

YOUR PAPER YOUR PAPER

Volume III Number 14

Next Deadline: July 18—Next Issue: July 25

July 11, 1984

Published biweekly in Santa Clara County by Our Projects, Inc.

UNITY & MORE IN '84



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I love a parade—and there's only one that leads off with 200 Dykes on Bikes!

Over one-hundred-fifty contingents and floats marched down Market Street in San Francisco in the 14th Annual Gay Freedom Day Parade, which celebrates the Stonewall Riots.

1969—The year drag queens fought police, tooth and nail as it were, after years of harassment by street cops. The police would enter the Stonewall Bar...until one day—the Stonewall Riots happened—Gay's stood up and faced police clubs and fought back. The melee is history now—but commemorated every June.

This year's theme was Unity and More! In '84. That's what the banner said for all to see.

There was something for everybody. Sad, funny, political, serious, you name it.

The persons with AIDS marching—the Scout Troup 69 (outrageous!)—dancing—singing—magical floats—the Billy DeFrank Group and politicians waving to the crowd...there was so much to see.

After two hours I gave up and headed for the stage to check out the speakers.

Paul Castro spoke (he was the guest speaker at the S.J. Gay Pride Day last year.

A person with AIDS, he spoke about the fear, and prejudices, against persons with AIDS and asked people to be more tolerant.

A fiery speech by Sister Boom-Boom was followed by a dramatic speech by Art Agnos (author of AB 1). He told the crowd, "We'll be back again, again, and again! Until it is passed. I will never give up!" he said, "No matter what it does to my political career!"

Everyone was silent. I couldn't help gulping.

Lighter moments were enjoyed when Tom Ammiano did his monologue. Especially when he fried, roasted and barbecued Mayor Dianne Feinstein—he packs a mean punch!

There was an exciting performance by both the San Francisco Gay Marching Band and the Great American Freedom Band together in concert.

Both groups took turns playing. Then, for the final number, both bands played together.

It was incredible! beautiful and awesome! all at once!

Later, when Tom Ammiano came back on stage and was doing a spoof on Jesus, a religious freak ran past security, bounced on the stage, and began preaching the Gospel (Fallwell would have loved it).

Finally, when security realized that this guy was not Ammiano's straight-man, They lifted him bodily and carried him off stage.

What can I say—you should have been there.

Demos Approve Gay Rights Plank

The Democratic Party Platform Committee approved on June 23 in Washington, D.C. language pledging the party to work for an end to discrimination against Gay men and Lesbians in employment, immigration, and the military. The Committee also approved an amendment to work to "address, document, and end" violence against "women, racial, ethnic and religious minorities, and Gay men and Lesbians."

The platform also pledges support of "an enhanced effort to learn the causes and cure of AIDS, and to provide treatment for people with AIDS."

Virginia M. Apuzzo, Executive Director of the National Gay Task Force, who testified before the Platform Drafting Committee on June 12, said, "In this document the largest political party in the free world has affirmed a commitment to fairness, equal opportunity and basic standards of decency. We call upon Gay and Lesbian Republicans to join in asking the President to clarify his news conference statement (June 14) on Gay rights that he is opposed to discrimination."

Apuzzo added, "We are especially pleased that the party has included a statement on the need to end the increasing acts of violence directed against Lesbians and Gay men."

The National Gay Task Force shortly will release the results of its Violence Project study that documents the pervasiveness of violence against Gay and Lesbian Americans.

The platform, which will be voted on by the convention delegates in San Francisco (July 16-

19), states: "The next Democratic administration will—reaffirm the dignity of all people and the rights of each individual to have equal access to and participation in the institutions and services of our society. All groups must be protected from discrimination based on race, color, religion, national origin, language, age, sex, or sexual orientation. We will support legislation to prohibit discrimination in the workplace based on sexual orientation. We will assure that sexual orientation per se does not serve as a bar to participation in the military. We will support an enhanced effort to learn the cause and cure of AIDS, and to provide treatment for people with AIDS. And we will ensure that foreign citizens are not excluded from this country solely on the basis of their sexual orientation."

The platform further states:—"Violent acts of bigotry, hatred and extremism aimed at women, racial, ethnic and religious minorities, and Gay men and Lesbians have become an alarmingly common phenomenon. A Democratic administration will work vigorously to address, document and end all such violence."

The success of the platform effort is attributed to growing Gay and Lesbian grass roots involvement in politics and government and the work of the Lesbian and Gay members of the Democratic Platform Committee. Those members include: Terje Anderson (Vermont); Virginia M. Apuzzo (New York); Russ Brubaker (Washington State); Bill Kraus (California); and Rick Stafford (Minnesota).

President asked to stop stop bigoted campaigns

Assemblyman Art Agnos (D-San Francisco), announced recently that he has sent a letter, signed by 25 members of the California Legislature, to President Reagan calling on him to publicly repudiate political and fundraising campaigns which appeal to bigotry against Lesbians and Gay men.

The legislators pointed out that "This year voices are once more being raised seeking to link you (President Reagan) with an appeal to prejudice against Lesbians and Gay men."

A copy of a fundraising mailer distributed by a group calling itself the American Family Associ-

ation was enclosed with the letter. The mailer stated that there were "8 good reasons why concerned Americans should vote against Walter Mondale and Gary Hart. The 8 good reason are part of what I call 'the Mondale—Hart Gay Platform'."

The Agnos letter points out that President Reagan "provided leadership in stopping similar campaigns in 1978 when you opposed a California initiative to deny Gays and Lesbians jobs in the state school system.

"You restated your opposition to discrimination in both the

Continued on page 2

\$3.9 Million for AIDS in new state budget

Sacramento Senate President pro Tempore David Roberti announced that the new state budget signed by Governor Deukmejian contains \$3.9 million to combat Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS), an increase of \$500,000 over 1983-84.

The total includes \$1 million added to the Department of Health Services budget by the Legislature through the efforts of Senator Milton Marks (R-San Francisco), and Assemblyman Art Agnos (D-San Francisco).

Roberti said he was pleased the governor is sticking with legislators committed to combating AIDS in California. Roberti strongly supported the additional funds for the AIDS fight in the 1984-85 budget.

In leaving the \$1 million in the budget, Deukmejian said it would be "effectively used for epidemiological purposes, laboratory screening, continuation of the AIDS registry, as well as information and education programs relative to the dan-

ger of AIDS." The Department of Health Services will disburse the funds through a process which includes recommendations by the AIDS Advisory Committee, established by SB 910 which was authored by Roberti in 1983. Four members of the committee that the governor is to appoint have not yet been named.

The 1984-85 appropriation includes \$2.9 million for research activities by the University of California. A similar amount was appropriated in the 1983-84 budget as a result of efforts by Assembly Speaker Willie Brown, Jr. (D-San Francisco).

