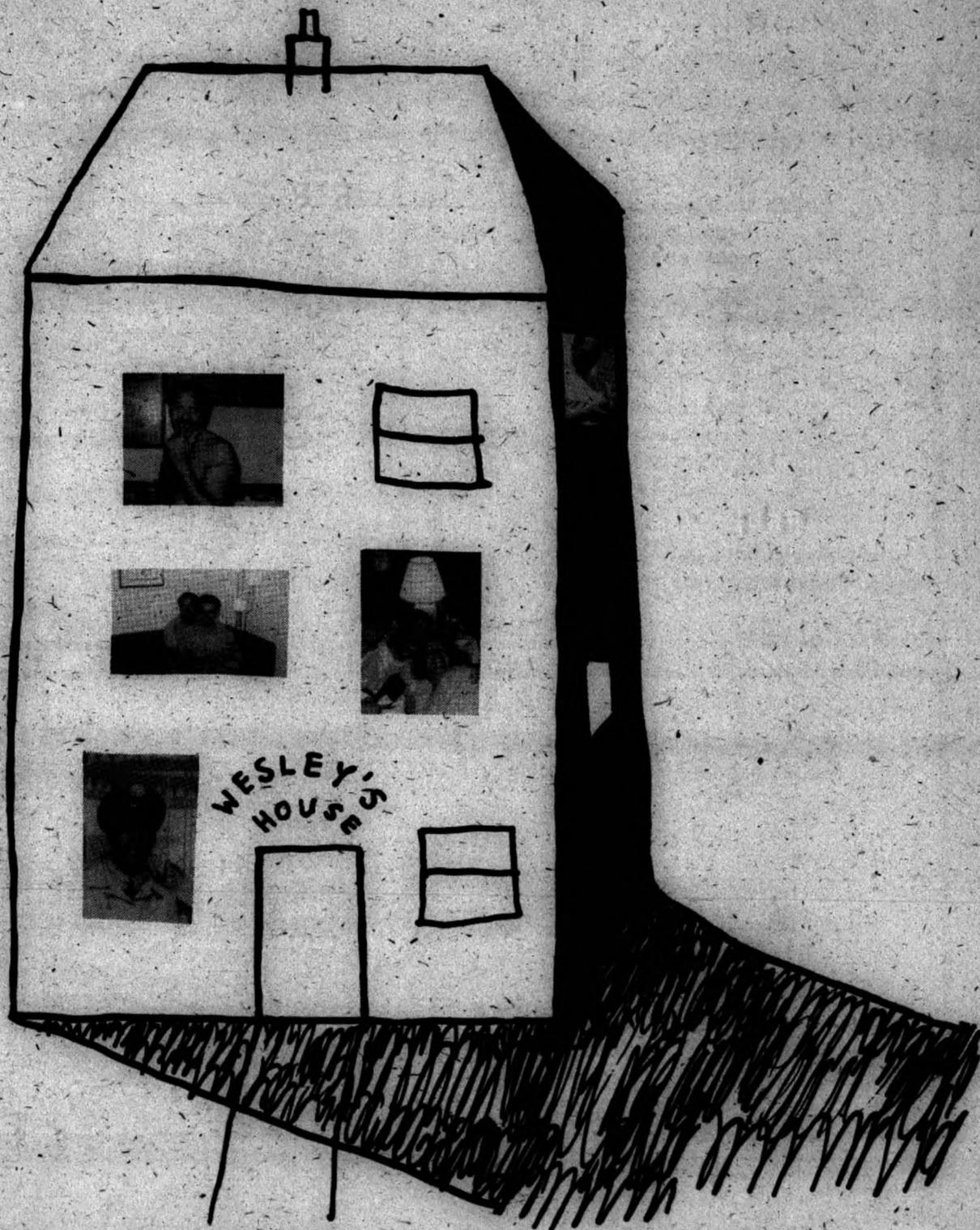


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News & Review for Santa Cruz County's Gay and Lesbian Community

Published Quarterly

Fall, 1989



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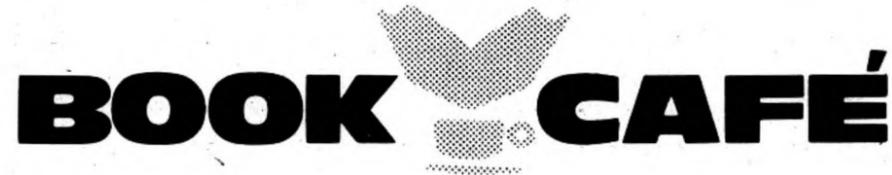


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VOLUME 4 NUMBER 1

FALL 1989

### **LAVENDER READER**

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4 FALL 1989

## OPENING WORD

If there's one thing we don't want to be accused of at the *Reader*, it's of being stagnant. In this issue, to keep everybody on their toes (including us) we are introducing a new features column, a new department, and the work of a talented local cartoonist.

The "First Person" feature is just what it sounds like: stories from our community, told in our own voices. You might call them oral histories in print. Our first offering in this category comes from Mardi Richmond, who reflects on a day of her work at a construction site. As always, submissions from all segments of our diverse community are welcome.

Although the *Reader* focuses primarily on Santa Cruz County, it occurred to us that there could be national and international events of importance to the gay/lesbian/bisexual community that our readers hadn't gotten a chance to hear about. Beginning with this issue, Sarah-Hope Parmeter peruses the print media to distill "News Notes" for you.

Lisa Johnson is our new artist/cartoonist-in-residence. Her first installment of "It Takes All Kinds" provides insight into a collective ailment most worthy of our attention. We are thrilled that Lisa has joined the *Reader* staff.

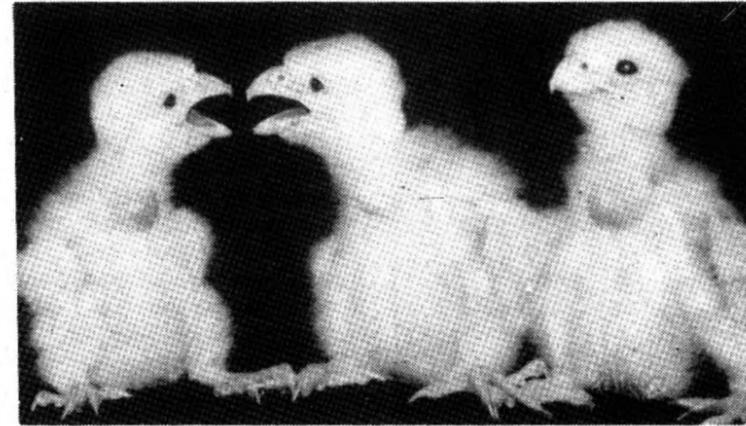
While on the subject of staff, we also want to welcome Val Leoffler as our new advertising coordinator. Val is replacing Gayelynn Galusha, who occupied this critical position in the staff box for a year-and-a-half. We send big kisses to Gayelynn at her new home in Hawaii. Thanks, Gayelynn, we will miss you—and welcome, Val!

And finally, some belated thanks from the last issue are in order. Tek Young Lin took the poignant photograph of Michael Perlman that appeared on Michael's memorial page at the beginning of the summer issue. And Kate Hitt at Community Printers—unbeknownst to us—came in on her own time to run that same page twice through the printing press. With its heavy concentration of ink, the page required the close attention of a skilled printer, and Kate saw to it that Michael's tribute was of the highest possible quality. Thanks to both Tek and Kate.

And for everyone, our best wishes for a peaceful fall. Happy reading.

—Jo Kenny and Scott Brookie

## VERBATIM



"If people have bargained that oral sex is what they're going to do and stay uninfected, we now have direct evidence that it [infection] can happen."

—Dr. George Rutherford, director of the AIDS Office of the San Francisco Health Department, commenting on a new study of the riskiness of oral sex to climax. The study determined that two men had become infected with HIV by sucking their partners to climax.

"Li Peng is a fag!"

—title of a letter condemning the Chinese government for the massacre in Tienanmen Square in June. The letter appeared on an international computer bulletin board of Chinese affairs which was a central information exchange during the Chinese uprising. Another writer immediately responded, stressing the need for political coalitions including gay men and lesbians, and telling the first writer, "You'd better grow up fast."

"If you take the gay sensibility out of the arts, what you're left with is 'Let's Make a Deal'."

—film historian and critic Vito Russo, speaking in Santa Cruz last winter

### WINTER 1990

Editorial Deadline ▼ December 1

Advertising Deadline ▼ January 5

Calendar Deadline ▼ January 5

Publication Date ▼ January 24

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## LETTERS

### A Gay Men's Evening in May?

The Lavender Reader received a copy of this letter addressed to AGEM.

Dear A. G. E. M.:

I was in attendance at the 5th annual "A Gay Evening in May" on May 6, 1989. It was an entertaining show a significant amount of the time, although the "energy" of the second half (Act II) of the show was much lower overall than Act I, which was a "let down" for me.

I thoroughly enjoyed the "Latex Follies" among a number of other pieces as well (Gretchen Koch, Rebecca Adams, etc.). Nonetheless, there were two acts I found in extremely poor taste—both were in Act II. One was "Puerto Rico." I found it insulting to have three white men singing a song, etc. which was about, for, and should have been done by a man or



Write to us! The Lavender Reader prefers letters that are terse, tart, typewritten, double-spaced and signed. Include a phone number where we can contact you. Send letters to Lavender Reader, PO Box 7293, Santa Cruz, CA 95061.

men of color (preferably Puerto Rican). The other act which I found maddening and distasteful was Randy Burch's "Say that We're Sweethearts Again"—that song was about battering and it was totally inappropriate to make light of it or make a joke about a subject (battering) which is a problem in our community. It was in poor taste and, for the most part, I felt the audience's reaction to it reflected the uncomfortable feelings people had with the song and act and the inappropriateness of it.

My reason for writing AGEM is several-fold. For four years I have seen the attendance at this event grow quite a bit. A significant result of this increased attendance is that the amount of money raised for the various AIDS organizations has obviously increased as well. So here's the problem I have with that—why not call the show "A Gay (Man's or Men's) Evening in May"? I am frus-

Continued on Page 18

## SCAP REPORT

### Encore for the Latex Follies

The zany comedy show, "Latex Follies", is returning. This safer sex entertainment which was performed at this year's Gay Evening in May is written and directed by Dennis Walsh and sponsored by the Peer Education Program of the Santa Cruz AIDS Project. In October, the show will be extended to a full hour and presented both at an AIDS theatre festival in San Francisco in conjunction with a major AIDS conference, as well as special showings locally including one at the UCSC performing art theatre.

If you saw the show, you probably haven't forgotten Banana White's colorful character. She will be back with a sensitive solo about her own line of designer prophalactics. The very popular singing condoms, the Extremes will be back in full camp and voice. Joining

the show will also be new guests including Rosane Rosanna-Danna and always perky sexologist, Dr. Ruth.

In addition to being fun of a very high order, "Latex Follies" addresses many concerns about preventing the transmission of HIV. The importance of condom use, clean needles, and non-risky sexual play will all be explored in hilarious detail. Humor is used without any intension of minimizing the importance of these serious health issues. Satire and comedy can capture the audience's imagination and stimulate their awareness often times in more powerful ways than straight-forward AIDS presentations. Educators are recognizing that sexual behavior change is not fostered by fear but instead by informing people of their options and the nature of their risks.

Continued on Page 39



### the Santa Cruz AIDS Project

#### Office Hours

Always: Monday-Friday  
9am-5pm

After Hours: 24 Hour Hotline  
(408) 458-4999

#### Support Groups

##### Moving Through Grief

Wed. 5:30-7 pm

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#### HIV Positive Group

#### Families, Friends & Loved Ones

#### Heterosexual Couples Group

#### Gay Couples Group

#### Alternative

#### Treatment Group

(Independent of SCAP)

Call Terry at 427-3900

for information

#### SCAP Staff

#### Executive Director

Jo Kenny

#### Volunteer Coordinator

Terry Cavanagh

#### Client Services Coordinator

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## NEWS NOTES

### Ode to the Briggs Initiative

Robert Stipicevich, two-term Fremont School Board member and current Board Chair, is facing a recall campaign spearheaded by the newly formed Fremont Family Alliance (FFA) as a result of his decision to come out in a May 18 interview. Because of Stipicevich's popularity, the FFA has had to resort to misleading and alarmist tactics in its campaign. Typical of these are their comparisons between gay people and rapists, and a "fact sheet" topped by a copy of explicit safe sex materials published by the San Francisco Aids Foundation for gay men that goes on to identify these materials as part of the classroom AIDS curriculum supported by Stipicevich. The FFA also claims that as a gay man he violated conflict of interest standards when he voted to approve district AIDS curriculum (which they brand as "homosexual propaganda"), that Stipicevich defrauded voters because he wasn't openly gay when he ran for office, and that he is advocating being gay both by his announcement and his stated desire to let gay children know it's ok to be gay.

Part of the FFA's plans include gathering the required 12,000 signatures quickly enough to force the Fremont Unified School District to pay an estimated \$80,000 for a special election that would come just months before already-scheduled School Board elections. The FAA hopes that Stipicevich will resign rather than place such a financial burden on the district.

Nonetheless, Stipicevich, having decided to come out, is determined to fight the recall campaign. He has a broad base of community support that

includes all four of his fellow Board members, local lesbian and gay political organizations, local clergy, and a range of people who see the campaign as "an assault on someone's civil rights."

—Coming Up

### Gross Profits at Wellcome

San Francisco, London and New York demonstrators recently protested Burroughs Wellcome profits on the drug AZT. Profit margins are estimated to range as high as 70-80% for the drug, and company profits doubled during the three years ending August 27, 1988.

While Wellcome cites research and start up costs as the reasons for the drug's high price (\$8,000 annually for a single user), their claims are receiving growing criticism not just from AIDS activists, but from the U. S. government as well, which has spent \$320 million dollars purchasing AZT under Medicaid. Many view Wellcome's AZT profits as nothing short of a "windfall," as the company, which bought rights to the compound many years ago, did not develop the compound, was not the first to discover its effectiveness against AIDS, and did not conduct the first human tests involving AZT. Most of the work in this area was funded with federal money through the National Institutes of Health. In fact, Wellcome's \$100 million in AZT profits (drawn from \$220 million in sales) from their most recent fiscal year would more than cover all expenses incurred by the company when it began production of the compound.

Wellcome profits are expected to rise further as a result of a recent study showing that AZT also helps people infected with the HIV virus who are not

yet showing any signs of sickness. Wellcome stocks jumped 32% in London following the announcement of this study and estimates that it could increase company sales by as much as 1.2 billion dollars in 1992.

AIDS activists (who the Wall Street Journal characterizes as "highly organized and politically adroit, unlike most other patient populations") have interrupted trading at the New York Stock Exchange with calls to "Sell Wellcome" and have begun plastering Wellcome products on store shelves with stickers reading "AIDS Profiteer."

Meanwhile, the federal government has begun to consider taking action, perhaps under a wartime statute allowing patent infringement if government procurement of an item is threatened by the activities of a single supplier.

—The Wall Street Journal

[Editor's Note: Shortly after this article was completed, Burroughs-Wellcome announced that it would reduce the price of AZT by 20%.]

### Ann Blows It

10,000 readers responded to a recent suggestion by Ann Landers that most gay people, given the choice, would prefer to be straight in order to escape the oppression they face. A Milwaukee reader asked her whether under the same logic she believed that "all Jews wish they were Gentiles, that all Catholics wish they were Protestants, that all blacks wish they were white and that all women wish they were men." A Vancouver reader let loose, telling her, "It's high time heterosexuals got off their high horse and realized that they are not the end all and be all of human sexuality." A third reader, from New

Continued on Page 10

## COMMUNITY CENTER

# Getting Closer All the Time



## Mindy Storch

While the Community Center's first birthday was officially in April, the organization's members elected the second Board of Directors at their September business meeting. The new officers and directors are: President/Co-Chair Patrick Meyer, Co-Chair Mardi Brown, Secretary Mindy Storch, Treasurer Shari Bades, and Directors Gerald Conrad and Amy Greene. Committee Representatives nominated at press time were: Programs & Services—Jon Whitman, Fundraising—Christopher Spillers, and Communications—Lee Roden.

It will be this Board and the many volunteers working with the Center who will be responsible for locating and creating the first lesbian and gay community center in Santa Cruz. There are several sites being explored as possibilities for the new Center, and LGCC has over \$5,000 designated specifically for securing the initial lease and making any improvements.

