

Bath House Convention see Page 2

your paper your paper

Volume III Issue 21

Next Deadline: October 31 – Next Issue: November 7

October 24, 1984

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BAYMEC Candidate Recommendations

Much work is needed to change the public perception of what it means when a lesbian-gay organization endorses a candidate.

Candidates should be proud to receive our support because, along with endorsements from other groups fighting for civil rights, it signifies they stand for justice and fairness for all Americans.

The BAYMEC Board of Directors was concerned that in some political districts an endorsement could be used in a negative way.

The problem demonstrated the importance of lesbians and gays becoming involved in the political process.

If the political climate goes unchanged or gets worse, we will continue to be locked out.

The following recommendations were made by BAYMEC based on a written questionnaire and, in several cases, an interview.

Questions dealt with such subjects as AB 1, the ERA, health care, and civil and human rights.

In addition, the Board took positions on several state

Senate District #11

Arlen Gregorio*
Becky Morgan

Senate District #13

Betsy Smullen
Al Alquist

(The incumbent, Alquist voted against AB 1)

Assembly District #18

Martin Mehan
Alister McAlister

(The incumbent, McAlister, voted against AB 1)

Assembly District #19

Lou Papan*
Robert Silvestri

Assembly District #20

Art Lepore*
Bob Naylor

(The incumbent, Naylor, voted against AB 1)

Assembly District #21

Byron Sher*
Marley Wingrove

propositions because of the far-reaching impact they have on lesbian and gay issues in general.

Prop 36 (Taxation) – Say good-bye to any future funding for AIDS and many other state services if this inequitable property tax measure passes. Vote NO

Prop 39 (Reapportionment) – Say good-bye to many of our friends in the state assembly

and senate who support AB 1 if this measure passes. Oppose reapportionment by a non-representative panel of retired, non-elected state appellate court justices who would gerrymander the lines even worse. Vote NO

Prop 41 (Public Aid, Medical Systems Programs) – Unfair to anyone in need of medical care and social services, especially single heads of households, and

Assembly District #22

Gloria Ott*
Ernie Konnyu

(The incumbent, Konnyu, voted against AB 1)

Assembly District #23

John Vasconcellos*

Assembly District #24

Jack Sandoval
Dominic Cortese

(The incumbent, Cortese, voted against AB 1)

Assembly District #25

Rusty Areias

Santa Clara County Supervisorial District 5

Betsy Bechtel*
Diane McKenna

San Mateo County Supervisorial District 4

Tom Nolan*
Aldo Silvestri

San Jose City Council Seat 2

Judy Stable
Richard Vincent

** indicates a recommendation*

the elderly, many of whom are lesbians and gays. But all citizens would be the real losers. Each county in California would lose millions of dollars in MediCal revenues, including millions at county-owned hospitals. The cost of many of these programs would be transferred from the state to the counties, who don't have the revenues to pay for them. Vote NO

Please take these recommendations with you when you go to vote.

About the recommendation process: For the most part, the candidates interviewed came to realize BAYMEC was not asking for anything other than what other segments of the population have

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On November 6th take a step towards the future and vote the Democratic ticket.

- VOTE FOR YOUR DEMOCRATIC CONGRESSIONAL CANDIDATE, because a Democratic Congress fights for all Americans not just the rich and powerful.
- VOTE FOR YOUR DEMOCRATIC ASSEMBLY AND SENATE CANDIDATES, because fairness counts in Sacramento as well as in Washington.
- VOTE NO ON PROP. 36 because 2/3s of California's households would be grossly overtaxed.
- VOTE NO ON PROP. 38 because all Americans should be able to vote and participate in the election process.
- VOTE NO ON PROP. 39 because Judges should not be the political pawns of either political party.
- VOTE NO ON PROP. 40 because we don't want our politicians to be captives of the special interest money brokers.
- VOTE NO ON PROP. 41 because in California we are not going to let children go without food or elderly without medical care.

BAYMEC

Continued from first page

come to take for granted—health care, a proclamation, equal rights, and non-discriminatory government and business practices. Lesbians and gays have never asked for special treatment, just equal treatment.

Contrary to what the Moral Majority would want people to believe, the general public does not condone bigotry and oppression toward lesbians and gays. Our issues and concerns are not out-of-step with mainstream America. While most people do not understand the repression many lesbian and gays must confront and overcome in society, few would deny us the constitutional rights that some say we cannot have.

Time did not permit us to include congressional races in our political recommendations. Next election, BAYMEC will endorse in all races, both in the primary and the general.

Thanks to the many people who contributed their hard-earned money to BAYMEC, we are proud to say that over \$2000 was donated to candidates who were endorsed.

Individual campaigns are not won on contributions alone. Precinct walking, phone calling, and office work are just as important. BAYMEC urges people to volunteer for political work for endorsed candidates between now and November 6th. If you signed up for volunteer work on the contributor card, BAYMEC will be calling you. If you did not and would like to work several hours for a candidate, please call (408) 297-1024.

Please Vote!

**VOTE
Nov. 6**

**Second Annual
Bath House Convention**

by Ted Sahl

The Second Annual Bathhouse Convention met in San Jose October 8th through 11th. The Watergarden hosted the Independent Health Clubs for Gay Men and the Gay Northern California Bath Association at the St. Claire Hilton. Both organizations represent bathhouses throughout the United States and Canada.

The convention began with a cocktail party, a chance for the bathhouse owners to get acquainted with each other.

During the cocktail party a spokesperson for the Animals Bathhouse in San Francisco granted an interview with *Our Paper*.

Animals: The bathhouses, by virtue of headlines, have been closed at least three times. Even though the headlines announced the closure of the bathhouses, we found Silverman coming back and saying "There is no medical evidence linking AIDS to the bathhouses."

We have yet to see any credible evidence establishing such a link. We have always taken the position if there is such evidence, and if the public authorities will let us see it and make our own decision, we will voluntarily close down.

In fact, to the contrary much of the evidence we gathered on our own indicates that there is no cause and effect relationships

Our Paper: Are you saying that this was a hog-wash article that the Chronicle put in print to scare the community again.

A: I don't know if Mandel deliberately created an atmosphere of fear. I do know in the past one of the objectives of the Health Department and City Hall has been if they can't shut the bathhouses down they're going to discourage patrons from going to them.

One of the means of achieving that objective is to create a climate of fear. In fact, if you go back and read through all the press clippings of the last year and a half you'll find mention of discussions between the Health Department and City Hall as to the benefit of creating an atmosphere of fear as a way of unofficially closing down the bathhouses.

Now, if you want me to get into political motivations...

OP: Yes, I do. I've been reading articles in the Chronicle. This is the first opportunity to hear what a bathhouse owner in San Francisco is saying, thinking and feeling.

A: We could talk about this for days on end, cover all aspects of it, and still not come to a conclusion.

By now you would expect there

A: That is what I was told by a gentleman from New York.

OP: Who was that person? Was he from the medical field?

A: No, he was a bathhouse owner. He said he saw a statistical report out of the city or state of New York which did a profile of a typical AIDS patient. — I have not seen it.

OP: You're talking about one AIDS patient.

A: Anytime you have an epidemic one way of tracing down the cause is to do a profile, a shopping list. Subject "A" works in an office, "B" works in a factory, "A" drinks milk, "B" doesn't — until a common element is found.

On the other hand you have Mayor Feinstein in the same newspapers saying "I don't care if there's no evidence, I don't care if the courts turn us over, shut the bathhouses down."

There is no medical evidence. If the evidence does exist then why keep it a secret? Does the evidence suggest an emergency situation, which is what they're talking about?

Quarantine power in the state is justified by an emergency situation.

If it is an emergency situation and they have evidence to support it, why are we now going into four or five months of inaction on the part of the city.



would be statistical data that would be available which would set up a profile of a typical AIDS patient. A profile that could show how the disease is transmitted.

We have not seen any statistical data compiled by the City of San Francisco.

We understand that there has been data compiled in New York state. The conclusion reached from this data is that most, if not all, of the people who have contracted AIDS do not go to bathhouses.

OP: Is that a fact?

That's how you track down something like Legionnaire's Disease, you track down any recurring type of problems.

OP: Why then do you find the City of San Francisco so eager to shut down the bathhouses?

A: It could be paranoia. It could be political ambition. It could be any number of things.

You have a situation where Dr. Silverman has been pressured for several weeks to shut down the bathhouses. He has been saying that he has no legal basis to shut them down, as has been reported in the Chronicle and Examiner.

Actually, it's been longer, it's been a year and a half. It was summer before last that first mention of closing the bathhouses was made.