"These funds will help continue the important work being done in research and by community agencies throughout the state," said Roberti.



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A Tinker's Damn holds a dance contest as part of Gay Pride Week. The bar has made many changes since may last visit there. Many, many happy evenings were spent raising funds for the community. Drag shows jam-packed TD's, many fond memories are attached to this bar for me personally. A dance contest—the disc jock said, "You have nothing to lose, and lot's to win." The judges were ready and so were the dancers. Disco was a favorite style, but modern dancing as well at other times could be recognized. They were all great couples, and single dancers competed against each other. The winners, said the piece of paper: #1 Disco and Grayland, #2 Steve Michael, #3 Disco and Tony. You should have been there.

President

Continued from page 1

public and private sector during your 1980 campaign. Most recently, the chairman of the Republican National Committee joined with his Democratic counterpart in signing a 'fair campaign practices' pledge that 'opposes appeals to prejudice based on...sexual orientation'.

The letter goes on to request that the President "personally disavow any attempts to link your name or to make you a beneficiary of such goals, and to remind the American people that you will not equivocate on your commitment to justice."

Among the legislators signing the letter was conservative Republican Senator Ed Davis who surprised most legislative observers by voting for AB 1, the Gay and Lesbian anti-discrimination employment measure vetoed by Governor Deukmejian.

Senator Davis has been attacked for his vote by his Democratic opponent in the November election. Assemblyman Agnos, who vowed to back any Democratic or Republican legislator voting for AB 1 who was attacked by an opponent for that vote, has called on state Democrats to disavow the Democratic candidate in Davis' district, Andrew Martin.

The letter to the President closed by stating, "We believe that among the most treasured

part of our heritage as Americans is that it was the belief of the Founding Fathers that this nation was inseparably united on the principle of the equal dignity and worth of each citizen. That principle will not be guarded without forceful leadership when it is threatened."

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Claire Mix: A Snowflake in the Sun

Out of the shadows

by Ron Schmidt

"At the age 5 I had my first crush on a little girl named Becky," says 23-year-old singer/songwriter/cartoonist Claire Mix. "I was always a tomboy everybody thought would grow out of playing football and hating dresses. . . but then I grew into a tomwoman!"



Deep dimples assert themselves in her smile, the kind of smile that emanates from within and lends a particular luscience to the fair-skinned, strawberry blonde, San Jose native. But the origin of that smile has not always been so.

Two years ago Mix required a series of hospitalizations to halt and reverse an acute weight loss that precipitated fear for her life. Stabilized at 84 pounds, Claire was diagnosed as suffering from Anorexia Nervosa, the disease that killed singer Karen Carpenter.

"I had so much internal anger that I could not be me. . . that it became a subconscious protest to starve myself to death in order to get control of my life."

It was then, garbed, covered, and surrounded by white linen that the lyrics to *Snowflake in the Sun* began the therapeutic process of the soul and Claire decided to come out: "I wish you understood/the anger in my soul/A fire burning deep inside/A fire yet untold. . . 'Cause I feel like a snowflake/sitting in

the sun/wasting away/to no. . . one."

"Why?" demanded Jean, Claire's friend from West Valley College days. "Why are you doing this to yourself?" Silently, covertly, Claire had loved that friend. Turning to her nightstand, she picked up a picture of herself with Cheryl, the woman who ultimately reciprocated her love. "This is why!" she explained.

"Why didn't you ever tell me?" her friend replied. "I'd still have loved you." Smiling, she added, "Can I catch it?"

Interesting, this reversal. Fear of coming out because of expectations we place on others' reactions computes as reverse discrimination. It denies those we love the chance to grow in a manner most important to the persons we and they are becoming. Yet, it is an understandable fear.

"In the 5th grade I heard 'Lesbian' (for the first time) and I sat in class and said, 'God! . . . So that's what I am!' Somebody was calling someone a name and it scared me."

Lies! Lies! Lies! enumerates with musical wit Claire's own experiences of growing up Gay in a society that expects everyone to at least play it straight. It is a song that provokes laughter because of the pain of self-identity within its lines.

"My middle name is guilt," Mix grins. "My therapist says that's the word that pivots me. . . If I'm really going to be me, I have to stop worrying about everyone else and stop feeling so damned responsible."

"I wish I could explain, but I just don't see how/because I have all the feelings that I have in my life now. . . 'Cause I feel like a snowflake/sitting in the sun/wasting away/to no. . . one."

The critical decision to come out made, the process had still to be endured. In a May gig at Billy DeFrank Community Center, Claire introduced her audience to her mother in a front row seat. That level of support did not happen overnight. The first six months after coming out were hell between mother and daughter. "My weight," Claire says, "would fluctuate with my emotional state." *Let Me Go My Way* is a reverse lullaby, from daughter to parents, documenting the need to be loved enough to be let go: "Mama, oh, Mama/take me away/Take me higher/above all the pain/Mama, oh, Mama/please hold me tight/Hold me, hold me/through all the night/Then let me go my way/Please let me go my way."

Is she above the pain now?
"Oh yeah. . . considerably higher. . . They (her parents) accept that that's the way I am. . . the fact

Continued on page 8

Gay Fathers: Reservations for two at Camp Costanoon

by Ron Schmidt



"SPECIAL. I: distinguished by some unusual quality..." Stop there in your search for a definition; it applies at every juncture to Jim Forderer, his sons, and to South Bay Gay Fathers who have generated funds to send two of the young Forderers to Cupertino's Camp Costanoon for ten days this summer.

The camp, an extension of Crippled Children's Society, is located one-and-a-half miles from Stevens Creek Dam and fills what would otherwise be a lack in the lives of local children with special needs. Five of Jim Forderer's eight sons live at home, each of them in wheelchairs.

"I started adopting kids twelve years ago," says the 41 year old, ruggedly handsome, Cliff Robertson look-alike. A sprinkling of gray highlights his shock of black hair. His dark eyes study their surroundings above a smile tucked into the right side of his jaw.

At 2:00 p.m. the Forderers are just having lunch. Jim, a substitute special ed teacher, answered a call from the Santa Clara County Office of Education today. Patiently, he holds a peanut butter sandwich while eight year old Allen takes a bite. Like three of his brothers, Allen has Cerebral Palsy. He is strapped into his chair with a chest harness and protected with padded head guards. Originally, he had been one of the two brothers slated for camp, but his father, also a horse show judge and horseback riding instructor for West Wind 4-H, a riding club for the handicapped, will be flying to Chicago for a combination of those duties while Camp Costanoon is in session.

Whoever does not go to camp goes with him. Allen opted for Chicago with Dad.