Another priority for this Board/Business Group will be to strengthen LGCC's contact with other lavender organizations in the community. We are eager to work with the many groups representing the wide variety of interests of gays and lesbians in Santa Cruz while creating a center for all of us.

This past year has been wonderfully successful, with much support and enthusiasm shown for the Center

throughout the gay and lesbian community. Events have been well-attended; requests for donations have been well-received; the first membership drive is going quite successfully (have you joined yet?); and the coming year looks bright for the Center.

End-of-'89 special events include a mid-September coffeehouse and a picnic at the end of the month. There will be a GIGANTIC clothing and costume sale the first of October, and, of course, the now-traditional Halloween Dance and Costume Contest on October 28. In November, there will be a beer-tasting (date TBA), a Dyke Drag Show (the 18th), and our 2nd annual Thanksgiving Dinner on the 23rd. We'll be hosting a "Comedy Coffeehouse" on December 9, and a Holiday Get-together on the 16th. And, of course, if we find our "Home of Our Own" by the end of

Continued on Page 39

Santa Cruz  
Lesbian & Gay Community Center  
Regular Monthly Events & Meetings  
Info Line: 425-LGCC

### EVENTS:

Community Social & Potluck - LGCC News & Views: Second Tuesday of every month (October 10, November 14, December 12), Loudon Nelson Community Center, 7:30-9:45 p.m. 475-6268.

Game Nights: First and Third Wednesdays of every month (October 4 & 18; November 1 & 15; December 6 & 20), Loudon Nelson Center, 7:30-9:45 p.m. 462-2610.

Round Circle Women's Singing Group for intermediate singing skills: First and Third Sundays of every month (October 1 & 15; November 5 & 19; December 3 & 17), Loudon Nelson Center, 4:00-5:30 p.m. 1-247-0505.

Rummage Sales: monthly at a time and place announced in LGCC's monthly calendar. For donations/pick-up, call Tom Leitchworth at 479-1026.

### MEETINGS:

Monthly Business Meetings: First Tuesday of every month (October 3, November 7, December 5), 7:30-9:45 p.m. Call Patrick Meyer (423-9444), or Mardi Brown (479-3606) for location and agenda items.

Programs & Services Committee: Third Tuesday of every month (October 17, November 21, December 19), Loudon Nelson Center, 7:30-9:45 p.m. Jon Whitman (423-2581).

Fundraising Committee: Fourth Tuesday of every month (October 24, November 28, December 19), Loudon Nelson Center, 7:00-10:00 p.m. Christopher Spiller (462-2610).

Communications Committee: Second or third Saturday or Sunday of every month (October 21, November 18, December 17). Call Lee Roden (462-2610) for location.

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Continued from Page 8

York, put it succinctly, "We don't want to change, Ann, we want SOCIETY to change and accept us as we are."

### Serving Older PWAs

New York's Senior Action in a Gay Environment recently announced the nation's first care and support system exclusively for older people with AIDS. The program will respond to the particular medical concerns of older PWAs, many of whom are already receiving medical treatment for conditions such as arthritis, high blood pressure, and diabetes. The program will include buddy support services, bereavement groups, and training about AIDS education for older people.

—Gay Community News

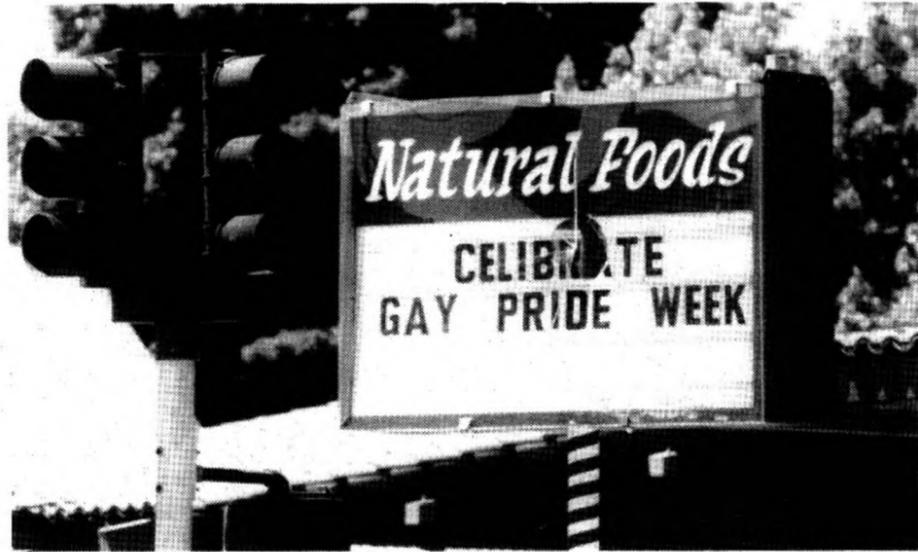
### Lesbian's Will Upheld

A Vermont lesbian was awarded custody of her deceased lover's son at a June 30 hearing despite a challenge by the child's grandparents. Susan Hamilton, who was killed in a car accident which her partner Susan Bellemare and her son survived, had named Bellemare as executrix of her estate and guardian and trustee of her child. Hamilton's parents claimed Bellemare had exerted "undue influence" over Hamilton when she wrote the will.

—Gay Community News

### All the News That's Fit to Print?

One hundred and fifty ACT UP/New York activists were met by 400 police officers during a July 26 demonstration that launched ACT UP/NY's new offensive against the New York



Breton Carr/Monthly Planet

During the week of Gay Pride in June the marquee at the Food Bin/Herb Room natural foods stores carried a supportive message. In a chilling act of anti-gay violence, unknown vandals smashed the sign with a rock. The result was this dramatic visual display of the tension between lesbian/gay pride and homophobia. Nearby businesses—Emily's Bakery and A Flower for All Reasons—took up a collection to repair the sign. As the Reader went to press, the display was whole again, with a message reading "Fixing the hole that let the hate in."

Times. Activists were responding to the the Times lack of coverage relating to the AIDS crisis and lesbian and gay concerns and its hostility toward people who are HIV positive. Despite the massive police presence, none of New York's major daily papers or television stations covered the demonstration.

The demonstration began in front of the house of Times publisher Arthur Sulzberger, was followed by a die-in on Fifth Avenue and, after a circuitous march that was repeatedly blocked by police, ended in a rally in front of the Times building.

ACT UP/NY followed this action with an August 8 "fax-zap" during which the Times' offices were deluged with condolence cards for "loss of integrity" and "loss of honesty." Stickers

on news boxes throughout the city proclaim, "Buy your lies here. The New York Times reports half the truth about AIDS."

—Gay Community News

### Lesson for a Lifetime

During her May 29 commencement address, Audre Lorde called upon Oberlin College graduates to take action by testifying with their lives not because of altruism, but because "it is a question of self-preservation." First drawing connections between U. S. wealth and Third World poverty, she told them, "Your privilege is not a reason for guilt, it is part of your power, to be used in support of those things you

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## POLITICAL CLIMATE

# Top County Bureaucrats Try to Freeze Out Domestic Partners

If you were to read that a public official had suggested that lesbians were in a high risk group for AIDS, that AIDS is a good reason not to extend domestic partners benefits to public employees, and that a non-discrimination policy should be negotiated if it involves money to enforce—you might think that you were reading the public utterances of Jesse Helms, William Dannemeyer, or John Doolittle.

Think again. These are just the positions taken by the Affirmative Action Officer of Santa Cruz County and his boss the county Personnel Director—the people charged with enforcing the anti-discrimination policies of Santa Cruz County government.

Santa Cruz County government was among the first county governments in the nation to adopt a policy of non-discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation. When this policy was adopted in 1975, it included many aspects of employment—including non-discrimination in employee benefits such as health, vision, and dental care.

In the late 1970's, Joe Eugene, then a social worker for the county, approached top county bureaucrats pointing out that he was discriminated against in benefits. He could not, he said, bring his domestic partner into the county's programs the way any other county employee could who was involved in a legally recognized relationship.

The county responded by allowing domestic partners (though they were called by another name) to be enrolled in benefits programs. However, as this was the first such location in the nation to implement such a program, adequate safeguards were not developed. One employee enrolled different partners in one year for medical benefits.

Rather than fix the safeguard problem, the county threw the baby out

of Santa Cruz followed in 1987. In each case, the benefits were negotiated as part of the labor contract. The unions put the request on the table, and management agreed.

By this summer, 25 of the 381 employees in the two largest bargaining units at the transit district had signed up—just about 7% of that workforce.

Interestingly enough, more straight domestic partners have been enrolled

**"Employees with gay or straight unmarried spouses are compensated less than employees who are provided funds for the medical costs of legally-recognized spouses. This is not an issue of anything but fairness and equal compensation."**

with the bathwater. New enrollments in the program were ended, although those who had enrolled domestic partners were allowed to "grandparent" in that partner and continue them with county benefits.

In 1986, the Santa Cruz Metropolitan Transit District began to offer domestic partner benefits, and the City

at both places than gay or lesbian. And there has been no experience in medical costs different from that of already-insured transit and city employees.

The principle is simple. No law requires that local governments pay benefits based on legally-recognized marriages. Employers should always try to compensate their employees in

Continued on Page 32

John Laird

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Child Counselor  
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## COMMUNITY CLIPS

### Men's Chorus Has Open Arms

The Santa Cruz Men's Chorus is beginning its second season this fall and is welcoming new singers now. We are also in need of an accompanist. Call Brett at 427-2722 or Terry at 425-5491.

### New Women's Play Underway

*Night Owls*, an original play with music, is a story of fate, choices, life and death. The characters, five women spanning three generations, are all drawn one night to an apartment in the city for an experience that will change their lives.

The inspiration for *Night Owls* is rooted in the desire to dignify women's rites of passage and to utilize the richness of intergenerational dialogue in creating believable and diverse images of women.

Co-authors, Cliff Henderson, actor, playwright and director, and Zahada Macopa, visual artist and lyricist, developed the script and recruited singer-musician Patti Mattison to compose music for the play.

Orca Productions is currently soliciting donations and is interviewing for production staff and interns. Any financial or production support will be greatly appreciated. Contact Orca Productions (408) 459-0556.

### Pride on Tape

It's fun. It's interesting. It's informative. It's strange. It's a video of the first Gay Pride celebration in Santa Cruz in 1975 sponsored by the Lesbian and Gay Men's Union (LAGMU). This 45 minute black and white tape is available to rent and preview in your own home for 50 cents (1975 prices to help defray the copying cost).

See the first gay potluck. See hot lovemaking in the Park. See workshop

discussions, poetry reading, music by Pat Smith, and a hilarious male vs. female tug of war across the San Lorenzo River.

Call Dan Dickmeyer at 425-8159 for more information about renting this historical video.

### Gay Pride Photos Needed

Anyone having photos of group pictures taken after Gay Pride Marches at the County building or San Lorenzo park for several years please call Dan Dickmeyer at 425-8159. These pictures taken by Mark Patterson would be borrowed for use in the gay history slide show presentation.

### Let's Put On a Show!

The volunteers for next year's "Gay Evening in May," Santa Cruz' largest lesbian and gay fundraiser, are looking for new faces and fresh ideas.

The planning process for AGEM changes every year depending on who shows up at the first meetings. Some of the decisions discussed every year involve where the show should be held and where the proceeds should go. Once this basic plan has been made by the group the show takes on a life of its own.

If you want to help and can't make it to our organizing meeting, October 26th, 7:30p at Loudon Nelson Center, give Mardi Brown a call at 479-3606 and we'll keep you informed.

### New Group for Gay Male Couples: Dealing with HIV Issues

A support group is forming for gay male couples in which one or both partners are dealing with seropositivity or HIV disease.

Sponsored by the Santa Cruz AIDS Project, the group is facilitated by Terri

SCOTT BROOKIE



This typical coastal lesbian was among the nearly 1,000 participants in the 15th annual Santa Cruz lesbian/gay pride parade in June.

Thames, Ph. D., and Jill Steinberg, Ph. D. Both are licensed psychologists and have extensive experience with counselling couples as well as facilitating groups.

The group will be both supportive and educative. Communication skills (e.g. active empathetic listening, constructive fighting, problem solving) will be taught. Couples will use these skills to discuss issues such as stress, sexuality, commitment and other concerns relevant to their relationship.

The group will meet Thursday evenings from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. and will meet for eight weeks. There is no fee and persons interested should call Jill at 423-5146 or Terri at 462-3540. □

## MAKING WAVES

# Fags, Dykes and Abortion

I was in San Francisco, undisputed queer capital of the world, when this summer's Supreme Court decision limiting abortion rights was announced. Hundreds of pro-choice women and men of all persuasions, many with kids in tow, gathered that evening to protest at Federal and State Buildings. Our dual rallies and the connecting march bristled and sparked with fury and the determination to claim our bodies—in defiance of government repression. The visibility of lesbians and gay men was inspiring. Abortion isn't just a straight women's problem any more than AIDS is just a gay men's problem. Lesbian and gay activism is crucial to the success of the reproductive rights movement, and our stakes in that movement are high.

The fundamental issue of the abortion debate is reproductive self-determination: who decides whether and when and under what circumstances a woman will bear a child? Who decides whether an unintended pregnancy is discontinued or brought to term? Is it the woman involved or the state? The way that question is answered will also answer questions of sexual and reproductive choice that specifically impact the lesbian and gay community. If we sit back and allow the government to usurp decision making power over abortion, we will have undercut the foundation of our struggles for sexual freedom, lesbian and gay parenting, and recognition of alternative family

structures.

Scratch an anti-abortionist and you will usually find a homophobe just underneath—for good reason. Both homosexuality and abortion challenge the absolute fusion of sex and reproduction that has caged women in kitchens and bedrooms for centuries. Try talking to one of the "pro-life" demon-

**"Right-wing paranoids are correct that gay rights, reproductive rights and women's equality require each other for completion."**

strators that terrorize local family planning clinics—listen to the insults hurled at pro-choice activists, clinic clients and their escorts. Women choosing abortion are called not only "murderers" but "whores". They dare to be sexual without paying the price of pregnancy and motherhood. (Isn't that the same argument that the religious Right spews about gay sex—that by enjoying our bodies without procreative intent we

are somehow insulting the "natural order?") No wonder, then, that pro-choice men regularly have their "masculinity" insulted by anti-abortionists at the clinics: supporting women's freedom makes "faggots" of gay and straight men alike.

Panic over female reproductive autonomy and revulsion at lesbian and gay sexuality are similarly rooted in hatred of the body—and in fear that an entire social order based on compulsory motherhood is crumbling. Which hopefully, it will. Right-wing paranoids are correct that gay rights, reproductive rights and women's equality require each other for completion. Mainstream feminist groups used to back away skittishly from such conclusions ("Oh my, no, the ERA won't legalize co-ed bathrooms or homosexual marriage; of course abortion won't threaten the glorious nuclear family"). But that brand of cautious conservatism has not worked, has in fact boomeranged, and we lesbians and gay men are in an excellent position now to provide the radical and visionary leadership (by which I mean creative initiative-taking) that the reproductive rights movement needs to meet the current crisis head-on.

Lesbians have always been active, though often invisible, in abortion rights work. Many of us have heterosexual pasts complete with birth control hassles, missed-period panic,

*Continued on Page 14*

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pregnancies joyous or traumatic, abortions legal or illegal. Some of us still sleep with men sometimes (dare I mention it?) and unwanted pregnancy is not just a dim memory from a pre-lesbian past. Bisexual women have always struggled with both the homophobia and the reproductive issues that straight women share—the frequent rejection of bisexual women from the lesbian community has reinforced the false notion that coming out is fool-proof birth control and that issues like abortion have nothing to do with us.

Other dykes, however, including those who have never been with men and never will, recognize in the abortion backlash a comprehensive attack on the female body and the female body politic. All women are targets. I haven't worried about getting pregnant since I was 16, and the big issue is *how* to have a child if I choose to, but *my body* is under siege. I react viscerally to every headline.