OP: The whole thing is kind of crazy. It is easy for me to comment because I am a straight man. Here we have thousands of men ill and dying from a disease. It is true those men might not be contracting AIDS in bathhouses and sex clubs, but the fact remains that people are dying. Are you telling me way down deep

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**Our paper
your paper**

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Typesetting & Layout
Ms. Atlas Press
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408/289-9231

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Civil liberties questions

**ACLU and BALIF
submit Amici brief**

Asserting that the San Francisco Public Health Director's order to close certain gay bookstores, theaters, and bathhouses "restricts or prohibits the exercise of constitutional rights," the American Civil Liberties Union and Bay Area Lawyers for Individual Freedom (BALIF) filed a friends of the court brief in the bathhouse closure lawsuit in San Francisco Superior Court on Monday, October 15.

The amici brief charges that the burden of proving that closing the gay establishments constitutes a necessary public health effort lies squarely on the shoulders of Dr. Mervyn Silverman, the city Public Health Director.

"Because his action restricts the constitutional rights to privacy and association of certain members of the community, namely the gay men who patronize the threatened establishments, a 'strict scrutiny' standard of review must be applied by the court," said ACLU-NC staff attorney Donna Hitchens.

Hitchens and BALIF's Roberta Achtenberg asserted that Dr. Silverman must prove three things: 1) that the closure order seeks to achieve a "compelling government interest"; 2) that the closure of the bathhouses, bookstores and theaters is necessary to achieve that interest and 3) that there is no less restrictive means to achieve that interest.

"When people's constitutional rights are curtailed in any way, the government must prove beyond a doubt that such curtailment under strict scrutiny is absolutely necessary for a compelling government interest," Hitchens said.

In this case, the closure order will significantly curtail the associational and privacy rights of San Francisco's gay male community. It will, for example stop many activities that have no

GGBA Statement

The Golden Gate Business Association (GGBA) is strongly opposed to the October 9, 1984 actions of the Director of Public Health as they encroach upon the civil rights of lesbian/gay persons, the intrusion of government on private property rights of businesses without verifiable medical data.

The inflammatory and inaccurate language in the public statement of the Director of Public Health is unnecessarily homophobic and provocative.

GGBA reiterates its commitment to education, advocacy, and fund raising as an effective means of dealing with the AIDS health crisis.

We are particularly concerned with the message of the closure of businesses sends to the rest of the country. We deplore the erosion of civil and human rights and the violence on lesbians and gays that will follow from this motion.

To this end the GGBA Board of Directors has unanimously endorsed and pledged full support to the partnership formed by the San Francisco AIDS Foundation and including the lesbian/gay political clubs. This partnership will work closely with the businesses and create meaningful, effective and enforceable standards.

relationship to the spread of AIDS, such as the purchase of books, the viewing of movies and the use of hot tub and sauna facilities.

"While stopping the spread of AIDS is obviously an important public health goal, the court must evaluate whether or not closing the gay establishments will both achieve that goal and is a necessary action," Hitchens said.

"If there are other means available to city officials to stop the spread of AIDS, the closure of gay establishments is not constitutionally allowed. We feel it is absolutely necessary for the court to seek that proof," she added.

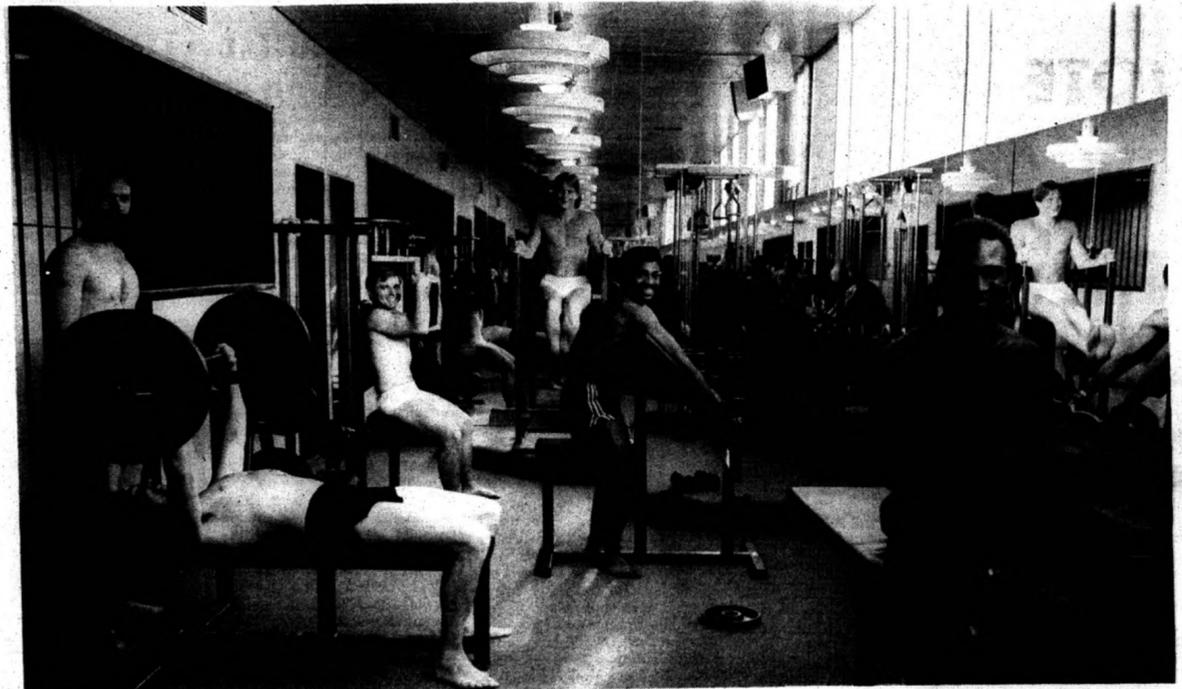
The friends of the court brief was filed as part of the lawsuit in which the City Attorney is seeking a court order to close 14 gay establishments.

The ACLU and BALIF are organizations which have traditionally focused on civil liberties issues. This brief was filed solely to ask the court to address the constitutional concerns of privacy and association and does not specifically support or oppose the closure of the gay establishments.

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Victory in Texas!

Federal Court Dismisses Texas Sodomy Law Appeal

A three judge panel of the United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit has preserved a lower court decision holding the Texas sodomy law unconstitutional by dismissing the appeal of District Attorney Danny Hill in *Baker-vs-Wade*.

The court's September 21 decision does not discuss the merits of the case, holding only that District Attorney Hill did not have standing to bring an appeal in the case when both the Attorney General of Texas and the representatives of the class of all district attorneys in the state had decided not to appeal the decision.

The Fifth Circuit decision leaves intact the significant gay rights victory where the district court found the law to be unconstitutional in a well-reasoned, thorough decision that has already been cited in a number of cases since it was issued.

Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund, Inc. filed an *amicus* brief, arguing that sodomy laws violate the constitutional right to privacy, and that this important rights should not be "chopped into illogical compartments marked 'heterosexual' or 'homosexual,' 'married' or 'single.'"

"There is only one privacy right, and its application and principles should be uniform."

Other *amicus* briefs were filed by the Texas Human Rights Foundation and National Gay Rights Advocates. The plaintiff was represented by Dallas attorney James Barber.

Explains Abby Rubinfeld, Lambda managing attorney: "This case is extremely significant in that the ruling leaves intact the excellent decision of the court below, and allows work to continue in challenges to the sodomy laws in the remaining 25 non-reformed jurisdictions."

"It is not the complete victory that it could have been had the appellate court affirmed the decision on the merits, but it is a

victory nonetheless, and one that we will be able to use in future challenges."

An interesting and ominous development in this case occurred when the so-called "Dallas Doctors Against AIDS" filed an *amicus* brief on behalf of District Attorney Hill.

Their brief argued that sodomy laws are valid and should be upheld because they work to protect the public health through minimizing the spread of AIDS.

"This case takes on added significance due to the involvement of DDAA, and to the fact that neither the lower court nor the appellate court accepted their outrageous argument that sodomy laws were necessary to curtail the spread of AIDS."

"It is obvious that criminalization is not the way to stop a serious disease. It's good to see that the courts have not accepted such an approach."

However, the efforts of the DDAA in this case should serve as a warning to us to be prepared for them in the future: this was not the first time, nor undoubtedly the last time, that we have had to fight DDAA," explains Rubinfeld.

Lambda is continuing to organize a national project to challenge sodomy laws in the remaining non-reformed states. The project involves all of the gay and lesbian legal organizations and the national ACLU.

