

# R L A V E N D E R e a d e r

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

Published Quarterly

Winter 1989



ERICH SPITZENBERG & ROBIN WHITE

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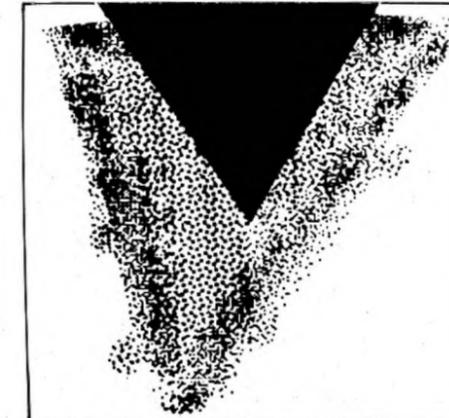
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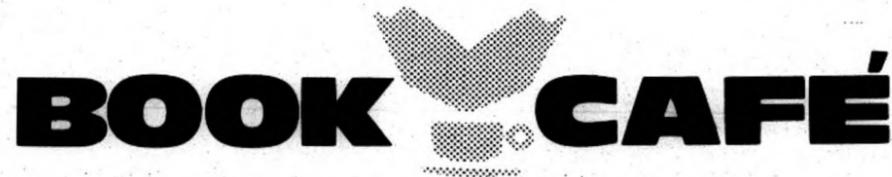


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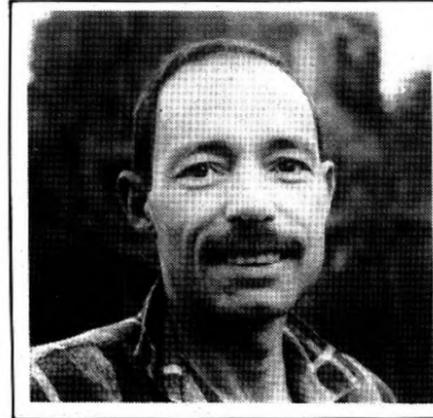
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**OPENING WORD**



Good Riddance

**1989 Alliance Plans:  
An Open Letter to Members & Friends  
of the Lesbian and Gay Action Alliance**

Dear Friends,

As we enter a new year, the LGAA is undergoing another wave of change. A new steering committee was approved at our winter solstice party and will be organized differently than in the past, reflecting decisions made after much lively discussion at the Alliance's annual summit. (We kept billing it as a "retreat", hoping to entice you to join us, but as Scotty indignantly points out, it's really a marathon meeting!)

Everyone at the gathering agreed that restructuring was necessary in response to the ever-increasing number of lesbian and gay groups and projects in the community and the ever-decreasing energies of over-committed activists. We think that a streamlined '89 Alliance can continue our strong tradition of political activism while allowing ourselves to be more realistic about what we can take on.

Our priorities for 1989 will be the continued publication of the *Lavender Reader*, facilitation of lesbian and gay political involvement in response to your needs and initiative, and the presentation of community forums on a trimmed-back quarterly basis.

These forums will be coordinated with themes featured in the *Reader*, ideally with existing or potential local activist projects, and organized by ad hoc working groups open to your input and participation.

Look for a forum on anti-gay violence in February, exploration of bisexuality in our community in June, and in the fall a forum focusing on the lesbian community. (Ideas? Call me.)

With the exception of our continuing treasurer, Jo Covone, the LGAA will have no officers in '89. The steering committee, which is open, will operate collectively and share responsibilities as much as possible. Michael Perlman continues as publisher of the *Reader* and Will Russell as membership coordinator (otherwise known as the Database Queen) but there division of labor ends.

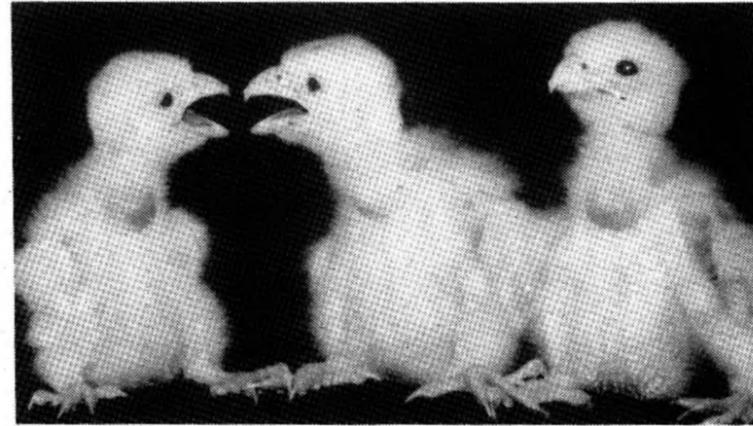
Our old multi-committee structure, which has existed in name only for some time, is officially suspended. As members old and new get more involved and initiate various projects, this new flexible structure can grow and evolve. Meanwhile, the '89 steering committee (me, Michael Perlman, Scott Brookie, Jo Kenny, Robin White, John LaRiviere, Will Russell, Jo Covone, Christopher Spillers and Lee Riordan) will meet quarterly to coordinate efforts. Everyone is welcome, so please join us. (We meet next on March 20 - put it on your calendar! And here's a number for your little lavender book: for info on any LGAA or *Reader* matter, call 458-9292.)

Our community is blessed with an abundance of lesbian and gay social, cultural and po-

*continued on page 28*

**BY ALLISON CLAIRE**

**VERBATIM**



“ I don't care for queers cruising the streets. I've got a teen-age boy... I put prostitutes and gays at about the same level. If these boys had picked up two prostitutes and taken them to the woods and killed them, I'd consider that a similar case. I'd be hard put to give somebody life for killing a prostitute. ”

*- Dallas, Texas District Court judge Jack Hampton, explaining to the Dallas Times Herald on Dec. 15 why he sentenced to 30 years instead of life imprisonment a man convicted of brutally murdering two gay men. Hampton comes up for re-election in 1990.*

“ I can't think right off of any part of the code that might [have been violated]. It's his discretion. ”

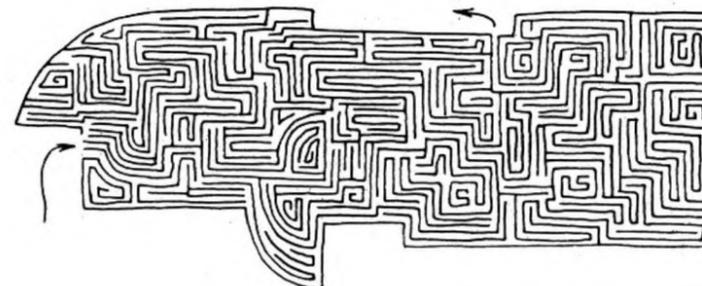
*- The director of the Texas Commission on Judicial Conduct, commenting on a complaint filed against Judge Hampton on Dec. 16 by the Texas Human Rights Commission.*

“ We'll make it a point not to forget by 1990. If he is still in office at the time, we are going after him. ”

*- Jean O'Leary, director of National Gay Rights Advocates, referring to Hampton.*

“ Then why don't we call ourselves 'Uranian-Americans'? ”

*- Ubiquitous local political commentator Gary Reynolds, responding to Jesse Jackson's campaign to refer to people of African descent in the US as "African-Americans." The term "Uranian" was used in the 19th and early 20th centuries by homosexuals to refer to themselves and their organizations. The term refers to the Greek Muse Urania and the planet Uranus. It is not a pun.*



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## SCAP REPORT



The Santa Cruz AIDS Project Staff

After working at SCAP for the last 18 months, I've learned to look at the AIDS epidemic from more than one or two perspectives. For me, it is more than a disaster that takes away a huge amount of the gay community's human resources and leaves grieving survivors behind. It is more than a simple disease that kills too many of our lovers, brothers, sisters, fathers, families and acquaintances. It is more than any one social theory or spiritual interpretation can explain. It is more than having to make changes in our sexual behaviors. It is more than volunteering to help the very sick or teaching AIDS 101 to a new group of misinformed people.

I cannot say exactly what the AIDS epidemic is all about and I mistrust those with simple theories or pat answers. I believe the AIDS epidemic is about very different things for different people; yet, I also believe there are aspects of commonality among many of these factors. But I don't want to begin to explain any of them. Instead, I want to discuss one observation I have made regarding differences I've noted between my gay and lesbian friends and acquaintances who have gotten directly involved in AIDS work and those who have not.

The gay men and lesbians I know who are more directly involved seem to have more opportunities to discuss their feelings about difficult situations. They appear to be less afraid of the AIDS epidemic generally, and the virus transmission specifically. They seem to manifest more control over situations that appear uncontrollable. They seem to

**BY TERRY CAVANAGH**



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for information

have a more profound appreciation for being alive this very day. They seem to have fewer drug and alcohol issues, and although many gays and lesbians at SCAP deal with loss, tragedy and grief, most seem to know a great deal about happiness also. They seem to understand sadness and happiness and know how to move between the two for life's harmony and balance.

I don't think the gays and lesbians who volunteer at SCAP are "better people." I just think they are more involved with the AIDS epidemic and because of their involvement, something about them seems more empowered around many of life's issues.

I would like to invite anyone in the lesbian and gay community who has been thinking of getting involved with SCAP more directly to come now and do so. SCAP needs you. Individuals who are sick need you. And you might even want to do it just for you.

In conclusion, I just want to add a note that a great many gay men with AIDS have expressed a specific desire to have gay men support them as buddies and practical-support volunteers. Sometimes they have to wait for the volunteers of their choice because the percentage of gay men who are buddies and practical support volunteers has been decreasing over the past year.

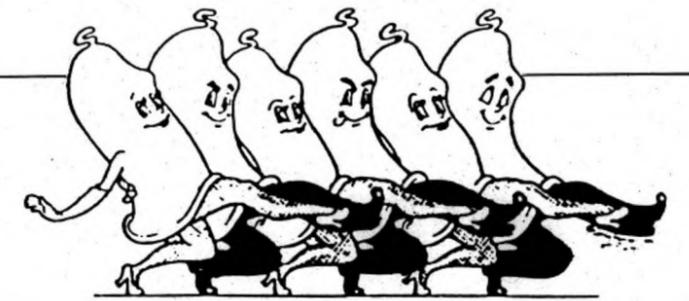


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## Wondering About How You Might Become Involved?

Listed below are all training schedules for the next few months, with contact people and dates.