Several years ago, a lesbian friend of mine had an abortion. None of us knew. She had had a brief affair with a man after her lover split, had gotten pregnant, had gone through the ordeal entirely alone. She was afraid that her lesbian sisters would judge her, recoil from her "deviance" from political correctness as her straight friends had recoiled when she came out. I probably would have lived up (or down) to her fears at the time. Today it pains and enrages me that this woman I love, or any woman, should have to go through an abortion in secrecy and shame. Whenever I hear the suggestions that abortion isn't a "lesbian issue," this private memory rises in my heart as the appropriate political pitch automatically rises to my lips. When it comes to sexuality and reproduction, all women

must share the issues.

Gay men's relationship to the abortion debate is obviously less direct, but a once-small and now growing minority of activists have long made the connections. Bodily integrity isn't a separable commodity. Sodomy laws and abortion bans rest on the same premise, and when states can regulate the contents of a woman's womb they can, and do, regulate bathhouses, private bedrooms, and personal decision-making about sex. For this reason, and because the same social norms choke women and sexual minorities, and simply because it's the right thing to do, gay men are increasingly lending their support to the abortion struggle.

Support is nice; direct involvement is better. Chapters of ACT UP, the nationwide AIDS activist organization, have become a regular and rowdy feature of pro-choice demonstrations from coast to coast. Often led by gay men, ACT UP groups fuel the direct-action wing of the reproductive rights movement and keep gay issues front and center. The San Francisco-based Men Who Care About Women's Lives, founded by feminist gay men, brings gay and straight men together to work for safe and legal abortion. Here in Santa Cruz, pro-choice gay men are particularly invited to join the Reproductive Rights Task Force of the Lesbian and Gay Action Alliance. Your hands, your voices, your passions are indispensable in forging the coalitions that will secure threatened abortion rights and free all of our bodies.

The Supreme Court's *Webster* decision, vastly expanding states' powers to restrict abortion, dramatizes the severity of the challenge we face. The current situation is a crisis of life-threatening proportions. Like the AIDS crisis, it has already mobi-

lized thousands of people, many of them previously apolitical, who have been moved by the extent of the emergency and the direct threat to themselves and those they love.

Yet both movements depend for success on more than numbers—we must build ever-stronger alliances with others whose interests are affected. We must also resist the lure of single-issue politics: abortion without broader reproductive freedoms is meaningless, AIDS funding without guaranteed health care is but a bandaid. Neither crisis can be genuinely resolved without a comprehensive political agenda addressing basic human needs like housing and health care, and the importance of freely chosen sexual and reproductive lives.

Crises activate communities and recharge social movements. Old organizations are rejuvenated, new coalitions formed, the fires of activism burn. Yet crisis mode can also produce burn-out and despair. As we continue to confront the anti-abortionists and the epidemic, we must also look beyond the crises to celebrate and enlarge the freedoms of body and spirit we do enjoy. Let us continue to nurture and affirm our lesbian and gay identities and communities, our lush sexualities, our chosen families, our circles of friends, with the same passion and focus we must give to the necessary struggles. They are what we are fighting for. □

*The Lesbian and Gay Action Alliance presents its Fall Forum: "Keeping Their Laws Off Our Bodies: Reproductive Rights and the Lesbian/Gay Community," Wed. Oct. 25, 7:30 pm, Loudon Nelson Center. Info on the event and/or LGAA Reproductive Rights Task Force: Allison, 458-2591.*

### NEWS NOTES

Continued from Page 10

believe." She warned that belief must necessarily be accompanied by action, and her references to current social crises—the increasing number of U. S. children growing up in poverty, U. S. support of apartheid, the growing resurgence of homophobia and anti-gay violence—highlighted the urgency of her message. In exhorting Oberlin graduates to take action, she drew a vision of the future, telling them, "It is our day-to-day decisions, the way in which we testify with our lives to those things in which we say we believe, that empowers us."

Lorde also appeared as the keynote speaker for Oberlin's Black Seniors' Parent Appreciation Day Ceremony.

—Gay Community News

### Domestic Partners

#### Referendum in San Francisco

With the help of a winning campaign slogan, "Yes on S—Sometimes being fair doesn't cost you anything," volunteers have begun working to ensure that San Francisco's domestic partnership ordinance will be upheld. This ordinance would allow registration of qualified unmarried partners with the city clerk or a private third party. It would also grant city employees with domestic partners bereavement and hospital visitation rights currently granted to married couples.

Volunteers are canvassing door-to-door to ensure good election turn-out because, while a majority of San Franciscans support the ordinance, polls indicate that those opposing the ordinance are more likely to vote, which could mean trouble in a off-year election.

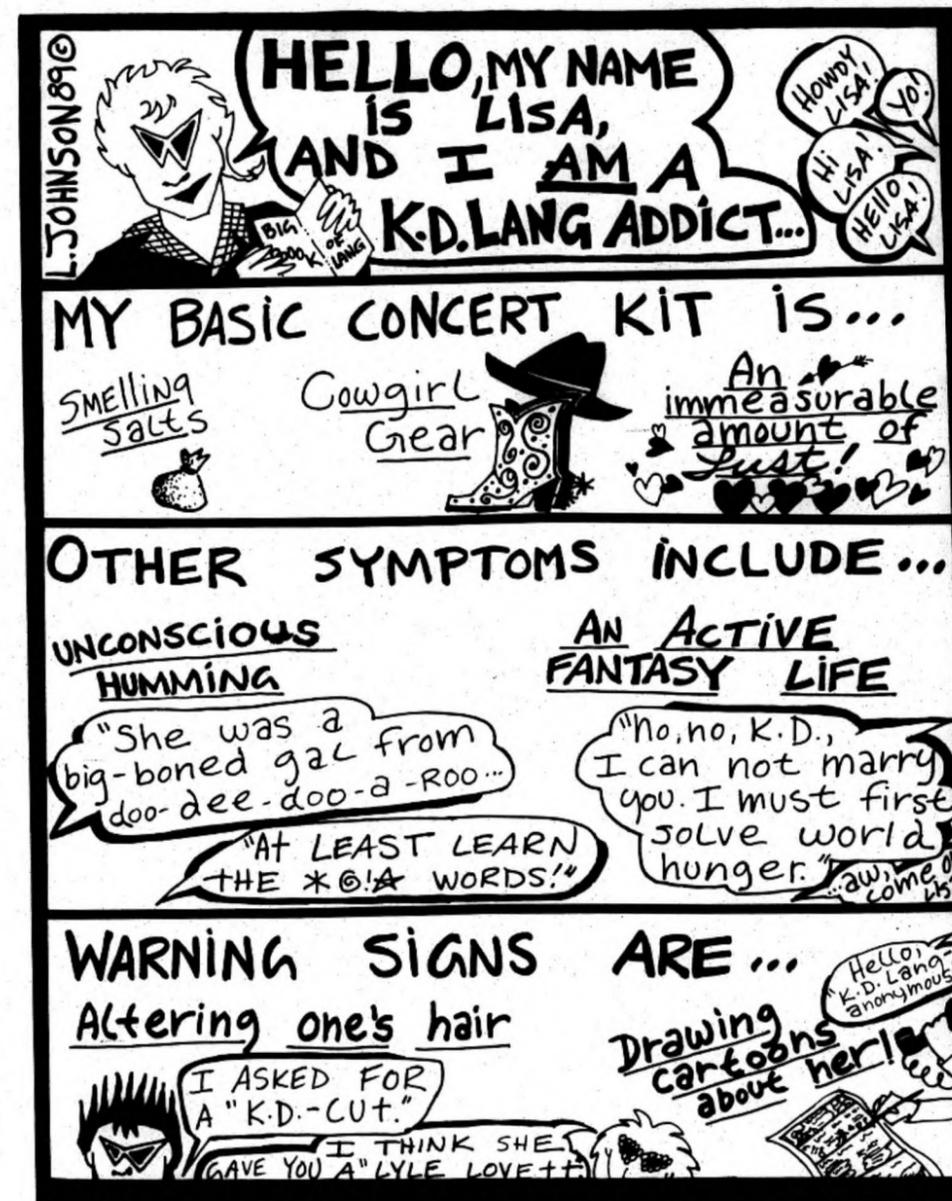
—Bay Area Reporter

### Black & White Men Together Get-together

The National Association of Black and White Men Together held its ninth annual convention this July in Florida. One keynote speaker, Allan Spear, openly gay five-term state senator from Minneapolis, addressed the need for more elected officials who are lesbians and people of color and noted that despite the successes of individual gay

## It Takes All Kinds

## Lisa Johnson



legislators, "personal acceptance has not translated into lesbian and gay rights.

In response to recent ideas in the media and books such as *After the Ball*, suggesting that lesbians and gay men "tone down and blend in," another keynote speaker, Sabrina Sojourner of the Southeastern Lesbian and Gay conference and editor of ETC, retorted, "I will not blend in. I will not deny my intrinsic value as a human being with all my diversity."

A video on a needle exchange program sparked debate about the role such programs may play in encouraging drug use in poor and minority communities. One participant complained that such programs "look good," but do nothing to address underlying community problems. A recurring theme throughout the convention was the importance of Black-Gay political alliances and the challenges of this work.

—Gay Community News



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# THE BALANCING ACT

*This story was written in response to a discussion in a women's re-entry English class at Cabrillo College. The question presented for discussion was "...whether a writing classroom should consider issues of ethnicity, class, sexual preference, and violence." The discussion that ensued was filled with a variety of opinions ranging from "issues of controversy will only detract from the process of learning to write," to "these topics are some of the keys to my blocks for writing." Perhaps the most dramatic of these opinions was the voice of a woman proclaiming any discussion or readings by, for, or about homosexuality would be offensive to her moral beliefs, and therefore would not be appropriate for discussion.*

**I** remember a day at work, like most other days, in most ways. I had spent the morning in the hot sun sheathing the roof. "Watch out for the wax. It's real slippery. Move quickly and whatever you do, don't stall out!" were words of advice that echoed in my ears as we spread and nailed the sheathing onto the trusses. I thought about what it would mean to "stall out": to suddenly stop moving while balancing on a 2x4, and how hard it would be to keep from falling if that happened.

At lunch I reflected on the morning, feeling the sense of accomplishment as I looked over the set of condos we were building. I remembered the thrill and excitement and decided then that walking through the fear of roof framing was a little like the fear and excitement of a rollercoaster ride.

After lunch I went back on the roof to begin laying out the trusses for the next building. Laying out the trusses is tricky work. It involves balancing the big, heavy, A-frame roof supports between two people while dragging and spacing them the length of the framed wall. Walking on 2x4's 15 feet in the air with trusses stretched between two workers for balance takes incredible trust and confidence. Now, on this particular day, as we were dragging the trusses, our foreman (a large sullen man) was barking out orders from the second story of the next building. Suddenly I heard him yelling angrily, "AIDS tests on Friday. We're gonna get all the fuckin' queers off this job! Kill the fuckin' queers!"

Hearing his words I began shaking. I looked down and could imagine the ground rushing up to meet my face. The truss in my hand began to slip. And yes, in spite of the advice ringing in my ears, "don't stall out," I stalled out. Just for a moment, not long enough to fall, just long enough to lose my confidence. Now, I don't know if those words were directed at me, or if it was just general hate coming from the mouth of my boss. What I do know is that my experience working on that job turned from excitement and fun to fear and pain. What I do know is that his words, his homophobia could have killed me that day.

I have heard enough horror stories about gay men and lesbians being intentionally injured on construction sites that when I reflect on this experience, in many ways, I am glad that on this job I was not out as a lesbian. And yet, I feel a sense of betrayal to myself and a deep sadness that I was not open about my lesbianism. My trust in my foreman and co-workers was dulled by homophobia ringing through the air. But my trust in myself was deadened by my silence.

Today, I don't consider myself particularly radical, and yet, every day I face a radical decision about where and when I will be honest in the world and about where and when I will lie.

I must decide if I will tell my co-workers and boss, when asked if I am married, "Yes I am," and risk the next question: "What does your husband do?" "My wife," I may answer, "is a therapist." Or do I say "lover" or "partner" or "spouse" and hope to avoid gender? I must decide if I will walk hand in hand with my lover down the street where we live. I must decide if I will answer my Spanish teacher's question, "Esta casada?" (Are you married?) in front of 30 other students. I must decide if I will be open with my friends and family.

I am challenged by my father saying, "What does it matter who you sleep with? Why be open? Why advertise?" I answer that challenge with: What do you tell your employers when they ask, "Are you married?" Who do you dance with at a party? Who do you bring flowers to? raise children with? buy houses with? buy insurance with? make decisions with? My life is not so different from my father's, and I ask him, why should I have to lie every

Walking on 2x4's  
15 feet in the air  
with trusses  
stretched  
between two  
workers  
for balance takes  
incredible trust  
and confidence.

day of my life? Why should I live in hiding because he and others may be afraid of who I am? I ask myself, how can I live honestly with the fear, my fear and your fear?

*My fear comes in the shape of a large, heavy ball pushing down on me. It is cold and hard and metallic. If I were to reach out and touch my fear I would feel its damp cold penetrating my fingers and moving through my soul, leaving a rock of angry and defensive silence inside of me. This silence becomes a tight knot in my stomach, slowly rising to my throat. This silence is my face turning red as the heat rises from inside of me. It feels scattered and anxious and confused.*

*Your fear I hear in the voices of teenage girls at the flea market: "Ooh, look at the dykes!" A car full of men driving by and yelling, "What you need is a good fuck!" I know your fear when I walk down the street with my friends and a young mother ushers her children away from us, hissing "perverts!" I know your fear when I am pitied by my grandmother and loved "in spite of" who I am by my brother. I see your fear on the face of my best friend battered and bloodied and bruised by queer bashers. I know your fear by the words "queer," "faggot" and "dyke" on bathroom walls.*

**I** am a dyke. I am a dyke who is married to another dyke and who is raising a child with yet another dyke. I am a dyke with a young cat, an old dog, and a little house. I am a dyke who loves to watch sitcoms and read mysteries. I am a dyke who walks on the beach with her dog and I am a dyke who believes in God.

Does my being a dyke make me someone to fear? I do not believe I was born with my fear, nor do I believe that you were born with your fear. We are taught our fears of others as all children are taught to fear what they do not know, what their parents do not understand.

I am afraid as I write this. I am afraid of breaking my silences and I am afraid of moving through my fears. And yet, a feeling is growing inside of me, similar to that feeling that day at work on the roof: A feeling of excitement and confidence and, yes, of pride.

I felt pride working on the roof, but my pride was shattered by hatred and fear ringing through the air and striking my fears, reinforcing my silence. Today, I am holding onto that pride. As I write this, my pride and confidence grow. Today, I am committed to breaking my silence. □



"I am a dyke

with a young cat,

an old dog,

and a little house."

BY MARDI RICHMOND

## LETTERS

Continued from Page 6

trated and angered as a lesbian to see lesbian energy, commitment and work go into this show and yet only 5% of it (the money) go to a lesbian and gay organization (Santa Cruz lesbian and gay community center).

It's unfortunate that both lesbians and gay men don't have "enough" money (via whatever sources) to put into organizations and causes that need financial support. It's a shame that there isn't enough money to fund SCAP, Santa Cruz Women Against Rape, Campaign for Responsible AIDS Action, Lesbian News, Matrix, Living Room, Santa Cruz Lesbian and Gay Community Center, Women's Crisis Support—I could go on and on.

But I feel it's a misnomer to call "A Gay Evening in May" what it is without putting "men" after "Gay" and before "Evening"—it's assumed (or is it?) that AGEM is for both lesbians and gay men—on some levels it is, but on the monetary level, benefits to the lesbian community are scarcely seen as compared to the monetary benefits to the gay male community, specifically in dealing with AIDS.

So what do we do? A first step would be to put more money generated by AGEM into lesbian/women causes as well as into gay male causes—to have more of a balance in terms of where the monies would go.

For to have it remain as it is by

which 95% of the money raised by the AGEM show goes to AIDS causes would leave out 50% of the community—lesbians. If AGEM chooses to leave it as it is financially, I would prefer to have the show more appropriately titled to reflect who this show is really for and who it benefits financially.