That decision freed fourteen year old David for a second stint at camp. Sorting through his loyalty to his father and his desire to return to Costanoon, David explains, "I like it, but I don't"

Continued on page 8

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COMICS:
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TICKETS—\$85—\$100: 4 days sliding scale (if working, PLEASE pay top of scale). \$70—\$75: 3 days sliding scale (Sat., Sun., & Mon.—very limited) Children 8 and under free: 8—16, \$20 to help defray food costs. All children must be preregistered for childcare by Aug. 1st. U.S. currency only. NO PERSONAL CHECKS AFTER July 20th: Money order, certified check, cash only. For tickets, send self-addressed, legal-sized, stamped envelope to: WCWMF, 3434 Troy Dr., L.A., CA 90068 (213) 851-9479.

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Your Opinions

Outlook

"With Wings Like Eagles"

by Rev. Larry J. Uhrig

A Norwegian tale tells of a boy in the woods who found an egg in a nest, took it home, placed it with the eggs under a goose, and watched until it hatched out: a strange creature with deformed feet, unwebbed and clawlike, that stumbled as it tried to follow the goslings. Its beak was not flat; it was pointed and twisted. Instead of the lovely cream-colored down of its foster family, it had ugly brown plumage. And, to top it off, the tiny bird made a terrible squawking sound.

Then one day a majestic eagle flew over the barnyard, swooping lower and lower until the misfit bird lifted its head and pointed its crooked beak into the air. It stretched its wings and began to hobble across the yard, flapping harder and harder until it caught the wind and flew, higher and higher. It soared away from the barnyard and through the clouds themselves. The awkward barnyard bird had discovered what he was; born an eagle, he had been trying to live like a goose.

Dr. Robert Schuller tells this story in his important book, *Self Esteem*, and it reminds me of many of us who were born eagles and try to be geese. An epidemic sweeps through the Gay Community, one of low self-esteem. The problem is worse than any health issue that confronts us, but it gets less concern from the press or the public. When issues of physical health are discussed, for example, many people refer to AIDS as "Gay Cancer," as though they are willing to believe that the disease is specifically attached to our community and lifestyle!

Underlying this kind of thinking is an often serious sense of guilt, even an expectation that there is a "curse" on Gay people. I continually hear people buying into the myth that they are necessarily of lower worth because of their sexual preference.

Not long ago, I receive a letter from a man that ended like this: "So let's be clear among ourselves: stable and happy relationships exist, but they are rare, rare, rare. The usual pattern, especially for washed-up, fat, balding, aging Gays is one of solitude, compulsory celibacy, and unrelieved misery." "Unrelieved" was underscored three times. The letter was signed "Unloved Professor."

On a physical, and therefore ephemeral level, the general low self-esteem felt by many Gays expresses itself in our bodies. If we don't feel very good about ourselves, we often try to prove that we are not lovable by making ourselves fat, and by not taking care of our appearance. One observation I can make from my own counseling is that a major barrier to the health of Gay men and women has been turning oppression inward, eating until we are sure that no one wants us.

The real question has to do with our management of all resources. We must take control of all the dimensions of our lives: physical health, money management, mental health, self-esteem. Being liberated means making our own choices, and that means establishing our own standards of acceptable behavior, of goals, success, and worth. How do you feel about yourself? Have you even thought you were worth thinking about, worth spending some time with?

Let us make a concious attempt to choose health, rather than acceptability, to embrace our natural selves. Change can occur only after we have met life on its own terms. We must first allow things to be OK, as is, before we have any power to change things.

Accepting the reality of being Gay does not mean accepting anyone's version of what that "has" to mean. We can never accept an image of ourselves from others. We must never buy into that, or allow others to reinforce it. We were born to love ourselves, and we can, and we must.

The healing of our self-esteem is our most important agenda. Too many of us have for too long lived like geese when we were born eagles. We stumble in crowds of people who look at us, thinking that we don't fit.

It is for us to affirm ourselves and decide what is "fitting." Not one of us has to stay in an unhealthy place, a bad job, or an unsatisfactory relationship. Not one of us needs to accept condemnation, or to be rejected as "abnormal." We must shed guilt, fear, anxiety, and shame, become self-affirmed beings with positive pride in just what we were created to be.

So start to fly! You can love yourself; and the truth is that others will never start loving you until you love you.

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We want to hear from you!

We want to take a minute to thank the many individuals and organizations that send us press releases, news stories, and photos.

Without you, we wouldn't have any news to print!

There are a few of you out there, however, who think we have mental telepathy.

We don't.

We need some word from you — hopefully in the form of a press release, but even a flyer is helpful — when you are having an event or have done something newsworthy that deserves to be shared with the rest of the community.

A word of caution — we publish every other Wednesday.

This means there are two weeks between copy deadlines.

Please send your press release in time to meet our deadline. (Deadlines are published under the banner on the front page of each issue.)

You'd be surprised how many press releases come in too late to be used.

If you would like a photographer at your event, please call the newspaper office at (408) 289-9231, and we will try to send one.

We want to include your news in our pages. But we need your help — We want to hear from you.

—Our Paper News Staff

Letters

ACLU Writes to Feinstein

Honorable Dianne Feinstein
Mayor of San Francisco
City Hall, Room 200
San Francisco 94102

Dear Mayor Feinstein:

On behalf of the American Civil Liberties Union of Northern California I am writing to express our profound objection to the use of undercover police officers to investigate the sexual practices of gay men in bathhouses. By ordering such an investigation by the police department, you created a situation that unjustifiably invaded the privacy rights of the patrons of these establishments.

Those persons making use of gay bathhouses do so with a reasonable expectation that their activities will be free of government intrusion and that

other patrons will be persons who share a common purpose in being present at such an establishment. It is inconceivable that anyone making use of the bathhouses during this investigation would have expected that intimate and perfectly legal activities were being observed by an on-duty government agent and recorded for a police report.

You have stated that your purpose in requesting the undercover operation and report was to gather information relevant to the public health and transmission of AIDS. While this goal is both legitimate and laudable, the means you employed to achieve this purpose were unwarranted.

Medical personnel within the Department of Public Health are the people who have the expertise to evaluate the relationship between sexual activity and the transmission of disease. Dr. Silverman has stated that he was already knowledgeable about the

sexual activities occurring within bathhouses. The investigation was, therefore, unnecessary. Even more importantly, however, the governmental invasion of the privacy of individual citizens is a serious affront to civil liberties. The harm is compounded when, in situations such as this one, many less drastic and invasive means were available to acquire relevant information.

We believe that your action with regard to police investigations of the legal activities of bathhouse patrons has established an unfortunate precedent for the unconstitutional invasion of individual privacy. We hope that, in the future, you will confine your public health inquiries to a process that respects the right to individual and sexual privacy.

Sincerely,
Dorothy M. Ehrlich
Executive Director

NORMAN LEAR TO REAGAN

President Ronald Reagan
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20001

Dear Mr. President:

I am deeply troubled by what seems to be an endorsement of the so-called "Christian Nation movement" in many of your recent speeches. While I fully respect (and would fight to protect) your right to whatever spiritual and religious beliefs you prefer, I am concerned that you not use the office of the Presidency as "Evangelist-in-Chief" or to further the notion that any particular group of Americans is to be accorded special standing because they practice any religion.

