubbing of dolphins at a local aquarium, as well as exploring the worldly delights of Coney Island. Finally the nun gives in to her desire, allowing the "wench" to disrobe and embrace her, ending the film on a hopeful and erotic note. Yet,

throughout the film there is a tension between the plot line and a variety of filler scenes devoted to churchyards, water and crowds. The filmmaker seemed torn between two styles of work, and included a number of random shots to make sure there was still an "experimental" framework for the narrative.

Jean Genet's *Un Chant D'Amour*, made in 1950, took the image of oppression quite literally. It is a glimpse of men in prison cells trying to reach out to each other. It was a troubling film for several reasons, not least of which was its over-

whelming phallocentrism. The audience was treated to fifteen minutes of solitary dick-wagging by five different inmates. The way these men dealt with their loneliness and desire was relentless, unending masturbation, and for some, fantasy. One prisoner is obsessed with romance—trying to communicate with the pretty boy next door—and is menacingly watched and punished by the jailer, who has his own homoerotic fantasies. In a disturbing scene, the jailer lets the prisoner know just where the power lies: In the butt of his gun. But ultimately the film felt indulgent and exploitative; we as viewers were impelled to be voyeurs of a dismal scene of imprisoned and frustrated men.

The tension of the camera invading privacy was also felt in *You Can't Die From Not Sleeping*, by Harriet Hirschorn, Donna Stern, Sandy Silverman and Collen MacDonald. This documentary of homeless women in New York City showed a more personal view of their plight than one gets from mainstream media. However, they did not deal with the most problematic tension inherent in the filming. No matter how well-intentioned the filmmakers were, the camera was literally invading the lives of women who have lost the right to privacy and their only refuge, the homeless shelter. Several of the women interviewed seemed to be smiling for the camera, willing to tell their stories, but concerned about their appearance—ambivalent about being on display. The most powerful moment comes at the end of the film when a homeless woman sitting with her belongings in a doorway is approached from behind. The camera pans around her slowly, and at the moment she views the camera, she hurls her drink right at the

Continued on next page

Film Fest Continued

camera and ultimately at us. I would like to have seen that tension addressed earlier in the film, although it was astute of the filmmakers to end the documentary with this image.

The most troubling film—and the least compelling to me—was *Scorpio Rising*, which was about men obsessed with motorcycles, leather and gangs. The pacing, even early on, was slow and methodical, as men tinkered with their bikes to the tune of '50s love songs, such as *My Boyfriend's Back*. It was amusing at first, but there was too much of it. Then (oh, excitement!), they actually put on their leather jackets: Three men alone, each zipper slowly closing, is recorded for posterity as

the music continues to play. Next, preening and the careful placement of skull rings goes on in a background filled with images of James Dean and the young Marlon Brando on TV. As the bikers go out into the world and zoom off to their clubhouse, other imagery is interspersed. Man straddles bike; Jesus straddles donkey. These images keep trading off, back and forth, and more imagery is added: clips of Hitler and swastikas. My knee-jerk reaction was that the filmmaker was not glorifying any of this stuff. I thought it must be an attempt at a critical comparison of followers of all persuasions: bikers, Christians, and Nazis. But the tone was ambivalent and I didn't care to pursue the rationale out of boredom as the film rather

aimlessly ambled on. There were lovingly interspersed scenes of obscene fraternity-like rituals of de-troussing at the bikers' clubhouse, Jesus giving a blind man his sight, Hitler thrusting forth his palm in salute. I was left in a mixed-up muddle of imagery, a descent into decadence, without much indication of intent. It was a confusing critique which ended up glorifying the imagery it—I hope—set out to debunk.

Ultimately, I was left with a desire to see more films that contained experimental narratives that told the wild and wonderful variety that is our experience as lesbians and gays. However, within the technical experimentation I would favor a context of more emotional and personal stories. □

—Nada Velimirović

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CRAA To Gear Up For November Election

Since its creation in March, CRAA's efforts to promote responsible AIDS action in Santa Cruz have been successful. As a county, Santa Cruz contributed over 6,000 signatures to the AIDS Tax Credit Initiative petition drive, and the defeat of LaRouche's Prop. 69 promises to strengthen the campaign's fall effort.

The coming election this November presents a final challenge. We will face numerous AIDS-related initiatives including Sherman Block's proposition for



mandatory AIDS testing of "accused" sex offenders and the Doolittle/Dannemeyer proposition which, if passed, would allow insurance discrimination on the basis of HIV test results. These issues demand education. Campaign coordinator Sherry Conable states, "Education will be needed in the fall to block these propositions.

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COMMUNITY AT LARGE

Larry Folsom: 1960-1988

His obituary began: "Services are Thursday for Larry Folsom, who died Tuesday after a long illness. He was 27." His obituary ended: "Contributions to the Hospice Project of Santa Cruz County are preferred."

Ironically, one of the last things to outrage Larry was a strikingly similar obituary he read about a friend of his in San Jose. "They totally whitewashed the truth!" he said.

In fact Larry's friend had died of AIDS. But in spite of the AIDS education blitz, most people choose to avoid any mention of a family member dying of AIDS. That incensed Larry Folsom. And with good reason.

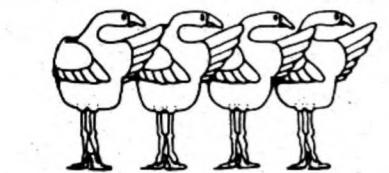
Born in San Jose, Larry moved to Santa Cruz when he was a teenager. He worked at Dominican for eight years, where he established many of his long term friendships. Some of those friends were later called on to establish the Santa Cruz AIDS Project, SCAP. Larry's love of sing-



The following month his worst fears were realized when he was diagnosed with AIDS.

He became a recluse, shutting himself off from me, his friends and SCAP. But with time and some friendly encouragement he slowly started dealing with his denial and his feelings of guilt and shame. Driven by a frustration of not knowing how to give Larry the kind of emotional support he was needing, I took the BUDDY training at SCAP, which is designed specifically to teach volunteers how to give support to persons with AIDS. The resulting bond between us became stronger and more powerful than either one of us could have imagined.

Together, we constantly dealt with the slow debilitating effects that AIDS had on Larry's body. We worked through the intense anger that Larry felt knowing that his life was being yanked away from him while he was still in his twenties. We consoled one another through the desperation



4 ISSUES 8 BUCKS

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we felt, realizing that there were so many things we wouldn't get to do together.

But all the while, Larry was out there, sharing this bizarre adventure with anyone who had the guts to ask "What is it like to be living with AIDS?" Larry earned the admiration and respect of everyone as he faced an ominous future with honesty and courage and dignity.

He didn't do it alone, that's true. Many of his friends stuck by him all the way. Kathy Chiorich was one of those friends. Larry wanted me to let her know how very important she was in his life. And when the going got really rough and Larry could no longer care for himself, his mother and his grandmother saw to his every need, every moment of the day and night.

Shortly after his diagnosis, Larry wrote this song:

*Locomotion—That's what it is—
Moving on the track to destiny
Give me an 'A'
Give me an 'I'
Give me a 'D' and an 'S' Uhhh, uhhh,
uh huh!
It stands for ALIVE
In a death sentence
Where is the hope, the faith, the dream
Any one of us could die tomorrow
What do you want?
Follow that rainbow—On a horse up
into the sky,
Where oh where has my little child
inside gone?
Where oh where can it be?
I need to lighten up and learn to play,
Hey, hey.
I'm free from the games
As we usually play them
I can do what I want to do
Don't have to go to my in-laws for tuna
casserole
Or worry about parking tickets
I've got my freedom to Fly, Fly, Fly*

Larry died—at peace with himself—on Tuesday morning, April 19, 1988. In the last year of his life, Larry grew more, than in the 26 years prior. He taught us all a bit about conviction and compassion and character.

So, you see, Larry didn't just die after a long illness. Larry Folsom did battle with AIDS... And he won... And he died. □

—Dan Brady & Jim Schultz



Lesbian/Gay Action Alliance To Present Community Forum on Militarism

In light of the soon-to-return Fourth of July naval presence on the Monterey Bay, the Lesbian/Gay Action Alliance will present as part of this year's Lesbian/Gay Pride Celebration, a community forum entitled **Lesbian and Gay Perspectives on the Military**.

The purpose of the presentation will be to encourage a dialogue about how we as lesbians and gay men address the role of the military. Of particular concern is the gulf that often exists between those who fight for equal rights in the military, and those who oppose militarism as a result of their lesbian/gay political perspective.

Panalists will include Wesley Harris, U.S. Air Force, retired; Karen Andrade, formerly U.S. Army, UCSC thesis: *Sound off, Lesbian Perspectives on the Military*; Jo Kenny, former member of Vietnam Veterans Against The War/Winter Soldier Organization, current war tax resistor; John LaRiviere, former U.S. Air Force; Kathy W., former U.S. Air Force; and Dan Dickmeyer, anti-draft organizer.

The Alliance encourages those lesbians and gay men who have served in the armed forces, or who have worked in the



peace movement, to come and share their thoughts on Wednesday, June 15th, at 7:30 pm at the Louden Nelson Center.

The event is co-sponsored by the Resource Center for Non-Violence and the Veterans Peace Action Teams. Sign Language interpretation will be provided. Childcare by reservation: 423-8259

-Allison Claire

*Some people draw a circle
to keep people out...*

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wants to let folks in!
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THE POLITICAL CLIMATE

We've Earned Our 1988 Theme: "Rightfully Proud"

Every year at this time, I write a "State of the Lesbian and Gay Community" column. I happen to think the last year has been a good one--at most levels. But the next year appears to have some troublesome issues on the horizon.

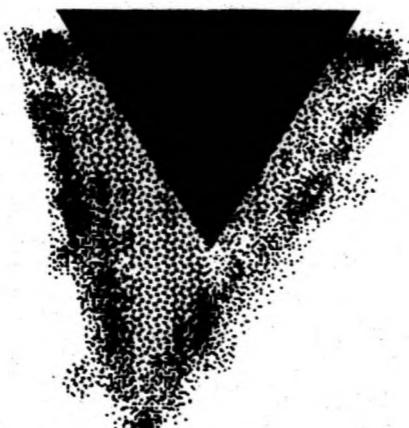
One year ago, I was putting the best face on a bad situation. The Supreme Court had issued the Harwick decision, federal and state authorities had rejected AIDS non-discrimination legislation, and a national poll showed a drop in support for lesbian and gay rights for the first time in years.

This last year showed many gains. The National March on Washington is, in my view, responsible for much of the positive effort. Even though there were few politicians present that day, six hundred thousand demonstrators for any cause is hard for an elected official to ignore.

But the strength of the march is not what its effect was on politicians, but what the effect was on the lesbians and gay men that participated. At the time, I believed that it would show lesbians and gay men the power they had--and it has.

Individual efforts across the country--for state and local protections from discrimination, for more AIDS funding, for more rights for lesbian mothers, for domestic partners benefits, and against homophobic attacks, were more numerous and more successful.

The last year saw even more openly gay and lesbian elected officials--new ones in Florida, North Carolina, Wisconsin and the State of Washington. The Third Annual Conference of Lesbian and Gay Elected Officials last November in Min-



neapolis was three times as large as the original one three years before.

The outcry was strong against Senator Alan Cranston for his vote for the Helms Amendment last fall--prohibiting any federal AIDS funding for literature that

"advocated or promoted the homosexual lifestyle. He referred on the Senate floor to that vote as the one that caused him the "most anguish" during his 20 year Senate career.

Cranston and Senator Edward Kennedy redressed this situation with a parliamentary maneuver that neutralized an identical amendment in the omnibus AIDS bill passed one month ago.

Another constructive note is the lack of a major national anti-gay backlash on the AIDS issue. Randy Shilts, author of "And the Band Played On," visited Santa Cruz recently and offered the opinion that such a backlash would have happened by now. Sure, those who were always ho-

mophobic have used the AIDS issue as a springboard. But national polls indicate a humanitarian and constructive response from people at-large.

The Democratic presidential race has also demonstrated changes in levels of support for lesbian and gay issues than four years ago. The support that Jesse Jackson has received from the lesbian and gay community has been nationally noted as having made a difference in several primary and caucus states.

Locally, the lesbian and gay community continues to be a major force in municipal and County politics. The campaign against Proposition 69 and for the AIDS Tax Credit and Research Initiative has been a strong one--recognized as the major issue in 1988 by the progressive, primarily non-gay Santa Cruz Action Network.

The grassroots movements for a lesbian and gay community center has been exciting--and a good community response to a long-term need. The thousand people that made the Gay Evening in May a success was a strong showing. And another openly gay man is a likely candidate for the Santa Cruz City Council this coming November--and has a real shot at being elected.

The Santa Cruz AIDS Project is another reason for optimism. With almost three hundred volunteers and strong community backing, the AIDS Project is demonstrating a constructive, community response to the AIDS epidemic.

So this year's Gay Pride theme--"Rightfully Proud"--is one which is consistent with progress made at national and

BY JOHN LAIRD

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SCAP Continued

local levels. It has been a year that we can mark good progress. With Doolittle/Dannemeyer/Gann, the Block Initiative, the City Council election, and many other struggles to come--we cannot rest. But we ought to take the time during Gay Pride Week to pause and recognize how much we have accomplished.

with either of these ground breaking programs is welcome to call SCAP to register for training this summer.

In closing, SCAP thanks all those who contributed their efforts to the fourth "Gay Evening in May." The show was great fun and the funds raised will go a long way in helping SCAP provide support for community folks affected by AIDS.

Thanks Santa Cruz, we couldn't do it without you!

TAX CREDIT CONTINUED

and that energy likewise is spread thin now.

Perhaps a mistake was made in not soliciting the support of large drug and research institutions who after all would have benefited most from the \$180 million.