### **SPEAKERS BUREAU**

The Speakers training is for volunteers who wish to serve as public educators about AIDS. Contact: **Ruth Mota**. Deadline: January 6th. Interviews: January 9-13. Training Dates: Three Saturdays (January 14, 21 and 28) Time: 9 am - 4 pm.

### **PRACTICAL SUPPORT**

Practical support volunteers serve clients through providing basic assistance such as transportation, cleaning, and other needs. Time commitment: 6 months, 2-4 hours/week. Contact **Terry Cavanagh**. Spring training for practical support workers will also be available starting May 13.

### **MASSAGE PRACTITIONERS**

This special 24 hour training is designed for certified massage workers who wish to serve clients who have AIDS or HIV infection. Time commitment: 12 months, 3-4 hours/week. Contact: **Jeanne Bubel** or **Terry Cavanagh**. Deadline: February 10. Interviews: February 6-10. Training dates: February 18, 19, 25 and 26. Times: 9am - 4pm.

### **OFFICE VOLUNTEERS**

Office assistance involves a variety of clerical support and phone use. Time commitment: 6 months, 2-4 hours/week. Contact: **Nancy Carr**. Trainings monthly.

### **COMMUNITY HEALTH OUTREACH WORKERS**

CHOW's work on the streets doing direct AIDS education with people who use IV drugs, their family and friends. Minority and bilingual volunteers and those understanding issues of addiction and recovery are especially needed. Time commitment: 6 months, 3-4 hours/week. Contact: **Richard Smith**. Deadline: February 6. Interviews: February 6-10. Training dates: Saturdays, February 11 and 19. Times: 9am-4pm.

### **BUDDIES**

Buddies are volunteers who work directly with persons with AIDS providing emotional and advocacy support. Having a good listening ear is a must. The training includes 30 hours of expert preparation on AIDS. Time commitment: 12 months, 6-8 hours/week. Contact: **Terry Cavanagh**. Deadline: March 3. Interviews: February 27 - March 3. Training Dates: two Wednesday nights March 8 and 15, 7-9:30pm and two weekends March 11-12 and March 18-19, 9am-4pm. A summer training for Buddies will also be available beginning June 7.

### **PEER EDUCATORS**

Volunteers who are familiar with the gay and bisexual male community are encouraged to become peer educators who seek to influence reduction of risk-taking sexual behaviors through safer sex education in small groups and street outreach. Time commitment: 6 months, 2-4 hours/week. Contact: **David Beckstein**. Deadline: April 14. Interviews: April 17-21. Training dates: Saturdays April 22 and 29. Times: 9am-4pm.

## THE CENTER

# Community Center on a Roll

January 1st finds the Community Center alive, well and looking forward to exciting events and prospects for the New Year. Lots of gay men and lesbians from the Santa Cruz area have been putting out tremendous energy to bring the Community Center and its activities to life.

Already, memorable events have been sponsored by the Lesbian-Gay Community Center (LGCC), most notably the Thanksgiving Dinner and the Halloween Dance (co-sponsored by the Campaign for Responsible AIDS Action). The Programs and Services Committee is focusing on providing activities, events and services to benefit the lavender community, while the Fundraising Committee is using a variety of means to raise money to support the programs and to contribute to the Building Fund. Already the treasury contains over \$3,000, most of which is earmarked for reserve funds to enable us to locate and operate a physical space for the lesbians and gay men of Santa Cruz.

Early this year, the LGAA business



group will be considering options to determine the best site for such a space. Many factors go into the decision: the needs of our organization and other groups that might be sharing the space, location, parking requirements, bus-line accessibility, and accessibility to disabled people, to mention a few. After we review the options, budgetary factors will be considered, and a proposed date and site description will be determined for the first physical home of the Santa Cruz Lesbian and Gay Community Center. If you have any leads, please call Ron Sampson at

423-9000.

In the meantime, LGCC has been renting space from local organizations like the YWCA, Loudon Nelson Center and the Santa Cruz VFW.

A complete listing of our regularly scheduled events is in the box accompanying this article. In addition, there are several special events upcoming:

**Showcase for Santa Cruz Women's Music**, January 28, at Kuumbwa Jazz Center at 8pm. There will be a reception at 6:30 for an additional charge. The concert will benefit LGCC, Freedom Foundation and *Lesbian News*.

**Dance**, tentatively scheduled as a Sadie Hawkins theme (*you figure it out!*) in February.

**Gay Men's Cabaret** in March. Additional information regarding these events will be available on LGCC's **Information Line**, scheduled to be installed and operational shortly. Watch local media for more information, including the telephone number.

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A Lesbian and Gay Resource Directory has been assembled and continues to grow. The directory includes information about professional and business services offered to and by the lavender community, housing and job opportunities, area-wide programs and services, and events of interest. The directory is available for perusal at all LGCC events. For more information, or to put in a listing, call Amy Greene at 423-7523.

Proposals for Men's and Women's Support and Discussion Groups are being accepted, and at least one of each will be organized and open to the lavender community by February or March.

There are many other ideas for both programs and services and fundraisers. And we always welcome more ideas from everyone in the community. As mentioned earlier, we have many volunteers putting in lots of hours to bring all these activities, events and ideas to life. We can use more support in a wide variety of ways. If you have a little extra time that you'd like to put to very good use, please call one of the committee representatives' phone numbers listed in the calendar box, and volunteer your services. There are lots of ways you could be of help, from telephoning to organizing, and everything

in between.

We have a special need on the Communications Committee for someone to do calendar listings, PSA's and news releases on a consistent basis and in a timely fashion -- experience preferred, but definitely not required! If you're interested in graphics, we need people to produce fliers announcing our events in our monthly mailings. And of course, we're always in need

of items for our rummage sales and person-power to help put on our wide variety of fundraising activities and events. So, pick your area of interest and get in touch with the appropriate Committee Rep from those listed in the adjoining box.

We thank all of you for your present and past support, both in effort and in donations, and we look forward to your continued support.

### LGCC CALENDAR

**Community Social and Potluck - LGCC News and Views** Second Tuesday of every month (Feb. 14, March 14) Loudon Nelson Community Center, 7:30-9:45pm.

**Game Night** First and third Wednesdays of every month (Jan. 18, Feb. 1 and 15, March 1 and 15), Loudon Nelson Community Center, 7:30-9:45pm. Information, 462-2610.

**Rummage Sales** First Sunday of every month (Feb. 5, March 5) at Skyview Drive-in Flea Market, 2260 Soquel Avenue, all morning. Call Tom Letchworth at 479-1026 for donations pick-up.

**Monthly Business Meetings** First Tuesday of every month (Feb. 7, March

7), Loudon Nelson Community Center, 7:30-9:45pm. Call Mindy Storch at 475-6268 for agenda items.

**Programs and Services Committee** Third Thursday of every month (Feb 16, March 16). Loudon Nelson Community Center, 7:30-9:45pm. Kathy McCrea, 426-6646.

**Fundraising Committee Meetings** Fourth Thursday of every month (Jan. 26, Feb. 23, March 23). 7:30pm Call Michael Lightstone at 462-4730 for location.

**Communications Committee Meeting** Saturday after Community Social (Jan. 14, Feb. 18, March 18). 10am. Call Lee Roden at 462-2610 for location.

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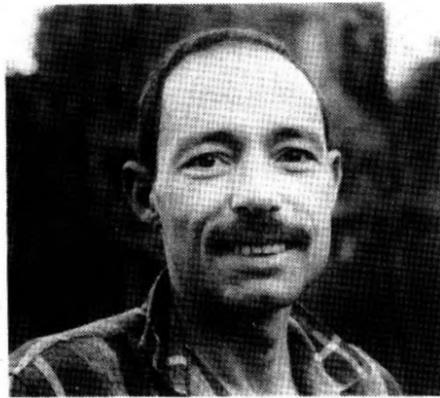
**COMMUNITY AT LARGE**

**Vito Russo in Santa Cruz**

Vito Russo, the author of *The Celluloid Closet*, will be in Santa Cruz as a UCSC Regents lecturer until early February. Russo is a columnist for *The Advocate*, *The New York Native*, *American Film*, *Film Comments*, *Village Voice* and many other publications. He is also a founding member of the Gay Activists Alliance; The Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation (GLAD); and Act-UP, the AIDS Coalition to Unleash Power.

On January 31, Russo will present *The Celluloid Closet*, a two-hour film/lecture presentation based on his book of the same title. Mr. Russo will trace historical images of lesbians and gay men on screen from silent film to the present, beginning at 7:00pm at Classroom Unit 2, UCSC. Admission is free. The presentation will be followed by a public reception and book-signing.

On Friday, February 3, Russo will be the featured guest at a benefit for SCAP. The benefit will begin with the presenta-



tion of two dynamic videos on AIDS activism: Testing the Limits, and The Cosmo Demonstration. The evening will begin at 7pm at Classroom Unit 2, UCSC. A reception will follow at the Whole Earth on campus. A benefit dance will then follow at In Touch. For further information, call Wendy Chapkis at 476-7263.

-Nancy Shaw

**Healing Circle in SC**

THE HEALING CIRCLE is a therapy group for lesbian survivors of childhood sexual abuse. The group will be meeting on an on-going basis beginning January 16th and will take on new members every twelve weeks. Meetings are Monday evenings from 7:30 to 9:00 p.m. The group will be a safe place for the members to share feelings and to explore survival tools of the past that have become obstacles for them today. The cost of the group is based on a sliding scale. To join, call Melanee Barash, M.S.W., L.C.S.W., at 423-6435 or Marie Bracciale, M.A. at 335-2716.



**COMMUNITY AT LARGE**

**Second Annual Chambers of the Heart**

"Chambers of the Heart II" is the second annual concert of chamber music to benefit AIDS education and support services for people with AIDS. Last year's concert helped raise four thousand dollars and hopes are high that this year's figure will surpass that. A concert of this quality is the result of much hard work on the part of producers Richard Johnson, Marcus Carver and, joining the team this year, Brenda K. Warren. Their frustration over the loss of friends generated this, their brainchild.

This annual event is an attempt to fight back against the helplessness of this epidemic, and to care for its ever-growing casualties. Last year, musicians volunteering their talents and time poured in, and coalesced in the birthing of the finest program of beautiful music to be presented in this county for several years.

Four months in the making, the concert at times seemed almost too overwhelming to pull off. The staff of



"Chambers" felt, though, that if they didn't reach for the stars, why should anyone else?