To me, it is no coincidence that the

First Amendment to the Constitution contains both the guarantee of free speech and the guarantee of separation of church and state. History shows that they are inextricably linked.

Without separation of church and state, free, spirited public debate is impossible. The mutual respect that is essential to democratic debate is lost when a President's opinions on public policy are used as some sort of a perverse test of a citizen's standing with the Almighty.

While I know that you cannot control the statements of all your supporters, millions of Americans would be greatly relieved if you would clarify that you do not officially embrace the "Christian Nation movement"; that

you do not intend to use the office of the Presidency to favor a particular religious dogma; and that you intend instead to preserve the Presidency as an office for all the people, believers and non-believers alike.

As Rev. Billy Graham remarked in 1981, "It was a mistake to identify the kingdom of God with the American way of life...I've come to understand there are no simplistic answers to the exceedingly complicated problems we face as a country—and as a planet."

Thank you for your attention. The country looks forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,
Norman Lear

James West (July 1, 1984)



Human Rights Night at McCabe Hall, 1978—Jim announced his candidacy for S.J. City Council.

James (Jim) Phillip West died at his home in Burlingame, Ca., July 1, 1984 after an extended period of ill health. He was raised in Colorado, spent thirty years as an U.S. Army Officer, and was a ten-year resident of San Jose. He was 64 at the time of his death. His ashes will be scattered over the hills of Colorado. Jim had five children; Robert, Charlene, Richard, Geri and Mari West. He

also had five grandchildren.

These are some facts of Jim's life, but these facts say little of the spirit, energy and vitality of Jim West as he was known by many in the San Jose community. He worked with the Civic Center Kiwanis, often inviting members of the local Gay community to share a luncheon with him and fellow members, encouraging us to work for community betterment. Jim was also involved in Christopher Street Democratic Club, both as club officer and newsletter editor, Prune Production board member, and several other local Gay and Lesbian groups.

The facts may note his involvement with Mission Valley Dignity, but glide over that he was the inspiration and principle founder of that group, instrumentally bringing many Catholic Gays, Lesbians, families and friends to re-examine the roots of spiritual values that enhanced the quality of their lives and relationships.

The facts may not note that, while legally divorced, he remained married in his heart to a special woman, and through their mutual love came forth children who were supportive of him and his work within the Gay and

Lesbian community. Through this family constellation many myths of the Gay lifestyle being "anti-family" were shown as false.

The facts speak little of the lives touched, enriched and deepened by getting to know him and his extended family. His courage to speak up, often in a very straight-forward manner, encouraged others to do the same, even if in disagreement with him. Jim's awareness of the need to do what he could to lift oppression, right injustice, and ennoble others with a sense of their own worth and goodness was always part of his "Impossible Dream." This was his theme song from *Man of La Mancha* and through his strivings he touched off a spark in so many of us that continues to affect our local community.

Memorial Services were held for Jim at St. Patrick's Cathedral in San Jose, July 3, 1984, with Rev. Laurent Largent, pastor, officiating.

In all of this what is remarkable is not to say that Jim was a saint, but that he was wonderfully human—living out his time with purpose, quality and care.

—Ron Taylor

From the Center

by Wayne Herriford

Sometimes the month of June, when the Rally and the Parade happen locally, seems like it should be the Lesbian and Gay New Year. After all, these events celebrate the birth of the Gay Liberation Movement when Gay men and women stood up at Stonewall and said "NO MORE," back in 1969. And the events usually focus on the upcoming year and the particular issues we as Lesbians and Gays will be facing. So let me be the first to wish you a HAPPY NEW YEAR!

I was in Seattle the day of the Rally, but from all accounts it sounded great. My congratulations to Jeff and his committee for their outstanding work! Also thanks to my lover, Steve, for the beautiful banner which he made and was carried in the San Fran-

cisco parade as well. (And which we will probably see several more times!)

This year there are a couple of important issues which the South Bay will be able to focus on.

On Sunday, July 15, the National Gay and Lesbian March is planned for San Francisco, in conjunction with the National Democratic Convention. It is anticipated that 200,000 people may assemble for this march—which will be publicized to millions of people through the assembled media. The march will begin in the Castro and will proceed down Market and then over to the Moscone Center. The DeFrank Center will coordinate a South Bay march contingent if there is enough interest on the part of the community. There will be contingents from many parts of the

country, and it would be great to have South Bay representation as well. We will meet on 19th Street, near Castro between 12:00 and 1:30. Look for the multicolored "Billy DeFrank Center" banner. For more information, contact the Center, (408) 293-4525.

This November, in several local elections, key people will be elected or re-elected to the State Senate or Legislature. Make sure you are registered by October 1, so that you can vote. Also, check out the local Gay press for articles and endorsements of these candidates so that you can be sure to understand the candidate's attitudes towards Gay rights legislation, in particular AB 1, which will probably be re-introduced next year. Alfred Alquist, who is running for the State Senate voted against this bill last year. I think that it is important to remember this when

Continued on page 9

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Gay Fathers

Continued from page 3
like it very much!"

Is it hard on the boys to leave the comfort and security of home for the unknowns of new experiences? Forderer nods. "They never want to go to parties or dances until they get there. Then I can't get them to come home."

David likes to chat and is an attentive listener. A student at Rogers Middle School, he is a native of New York. "My favorite state!" he is quick to affirm.

Eight year old Donald met me at the door in his father's arms. Leagally blind as well as cerebral palsied, Donald attends Chandler-Tripp School for the physically handicapped with Allen. Camp Costanaon will be a first for this young Forderer.

Secured in his shoulder-braced wheelchair, Donald finishes his sandwich then powers his own chair with a gear box strategically situated to prevent his sliding off the seat. He works himself into a bind in the narrow space between dining table and wall but Forderer lets him work it out. A T.V. buff, Donald motors into the adjoining family room, dimly lit but cool on this very warm June afternoon. An array of easy chairs faces the out of season, used-brick hearth offering occasional respite from wheelchairs and comfort to the senior Forderer at day's end.

Tom, who turned sixteen on the birth date he shares with the nation, returns from the freeze in a nearby shopping plaza. He is an articulate young man, self-reliant and confident. A native of Illinois, he came to Jim Forderer at age five through ASK AMERICA (415-451-1874), the organization that crystalizes the combined dedication of Bob and Dorothy De Bolt of Piedmont in the adoption of special needs children. Famous for their nationally televised *Who Are The De Bolts?* and *Stepping Out*, documentaries proving that the human spirit is housed but not contained within the limits of the body, Bob De Bolt spoke for his wife, who was en route to catch a plane, as well as himself.