The burden thus fell on a loose network of county organizations to do the tedious task of collecting names. While AIDS respects no sexual preference, in reality the campaign was dependent primarily on gays and lesbians and a handful of dedicated non-gay supporters. With little media attention and only a smattering of big name support the Initiative was hard-

ly a household word. I believe many gays new to political work lacked the confidence to do something as basic as pass a petition. While I never personally experienced it, I think a lot of gay men thought that making oneself public circulating this petition might indicate they were gay (probably true) or had AIDS.

Suffice it to say that recruiting volunteers was a difficult task. Financial and media support was lacking. Lastly I think that after all these years of frustration about AIDS many found it impossible to believe that something positive could be done to stop it. Our community is well programmed into being on the defensive, not the offensive.

All this is not to dismiss the efforts put forth, especially in Santa Cruz which collected more than its share of names, developed new gay and lesbian leadership and enlisted the dedication of many non-gays. Our efforts will trickle down into a resounding defeat of Prop 69 also. But as for more money for research and a future initiative, the hopes are dimmer. There are bills in the Legislature which would do what the Initiative would do but they face the same fate as the last one that passed--the Governor's veto.

-Dan Dickmeyer

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MAKING WAVES

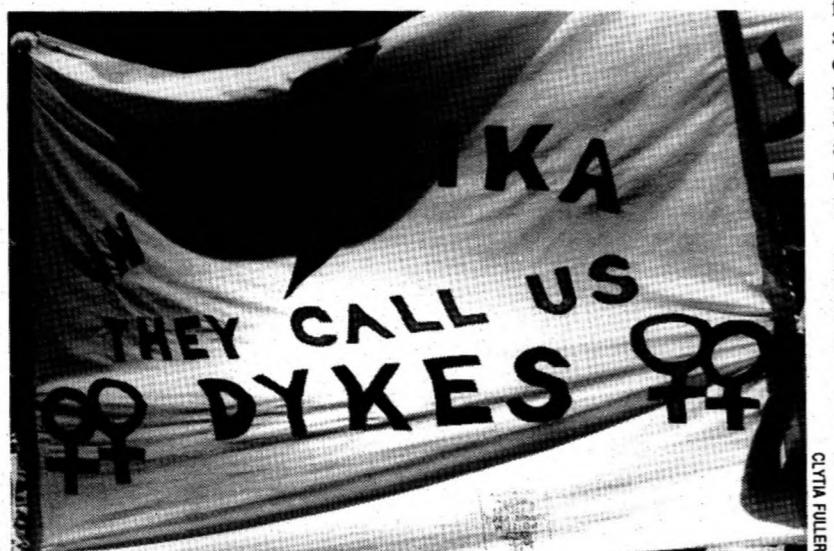
Is Politics A Four-Letter Word?

Since Stonewall and the Women's Liberation Movement, we lesbians and gay men have defined ourselves by our political behavior as much as by what we do in bed. Yet today politics is getting a bad rap from within our community. We're right to be cynical about Politics with a capital "P" (rich men struggling for power in smoky conventional hall back rooms and pristine offices of government bureaucracy) but it's political action itself, even at the grassroots, that seems to be falling out of vogue and under fire.

Many of you have read the controversial Sonia Johnson interviews in the last two issues of our local Lesbian News. Johnson is the author of *Going Out of Our Minds: The Metaphysics of Liberation* (Crossing Press, 1987). An equal opportunity button-pusher, she said something to offend almost everyone: women should ignore the AIDS crisis and just let gay men die, lesbians shouldn't get pregnant, her own sons are "monsters" because of their penises and attendant privilege, women have no free choice in this world, political work of any kind can only strengthen oppression. For women to become free, according to Johnson, we must remove ourselves psychically from patriarchy, "taking our eyes off the guys".

Warmed over '70s separatism? Reactionary blather? Revealed truth? What's going on here, and why are so many people so worked up about it?

Throughout the late '70s and early '80s I did not vote. It was a matter of principle. As an anarchist feminist I believed that participation in electoral politics was worse than useless—voting actively reinforced an oppressive system. You can imagine my response when Sonia Johnson, a Mormon housewife turned ERA activist, ran for president in 1984. (I did, in fact, vote for the first time that year, but not for Johnson. I was trying to undo the damage I guiltily thought I'd done by not helping



to prevent Reagan's election the first time around.) Then in 1986 Sonia Johnson and I were both arrested for acts of civil disobedience at Bohemian Grove in Sonoma County, an exclusive male-only resort for prominent warmongers. It was a very brief crossing of our political paths. Today I get out the vote for Jesse Jackson and the Campaign for Responsible AIDS Action while she urges women to boycott elections and all other forms of political action—especially those involving men.

A perfectly valid argument can be made against spending a lot of energy on electoral politics, with its limited impact, or working with men, which can be maddening. Women who dedicate their personal and political energies exclusively to other women are at the center of feminist transformation. But Sonia Johnson would even object to "Take Back the Night" marches and women's peace camps focused as they are on the effects of male behavior. Instead she advocates freeing our heads of the patriarchy: withdrawing our attention completely from men, their institutions and their power.

She is onto something quite real. Patriarchy reproduces itself through women's enforced and unwitting participation. It's true that if all women put themselves first

the world would be transformed. Self-love, radical self-definition, taking care of one's own, are absolute prerequisites for true liberation. Steven Biko understood that, as have radical people of color, feminists and queers in this country.

But there are material and political prerequisites for freedom as well. We can't understand the metaphysics of liberation unless we also explore its anatomy, chemistry and mechanics. "Taking our eyes off the guys" does not feed the children who are hungry tonight or safely house the women who are helpless *right now*. Here in Santa Cruz it's fashionable to act as if creating personal utopias could

solve the world's problems, but that just doesn't wash. It's true that there will be no global peace, for example, until we eliminate violence and hierarchy in our own homes and hearts, but simply improving the quality of our lives here in Surf City makes no real contribution to peace in the Middle East or South Africa. Merely changing reality inside our heads will no more change outer reality than the other way around—both must go hand in hand.

"What we resist, persists," Johnson claims in her book, arguing that patriarchal oppression feeds on the energy we spend fighting it. She's absolutely right that just fighting *against* all the time (stop LaRouche, stop Reaganomics, stop the Moral Majority) binds us ironically to the forces we oppose, keeping us tangled up with them and drained of energy we could use to build the communities and coalitions we need to survive and thrive. But that doesn't mean we can afford to look the other way, either, and just ignore injustice.

The feminist peace movement has recognized this dilemma and combines resistance to the inseparable insanities of militarism and male dominance with creation for new models for living peacefully on the Earth. (See the Community at Large

item on Mother's Day at the Nevada Nuclear Test Site.) It is simply untrue that all those who marched against the development of the atom bomb, protested the Viet Nam war and now fight U.S. intervention in Central America have somehow strengthened the Pentagon. We have saved lives. And while we have not yet ended nuclear proliferation or State violence, we have at least kept the planet alive. Likewise, though feminist activists have not overthrown male supremacy, it is ridiculous to say we have strengthened it. Sonia Johnson could not have written her book without generations of the political work she renounces.

Santa Cruz's annual extravaganza A Gay Evening in May is based on a vision very different from Sonia Johnson's: lesbians and gay men coming together to celebrate commonality, entertain each other, and support projects—such as AIDS work—that benefit us all. But here too, amidst all the glitter and lights and show tunes, I detect a disturbing anti-political trend. It's called charity.

AGEM '88 was billed as a fundraiser for the Santa Cruz AIDS Project and AIDS research. Advance publicity never mentioned that proceeds from raffle tickets, posters, drinks and desserts would benefit

the Campaign for Responsible AIDS Action (CRAA)—apparently there was some concern about associating the gala with a political organization. At least CRAA got the money, which is more than we can say for our Lesbian/Gay Pride celebration. For the first time this year, AGEM decided not to fund the Freedom Foundation, organizer of our annual parade and rally. Is such public flaunting of sheer queerness just too political?

It's perfectly legitimate for the organizers of AGEM to limit the focus of the benefit—though I'd like to see more community input into the decision, since the event is the community's single largest fundraiser. And I don't mean to imply that AGEM's creators object to the goals of the CRAA or the Freedom Foundation. But they have chosen to emphasize philanthropy over politics, which may help pack the Civic but has disturbing implications for the AIDS crisis and our community's direction.

The whole notion of charity (a word used proudly by AGEM organizers) assumes the inevitability of glaring social need and inequality of resources. Charity provides a convenient way for the "haves" to assuage their guilt about the "have nots" without

Continued on page 19

"The whole notion of charity...assumes the inevitability of glaring social need and inequality of resources. Charity provides a convenient way for the 'haves' to assuage their guilt about the 'have nots' without challenging the status quo. Charity ignores root causes and real solutions in favor of a 'do-gooder' mentality. The consequences are disastrous."

BY ALLISON CLAIRE

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The Sacramento March



"U h-oh," I thought groggily as I awoke at 5:30am, "It's raining." I dragged myself out of bed. Do I want to drive three hours if it's going to be raining in Sacramento? Not really. I call the weather service. A Sacramento radio station predicts "a slight chance of showers

before nightfall." Good—we're on. Shower, breakfast, pick up friend and I'm driving on wet, grey Highway 17 by 6:45am.

Somewhere in the middle of the journey I realize that this is the first political march I have been on in nine years. I am totally up for it. I am angry—the shameful neglect of the Federal government with regard to AIDS; Deukmejian's double veto of the AIDS tax credit initiative; the fact that violence against lesbians and gays is the fastest-growing form of social violence and nothing is being done about it; the unconscionable waste of money on weapons; the duplicity of the Reagan-Bush administration; the lack of leadership while the environment is irreparably damaged. I am outraged!

We get to Sacramento. It's raining on and off—so much for the radio station. We wander around trying to find the Santa Cruz contingent. Everybody milling around greeting friends from far-off places. Spirits are high despite the dampness. We decide to march with the Radical Faeries. Already loud and raucous, they match my mood. Someone starts a chant—"ALL QUEENS—NO DUKES."

The march leaves promptly and meanders through Sacramento's tree-lined, big-

housed streets. Along the way we pass several groups of fundamentalist Christians, one theatrically dressed in protective body suits and face masks. Each phase of the march stops there, inflamed and shouting the potent single word "Shame!" I stop and shout and rise to the peak of my



Photographs & Text by Robin White

anger before the crowd pulls me gently on toward the Capitol.

Later I skip around looking at the crowd, see two lesbians in purple jumpsuits with beautiful, dignified, matching golden retrievers on long leashes, find the Santa Cruz group and greet my friends there, watch people rush to buy fresh coffee at the enterprising sidewalk stand. I notice that in the rain the faeries banner has shed a few letters and now reads RADI AL ARIES.

At the rally it rains again. People huddle under umbrellas—sometimes three or four under each one. But it is warm and the sun comes out in between the showers and we don't mind. Michael Dukakis's son John read a letter from his father in which he said that his foster care policy had been "misunderstood"—all he intended was to prioritize the placing of children with their relatives or in "traditional family settings." He should have been booed offstage. How dare he address a gay rally and tell us that we are not as good as heterosexuals. And then the rally turns into a waiting game for Jesse Jackson. It rains again. The rally organizers pull everyone and their parents onstage to say a word to keep the crowd occupied while we wait. But it's OK. We've

already decided to stick around to hear what he has to say. Finally he arrives to tumultuous applause. An important exchange happens—Jackson hears 10,000 gays and lesbians screaming "Win Jesse Win!" and we 10,000 are addressed by a presidential candidate—somebody finally cares about us. The goodwill pact we make will last a long time. □

How does this apply to AIDS? Our service organizations are doing crucial work. Yet we must remember that the AIDS crisis was *allowed* to reach today's horrific proportions by the homophobia and racism of the government and the medical establishment. We need to fight racism and homophobia with every step we take to fund human needs. And we must go still further, organizing for guaranteed health care as a basic human right, challenging the role of the profit motive in pharmaceutical research, as well as joining with disability activists for an end to discrimination. If we ignore these issues we will be allowing the crisis to continue, perpetuating the need for endless charity.

In June we celebrate not only Lesbian and Gay Pride, but also Lesbian and Gay Freedom. The two are inseparable. Freedom is both a state of mind and a political condition that we create together. So, please, register to vote. Or join an affinity group and train for nonviolent civil disobedience. Or join the Lesbian and Gay Action Alliance. Do all three, or create your own alternative! Because (sorry, Sonia) it's in *ignoring* injustice, not in fighting it, that we're complicit.

Happy Pride Week!

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The Further Adventures of The CONDOM LADY

Erich Spitzemberg

"You're very choosy about your sex partners and I'm very choosy about my breakfast cereal. But the difference is, my breakfast cereal has the ingredients listed on the side."

Dear Condom Lady,

How can I break the ice about safer sex? I feel like a dork trying to bring up the subject. Is there any way to make it sexy or playful? When's the best time?

signed,
Awkward

Dear Awk,

Let's look at this from the other way. Your clothes are off, or part way off. Your hands are all over each other and you feel like you can't get enough. Your nostrils are wide open. You're breathing hard. He's really ready to put it in, or you're really ready to put it in, or one of you is really ready to move down a ways. *This is not the time to start talking about safer sex.* This makes sense, yes?

Here's some other times that might not be the best: on the phone at work. Right when the movie starts. Across the table at a dinner party.

There's a pattern here, can you see it? So instead, find a time when you won't be distracted and a place where you're not so likely to get embarrassed. But listen: don't wait so long for the perfect opportunity that you never talk at all, you know?

And my dear, there's lots of ways to talk about being safe - some come before, some come during. Start with honesty: "This makes me kind of uncomfortable, but we should talk about it because it's important." Try compare-and-contrast: "Taking care of myself is a real priority with me. How about you?" And there's the self-esteem sell: "I'm hot and you want me because I'm really safe." I'm abbreviating here, you understand. Or the altruistic approach: "We'll be safe because I want only the best for my partners." Later on, there's The Challenge: "Let's see how long we can spend putting this rubber on." Or the Bad Taste Gambit: "Hey, I need a semen sample, slip into this."