"It is extremely important for the gay community—both women and men—to understand why challenging sodomy laws is a top priority of gay and lesbian legal groups," stresses Rubinfeld.

"Such laws are used against us in many ways well beyond simply arresting people for semi-public sexual activity. These laws are used to deny us rights in areas as diverse as custody cases and gay student group recognition. It is imperative that all such laws be stricken, and that we no longer wear the label of criminal."

3rd International convention for PFLAG

Several hundred delegates, representing more than 160 parent groups and contacts, attended the third international convention of the Federation of Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG) held in Denver.

Denver Mayor Fredrico Pena and Dr. Mary Calderone, former director of Planned Parenthood of America and former president of the Sex Information and Education Council of the United States, were the featured speakers on Saturday morning, discussing human rights and the knowns/unknowns about homosexuality in the medical and scientific communities respectively.

Adele Starr, nation president of the Federation of Parents FLAG, stated after the annual meeting of the National Board of Directors, "We will be continuing our religious outreach project for 1984-85. We want to work with the religious community in bringing reconciliation to families—in reaching out to 1 in 4 families that have a gay family member."

Commenting on the recent Violence Project of the National Gay Task Force, Starr continued, "We are very concerned about the documented violence and hostility against our children, and we appeal to the churches and the

clergy to join with us in stopping the violence. It is a shame to use religion to hurt our gay sons and lesbian daughters, and we will no longer remain silent while homophobic violence continues at such an alarming rate."

At the closing awards banquet Sunday evening, Phil Donahue was the recipient of the Federation's national Oscar Wilde Award.

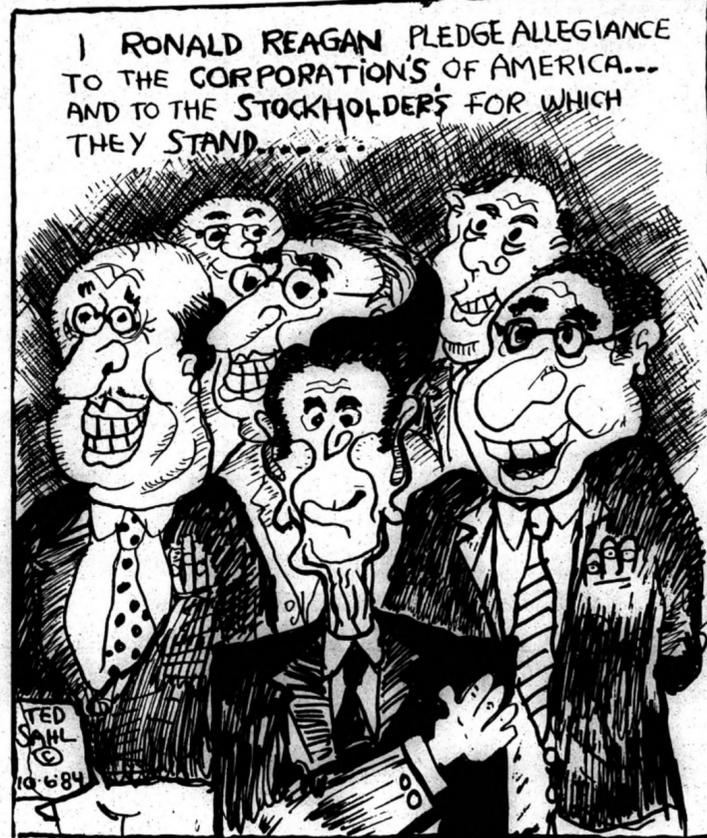
Colorado's First Lady Dottie Lamm accepted the award on Donahue's behalf and read a letter of acceptance from him, as he was out of the country at the time.

Retired United Methodist Bishop Melvin Wheatley, Jr., was the keynote speaker at the awards banquet.

Speaking to over 300 in the Fairmont Hotel's Grand Ballroom, Wheatley said to the gays present, "You must remember that each of you is a piece of God, a unique, indispensable part of creation's puzzle."

Wheatley is now teaching at the Claremont School of Theology in Claremont, CA.

For referral to a local Parents FLAG chapter or contact person, call (213) 472-8952, or write: Federation of Parents FLAG, Inc., P.O. Box 24565, Los Angeles, CA 90024.



Settlement in 1st AIDS discrimination suit

New York—Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund and Attorney General Robert Abrams announced that they have reached what they termed an "extremely favorable" court settlement on behalf of a doctor who was threatened with eviction because he treats persons with AIDS.

The Attorney General and Lambda filed suit last year after the board of a Greenwich Village cooperative sought to evict Dr. Joseph A. Sonnabend, an acknowledged expert in immunology and a pioneer in the search for a cure for AIDS. The doctor's offices had been located in the building at 49 West 12th Street since 1977.

Under the settlement, the co-op will award Dr. Sonnabend \$10,000 in damages, provide him with a new one-year lease, and pay the Attorney General's office \$1,000 in legal costs. The co-op board, while not admitting to past discrimination, has also agreed to refrain from discriminating against disabled persons in the leasing of its office space.

The suit had charged that the eviction would have constituted

discrimination against AIDS patients in violation of New York's Civil Rights Laws which protects disabled persons.

Abby Rubinfeld, Lambda's managing attorney, stated: "Since the AIDS epidemic hit this country, Lambda has received hundreds of telephone calls from people who have AIDS, from people who are suspected of having AIDS, and from family and friends of those with AIDS."

The callous discrimination by landlords, employers, school officials and even morticians is shocking. The Sonnabend case should let all persons know that blatant and cruel discrimination of this sort will not be tolerated."

Attorney General Abrams said: "There is absolutely no evidence that AIDS can be transmitted through casual contact like walking past someone, sharing an elevator or shaking hands."

"The discrimination faced by people with AIDS—such as the attempted eviction of Dr. Sonnabend—is a result of ignorance and fear. This case demonstrates that New York law protects people with AIDS against discrimination."

In addition to representing Dr. Sonnabend, who is Scientific Chair of the AIDS Medical Foundation, Lambda represented five of Dr. Sonnabend's patients.

In commenting on the litigation, Dr. Sonnabend reflected: "I brought this test case lawsuit because I could not stand by and see my patients victimized by unfounded fears. All of the research that has been done on the AIDS epidemic to date supports the view that AIDS is not casually transmitted."

"There is absolutely no danger to people who live in the building if a person who has AIDS walks through the lobby."

Representing Lambda as counsel in the litigation was Teitlebaum & Hiller, a New York law firm which has brought a number of leading civil rights cases. Wm. Hibsher, the member who handled the case said:

"I hope that the effective work done by Lambda and the office of the Attorney General will establish legal precedent and stop those who would discriminate against this population, which is deserving of our compassion."

Announcement

If you're in the market for a personal computer, but the strange words and different models confuse you, here's help. A two-evening workshop at San Jose State University's new PC lab can show you what a computer can do for you.

Workshop meets Thursdays, Nov. 15 and 29 from 6 to 9 p.m. at the PC lab on the SJSU campus. Cost is \$50. For further information and registration assistance call (408) 277-2182, S.J.S.U. Office of Continuing Education.

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- 25. Bar tab - Worst runner up

DESPERADOS

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BATHS

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inside, that the bathhouses should not be shut down.

A: You are not suggesting that either of us, or any bathhouse owner, is so callous as to not be concerned about the death of people from AIDS.

I can assure you that we are as, or more, concerned because we have personal friends who have died from AIDS, and we care very much. O.K. Caring is not running off half-cocked.

What's going to happen if you shut down the baths? Forget about the money, we're talking about people.

OP: I see, no place a man can go to have safe sex.

A: Bathhouses are required to meet state codes to be licensed as bathhouses.

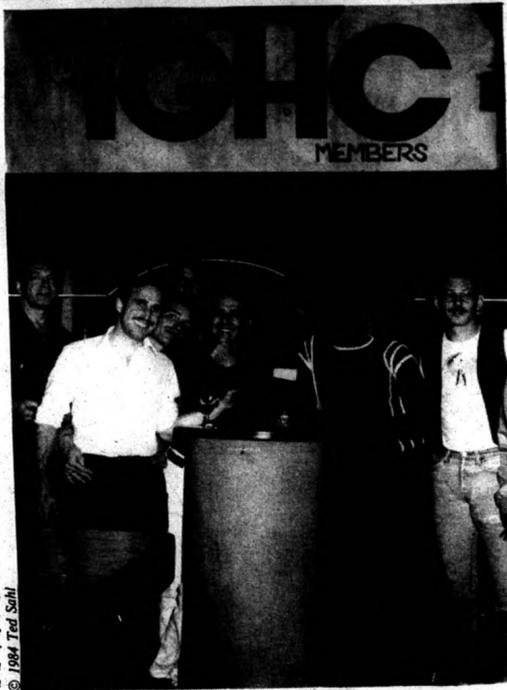
The private clubs are only required to have a general license, do not have to conform to the bathhouse health code regulations.