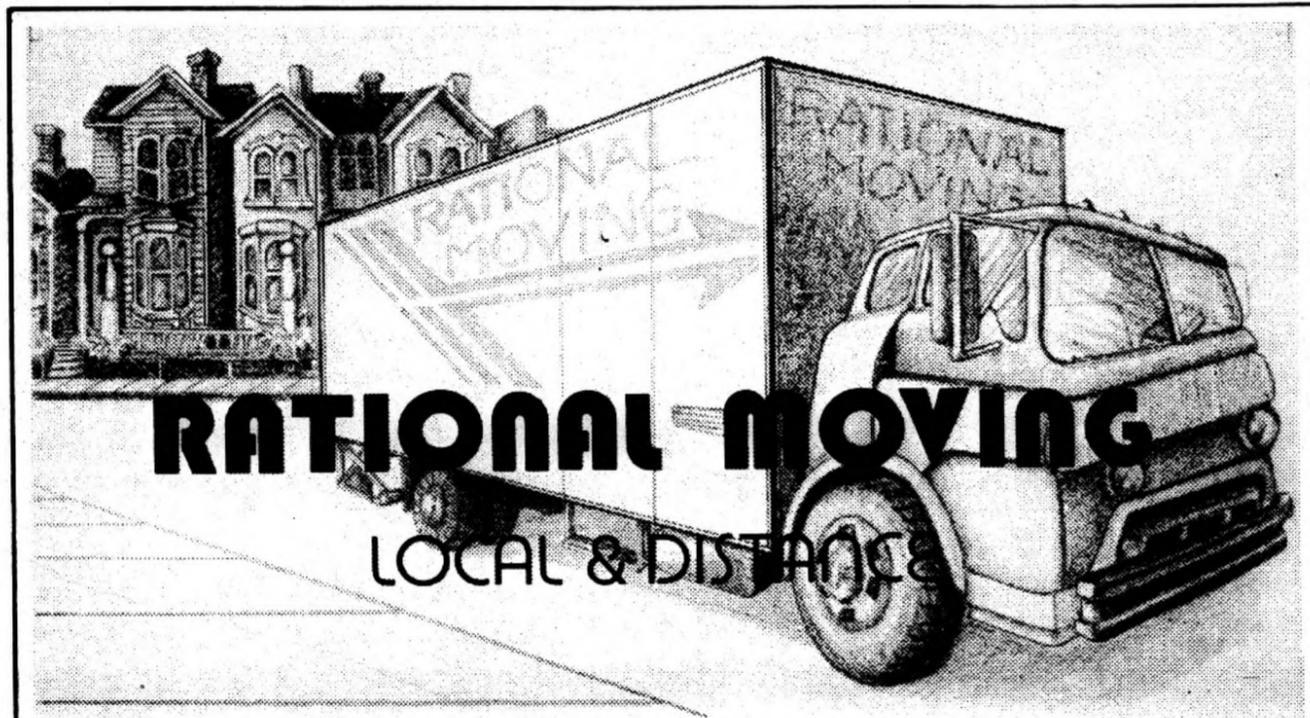
Sincerely,  
Robin Louise

Mardi Brown responds:

Dear Reader,

I am writing in response to the letter the Reader received regarding the distri-

Continued on Page 28



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## ORGANIZING

# Para Nuestra Comunidad: A NATIONAL VOICE

Barbara Garcia, a long-time Watsonville activist, has become an interim Board Member of the National Latino(a) Lesbian and Gay Organization (LLEGO). "In LLEGO we're working to create a forum for awareness and understanding of lesbian Latinas and gay Latinos' relationships and legal rights and roles *en nuestra comunidad*," says Garcia. LLEGO includes among its goals the education of both Latino and non-Latino communities on issues related to homophobia, sexism and discrimination.

"We're working to create an understanding of lesbian Latinas and gay Latinos relationships, legal rights and roles"

Current objectives include building and facilitating a network to provide information and resources for and about gay and lesbian Latinos(as) on

local, regional, and national levels. LLEGO also has a strong AIDS/SIDA agenda and has been contracted to do national-level AIDS/SIDA work.

LLEGO is a relatively new organization, begun during the 1987 March on Washington and more firmly established as a result of a second meeting, *El Segundo Encuentro*, held in Los Angeles in 1988. There, interim Board Members were chosen to represent the national organization and its three regional affiliates. Plans are now underway for a third national meeting, where new LLEGO Board Members will be elected.

LLEGO's next year should be an exciting one with the start of LLEGO's national organizing drive: "Rediscover, Celebrate, and Empower." Because of their successes in this area, the Western Region LLEGO will be serving as the national model in this drive.

LLEGO representatives have been working hard to build the organization's membership and meet its goals. They have appeared on Spanish-language television and have been written about in Spanish-language publications. Garcia served as one of the organizers of this year's LLEGO Western Region conference focusing on AIDS/SIDA in the Latino community and organizing gay/lesbian Lati-

Continued on Page 20

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Continued from Page 19

nos(as) for AIDS/SIDA education and prevention.

Garcia has joined fellow Board Members Arturo Olivas from Los Angeles and Marcos Rodriguez from Tucson in preparing for a regional outreach meeting, to be held in Tucson on November 11 and 12.

Garcia encourages all Latino(a) Gay and Lesbians to join in the development of LLEGO as a national and regional organization and to attend the

Tucson meeting. Garcia is also eager for substantial Santa Cruz/Watsonville area participation in an October 15 reception LLEGO is sponsoring at the National AIDS Conference.

For more information locally, contact Barbara Garcia by phone at (408) 728-0782 or by mail at 43 Valley View Road, Watsonville, Calif., 95076. You can also contact the national organization by writing to LLEGO, P. O. Box 44483, Washington D. C., 20026. □

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## ALLIANCE WORK

# What I Did On My Summer Vacation

When I go back to teaching sixth grade this fall, my students and I will chat about our summer vacations. I'll describe the White House and D.C. humidity, but unfortunately they won't find out why I really went to Washington D.C.

I went to work as an intern with the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force. The stated goal of the Task Force is "to secure rights so we can live openly, free from violence, bigotry and discrimination." It has been in existence for 16 years, employs 11 full-time activists, has a yearly budget of nearly 1 million and a membership of more than 15,000.

When I planned this "vacation" last winter, friends wondered why I would willingly forsake my girlfriend and a carefree California summer in order to volunteer for an agency in sweltering D.C. I had lots of reasons. Among them was that as a semi-closeted public school teacher, I relished the thought of working in an environment where my lesbianism would be considered an asset. I had been impressed with Task Force activities for several years; I trusted their politics.

On my first day at the Dupont Circle office, I wasn't sure just which project to get involved in; it was all rather overwhelming. The office itself could have been part of an exhibit at a gay and lesbian museum. Mounted by the door was a Halloween style pig mask with Jesse Helms' name underneath it.

Rather than the usual office copies of *Time* or *Newsweek*, the Task Force had an overflowing basket of gay and lesbian magazines and newspapers from all over the world. City proclamations and letters of appreciation, pictures of rallies and demonstrations, as well as of lovers and friends adorned the walls. As I poured myself a cup of coffee, I noticed the executive director's mug with its "I love my husband" slogan

next to the non-dairy creamer, and the poster "HomoSex is not a Crime" above the coffee maker.

What initially impressed me about the Task Force's agenda is how much it encompasses. In addition to lobbying for increased funding for AIDS education, research and care, the Task Force has done everything from organizing congressional testimony by gay veterans, to joining art activists rallying

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Activists stage a "kiss-in" at the Supreme Court, to protest the anniversary of the Hardwick case.

## Anza Stein

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against legislative censorship of "obscene" and homoerotic art.

The Task Force also sponsors an anti-violence project. Director Kevin Berrill each year compiles and releases an audit of anti-gay violence and harassment nationwide. In just one week this summer, Berrill spoke about gay-bashing on a TV talk show, presented his research at a National Institute of Mental Health conference, and wrote a grant to expand the project.

Another program is the Privacy Project, which is headed by Sue Hyde. After the Hardwick vs. Bowers Supreme Court decision three years ago, this project was established to seek the repeal of sodomy laws which still exist in 25 states as well as the District of Columbia. More Recently, the Task Force initiated a Lesbian and Gay Parenting Project, which will act on the legislative arm of the San Francisco-based National Center for Lesbian Rights (formerly The Lesbian Rights Project).

The Task Force also functions as a clearinghouse and resource center. Each day, gay men and lesbians all around the country call and write the Task Force needing everything from help in jail to information about employment discrimination. It was quite ordinary, on any given day, to find one staff person being interviewed for television, another answering calls from national press, a third lobbying at the capitol, and someone else engaging in civil disobedience or speaking at a rally.

I ended up working on three different projects: the Hate Crimes Statistics Act, the controversy surrounding National Endowment of the Arts funding, and a project connected to gays and lesbians in the military.

**"It is quite ordinary to find one staff person being interviewed for television, another answering calls from national press, a third lobbying at the capitol, and someone else engaging in civil disobedience or speaking at a rally."**

If passed, the Hate Crimes Statistics Act (HR 1048) will provide for the collection of data by the Department of Justice about crimes motivated by race, religion, ethnicity or sexual orientation. In essence, this bill is the first comprehensive attempt to systematically monitor skinhead, Klan and neo-Nazi activities nationwide. It passed in the House 368-47. June 27, the twentieth anniversary of the Stonewall uprisings, and it awaits Senate action this fall.

The Hate Crimes Act simply calls for the implementation of a data collecting device, it is also a means for forging coalitions among diverse Civil rights organizations who might not necessarily support our cause. For me, it was such a treat to walk into a lobbying appointment with a Senator's legislative staff, accompanied by representatives from groups such as the NAACP,

ACLU, the Jewish Congress and the Police Executive Research Forum, and to witness a Jewish activist eloquently

defend the inclusion of sexual orientation in the legislation. I also had the privilege of hearing House Representative William Dannemeyer's (R-CA) warnings about the bill go unheeded.

He said, "What we are witnessing today on the floor right now is one of

the items on the agenda of the homosexual movement in America to use the power of the legislative arena or the court system to achieve their agenda, to accept homosexuality on par with a heterosexual lifestyle."

The man is right! One of the Task Force's long term strategies is to build a coalition of lawmakers and national groups sympathetic to and supportive of gay rights.

This fall Senator Jesse Helms (R-NC) will most certainly attempt to undermine this bill in by tacking on a homophobic amendment. I spent a good amount of my time in D.C. alerting Senate legislative staffs to the possibility of a Helms amendment, as well as generating letters to Congress from gay and lesbian activists across the country.

When I first arrived in DC, an exhibit of "homoerotic" art by Robert Mapplethorpe, originally funded by the NEA, had just been cancelled by D.C.'s Corcoran Museum of Art. Apparently, the museum board "feared being drawn into political battle," and took this action as a result of mounting congressional pressure. Earlier in June, pending floor debate about NEA funding, a letter signed by 108 members of Congress was circulated in response to Mapplethorpe's homoerotic art. The letter stated, "We realize that the interpretation of art is a subjective evaluation, but there is a very clear and unambiguous line that exists between what can be classified as art and what must be called morally reprehensible trash."

On June 30, in response to the Corcoran's decision to cancel the exhibit, there was a "Demonstration against Censorship in the Arts" outside of the gallery, attended by more than 1,000 people. Just a few blocks from the White House, a street was roped off and ten, fifty-foot slide reproductions of Mapplethorpe photographs were projected on the Corcoran's facade. Again, I was impressed by the role of coalitions, this time between the gay and artistic communities.

Later in July, for the first time since the NEA's founding nearly 25 years ago, Congress became directly involved in the grant process. In a symbolic handslapping gesture, the House voted to withhold \$45,000 from NEA, the exact amount spent on funding Mapplethorpe and another "morally reprehensible" exhibit. The Senate also imposed a five year ban on two groups that previously received NEA funding; one of them was the Philadelphia Institute of Contemporary Art, the initial sponsor of the Mapplethorpe show.

And to make matters worse, on July 26, Helms introduced an amendment in the Senate that would prevent the NEA from ever again supporting "obscene or indecent" materials. This amendment passed on a voice vote during a poorly attended evening session. Currently, the bill awaits House/Senate conference committee action. Art activists in coalition with the Task Force will lobby to remove Helms' amendment from the final form of the bill.

After being turned down at the Corcoran, Mapplethorpe's exhibit, "The Perfect Moment," showed this summer to record-breaking crowds at the Washington Project for the Arts.

The third project I worked on pertained to gay and lesbian discrimination in the military. In conjunction with NOW, the Women's Equity Action League, and the ACLU's Gay and Lesbian Rights Project, the Task Force formed the Gay and Lesbian Military Freedom Project to focus specifically on harassment of women in the military. Department of Defense policy explicitly states that homosexuality is incompatible with military service and

that homosexual acts are crimes under the Uniform Code of Military Justice. Since 1984, 10 times more women than men have been discharged from the Marines, and three times more women than men have been discharged overall. In response to this overt discrimination, the Military Freedom Project organized veterans to testify in front of the Defense Advisory Committee on Women in the Service. I worked on the project this summer by editing and transcribing testimonies by gay and lesbian veterans across the country.

Reflecting on my summer, I realize how much I have learned about Washington politics and gay organizing. I learned that the gay community is being reckoned with at the national level. Even in the Bush years, and despite the obstacles, cynicism is unwarranted. We are progressing. □



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## INTERVIEW

# MANY WAYS TO THE MOUNTAINTOP

BY RAY MARTINEZ

"If the Angel of Death would come—I would gladly take its hand and say, 'I'm ready, let's begin the journey,'" says Wesley Harris, a longtime Santa Cruz resident, therapist and now a vocal and visible AIDS activist. This is not to say that Wesley has given up: he has been fighting this disease since 1983 and has seen many friends die from it. He has been in and out of the hospital numerous times and has been close to death. Now as he reflects on being ill he says, "Death is not something that evokes fear in me, death is something that I have embraced now." He goes further, "Death I see as a comfort—see as a getting away from this illness, this discomfort that I am beginning to experience with the human body-

Death I see as peace."

Wesley told me his story on a warm August morning. We talked on and on in his kitchen; by the time we were finished, I had seven cassette tapes rich with tales. It's been a long and distinctive road from rural Mount Clemens in Michigan, a road

filled with hardships and successes, a road encompassing marriage, children, military service, travel, a gay relationship, and now AIDS.

Wesley was born in 1938 on Christmas Eve and recalls with some regret, "Being a Christmas Eve child was not a very pleasant birthdate, your birthday was never honored. Everything was given to you, 'Happy Birthday- Merry Christmas.'" That aside, Wesley has fond memories of his childhood. He was fourth in a household of 15 children, and grew up close to his family and neighborhood friends, a closeness that remains to this day.

Wesley characterizes his childhood as a happy one, "I enjoyed my brothers and sisters and I enjoyed the neighborhood that I grew up in. We were not a wealthy family or not even a moderately wealthy family. We were kind of poor, but somehow always managed to have toys and stuff like that—so I was pleased with my childhood." It was during that time that Wesley became aware of his differentness.

"At an early age, I would say around nine, ten years old, somewhere around there, I was becoming aware that somehow I was different. I didn't like to play the regular boys' games. I found myself gravitating more to playing with the girls and getting involved in their type of play and avoiding the roughhouse play that boys were doing." It was also at this time that Wesley remembers being called into the school superintendent's office with his best friend and being discouraged from playing with the girls. This was something that conflicted with Wesley's pattern, both at home and at school. "We would be out there playing jump rope and hopscotch and jacks—just girl games. It was real fun." Wesley goes on, "I had two older sisters and a younger sister and we played all these girl games."

It was this awareness of being different and the difficulty of fitting in with the other boys along with the superintendent's talk that became the catalyst for Wesley to become a jock in high school. "I went out for all types of sports so that I could cover what I knew was... I couldn't give it a name, I couldn't say I was gay, I couldn't say I was homosexual, but I knew I wasn't what all the other boys were seeming to be, that I was somehow different." He did this to "prove to others I was okay even though inside I knew that wasn't me, that I really could care less about this. I would have much preferred to have been doing something that had no physical confrontation—painting?" He also learned a very commonly held belief, "It was not okay to show and express openly what I really felt or who I really was. And so began the game playing."

In addition to going out for sports, Wesley also dated girls throughout high school, hoping that this fake interest would mask his true feelings. Behind this facade of heterosexuality, Wesley found himself to be the object of desire. His future wife, whom he had known since grade school, became

interested in him and asked him to the prom. In spite of this attention he shied away from much dating and kept a low profile.

Nonetheless, soon after graduating from high school the pressure increased. "My best friend was a girl and she told me that this particular girl was really interested in me," Wesley remembers. "At that time kids were getting married early, right out of high school. Blacks really weren't going to college. They really weren't accepted into colleges. There was no money for us to go to college and so the thing to do then was after you graduated

from high school you got a job and you got married. That was the course for you. I was expected to do it."