Dear Condom Lady,

I'm very choosy about my sex partners. They're healthy, fit and not into IV drugs. Why should I use a condom?

signed,
Informed

Dear Informed,

Yes, and I'm very choosy about my breakfast cereal. But the difference is, my breakfast cereal has the ingredients listed on the side. Do you see what I'm saying here? Maybe you've told each other everything. Maybe your friend has told you - how do you

call it? - what sign they are. Maybe they've told you their mother's maiden name. But if they use needles to take drugs, or they like to go out of town maybe and meet people and do risky things with them - or they *used* to do these things - these are just the sorts of details they might not want to tell you now, yes?

And let's talk about denial. Your friends might believe they are safe and don't need to use condoms, and still have HIV and other things in their blood. They might be infected, and still be perfectly healthy, and have no idea that they are carrying around a very unfriendly virus which they could give to you. Choosy is fine, but it's different than safe. "I was very choosy" could be somebody's famous last words.



Dear Condom Lady,

Taking off a condom after orgasm is always painful for me. No matter how careful I am, my pubic hair gets caught in the condom as I roll it off.

signed,
In a Pinch

Dear Pinchley,

So. Your hair falls in your eyes and you can't see. What do you do? You trim it. Your beard gets in your soup. What do you do? You trim it! Your pubic hair gets caught in your condom. What do you do? You yank the rubber off real fast like a band-aid so that the hairs that are going to get pulled out get pulled out *quick* and it only hurts for a few minutes and hopefully it doesn't bleed.

Now does this make sense? Of course not. Instead, make yourself a cup of tea, put on some music, sit down with some scissors, and give yourself a nice haircut. That's one way. Here's another way: put on some music, sit down with some scissors, and have *someone else* give you a nice haircut. Maybe just a trim, or perhaps - how to call it - a crew cut. Or anywhere in between. Something functional yet stylish, if you know what I mean.

While you're at it, run your hand over your rear end. What do you think? Needs a shave maybe? Ask your partner. What does he or she think? Mightn't your partner enjoy lathering up your butt and taking some time to make it smooth like a baby's? Just a thought.



Dear Condom Lady,

Putting rubbers on is such a hassle. I hate to interrupt everything while my partner sits there and waits. And half the time it doesn't go on right and I get embarrassed.

signed,
Damping the Fires

Dear Damp,

My dear. You seem to think that having sex and putting on a condom are two different kinds of things, like eating an orange and writing to your mother. So you get to practice making them the same kind of thing. Also, it sounds like you think that dealing with the rubber is all your department. Bah. You'll have more fun if you enlist some help.

For starters, you might try opening the little package and giving the latex prize inside to your partner and saying, "Could you put this on me?" Is your pecker going down while this happens? Then you need division of labor. You say, "I'll make my cock hard while you put the rubber on it." Or maybe your friend wants to keep you stiff while you cover up. I have a friend who uses two rubbers sometimes - he ties one around his penis and balls to keep the blood up there, then puts the other one on like usual.

Can the two of you take a nice long time putting a rubber on? Maybe stroke a little, unroll a little, squeeze a little, probe a little, unroll a little more, stroke some more... you see? Can your friend put a rubber on with their mouth? Can you talk kind of dirty about what you're doing - or what you want to do - while you're doing it? What? No, these are called *rhetorical questions*. You don't have to tell me. I trust you.



Brooke Matteson

"These germs aren't going to sneak up in the middle of the night and get you. It's not random. It's up to you."

**By
Scott
Brookie**

Continued on next page

Condom Lady Continued

Dear Condom Lady,

I've been really afraid of sex for almost two years now. All these diseases! But I'm feeling so isolated and craving closeness, touching and holding. I'm terrified that any physical intimacy will make me "go wild" and do something I'd regret. HELP!

signed,
Starved

Dear Starved,

Hmmm. My friend, you sound like a volcano. But here: you don't need to be so scared. Are you worried about AIDS? AIDS is one-hundred percent *preventable*. By the time you've finished this paper, you'll know everything you need to know to keep from getting infected, not just with HIV, but with lots of other things too.

You know, these germs aren't going to sneak up on you in the middle of the night and get you. You have to *do* certain specific things to get them. So, to stay healthy, you just have to *not do* those certain specific things and do some other things instead. It's not random. It's up to you.

Okay now. For some people, abstinence or celibacy are a good thing. But you. My little volcano. You sound like you need a very long, shall we say, roll in the hay, very soon. So arm yourself with lots of information, then go play. Soon, before you explode.

~~~~~  
Dear Condom Lady,

I'm in a great relationship. We've been living together for over a year-and-a-half. If we don't have sex with anyone else, we don't need to use condoms, right?

signed,  
All Set

Dear Set Up,

I'm afraid I have to tell you that when it comes to AIDS, a year-and-a-half is peanuts. Do you hear me? *Peanuts*. Think more like seven years. And the scientists keep making it more years all the time. Look. I don't like to tell people not to use condoms, that's not what I do, you know? But if you insist, go get a test for HIV, both of you. Then keep using condoms. Go back six months later and test again. All the test results are negative? Neither of you has had sex with anyone else in between? Neither of you is going to have sex with anyone else after? Okay, you can think about having sex without condoms. Do you hear me grumbling? I don't like this idea. Do you absolutely trust your partner? Do you absolutely trust yourself? Remember, your life may hang on their trustworthiness, and their life might hang on yours.

~~~~~

Dear Condom Lady,

I tested positive for HIV, but my boyfriend's negative. Since I always take the receptive role in intercourse, I can't infect my partner even if he doesn't use a rubber, right?

signed,
On the Bottom

Dear Bottom,

Wrong! Wrong, wrong, *wrong!!* Men who take the insertive role - who do the fucking - have been infected because they had sex with an HIV-positive person and didn't use a rubber. And you stand the chance of getting reinfected yourself with a different strain of virus. Don't be silly, my friend. You have to take better and better care of yourself from now on, and you have to watch out for your partners too, and that means condoms, always condoms.

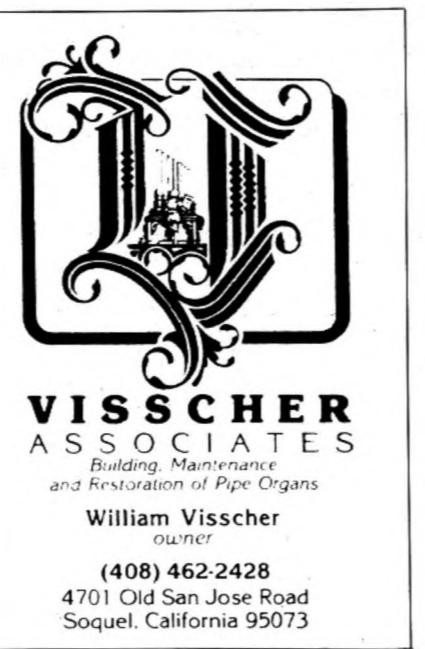
Continued on page 38



massage and bodywork

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

Val Leoffler
certified massage practitioner
certified Trager practitioner
426-2063



THE 14TH ANNUAL

P R O G R A M

SANTA CRUZ GAY AND LESBIAN PRIDE CELEBRATION

JUNE 12-18, 1988

"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has."

Margaret Mead

The 1978 Santa Cruz Lesbian/Gay Freedom Day March

SUNDAY, JUNE 12

KICK-OFF PICNIC & VOLLEYBALL

- Bring a dish to share
- Monitor Training: 10am-2pm at the park
(no training the day of the parade)
- Frederick Street Park 1-4pm

MONDAY, JUNE 13

AN EVENING COFFEEHOUSE of Country Bluegrass & Folk Music

- Featuring LINDA BLAN & SILKE
- UCSC Women's Center 7:30-10pm
 - Refreshments-Wheelchair accessible Sponsored by The Freedom Foundation & UCSC Women's Center

TUESDAY, JUNE 14

- A DESSERT POTLUCK RECEPTION
for the newly organized Santa Cruz
LESBIAN/GAY COMMUNITY CENTER
• Louden Nelson Center 7:30pm - Room 6

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 15

The Lesbian /Gay Action Alliance presents
an Alliance Community Forum:

LESBIAN & GAY PERSPECTIVES ON THE MILITARY

An evening panel discussion covering such topics as our relationship to the military & the 4th of July naval visit to Santa Cruz. Panel participants include men & women in the military, peace activists and veterans

- Louden Nelson Center 7:30pm FREE

Sign Language Interpretation provided
Childcare provided-Call ahead 423-8259

Co sponsored by: Resource Center for Non-Violence & The Veterans Peace Action Teams

Photographs of the 1978 Santa Cruz Gay Freedom March by Clytia Fuller

THURSDAY, JUNE 16

The Alternative Healing Group for AIDS/ARC Presents:

HEALING AIDS:TRANSFORMING OURSELVES with JASON SERINUS

Author of "Psychoimmunity and the Healing Process". This seminar will speak to the heart of the healing process. Mr. Serinus will explore the concept of Psychoimmunity, our capacity to unite our minds with our bodies in the transcendence of dis-eases such as AIDS and cancer.

- Cabrillo College Forum Building 7pm

\$3-10 Sliding Scale Donation - Sign Language interpretation provided
Co-sponsored by the Santa Cruz AIDS Project

FRIDAY, JUNE 17

The 3rd Annual Gay Pride Week Film Presentation:

RIGHTS & REACTIONS:LESBIAN AND GAY RIGHTS ON TRIAL

Also: The Names Quilt Film & Other shorts

- Sash Mill Cinema 7:30pm Reception to follow
\$6-10 Sliding Scale • A Freedom Foundation Benefit

SATURDAY, JUNE 18

OUR 14th ANNUAL PARADE 11am

(Meet at Cedar & Cathcart beginning at 10am)

THE RALLY • San Lorenzo Park - Noon

Featuring: WATCHOUT! • The Bagal Band • Melonie Miller • Gretchen Koch • Sweet Surrender
MC's: Tracey Lea Lawson, Thomas Riordan
Proclamations•Raffle•Booths•Sign Language Interpretation by Wendy Baxter & Kendra Keller

•THE PRIDE DANCE

The Freedom Foundation & Campaign for Responsible AIDS Action
Presents in a Benefit Dance Concert:

THE PEARL DIVERS with CONGABELLE

- SANTA CRUZ VETS HALL 8- Midnight
\$5-\$10 Sliding Scale • Non-Alcoholic Beverage Bar
Wheel Chair Accessible

Showtime: 9pm

•PRE-DANCE PARTY

The IN-TOUCH Teadance & Barbeque
1535 Commercial Way
\$1 Hot Dogs & Hamburgers Live DJ
\$3-\$5 Sliding Scale Donation

•POST DANCE: THE PARTY CONTINUES...

•Blue Lagoon Midnight-2am



The Freedom Foundation Toni Cassista Marie Henley Rachel Harwood Vern Isaacson
John LaRiviere Aaron Miller Michael Perlman Ron Sampson Karen Schlim

PROFILES



The Pearl Divers—eight women who love to play that funk and soul music. Eight women who know how to make you move your feet. The Pearl Divers have been delighting Santa Cruz and SF Bay Area audiences over the past 5 years with their sweet soul music. They've played in Santa Cruz' nightclubs and at numerous benefit dances, as well as at San Francisco's Gay Freedom Day Celebration. In the summer of 1987, a benefit concert for the Santa Cruz AIDS Project/March on Washington marked the final performance of the group, with some members moving to the SF Bay Area. But what better time for a reunion than to top off the festivities for Gay Freedom Day in Santa Cruz? And what better cause to raise funds for than the Campaign for Responsible AIDS Action and the Freedom Foundation.



Gretchen Koch is a gifted and talented musician. Her lyrics reach in and touch our core. Her independently produced tape will be available at the rally.



Sweet Surrender
Marge E. Lockwood & Susan Aancimino are performing and recording artists who adapt old familiar tunes into a more modern day sound.



Rights and Reactions: Lesbian & Gay Rights on Trial vividly documents both sides of an inflammatory issue: legal and civil rights for lesbians and gay men. With the backdrop of the growing tragedy of the AIDS crisis and in the context of the NYC Council hearing on the "Gay Rights Bill", this film captures a stirring political and emotional moment in the ongoing debate on our civil rights. The film, written and produced by Phil Zwickler & Jane Lippman, reveals the full scale of the controversies and convictions surrounding this issue.

Thank Yous

Ample Annie BAGAL Band Wendy Baxter Congabelle Bobbi Bennett Linda Blan Blue Lagoon Santa Cruz Board of Supervisors
Campaign for Responsible AIDS Action Allison Claire Santa Cruz City Council Tom Ellison Linda Hooper In Touch D.K. Kendra
Keller Jo Kenny Gretchen Koch KZSC Closet Radio Mayor John Laird Lavender Reader Tracye Lea Lawson Lesbian/Gay Action
Alliance Lesbian News Michael Lightstone Al Loup Melonie Miller Susanne Newbold P.S.I Pearl Divers Donna Pink Julie Rix
Thomas Riordan Will Russell Sash Mill Cinema Cafe Jim Schwenterly Silke Stop Co. Sweet Surrender Max Szadek Jill Wasserman
WATCHOUT! Sandy Whiting UCSC Women's Center D.W.



Congabelle is a four-women drumming and percussion ensemble, featuring African and Caribbean dance rhythms. Maura Bank, Mary Blaettler, Coleen Douglas, and Jane Reyes have been making music together for the last three years in local percussion groups (SheBoom, Sambacruz) and dance classes. You may have heard them drumming on the cliffs above the ocean one sunny day. These women really enjoy drumming together—you can feel it in the energy they project, you can see it in their faces, you can hear it in the beautiful rhythms they play.