"We've known Jim (Forderer) quite a number of years. Quite frankly, I stand in awe of Jim and what he's been able to do. He's unique in the world of fathering...and gives a different perspective on parenting. His doggedness, he just never gives up...has been and continues to be an example to me."

A tribute to that example is the easy confidence which Tommy Forderer maneuvers about the kitchen taking out the bread, salami, and mayonnaise with which to build a sandwich as he talks about his own experience at Camp Costanaon during his father's tenure as director.

Donald returns from the T.V. "I want something to drink, Daddy."

"You'll have to wait a minute, Donald," says his father who is explaining his contact with the De Bolts.

"Now..." Donald persists. "You'll have to be patient," Forderer says, unperplexed. The traditional home study process through which Forderer adopted his oldest son Scott. At twenty-three, a former marine and on his own for the last five years, Scott is the only child without physical impairment.

"I've heard he's back in the area," Forderer adds, alluding to the estrangement so common to the young making their own mark. But that is a sadness that can be remedied.

"Two of my sons..." Nicky and Jason were C.P. children with brain damage who died at ages two and one respectively. These are sadnesses without remedy aside from time's slow healing.

Does he take time for himself?

"I don't feel I need a lot of time to myself," Forderer asserts. "I don't feel overwhelmed by the kids."

A member of Parents Helping Parents, he is also the founder of Single Adoptive Parents, a ten year old organization that meets informally depending upon members' needs.

It is through Single Adoptive Parents that Forderer came to the attention of Gay Father Tony Mello, one of whose three sons is also a special needs child. In a gesture symbolic of their parenting role, this send-a-child-to-summer-camp project puts Gay Fathers in touch with every child, influencing growth and affecting the quality of life. For some it is an extension of existing relationships, for others a substitute for relationships from which the coming out process has cut them off.

"This is the second year South Bay Gay Fathers has sent kids to camp," Mello explains. Through a series of raffles at monthly meetings (Mello won the same beefcake calendar three times) and a spring garage sale to which the forty-four members contributed items, energy, and time, the \$450 tuition for Camp Costanaon became a reality. "Camp Costanaon," Mello adds, "agreed to match the funds for a second child."

"It's a real special place to work," says Deidre Dugan who, in the course of five summers, has worked into directorship of the camp. That specialness keeps her coming back in spite of "unbelievably low pay." Volunteers are recruited from colleges and high schools with 10% of their staff of 80 coming from Europe.

Camps range from five to ten days with swimming, nature study, music/drama, art, sports, and horseback riding comprising the daily curricula. Theme days are developed by the program staff with carnival atmospheres, magicians...entertainers who make time available. Trips to the beach, exploratorium, Big Basin also figure in the Costanaon experience. The number of counselors varies from one-on-one to one-to-three, depending on need, in five lodges capable of sleeping fifteen to twenty campers each.

Twenty year old Jay, eldest of the at-home Forderer sons, is not home for this interview. A dwarf with a spinal injury, Jay drives one of the family vehicles usually curbed in front of the yellow stucco, corner rambler. Home from his errand, he will park behind the big Dodge van with the sliding panel doors, and traverse the walk between lawns pressing for a mow. The shrubs flanking the windows could do with a trim. In the open garage a brown Volvo squeezes between gear tugged when-I-get-to-it fashion. A ramp carpeted with Let's Pretend grass covers the steps to the white front door but there is no fantasy about this family. The composite computes as functioning family with priorities intact...and Jim Forderer an abstraction of a famous poet's lines — "Any man's death diminishes me," wrote John Donne, "because I am involved in mankind." The derailing of disabled human beings into institutions is a form of death that Forderer, personally, has challenged head on by becoming involved at the most essential of human levels... "a different perspective on parenting," as Bob De Bolt put it.

Apprised of Gay Fathers' sponsorship of the Forderer children Bob De Bolt offered a personal addendum: "I've never known anyone who belonged to Gay Fathers, but I want you to know that I think what you guys are doing is fantastic! You're living your own lifestyle but you're also raising a family, and I think it's great. Keep it up!"

And that, too, is special.

Claire Mix

Continued from page 3

that I am. They let me go my way by not fighting it anymore. I'm happy. I can finally say I know who I am, and what I stand for."

The dimpled smile deepens. "When I came out my tastes changed. I always used to eat vanilla ice cream. I hate vanilla ice cream! I only ate it because my dad liked it."

Claire has a twin sister, an older brother and sister, and a younger brother. "My brother Eric is the greatest," she laughs. "I told him, 'I like women, too. Now we have something more in common.' He goes to Toyon with me."

Even her dad has begun to joke some. "Do you know the Gay karate chop?" he asked her recently, then whacked her shoulder with a limp wrist and murmured, "Bitch!"

Cheryl, Claire's lover, is accepted by the family. "It's always, 'Call Claire and Cheryl.' We're even lightly affectionate around them..." a condition which Mix admits may be more acceptable to parents of female Gays than males.

"When I first came out I went to my first women's concert. I was among 4,000 Lesbians and when the music started I started to cry, and I cried and cried. I don't think I will ever forget that feeling. I just grew wings and I was free."

"That's the first time I ever heard Tret Fure. The freedom... It was the most beautiful feeling in the world... like a ton of bricks had just been lifted. Somebody had opened the door to the closet and I could finally breathe."

Mix has written two songs about Tret Fure, one of which is entitled *Too Old To Dream*. "I have a tendency to idolize, she explains. "I'd love to be doing what Tret Fure is doing now. I'm loving her because she's saying things to me just like I can say things to her."

"I do all my own music. I will start doing others' as well—the music I find meaningful—music that I wish I'd written."

Between gigs Mix continues to compose so that a

good hour's worth of new material enhances each performance—the next of which is slated at Jonah's Wail on July 20 at 8 p.m. (Jonah's Wail is part of the Campus Christian Center at 10th and San Carlos Streets).

"Everything's just kind of turning, happening. I think people like me better now, too. When I came out my humor just exploded. Humor is my savior; I love to make fun of things." Her lips form a naughty pout. "I have to censor myself."

That humor spills over into cartooning for Claire. "Most of my situations take place in a bar. They're real situations. What I do is, I go to Toyon or Desperados with my little black pen and binder, and watch people. I tell them truthfully that I'm a cartoonist and I need some social stimulation. It's a good way to get attractive women to come sit by you. They always want to know, 'Are you gonna draw me in there?'"

"I'm doing a series on Tret Fure and a character who wants Walkmans implanted in her head so she can listen to her all the time."

For two years before her illness Mix supported herself with her music. Her goal is to gradually work back to that. Meanwhile she serves up brews at Straw Hat Pizza on Campbell near San Tomas Aquino. Frowning, she leans forward. "Do you think you could put in there for people to come in and see me? There are never any Gays in there."