It was through his best friend's encouragement that Wesley began dating his future wife—and by age nineteen Wesley was a married man. While on one hand the facade was still in place—with strong religious reinforcement, on the other there was not enough emotional attachment between Wesley and his wife, thus their marriage was doomed. Wesley does not look at his marriage as a mistake.

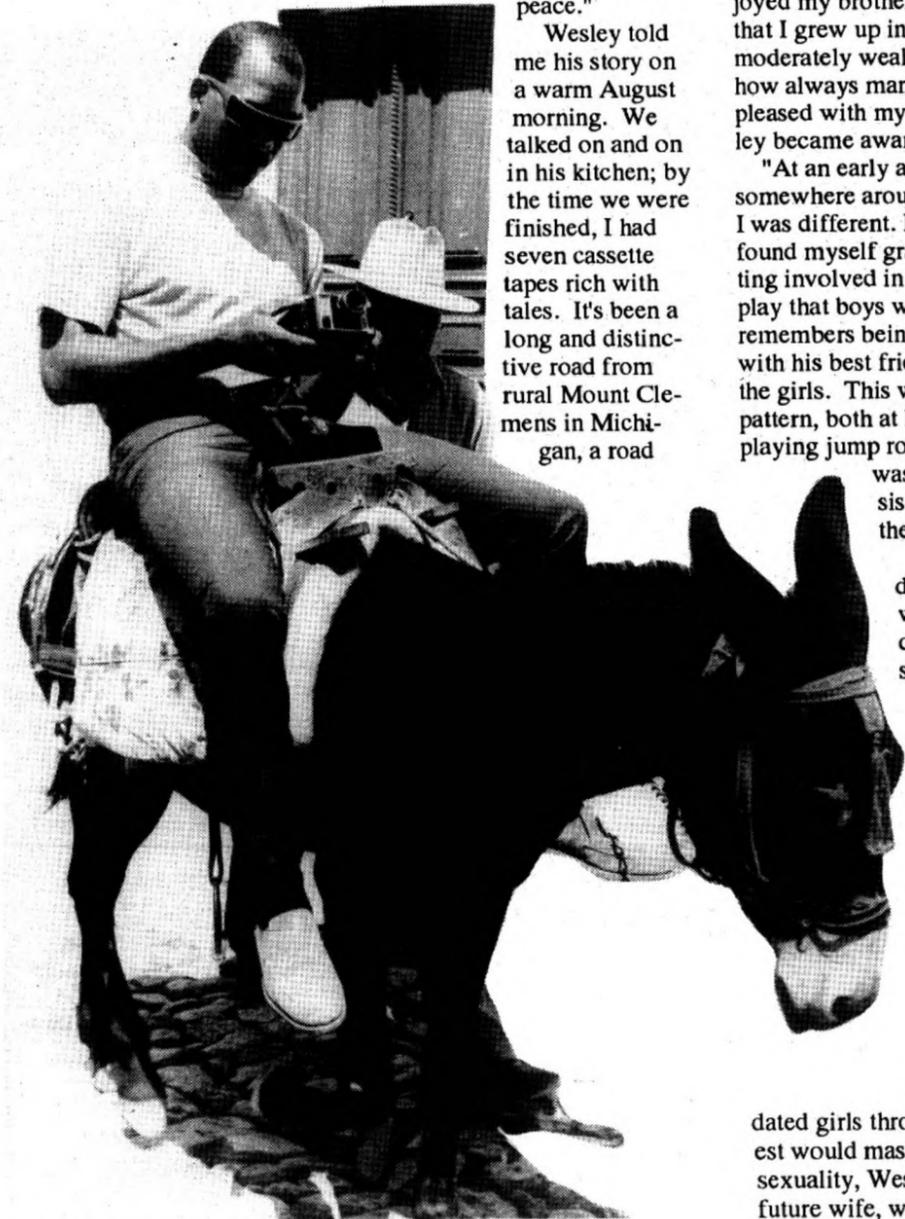
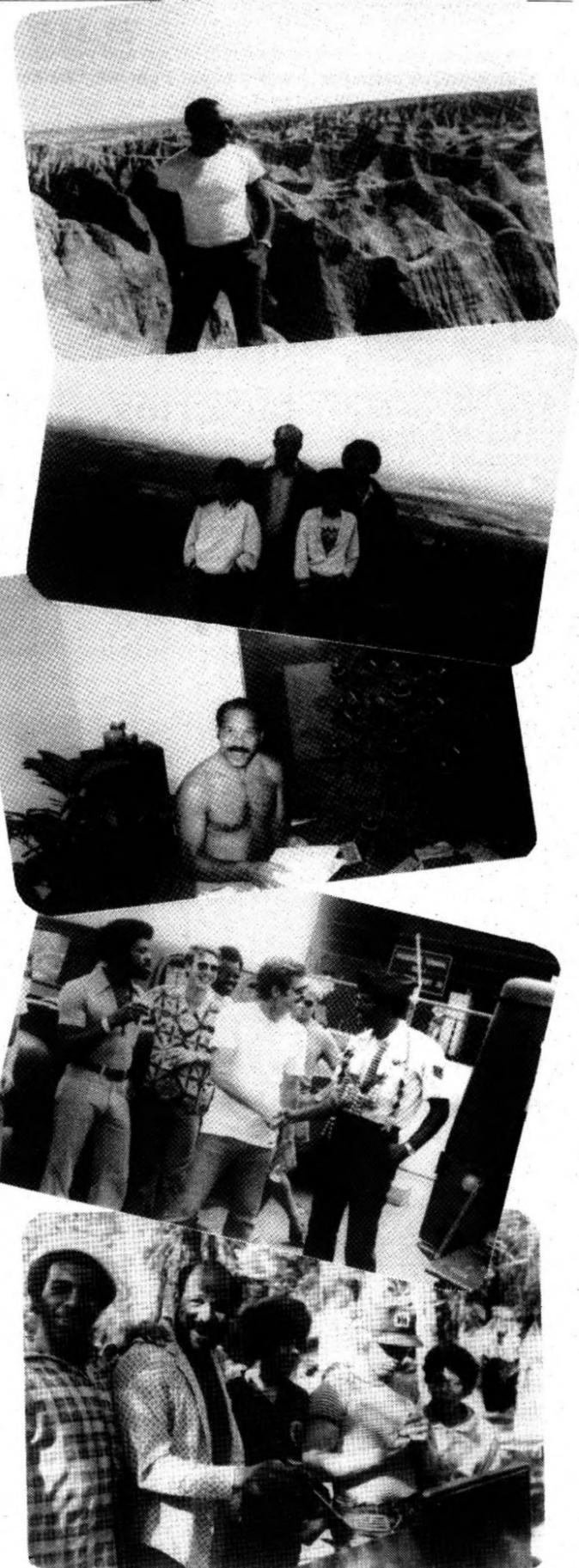
He loved his wife when they got married, and their relationship deepened with the birth of their children, but Wesley knew something was wrong from the very beginning.

Wesley and his wife shared the drive for upward mobility. For most Blacks in rural Michigan that meant only one thing: Detroit and the auto factories.

Wesley didn't want that. He says that he didn't know where his motivation came from, but he credits both his parents as wanting more for their children. His mother especially emphasized education, since she herself had only about a third or fourth grade education. Wesley describes her as self-educated, learning along with her children. It was she who told him, "'Be more than just a factory worker. Be more than what you think you can be,'" he says. "My sisters were getting the same message. There was this expectation from her that we would do something with our lives."

After he graduated from high school, Wesley tried unsuccessfully to get a training job in corporate America. "I tried for two

"I went out for all types of sports so that I could cover what I knew I was... I would have much preferred to have been doing something that had no physical confrontation—painting?"



years to do that, first in Detroit, then in Chicago and met with the same brick wall of prejudice. I was told just right out, 'We don't hire Blacks for those positions' or 'We don't do any type of training for Blacks!' If you wanted a job and you were Black in America at that time [the late 1950's]," he recalls, "you went to the factories, domestic service or kitchens. We were told, 'that's where you belong and that's what's expected of you.' He goes on to say, "It was very clear after two years of trying that I was not going to break into anything. And so I decided to go into the military."

Wesley went into the Air Force and was assigned an administrative job, something which pleased him very much. "I was feeling good. I was trained in Intelligence." As soon as he finished his technical training, Wesley was sent to Crete. "In some sense the military gave me travel... which was in the direction I wanted to go. I needed to expand my horizon. I needed to know more than just where Michigan was, and Chicago. The military seemed the ideal thing. After all, I had tried two years to break into industry

on some upward training level and I couldn't."

Wesley's work put him in a communication center. He collected and processed intelligence information and passed it on to various bases or units which needed it. The center acted as a distribution headquarters. Employment in this type of work required,

of course, special clearances. Checks were run on individuals' background and family. Since Wesley was married, these checks created no problems for him.

Wesley didn't divulge much detail about his military work. He did say that since it was required throughout the world and also the United States, it gave him flexibility and mobility. The entire world

became accessible to him and reinforced his mother's philosophy: "It opened that feeling of specialness, that I could go anywhere in the world."

Wesley found that in order to compete with white America, he needed an education. The military gave him that opportunity.

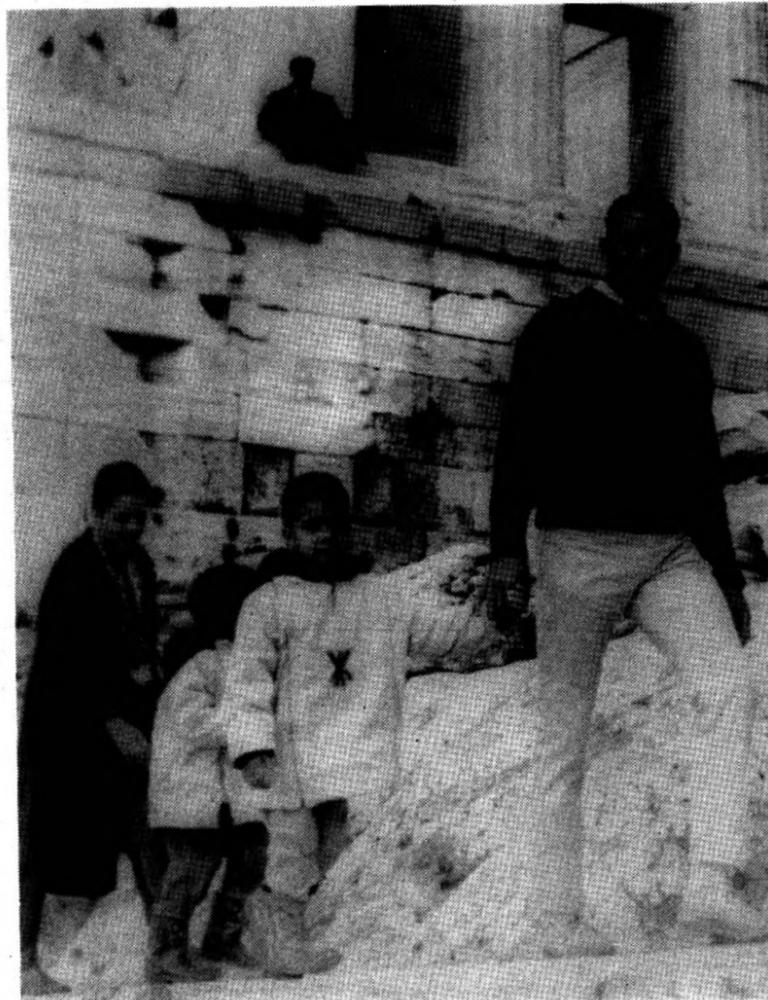
"I entered the military with a high school education and left with a master's degree." He stayed in the Air Force for twenty years and left as a tech sergeant. He also says, with some resentment, that given his experience and education, he should have left with a higher rank, but that because of racial prejudice, he was denied promotion. Still he acknowledges that he had a future outside the military, especially with his degree.

With a few years to go in the military before his retirement, Wesley ended his marriage. Despite the children--four boys and one adopted daughter--and his enjoyment of family life, he knew he needed to get out of the relationship. With his urging, his wife departed, leaving Wesley in charge of the household and five children. They had been married for fifteen years. Wesley was stationed at Fort Mead, Maryland, near Washington, D.C. It was then that he decided to pursue his homosexual urges. "I had reached a point where I knew I didn't want to be in the closet anymore, that I wanted to have sex with men." Wesley went through a dating period and it was at this time that he met his future lover, Gerald. "I just fell in love with him. He was teaching me how to be gay, plus he was fun."

Once Wesley and Gerald began seeing each other romantically on a regular basis, they started taking weekend trips with Wesley's children. "We would go camping. I'm a fisherman and so I love to camp and fish. My children love to camp and fish. Nearly every Sunday we would go fishing." With a glint of laughter in his voice, Wesley describes these excursions: "Gerald was not a camper or a fisherman, so these were new adventures to him, but he really enjoyed them, he enjoyed being part of all that."

For Wesley this relationship meant a new beginning; "I was going to start a new life." He and Gerald continued dating for another year before Wesley was transferred to Thailand. Apart but still very much in love, they communicated every day. When Wesley returned to the East Coast their romance blossomed. For his last assignment, Wesley, with Gerald's prompting, asked to be stationed somewhere near San Francisco. After a honeymoon drive across the United

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## Memories to Keep

*Rudy Lemcke spoke at the Santa Cruz Art Museum this summer about his plans for an AIDS memorial garden in San Francisco. The garden is planned for permanent installation at Harvey Milk Plaza, at Castro and Market streets. Oil on paper studies, a site plan, and models for the Garden were on exhibit at the Art Museum of Santa Cruz County July 5 through Aug. 20.*

Rudy Lemcke's design for an AIDS Memorial Garden is based on the design of traditional Japanese rock gardens. A river of bronze stones and boulders set on black granite bases above a river of black pebbles will run through the garden. On each side of the river will be a terrazzo floor with black granite seats for visitors. On the north side of the garden, there will be a rose marble wall inscribed with a quote from Walt Whitman, "Comrades mine and I in the midst, and their memory ever to keep."

The rivers of stones, boulders and pebbles are symbols of the continuity of life; the stones and boulders, symbols of individual lives, Lemcke said. Lemcke intends to create "a permanent place to honor the lives of those who have died...a comforting place to express grief, a meditative place to experience hope, and a permanent place to celebrate our shared values."

Lemcke designed the garden specifically for Harvey Milk Plaza and for the community in which the plaza is located. He hopes that his work will be accepted by the community as the

**"On a rose marble wall a quote from Whitman reads: 'Comrades mine and I in the midst, and their memory ever to keep.'"**

community changes through time. As well as wanting the work to make a statement specific to the present AIDS crisis, he wants the work to make a timeless statement.

In order to accomplish these aims, Lemcke sought input from people on the street, community organizations, and city government. He spent two weeks canvassing people in the Upper Market and Castro areas, showing them pictures of the Garden's design to get their opinions and suggestions. He contacted the Lesbian and Gay Freedom Day Celebration Committee, the NAMES Project, the Gay Games, and the Shanti Project. He spoke with staff in the offices of supervisors John Molinari and Harry Britt, and met with representatives at MUNI and at the city Parks and Recreation, Public Works, Planning, and Health departments. Approval for the garden required that

it be accessible to persons in wheelchairs as well as to the visually impaired.

Lemcke's process represents an enormous and impressive effort. I believe that the design for the garden shows that Lemcke has been by and large successful in realizing his intentions. The garden will use familiar symbolism of individuals in the river of life to provide a contemplative place which will be aesthetically and intellectually accessible to the community in which it is located.

However, Lemcke admits that the design for the garden is not as innovative as it might have been had it been designed for a museum. Lemcke's use of familiar and traditional symbolism may have cost him the opportunity of creating unique images which would have been fresher and more exciting than the ones he is using.

The fact that such a price may have been paid for community acceptance and accessibility raises questions about public art. These questions are especially disturbing in light of the recent cancellation of Robert Mapplethorpe's photography retrospective at Washington D.C.'s Corcoran Gallery. The show was canceled due to its homoerotic content. The difficulty of resolving the questions raised by the conflict between artistic expression and community acceptability took its toll on Lemcke. He emphatically stated that, despite his substantial achievement in the garden, he never again intends to do a permanent public installation. □

Adam Berger

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Individual & Relationship  
Therapy

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bution of monies from AGEM. I am writing as an individual volunteer on the AGEM Committee '89 and do not speak for other members of the committee. The committee was made up of anyone who volunteered who had the desire to work on AGEM. Last year, in an attempt to avoid the very feelings expressed in the letter received by the Reader, we requested that any individual or organization who wished to share in the proceeds of the event express in writing that desire. The committee reviewed all of the requests and based on an open discussion and vote, designated the breakdown of how the monies would be distributed.