WATCHOUT! is a four women band who play contemporary women centered rock 'n roll. The members compose and perform innovative music about abusive relationships, mother-daughter relationships, and the Catwoman villainess role model in the Batman and Robin series. They are music majors at UCSC.



Jason Serinus knows in his heart that people can heal themselves of AIDS and other life-threatening diseases. An Oakland based healer, writer, national seminar leader, holistic health consultant and performer, Jason Serinus has published materials on holistic approaches to healing AIDS since 1983. He conducts a weekly healing group on San Francisco's Castro Street.



Melonie Miller was born and raised in Orange County. She writes and performs her own music, portraying life from a realistic and often humorous point of view.

Program Design: Ron Wilson Madelaine Hairell Michael Perlman

POETRY



BY ADRIENNE RICH

In Memoriam: 1986

A man walking on the street
feels unwell has felt unwell
all week, a little Yet the flowers crammed
in pots on the corner: fured anemones:
he knows they open
burgundy, violet, pink, amarillo
all the way to their velvet cores
The flowers hanging over the wall: fuchsias:
each tongued, staring all of a fire:
the flowers He who has
been happy oftener than sad,
carelessly happy, well oftener than sick
one of the lucky is thinking about death
and its music about poetry
its translations of his life

And what good will it do you
to go home and put on the Mozart Requiem?
Read Keats? How will culture cure you?

Poor, unhappy
unwell culture what can it sing or say
six weeks from now, to you?

Give me your living hand If I could take the
hour
death moved into you undeclared, unnamed
—even if sweet, if I could take that hour
between my forceps tear at it like a monster
wrench it out of your flesh dissolve its shape in
quicklime
and make you well again
but still....

no, not again

From "Twenty-One Love Poems"

XI

Sleeping, turning in turn like planets
rotating in their midnight meadow:
a touch is enough to let us know
we're not alone in the universe, even in sleep:
the dream-ghosts of two worlds
walking their ghost-towns, almost address each other.
I've wakened to your muttered words
spoken light- or dark-years away
as if my own voice had spoken.
But we have different voices, even in sleep,
and our bodies, so alike, are yet so different
and the past echoing through our bloodstreams
is freighted with different language, different
meanings—

though in any chronicle of the world we share
it could be written with new meaning
we were two lovers of one gender,
we were two women of one generation.

XVII

No one's fated or doomed to love anyone.
The accidents happen, we're not heroines,
they happen in our lives like car crashes,
books that change us, neighborhoods
we move into and come to love.
Tristan und Isolde is scarcely the story,
women at least should know the difference
between love and death. No poison cup,
no penance. Merely a notion that the tape-recorder
should have caught some ghost of us: that the tape-
recorder

not merely played but should have listened to us,
and could instruct those after us:
this we were, this is how we tried to love,
and these are the forces they had ranged against us,
and these are the forces we had ranged within us,
within us and against us, against us and within us.

Reprinted from Adrienne Rich, *The Fact of a Doorframe: Poems Selected and New, 1950-1984*. Copyright 1984 by Adrienne Rich.

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Current Options for HIV Therapy

This article is an overview of currently available therapies for immune system dysfunction (ISD) related to HIV (Human Immuno-Deficiency virus, type 1). These therapies may be useful in AIDS, ARC (AIDS-Related Conditions), and in asymptomatic sero-positive carriers of HIV (ASC). It is clear that much more needs to be learned both about therapies for ISD as well as the nature of ISD itself in terms of mechanisms of the dysfunction and methods of measuring or assessing the dysfunction.

While the amount of new information about immune function and immune dysfunction is growing at a tremendous rate, medical science is still at a relatively primitive stage of influencing the immune system in practical terms. This limitation is particularly evident in the treatment of AIDS—or the lack thereof. Because of the urgency of the situation, many treatments for AIDS have been used without thorough medical evaluation. This is partly due to lack of interest or funding for these treatments, and to the difficulty of evaluating any treatment for AIDS due to nature of the disease itself. AIDS is a difficult disease to research because it is characterized by a fluctuating course, a high variability from one person to another, and the lack of a succinct laboratory test which measures the course of the disease. The tests which are used, T-cell count, skin tests, p24 antigen level have various shortcomings which make them difficult to use and interpret.

In the midst of this confusion, people need some guidance about which therapies may be helpful even though few definite answers are available at this time. The following list summarizes several of the currently used treatments.

By Dr. Keith Barton

AZT (Retrovir)

AZT is the only drug which has been approved by the Food and Drug Administration for the treatment of HIV-related disorders. It operates as an anti-viral agent which impairs DNA synthesis. There is evidence that production of viral proteins (p24 antigen) drops when AZT is taken, although HIV can often be cultured in the bloodstream from patients taking AZT. AZT also impairs human DNA synthesis and commonly produces anemia, low white blood counts, and some gastro-intestinal distress. In some people, it may provoke fevers, rashes, or irritability.

The limited research done on AZT shows that it statistically prolongs life in people with AIDS when taken at a dose of 200 mg every 4 hours. Very little research has been done on other dosage regimens of AZT and the company that produces AZT, Burroughs-Wellcome, has done little to promote further research on it.

A number of people report improvement in various symptoms when they begin taking AZT. This seems particularly true for neurological symptoms such as burning pains in the legs, or memory loss. Sometimes the improvement follows an initial adjustment period during which they may feel worse. Some people with KS have noticed that it stabilized when they started AZT.

Some people clearly do not tolerate AZT at all, and others become intolerant of the drug after some weeks or months. Apparently, people with milder symptoms do better with AZT than people who are more ill. This may be a rationale for using AZT in the ASC group, and current research is underway to evaluate this.

Meanwhile, Dr. Volberding of the San Francisco General Hospital, advises against using AZT unless the T-

helper count is below 400. On the other hand, a Dr. Reiter in Ft. Lauderdale, Fla., has reported significant increases in T-cell counts when AZT is used in people with initial T-helper counts above 400 (unpublished). Reiter has also combined AZT with another drug, Probenecid, which prolongs the effective period of AZT and, in his experience, allows AZT to be given every 8 hours.

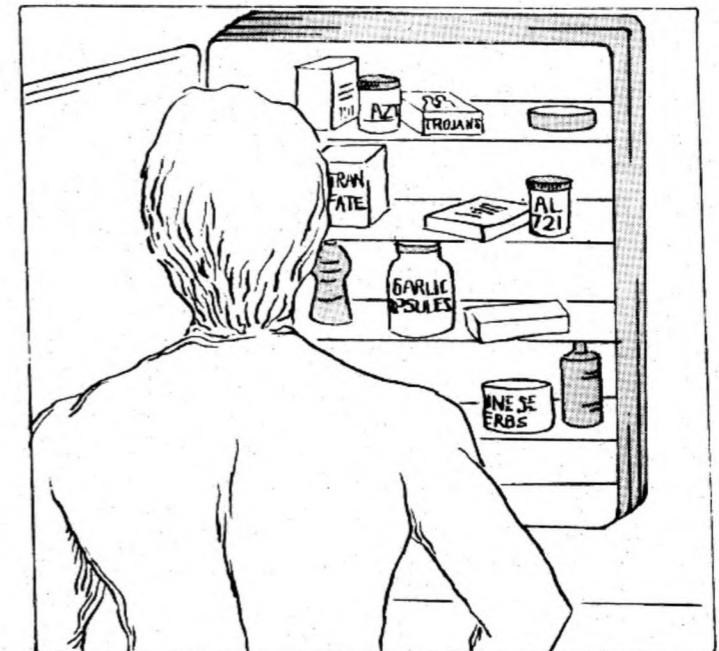
require the availability of measurements of serum levels of AZT. These are not currently available. In the meantime, public funds are available to cover the cost of AZT for people with AIDS or with T-helper cell counts below 200 when insurance does not cover this expense. While this is a laudable gesture for people with AIDS, it provides little incentive for Burroughs-Wellcome to investigate other

from egg yolks which was developed in Israel as an anti-aging product. It was reported to have dramatic effects in several people with AIDS who traveled to Israel. It is speculated that AL721 alters the surface of the lymphocyte to make it more impervious to HIV infection.

Research done at St. Luke's Roosevelt hospital in New York City showed a drop in reverse transcriptase levels in the blood of eight patients with ARC when they took AL721. When they stopped taking the (non-)drug, the reverse transcriptase levels increased again. This effect was demonstrated twice with the group of patients. (Reverse transcriptase is a measure of viral activity). Since this study was done, very little organized research has been done on AL721.

The availability of AL721 has been tied up by a patent, although several facsimile products have been available since early 1987. Various patients have reported benefits from taking the facsimile products. A survey conducted by John James of people using the facsimiles indicated that better results were obtained from products derived from egg yolks than from soy lecithin (PC55). Beyond this, there was no clear cut advantage of one product over another. As of April, 1988, the bonafide AL721 product may be available and may have advantages over other similar products.

The facsimile products have been generally well-tolerated, although people with allergy to egg yolk cannot use them. Many people object to the taste of the products and some people report gastro-intestinal discomfort or diarrhea. The fat level in the blood is often elevated in people using these products. A homemade version made with PC55 soy lecithin may be a satisfactory substitute in people who cannot tolerate eggs.



ways of using AZT which may be more cost effective.

One physician, Dr. Lisa Capaldini, compares AZT to a blind date: You may like it, you may hate it, you may live happily ever after, but you won't know if you don't give it a try. However, AZT is not the only show in town.

AL721

AL721 is a combination of lecithin and fat derived

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Dr. Keith Barton is a physician at the Berkeley Holistic Health Center. In addition to his medical background, Dr. Barton has also studied Traditional Chinese Medicine, and works closely with San Francisco's Quan Yin Acupuncture Center.

HIV Options Continued

The usual dose is ten grams twice a day for the first month and then ten grams once a day. However, there may be some advantages in continuing the higher dose if it is tolerable.

Chinese Herbs

Most of the organized work on Chinese herbs in the treatment of AIDS and ARC has been done by the Immune Enhancement Project (IEP) of Berkeley (now out of operation) and the Quan Yin Acupuncture Clinic (QY) of San Francisco. I have done some work with Chinese herbal formulas in my office as well, though involving fewer people and also using smaller doses of herbs.

The IEP basically measured symptoms changes in a group of people with ARC who began taking some Chinese herbal formulas developed by Subuti Dharmananda of Portland. These formulas included Astra 8 and Rei-Shi-Gen and were based upon Chinese herbal therapy for the side effects of chemotherapy in cancer patients. IEP found that many of the symptoms reported by people with ARC decreased while they took the Chinese herbal formulas. No attempt was made to measure T-cell counts, due to financial constraints.

The IEP ceased operating after about a year due to insufficient funding and burnout. It is not clear how helpful the herbal formulas are. It is likely that they are of some

help to some people but not of consistent help to everyone.

My use of similar formulas showed a variable response in T-helper cell count (some went up, some went down, and most stayed about the same), a general increase in B cell count, and general decrease in overall white blood count. Symptomatic re-

and also noted decreases in the white blood count and a variable response in the T cell count. The work at QY continues and may become more refined with experience.

The evaluation of Chinese herbal therapy underscored the usual difficulties in assessing any HIV-related therapy. We don't know whether the tests we are measuring (T cells,

tients do not often volunteer to be controls.)

While the Chinese herbal therapies have not demonstrated clear cut benefits, it is clear that some people feel they are sufficiently helpful to continue using them. The evidence for the herbs is no worse than it is for most of the things on this list, which is at best sketchy.

A parting thought about the herbs is that they may contain bacteria and fungi which could be a problem for some people with AIDS. In China, herbs are consumed only after prolonged boiling which will kill most microorganisms. I would recommend that people with AIDS use herbs that have been heat processed. Discuss this with your herbalist.

Acyclovir (Zovirax)

Acyclovir is a medication developed for treating Herpes simplex. In the laboratory setting, it has shown some capacity to enhance the effect of AZT in reducing the growth of HIV. However, it does not have a significant direct effect on HIV without AZT, and the effect of acyclovir on HIV in the body is not known.

Acyclovir has remarkably few side effects and is usually well tolerated. It is often combined with AZT, particularly if a client is taking the lower dose range of AZT. Besides what uncertain effect it has on HIV, it is quite effective against Herpes simplex as well as Herpes zoster



sponse was also variable, but was rarely dramatically improved.

Quan Yin has enlarged upon the initiative of IEP by using a wider variety of herbal formulas and adding regular acupuncture treatments, and in some cases regular psychotherapy. The QY program has measured T cell counts

(shingles). This may decrease the overall stress on the immune system and improve immunodeficiency. However, at present, the role of acyclovir in treating AIDS, ARC and ASC is not clearly defined.

Ribavirin

This Agent has been approved for the treatment of several viral infections in many countries of the world including Western Europe. In the USA, it is approved only for the treatment of Respiratory Syncytial Virus infections in children. Studies done in Ribavirin in AIDS have been encouraging. A recent article from Harvard showed improvement in clinical condition and in laboratory measures of immune function in people with AIDS using Ribavirin. The authors strongly recommended further research on this agent. However, the FDA has turned a deaf ear toward research on Ribavirin and people who want to use it must obtain it outside of this country, usually in Mexico.

Ribavirin has many of the same side effects as does AZT; however, the side effects tend to be milder. It can produce anemia, but not usually to the degree that AZT does. The benefits of Ribavirin are not clear. However, research at USC and UC San Diego in 1985 showed that fewer people with ARC taking Ribavirin developed AIDS than did a group taking a placebo.

No clear dosage regimen has been worked out. However, Project Inform recommends a maintenance dose of 1200 mg. per day.

DNCB

DNCB is a chemical which was first applied as a therapy for KS by a dermatologist, Dr. Mills, who had used it as a wart therapy during his training at Stanford. It has been used for decades in medicine to assess immune responsiveness to new antigens, for it has a consistent ability to stimulate an immune response.