"Cheryl has supported me..." financially and emotionally during her recuperative period, a return route that includes membership in the San Jose Women's Chorus and participation in a workshop with June Millington whose Fabulous Record Company, Claire hopes, will put out her first album.

One cannot help but feel the energy that emanates from this young woman with the intent gaze, and it is hard to grasp that the desire, even subconsciously, to self-destruct, ever violated her person. Composed and in control. Claire Mix welcomes the world with that irresistible smile... "If I could change my life/to the way it was before/I'd turn my head and back away/and slowly close the door..." Cause I feel like a snowflake/sitting in the sun... "But this snowflake does not waste away. She glides our consciousness with a sense of our place in the sun, allowing us to dazzle as we increase that orb's intensity. ■

In the offing . . .

by Ron Schmidt

It needs to be said that in a Pride celebration, the focus of which is Unity among Gays and Lesbians, there is no place for entertainment that profanes what many among us hold sacred. Numerous religious sects strode the length of Market Street in San Francisco's June 24 parade and the day was as surely theirs as any of the rest of ours. Tom Ammann's scathing ridicule of Christian themes—from the attempted assassination of John Paul to the sexuality of Jesus Christ—on the stage following the parade was a regrettable disservice to the day's espoused goal. Let those who want "humor" of that ilk pay for the privilege at Valencia Rose.

Genuine Unity needs to form our ranks at this Sunday's National March for Lesbian/Gay Rights... keeping in mind, the Hotel Atherton's ad in the official 1984 Parade magazine: "One billion viewers are expected to focus on San Francisco during the Democratic Convention July 15 to 20. The question is... 'Will they be entertained at our expense or enlightened through our example?'" Hats off to the Atherton.

In the event you can't attend, KSAN (95 FM) will air highlights of the march on *The Gay Life* at 6 a.m. on Sunday, July 22. Speeches from the June 24 Freedom Day celebration air Sunday, July 15, also at 6 a.m.

Pat Bond does her darndest for the democratization of Lesbians during this event. Back with her *Lorena Hitchcock* and *Eleanor Roosevelt: A Love Story*, Bond plays Valencia Rose through July 21. \$6. 8 p.m. (415) 863-3863.

Comic Jim Morris also cashes in on the political scene with his "uncanny" impersonation of Reagan... and Mondale and Hart. Valencia Rose again July 18.

In the same digs July 22 the San Francisco Lesbian Chorus performs with members of Mother Tongue Theatre reading excerpts from their script—*Passing: Identities Hidden and Exposed*. \$5. 8 p.m.

Ms Gay California Pageant (3rd annual) occurs July 29 at Robbie's, 390 College Plaza, Pomona, CA \$5. 8 p.m. (714) 622-9511. Information for applicants (619) 692-1967.

In the Vineyard here at Bay's End VITA stages *Merry Wives of Windsor*, *Robin Hood*, and *The Taming of the Shrew* in repertory through July (408) 741-0388.

Extra! Extra! Extra!...Sunnyvale gets *Moonstruck!* August 4, 6:30 p.m. to 1 a.m. \$15 per but you (women only) get no-host bar, catered dinner, live entertainment, and taped dance music. Admission by advance sales only. I.A.M. Union Hall, 655 Vasquezos, Sunnyvale. Call Georgette (408) 374-5228 or Sandy (408) 263-7211. Proceeds benefit Billy DeFrank Community Center.

Live dinner entertainment at *Moonstruck* comes in the form of *Sisters of Fate*, an all woman quintet. You can also catch them Sunday at 6 p.m. on your way home from the march by stopping by at *Daybreak*, El Camino and El Monte in Mt. View (that's July 15) \$2 donation; at WOMA (Women's Alliance) at 11 p.m. July 28, St. James Park.

Liedermann Gay Men's Chorus will herald the departure of Nevan from CASA's San Jose Throne July 14 at 7 p.m. at Naperdak Hall, 770 Trimble Road according to chorus publicist Jack McClesky. Admission to the event is \$12, peanuts considering that you will also witness the coronation of the new emperor and empress. I Am What I Am themes the occasion. What you are not aware of whatever Liedermann has up it copious sleeves that kept McClesky chuckling but mum beyond a "Wait and see!" teaser for the event.

Next day Liedermann swells the ranks of the San Jose contingent in the National March for Lesbian/Gay Rights... carrying their own brand new-for-the-occasion banner: *Do Our Community Proud*. Director Bob Welton, who so ably nurtured the Liedermann Chorus through its first year, has found a permanent director, Jim Clark, to take possession of the baton. Details to come next issue.

Remember what August 18 is? Call (408) 251-8766 and eat more fish. I'm tired of telling you.

Make it to *Jonah's Wail* at 10th and San Carlos July 20 at 8 p.m. for Claire Mix singing her songs about you and me.

Lest you forget... *OUR PAPER IS YOUR PAPER*. Subscriptions and advertising translate into pages per issue and coverage of Our/your community. Make an investment. Subscribe. Advertise. (408) 289-9231.

Till next time...

Alcoholism

"Skid Row" Reflections

In my last column, I discussed briefly how many things in our lives that cause us to be alcoholic drinkers can, on the other hand, be caused by drinking. I want to discuss this a little further in this column.

When we see a "skid row" drunk, our impression is that that person has lived this way all his or her life. However, many of these people have, at some point in time, been responsible, upstanding, and prosperous members of our society. They are people who, while becoming successful, have been introduced to the "two martini lunch" or that "after work" drink to help wind down after a long day.

Although their drinking began

innocently enough, they soon found that drinking would relieve many of the pressures they were feeling in the business world. As individuals prosper in their business lives, pressures and responsibility on the job increase, as does their drinking to help "cope" with their daily lives.

For a time these people will keep things in balance, but inevitably they will lose this balance, get hooked and addicted to alcohol, and their drinking will increase to alcoholic levels. People who have reached this level have set themselves up for their world to begin to crumble.

It is now necessary to drink in order to get through the day. Responsibility, dependability,

From the Center

Continued from page 4

you vote this time!

SHORTS:

Congratulations to the new Board of Directors of the Community Center. Liz Burkhouse was elected President; David Treadwell, Vice-President; Linda Waldron, Treasurer; and Ann McGloughlin, Secretary. Mike Torrairie continues on the Board, with new members Javier Nunez, Doug Smith, Pat Santiago, Henry Singhold, and Frank O'Reilly (former Director). Outgoing thanks and appreciation to Mary Ann Sullivan and Mike McGirr who have both worked very hard over the last several years on the Board of Directors. You will both be missed.

As you may have heard, the Center was burglarized in June. Some person, or persons, made off with our micro-wave oven, our phone answering machine, and, believe it or not, our safe! Fortunately, we did not lose any money, though the microwave and the phone answering machine were very important. (Several days later a friend of the Center gave us a new answering machine.) Anyone with a microwave which they don't need or use, we sure could!