I personally was pleased at the outcome of the vote. I work hard in our community to raise monies for the community. I have been active in the community for the past eight years and am currently on the fundraising committee and the board of directors for the Santa Cruz Lesbian and Gay Community Center. However, as important as I feel some of the other needs in my community are, I believe the need for money for AIDS is more urgent. I choose not to place my desire (which is strong) to have a space of our own here in Santa Cruz above the need of my brothers who are dying.

With respect and a sincere desire to work together,  
Mardi Brown

### Not So Helpful

Dear Reader:

I am writing this letter to notify you and your members and readers of the anti-gay feelings of a medical provider in Santa Cruz.

I recently saw Dr. Bruce Dunn, a urologist in Santa Cruz, for a consultation. Not only did I not receive information that I needed, but Dr. Dunn also acted in an unprofessional manner.

After examining me, Dr. Dunn sat back, looked at me and said, "Well, I don't see anything wrong. You're young, healthy, don't smoke and you're not a homosexual." At this point I stopped him and pointed out that I am a homosexual and that part of my reason for my visit was to find out if my sexual practices had contributed to the condition. Dr. Dunn then proceeded to tell me that I was playing Russian Roulette. I assured him that I was being safe, but safe sex was not what he was referring to. He proceeded to ask me if I ever tried to be with a female, if I prayed, went to church, et cetera. It was clear that Dr. Dunn's beliefs did not agree with homosexuality. After his speech, Dr. Dunn told me that if I ever needed any help changing my preference, he would be happy to lend a hand.

Because of my strong sense of identity and my being comfortable with my sexuality, this encounter did not affect me greatly. However, if this were to happen to someone less secure, they could be severely affected emotionally by such an attack.

This letter serves to advise you, as a provider of information in the homosexual community, of Dr. Dunn's beliefs. I do not want anyone else to have to endure what I did in his office.

Sincerely,  
Philip M. Arnold

### Future Feature

Dear Reader,

I enjoyed Dinah Phillip's account of the 1999 Gay Pride March and Rally in "A Futuristic Fable for Gay Pride Week" (LR, Summer 1989). I am surprised, however, that she omitted any mention of the extensive front page coverage of the event and accompanying two-page photo spread in the "Features" section, in the following day's Sunday edition of the *Santa Cruz Sentinel*. (Or has the *Sentinel* long since folded and been replaced as Santa Cruz's major daily by the *Lavender Sun Times* below a Hill?)

Best wishes,  
Karen Rian

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## FICTION

"I had an incredible dream last night," I tell my therapist.

"Oh? Go on."

"Well, I was wandering the city at night with

my sister and my father, observing this marketing research survey that was trying to establish the connection between organized crime," I look up to make sure she's paying good enough attention, "and *Sucrets*."

"*Sucrets*?"

"*Sucrets*. Not the cherry ones, either. Those blue-green ones. You know, the mystery flavor."

She nods. "And what is the connection?"

"We don't find out in the dream. In the dream all we see is the researchers giving *Sucrets* to certain members of organized crime, expecting that they'll pass them around to their cohorts."

"And do they?"

"Oh yes. The study works exactly as planned."

"I see." She runs her thumb and forefinger separately down her chin until they meet, as if she has a goatee. "Do things often work out 'exactly as planned' in your dreams?"

"No," I answer. "This is the first time."

"What do the criminals do with the *Sucrets*?" she asks, her eyebrows furrowed.

"They meet in narrow alleyways and distribute them. It's easy," I say, "the lozenges are individually wrapped."

"Where are you and your family when all this is going on?"

"We are sauntering around on the streets, watching. No one notices us, of course; they are too involved in what they're doing."

"Of course," she says.

"Then I get one. This guy slips it

to me out of a long overcoat sleeve as I walk past, careful not to look at him. At the first safe moment, I unwrap the deal and toss it into my mouth."

"What happens then?"

"My tongue immediately goes to sleep."

"Ah, so you are effectively silenced."

"Exactly." "I see."

There is something about the

words "I see" that causes my therapist's hand to move automatically to her chin. "And your father and sister?"

I speak slowly, emphasizing each word. "Neither... one... of... them... ever... gets... a... *Sucret*."

"Do you tell them about yours?"

"Of course not."

"Mmmmm."

"I don't think they ever even suspect," I say.

"They wouldn't."

"Right."

"Do you see the face of the man who gives you the *Sucrets*?"

"No. People in my dreams have no faces. Often they have no bodies. You see?" I stay one step ahead of her.

"I see." Perhaps she once had a goatee and has rubbed it off entirely.

"Mmmmm," I say.

"Do you know who the man is?"

"Yes, but he tells me not to say."

"Of course. And so you don't tell your family, but just keep wandering the streets with them as if nothing has happened."

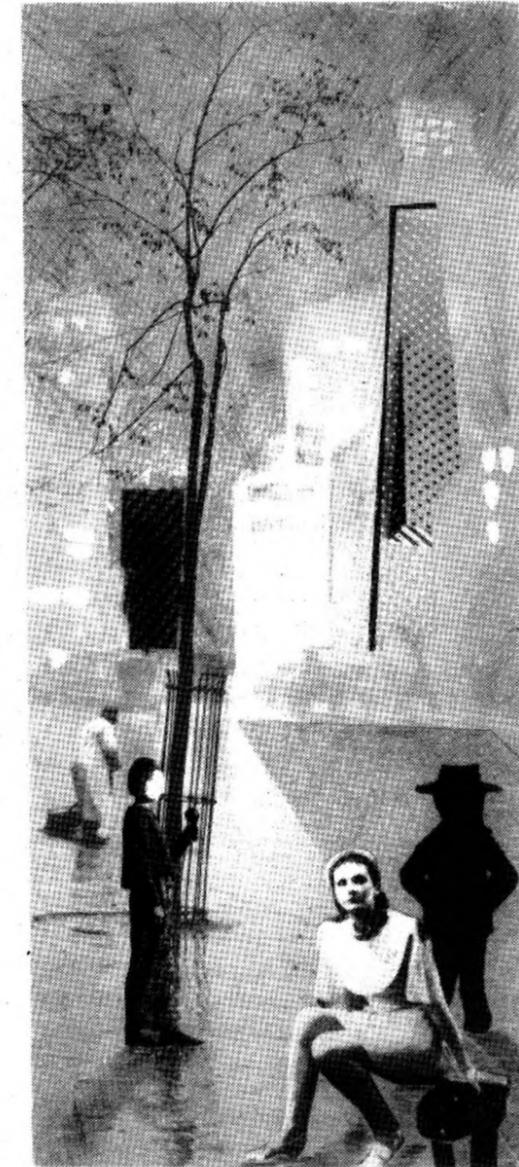
"Exactly."

"Is there anything else?" she asks, glancing at the clock that faces her from the table beside me.

"One more thing. My father and sister both believe we are all on the side of the marketing research company."

"And you let them continue to believe that?"

I nod slowly and finger the foil wrapper in my pocket. □



MARC MEL

by Emily Levy

# THE PRIME CUTS

Best films and videos from The San Francisco and Los Angeles Lesbian & Gay Film Festivals

**T**he best of the 1989 San Francisco and Los Angeles Gay and Lesbian Film Festivals will come to Santa Cruz in October in a benefit for the Santa Cruz AIDS Project. The Film Festival will include mainstream, commercial movies as well as a number of independent films and videos, and will screen two films each evening,

one lesbian, one gay.

The Festival opens October 14 with videos shown at the Bulkhead Gallery. The videos feature programs from the highly acclaimed British television series on gay and lesbian life, "Out on Tuesday." This series shows television at its best, drawing on the talents of some of the most provocative lesbian and gay producers in the industry. Material from this series will include "Crimes of Passion" - interviews with such lesbian detective writers as Mary Wings and Katherine Forrest; "Playing Gay" - interviews with actors portraying gays such as Patricia Charbonneau (Desert Hearts), and Harvey Fierstein (Torch Song Trilogy); "Out in Africa" is a moving tribute to two gay South Africans, Simon Nkoli and Ivan Toms who have spent lengthy periods in prison in the struggle against apartheid and for lesbian and gay rights; "Looking for Langston" is a stylish and sensual "poetic meditation" on the Black poet Langston Hughes - original footage of The Cotton Club in the 1920s and period blues numbers set the scene. Short art videos will complete this program.

At 11 PM, the festival will screen "Perverted Video," a presentation of recent videos produced by the lesbian and gay S/M community.

A matinee screening of The Outsiders will accompany the gala opening of the festival the following day. The Outsiders is the first film about homosexuality to be licensed by the government of Taiwan. The film embraces light comedy and dark drama in a complex plot dealing with a gay slice of life in Taiwan. In this lively and musical film, Ah-Ching leaves an abusive family to join a group of other gay youths living in the streets. He falls in love with a man



who has recently returned to Taiwan under mysterious circumstances ten years after killing his lover. The movie is based on the novel by Kenneth Pai, one of the most respected and best-selling gay authors of Taiwan. A reception will follow the screening.

Fun Down There, a comic coming-of-age drama, will screen the following evening at 7. Fun Down There is about a young man from up-state New York, who, upon his arrival in New York City, falls into love affairs with two men at the same time. Director Stigliano has created a film about sexuality, not simply the facts of sex. But, he has also not shied away from the concrete details - they're hot and explicit.

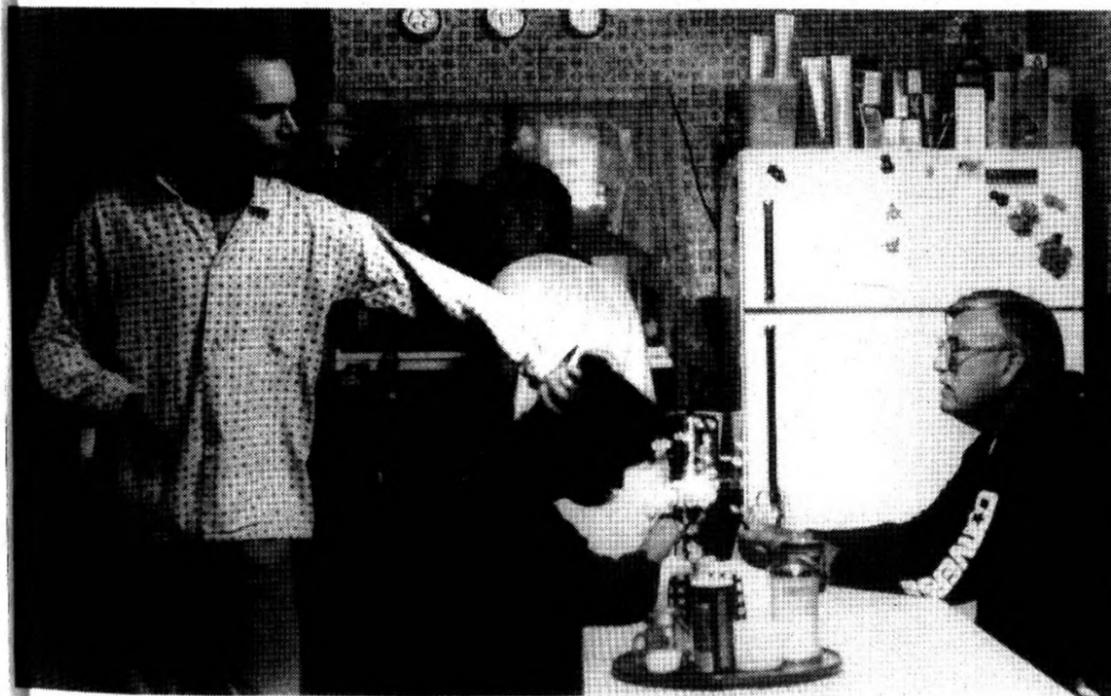
The Brazilian film Vera will follow at 9 PM. Vera is a young woman recently released from a state-run orphanage. During her years in the institution, Vera stood out as one of the "butchest" butches. Now on her own, faced with the necessity of assimilating into the everyday world where homosexuality is taboo and gender barriers are rigidly guarded, Vera draws on her only source of security: her identity as a man.

On Tuesday evening at 7, the French film Le Jupon Rouge will be shown. In this film, the action takes place in present-day Paris during the coldest season of the year. Three women of widely different ages and social backgrounds become involved in a passionate love story full of outbursts and contradictions. Three voices interweave the themes of desire, sensuality and possessiveness, but also disintegration. Over it all hover the memories of the Nazi camps, whose injuries still torture one of the women.



At 9 PM on Tuesday, the festival will close with Men in Love. The film is not only a realistic portrayal of how someone struggles with the upheaval and grief of a loved one dying from AIDS, it is also a sensual life-affirming love story. After the death of his lover, Stephen embarks on a journey of emotional, spiritual and sexual discovery on Maui, where he goes to spread his lover's ashes. Director Marc Huetis will be present at the screening.

Videos will be presented at the Bulkhead Gallery (129 Bulkhead Street, behind the town clock) on Saturday October 14. Films will be shown at The Movies theater (324 Front Street) on Sunday October 15 (matinee), Monday October 16, and Tuesday October 17. The gala opening reception will be held at Cafe Chameleon Sunday at 3 PM. Proceeds from all festival events will benefit the Santa Cruz AIDS Project; the festival is co-sponsored by SCAP and The Movies. For more information on the films and videos call 459-4777.



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Continued from Page 11

an equal and fair manner. However, employees with gay or straight unmarried spouses are compensated less than employees who are provided funds for the medical costs of legally recognized spouses. This is not an issue of anything but fairness and equal compensation to employees.

It is clear from the number of city and transit district employees using this program that there is a need—and that the addition of domestic partners has not adversely affected costs.

That is not the way the county's personnel director and affirmative action officer see the matter. They make two arguments against domestic partner benefits. First, when Joe Eugene raised the issue of discrimination again this past June, these generals in the county's war against employment discrimination responded that "affirmative action is not an island within county government." To translate that—if the county's non-discrimination policy (which says that gay men and lesbians should not be discriminated against in benefits) costs money to enforce, then it is not worth the paper it is written on.

But their second and more outrageous point was this: they contended that extending domestic partners benefits is not advised due to the high risk of AIDS among prospective domestic partners. To translate this—the Board of Supervisors might have adopted an AIDS non-discrimination law, but to the two people charged with enforcing non-discrimination, it does not mean anything.

Continued on Page 40

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# Dear Condom Lady

Dear Condom Lady,  
What's all this I hear about the incubation period for HIV being longer and that I can't rely on tests anymore?

signed,  
Worried All Over Again,

Dear All Over,

Okay, let's say you take a hundred friends and line them up — you have a hundred friends? that's nice, I'm happy for you. Anyway, you line them all up and they all take HIV tests. Then you all have a nice dinner and go home.

Six months later, everybody does the same thing again. And both times, everybody tests negative. Well, the numbers say that one-half person might actually have HIV in them even if the tests say they don't. One-half person out of a hundred, that's pretty good, about as good as science gets these days.

But let me ask you. Why do you have this question? I can think of two reasons. One is you are worried. Maybe you have some HIV, you think, and you want to know. So go get tested. You already did? Go do it again. If you have some HIV, the sooner you find out, the sooner you can go after those nasty bugs. If you don't have HIV, then that's that.

The other reason I can think of is, you want someone to tell you it's okay to put your pecker or your mouth where they used to go, without anything in between to protect you and your partner. Sorry, my friend. We're not—how do you call

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## By Scott Brookie

Jill A. Steinberg, Ph.D.  
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it—in Kansas anymore. And not only that, as long as I'm disappointing you, you probably won't grow up to be president either. So get out your latex and have a nice *shutup*.

Dear Condom Lady,

I've heard that they're inventing a condom for women, some kind of "female condom." Is that true? What does it do?

signed,  
Curious

Dear Curious,

Yes, it's true. You can't buy it yet. Some doctors in Palo Alto invented it and now the government - the slow ones, let me see... yes, the FDA, they're checking it out.