It is used by applying a 1% or 2% solution in acetone to a small patch of skin once a week until an immune reaction develops. (This will look very much like a patch of poison oak rash.) DNCB can then be applied to KS lesions and in some instances has led to the regression of KS. However, this seems to occur in a minority of people who use it. (I have seen only one convincing case of KS which has regressed with DNCB.)

DNCB is quite inexpensive, but it is awkward to use without accurate scales and measuring devices. It can be obtained premixed in acetone from neighborhood sources, usually at no charge.

Overt side effects are rare except for the local rash that develops, and which indicates that the treatment is working. There are, however, theoretical reasons to think that stimulating the immune system may be undesirable and may increase the underlying HIV infection. It seems that HIV

is dormant in lymphocytes until they become activated, at which time the virus begins to reproduce quickly. Agents, such as DNCB, which activate lymphocytes could theoretically exaggerate the HIV infection. This idea remains unproven, yet it could justify combining immune stimulating therapies with anti-viral therapies.

Isoprinasine

Isoprinasine is said to improve immune functioning. It is available in Mexico. The limited amount of information I have seen on its effectiveness was not particularly impressive. However, there is sure to be more to say about it than I have seen.

Naltrexone

Naltrexone is a prescription drug used to treat narcotic overdose. However, it has also been used in AIDS (in much smaller doses) to stimulate endorphin production and to lower the levels of acid-labile interferon, which seems to be a marker of HIV infections.

The precise significance of these effects is not clear. However, Dr. Bihari of SUNY Downstate Medical College in Brooklyn reports that Naltrexone moderates the anemia produced by AZT and may improve overall vitality, which one would expect if the endorphin level is higher.

These effects are probably subtle and I have not heard of any dramatic improvement attributed to Naltrexone. Nevertheless, it is easy to take, and inexpensive, and may be

Resources

The Healing Alternatives Foundation
(The Buyer's Club)
273 Church St. SF
415-626-2316

AIDS Treatment News
published bi-weekly
John S. James
PO Box 411256
SF Ca. 94141

Santa Cruz AIDS Project
234 Santa Cruz Ave
Aptos, Ca. 95003
408-688-7641

The Alternative Healing Group for AIDS/ARC
Santa Cruz
For info: 408-458-1456

Living with AIDS
by Tom O'Connor
Corwin Publishers 1987

**Psychoimmunity & the Healing Process:
A Holistic Approach to Healing AIDS**
By Jason Serinus
Celestial Arts 1986

of some benefit. The dose is 2.7 mg usually taken as a syrup before bed.

Iscador

Iscador is an extract of mistletoe, a plant with medicinal uses in both Europe and China. Iscador was developed as a cancer therapy by Rudolph Steiner who developed a system called anthroposophical medicine in the early 20th century. Iscador has been used in AIDS by Dr. Gorter

Continued on page 39

MICHAEL BURTON, PH.D.
STATE CERTIFIED ACUPUNCTURIST

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Psychosomatics: You Are What You Think

A stroke patient reactivates her paralyzed limb by mentally talking with her nerve cells. A cancer patient participates in defending his body, fantasizing the good guys beating the bad guys. A chronic pain patient successfully talks down an over-active nerve. After 20 minutes of meditating, a hypertensive patient records lowered blood pressure. Is all this wishful thinking? On the contrary, the body-mind dialogue is a unique resource for monitoring responses to stress. Learn the language, and you can improve your well-being.

There was a time when the term psychosomatic was associated with hypochondriacs and lonely old ladies. Fortunately, the influx of Eastern thought during the sixties, advances in brain research, and the popular use of biofeedback devices to measure altered states of consciousness, improved the status of psychosomatic influence. A hopeful idea took root: *if the way we think can make us sick, perhaps it can make us well.*

The use of self-monitoring techniques certainly isn't new. They've been standard in martial arts and meditation practices for centuries. Western adaptations are mostly based on the work of a German physician named Schultz who developed a novel relaxation method called "Autogenics" in 1932. This uses self-suggestion to influence physical stress responses. Schultz found that specific nerve pain, blood pressure, heartbeat, and body temperature could be regulated this way. More



recently, Dr. Herbert Benson and a Harvard University team researched Transcendental Meditation, a simple meditative technique. They found that it elicits a "relaxation response" effective in lowering blood pressure of hypertensive patients. Another researcher, Dr. O. Carl Simonton, medical director of the Cancer Counseling and Research Center in Texas, sees a pattern of increased survival rate among his patients. While involved with standard medical treatments like chemotherapy and radiation, these people also spend time each day "imaging" their bodies as healthy, and seeing their treatments working.

Curious? There are many ways of listening in on your body-mind dialogue and influencing your sense of well-being. Explore the following techniques, and see what appeals to you. Set time aside before a meal or two hours after eating, so as not to interfere with digestion.

By Lorraine Lipani

Santa Cruz Women's Health Center



250 Locust Street
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

(408) 427-3500

CHIROPRACTIC
CARE
CENTER

Patricia Shea
Doctor of
Chiropractic

3150 Mission Drive, Santa Cruz, CA 95065
(near Dominican Hospital)
(408) 475-0666

through your nose. Become aware of your breathing.

- As you breathe out, say the word, "ONE," silently to yourself... Breathe easily and naturally.
- Continue for 10 to 20 minutes. You may open your eyes to check the time, but do not use an alarm. When you finish, sit quietly for several minutes....

Don't worry about whether you're doing it right, simply observe your breathing and the activity of your mind. Don't interact or fight with distracting thoughts. Return your attention to repeating the word "one."

Color and Sound

Other ways of changing perspective make use of color and sound. The simple do-re-mi scale is said to tune-up nerve centers along the spine. Next time you're in the shower, sound one long note per breath. Let it vibrate in an open throat. When you get to the top note, go back down the scale.

My arms and legs are heavy.

My arms and legs are warm.

My heartbeat is calm and regular.

It breathes me.

My abdomen is warm.

My forehead is cool.

Practice several times a day in 15 minute sessions. After awhile, you'll find yourself thinking relaxed, before your body tells you it's strung-out.

Meditation

In his book, *The Relaxation Response*, Harvard's Dr. Benson explains how this simple meditative technique actually activates the brain to release a natural chemical sedative. Try it for 20 minutes, and observe your peaceful response.

- Sit quietly in a comfortable position.
- Close your eyes.
- Deeply relax all your muscles, beginning at your feet and progressing up to your face. Keep them relaxed. Breathe

"...the body-mind dialogue is a unique resource for monitoring responses to stress. Learn the language, and you can improve your well-being."

feels effortless. The Aum will vibrate in your throat and down your spine. Take in another deep breath. Repeat the Aum until you feel energized and satisfied.

Color has a vibratory way of influencing the body, similar to using sound. Sit and breathe quietly. Imagine yourself basking in the following sequence of colors, allowing a few moments with each; red, orange, yellow, green, blue, indigo, violet, and white. Say to yourself, "I breathe in _____ from the good air. _____ fills and surrounds me, nourishing every cell." You may notice that while some colors are dull, others are brilliant. This depends on your mood and energy, and what your body needs to feel balanced.

Psychosomatics enables you to make peace between your body and your mind

Lorraine Lipani is scheduled to present information on visualization as an adjunct to traditional health care at the July 13 meeting of the Alternative Treatments Study Group for People with AIDS/ARC. For further information, call 458-1456.

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Fantasy on a Summer Day: Lesbian, Gay & Feminist Fiction

Looking for fun fiction to take on a camping trip? Why not take the battle for Good over Evil along—in a high pile of fantasy adventure books! Fantasy can be loosely defined as something that “can’t happen.” Many books have fantasy elements, however, often combined with science fiction, tales of magic, or “swords and sorcery.” Many of the worlds these stories are set in resemble medieval or Renaissance England, or feudal Europe in the 14th century.

Strong female characters, and some lesbian and gay characters, show up in fantasy increasingly in recent years. Marion Zimmer Bradley's Darkover books are a good example. Although Bradley insists she is not a lesbian, she often uses lesbian and gay main characters in her fiction.

Darkover is a forgotten Earth colony planet, with a race of strong telepaths and empaths who broadcast and receive thoughts and emotions. The Comyn rule a regressive feudal society, with strong bonds of brotherhood, a bond which may speak to gay men. She also creates an array of lesbians, including the Free Amazon Guild, which consists of women who renounce marriage or bondage, and who often work as mountain guides, earning respect by protecting other women.

The Shattered Chain is the classic in this series, and introduces the warriors of the Sisterhood of the Sword. Thendara House continues their tale. Unfortunately, in most of the books, the lesbian characters are great for the entire story, then decide to marry someone in the end. The City of Sorcery is one exception, where the lesbians end the book committed to one another.

Recently, Bradley began editing a series of anthologies called *Sword and Sorceress* (now in volume IV), featuring stories with strong magical female protagonists. Another anthology was titled *Free Amazons*



of Darkover. While these collections sometimes have uneven quality, Bradley generally has excellent taste and makes an effort to encourage fledgling women writers.

In *The Other Side of the Mirror*, a collection containing three of Bradley's own stories, she explores in more depth the relationships of the bredin, or blood-brothers, who share on telepathic, emotional, and physical levels of intimacy for life. Lythande, on the other hand, explores the adventures of the lesbian “Pilgrim Adept of the Blue Star” who Bradley created for the Thieves World series.

The Thieves World books, originated by Robert Asprin as stories by different writers about the same world, contain a few tremendous stories by recognized greats, such as Lynn Abbey, Cherryh, Bradley, and others. There are now ten or eleven in this series.

Bradley also explores the King Arthur legend in *The Mists of Avalon*, an epic novel told from the viewpoint of Morgaine Le Fey, Arthur's witch half sister.

I would be negligent if I did not mention the trilogies which could keep you reading all summer. There is nothing more pleasant than spending a month or more in another world. Some authors have gone so

far as to create trilogies of trilogies, some of those very enjoyable. Is nine books a novology?

My most recent find is Sheri S. Tepper, who produced three tales of whimsical Marvin-The-Many-Shapes, a shape-changer who engages in saving her world from evil. Her son Peter continues the family tradition in the Game-masters' series, *King's Blood Four*, *Wizard's Eleven*, and *Necromancer's Nine*. Along a slightly different track in the same world is Jinian the wizard, heroine of *Jinian Footseer*, a resourceful and mysterious woman who teams with Peter to fight the final battle of magic, complete with elemental earth giants and frozen scientists who come back to life after generations of suspended animation to help. These three trilogies will keep you fascinated for a while.

Margaret Weis and Tracy Hickman conceived of another three trilogy series which should keep you busy: *The Dragonlance Chronicles*, *Legends*, and *Tales* (to be read in that order). These books envelop you in a world full of dragons, sorceresses, wizards, tribal princesses, knights, warriors, elves and thieves, which will seem familiar to computer fantasy game-players, or Dungeons and Dragons freaks.

My absolute favorite character is the thief, Tasslehoff Burrfoot, of the kender, the “nuisance race of Krynn.” As other kender, he has constantly sticky fingers and feels no fear, no matter what horrors face him. I developed a positive affection for the little fellow.

The dynamics between the twins Raistlin, the wizard who has made bargains for the use of dark magic, and his warrior brother Caramon are fascinating. The authors paint an interesting and complex picture of two men who know each other so well, yet are at the same time completely blind to each other's strengths as well as weaknesses. Raistlin manages to work for the good of the beings he is loyal to, despite the warp-

ing effects of his power.

I read this entire series of nine long books thinking fondly that Margaret and Tracy must be a pair of lesbian lovers, delighting in the new openness of the publishing community, only to find out that Tracy seems to be a man. Maybe he's gay. In any case, worth reading.

In another mix of science and fantasy, try Patricia Kennealy's *The Copper Crown* and sequel *The Throne of Scone*. Her main characters Aeron and Gwydion are descendants of the original inhabitants of Atlantis, who, rather than drowning on the ocean's floor, escaped the planet on space ships to found a Celtic paradise in the stars. Aeron rules, and she presents a courageous model of caring leadership, even in crisis. Part of the lure of good fantasy is wanting to renew our hope that Good will triumph over Evil in the end.

The Blue Sword by Robin McKinley is the tale of a girl who is kidnapped by a desert band, and learns to ride, and to fight. Books like this are often co-opted by love plots, but this one shines with genuine adventure and hardships barely survived. Although magic plays a role, this plot is more realistic than most. I can imagine the dust and sweat, the constant thirst and water conservation measures, and the raw pleasure in excelling in annual desert games.

Or try the unconventional but hysteri-

Barbara Hambly is the interesting and prolific author of the best dragon book I have ever read: *Dragonsbane*. This love story details the conflict a woman feels between the time and energy she needs to perform powerful magic, and her wish for love and companionship. The chapters which make this book unique deal with her relationship with the dragon. Hambly describes what it feels like to be a dragon, to hoard gold, and to have gold sing to you. I was ready at the end to take up the dragon's offer and become one too!

Of course, I can't mention dragons without Anne McCaffery. All of her dragon books, set on Pern, feature strong women and resourceful girls, loving men, and dragons. The dragons are partnered with riders at birth, and maintain a lifelong telepathic connection. *Dragonflight*, *Dragonquest* and *The White Dragon* introduce the planet and Lessa, the dragonmistress. Lessa flies not only between on her dragon from place to place, but back in time to find the secret to save her planet and people from the thread which falls from the sky to kill animals, people and plants. McCaffery's *Dragonsong* trilogy explores the adventures of young musicians from the Harper Craft Hall of Pern, and their role in protecting their planet.