If the bathhouses are shut down people will have to go to places that do not have to conform to health codes. These places do not offer showers or offer rubbers. They do not seem to care, and are only interested in the green back.

Bathhouses do care. I have lost friends in the community, I do care. I would rather they came to my place than to have them go to a sleazy bookstore, or into the bushes.

The other point is that, even if you close down every business that may provide or cater to safe sex, you are not going to rule out sex...

If the bathhouses close down and the incidents of AIDS does not change in six months... what are you going to do next? How do you feed the clamoring public



© 1984 Ted Sahl

another solution?

Do you go back to criminalization? Do you go back to registration of Gays. Do you go back to segregation or put us into a ghetto?

To repress a segment of our society you go after the most OP: Nobody has made that argument to me before. That is scary, that is out of sight.

A: Are you a believer in looking backward in time? Seeing what has happened in the past because you can learn a lot from history, and you can learn a lot from human pattern.

Is the ultimate goal recriminalization? visible, most vulnerable group.

I'm not going to draw any parallel between America and Nazi Germany. But I could draw parallels on and on.

I don't know the motivations of City Hall, I don't know the motivations behind the powers of the City Hall.

All I know is that I read in the newspaper that the Health Department has reportedly said that there is no evidence. If there is no evidence, why continue? I don't know.

OP: Not being Gay, and not possessing the fear that a Gay man faces in his daily life, I missed the point you speak of so clearly. The fight goes deeper than meets the eye, and the press never mentions that.

A: I can point out another parallel—something has been said in the media recently about closing the Gay bathhouses by a Gay spokesman.

The Gay spokesman is much like the Jews in Nazi Germany who gave money to the Nazi party, who turned in other Jews.

There are Gays in San Francisco who have sold their birthright, and souls, for lunching with the mayor once a month—and an appointment to a political commission.

My friend and I are more concerned about people.

One of our friends, whom we had know for five years, died three weeks ago. He never went to a bathhouse, never engaged in a lot of sex, lived with his grandmother, didn't use drugs, didn't do any of the things that are supposed to cause AIDS. But he died of AIDS.

I don't know—there are a lot of things to look at—I don't know.

If, in fact, bathhouses spread AIDS, having sex spreads AIDS, Gay sex spreads AIDS, why are there not higher incidences of AIDS in the suburbs among married men. Because a lot of married men go to the bathhouses. They are "cross-overs."

I used to go to bathhouses when I was married, my lover used to go to bathhouses when he was married.

Why isn't it higher in that area? ...It gets very frustrating if you believe the rules of logic. Everything should have a connection before it moves on to the next point.

I don't think closing the baths is the answer. People will continue to have sex... My friend and I wish we knew the answer.

The next morning the business meetings began.

Paul Hardman, treasurer for the American Association for Personal Privacy (A.A.P.P.), was the keynote speaker at the opening meeting.

The A.A.P.P. has been established for about 14 years. The organization provides legal research and consultation for cases regarding invasions of personal privacy. Mr. Hardman stated that his organization would be providing assistance to the bathhouses in San Francisco.

After the business of the day was concluded, a tour of the San Francisco Bathhouses was conducted. The tour was followed by cocktails at the Elephant Walk Bar and dinner at Ivy's.

Dr. Silverman's announcement of the closing of the bathhouses, bookstores, and sex clubs in San Francisco came during the next day's meetings.

Things were quite hectic for a while after the announcement. There were T.V. crews throughout the convention. Sal Accardi, manager of the Watergarden, held a press conference and made a statement on behalf of the Northern California Bathhouse Association.

Eventually order was restored and business continued.

The last official act of the Bathhouse Convention was to give unanimous support to the San Francisco bathhouses in their fight against the City of San Francisco and Dr. Silverman. Funds will be forthcoming to aid in the fight.

At the close of the convention a party was held at Desperados. ●

Release of Guidelines

On confidentiality and AIDS research

The Hastings Center—a nationally known prominent institute devoted to the study of ethical issues in medicine—will release its Guidelines on Confidentiality in AIDS Research signed by eighteen leaders representing the Gay, Haitian, research, and public health communities.

Among the issues to be addressed in the Guidelines are:

- How can the privacy of AIDS research subjects be protected?
- What obligations do researchers have to protect the confidentiality of research files on AIDS subjects?

Among those presenting the Guidelines at the news conference are Ronald Bayer and Carol Levine of The Hastings Center, Dr. Mathilde Krim of the Sloan-Kettering Institute, Jeff Levi of the National Gay Task Force, and Robert Levine, M.D., of Yale Medical School.

The news conference will be held Wednesday, October 31, 1984, 10:30 a.m. at the Mark Hopkins Room, Williams Club, 24 E. 39th St., NYC. ●

• What changes are necessary to prevent the subpoena of AIDS research records by law enforcement officials?

• What protections should be provided to AIDS patients whose names are reported to public health departments for surveillance purposes?

• Can new studies of the HTLV virus be conducted in an ethically informed and scientifically sound fashion?



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Desperados welcomes IGHC convention

Desperados welcomed the IGHC convention with a special show. Jane Dorknacker, a wild funny, wacky lady who "knocked their socks off." Her "Born to be Heckled" routine kept everyone in a frenzy... Singing funky songs and a monologue kept everyone in hysterics. Noted for a hand-bag routine you have to see for yourself, rates her tops as a "Lady Comic."

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1984 GALA Choruses conference

by Larry Marcus

Throughout Labor Day weekend, 1984, Denver, Colorado was the site of the annual conference of the Gay and Lesbian Association of Choruses (GALA).

Fifty-six managers and musical directors representing twenty-five choruses from the United States and Canada were in attendance at the four-day event.

Representing the Liedermann Gay Men's Chorus were Jim Clark (Musical Director), and Larry Marcus (General Manager).

Elected to new terms of office for GALA were President Gary Miller, New York; Vice President Jerry Carlson, Los Angeles; Treasurer Terry Collings, Denver; and Secretary Tom Mann, Seattle.

The primary purposes of the GALA Choruses, organized in July 1983, are to promote and encourage communication among its member choruses and to aid in the formation of new choruses around the country.

This is achieved through shared musical and organizational expertise in all areas, particularly those involving the presentation of public performances, promotion, and community acceptance and support.

As at every conference, certain issues stood out. Among those presented by newly elected President Gary Miller were two controversies with two major professional music groups: The American Choral Directors Association (ACDA) and the C. F. Peters Publishing Company.

In regard to the former, ACDA, through its publication *The Choral Journal*, has chosen on two separate occasions to censor the material provided it for publication, by the New York City Gay Men's Chorus.

One instance involved ACDA's refusal to print a picture and bio of the group at a regional conference of the ACDA in spite of the fact that the printing of such material was provided for the other performing groups.

Another incident occurred when ACDA rejected a printed advertisement provided by the NYC/GMC announcing a major composition competition.

ACDA's stand on both occasions has been to "refrain from actions which give the approval or disapproval of non-musical controversies" such as "the issue of sexual preference."

Since GALA Choruses, Inc., is continuing to address the matter, President Miller asked all delegates to continue private communication with ACDA and to encourage that group to resolve these discriminatory practices.

Additionally, all GALA member choruses were urged to be represented at the 1985 ACDA Convention in (can you imagine?) Salt Lake City to continue to keep these controversies before ACDA until they are appropriately resolved.

In a related issue, GALA Choruses members were asked to boycott the Peters Publishing Company due to its refusal to list the New York City Gay Men's Chorus as the commissioning entity on a new work published by Peters.

Although there were many topics discussed at the conference, two other issues of major importance were reviewed.

The current problem of enrolling women into the Gay and Lesbian choral movement

Review

Old Fashioned Fun at LACT

by Rick Rudy

The Los Altos Conservatory Theatre is currently reviving a 1920's murder mystery melodrama called "The Bat." It is trite, often predictable, and has terrible dialogue but it is really a lot of fun.

The leading lady is Miss Cornelia VanGorder, a sort of American Miss Marple in the style of Margaret Rutherford. She has rented a country house on Long Island for the summer and soon discovers that someone has robbed a bank, hidden the money in a secret room in this house, and unknown persons are attempting to break in to get their hands on the loot.