The All Organizations' Networking Picnic is being planned for Sunday, August 19. It is being held in San Jose, and you can expect to see posters, flyers about it soon! It's going to be a good opportunity for people to get together before the summer is over!

Once again, please try to attend the March on the 15th. It is very important that the South Bay be represented, as well as that we have as many people march as possible. This is a great opportunity to show our strength and solidarity, and I hope that you will join in this demonstration.

STAY PROUD!

and performance on the job will decline, until the only alternative is to quit or be dismissed. The personal decline is fast once employment is gone.

With no income, financial downfall is eminent. Stress on family members and loved ones has already begun. Although it is not always the case, chances are the alcoholic will lose those who are close, those who are unable to deal with the emotional and erratic behavior of the alcoholic.

The alcoholic has now lost everything of meaning or importance, including self-respect, and may well become one of the "skid row" drunks we are all so familiar with.

What I have described here is not always the case. Many alcoholics realize their problem and do something about it before it reaches these proportions. But just as many lose everything they have before they can admit to themselves they have an alcoholic problem.

The disease of alcoholism plays no favorites. It can happen to any of us at any time.

The next time you see a "skid row" drunk you may want to ask yourself some questions:

- 1) Who is this person? What has he or she been in the past?
2. Am I in control of my life and my drinking, or could this be me someday?

Be good to yourselves, and take it one day at a time.

If you have questions concerning alcoholism write to:

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Services
Gay & Lesbian Psychotherapy Sessions
For individuals or couples. Specializing in depression, sexual performance, self-control, sexual identity, relationship difficulties. 14-16
Daniel J. Downey, PhD
246-0388 554-0110

Choices
Dating Service
\$25 membership fee
(408) 971-7408

Just Us
is a dating magazine exclusively for women wanting to meet women. First ad FREE. FREE DETAILS: \$2. for a Sample Copy P.O. Box 80524 HR
Chamblee, GA 30341 11-19

House to Share
Unfurnished bedroom in 3 bedroom Palo Alto home. W/D, fireplace, etc. \$334 per mon. plus utilities. Near stores and bus. Call Tom, evenings/weekends. 14-16
415/493-1030

Two gay male students (SJSU) desire housing in South Bay Area. Prefer house or duplex with yard. Roommates possible. (message phone) 14-16
408/730-8328

Asian Guy wants a room with W/M 20 to 40. Non-smoker/drinker. Sunnyvale, Santa Clara, Mt. View. \$300 per month. Call Tom **749-8808** weekends or after 6:30 weekdays. Serious calls only. 13-15

Experienced Housecleaners needed for small womyn owned company. Must be honest and reliable. Car necessary. 11-13
723-8089

Housing
For rent furnished two bedroom two bath San Jose home. Pool, sauna, spa, billiards, tennis, weight room, and more only \$850. per month. **408/946-0568** 12

Gay couple wants to share 4 bedroom 2 bath home with gay/lesbian couple or 2 singles. Blossom Hill, own phone, non-smokers. \$285 person plus utilities. John or Marty after 4 p.m. or weekends. 14-16
972-1702

Gay couple wants to share 4 bedroom 2 bath home with gay/lesbian couple or 2 singles. Blossom Hill, own phone, non-smokers. \$285 person plus utilities. John or Marty after 4 p.m. or weekends. 14-16
972-1702

Roommate Wanted
Male Roommate Wanted. Large 3 bedroom apartment on pool. Fun complex. (Santa Clara) Call after 5 p.m. \$375. per mo. **248-3458** 12-14

Male Roommate Wanted
to share 3 bedroom condo in San Jose. Bedroom can be furnished. Non-smoker, no drugs. \$350 per mo. 14-16
926-5677

Roommate Wanted
(Professional Male) to share large, Victorian home in **Campbell**. Completely furnished, w/d, basement, full use of house and kitchen. \$250/mo. 12-14
866-0936 / 243-2484

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FORTUNES

By Tycho

ARIES (March 21-April 20) Home is where the hard is: hard work, and hard fun. Both add up to summer intensity. The heat is on to accomplish a lot, and working together brings you closer to someone. There could be some little friction, but the tension is released in a very hot manner.

TAURUS (April 21-May 20) Does (s)he really want to hurt you? Does (s)he really want to make you cry? Your loving tenderness is the perfect response to someone who doesn't know when to stop playing the heavy. Sort of like turning the other cheek; turn over, Taurus.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21) You want, and love, and know what's new. You just woke up—and it's July 1984! Your mind is filled with new ideas and you start to play with a new desire. Somebody might just think you're a showoff; but then, that's OK too.

CANCER (June 22-July 22) Hot as a firecracker! Let someone lead you away from all that work that seems to overwhelm you. The right person could be the match that lights the fuse that sets off the explosion that lights the sky. Use caution while making a beautiful spectacle of yourself.

LEO (July 23-August 22) What an unusual friend you have! Someone who is able to grab your attention and hold it—even though you may not be the most agreeable person to be with now. This won't stop your new friend from getting friendlier.

VIRGO (August 23-September 22) How about an old-fashioned slumber party? Variations on a theme are OK, but what's important is to gather together kindred souls and celebrate the joys of fellowship. You're living at a level that allows a great amount of growth.

LIBRA (September 23-October 22) A little confusion can go a long way. What's confusing you? And how much of the problem involves you confusing yourself? Granted, this is a very emotional time for you, but acceptance is the key word. You may be able to unlock an important door.

SCORPIO (October 23-November 21) You can now take hold of the responsibility that has previously taken hold of you. By carefully turning yourself to the right direction, all of the rewards of a job well done could come showering down. A cool summer night could bring bliss.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22-December 21) No one is into the joys of summer more than the Archer. You love the heat and the heat loves you. Everybody loves a lover, and no matter what your romantic status, you give off a warm and lively glow. You're at your most attractive now.

CAPRICORN (December 22-January 19) Problems with your mate must be faced. Turning away from a confrontation could prove disastrous. Try taking care of relationship business now, so that you both come out on top. The future looks promising after all's said and done.

AQUARIUS (January 20-February 18) Tune into your high-minded Aquarian ways. What are you doing anyway, groveling in the muck and slime? Do whatever it takes to get you back to your proper place. Don't be afraid to argue and stand up for what you know is right.

PISCES (February 19-March 20) When someone says, "Let's go!" don't hesitate. Don't you love guided tours? Guard against your tendency to wander off all alone in a state of pleasant dreamy solitude, though. Let a buddy take you where you ought to go. Feed the fire of companionship.

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America what she is today."

Merle Woo is a long-time civil rights activist who, in 1983, won a major court victory against the University of California because of discrimination on the basis of sex and race.