She is currently reading a British collection of lesbian feminist science fiction stories, *The Needle on Full* (London: Onlywomen Press, 1985) by Caroline Forbes.

cally funny books by Jody Scott, *Passing for Human* and *I, Vampire*. Both feature a seven-hundred-year-old Rysemian fish-woman, who masquerades in a human form to experience the joys of Earth. In *I, Vampire*, the heroine lives in a post-Victorian London, and falls in love with equally lesbian Virginia Woolf, engaging in surrealistic adventures with same.

If this booklist doesn't give you enough to get started, then you have more time to read than I! So enter the world where the impossible is possible, do a spell for peace and quiet while you polish your sword, and enjoy your summer, basking in the fog and reading...fantasy....

Gail Groves edited *Her Wits About Her: Self-Defense Success Stories by Women with Denise Caignon* (New York: Harper & Row, 1987). She is already planning a series of science fiction fantasies to be written in her spare time in her next lifetime. Between equinox rituals, inspirational visits to the Renaissance Pleasure Faire, and full moons, she plans to spend her summer gardening.

She is currently reading a British collection of lesbian feminist science fiction stories, *The Needle on Full* (London: Onlywomen Press, 1985) by Caroline Forbes.

I THINK THAT I STILL HAVE IT IN MY HEART SOMEDAY
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LIKE A LIGHT IN THE MIDST OF DARKNESS.
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By Gail Groves

REPRINT

Cece

Reprinted from **We Are Everywhere: Writings by & about Lesbian Parents**
Edited by Harriet Alpert Published by Crossing Press 1988

My name is Cecilia but ever since I was a kid they have called me Cece. How do I begin to tell you what it is like for me now in this phase of my development as a spiritual being and a single lesbian mother? Being a lesbian mom is the greatest gift of love and learning in my life, but it has not always been this way for me. I have fought long and hard to become the woman I am today. A lot of my fight was with myself.

In 1978 I moved from Santa Cruz, California, to, of all places, Willard, Ohio. I was just 20 years old, tryin' to soothe my soul. But I was on a hard path. I started drinking wine a lot. I felt very alone. Every night I would come home from work at the candle factory, drink a bottle of wine and pass out. This went on for a year.

Then I met a man. He was crazy. He had been in Vietnam and he was still angry. I thought I could calm the beast that lived inside him, so we got married. I remember vividly a telephone conversation with my sister prior to my marriage. She said, "You better go through with this wedding, Cec, you never do what you say you are going to do." I took this as a dare and no one at that time dared me to do anything, 'cause I would do it.

Well, the marriage didn't work out and my being a closet lesbian was only part of it. He and I never talked about it, we didn't know how to communicate. Somehow we both knew I was a lesbian. When I was twelve years old I had a girlfriend. She was my first woman lover; we explored each other's bodies and it was pure and innocent. A wonderful feeling. Then she discovered boys and it was over. This was tucked far away in my mind somewhere. As for him, he wanted to be close and intimate, in the beginning anyway. The thing

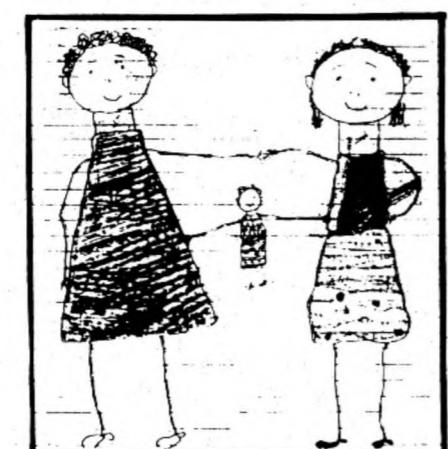
of it was I could never let him. We could never reach a place of intimacy. He could never touch my soul or get into my heart. So he beat me up physically and mentally. The last straw came one afternoon when we had been drinking too much alcohol (which we did every day). He called me a lesbian and beat me up real bad for that and nothing else. He had decided for himself that I was a lesbian because of my attitude toward him. He knew this was a pain-

Everything was okay for about three months. But I had this gnawing hole in my gut that was driving me nuts. One day he called, and I went back to him.

We moved to a small town in California below Yosemite. I took up jogging and being alone a lot. I got a dog, a cat, and a pet goat. They were my friends and my constant protectors. One day my husband flipped out and destroyed everything. He shot my goat, destroyed my record collection, and demolished everything in the house until there was nothing. I had nothing, emotionally, spiritually and materially. I was truly alone.

I made a choice. I left him. I felt a force in my life that I did not understand. Soon I found out that I was pregnant. I felt a calm, a peace, a reason. I have never heard from or seen my ex-husband since.

I now had a reason to live, a child was growing inside my body. I moved back to Santa Cruz. I was 23 years old. My sister became my birth coach and I had natural childbirth. On November 20, 1980 I had a baby girl whom I named Tamara Ann. She became my life force. Time moved on. I got Tamara and myself settled into a trailer in a park and I adored being a mother. Then one day when Tamara was fifteen months old, my sister said to me, "You can't be a single mother, Cec." I thought for a moment and then felt my self-esteem and self-worth fly out the window. She destroyed me with words. She said I needed a man, so she set me up with this guy who was a coke dealer. She knew what my weaknesses were. I always wanted to escape reality and drugs seemed a good way out. I got into drugs, so I weaned my baby when she was seventeen months old. I didn't want the drugs to go through my milk to her. The wonderful, intimate bond



ful area for me, he could see it in my eyes. He kicked me when I was down, every time I tried to get up he would kick me more. Then, suddenly, he dragged me up by the hair into the bathroom and made me look at my bloodied face in the mirror and said, "This is what you are, look, do you like what you see?"

He wanted something from me that I could not give him. I still shiver at the thought of that day. He was brutally cruel. I pray that no one ever has to go through what I did.

I sought help and left him. I went to therapy at the battered women's shelter.

By Cecilia Pinheiro



Phone (408) 429-1812

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Santa Cruz, Calif. 95062



that nursing had provided for me was severed. I became an addict.

Soon I met Joanie; she was an addict too. She was not just another woman, I had known her before. We grew up together, we lived on the same street when we were kids. We had a lot of catching up to do. We became lovers. This was almost paradise for me. I fell in love with her very deeply, but she was married and it just didn't work out. We spent one summer together. I became obsessed with her every move and she was just playin' around with me. She told me to split. I was devastated.

I had such plans. I felt so awake; we were going to teach our children what life and love were really about. She had three kids of her own that I had taken care of.

I wanted to die if I could not be with her and I tried to kill myself. It didn't work.

I have done a lot of soul searching since that time. I also began recovering from drugs and alcohol. I was an addict/alcoholic so I went to a recovery house. My daughter went to live with my mother for the longest nine months of my life. When Tamara came back to me we had to start over. She was four years old and we began to build a clean and sober life together. I came out as a lesbian and it was like coming home for me.

The first hard issue I had to face was the wanting and desperately needing some kind of recognition. No one says, "Wow, that's great, you're a single lesbian mom. Wow, that is something to be." They just don't give you anything. My family sort of slipped away from me, so I sought out help from therapy and my lesbian community who were sober and clean members of A.A. Without the network of lesbian support I never could have made it through those crucial times.

My daughter and I have grown a lot since then. We go to therapy together to learn to communicate, and we lead a simple loving life. I work with children as a Teacher's Aide in a special education class, and I run a cafeteria at the elementary school that I went to when I was a kid.

Tamara is my greatest gift and my most painful struggle. I teach her and she teaches me. I have learned to set limits with her, which has been hard for me because Peter Pan is my hero and I have never wanted to grow up. (Wendy, where are you?) Tamara and I are two separate human beings. This was hard for me to accept because we were merged for so long. Through her and a power greater than myself I have learned to love myself. We talk now and she tells me how she feels

and I tell her how I am feeling. I am truly blessed; she is a wonder and only six years old.

I have had two lover relationships with women in the past two years of my new clean and sober life. Tamara has stood by my side in whatever decisions I have made and seems to adjust to changes much more easily than I do.

For today, my main identity revolves around mothering. The mother-child relationship has been the primary source and experience of love for me. This is a great gift. Loving has become a part of my being, part of the way I choose to live, part of my work and my play. I believe that Tamara chose me and I her, that she really wanted to be born into the world.

I feel that through being a lesbian mother I can make my contribution to peace and love on earth. Everyday when I wake up I thank our great mother earth for another day. I live for today, one day at a time. Coming to love myself has been a process and I practice meditations. Saying them to myself in the mirror each day has helped to heal the little girl that lives inside of me. They go like this:

Cece,

I love you, I'll take care of you. You

Continued on page 44

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Condom Lady Continued

Dear Condom Lady,

Recently, I've fallen in love with this wonderful, sexy man. We've been really good about having only safer sex. A while ago we went out for a really romantic dinner, with wine during, and champagne and a joint at my place afterward. We had great, passionate sex, but didn't use the condoms that were on the nightstand. I feel horrible, guilty and angry at myself. I can barely talk to him. Is this relationship ruined?

signed,
Fear and Self-Loathing

Dear F&SL,

Oh my goodness dear! Do forgive yourself already! This is kind of an opportunity. You two had a problem and now you can work on it together. He probably doesn't feel so good about it either.

But be sure to talk about *this*: you had champagne. You had wine. You had some - what? reefer? - yes. These can be fun things, depending. *But they don't go with safe sex.* People who have, how to say, indulged, they don't think so clearly. And now you know this too. Lots of people have gotten sick this way. So from now on, think ahead.

Decide which is more important with the time you're going to spend together: drinking, smoking or fucking. If you want to drink or you want to smoke, plan on not having sex. If you want to fuck, don't drink and don't smoke before.

Okay, I hear you saying that being high and having sex go together like peaches and cream. I want you to try to change your mind about this, and your partner's mind. But do this in the meantime: Before you light the match or open the bottle, you and your friend stop and say to each other - out loud - that you won't do, and you won't let each other do, anything unsafe, even if you're kind of - you know - in another world. Then keep your promise.

Dear Condom Lady,

My kids are in their late teens. I know they are experimenting with sex. I doubt they're using condoms. How do I talk to them? Can I give them something to read? The instructions on the condom boxes don't do much good.

signed,
Parent

Dear Parent,

Let's start with you. When's the last time you played with a rubber? You

can't remember? If you're going to do the talking, you'd better buy some and get reacquainted, or your talk won't be so convincing, or so comfortable to listen to. And get your questions answered first, do some reading or some calling around too, so you know what you're talking about.

What if you don't want to talk about it yourself? Give your kids a copy of this magazine. Make them an appointment at Planned Parenthood. See if someone from an AIDS organization can talk at their school (your kids aren't the only ones). Give them some phone numbers to call.

I have a friend, she has a teenage son. She puts boxes of condoms in his drawer, and a note - "these are for you because I love you." After a while, she looks. If they're gone, she puts some more in.

Dear Condom Lady,

My lover says he doesn't like condoms because he can't feel as much.

signed,
Pressured

Dear Pressured,

My dear, why don't you simply tell him that if he doesn't use a condom, he's not going to feel anything at all?

HIV Options Continued

who is trying to organize research on this product. He reports general improvement in immune function and less problems with anemia in patients on AZT.

Iscador is given by injection twice a week in increasing doses. Patients can administer the injections, which are given with an insulin-type syringe. It costs about \$5 per injection. The single patient I have seen who took Iscador felt extremely fatigued on it and chose to stop it. However, it must work better for other patients. Iscador can be ordered from Switzerland.

Antabuse (DTC)

Research done in France on a chemical called DTC indicated that it could raise the helper T cell counts in people with AIDS and ARC in a double-blind, controlled study of about thirty people. Subsequently, a research project was started at SFGH to repeat the French study. The results are pending.

Meanwhile, DTC is related chemically to Antabuse in such a way that Antabuse becomes DTC after metabolism in the liver. Therefore, Antabuse has been suggested as a readily available substitute for DTC. The equivalent dose is 750 mg. given once a week.

My experience is that about a third of patients get moderately to quite ill with this dose of Antabuse even if they don't drink any alcohol. In fact some patients do not tolerate even 250 mg. of Antabuse. However, others have no particular problem with the drug.

I do recommend, when first taking Antabuse, to start with half a tablet. If this is tolerated satisfactorily, take a full tablet two or three hours later. If this is satisfactory, take the remaining one and a half tablets three to four hours later. If moderate or severe effects develop, stop and try another day.

Some people take 500 mg. of Antabuse twice a week, and this may produce fewer side effects. The dose is not clearly worked out.

Of course it is important to completely avoid alcohol for at least two days before taking Antabuse and for four

helpful in terms of improved well-being, and some research in West Germany indicates that the enzymes can lower immune complex levels. However, the dose is large (ten tablets three times a day before meals) and they often produce gastro-intestinal reactions and diarrhea.

Pier indicated that most patients have stopped taking the enzymes after a few weeks or months. Still, he thought they were helpful.

days afterward. Even the alcohol in herbal tinctures or after shave can produce symptoms such as headache, malaise, or cramps.

Of the few patients I have seen taking Antabuse who have also had before and after T cell counts, I have not seen an increase in Helper cell counts. However, the number of patients is too small to base an opinion on.

DHEA

DHEA is an anabolic steroid which has been used for the treatment of obesity. It is a precursor of testosterone, and should theoretically increase muscle mass and blood counts. Therefore, it may be useful in treating anemia. It is available commercially in Canada and apparently can be ordered by mail, at least by physicians.

Some research has been done in Paris by an Irish company on people with AIDS and ARC. The results are obscured in corporate secrecy. However, I have spoken with one patient who was treated in Paris with DHEA for four months. He did not notice particular benefits from the treatments, but he felt that some of the other participants had improved. His T cell counts were quite low and did not change before or after the therapy. He returned from Paris with a mild case of Pneumocystis pneumonia. However, his one KS lesion was stable while he was in Paris, and he developed no new KS. Of course one case does not prove much of anything, but the fact that we have not heard much about it may indicate unfavorable results. More work needs to be done on it, or at least reported. It can be taken by mouth and is not likely to produce harmful side effects.