Everyone, of course, is suspect when a murder occurs, and who will solve the crimes without getting killed forms the remaining plot. The bat in the title refers to the nickname of a local criminal who has never been caught and who leaves the sign of the bat at his crimes.

For further information about GALA Choruses, please write to: Gary Miller, President, GALA Choruses, Inc., 23 W. 85th, No. 2B, New York, N.Y. 10024; or to your local chorus in care of Liedermann, 392 Millpond Dr., San Jose, CA 95125. ●

Hale and she is marvelously sly and coy. She is full of vocal and facial expression, and consummately covers for the notably less skillful remainder of the cast.

Betty Dale plays the English maid Lizzie who is frightened by every sound. Dale makes the most of this quivering role, but one could wish for a little less shrieking.

Billy, the butler, is played by Anthony Castle who makes this part visible by donning a different hat for his every appearance on stage.

Brooks, the bank clerk whom the police suspect of having committed the robbery at the bank, is played by Tim Reynolds. He is a good looking young man, ostensibly "the hero" but he behaves more like a scared rabbit than a stalwart bastion of Goodness.

Sheryl Abbott plays Miss Dale Ogden, Brooks' fiancée, who alternately assists and hampers the search. Abbott plays the role very melodramatically, much

more so than the rest of the cast, which increased the audience's confusion.

Doctor Wells, the local physician, is played rather stiffly by Harvey Friedland, while Robert Tockman manages a suavely pompous Reginald Beresford, the doctor's friend.

William Hines is the police detective Anderson and gives a strong, ruthless portrayal.

The show is directed jointly by Rolene AuClaire and Doyné Mraz in a brisk and energetic style. The play is long for its content, and the upbeat pacing often saves it from bogging down.

Despite the unevenness in the acting, most of the audience could not penetrate the mystery until the very end. I take this to be a good omen and recommend "The Bat" as a refreshing change from the night time soaps.

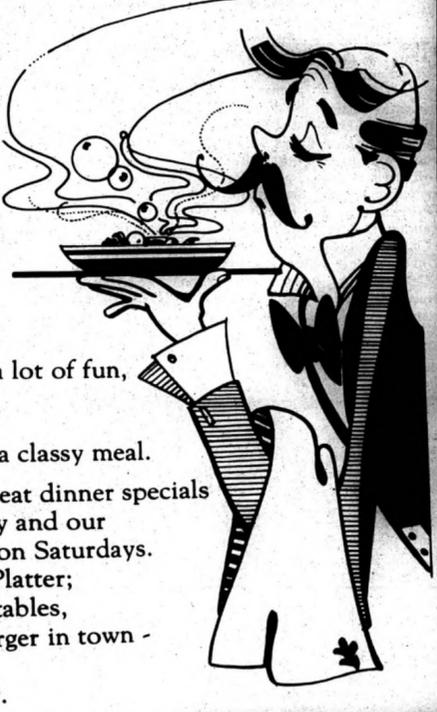
Call LACT at (415) 941-LACT for tickets. The show continues through November 3. ■

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Out of the Shadows...

Barbara Sebastian — Energy and the Edges of Vessels

by Ron Schmidt

When Arthur Heath boosted his kid sister into the backyard tree in 1947 neither of them suspected the significance of the act.

"I sat in the fork of that tree in San Diego," says potter Barbara Sebastian, now 42, "looking out through an opening at La Mesa. After that I would go back there again and again to sit and contemplate life."

The wind on the patio outside The Connection ruffles Sebastian's brown page boy hair. Triangles of chrome and brass shimmer in the soft covers below her ears as she sips a mocha cappuccino and studies the gathering of clouds darkening the art building wherein Gallery 6 hosts her latest exhibition — Vessel House Two. Her jaw is wide but not heavy, her voice edged in a rasp I have not heard since Olivia DeHaviland relinquished the Silver Screen. There is a terse candor to her speech and even a DeHaviland sense of seizing about the eyes. They mean what they see.

"In the MFA seminar here at San Jose State, Jacqueline Thurston had us write about ourselves to get us in touch with our work. I realized, when I wrote about that tree, that Arthur had actually boosted me into a place of higher consciousness."

Youngest of four children, Sebastian was distanced from her brothers and sisters by 15, 17 and 19 years. Arthur was the youngest of her parents' first family. He was her buddy.

"We never had trite conversations," she reflects. "He stayed with me for a couple of weeks while he was recuperating from a heart attack toward the end of his life and he mentioned that he suspected someone we both knew was a closet case."

Halting, Sebastian remembers that she began to quiver. "I am Gay, Arthur," she told him.

Registering no surprise Arthur replied, "I really question my own sexuality. But I've never loved a man. I don't know I've ever loved anyone."

The pain of that memory is eased by the fact that Sebastian

was with Arthur in the end as he had been with her in the beginning.

"My work really informs me of where I am," she continues. "I grew up in an adult world. My mother, at 83, has spent the last part of her life making up for feeling guilty about having me. My father was an engineer who traveled a lot. I was very separate from him. He was authoritarian, a man of few words. When he said anything you knew he meant it. I guess I was afraid of him. It was only after he'd been forced into retirement, taken up carpentry, and gone bankrupt that I held hands with him for the first time. It was at Christmas and he wasn't well. I'd thought that whole experience had been very hard on him but what he said to me was incredible. 'The last three years of my life have been the happiest.'

"What he was saying to me was that it had been worth taking the risk. . . and it was a wonderful gift he was giving me. That was there when I was finally ready to go into art. . . a time that would come only after degrees in physical education and math from U.C. Berkeley, a marriage that was a mistake from the start, and nine years into a teaching career.

Commenting on that detour to the present, Sebastian says, "I was too geared to others' expectations."

Her laughter is soft as the comfortable burgundy blouse tucked into her jeans.

"My mother dabbled in oil painting. She still doesn't understand that with my vessels I'm an artist. . . But the spirituality, the creativity (in my work) come from her.

"Clay is a great canvas," Sebastian asserts, articulating the evolutionary process that marks her "continual journey."

"I've always been a closet painter who's had trouble with paper shapes. I am a potter but have always loved doing very large vessels as containers of energy. I took the vessel form and made it two dimensional."

Her ringed fingers covet the warmth of her cappuccino.

"A lot of what I do is spray, air brush, putting my hands on my work. . . oil, acrylic, enamel, pastel, inck. . . any medium that fits at the moment on my vessels."

I return with her voice to the art building where earlier we examined her work. Gallery 6 is soft gray and solid—even the pedestals merge with the walls so that the four pieces of the Palenque Series seem simply to occupy the space "between two and three dimensions". . . great shards of becoming and of having been.

"The edges are real important to me," she explains, "which is why the vessels aren't just sitting. The notion of not being afraid to go to the edge and look over is very personal to me."

As I listen I feel her father's hand slip into hers and I nod.

"In recent travels I visited the Guatemalan Temple of Tecal and the Mayan Temple of the Sun at Palenque. . . and I discovered something magical."

Her eyes hold mine.

"All those people were gone yet the energy was still there! That experience burned a universal consciousness in my mind."

The concept of the temples as containers of energy reinforced her intent with her vessels.

"I'm trying to embody things you can't normally embody—Time, Energy. As I said, my work informs me of where I am."

In Labyrinth and Passage Trilogy, a separate segment of her current exhibition, Sebastian imposed a rectangular shape by spraying a cardboard stencil against each piece.

"When I set it (the stencil) aside, I suddenly said, 'Oh, my God! It's a doorway!'"

"That put the notion of house in my head but house has become hackneyed in art symbolism and I wanted something different."

Barbara Sebastian says she is no poet yet she wrote these lines about her Gallery 6 vessels:

"Palenque Series: A Vessel House contains/shadows of the past/the present/and on./Memories/of the same/dreams/magic./and doorways;(the way through a door/is not/necessarily/the way out)."

The doorway to Sebastian's becoming a professional artist defined her search by a similarly circuitous passage. A high school cheerleader, by age 16 she was also swimming and diving in competitions at the national level. He close friend at that time was Kurt, a 15-year-old poet with whom she spent hours in coffee shops talking about life. For Christmas Kurt gave Barbara a globe that his own mother had given to him. It was rough on the outside but very beautiful within. "You have to realize," he told her, "that this is a giving gift. You can't keep it. You have to give it some other special person."

"I didn't know anyone else could be so sensitive," Sebastian reflects. . .

Her head tilts.