While last year's concert spanned the globe in music, this year's production seems mostly to be "An Evening in Eastern Europe." Filling our show this year are fine musicians and even finer selections, such as Brett Sherman and Jim Short performing the popular piece, "Sonata for Two Pianos and Percussion,"

by Bartok. Following that will be a string trio performing "Serenade for Violin, Viola, and Cello," by Dohnanyi. Our second half is devoted entirely to The Cabrillo Cappella, under the direction of Dr. Tony Antolini. This group is bringing an American premiere of a lost Russian piece by Rachmaninoff, plus a piece by Sviridov and another by Berezovski.

The concert starts at 5 p.m. on Sunday, the 12th of February at Cabrillo College. Ticket prices are: LOBBY \$10/advance, \$12/at door; seniors and students \$8/advance, \$10/at door, ORCHESTRA \$15/advance, \$17/at door, CIRCLE of FRIENDS (includes reception) \$25/advance sales only. Tickets may be purchased through Cabrillo College Community Education, at Cymbaline Records, The Santa Cruz AIDS Project or at the door.

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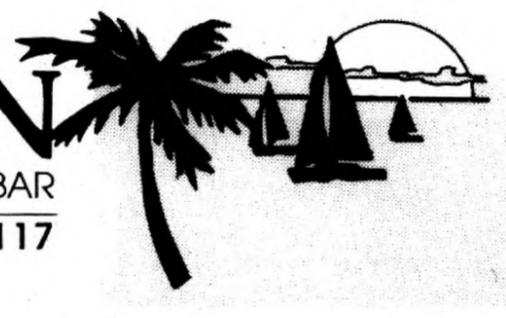
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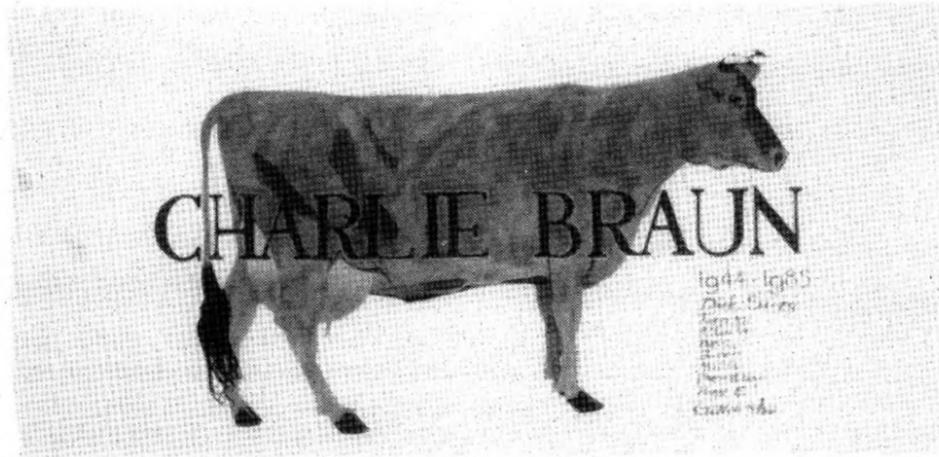
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## Names Project Quilt Comes to SC

Watching someone close to you die is emotionally very difficult. Dealing with the loss after the friend is gone can be equally hard. In San Francisco, there is a neighborhood in which people watched over 1,000 of their neighbors die within a few years because of the AIDS virus. A small group met to find a way to memorialize their friends who had died, and to work out their grief. They had no way of knowing that the idea they had come up with would become an international AIDS memorial which, at present, includes the names of over 9,000 people — that is, the Names Project Quilt.

On March 4, 5 and 6, the Santa Cruz AIDS Project, together with the City of Santa Cruz, will be bringing a section of the Quilt to the Santa Cruz Civic Auditorium. This will be a true community event, free of charge to the public. Many people are needed to make this event happen.

On January 4th, a community meeting was held to start work on the tasks involved. It was clear from those in atten-



The Quilt Segment in Memory of Charlie Braun

dance that there are people from many different organizations and groups within our community who are ready and willing to take on the necessary work. Volunteers are needed to help in all areas, such as P.R. and community outreach, fundraising, quilt panel-making, emotional support, childcare, general logistics, program planning, etc.

If you are interested in helping — even if you want to volunteer only on the days the quilt is here — your time and efforts are joyously welcomed. Please call Julie Sherman at 429-1931 or Jo Kenny at 427-3900 (the SCAP office) if you have ideas, questions, or want to get involved.

—Julie Sherman

## Farr Reviews 1988 AIDS Legislation

Health officials estimate that by 1991, approximately 50,000 Californians will have been diagnosed with Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome. As the number of infected individuals continues to grow, the impact of this epidemic will be felt in all of our state's communities and by all of its members.

In Sacramento, the Legislature is beginning to grapple with the myriad problems the disease presents. Testing, informed consent, disclosure, health insurance, prevention, protection from discrimination and long-term care are just a few of the AIDS-related issues that were considered in Sacramento during the 1987-88 session.

As awareness about AIDS grew early this decade; California was the first state in the nation to appropriate funds from its budget for AIDS research. Since 1983, research funding has increased from \$2.9 million to over \$15.5 million.

At the same time, the 1988-89 Budget for AIDS programs unrelated to research increased by \$19 million over the previous fiscal year to an outlay of \$73 million. Unfortunately, this increase does

not meet the ever-growing need for AIDS patient care. In just one year, for example, there has been a 70 percent increase in the number of AIDS patients in California.

To make matters worse, Governor Deukmejian, while increasing over-all AIDS funding, continues to direct the bulk of these monies to testing, surveillance and education at the expense of patient care. However, at the close of the session in August, Assemblymember John Vasconcellos and I co-sponsored AB 1903 to restore \$7.5 million for patient care that the Governor had cut from the State Budget.

The Assembly also considered a number of bills relating to discrimination against people who have tested HIV-positive, individuals with AIDS Related Complex, and AIDS patients. AB 3795 (Vasconcellos) would have provided these individuals with the same protection afforded the physically disabled. Unfortunately, the Governor vetoed this bill.

AIDS education in the public school system was also debated in the Legislature. Assemblymember Steve Clute and I

co-sponsored AB 2941 which revises the definition of comprehensive health education programs to ensure that students receive instruction on sexually transmitted diseases, including AIDS.

A related bill, Assemblymember Mike Roos' AB 3364, requires the State Department of Health Services to work with Department of Alcohol and Drug programs to integrate AIDS primary prevention, education, testing and counseling plans specifically designed to reach women and children with several existing health programs such as California Children's Services, County Health Services Programs and many others.

The AIDS epidemic has generated an entirely new set of challenges for our public health system. A number of bills created new programs to address these new problems. For example, Assembly Speaker Willie Brown authored AB 4475, which establishes follow-up programs in six counties for persons who have tested HIV positive. These pilot programs will target those communities with the largest number of HIV positive cases.

continued on page 29

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# 1st Annual Lambda Rising Literary Awards

The *Lambda Rising Book Report*, a bi-monthly review of contemporary gay and lesbian literature, recently announced plans for a new annual awards program to recognize excellence in gay and lesbian writing and publishing.

"The time has come for the literary excellence of the lesbian and gay community to be recognized," said Jane Troxell, editor of the *Book Report*. "1988 has been a tremendous year for the writers, editors and publishers of gay and lesbian literature. As a result, all lesbian and gay people have benefited from this unparalleled growth in both substance and quality."

The public is invited to participate in the Lambda Literary Awards by nominating their favorite gay and lesbian books of 1988. Nominations are accepted in twelve categories: Lesbian Fiction, Gay Men's Fiction, Lesbian non-fiction, Gay Men's Non-fiction, Lesbian Mystery/Science Fiction, Gay Men's Mystery/



Science Fiction, Gay and Lesbian Poetry, Lesbian First Novel, Gay Men's First Novel, Lesbian Small Press Book Award, Gay Men's Small Press Book Award, and AIDS (a special category).

Nominating ballots are being distributed through gay and lesbian newspapers and bookstores and the *Book Report* it-

self. (Nomination forms can be found at Bookshop Santa Cruz in Michael Perlman's tray at the back desk.) The deadline for nominations is February 17, 1989. Five finalists in each category will be announced nationally on March 1, 1989. A panel of 60 judges from across the country, representing a broad cross-section of the entire lesbian and gay literary community, will then select a single book in each category from among the finalists.

A gala awards banquet will be held June 2, 1989, at the Hyatt Regency Washington on Capitol Hill in Washington, DC, to coincide with the American Booksellers Association Convention. At that time, the recipients of the 1st Annual Lambda Literary Awards will be announced. Tentative emcees for the gala event are authors Armistead Maupin (*Tales of the City*) and Florence King (*Confessions of a Failed Southern Lady*).

For further information about the awards program or the banquet, please contact Will Guillems: *Book Report*, 1625 Connecticut Avenue, NW, Washington, DC, 20009-1013 or phone (202) 462-6965.

- Michael Perlman

# A Gay Evening in May

The 1989 Gay Evening in May (AGEM) planning committee is underway in its annual efforts to raise money for the Santa Cruz AIDS Project (SCAP) and the lesbian/gay community. Co-producers Mardi Brown and Will Russell, Director Steven Sinclair and Assistant Directors Lee Roden and Christopher Spillers are adding their help to a handful of other dedicated volunteers in planning for this fifth annual show.

This year, the planning committee is requesting that organizations from our community apply for grants from the proceeds of AGEM. Thus far SCAP has applied. The Lesbian & Gay Community Center and The Campaign for Responsible AIDS Action have voiced an interest in applying but must still submit their written grant proposals.

The deadline for applications (in writing) is February 15th. Our address is AGEM, PO Box 7303, Santa Cruz, Ca. 95061-7303.

In addition to opening up the planning process, we also want to open the performing possibilities to the entire community. We are planning three performance workshops to encourage interested persons to join us. The workshops will be designed to help refine the musical, dancing, and comedic aspects of already planned "acts" and to provide the spawning ground for new ideas. The titles of the workshops are: "The Hills Are Alive" "Trip the Light Fantastic" and "Always Leave Them Laughing" respectively. These workshops are currently scheduled for three Sundays in February at 303 Walnut Ave. in Santa Cruz. We hope to recruit members from the S.C. Theatre Alliance,

and members of our community who have experience with performing, choreography, costuming and makeup to lead the workshops. If you would like to help please contact Pat, 479-4242.