The above listed treatments for HIV-related disorders do not obviate nonspecific measures to improve health such as diet, nutrition, exercise, rest, emotional release, and spiritual attunement. In fact, the more specific therapies discussed above may work better when the metabolic machinery is working at its optimal level through attention to diet and exercise (circulation), and when anxiety and depression are diminished.

Dextran Sulfate

DS is available over the counter in Japan to lower cholesterol and thin the blood. Some laboratory evidence shows that DS inhibits HIV growth and that it works syn-

ergistically with AZT. Effects in people with HIV are not known. A study is underway at SFGH to test toxicity of DS, which seems redundant in view of the Japanese experience with the drug and the availability of DS over the counter.

DS is taken orally and should have an enteric coating to improve absorption. It seems to be generally well tolerated, although some people have experienced gastrointestinal discomfort and some have had nose bleeds. It would be sensible to have blood clotting tests (pro-time and partial thromboplastin time) done before and after starting DS.

DS is imported from Japan over the objection of the FDA and Japanese authorities. It is currently difficult to obtain.

If the laboratory findings apply to humans with HIV infections, then DS could decrease the amount of AZT needed to control HIV by a factor of ten. Not surprisingly, Burroughs-Wellcome has not authorized any combination drug studies using AZT with other agents.

General Measures for Health Improvement or Maintenance

The above listed treatments for HIV-related disorders do not obviate nonspecific measures to improve health such as diet, nutrition, exercise, rest, emotional release, and spiritual attunement. In fact, the more specific therapies discussed above may work better when the metabolic machinery is working at its optimal level through attention to diet and exercise (circulation), and when anxiety and depression are diminished.

Conclusion: Making Choices

It is clear that much remains to be learned about HIV infections and their treatment. There are few clearcut answers. What is more, people

Continued on next page

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HIV Options Continued

ple are different; what may help one person may not help someone else. Until more definite answers are found, perhaps the best that one can do is to develop a careful attentiveness to the body's messages and see how it responds to various treatments. This can be supported with laboratory tests as well that measure the Helper T cells, and newer tests such as the p24 antigen and beta 2 microglobulin levels. However, bear in mind that the tests may or may not correlate with survival, and at best the correlation will be statistical and not individual.

Obtain information from a variety of sources and try to talk to other people using the therapies themselves. If you use more than one therapy at a time, try to allow several weeks between starting different therapies, so that if problems develop you can more easily associate it with one of the therapies.

Project Inform makes several specific recommendations about designing a preventative program for people who are HIV sero-positive based on the T4 Helper lymphocyte counts. If the T4 count is below 800 and above 400, an anti-viral drug is recommended, such as AZT, Ribavirin, AL721, and/or Acyclovir. If the T4 count is between 400 and 200, an anti-viral drug plus an immune modulator is recommended, such as Naltrexone, DNCB, DTC/ Antabuse, or Iscador. (Chinese herbal therapy would probably be included in this category also.) If the T4 count is below 200, drugs to prevent Pneumocystis pneumonia are added, such as aerosol Pentamidine given every two weeks as an inhaled mist.

Project Inform recommends checking the T lymphocyte counts every three months, recognizing that there is some random variability in the counts. An unusually high or low count may not mean much by itself unless it is part of a general

trend in the values. To reduce the variability in the counts, the blood should be drawn at the same time of the day. (The T4 count is often lowest in the morning and increases by about 20% by evening.)

Other tests have become available which may supplement the T-lymphocyte count. These include the HIV p24 antigen test which measures a viral protein in the blood stream. A positive p24 test indicates an increased risk for developing AIDS. The p24 antigen can be measured quantitatively. A decrease in the antigen level may indicate a favorable response to therapy. For example, the antigen level often decreases when a person starts AZT. Cost is about \$35.

Another test is the beta-2 microglobulin level. A higher level of this protein also indicates an increased risk for AIDS, and a decreasing level may indicate improvement. This test was actually the best correlate with progressive HIV illness in a series of gay men studied at SF General Hospital. Cost is about \$40. Another test is the lymphocyte stimulation tests to mitogens and soluble antigens. This measures the ability of lymphocytes to function in a simulated infection in the test tube. The higher the response, the better the immune system is doing; and an increasing count indicates a favorable response to therapy. For example, researchers at Harvard showed the patients with ARC had an improvement in the lymphocyte stimulation tests when they took Ribavirin. Cost is about \$125.

Another test is the CMI skin test panel which produces a series of simulated infections in the skin. A positive response is indicated by an area of redness and swelling resembling a mosquito bite at the site of the skin test. The diameter of the swelling can be measured and compared to the next time the test is done. Cost is \$20 for supplies and two office visits.

The T cell count, the p24 antigen level and the beta-2 microglobulin levels are currently being used to guide the choice of therapy in persons with ARC and ASP. The other tests are chiefly used in research settings to attempt to measure response to an experimental therapy.

The Future of AIDS Research

It is clear that the medical research establishment, which is dominated by the Food and Drug Administration, does not have a high priority in finding an effective treatment for AIDS. The p24 antigen can be measured quantitatively. A decrease in the antigen level may indicate a favorable response to therapy. For example, the antigen level often decreases when a person starts AZT. Cost is about \$35.

Furthermore, the research community is taking a high tech approach to AIDS therapies which focuses attention on recombinant DNA generated drugs such as interferon and thymosin on one hand, and on sophisticated antiviral drugs such as AZT and DHPG on the other hand. It has little interest in less glamorous therapies such as AL721. This is not intrinsically wrong, but it is intrinsically slow and costly in terms of money and lives.

In response to this situation, the community of people with HIV has a few options.

1. It can circumvent the FDA and the research community and organize its own research methods and institutions.

2. It can attempt to reform the research institutions through public opinion and political pressure, possibly including demonstrations and civil disobedience.

3. It can embrace each promising lead of AIDS therapy without expecting to ever

know what is or is not helpful beyond what seems to provide subjective improvement for each individual.

While these options are not mutually exclusive, and are all being advocated to a degree, I would like to focus on the first option because it seems the most likely to succeed and the most empowering, being the least dependent upon heterosexual largess.

It may be possible to organize community based research which is largely patient-directed and operated. One format would be to identify a group of 10 to 30 people who voluntarily make a commitment to utilize one particular therapy for six to twelve months, and identify another group of 10 to 30 people who would agree to use another treatment for six to twelve months. Each group would be followed for changes in T cell counts, p24 antigen levels, beta-2 microglobulin levels and whatever other tests discussed above were practical to obtain.

At six month intervals the various groups could be compared for changes in the blood test and changes in symptoms, energy level, and the numbers who had developed AIDS or who had died.

While this simplified study design may sound easy, it would require a high degree of cooperation and commitment from participants which may be difficult to achieve. Still, it offers the possibility of studying therapies which are selected by patients rather than by research institutions and hospital bureaucracies.

It may be some time before effective treatments for ARC and ASP are identified, and we may never know what is the best treatment because many treatments will not have been looked at. However, at present, the above list includes some promising approaches. People with HIV could make significant progress in evaluating prospective therapies with sufficient organization and cohesiveness.

LGCC Continued

The organizing group will continue to meet on the second Tuesdays of each month at Louden Nelson. Freedom Foundation members have asked the LGCC to administer the annual Gay Pride Week raffle, and proceeds from that will be used toward the Community Center general fund.

Mindy Storch: "The general level of enthusiasm was high and contagious," speaking of the atmosphere on the 24th.

It is the hope of the author that this enthusiasm spreads throughout the coming months. Enthusiastic people who have prizes to donate or who want to work on the raffle, coffee houses, or other fund-raising efforts should contact Will Russell at 429-2060.

Anyone interested in helping to author our charter, or with working on other administrative tasks should contact Shari Bandes at 475-6268. Our "programs" committee will be working on developing a library of donated books and memorabilia. They are also planning outreach programs, an information line, and exploring other services and ideas; Christopher Spillers is the contact at 761-0354.

Our short term goals are clear: develop a greater sense of community by developing more community sense. With that in mind we hope that every group in town will begin planning their role and contribution to this great idea. We hope that every individual will play a part in making the dream come true.

The LGCC will host its grand-opening gala on June 14th at Louden Nelson. This potluck dessert reception will feature speakers from the Billy DeFrank Center, reports on our financial status, 3 year plan, and of course a chance to meet people and join the effort (see the calendar for other LGCC events this summer).

Mother's Day Continued

Upon entering, they were cited for acts of civil disobedience and released.

The four U.S. actions were held simultaneously at noon Central Time. In Nevada over 320 people were arrested, which broke last year's arrest record.

"I felt unity, support, love, good feelings. I think we're changing history, and I'm glad to have a say in it," said a Santa Cruz woman at the end of the action. □

—Heather Bates
Ed. note: Lesbian participation has always been strong and visible at the Mother's Day Actions, which have become an annual tradition at the Nevada Test Site.

The Four Ways To Get Lavender Reader

1.

Alliance Membership

Join the Lesbian/Gay Action Alliance (formerly the Freedom Democratic Caucus). The Reader is published quarterly as a community project of the Alliance, and mailed to all its members. Besides sponsoring the Reader, the Alliance also presents community forums of interest to lesbians and gay men, helps initiate needed community projects (like the recently launched Campaign for Responsible AIDS Action/ No on Prop 69), and networks with other progressive political organizations. Membership in the Alliance is a great way to support the on-going political work that takes place in our community...and you are assured a copy of the Reader in the mail every three months!

2.

Subscribe

If you'd rather not become a member of the Alliance, but would like to get the Reader in the mail, subscribe. It's only \$8 for the year!

3.

Advertise

Lavender Reader is a great place to advertise your business or service. With a print run of 2000 copies and distribution throughout Santa Cruz County (and at a key location in Monterey), the Reader provides an excellent vehicle for reaching gay men and lesbians in the area. Our rates are affordable (as little as \$25 per issue for your business card), and you'll receive the Reader directly in the mail every quarter!

4.

Free Distribution

Yes, Lavender Reader can be picked-up free-of-charge at many distribution points throughout the area. But, as more people opt to receive the Reader in the mail, fewer copies will be available at these locations. The best way to be assured a copy is to join the Alliance, subscribe, or advertise!

.....
Detach and mail to: The Alliance/Lavender Reader PO Box 7293 Santa Cruz CA 95061

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____ Phone _____

Alliance Membership (\$25.00/\$10.00 Low Income)

Reader subscription (\$8 per year)

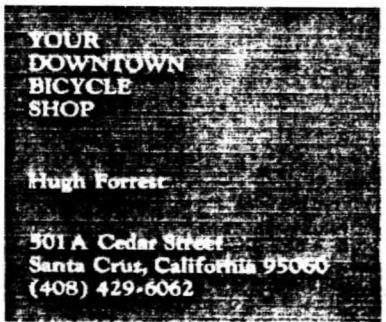
Please contact me regarding advertising in the Reader

CALENDAR

GLOSSARY

AGEM	A Gay Evening in May
CFR	Closet Free Radio
CLT	Cabrillo Lesbians Together <i>see pride program</i>
CRAA	Campaign for Responsible AIDS Action
FYI	For Your Information
GLBN	Gay, Lesbian & Bisexual Network
GLV	Gay & Lesbian Vegetarians
GO	Great Outdoors
LGAA	Lesbian & Gay Action Alliance
LGCC	Lesbian & Gay Community Center
LOCA	Lesbians of Color Alliance <i>see pride program</i>
MCAP	Monterey County AIDS Project
PC	Politically Correct
REPA	Rainbow Ensemble of the Performing Arts
SCAP	Santa Cruz AIDS Project
SC	Santa Cruz
SJ	San Jose
SOL	Slightly Older Lesbians
UCSC	University of California at Santa Cruz

CALENDAR LISTINGS:
Call Will Russell
429-2060



SUN ▽ JUN 12

KICKOFF!
Gay Pride Week begins at the annual picnic.
1-4pm Frederick St. Park (monitor training 10-2pm).

MON ▽ JUN 13

CFR
Lesbian Battering is discussed on KZSC, 88.1 FM 7pm.

On Air: 429-4036
Info: 423-4734
An evening coffee house featuring Linda Blan and "Silke".

UCSC Women's Center 7:30-10pm

see pride program



TUE ▽ JUN 14

GRAND OPENING ceremony, and dessert potluck reception for the LGCC! Louden Nelson, 7:30pm
see pride program

WED ▽ JUN 15

"LESBIANS, GAY MEN AND THE MILITARY" an Alliance (LGAA) Community Forum. Louden Nelson, 7:30pm
see pride program

RIGHTS and REACTIONS

Lesbian and Gay Rights on Trial



THU ▽ JUN 16

"Healing AIDS: Transforming Ourselves", featuring Jason Serinus. Cabrillo College Forum Building, 7pm

see pride program

FRI ▽ JUN 17

Benefit Presentation of the 3rd Annual Gay Pride Week Film Celebration at the Sash Mill. Reception follows.

see pride program

SAT ▽ JUN 18

SC Freedom Foundation sponsors the Parade and Rally for Lesbian and Gay Pride.

Gather 10am at Cedar & Cathcart, noon rally follows at SL Park - bring signs, drums, color, costumes and fun!

see pride program

TYPA GRAPHIX

DIGITAL TYPOGRAPHY • GRAPHIC DESIGN

NEW ADDRESS!