The Committee also voted to ask Lesbian and Gay elected officials, as well as Lesbian and

our community in an inclusive manner. It was difficult to decide who should lead the National March. The Committee thought that Lesbian/Gay elected officials and delegates would be a geographically more diverse group of people who are already recognized as leaders within their own community."

'84 and Counting'

Our Paper has joined the nationwide Gay Voter drive announced by the National Gay Task Force.

Readers may obtain a Santa Clara County voter registration form by sending in the coupon printed below or by stopping in the newspaper office at 973 Park Avenue, San Jose.

Names of readers responding to Our Paper's voter registration drive will be forwarded to the National Gay Task Force, on request, and will be maintained on the newspaper's mailing list for future information about elections and candidates.

Gay rights supporters are invited to participate, regardless of their sexual orientation. Gay rights is a human rights issue which should concern us all.

Partial List of Participating Groups

- Arkansas Gay and Lesbian Student Association
- Aspen Gay Community, Colorado
- Boston Lesbian/Gay Political Alliance
- D.C. Coalition of Black Gays
- Dignity, Kansas City, MO
- Dignity/Integrity of Louisville, KY
- Feminist Lesbian Action Coalition, Tempe, AZ
- Gay Activists Alliance of Washington, D.C.
- Gay & Lesbian Community Center of Colorado
- Gay and Lesbian Independent Democrats, New York, NY
- Gay Services of Kansas
- Gays & Lesbians of Ames, Iowa
- Gaytalk, Springfield, MO
- Gertrude Stein Democratic Club, Washington, D.C.
- Helen Diner Memorial Women's Center, East Lansing, MI
- Just Womyn, Mankato, MN
- Lambda Gay Alliance, Bozeman, MT
- Lambda, Inc., Birmingham, AL

- Lambda Independent Democrats of Brooklyn, NY
- Langston Hughes-Eleanor Roosevelt Democratic Club, Washington, D.C.
- Metropolitan Community Church, Boise, ID
- Metropolitan Community Church, Columbia, MO
- Metropolitan Community Church, Springfield, MO
- Minnesota Committee for Gay & Lesbian Rights
- Mississippi Gay Alliance
- National Gay Network, San Francisco, CA
- Our Paper, San Jose, CA
- San Diego Democratic Club
- United Covenant Mission Church, Columbia, MO
- Virginia Gay Alliance

Please send me a voter registration form and include me on your informational mailing list.

I am already registered to vote, but please put me on your mailing list for election information.

Please send my name and address to the National Gay Task Force for their mailing list.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State & Zip _____

Phone (optional) _____

Mail this coupon to:

Our Paper
973 Park Avenue
San Jose, CA 95126

National March

The National March for Lesbian/Gay Rights, Sunday, July 15th, announced the confirmation of eight new speakers.

These eight will join Virginia Apuzzo, Morris Knight, Bill Olwell, and Bobbi Campbell in addressing a huge rally in San Francisco on the eve of the Democratic National Convention. The new speakers are:

Rep. Karen Clark, Minnesota State Representative, and the only upfront Lesbian to hold elected office in the nation.

Representative Clark commented, "I am glad to be part of this important and historic event. I am proud of the efforts of our community to further goals of economic and social justice within the Democratic Party."

Supervisor **Harry Britt** will welcome the National Marchers to San Francisco.

Perry Watkins was thrown out of the U.S. Army for being Gay, after 16 years of service. He stated that he was Gay upon being drafted, and was openly Gay throughout his service. He needed four more years in the service to retire.

Watkins commented, "We're all American citizens. To deny one group of citizens their rights is to open the door for the denial of all rights to all citizens."

Flo Kennedy is a long-time civil rights activist. She spoke eloquently at the first National March for Lesbian/Gay Rights in Washington, D.C. in 1979.

Jose Gomez is the first openly Gay man on the National Board of Directors of the American Civil Liberties Union. He is currently the Executive Director of La Raza Centro Legal. Formerly, he was Co-Chair of the National Gay Task Force, as well as Executive Assistant to Cesar Chavez.

He stated, "This March will show the nation that the struggle for Lesbian and Gay rights is not only alive and well, but stronger and healthier than ever before. It will mark a turning point in a movement not defeated in the face of adversity, but rather made more powerful in a fight for our very lives."

Adele Starr, President of the Federation of Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (an international organization) announced, "We are proud to join the National March. Our Gay sons and Lesbian daughters are part of our family and deserve

the same human and civil rights as our other children. We will not tolerate the oppression of any of our children—it is unfair and unjust. We will march for all parents—those who know and those who do not know that they have Lesbian or Gay children.

Lawmakers should be aware that for the 20 million Lesbian and Gay people of the United States, there are 40 million parents," said Ms. Starr.

Miriam Ben-Shalom won a significant case against the U.S. Army regarding the exclusion of Gays from military service.

She commented, "I feel honored that I've been asked to participate as a speaker and a marcher. So many times the Gay community does not think of itself as being a united front. We see ourselves as being one group

here, one group there. The March is an historic event. We find ourselves balanced on the edge of history.

"By the hundreds of thousands we will come to San Francisco to show that we are not a divergent people, but that we are an integral part of the fabric of society, and we are part of the democratic process that has made Gay delegates to the Democratic Convention to lead the National March for Lesbian/Gay Rights.

The rest of the National March will be organized roughly by either geographic region or by demand. Contingents are encouraged to carry their own banners to show the extraordinary diversity of our community.

Marc Virga, Rally Committee Co-Chair, commented, "There has to be some ordering of a march of 100,000, and we felt this method shows the diversity of

BERNIE



Lesbian library receives grant

Sappho's Library, Inc. has received a grant from the Chicago Resource Center to study physical violence in Lesbian relationships. This \$20,000 award is among the many project grants benefiting Lesbians and Gays which the Chicago Resource Center has funded in the last two years.

The Sappho's Library study will be based on self-report questionnaires and will attempt to represent the diversity and variety of the Lesbian experience in the U.S.

For further information contact: Vicki Combs, project Director, 402 E. Park Avenue, Tallahassee, FL 32301; phone: (904) 224-7277

Classified Coupon

INSTRUCTIONS: Type or neatly print your ad exactly as you wish it to appear. Regular type is 25¢ per word, **bold type** is 50¢ per word. Add up the total cost of your ad. If you wish your ad to appear more than one time, multiply the number of times you wish your ad to run times the cost of the ad. If you run the same ad copy for six issues consecutively, you can deduct a 10% discount from the total. Ad copy deadline is noon Wednesday preceding publication. All ad copy must be in by that date—no exceptions. Ads cannot be taken over the phone. All ads must be prepaid. You may bring your copy into the office Monday through Friday, 10 am to 6 pm. OUR PAPER reserves the right to reject any ad it finds inconsistent with our advertising policies. **Phone numbers and Post Office Boxes count as 2 words.**

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