The show will be held on May 6th at the Civic Auditorium. Organizing the show will require the involvement of the whole community. In this era of shrinking resources the City of S.C. will not be able to help as much as they have in the past. We need your support now by purchasing special advanced VIP Tickets (which include a catered reception before the show), regular advanced tickets, or with your generous donations. Volunteers willing to help with the program should contact Tina, 479-8262. VIP Tickets are available by calling Will Russell at 429-2060. Regular tickets will be available at Cymbaline. Anyone interested in being a part of the show should call (especially if you have scheduling conflicts) Mardi at 479-3606.

- Will Russell

# Cabrillo Women's Center

Poet Pat Parker, comedian Karen Williams and musician June Millington will be featured in this February's special evening of women's entertainment sponsored by the Cabrillo Women's Center. This exciting evening will provide much needed funding to benefit the Women's Center's re-entry scholarship program.

These three performers have each earned a dedicated following. Help to make the evening a success by finding out why. Call for more information: 479-6249



# AIDS Group Forms in SC

An on-going, drop-in healing group for Persons Living With AIDS, their lovers, family and worried well HIV+, is currently meeting Wednesday evenings at 7:30 p.m., in the home of Bill Lentfer and Lynn Breedlove. There is no charge for these evenings which consist of guided visualizations and meditations, singing, and the laying on of hands with the intent of spiritual centering and healing. For more information about the group, phone 426-3450.

# Improv Group Forms in SC

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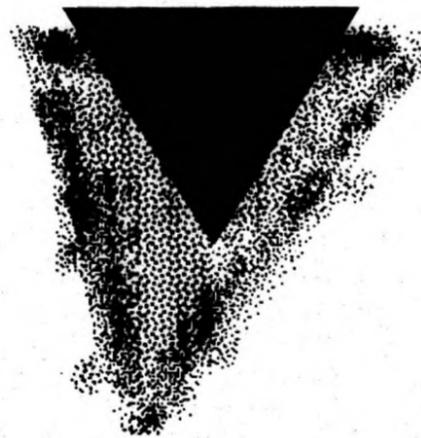
# Harvey Milk and the Growing Number of Gay & Lesbian Elected Officials

We just marked the tenth anniversary of the assassinations of San Francisco Supervisor Harvey Milk and Mayor George Moscone. Much has changed over the past ten years. The number of openly gay and lesbian public officials has increased dramatically. Harvey would have been pleased.

In the fall of 1978, Harvey was one of just three openly gay and lesbian elected officials in United States history- the other two being state Sen. Allen Spear of Minneapolis and state Rep. Elaine Noble of Boston. The election or "coming out" of a gay elected official was front-page news around the country. Harvey served as a role model for others considering elected office.

In a recently published interview conducted only months prior to his death, Harvey was asked whether he would encourage other lesbians and gays to get involved. He responded, "Oh, yes. But it's not easy. . . people want to turn to someone with a title, with authority, and that's why we need more gay candidates and officials. To help our own people, and to impress the others. And eventually, in stead of impressing them or standing out, we will just do our job efficiently and fit right in."

Harvey would have been proud of the fourth annual conference of openly gay and lesbian elected and appointed officials, held in San Diego in mid-November.



Thirty elected officials from around the country were at the conference, as well as a city councilmember from Montreal.

Fourteen years ago the first openly gay and lesbian elected officials appeared. The conference has established "Stonewall Awards" to be given annually. Spear and Noble were the first official recipients. It's amazing to have some history!

There are now 51 openly lesbian or gay elected officials in the world. While the overwhelming majority are from the United States, there are members of Parliament in West Germany, Great Britain, the Netherlands, Canada, and Australia.

In our November election, new openly lesbian and gay office-holders were elected to the Maine legislature and to the

Portland, Maine, Santa Monica, and Santa Cruz city councils.

In addition to the increasing numbers, there are some encouraging trends developing. Lesbian office-holders are growing in number. Minnesota state Rep. Karen Clark (re-elected handily in November), Supervisors Tammy Baldwin and Kathleen Nichols of Dane County (Madison), Wis., have been joined by Maine City Councilor Barbara Wood of Portland, Maine, Santa Monica City Councilmember Judy Abdo, and a new state legislator from Maine.

There has been no record of any openly gay or lesbian elected official who, coming out of their own accord, was defeated for re-election. In fact, many incumbents have run much better during their re-election tries. Minneapolis City Councilmember Brian Coyle won a second term with 80 percent of the vote. U. S. Rep. Barney Frank, who publicly came out a year ago, won re-election with 70 percent of the vote after his opponent ran a "family values" campaign. Boston City Councilmember David Scondras, Key West Mayor Richard Heyman, Laguna Beach City Councilmember Robert Gentry and others have piled up similarly impressive margins.

Santa Cruz will now have two openly gay city councilmembers with the election of Mo Reich in November. Mo's sexual orientation never became a major

issue in the campaign. Instead, his campaign focused on his position on issues and the experience he gained from his five years on the City Planning Commission, including one term as chairperson.

In fact, the only homophobic incident in the city council campaign was the newspaper advertisement of candidate Steve Hartman, who stated that I was "shoving my lifestyle down the throats of the people of Santa Cruz" (yes, that's what he said).

In December, Hartman wrote a letter to the idiot of the Sentinel, published in an abbreviated version, which stated that he made the attack for "self-gain, to grab a portion of the homophobic vote. So in effect I played to bigots who have no want to understand, and the fears of others as well.

"Mr. Laird, I am very sorry. I apologize for my actions and ask your forgiveness. And please, Sir, extend my apology to the entire gay and lesbian community should they miss my apology here."

So, I think we are moving ahead in terms of electing gay and lesbian

candidates to public office. Sure, we have a long way to go, but progress is being made at every election. And there are many appointed officials gaining experience for future election bids.

It was interesting to note at the conference that there are new concerns being raised by openly gay elected officials. How do we cope with success? Where do we go politically as we succeed as mayors, budget committee chairs,

legislative committee chairs — the kinds of positions gained with four, six, eight years of incumbency?

There was talk of running for higher office, of job burn-out, of how to keep interested in long-term political service. I bet Harvey would be proud that today, these are the problems faced by openly lesbian and gay elected officials. I only wish he were here to see it.

-SC City Councilmember John Laird

## "No on 96-102" Group Contemplates the Future

Members of the Campaign for Responsible AIDS Action, having successfully defeated LaRouche's Proposition 69 last June and Dannemeyer's Proposition 102 in the fall elections, are taking some time to ask themselves, "Where do we go from here?"

The Campaign feels strongly that an ongoing organization specifically addressing the political implications of AIDS is very

much needed in Santa Cruz. Tasks for such an organization might include dealing with immediate local issues (e.g. dentists who refuse to treat PWA's), tracking important legislation, and possible ACT-UP-style direct action.

CRAA will hold a workshop on direct action with visiting AIDS activist Vito Russo Monday night, February 6, at 7pm in Loudon Nelson Center.

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**S**everal months ago, a friend of mine, Thomas Riordan, after being queer-baited and threatened for the third time in a short period, organized a self-defense class for gay men with teacher Tara Kronenberg. Having been beaten up a lot when I was younger because I had no idea how to defend myself, I thought it a good idea to learn even now. I wasn't quite expecting the kind of transformation that would happen as a result of taking this class. I learned how to hit people in ways to make them leave me alone. This simple knowledge—learned in one class—has had a remarkable effect on me. It is the one thing that I never knew how to do when I was younger and I find, now that I know it, that a tremendous amount of fear has been lifted from my life, fear that I had grown so accustomed to that I no longer knew it was there.

The example of learning how to hit is a one-sided way to introduce an interview with Tara Kronenberg because it's only a small part of what she teaches, but I will leave it to her words to tell the rest. She has taught workshops nationally and for The Santa Cruz Commission for the Prevention of Violence Against Women for the past 5 years.

**RW:** How did you start teaching self-defense to gay men?

**TK:** Gay friends of mine have asked me to teach classes to men for years, but I didn't think any men would want to take a class in self-defense from me and I didn't know if I could tailor a class to meet men's needs. But then I kept getting more intrigued with the idea, especially because a lot more male friends of mine were getting harassed. Then having worked with AIDS patients and seeing how the society is so homophobic and prejudiced against them, I thought

**RW:** So what did you find out about statistics?

**TK:** I found out that in San Francisco, most of the anti-gay violence is happening in the Castro. That breaks the myth that certain places are safe; I wish I could say that there is safety out there, that certain people will never harm you, that your bed is sacred, that your friends are sacred, but it's just not true. And it can be really sad to think that there's no safety out there in tangible objects or in people and that what we need to do is start putting the safety in ourselves.

# SELF DEFENSE

*an interview with*

*Tara Kronenberg*

*by robin white*

maybe there was something I could offer. So when Thomas approached me, I decided I'd go for it. I put energy out towards research about men because I'd never worked with them before and it was really exciting.

**RW:** What did you need to find out about men?

**TK:** I wanted to find out—where's the problem? Who is harassing gay men? Is there a rise in anti-gay violence? How are the police responding? What is the community response? What is happening politically? I wrote to some different organizations and got some very fascinating studies. But I really feel like I need to do a disclaimer when I talk about statistics because, first of all, so much is unreported. It's just a small reflection and gets reduced to just numbers and what we're talking about is *people* who are being violated. Sometimes with numbers, you can make it sound like the odds are pretty good but we're talking about something that should never happen. It's not ok that anyone should *expect* to get beaten up because he is gay.

Some of the other statistics that were interesting are that most of the harassment is verbal—98%—and that the physical violence is usually from a single unarmed harasser and that actually, only a minuscule amount is gang-related [RW: not in Santa Cruz—see box]. Most things that become physical usually start verbally.

**RW:** Do you see problems teaching self-defense to men? After the class, we talked about men being "primed" for violence; have you had students in your classes who were actually violent themselves?

**TK:** I have had students who have told me that they are violent and abusive and that they worry about control. What I do in those situations is that I'm real rigid with those students. It's really important that people feel safe in my class. If I see people not being in control, they can't participate physically in the class. I restrict how much physical activity they do and I'll watch how they do it. A lot of people tell me, "Well, Tara, I'm afraid that if people take your class, they're gonna end up using it on the wrong people." First of

all, you're making this assumption that taking my class makes people more violent—it doesn't. As an instructor, the more I teach, the more I feel I'm a pacifist—I feel I'm more loving in the world because I *know* that I can defend myself physically and psychologically, so it's much easier for me to give to people because I know that I can set limits if I need to. I know that I can de-escalate situations.