This "female condom" thing is made of latex. You put it in with an applicator, like a tampon, and it lines your vagina. These doctors say that their "Women's Choice Vaginal Sheath" - that's what they call it - "actually heightens the sensation for the man and provides generally natural sensation for the woman, compared to a traditional condom." That's what they say.

It makes me grumble a little: I grumble that they're taking one of the few ways a man can be responsible for being safe and not making babies

and giving those duties back to women. And I wonder what "generally natural sensation" is. Generally natural, like astroturf or Spam? But you know, I shrug my shoulders: if it works, it works. We'll wait and see.

Dear Condom Lady,

This is really embarrassing. I can't stand the smell of rubbers.

signed,  
Sensitive

Dear Sensitive,

You're a tidy person and you wash your clothes and hang them out to dry, yes? So you take a clothespin and make it go over your nose, so you can't smell. Be careful, don't poke your partner in some tender place, or poke yourself in the eye. Learn to appreciate the clothespin, its shape, the way it feels, you know.

No wait, I'm sorry, April fool, whatever, this is not serious advice. Forget the clothespin. Let me try again.

You're right, some condoms, they smell like a box of rubber bands. But maybe you haven't found the ones that don't. A lot of condoms—like some of the Japanese ones—they don't smell like much at all. What's too bad is, they don't smell like your body, or your friend's body. But they do the job anyway, and you won't



Erich Spitzenberg

find yourself thinking about office supplies. What's that? Sometimes you like to think about office supplies? No, don't tell me now, write me another letter. □

## BOOKSHELF

# Two Studies of Gay Male Couples

**M**an to Man: *Gay Couples in America*, by Charles Silverstein, co-author of *The Joys of Gay Sex*, is based on his interviews with 95 male couples. The subjects were volunteers from many different regions, both urban and rural. The book focuses on their experiences of trying to live together. It reveals the diversity and complexity of such relationships and calls into question many common assumptions of both psychologists and laymen.

Without attributing gayness to parental behavior, the author finds that father-son ambivalence in boyhood often affects a gay man's choice of a lover. In addition to the father-son relationship, men are affected by the experiences of their childhood and adolescence.

The boyhood romantic notions of love derived from fairytales, ads, films, and TV raise impossible expectations that lead to disappointment. Once at school, our status in the schoolyard affects our self-image and, therefore, our future selection of lovers. Later, our first love affair strongly influences the success or failure of other relationships.

One of Silverstein's most interesting observations is that gay men tend to fall into one of two classes, excitement-seekers or home-builders. The roving type want novelty and just sex first, yet value the pursuit almost as much as the conquest. Nesters want a permanent

relationship and value intimacy most.

Both kinds, he maintains, will quarrel about monogamy. He accepts the truism that outside sex is the commonest cause of conflict in gay relationships. Practices vary a great deal, but exclusiveness is rare. "Tricking" may be a means of expressing anger, jealousy, envy, or discomfort with intimacy. Other threats to a relationship are the difficulty of balancing dependence and independence and intimacy and freedom. Another menace sometimes is the competitiveness arising from the cult of aggressive masculinity, he says.

The book also deals with age differences, religion, and the status of male couples in a community. Most gay couples Silverstein interviewed were fairly happy. Lasting relationships, he concludes, have to be worked at.

**T**he authors of *The Male Couple: How Relationships Develop*, David P. McWhirter, M. D., and Andrew M. Mattison, M. S. W., know Silverstein's book and do not dispute his main conclusions. They are psychiatrists and a couple themselves. Although the 150 couples they studied came from the San Diego area, what they have found appears to be typical. They even go so far as to assert that their main thesis probably applies to lesbian and straight couples as well.

The authors found six successive

stages in a relationship, determined chiefly by the length of time the relationship had lasted. Yet more than time is involved; the partners may not arrive together at the same stage, and conflict ensues.

Continued on Page 36

"One of Silverstein's most interesting observations is that gay men tend to fall into one of two classes, excitement seekers or home builders."

Lou Waters

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Continued from Page 35

The first stage, called blending, may last up to a year. The new partners feel romantic, often even infatuated, and try at any price to avoid conflict. They try to equalize tasks and contributions. But repressed differences are liable to crop out, and the end of the first year is the most common time to split up.

Stage two, nesting, generally occupies the second and third year. Some of its signs are homemaking, trying to reconcile differences, and striving for complementarity.

Stage three, maintaining, often occurs in the fourth and fifth years. Each partner tends to re-emerge as an individual despite the risks. They both may come out to more people. They begin to develop methods for handling conflict and to establish reassuring routines.

Stage four, building, occupies years six through 10. There is more working together without illusions, and more nonthreatening independence. Complacency may be a danger.

Stage five, releasing, is said to mark years 11 through 20. Trust increases, and money and possessions may be shared. But constriction and boredom might bring on a midlife crisis.

Stage six, renewing, comes after 20 years. There is a feeling of security grounded on experience. The infirmities of aging may make the partners more dependent. Flexibility is essential to keep the relationship vital.

In addition to this theory of stages, the authors find that although brief

affairs are common, there are many happy long-term relationships. Although sexual exclusiveness is rare in these, the expectation of emotional commitment is high. What mostly keeps men together in the first 10 years is working at compatibility; after that it is freedom from possessiveness, they say. Maintaining a relationship takes effort and skill; the partners must grow or they will stagnate.

Although both books are concerned with relationships of some duration, they both avoid putting down excitement-seekers and multiple affairs. *The Male Couple*, the more recent book, however, notes how the advent of AIDS has increased monogamy.

There are many insights to be gained from *The Male Couple*. The personal stories are the most interesting part. But it is hard to see why an avowedly unscientific book is crammed with so many statistics or how it can claim virtual universality for its six-stage sequence. Although any member of a male couple will find some characteristics of some stages applicable to his own experience, the scheme of six stages, each with its four traits, is far too neat. Are there really more than two broad stages—infatuation, and then, if the affair lasts, a number of attempts to get along with a real person?

The tone of *The Male Couple*, despite perfunctory disclaimers, is far too cocksure. Something can be learned from each book by any man who wants more than fleeting affairs, but *Man to Man*, modest and warm, is the wiser book. □



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## GAY MEN'S HEALTH

# Mental Health Amidst the Chaos

As is the case with so many of us in Santa Cruz County, weekly I make a trip to one of our local mental health professionals to tweak my psycho-emotional status from whatever peculiar slant it has taken. Recently, while waiting for my appointed time, I read an article in *Christopher Street* entitled, "AIDS As Apocalypse," by Darrell Yates Rist. While not a particularly long piece, three pages, it was long in thought-provoking ideas, some that I now realize I ascribe to; many I seriously question. But more about that in a minute....

For those of you who do not know me, I would like to introduce myself. I am the co-editor of this column dedicated to health issues of concern to lesbians and gay men. In real life, I work in

AIDS education for the Health Services Agency in Santa Cruz County. In my private life, my lover is a person living with a diagnosis of AIDS for the last 20 months. I am his primary care giver. I have for many years worked as an AIDS advocate and so I have an unrelenting need to pick up and read all things that have AIDS as a subject matter. Needless to say, I often find that the focus of my life is somewhat myopic, directed only at Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV)—the AIDS virus—the killer demon of my community.

"AIDS As Apocalypse"—the article I found in the waiting room—is a New Yorkish, intellectual, alternative look at the "real" consequences behind the deep, entrenched actions of the lesbian and gay community in its fight against

AIDS. Rist questions many of the tenets that I hold as true and speak of daily, as I make my rounds doing AIDS education in Santa Cruz. He questions the numbers of infected persons so often projected by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC). He believes that many of those persons infected will never suffer the symptomatic progressions that I have come to accept as the fate of those infected. Both points are arguable; only history will unfold the true story.

What many of us do believe is that there is a high rate of infection in the gay men's community. If we are infected, we have watched our own disease progress. Whether or not we are infected, we have witnessed the progression of the disease in a friend or

Gerald Landers

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loved one. We feel that we are in a struggle whose end is not foreseeable. We work passionately as a community, to prepare for more friends to eventually follow in the footsteps of those we have already lost.

Rist, on the other hand, contends that our focus has become so AIDS-centered that we are endangering ourselves politically. "There's an oily sentiment among gay men and lesbians these days," he says, "that—amid the din of a culture that keeps us in our place—we've matured; that we've grown aggressive in defense of our lives since fate, with some harsh wisdom, sent us AIDS. We produce abundant evidence of sacrifice to prove the claim: For most of this decade we've frantically been building AIDS organizations, draining our pockets poor with donations, exhausting our strength as AIDS volunteers, doing battle with AIDS bigots, creating mayhem in the streets, nurturing, mourning, worrying about infection till we're sick, dying with a desperate hold on dignity. We've been full of AIDS-gay men, lesbians, our parents, our newly sympathetic heterosexual

friends. We've all had heart, in fact, for nothing else." (*Christopher Street*, Vol. 11 No. 11)

Rather than oily, I sense heroism; rather than exhaustion, I sense empowerment. This pandemic has facilitated the growth of a community, and from this community we are creating a model for survival. For those infected and those who care, we need never sell ourselves the fallacious sentiment that we somehow bear responsibility for what has ensued. Rather, we as lesbians and gay men must maintain balance within this struggle. Just as we are more acutely aware of the collective status of our physical health, we must remain sensitive to the collective status of our mental health. By that I mean, we must keep in mind the importance of taking care of each other, of keeping ourselves and each other in our community sane.

How do we measure the mental health of a community? I am not sure that benchmarks exist that will tell us very much about where we are, but I can speak anecdotally. I have not found, for example, the suicidal mentality being expressed in Santa Cruz County that I often hear in large cities like San Francisco, Los Angeles and Washing-

ton, D.C. From my perspective, we are maintaining in Santa Cruz that delicate balance, and I congratulate us.

Santa Cruz County, although a smaller gay/lesbian community, is abundantly filled with organizations and activities. Most are simply evidence of our desire for fulfilling lifestyles. Most have nothing to do with disease. We are to be applauded that we not only support the Santa Cruz AIDS Project and The Living Room, but that many members of our community are actively working to create a Lesbian and Gay Community Center, and that the Lesbian and Gay Action Alliance exists to voice our politics and flex our political muscle.

We will have lots of opportunities to watch over our collective mental health. There will be new generations of lesbians and gay men. Hopefully, they will not share our infections or war-like mentality. The young will need positive role modeling, to counter the homophobia outside and inside our own community. Also, we as men have perhaps not responded as strongly to the needs of lesbians as they have to our needs. Women's reproductive rights are taking a beating now, we must make our presence felt in that struggle. We

must support those among us making positive steps away from alcohol and substance addictions.

Let this article only be a reminder of those issues and the many I have not mentioned. We are doing well in Santa Cruz, and we can do still better. My hat goes off to us! □

*If you have a particular health concern that we can address for you within this column, please send us a note, in care of the Lavender Reader.*

### SCAP REPORT

*Continued from Page 7*

We think laughing your way into safer sex awareness is better than being lectured or scared into it.

As Banana, with her inquiring mind would say, "We'll go where no talk show has gone before, to the source."

*Tentative Performance Schedule: October 12, San Francisco Zephyr Theatre, AIDS Theatre Festival for the 1989 National AIDS update conference. October 17-19, Cab-*

DENNIS WALSH



*rillo College shows (in negotiation). October 21, UCSC, Performing Arts Theatre, 8:00 pm and 10:00 pm.* □

### COMMUNITY CENTER

*Continued from Page 9*

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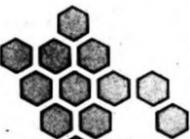
Check our calendar for a listing of regular LGCC meetings and events, including pot-lucks, games nights, rummage sales, and sinal-alongs. As you can gather, we have a lot happening! And, while we have a very wonderful, dedicated group of volunteers making it all happen, we can always use extra help!! We have a lot of fun putting on all these events, so if you're interested in helping out, please call one of the Committee Reps or Coordinators—Programs & Services: Jon Whitman (423-2581) or Mindy Storch (475-6268); Fundraising: Christopher Spillers (462-2610); Communications: Lee Roden (462-2610). However you'd like to help out—taking tickets, selling sodas, stuffing envelopes, staffing the front desk—we can use your help. Help make this our Community Center!! □



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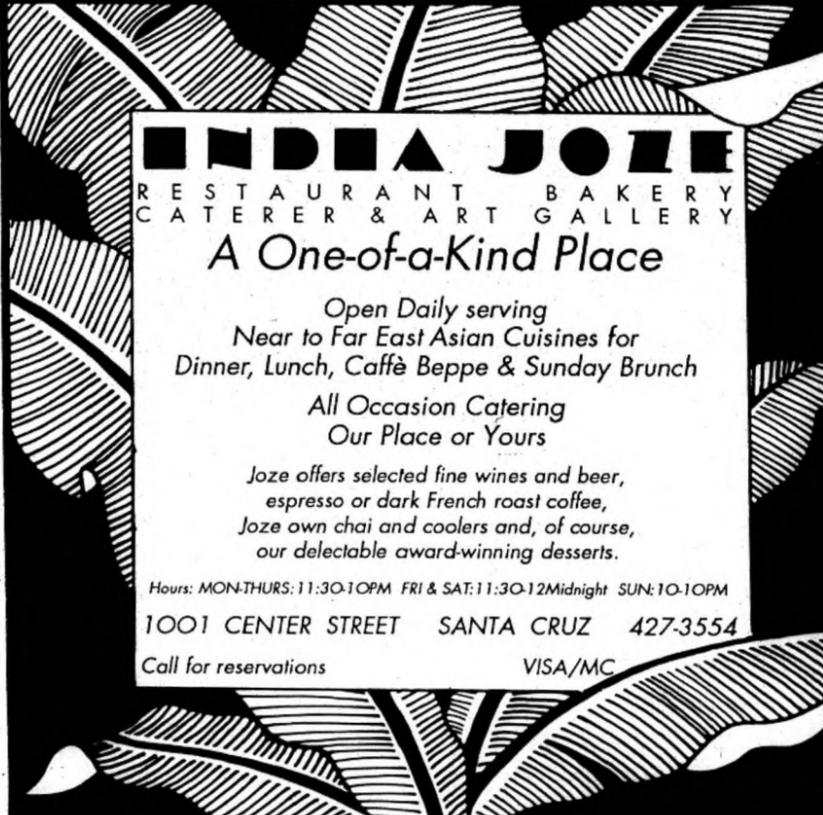
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As a final warm touch, the Affirmative Action Officer suggested to the Board of Supervisors that the Health Plan Cost Containment Committee is the appropriate body to consider whether county employees shall be compensated equally and whether the county's non-discrimination policy shall be enforced.

This disinformation campaign by top County bureaucrats managed to reach page three of the Santa Cruz Sentinel. As a result of this, the only news coverage of the current county labor negotiations, one would be led to believe that AIDS in the County workforce is a major issue in the negotiations.

This personnel management effort has had the desired effect on some county employees, as some employee inquiries have asked that the union back off its request for domestic partner benefits. It is plainly and simply an outrageous misrepresentation designed to divide county employees during labor negotiations. These two top county bureaucrats deserved to have their ears boxed by the Board of Supervisors.

In fact, Supervisor Gary Patton responded to Joe Eugene by letter indicating that he though Joe's arguments for domestic partners benefits to be "impressive." Supervisor Fred Keeley penned a letter to the County Administrator expressing his concern about the Personnel Director's public statements.

Since AIDS and high costs did not work as arguments against domestic partners, apparently the county personnel department has moved on to yet another method of trying to prevent enactment of equal benefits for County employees.

The federal government adopted a revised tax law that would require employee benefits to be taxed if extended to anyone other than legally recognized dependents. In short, it is possible that if an employer were to provide domestic partner benefits, those benefits could be taxed and the employer assessed penalties.

This legislation is being amended currently in Congress, and there is a great likelihood that it will not go into effect as scheduled on October 1. The City of Santa Cruz has contacted our congressional representative, Leon Panetta, to enlist his active support in protection from this legislation.

The county personnel team is rumored to be using this as an argument why domestic partners cannot be written into the current contract. However, anyone familiar with labor contracts knows that agreements can be made in a number of ways.

For example, the county could recognize the principle of equal benefits for those with domestic partners—and agree to reopen negotiations if this legislation goes into effect. Or the County could establish domestic partners benefits and agree to put them into effect in a way that this law would allow. Or the county could ask the Personnel Director to reallocate his time from disinformation to presentations on how this program might work.