"When I married I kept feeling I should give it to my husband but it never seemed right. I kept it hidden till Liz, my first woman lover. Liz and I didn't last that long but it was a very beautiful relationship, loving and wonderful, not like the image I'd had of homosexual relationships. I thought, 'Why can't real life be like this?' We were in the Flower Child period and that made me feel it was okay to reach out to another woman."

Sebastian's secondary teaching position in P.E. at San Bruno's Capuchino High nudged her into the arts in which she'd always been interested but reluctant to major. The sudden resignation of the dance teacher left her closest to qualifying for that position

and from dance she stepped into drama and finally into pottery.

"Ric Nazareus in the drama department was my great buddy on that staff. In '68 some kids approached us about doing Tommy and the Who. This was still the Flower Children era and we got real excited about it. There were those who said if we did a rock musical there'd be rioting in the aisles, but it was so successful Channel 4 came and we were on the news. We did the choreography, the kids did the music, we got the English instructor involved. . ."

Tommy and the Who marked the end of Barbara Sebastian's marriage also. She took a place above a Burlingame garage and began meeting other Gay people.

"Tommy exemplified a search for me. Because of my growing time commitments my husband had said, 'It's Tommy or me.' I chose Tommy. Later I realized it was the biggest risk I've ever taken. Risks since then have been easier because I know they're worth taking."

Throwing clay came into Sebastian's life through art instructor Stan Grosse on the Capuchino staff. "He's been a great influence in my life and still comes to an opening or invites me to gatherings that turn me on to other galleries."

"One of my first real lovers bought me my wheel and suddenly I never had enough time. Somehow I couldn't teach and do clay. In 1975 a friend and I decided to quit teaching and make it as artists. I was barely an intermediate potter."

That was when potter met patron.

"Melanie was a woman I met who said she believed in my work and would support me if I had difficulty. We became lovers. We lived in San Francisco and I found a studio in a co-op in Berkeley. I was working in stoneware seven days a week. I began doing crafts fairs. Production work is very tiring."

"One day on my way home I was stopped in bridge traffic outside Berkeley where the marshes are. I was looking across at Tamalpais and it was so beautiful I asked myself, 'How can I capture that?' I lay awake the next two nights and came up with my little covered jars. That's how I began supporting myself."

"The covered jars are all porcelain but natural clay on the outside and deep blue porcelain inside. . ."

The smile returns.

"It was Kurt's gift coming back to me. . . the geode. . . rough on the outside and so beautiful inside. I haven't seen Kurt in years. The last time was at Pier 1 in San Francisco. He was married and had a beard. He had changed so much but I recognized his eyes. . . I'm not sure what I gave to him, but I know what he gave to me, and I have the feeling it was mutual."

The relationship with Melanie lasted five years. Sebastian describes it as the "best and the

best and the best."

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worst." By the end she realized it was heavy and negative. "I give too much of myself up," she explains. "It's hard to realize that at my age I'm still doing things my mother did—and keep trying to change that. I had taken responsibility for so much."

Distracting herself with redecorating the house, Sebastian sought out an objective ear at Pacific Center as well and began to trust her own intuition about the future of the relationship.

With her share of the sale of the San Francisco house, Barbara Sebastian decided this was the time to go back to school for the further journey into her art.

"I was willing to give the security all up and go to the extreme, the edge. I was able to buy a home in San Jose, rent out rooms, sell my covered jars, and do my art. My master's show will be in May. . . so here I am."

And Gayness? Is that an integral part of her art?

"I feel that my art is about being a human being," she says, "and fully accepting myself."

Recently Barbara Sebastian informed her sister who kept trying to set her up with men why she shouldn't. Her sister replied that she loved her, didn't understand, and had a lot of questions.

"She's still there for me," Sebastian affirms. It's okay if she doesn't understand. That's her struggle." Her finger taps the table emphatically. "I spent so much time taking care of other people—protecting them from who I am and I was really only trying to make it easier on myself. I didn't want to have to deal with that. But accepting yourself is about taking care of yourself. If your family really loves you, ideally they want you to be happy. The conflict is that their image of what will make you happy is different."

"My art is the search for myself and the accepting of who I am supports my search for my expression of myself. Does that make sense? I mean they're connected in a metaphorical way. I don't think I'm expressing my Gayness in my work. I may be expressing the female side more than the male but I recognize both parts. I think that being able to come out has freed me for doing what is essentially me rather than living for someone else's standards or beliefs. That search for one's sexuality is no different than the search for the rest of one's life and I don't think you can be honest about one area and not in another."

The clouds accentuate October's early end to the day. A gale picks Barbara Sebastian's cappuccino cup from the table and clatters it across the patio. Sure-footed in her sandals, she retrieves and discards the empty container. I rise, expressing appreciation for this time well spent, and begin the cross-campus trek to my car. . . myself a metaphorical vessel of Sebastian energy.

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In the Offing. . .

by Ron Schmidt

Auditions, Openings, and Showcases are the key words in the current entertainment season. Four days hence on October 28, for example, Larry Janssen and Tom Newby of San Jose Ballroom and Dance Centre, 1040 Park Avenue in San Jose, host an 11 to 11 Showcases of Ballroom Dance at His Lordship's, #199 Seawall Drive at the Berkeley Marina. An opportunity for students of ballroom dancing to do exhibition work, this event will also feature an exhibition by the U.S. Latin champions who have just returned from placing second in world competition in the Big Apple. (408) 289-9807 is your combination for details.

Auditions for Palo Alto Players' Winter Musical Showcase are scheduled this Saturday and Sunday, the 28th and 29th, at 10:00 a.m. and on October 29 at 7:30. Forty-plus performers are needed for "Oh Coward!" and "A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum." "A History of the American Film" auditions November 10 and 11 at 10:00 a.m. Peter Bliznick at (415) 329-2319 or 1305 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto, is your contact.

Auditions for the December 2 Winter Showcase of integrated arts will be held at the Los Gatos Academy of Dance, November 4 from 2:00-5:00. #16 Lyndon Avenue, Los Gatos gets you specifically on site. This event is the premier of the Arts Council of Gay and Lesbian San Jose and is designed to exhibit the visual and performing artistry of our specific community within the community at large. Interested artists should contact the Arts Council by calling (408) 737-0214, or by sending resumes and requests c/o OUR PAPER, 973 Park Avenue, San Jose 95126. Not only artists need apply. If you are interested in the arts, the Arts Council of Gay and Lesbian San Jose needs you, your time, your energy, your ideas. . . and your funds.

Opening November 3 for Friday and Saturday performances through December 1, Show Boat is West Valley Light Opera's offering. 8:30 p.m. curtains with Sunday matinees at 2:30 and a Thursday at 8:30 tucked in on November 29. Saratoga Civic Theatre, 13777 Fruitvale Avenue, Saratoga or (408) 268-3777 or 358-1896 makes your connection.

The Quintessential Image by Jane Chambers and After Eleven by Victor Bambalo opened Theatre Rhinoceros' 8th season on October 20, but, luckily, you can still catch this comedy pair through December 2. Rhino is significance with an impact in Our Community and well worth the drive to San Francisco to experience. 2926 16th Street or (415) 861-5079 Tuesday-Sunday from 3-7 p.m. is your link to your seat.

On the subject of Rhino, that theatre's executive director, Kris Gannon, sings her own folk and blues compositions in Valencia Rose's Cabaret November 4 at 8 for a \$6 tab. (415) 863-3863 lets you talk to Dennis Powers about reservations.

Speaking of subjects and roses, Villa Montalvo's Carriage House Theatre puts the two together Thursday, Friday and Saturday in its last three performances of The Subject was Roses, Frank D. Gilroy's Pulitzer Prize Winner. (408) 268-3777 secures your seating for this 8:30 p.m. er.

Ashland, Oregon is sending its very own Shrew to Palo Alto's Stanford Theatre November 6 for a Tuesday through Sunday run. Driving that distance for so prestigious a production is a tame idea, indeed. (415) 322-1891 secures your seating.

Bay Area Women's Philharmonic opens its fourth season Saturday, November 17 at San Francisco's First Congregational Church on Post and Mason. The 8:00 p.m. performance features the "Bay Area premier of Lili Boulanger's Psalm 24 and the monumental Psalm 130, Du Fond De L'Abime. Mariam Abrams has ticket info at (415) 626-4888.

Sisterspirit's Halloween Dance and Celebration haunts First Unitarian from 8:00 to midnight this Friday here at Bay's End. The 160 N. 3rd location is where you'll need to park broomsticks. (408) 377-2007 can still save you a dollar at the door of this five-spot event.