**RW:** I see what you're saying, but I can really relate to that other side—being afraid that it would make me more violent. I have this rage about homophobic violence; it infuriates me that it happens and I think that if somebody messed with me, I'd lay into them. It's as if I had to defend my entire community and revenge my personal history of oppression. All of that is weighing on me, so if someone started making trouble, I'd get furious, I'd get violent.

**TK:** Well, if someone physically attacks you, you have the right to defend yourself. What you need to think about is equal force to equal force. If somebody comes up and calls you a "Goddamn fag," to kill them is inappropriate. I think a lot of people don't have a sense of boundaries for those kinds of things and that's why the role-plays are real important in my class. Another thing to think about is that your best weapon is your mind. Your ability to stay calm, your ability to assess the situation for what it really is and to use appropriate action is your best weapon. People think, "Well, I can't take your class because I'm not in good enough shape." I say: your mind—*are you senile?*—your best weapon is your mind, your ability to be calm, to assess the situation, to know what techniques

*continued on page 28*

## *Homophobic Violence in Santa Cruz*

**January:** Dr. Kevin Cermak was murdered and another man seriously wounded in what appears to have been a homophobic attack.

**February:** Local activist received a drunken abusive phone call after being quoted in *The Sentinel* about gay murders.

**May:** A man was attacked after leaving the Blue Lagoon bar by a gang of youths. "They were all over me—like yapping dogs."

**June:** Two men walking home from a gay dance were pushed against a wall and screamed at by a gang of young men.

**August:** Two men were verbally and psychologically harassed at the Metro Center at midday by a man dressed as a skinhead.

**September:** The employee at a gay-owned clothing store had to call police after a customer became abusive.

**October:** A man was hit in the face and called "faggot" while walking on Pacific in the evening.

*\*None of the incidents I came across affected lesbians. I am sure this is not because there were none, but that I have yet to come across them. If you have incidents to report, please let me know about them by writing to Lavender Reader; and please attend the Alliance-sponsored forum in February on homophobic violence for more information and further ways for the community to respond to this increase in attacks (See Calendar).*

—Robin White

## PERSPECTIVE

# R A N D Y

The following is an excerpt from Ray Martinez' senior thesis in American Studies at UCSC. Randy, his younger uncle, died of AIDS in 1986.

In December of 1952, long after most of their children had left home and started families of their own, a fifth son was born to my grandparents. They named him Raymond, but to us cousins still around, he quickly became Randy. To my grandparents this was another chance. A chance to raise a child without the heavy responsibilities of caring for nine others. A chance, maybe, to do it better. Needless to say, they doted on Randy and yes, even spoiled him. But unlike most kids who are given so much attention, Randy gave back. It would be he who would live with and take care of his older parents. He would make sure they got to their doctors on time for their routine checkups and it would be Randy who would run them to the grocery store—he would just be there for them. It would also be Randy who my grandfather was sure would go off and receive a college education so he wouldn't have to work in the mines, something Grandpa did most of his adult life in the coal mines of the southwest. He knew firsthand what could happen to a person's health. I can remember him always carrying a handkerchief with him so that when he coughed he had something handy. Those last years were hard on him; walking any distance would take all his energy

Since Randy and I were only four



Randy Castro 1952-1986

years apart, we spent a lot of time together growing up. Also, since I was being raised not only by my mother, but by my grandparents as well, Randy and I spent most of our free time together. Four things stand out about my childhood during that time: *The Wizard of Oz*, "Roller Derby," croquet, and play-acting. Once a year, when the TV network ran its annual showing of Dorothy, the land of Oz, and the rest of the gang, Randy and I would be glued to the TV set for the night. All we needed was a huge bowl of popcorn that was made for us and a tall pitcher of Kool-Aid. We particularly like "Glenda of the North," and Randy especially liked her gown. I liked her tiara.

"Roller Derby" was a TV show we had happened to see on one of our visits to California during the summer break away from school and New Mexico. Our

favorite part of the program was when the women skated in their time slots. The game was divided into eight separate time periods, with the men and women skating alternately. Each team had a men's and a women's squad. Randy and I didn't pay much attention to the men's teams. It was Randy who called me one Saturday afternoon to announce, "Turn on Channel 4, they have 'Roller Derby' on! The T-Birds!" he cried excitedly. Sure enough, there on the screen were the L.A. Thunderbirds battling the New York Bombers, with Captain Loretta Berhens, known as "Little Iodine." After the game, I walked across town to my grandparents' house to discuss the finer points of the game with Randy. By chance, within the next couple of days, both my mother and grandmother bought each of us this new toy on the market. Not very many kids could be seen riding it, but Randy and I took to our new skateboards immediately. Under a nearby bridge was a smooth gutter, so we headed there to try "our" new game—Roller Derby! We went through infinite numbers of eyeglasses; both of us wore them and we never thought to take them off since that would allow us to see only a foot ahead of our faces. We were consumed with the bank track sport.

I also recall another summer afternoon being bored with nothing to do. My grandmother suggested we try that new game she had bought us which was gathering dust in the garage. Croquet.

Neither Randy nor I had ever played it before, so we went and got the box and read the instructions. We set up the hoops and played for an hour or so. The next day we knew that the game needed something else. With just the two of us and the six balls for six players, we divided them up and made teams. Then we needed names, and of course our only model at that time was what was happening on the bank track, so we modeled our teams after the roller derby ones. That day we played well into the night. We had found our game!

Right across the alley from my grandparents' house was a huge empty field which was also very flat and ideal for games. Our croquet battles would occur there. I remember not only playing well into the night, holding a flashlight for each other, but often missing dinner as well. The weather created no problems either. Rain or snow, we'd be out there every chance we got.

Play-acting was another favorite pastime of ours. When not playing croquet or watching Roller Derby, we'd watch old westerns on TV or Tarzan

movies. After the movie we'd enact the main parts. We would alternate who played the female and male leads, but Randy usually got to wear the dresses. If we were lucky there were two female leads. But I didn't mind playing the hero or the villain.

My backyard opened onto a hill known as "Goat Hill" and it was adventuresome. It had cliffs, rocky paths, hideouts, and caves, all of which could be dangerous, but that's what made it fun. After watching one of our movies, we'd go and borrow from the pile of unused clothing at the back of the closet—usually dresses, hats, and old curtains. We would then head for the hillside. Since most of the neighborhood kids were into gangs and who could beat up who, Goat Hill pretty much belonged to us. There were a few times we had to defend our forts and towers against the invaders, but having spent endless hours on the hillside, we knew all the good places to defend and where and when to hit the enemy. We generally just used dirt clods as our main artillery.

Once on the hill, we were free to do as

we pleased. Randy and I would quickly get into whatever costume we could dream up. Randy's favorite was a curtain that could be used as a long dress or veil and quickly stashed if unsuspecting tourists showed up to gaze out on the countryside. Once we had our parts settled, we would spend all day there, sometimes even taking our lunches with us so we could pretend that we were camping out or were "on the trail" like Roy Rogers and Dale Evans.

One scene in particular about play-acting and dressing up: both Randy and I loved to go to the movies and once we found one we liked, we would act it out all the time. During the early Sixties one of our favorite singers made a movie and Randy loved to lip sync to the singing the title track. The movie was called *Where the Boys Are* and the singer, Connie Francis. I remember Randy saying when he was eight or nine years old, "When I grow up I want to be another Connie Francis." He not only had the words memorized backwards and forwards, but the arm gestures and facial expressions as well. He was a miniature Connie.

## BY RAY MARTINEZ

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# AIDS Law: Another Side of the AIDS Story

In my three years as an attorney, I have attended a number of legal seminars and conferences on a variety of subjects. These events generally tend to be full of lawyers in grey suits (navy blue is also a popular color) toting expensive, locking leather briefcases and taking illegible notes on yellow legal pads. Everyone looks bored, and most of them leave at the lunch break.

It was a thoroughly different scene at the first annual AIDS Law Conference held last November in San Francisco. Approximately 350 attorneys from all over the country attended to learn and to share information and resources concerning the growing practice of AIDS law, and not a single lawyer looked bored (nor did I see very many grey suits). Most were young, many were gay or lesbian, and all were vitally interested in doing what they could to help fight the AIDS epidemic.

It surprises many people to realize that lawyers play a crucial role in the fight against AIDS. The most common response I get when I say I practice AIDS law is "Oh, you write wills? How depressing!" In fact, I do write wills as part of my practice, and it's far from depressing: writing a will is a powerful method of taking control over



your assets. However, writing wills is only one aspect of AIDS law.

The conference consisted of four workshop periods, each with three simultaneous workshops, for a total of twelve workshops in various areas of law. One series of four workshops dealt with how to set up and fund an AIDS legal referral panel; these workshops were attended by attorneys from Hawaii, Michigan, New York, Oregon, Colorado—attorneys from everywhere who are responding to the need for AIDS legal services. Substantive workshops were held in the areas of wills and durable powers of attorney, employment discrimination,

family law, social security, criminal law, insurance and employee benefits, confidentiality and mandatory HIV testing, and credit collection and bankruptcy.

The amount of information was overwhelming. A lawyer working with PWA's is likely to encounter issues in any or all of the above fields, and needs to have some knowledge of how AIDS issues can arise in each of these areas. For instance, I do not practise social security law and was not aware that a person with an AIDS diagnosis may qualify automatically for SSI or social security benefits.

On the other hand, some areas, such as bankruptcy and credit collection, are not specifically affected by AIDS, but most AIDS lawyers are going to have clients who can no longer meet their debt payments because of the high cost of health care or because they are no longer able to work, and the lawyer needs to know how to help the client deal with credit collectors and bankruptcy.

Confidentiality and mandatory HIV testing is a major issue in AIDS law. The confidentiality statutes which exist regarding HIV results are frequently violated, most commonly by medical staff members and insurance companies. Attorneys must

**"It surprises many people to realize that lawyers play a crucial role in the fight against AIDS. The most common response I get when I say I practice AIDS law is 'Oh, you write wills? How depressing!'"**

be aware of legal remedies for violation of these laws, and at least know where to refer a client whose privacy has been violated. There are several attorneys in the bay area whose entire practices consist of handling AIDS confidentiality litigation.