Amazingly, this is not the first time this year that gay concerns have not been represented well by the county Affirmative Action Office. Earlier this year, all county employees received a letter advising them of their protections against discrimination. However, in a major oversight, sexual orientation was not mentioned anywhere in the two-page description of the County's anti-discrimination program.

In fact, the county protects gay men and lesbians from discrimination—but the state of California does not. This handout only included the State's version. I wrote the Affirmative Action officer and pointed this out, thinking

that he would correct this in future publications.

He wrote back and said that he recognized that the county policy has been incorrectly explained since 1987, and that all new county employees have received an orientation that incorrectly excluded sexual orientation as a protected class. However, he didn't suggest any solution to this error.

I responded in late March asking that the Affirmative Action Officer correct the explanation of the policy, given that it has been incorrectly explained for two years. Almost six months later, he has yet to respond.

By the time you read this, the county domestic partners issue may have been resolved—one way or another. But the whole sordid affair shows us that we can take nothing for granted.

It would help if we all took some action. We should all let our county supervisor know how we feel about this issue (425-2201). When there are vacancies on the county Affirmative Action Commission, we should ensure that an openly gay or lesbian person is appointed—and demand that issues of discrimination be directed there, not to the Health Plan Cost Containment Committee.

We may live in a wonderful place, one that is more enlightened than others. But this episode reminds us that we always have to work to keep it that way.

**WAY OF LIFE**



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States, including stops to visit family and friends along the way, they arrived in California and settled in Sunnyvale. During his last year of military service Wesley attended classes full-time and worked his way toward a master's degree. Once he left the military, Wesley continued his education.

About his relationship with Gerald, Wesley says they were committed as a couple before they left Maryland, "This is going to be a relationship forever. Short term relationships...that idea was alien to me."

Shortly after the couple set up an apartment and a life together, Wesley came out to his family. He says, "It was all favorable. My mother was pretty much pleased that I was in a relationship with someone who seemed to be very supportive and was making me happy. That was her major concern, not the sex of it. She was happy for me." The rest of the family agreed and looked upon the relationship as something very positive for Wesley after his very unhap-

py marriage.

As the years passed, Wesley developed a burdensome schedule, including full and part-time jobs, and attendance in two degree programs, all of which left him very little time to relax. It was in December of '83 when he noticed a lingering tiredness. At a family holiday gathering later in the month, he nearly collapsed and was forced to bed. "When I laid down on the bed, I realized that something dreadful was wrong. This was a weakness that was so pervasive that I had never in my life experienced it before." In the months that followed, Wesley and Gerald received conflicting reports from doctors about Wesley's health. Finally Gerald decided to take Wesley to San Francisco and have him examined at San Francisco General's AIDS ward. It was here that their worst suspicions were confirmed. AIDS. They were devastated.

In order to gain some control over the disease, Wesley discontinued his intense schedule and eliminated as much stress as possible from his life.

"When I made that decision, it was very overwhelming and powerful, because here I was withdrawing from things that were my ambition, my life, and to make that decision, to drop away out of everything, was taking seriously that I might be dying."

By this time Wesley and Gerald had moved to the Santa Cruz area, and Wesley had the need to seek out others like himself. As there was no agency in Santa Cruz, Wesley, along with Gerald and four other gay men, founded the Santa Cruz AIDS Project.

Now, six years into the disease, Wesley and Gerald are still together and still in love. In August they celebrated their sixteenth year together. Surrounded by family, friends and, as Wesley says, "the magic that I have found in Santa Cruz," he continues his struggle against the odds.

Asked if he has any regrets about his life Wesley quickly responds, "No." But then he adds, "I would have loved to come out when I was seventeen." □

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## CALENDAR

### TUE ▽ OCT 10

**Our Lives**  
Cabrillo women tell their stories in this an going series of noon hour gatherings. Noon - 1pm  
914A Cabrillo College Center  
479-6249

### THU ▽ OCT 12-15

Great Outdoors host the sixth annual **International Gay and Lesbian Outdoor Organization** conference (IGLOO) here in Felton at Camp Mt. Cross. Call Brett: 427-2722

### SAT ▽ OCT 14-17

Film Festival co-sponsored by SCAP and The Movies 1&2 brings us the best of the SF & LA 1989 Gay/Lesbian Film Festivals Matinee on Sunday with reception afterward at 3pm at Cafe Cameleon 459-4777

### SAT ▽ OCT 14

A Formal Dance featuring the City Swing Dance Band and **Gail Wilson** 170 S. Market San Jose at the Fairmont Hotel hosted by the DeFrank Center 293-2429



October 1989						
S	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

### SAT ▽ OCT 14

**Film Fest: Day 1**  
Suprisingly good British TV series about Gay & Lesbian Life 4pm and 8pm at Bulkhead Gallery, then at 11pm a special showing of S&M erotic vidoes. \$4 per show

### SUN ▽ OCT 15

**Film Fest: Day 2**  
Matinee "The Outsiders" a Taiwanese gay feature film 1pm at the Movies 1&2. At 3pm a catered reception at Cafe Cameleon \$10 for films and reception.

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## CALENDAR

### SAT ▽ OCT 14

**Ranch Romance** at the Kuumbwa with she-buckaroos singing songs of the golden west and beyond! 8pm \$8<sup>50</sup>-\$10 458-3053

### MON ▽ OCT 16

"Perspectives on Domestic Violence" Terri German will speak at the Cabrillo Fireside Lounge 7pm, free 479-6249

### SAT ▽ OCT 21

Linda Blain will play country and folk music at Sisterspirit 1040 Park Ave. San Jose 293-9372

### WED ▽ OCT 25

LGAA sponsors an issues forum around the Webster decision. Loudon Nelson 7:30p

### THU ▽ OCT 26

The AIDS Educators Network begins their monthly meetings Room 1802 Cabrillo Sesnon House 2:30pm

### THU ▽ OCT 26

Banda Tepeuani from El Salvador will play at Kuumbwa for the Union of North American Women in Solidarity with the People of El Salvador 8pm \$8

### THU ▽ OCT 26

AGEM begins organizing for 1990! If you want to be a part of this year's show, bring your ideas to the Loudon Nelson Center, 7:30p or call: Mardi: 479-3606

### FRI ▽ OCT 27

"An Evening with Bettina Aptheker" activist, scholar and UCSC professor will read from her new book "Tapestries of Life..." \$3 - \$6 7:30pm UCSC Classroom Unit 1 459-2072

### SAT ▽ OCT 28

Rocky Horror pre-dance BBQ and youth social with films & food, sponsored by the Youth Group of the MCC. Trek to the Vet's dance afterward. 6pm - 11pm 303 Walnut Ave. 479-4242

### SAT ▽ OCT 28

Halloween Dance at the Vet's Hall 846 Front St Santa Cruz, a benefit for the LGCC with costumes, music and fun! 475-6268

### SAT ▽ OCT 28

Sisterspirit hosts a costumed affair at 1040 Park Ave. San Jose 293-9372

### MON ▽ OCT 30

Lesbians in Mid-Life continues with Marny Hall leading the discussion on couples in mid-life. 7pm \$5 Loudon Nelson Call: 458-3053

### FRI ▽ NOV 3-18

GO plans a trip to New Zealand! Call Russell: 475-6149



### MON ▽ OCT 16

**Film Fest: Day 3**  
"Fun down There" A Gay coming of age drama at 7pm. Then at 9pm "Vera", a lesbian film from Brazil. \$6 per show \$10 for both

### MON ▽ OCT 16

**Lesbians in Mid-Life**  
a lecture series by Lauren Crux started Oct 2nd. "Single life in a small town" is the evening's topic. 7pm \$5 Loudon Nelson Call: 458-3053

### WED ▽ OCT 18

Confrontation training 6-8pm Cabrillo Fireside Lounge

### TUE ▽ OCT 17

**Film Fest: Day 4**  
A french lesbian film "Le Jupon Rouge" at 7pm, The Movies 1&2. Then at 9pm "Men in Love" about emotional, spiritual and sexual discovery set on the island of Maui. \$6 per show \$10 for both

### FRI ▽ OCT 20

"The Dynamics of Working with Deaf Individuals" A workshop for health and mental health professionals sponsored by SCAP. Fireside room at Calvary Episcopal 532 Center, SC 1pm - 4pm \$10 for SCAP volunteers \$25 others 427-3900

## CALENDAR

**SAT ▽ NOV 4**  
NGLTF & LGCC  
sponsor:  
**Out in Suburbia**  
A video about  
the lives of  
suburban  
lesbians  
by Pam Walton  
7pm, Loudon Nelson

**SAT ▽ NOV 4**  
LGCC Rummage Sale  
continues the  
first Saturday  
of each month.  
Call Tom at  
479-1026  
for pick-up,  
and sale info

**SUN ▽ NOV 5**  
An evening  
of outrageous  
and irreverent  
feminist humor  
at Kuumbwa with  
Kate Clinton  
7pm & 9:30pm  
\$13<sup>50</sup>-\$15

**WED ▽ NOV 8**  
UCSC Women's  
Center sponsors  
**Personal Decisions  
and Abortion  
for Survival**  
two 30 minute  
documentary  
videos. 7:30pm  
At UCSC Women's  
Center 459-2072

**SAT ▽ NOV 11**  
UCSC Women's  
Center hosts  
the "Brown Bag  
Readers Theater"  
location to be  
announced.

**MON ▽ NOV 13**  
Lesbians in  
Mid-Life wraps  
up a 4 session  
lecture series.  
7pm \$5  
Loudon Nelson  
Call: 458-3053

**MON ▽ NOV 13**  
"Men Ending  
Violence Against  
Women" - part of  
the Cabrillo  
College Rape  
Prevention series.  
Glen Fitch  
will speak.  
Fireside Lounge  
7pm free  
479-6249

**TUE ▽ NOV 14**  
LGCC Social  
(potluck)  
7:30pm  
Loudon Nelson  
475-6268

**WED ▽ NOV 15**  
Cabrillo and UCSC  
Women's Centers  
present  
**Starhawk**  
a nationally  
known feminist  
activist.  
Cabrillo College  
Cafeteria  
Call: 459-2072

**THU ▽ NOV 16**  
Lucie Blue  
Tremblay  
a french-canadian  
singer and  
song-writer  
celebrates the  
release of her  
new album in  
this Lea Lawson  
production at  
the Kuumbwa  
7pm & 9:30pm  
\$10<sup>50</sup>-\$12  
458-3053

**SAT ▽ NOV 18**  
Dyke Drag!  
A fun nite  
for adventurous  
lesbians! LGCC  
benefit with  
prizes, costumes  
and music.  
Performers and  
for more info  
Call: 423-9738

## CALENDAR



**THU ▽ NOV 23**  
AIDS Educators  
Network meets  
at Cabrillo  
Sesnon House  
2:30pm

**TUE ▽ NOV 28**  
*Ethnic Notions:*  
**Black People in  
White Minds**  
a disturbing  
must-see video  
exploring common  
stereotypes and  
race relations in  
America.  
UCSC Women's Center  
7:30pm free  
459-2072



**SAT ▽ DEC 2**  
**Cris Williamson  
and Teresa Trull**  
with their band  
in concert at  
Kuumbwa!  
7:30pm & 10pm  
\$13<sup>50</sup>-\$15  
458-3053

**SUN ▽ DEC 3**  
LGCC Round Circle  
Women's Singing  
Group continues  
to meet the first  
and third  
Sunday of each  
month.  
4 - 5:30pm  
247-0505

**SAT ▽ DEC 9**  
LGCC Comedy  
**Coffeehouse**  
an evening of  
fun starting at  
7:30pm, show at 8pm  
303 Walnut Ave.  
462-2610

**FRI ▽ DEC 15**  
Romanovsky  
and Phillips  
will bring  
their unique  
lavender approach  
to song writing,  
singing, and  
performing.  
8pm at Kuumbwa  
\$8-\$10  
458-3053

**SAT ▽ DEC 16**  
LGCC Holiday  
Get Together  
303 Walnut Ave.  
3 - 7pm  
475-6268

**SUN ▽ DEC 31**  
New Year's Eve  
Black-Tie (or costume)  
gourmet sit-down  
dinner and dance  
at the Grange  
Hall in Watsonville  
427-3900

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- July 1-7 '90** Women's Cruise From \$875 Sail on the Yankee Clipper, a 125' schooner
- OR**
- Nov 22-26** Thanksgiving in Acapulco - \$215 plus airfare (Men)
- Nov 6-22** Holiday extravaganza \$2249 to Bangkok, Hong Kong and Seoul. Includes airfare (Men and Women)
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THURS. 5:30 PM-11:00 PM

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# COMMUNITY RESOURCE DIRECTORY



**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

Men & Women  
Thursdays: 8pm  
532 Center St.  
(Church School)

**BALANCE FOR HEALTH**  
Discount supplements for immune health.  
PO Box 395  
Soquel, 95073  
425-4996

**BATTERED LESBIAN'S SUPPORT**  
Wednesdays: 7:30p  
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: 7:00-8:30p  
UCSC, 95064  
On Air: 459-2811  
Alternate Mondays

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

**FEMINIST LESBIAN SOCIAL GROUP**  
Meets monthly in the south bay for potluck.  
To receive ENTRE NOUS write:  
PO Box 70933  
Sunnyvale 94086

**FREEDOM FOUNDATION**  
PO Box 2968  
Santa Cruz, 95063

**GAY & LESBIAN EDUCATORS**  
Meet monthly  
423-2258

**GAY & LESBIAN VEGETARIANS**  
c/o Rick Haze  
PO Box 7971, SC  
95061  
336-3255

**GAY, LESBIAN & BISEXUAL NETWORK**  
UCSC  
459-2468

**GAYS AND LESBIANS OVER FORTY**  
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Gerry 427-2571

**GREAT OUTDOORS**  
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95063  
Brett  
427-2722

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M. Barash MSW  
423-6435  
M. Bracciale MA  
335-2716

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

**LAVENDER READER**  
PO Box 7293 SC  
95061

**LESBIAN & GAY ACTION ALLIANCE**  
PO Box 7293,  
SC 95061  
Will Russell  
459-2060

**LESBIAN & GAY COMMUNITY CENTER**  
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SC 95061  
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7:30pm  
475-6268

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**LESBIAN NEWS**  
PO Box 2968  
Santa Cruz, 95063  
Editor:  
Toni Cassista

**LESBIAN THEATRE PROJECT**  
11949 Coleman Ave.  
Felton, 95018  
Artistic Director  
Kate McDermott:  
335-9455

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

**THE LIVING ROOM**  
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SC, 95063  
426-1964

**MATRIX WOMEN'S NEWS MAGAZINE**  
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SC, CA 95063  
429-1238

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95061  
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(sign language interpreted)  
479-4242

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

**NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS**  
662-4664

**OLDER WISER LESBIANS**  
A social group for lesbians over fifty.  
Meet each Friday at 7pm  
Pat:  
662-8674

**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  
427-3900

**SANTA CRUZ MEN'S CHORUS**  
Monday's  
7:15-9:45  
1st United Methodist Church  
427-2722

**SC NOW**  
PO Box 1119  
Felton, 95018

**SLIGHTLY OLDER LESBIANS (lesbians 30+)**  
Meets most Fridays at UCSC's Cardiff House  
Info: 462-6927

**STONEWALL ALLIANCE**  
Tuesdays, 7:30-9  
UCSC Merrill Rec Room  
459-2468

**UCSC-WOMEN'S CENTER**  
Cardiff House on the UCSC campus.  
459-2072

**WOMEN ON MOUNTAIN BIKES AND TEA SOCIETY (LAVENDER CHAPTER)**  
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425-8574

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728-2295

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1025 Center St.  
SC, 95060  
425-5525

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

Want  
an  
Call Val.  
426-2063

GLOSSARY	
CFR	Closet Free Radio
GLBN	Gay, Lesbian & Bisexual Network
GLV	Gay & Lesbian Vegetarians
GO	Great Outdoors
LGAA	Lesbian & Gay Action Alliance
LGCC	Lesbian & Gay Community Center
MCAP	Monterey County AIDS Project
SCAP	Santa Cruz AIDS Project
SC	Santa Cruz
SJ	San Jose
SOL	Slightly Older Lesbians
UCSC	University of California at Santa Cruz

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