The Eve of All Hallows, of course, is the particular Feast of the Faeries and, if you have never made the pilgrimage to the Castro for the event, your experience is lacking, indeed. If you have been there, you're bound to go back; it has that effect. Treat yourself. ■

Announcement

The Gender Gap Action Campaign will appear on November 5th for a rally called "Why Women Should Retire Reagan." Speakers will include actress, Susan Day (The Partridge Family), Lela Wood (Natalie Wood's sister), and Jan Pettrson from the National Organization for Women.

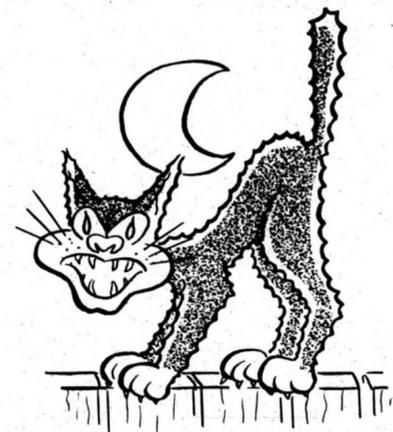
The Gender Gap Action Campaign was begun by past N.O.W. President, Eleanor Smeal, actor Paul Newman, and others who have felt the urgency to speak out about the widening gap in economic, social and political opportunities between males and females.

The rally will take place the day before election day, Monday November 5th at the San Jose State University's Amphitheatre (or in case of rain, on the Upper Pad in the Student Union) from noon to 1 p.m. Bring your signs and your energy.

For more information call Nancy 277-2047. ■



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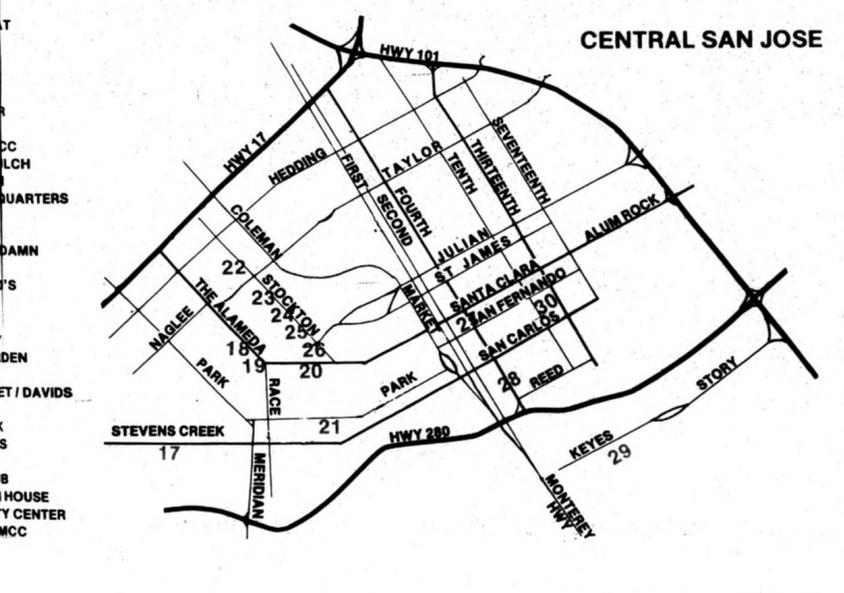
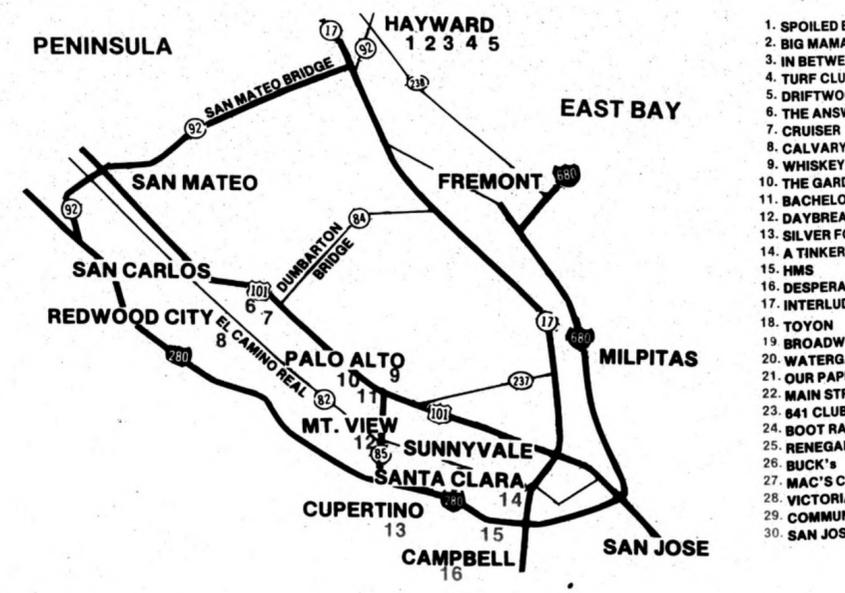
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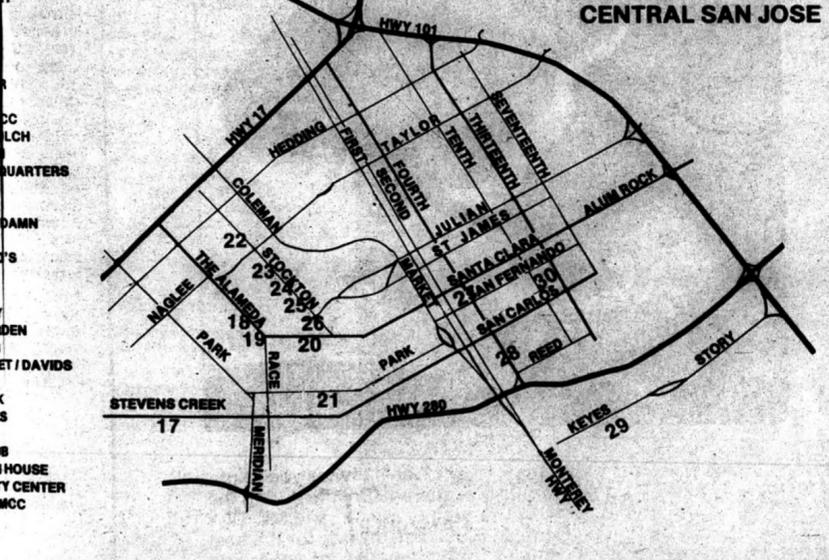
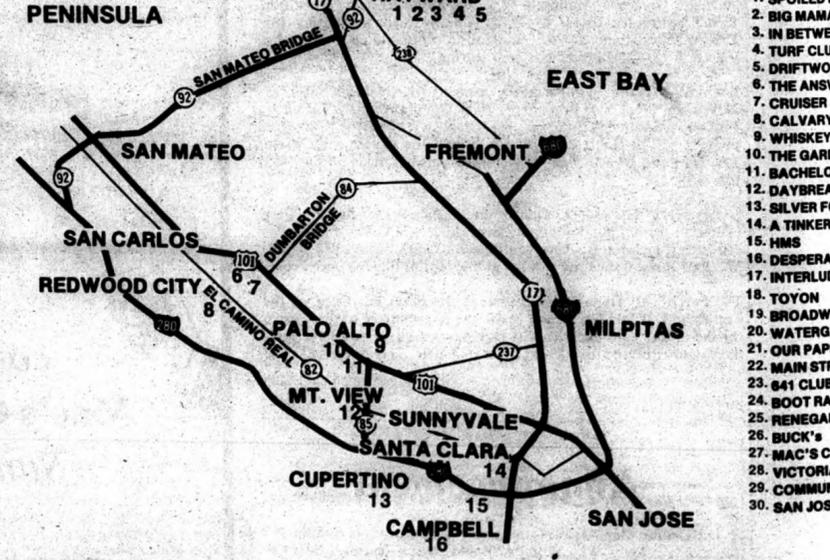
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Opera Review

Flute's magic nearly dispelled by Derby

by Ron Schmidt

Cultural crosscurrents caught this Garden City ill-prepared October 6 as olive-skinned San Joseans milled about City Plaza Park sharing pride in their Italian heritage with hundreds of fellow Americans; hundreds more filled the Civic Auditorium after chants of "Open the doors, you dumb jerks!" worked like "Open Sesame" for Roller Derby fans; and Montgomery Theatre overflowed with a capacity crowd for Opera San Jose's inaugural performance of *The Magic Flute*. . . a gem the brilliance of which was marred by no air conditioning in the first act, balcony seating so cramped that even short people feel tall, and repeated peals of ovation, cheers, and whistles from the free wheelers beyond the common wall.

lament, "When will the city give us a theatre?"