In order to understand employment discrimination and AIDS, an attorney must be aware of the state and federal disability laws and how they relate to AIDS. The condition of having HIV infection has been determined in some cases to be a "disability" entitling the person to protection under the state and federal laws which prohibit discrimination against certain classes of persons (based on race, gender, ethnicity,

or disability, among others). Under these laws, for instance, an HIV-infected person may not be fired from his or her job, where the person is otherwise capable of doing the job, on the basis of the infection.

The above is simply a brief and non-comprehensive look at some of the legal issues which arise in the AIDS context. More issues arise all the time, and the answers change often as the laws change. It is a challenging area of law to work in because of the legal issues to be faced, but primarily because of the clients. Every AIDS lawyer whom I have talked to has said that it is the most personally rewarding legal work he/she has ever done. Most AIDS

lawyers do the majority of their work for free or low cost. What makes it so worthwhile is not the money, but the clients. It is vastly rewarding to have skills with which one can provide some measure of security or peace of mind to someone with HIV infection, and the lawyers who work with HIV-infected clients are getting back from their clients at least as much as they are giving. □

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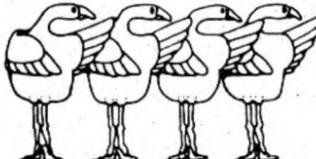
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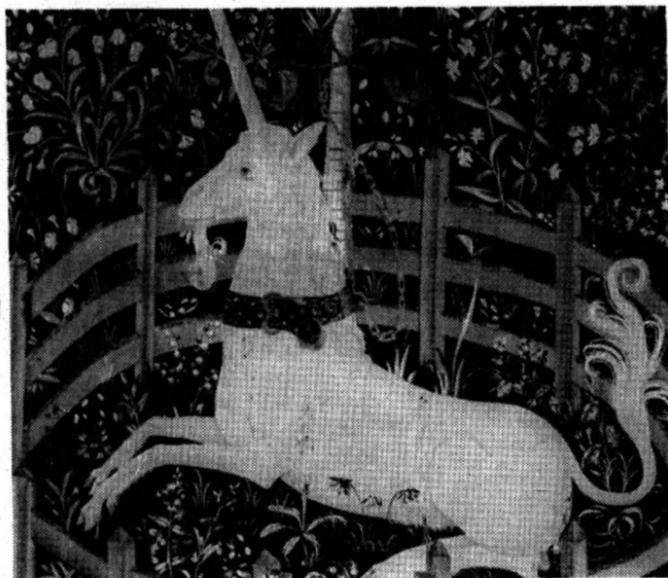
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To Virgins  
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Musings on "The Unicorn in Captivity"  
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He thinks he's captive  
by some strange device,  
but he's imprisoned  
in or out of cage.  
Like Eden's Adam,  
bored with Paradise,  
by trick he may be killed  
but will not age.  
How awkward is the horn  
above his mane.  
He thinks he's bound.  
He fears the fence  
and yet like Eve  
he doesn't know enough  
of pain or wrinkles,  
age or death,  
to know the threat.  
But mortals are not unicorns,  
my dear. And doom, not death  
came with the apple bite.  
Within your cage of innocence  
you fear you're fettered.  
Leap now!  
Let your heart take flight  
to seize the day,  
before you lose your prime,  
for each new love  
will be a new first time.

BY GLEN MARTIN

Shy Perch

Soft and firm—but cold!  
I see you slide about  
kissing everything below,  
even what the sun can't see.

He must be part fish too.  
How he bobs and sinks and bounds.  
Ya, I could splash with him.  
But I don't.

If I were you I'd move in close.  
Offer him your back to ride.  
Show him where his gills should be  
and how to flick a tail.

I'd nibble at the moss  
running round his nipples,  
trace it down his chest,  
his navel and beyond.

If I could get that close  
I would—  
Instead I linger here  
torturing my toes.

But you! What's stopping you?  
Don't dally here with me.  
Make waves with Neptune's pal  
and kiss him since I can't.

This was published in the "RFD" #53, Winter 87-88 pg. 25.

Curriculum vitae

Glen Martin was born in Rome and raised in Rio  
and speaks five languages and has been telling fibs since the age of  
three. He loves long Victorian novels that don't give up on you, if you  
don't give up on them, and is a member of the Jane Austen Society of  
North America (no fib). He was misquoted in "Ms" magazine. He  
works at a child care center where all his friends are under the age of  
three and his table manners look better than most. He was a  
master of veiled threats and sardonic humor as a shoe salesman.  
His life's ambition is to be a barker at a carnival.

Zen in the Art of Helping

The real kernel of all our  
help, that which renders it ef-  
fective, is compassion. The  
ability to put the maximum  
amount of energy into the pres-  
ent moment is a large compo-  
nent of mental wellness. About  
the past I can do little; about the  
future hardly anything; only  
*now* can I make decisions.

We know immediately when  
good helping has taken place.  
We have done ourselves some  
good as well as the other per-  
son. At the time there was a  
complete lack of self-con-  
sciousness or judgement. All  
of ourself and the other was in  
the actual experiencing of the  
contact and the merging of two  
or more people. The experience of helping  
had an internal harmony. There was no  
longer a desire to play games or to pretend.  
We had given up, perhaps just for a mo-  
ment, our attempts at manipulating, at  
impressing people. We had forgotten our  
need to be important and secure. We had  
forgotten our decisions about the "good"  
and "bad" parts of ourselves and others. It  
no longer seemed necessary to define the  
limits of our personalities and protect the  
boundaries of the self.

It meant taking down those barriers of  
knowledge, social position and education.  
It involved communicating and reaching



ERICH SPITZENBERG

out from our hearts aside from social con-  
ventions and expectations.

Unfortunately (perhaps fortunately), in  
our immensely unhygienic society, helping  
cannot, like a good lavatory cleaner, kill all  
known germs. If the helper is honest, he  
experiences a thousand situations in which  
he or she can do nothing or very little.

"Give a man a fish, feed him for a day.  
Teach him to fish, feed him for life." D. H.  
Lawrence had a phrase "the greed of giv-  
ing" and this is common among helpers.  
We often receive very badly. We prefer to  
be giving out rather than taking in but this  
is often what the person needs most. If

placed in a position as the eter-  
nal recipient his whole ego can  
be undermined. He also needs  
the chance to genuinely donate  
something of value to both the  
relationship and society.

We have limits to our inter-  
ference in the lives of others.  
As my Zen teacher puts it: "By  
virtue of walking the Way, the  
childish 'I want', the passions  
or emotions, are transformed.  
What in fact happens is that the  
energy (strength) loses the blind  
compulsion of a drive and  
becomes amenable to con-  
scious choice. In this lies the  
virtue of seeing clearly and of  
being able to act in accordance  
with that seeing. This embraces

all the truly human qualities, such as re-  
sponsibility, justice, consideration, warmth  
of heart, joy, tolerance, compassion, aware-  
ness of strength of personality and its power  
and limits. For nobody has the right to ma-  
nipulate anybody or to impress anybody  
with his stronger personality, not even for  
the other's imagined good, for nobody can  
know what that good is. This is courtesy  
rather than callousness, for the other's dig-  
nity is thus acknowledged, or the dignity of  
his grief is respected. If and when he is  
ready, the other will of himself reach out for  
consolation and feel free to ask for a hand to  
point out the way."

continued on page 29

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# Lesbian Health Care Issues

One of the best books by local authors released in 1988 is *Alive & Well: A Lesbian Health Guide* by Cuca Hepburn, Ph.D. with Bonnie Gutierrez, RN, CPNA, published by Crossing Press in Freedom. The authors outline a holistic approach to maintaining and enhancing health, which would be helpful for anyone, spiced with lesbian folklore and anecdotes from their eight-year relationship and from the lives of their friends.



The book is specifically for lesbians, whom they define as "women who are woman-identified and women who are sexually exclusive with women." Thus they do not include information on some sexually transmitted diseases or birth control, which might be of more interest to bisexual women.

*Alive & Well* focuses on health, wellness, and the pursuit of happiness as an integral element of both. It begins with a chapter called "Our Visions and Our Values," in which Cuca and Bonnie define health as "acknowledging and assuming your absolute personal power to create your own well-being... the creation of balance in all the facets of your life... and affirming life and doing the work that is right for you." Their philosophy is evident in all parts of this health guide, as they provide detailed information to aid their readers in making healthful choices. They argue convincingly that "the physical is only one aspect of the total health challenge."

These more thoughtful passages are nicely balanced with very practical and well-researched information on good nutrition, sexuality, addictions, AIDS, the social health of lesbian communities, and community health issues like weight, homophobia, and lesbian battering. They also deal with whether to come out to your

doctor, how to have power in the health delivery system, how relationships affect health, and life passages for lesbians. Cuca and Bonnie honestly discuss their difficulties handling their own health issues and acknowledge why others might find this a challenge also.

*Alive & Well* says that lesbians are generally healthy, despite the societal pressures of homophobia, racism, classism, age discrimination and discrimination because of disabilities. The bicultural emphasis includes specific remedies by *curanderas* (women healers) and is a welcome change from health books which focus exclusively on mainstream medicine.

Although health can be an emotionally volatile topic, I found this book easy to read. The relaxed conversational style gave me the sense that Bonnie and Cuca were talking to me about their lives and about mine. They managed to impart a great deal of information in non-technical terms and with a caring tone. The boxes of information in the text early on were interesting, but slightly over-simplified — I wanted more after reading them.

The authors of *Alive & Well* address

legal issues in a brief, but important section called "Legal Issues and Options." Here they remind us that we have the power to function legally as family members by establishing a durable power of attorney, designating who among our close friends would make health care decisions for us.

Although most health issues are touched on in the book, I missed any discussion of environmental illness or the Epstein-Barr virus, which are affecting more and more lesbians, and are certainly community health issues. These are only listed among "research priorities" at the end of the

book. I would also be interested in their philosophy on diabetes management for lesbians, as diabetes affects more women than men.

*Alive & Well* is well-documented with extensive footnotes which encourage readers to explore areas of interest further. It would be a good book to suggest to your health care professional. It would also be a good birthday present for a lesbian friend or family member, and one which almost anyone could enjoy and find useful.