303 POTRERO AT THE OLD SASH MILL

Monday - Friday, 10-6 PM

408-429-TYPE (8973)

CALENDAR

SAT ▽ JUN 18

In Touch Lounge hosts a Tea Dance and barbecue. 3pm - 6pm
see pride program

Dance and strut if you are "Rightfully Proud" at the Vet's Hall with Pearl Divers and Congabelle. 8pm - midnight

see pride program



MON ▽ JUN 27

Closet Free Radio (CFR) presents news, music, events and review. Hosted by Ron Sampson with guests Will Russell and Gary Reynolds. KZSC, 88.1 FM 7pm On Air: 429-4036 Info: 429-2060



MON ▽ JUN 20

LGAA Steering Committee meeting. Everyone encouraged to attend. CRAA activists invited to join us in planning continued efforts. Louden Nelson, 7:30pm Info: 423-8259

THU ▽ JUN 30

AIDS Educator's Network meets at Sesnon House, Cabrillo College promptly at 2:30 - 4:30pm. 425-2048

SAT ▽ JUL 2 - 4

Great Outdoors annual multi-chapter Jamboree at Devil's Postpile. Brett: 427-2722



FRI ▽ JUL 8 - 11

GO trip "Mineral King" camping. Brett: 427-2722



SAT ▽ JUL 9

Jazz musician extraordinaire RHIANNON returns to Kuumbwa with a sizzling band including Keith James, Frank Martin, and Barbara Borden. Guaranteed to ignite with explosive sounds of jazz. Kickoff for the new Lea Lawson series. Don't miss it! 8pm, \$10.50 Tickets at Cymbaline

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Santa Cruz (408) 462-2192

OPEN DAILY noon-11pm

CALENDAR

SUN ▽ JUL 10
GLV Potluck
Call Rick:
426-7315



TUE ▽ JUL 12

LGCC:
The Lesbian/Gay
Community Center
invites you to
join in the exciting
work and fun.
Your voice, your
smile, our collective
efforts, the excitement
of creation make these
evenings worth it.
Join us at
Louden Nelson, 7:30pm

SAT ▽ JUL 16
GO trip
to the fascinating
Filoli Mansion.
Mindy: 475-6268

SUN ▽ JUL 24 - 30
GO sponsors
a week long
backpacking trip
to 1000 Lakes
Wilderness area.
Dean: 427-1675

SAT ▽ AUG 6
Watch for the 10th
Anniversary concert
of the SF Gay Mens
Chorus at Davies Hall
in August.



MON ▽ JUL 18
LGAA Steering
Committee meeting.
Everyone invited.
Planning forums,
the Lavender Reader,
outreach and more
(if you attend).
Louden Nelson, 7:30pm
Info: 423-8259

SAT ▽ JUL 30
Hot Summer Party
WATCH OUT!
The fantastic band
you may remember
from the Women's
Music Festival plays
at the Eagles Hall,
8:00pm. \$5 advance
\$7 door. Tickets at
Gay Pride Rally
and Cymbaline.
Info: 423-4734



FRI ▽ JUL 22 - 24

REPA performs
"Ain't Misbehavin'"
in its entirety, at
the Cafe' Cameleon
418 Front St.
SC, 8pm. The show
runs through August.
If you saw them at
AGEM, you won't miss
them now!

WED ▽ AUG 3
Gay Volleyball
continues through
August at 5:30pm each
Wednesday on the
Boardwalk Beach.
429-2060

SUN ▽ AUG 14

LGAA Picnic!
Membership and
community invited
to what will become
a grand tradition.
Food, games, fun
and celebration.
Starts at noon,
call for details:
Allison: 423-8259
Will: 429-2060



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AN ENVIRONMENTAL STORE

1012 1/2 PACIFIC AVE.
SANTA CRUZ, CA 95060
[408] 458-3090

Letters Continued

gay men won't necessarily benefit women, a strike against gay men is a strike against all oppressed people. She needs to know that for centuries gay men have been learning how "to do emotional work, to feel and to love." Eventually, someone will probably have to tell her that gay men have their own way of expressing their sexuality.

And now the AIDS crisis is here and we men need all the help we can get. We aren't asking women to do it for us or give up anything for us. They are doing it willingly. Maybe Sonia doesn't "care who they are or how fast they are dying" but these men are the brothers, fathers, sons, lovers and friends of women and many of them have been fighting for women's equality on the front lines and taking abuse for it. Ms. Johnson's interpretation of the rescue triangle stinks and reflects her own insecurity as a

feminist. I fear she has traded the isolation of a Mormon homemaker for the isolation of a separatist reality. Thank you to all women (separatist and not) who are fighting AIDS.

—Dan Dickmeyer

Cece Continued

can trust me, I'll be there for you, I'll be there even when you die.
Cece,
It is not what you do, but who you are that I love. You are special.
Cece,
I see you and I hear you.
Cece,
You don't have to be afraid anymore.

Cecilia Pinheiro is Portuguese and Spanish and an eighth-generation Californian. The thirty year old writer is an instructional technician in an elementary school in her home town. She is very active in AA and lives the spiritual steps of AA in every part of her life.

CALENDAR

MON ▽ AUG 15

LGAA Steering
Committee meeting.
Members, friends
and interested
persons encouraged
to attend.
The November
elections are coming
up and our work will
be cut out for us.
Get involved -
Be political -
Join us at
Louden Nelson, 7:30pm.
Info: 423-8259

Jo Kenny has
freshmen
handwriting!!!



FRI ▽ AUG 26

The LGCC sponsors
their first Cafe'
Night. Live music
and entertainment will
expand on the theme
of "Women's Suffrage"
for on this date in
1920, the 19th
amendment was passed
guaranteeing the right
to vote without regard
to gender.
A "Bella Abzug" look
alike contest is in
order, as she authored
the bill which makes
August 26th
"Women's Equality Day".
In honor of these things,
the LGCC asks everyone
to join us for dessert,
music, costumes and fun.
212 Walnut St, \$2
8:00 to 11:00pm

SAT ▽ SEP 17 - 18

RUMMAGE SALE
to benefit the LGCC.
Collect those
collectibles, L&G books,
furniture, drag and
other fun items.
Collecting goes on all
week, and today. Sale
begins today, lasts til
tomorrow.
More Details To Come.
Info: 429-2060

SAT ▽ SEP 17 - 18

BBQ and SALE
for the LGCC.
A potluck BBQ hosted
by the "Goodwill Fashion
Queens" begins at 2pm.
Start Collecting Now!
Info: 429-2060

CONGRATULATIONS

on the 14th annual celebration

Mayor John Laird

▼ Rightfully Proud ▼

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mechanical maintenance



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THURS. 5:30 PM-11:00 PM

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214 LIGHTHOUSE AVENUE
MONTEREY, CA

ART & DESIGN FLIPSIDE GRAPHIC DESIGN

COMMUNITY RESOURCE DIRECTORY

AIDS EDUCATOR'S NETWORK
4th Thursdays through November:
2:30-4:30pm
Sesnon House
Cabrillo College
Julia Seavello
425-2048

AL-ANON
Tuesdays: 7pm
Gateway School
462-1818

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS
Lesbian Women's Group
Sundays: 7pm
Garfield Park Church

Gay Men's Group
Mondays: 8pm
DMV, 4200 Capitola Rd. Capitola

BATTERED LESBIAN'S SUPPORT
Wednesdays: 7:30pm
Call: 336-2317

BOOKSHOP SANTA CRUZ
1547 Pacific Ave. SC
423-0900

BLUE LAGOON
923 Pacific Ave. SC
423-7117

CLOSET FREE RADIO
KZSC FM 88.1
Mondays: 7:00-8:30pm
UCSC, 95064
On Air: 429-4036
Info: 423-4734

CABRILLO LESBIANS TOGETHER

CLT:
Second Mondays
8:00pm
Cabrillo Women's Center
Fridays 1:30-3:30 drop in.
All women welcome.
479-6249

FAMILY SERVICE ASSOCIATION
Individual and Family Counseling
1521 1/2 Pacific Ave.
423-9444

GAY & LESBIAN VEGETARIANS
c/o Rick Haze
PO Box 7971, SC
95061
426-7315

GAY, LESBIAN & BISEXUAL NETWORK
UCSC
429-2468

GAYS AND LESBIANS OVER FORTY
Second Friday of each month.
Gene 462-2746
Lou 688-1683

GREAT OUTDOORS
PO Box 2143, SC
95063
Brett
427-2722

HEARTWOOD SPA
3150-A Mission St.
SC
462-2192

LAVENDER READER
PO Box 7293 SC
95061
684-1542

LESBIAN MOTHERS SUPPORT GROUP
Wednesdays: 6:30pm
UCSC Women's Center
429-2072

LESBIAN SPACE
Tuesdays: 6:30pm
a drop in resource center
at the Matrix office.
429-9007

LESBIANS OF COLOR ALLIANCE
will break for summer, return in the Fall.
Porter Box 470
UCSC, SC 95064
Summer contact: Carmel, 458-9408

LESBIAN GATHERING
Thursdays: 7:30pm
538 Seabright Ave.
SC

LESBIAN & GAY ACTION ALLIANCE
PO Box 7293,
SC 95061
Meets 3rd Mondays at Louden Nelson 7:30pm.
Allison: 423-8259

LESBIAN & GAY COMMUNITY CENTER
PO Box 7293
SC 95061
Meets 2nd Tuesdays at Louden Nelson 7:30pm
429-2060

LESBIAN THEATRE PROJECT
401 Altivo Ave.
LaSelva Beach, 95076
Artistic Director
Kate McDermott: 684-1280

MATRIX WOMEN'S NEWSMAGAZINE
303 Portrero St.
SC, 95060
429-1238

METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH
Services at 10am each Sunday
303 Walnut Ave.
SC, PO Box 1764
95061
Rev. Jean Hart
761-5117

MONTEREY COUNTY AIDS PROJECT
PO Box 221785,
Carmel, CA 93922
424-5550

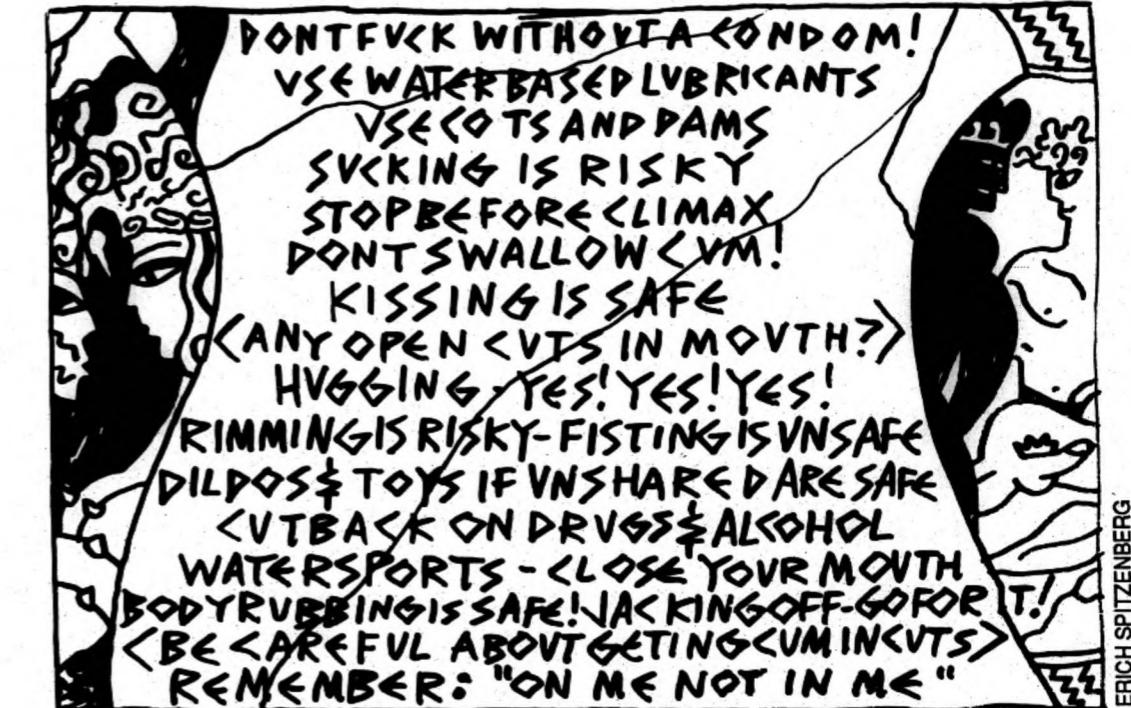
NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS
662-4664

PENINSULA PROFESSIONAL NETWORK
2nd Wednesdays
PO Box 4714,
Carmel, CA 93921
659-2446

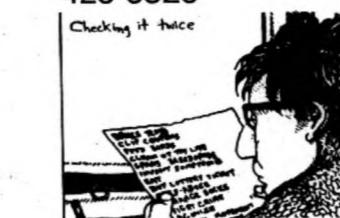
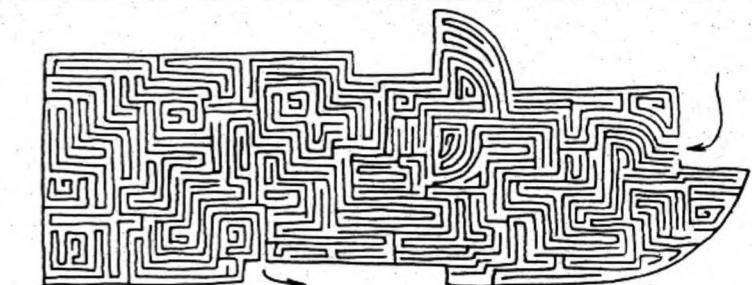
RAINBOW ENSEMBLE FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS
PO Box 7527, SC
95063
Gilbert Moreno,
426-5044

SANTA CRUZ AIDS PROJECT
PO Box 5142, SC
95063
688-7641

SANTA CRUZ WOMEN'S HEALTH CENTER
250 Locust St.
SC 95060
427-3500



SLIGHTLY OLDER LESBIANS
meets every Friday at UCSC's Cardiff House (lesbians 30 and over)
Info: 462-6927



we're
there
when
you
need
us!

santa cruz
AIDS
project

HOTLINE:
458•4999

234 SANTA CRUZ AVENUE
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