In general, I find their premise to be true — the more responsibility I take for my own health, the healthier I become. *Alive & Well* is validating if you have been changing your diet, or exercising more, or reducing the stress in your life — or if you are interested in doing so.

### Health and Legal Issues

Many of us have become more aware of legal issues surrounding health care for lesbians and gay men through the Sharon Kowalski case. Accident or injury can quickly affect our abilities to make health care decisions for ourselves. *Why Can't Sharon Kowalski Come Home?* is a mov-

**"Although health care can be an emotionally volatile topic, I found this book easy to read. Bonnie and Cuca were talking to me about their lives and about mine."**

ing and grim reminder of the problems which can occur when we do not have the necessary legal protections. This book, recently released by Spinster/Aunt Lute, is the personal account of Sharon's lover, Karen Thompson.

A few years ago, my lover and I signed a durable power of attorney for each other. My parents are aware that my partner will be making health care decisions for me should an emergency arise. We got the how-to information from the same source that Cuca and Bonnie cite: *A Legal Guide for Lesbian and Gay Couples* by Hayden Curry and Denis Clifford (Nolo Press, 1986). This book is full of good examples, sample forms, and excellent reasons for

putting all legal matters with your lover into writing, particularly since so few of our arrangements are protected by law. This book covers general partnership agreements, landowning agreements, property agreements, power of attorney, and other legal and personal contracts.

Whether or not you have a partner, you may want to designate a close friend to make health decisions for you, if you don't want your "next of kin" to do so. Knowing that you control who will make these decisions may decrease your stress level and make you healthier in the first place, and will surely help in an emergency situation when you might not have the resources to worry about it. □

Gail is a Book Editor for the Lavender Reader. If you would like to contribute reviews or suggest a book to be reviewed, please call her at 427-0176.

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BY GAIL GROVES

## LGAA continued

litical activity, but the LGAA has a unique role. We are delighted to witness the emergence of a Lesbian and Gay Community Center, and honor those who are working to make that dream a reality. Many other lesbians and gay men are involved with the Santa Cruz AIDS Project and the Campaign for Responsible AIDS Action, which do such an exemplary job of responding to this health crisis and its attendant political crisis, respectively.

Yet the Alliance remains the *only* multi-issue lesbian/gay political organization in Santa Cruz County, and continued community support is vital. Together



with the work of saving lives, building community spirit and celebrating our cultures, we *must* keep up the crucial work of political change that makes the growth and vitality of our community possible.

New Year's Blessing to All!

-Allison Claire  
Outgoing LGAA Chairperson

## Defense continued

to use and how to use them. As far as physical skills are concerned, you could practice balancing, you could practice doing things right-handed and left-handed. It's not like you need to do push-ups; nothing I teach is strength against strength because there's always going to be someone stronger. If you use physical techniques, it's using vulnerable areas against the person but those don't take a whole lot of physical strength.

Maybe we should back up and talk about what self-defense actually is. Historically, women were studying self-defense in response to the violence against [themselves] and they were taking martial arts and were getting really good. And yet these same women, when they were being attacked, were unable to defend themselves. What was missing was the psychological part; they never dealt with the issues of what does it mean to actually hurt another human being, what does it mean to hurt someone

you know? People had real misconceptions about violence in this society; they were all ready to defend themselves out in some dark alley but they didn't know how to do it in a home situation and they sure didn't know how to deal with a lover situation or someone in a position of power over them like a doctor, father, boss. Unless you deal with that, you just sit there going "I can't believe this is happening" and you are unable to defend yourself. One of the things I talk about is the myth that the attacker is stronger; the attacker is not stronger—what makes the attacker *successful* is that he has the power to intimidate you and manipulate you. He is counting on the fact that you're going to be in denial in this situation. So self-defense fills in the gaps that martial arts left out. In self-defense, we talk about all the possibilities—so what if you're on the beach and someone attacks you? Talk about it and work it out; don't just have these big amorphous fears that keep you limited in your life. That's one of the reasons that I think people should take self-defense because, for me, it's not ok to limit my life based on fear. It's not ok for me to not feel good about hiking in the woods alone because I'm afraid of being attacked. That is not living quality-of-life to me. □

Tara Kronenburg will be teaching another workshop in self-defense for gay men on January 21/22 (See Calendar listing). For further information, call 724-7057.

## Zen continued

The beginning of compassion both to oneself and to others is in decreasing the number of judgements. I begin to see what is there without continuously labeling the events with the colors of my judgements and values. I stop punishing myself for falling short of standards which I erected. I see the way someone behaves and do not feel that it is either bad or good. That desire had melted away by feelings of respect for the other's independence. He or she is not there anyway to suit or satisfy my view of the world. Compassion means giving people room; opening doors rather than closing them; asking questions rather than giving answers. It means listening with your whole being and giving, if you can, what is relevant and appropriate to the relationship without self-consciously measuring what that is. It is spacious and very generous. □

(David Brandon: Dell Publishing Company, 1976)

## Farr continued

In the wake of cutbacks in funds for AZT treatment for AIDS patients, the Legislature passed AB 4437, sponsored by Assemblymember Burt Margolin, which appropriated \$2.8 million to provide this essential treatment to AIDS patients in California. Later in September, the Governor chose to sign the bill into law.

The bills mentioned here are just a few of the approximately 140 bills relating to AIDS considered by the Assembly and Senate last year. Clearly, the Legislature will be concerned with AIDS-related issues for the foreseeable future. As the Central Coast's representative in the State Capitol, I am proud to serve an area which has organized so quickly and effectively to create support networks for people with AIDS and their care providers.

If you would like additional information about the bills mentioned above or about other related legislation, or if I can be of assistance to you regarding this or another issue, please contact my Santa Cruz office at 425-1503.

—Assemblymember Sam Farr

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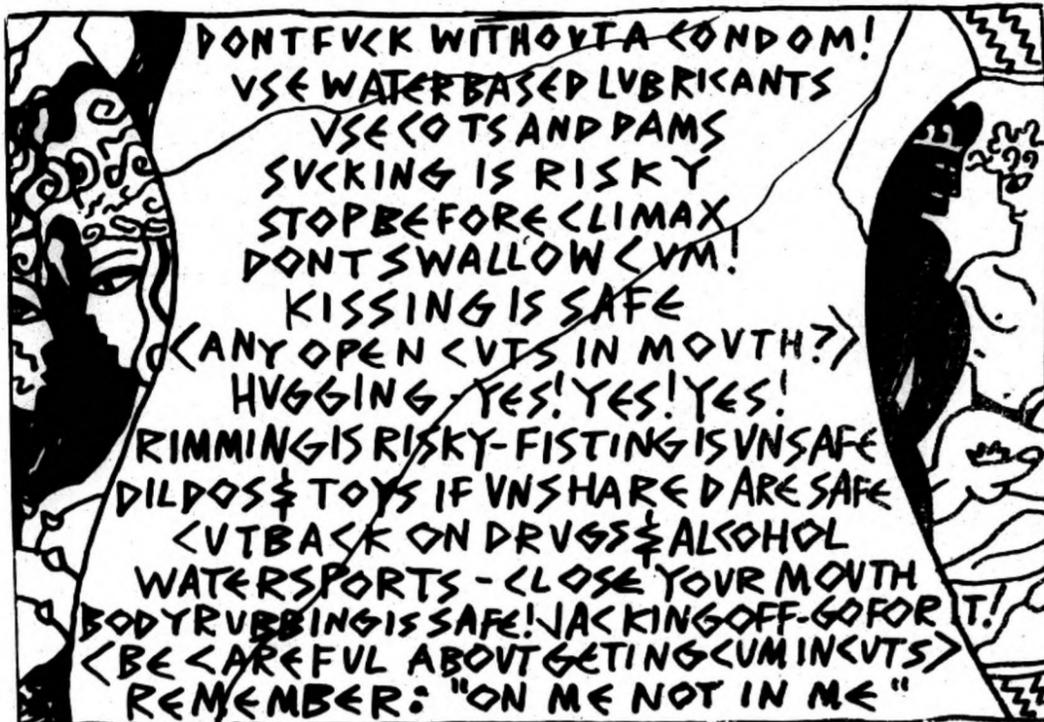
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**GLOSSARY**

<b>AGEM</b>	A Gay Evening in May
<b>CFR</b>	Closet Free Radio
<b>CRAA</b>	Campaign for Responsible AIDS Action
<b>GLBN</b>	Gay, Lesbian & Bisexual Network
<b>GLV</b>	Gay & Lesbian Vegetarians
<b>GO</b>	Great Outdoors
<b>LGAA</b>	Lesbian & Gay Action Alliance
<b>LGCC</b>	Lesbian & Gay Community Center
<b>LOCA</b>	Lesbians of Color Alliance
<b>MCAP</b>	Monterey County AIDS Project
<b>NOW</b>	National Organization for Women
<b>SCAP</b>	Santa Cruz AIDS Project
<b>SC</b>	Santa Cruz
<b>SOL</b>	Slightly Older Lesbians
<b>RCN</b>	Resource Center for Nonviolence
<b>UCSC</b>	University of California at Santa Cruz

**CALENDAR**



**FRI ▽ JAN 20**  
Celebrate Abortion Rights. The Reproductive Rights Network presents "Read My Lips! Reproductive Rights" Speakers include Mayor Mardi Wormhoudt Supervisor Fred Keeley, and lesbian comedian Rene Hicks Dance to *Orquesta Gitano and Congabelle* \$5-\$10, 7:30PM Vets Hall 842 Front St., Santa Cruz

**SAT ▽ JAN 21**  
Sisterspirit presents Kathy Wolfe's "Olivia: 15th Anniversary" music video featuring Cris Williamson, Dianne Davidson, and more. \$4-\$8, 8PM, 1040 Park Ave. San Jose, 293-9372

**SAT ▽ JAN 21 & 22**  
Tara Kronenberg offers a two day self-defense workshop for gay, bi-sexual and questioning men. \$30-\$40 for both days with discounts for PWAs and previous workshop participants. 10AM to 3PM Louden Nelson 724-7057



**TUE ▽ JAN 24**  
Should the City of SC invite a war ship on July 4th? 8PM, City Hall

**TUE ▽ JAN 24**  
Tentative date for Board of Supes hearing on HIV+ discrimination cases.

**WED ▽ JAN 25**  
"American Defense Monitor" another film in the RCN series. 7:30PM, 515 Broadway 429-2833

**THU ▽ JAN 26**  
LGCC: Fundraising Committee 7:30PM 462-4730

**FRI ▽ JAN 27**  
MCAP: will hold "Companion Training" workshops this weekend. 424-5550

**SAT ▽ JAN 28**  
Showcase of Women's Music

**TUE ▽ JAN 31**  
Russo's "Celluloid Closet", a two hour lecture and film clip presentation 7PM, Classroom 2 UCSC, Free

**THU ▽ FEB 2**  
Monthly meeting of N.O.W. Soquel Grange 335-7221



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**CALENDAR**

**FRI ▽ FEB 3**  
Lecture by Vito Russo, gay film historian, author of "The Celluloid Closet" and Regents' Lecturer in Community Studies. Mr Russo, an active member of NY ACT-UP will be discussing ACT UP and AIDS activism. He will show the video "Testing the Limits", a lively documentary of recent AIDS actions. 7PM, UCSC Classroom Unit 2 Sliding fee benefits SCAP Reception/party following, Whole Earth Restaurant

**SUN ▽ FEB 5**  
"The Hills Are Alive" a performance workshop designed to help would-be singers prepare for a role in this year's AGEM show. Workshop dates are tentative, call to confirm. 1-4PM, 303 Walnut 479-4242

**MON ▽ FEB 6**  
CRAA: hosts workshop on direct action featuring Vito Russo. Louden Nelson 7:00PM, 423-8044

**WED ▽ FEB 8**  
"On the Beach" another film in the RCN series. 7:30PM 515 Broadway

**THU ▽ FEB 9**  
Tupperware Party - a laughable benefit for the LGCC. Rave reviews of the last plastic promenade promise to make this a fun evening. 6:30PM 313B Soquel (at Dakota) 688-4314

**FRI ▽ FEB 10**  
Cabrillo Women's Center sponsors a special evening with poet Pat Parker, comedian

Karen Williams, and musician June Millington. Benefit for scholarship fund. \$6-\$10 8PM Cabrillo Theatre, 479-6249



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## CALENDAR



**Judy Small & Aileen Vance at the Kuumbwa on Sat, Feb 12**  
Lea Lawson Prod

**TUE ▽ FEB 14**  
Cabrillo Women's Center hosts this the first in a series of Food for Thought lunch programs called "Our Lives". Cabrillo women tell their stories. Prominent and poignant auto-biographical tales. Noon-1PM

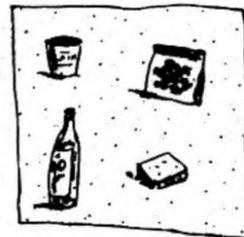
**SUN ▽ FEB 26**  
"Always Leave Them Laughing" a performance workshop designed to help would-be comics prepare for a role in this year's AGEM show. Workshop dates are tentative, call to confirm. 1-4PM, 303 Walnut 479-4242

**SAT ▽ MAR 4 - 6**  
SCAP and City of SC: Names Project Quilt at the Civic Auditorium



**SAT ▽ MAR 4**  
A Gay Men's Variety Show will be hosted by the LGCC at the Cafe' Cameleon, 7PM  
Alena: 423-9738

**MON ▽ MAR 6**  
Ruah Bull leads a discussion called "Some of my best friends are...lesbian" A time for women who are not lesbians to talk about "issues". 6:30PM, Cabrillo Fireside Lounge



**TUE ▽ MAR 9**  
Cabrillo Women's Center hosts this the last in a series of Food for Thought lunch programs called "Our Lives". A chance for Cabrillo women to tell their stories Noon-1PM



**THU ▽ MAR 2**  
Monthly meeting of N.O.W. Soquel Grange 335-7221

**FRI ▽ MAR 3**  
Cabrillo Women's Center hosts the first of two evenings featuring the lesbian soap opera "Two In Twenty" Episodes 1, 2 & 3 7:30PM Cabrillo Forum 450

**SAT ▽ MAR 4**  
Cabrillo Women's Center hosts episodes 4 & 5 of "Two In Twenty", the lesbian soap opera 7:30PM Cabrillo Forum 450

**SAT ▽ FEB 18**  
Sisterspirit hosts super slide night, a travelogue of slides from China, British Isles, and more. \$4-\$8, 8PM 1040 Park Ave. San Jose, 293-9372



**WED ▽ FEB 22**  
LGAA hosts a forum to address the need for action to reverse the upswing in violence against lesbians and gays. Speakers will include a guest from the City Council, representatives of the Police Dept., and people with recent personal experiences with anti-gay confrontations. Free, 7:30PM YWCA 429-2060

**SUN ▽ FEB 12**  
"Trip the Light Fantastic" a performance workshop designed to help would-be dancers prepare for a role in this year's AGEM show. Workshop dates are tentative, call to confirm. 1-4PM, 303 Walnut 479-4242

**SUN ▽ FEB 12**  
"Chambers of the Heart" The second year this musical benefit will grace our community to raise money for SCAP. 4:30PM, Cabrillo 479-8748



## CALENDAR



**Diane Davidson at the Kuumbwa on March 11.** Lea Lawson Prod.

**TUE ▽ MAR 14**  
"Carry Greenham Home" the last in a 10 week film festival sponsored by the RCN.

1PM, call or watch for location. 479-4242

**THU ▽ MAR 16**  
AGEM: Try outs! First of three audition sessions for this years AGEM show. 7PM, call or watch for location. 479-4242



**SAT ▽ MAR 18**  
AGEM: Try outs! Second of three audition sessions for this years AGEM show. 1PM, call or watch for location. 479-4242

**MON ▽ MAR 20**  
LGAA: New quarterly meeting schedule makes this the first planning meeting of the year. 941 Delaware 458-9292

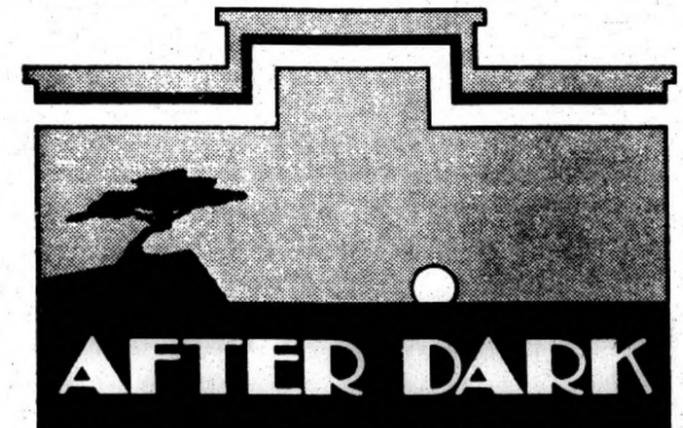
**SUN ▽ MAR 19**  
AGEM: Try outs! Last of three audition sessions for this years AGEM show.

**THU ▽ APR 6**  
Monthly meeting of N.O.W. Soquel Grange 335-7221

**TUE ▽ APR 25 - 27**  
LOCA is planning a film festival for these three nights in April, on and off campus.

if you have ideas call Amy: 423-7785

**SAT ▽ MAY 20-22**  
GO: King's River rafting. Call Paul: 458-0318



**DANCING NIGHTLY**  
FROM 10 PM

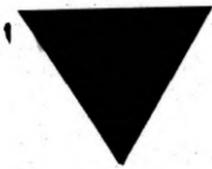
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Cabrillo Women's  
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Fridays 1:30-3:30  
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All women welcome.  
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Lesbian Women's  
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Sundays: 7pm  
Garfield Park  
Church

Gay Men's Group  
Mondays: 8pm  
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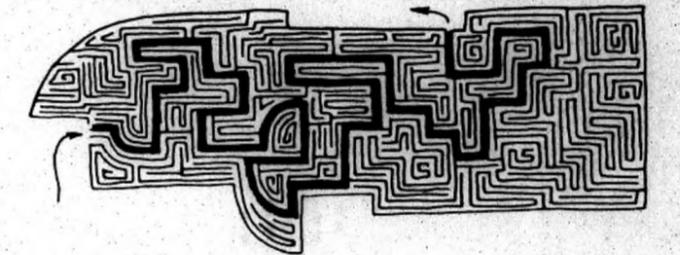
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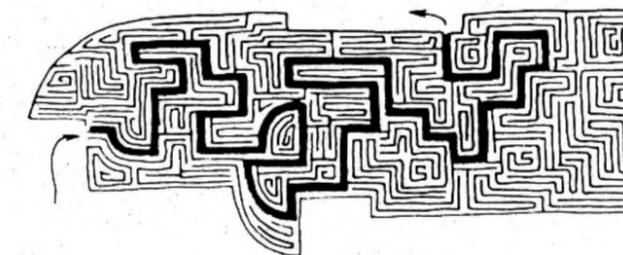
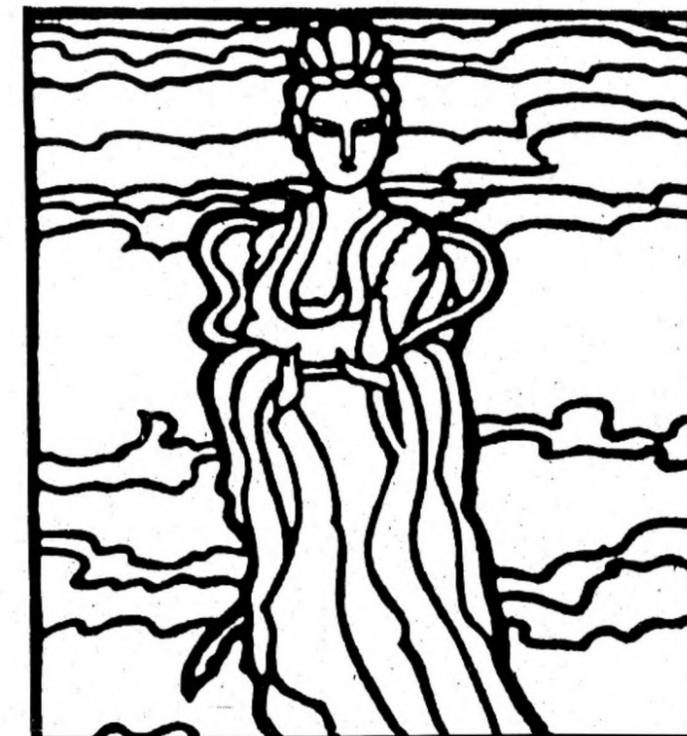
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