Indeed, masterpieces need their own space and Mozart's *Magic Flute* is commonly regarded to be



Blue-gowned and gracious, executive director Irene Dalis moved among the lamplit Opera San Jose buffets in the courtyard at intermission, assuring them of relief from the heat that drove many men to shed coats for a modicum of comfort during Tamino's search for Pamina from the dark realm of the Queen of the Night to Sarastro's radiant temple of the Sun.

They said we'd lose the lights if we turned on the air conditioning," said Dalis. "I told them it's either that or lose the audience. They'll go to sleep in this heat."

Competition from the Roller Derby crowd caused her to

a masterpiece, albeit, according to William Mann, "a puzzling work, trivial on the surface, but essentially sublime."

Milton Cross went a step further, calling "the plot. . . a curious hodgepodge of political satire, the symbolism of Freemasonry, and naive humor, set against an Egyptian background."

Knowing that Mozart intended the Queen of the Night as a less than flattering representation of Austria's Empress Maria Theresa, an opponent of Freemasonry, and Tamino, an

idealization of Emperor Joseph II who was well disposed toward the order, adds immeasurably to the unraveling of the puzzle, removing the trivia from *Magic Flute's* sublime essence and projecting Pamina, daughter to the Queen, into position as the Austrian people. Granted, a program has only so much space. It is nonetheless regrettable that the dimension of this background was not as available to the audience as the plot synopsis. . .

Gerard's fine bass as Sarastro suffered projection problems from the inner stage. Ravi Atlas was a lively Monostatos. Mimi Hazelton, Rachel Louis, and Claire Campbell as the three ladies blended full-bodied voices and equally mature presence to their dark-gowned roles. Soprano Debora Lerch-Reed was light and perfect foil as Papagena for Tamino's foil, Papageno, played by agile-voiced and lissome-limbed favorite Phillip Done. Though in real life Papageno would doubtless have been next door at the Derby, baritone Done quickened the Mozart message of Masonic symbolism with his wonderfully visceral portrayal of this wonderfully visceral fellow.

Peter David Heth's costuming was marked by subtle elegance. Set design did little to enhance the whole, much to tax the imagination. . . even to the in-the-wings monster breathing through spots stretched thin by the orchestral rendition of *Magic Flute* was under the baton and in perfect accord with conductor Jan Popper, an intimacy itself worth enduring the limitations of space and scheduling.

Daniel Helfgot was production and stage director for this impressive season opener which closed October 14.

Opera San Jose returns December 15 and 16 with *Amahl And The Night Visitors*; March 2, 3, 9, and 10 with *Albert Herring*; June 8, 9, 15 and 16 with *La Traviata*.

especially in a company so committed to the cause of education.

Nothing trivial defined Randall Cooper's rendering of the princely Tamino either in appearance or vocally. The musical inter-course of this talented tenor with soprano Lisa Winberg's sensitive Pamina redoubled the determination of balcony viewers through spots stretched thin by the unfortunate co-scheduling.

Eilana Lappalainen's florid Queen was appropriately impassioned, though less than articulate at times. Ronald

Campaign raises funds

Over \$2000 was raised at a fundraiser honoring attorney Matt Coles, author of the Oakland, Berkeley, and San Francisco Lesbian/Gay Rights ordinances.

The event was held by the Campaign for Equality, the political action fund of the East Bay Lesbian/Gay Democratic Club.

Tom Brougham, PAC chair, of EBL/GDC, presented Coles with a plaque honoring his years of achievement and dedication to the civil rights of lesbians and gay men. On hand were many friends and admirers of Coles, from both sides of the bay.

The week following the fundraiser the Campaign announced its first contributions of the fall season: \$500 to Oakland City Councilmember Marge Gibson, who is running for Alameda County Supervisor, District 4; \$100 to attorney Peggy Hora who is running for Municipal Court Judge in Hayward; and \$200 each to Berkeley City Council candidate Ann Chandler and Berkeley School Board member Steve Lustig.

In addition, approximately \$900 was allocated for printing and mailing of an EBL/GDC slate card and the placement of several ads in local and gay papers.

Announcement

Hyacinthus, the cultural and social group for gay women and men of Greek ancestry, is planning a potluck in early December for both old and new members. Since Hyacinthus has been inactive for some time, the forthcoming reunion will give interested people an opportunity to discuss the viability and future direction of the group. For more information write: Hyacinthus, Box 14022, San Francisco, CA 94114 or call Nikos at (415) 775-6143 (10 a.m. to 10 p.m.)

Review and Commentary

Sr. Mary Ignatius explains it all for you

by Jennifer Hewins

Well. . . almost All of It. I admit I approached this play with some skepticism and only a little bit of hope that, maybe, someone had been willing to tastefully and compassionately portray this familiar scenario from some of our childhoods, and been able to realistically include the range of experiences of growing up in a Catholic school; from the fondest moments to the most questioning and difficult ones.

outrageous lines and gestures provided a warm undercurrent of amusement throughout the first half of the play. We were laughing at ourselves, as well as at (and with) Sr. Mary. Her quiz-questions to Thomas, one of her young students, brought forth well-memorized responses, with the promise of reward for each correct answer. Their interaction exemplified the absurdity of any of us ever believing (and continuing to believe), without question, All that we are taught.

Being a teacher myself, I was delighted at the scene depicting every teacher's most heartfelt dream; a group of former students, returning, seemingly, to express their gratitude to Sr. Mary. The students' rendition of *The Birth of Jesus* (not to be confused with the Immaculate Conception), complete with song, dance, and the most loveable camel I've ever seen, was supposedly a tribute for All that Sr. Mary had done for them.

As the students' finished, and the camel took off his-and-her costume, the tone of the play changed abruptly. Almost

Continued on page 13

Masquerade Ball



A Tinker's Damn invites you to our Annual Masquerade Ball, featuring the 1984 version of our Mr. and Ms. TD's Contest. Plus, cash awards for the best costumes. And, as always, cocktails and dancing until 2 a.m. We'll see you at 9 Sunday evening, October 28, 1984.

46 N. Saratoga Avenue, Santa Clara 243-4595

A Tinker's Damn

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ST. MARY

Continued from page 12

without warning, this "teacher's dream" turned into a nightmare, filled with the students' hate and resentment toward Sr. Mary and the "indoctrination" she supposedly represented. As the students began to share their true feelings, the stereotypical character of Sr. Mary went from one of innocence and purity to an intentional destroyer of human lives who needed to be punished. This sudden twist in the script left me bewildered; my sense of humor and any tasteful humor in the play dissolved.

Trusting in the writer's good taste to continue his sensitive portrayal, I felt that, instead, he went beyond the limits of simply "poking fun," into what appeared to be a personal vindication of this System and what it had done to him. He chose to avoid the basic spiritual essence and intention of his subject matter, and dwelt instead on personal bitterness. He also neglected to include the awareness that each of us is ultimately responsible to cling to, reject, or be at peace with what the world has to offer. And not to believe that the fate of our inner happiness can be determined by or blamed on anyone else's "propaganda."

Yet some people might say, what about young children? Are they capable of choosing what they take in? If not, then are we all—parents, teachers, advertisers—obligated to restrain our salespitch until children reach the age of conscious decision making? How we use children's vulnerability in this society is something to consider. In this instance, however, the writer did not seem interested in finding humane resolutions to important social questions. He chose to cruelly attack the issues instead.

As a theatre-goer, I felt cheated by the gross failure of the writer to finish what he had so sensitively begun—a journey through the Lighter Side Of It All, bringing us out the other side, intact, and impressed with the understanding that there are many sides to each issue, that there is indeed a spiritual base for the institution of Church, and that each one of us is called to do our best, to be at peace with ourselves and with others, including and in spite of It All.

MURPHY'S MANOR



by Kurt Erichsen

ARTS COUNCIL OF GAY & LESBIAN SAN JOSE

Membership Form

WHAT IS THE Arts Council of Gay & Lesbian San Jose? It is a group of people who love the arts, either performing or visual, and who want to encourage their growth in the Gay and Lesbian community of greater San Jose. Its goal is to coordinate the creative energies of South Bay Gays and Lesbians by sponsoring events that reinforce self-esteem within the Gay and Lesbian community while providing identifiable, positive presence for that culture within the community at large. The council is made up of people like you. Some are artists, others are patrons, all are supportive of the arts and believe the Gay and Lesbian culture to be a valid and viable part of society.

HOW can you become involved in this special council? You can become a member by contributing \$10, \$25 for sponsors, \$50 for donors, \$100 for patrons, \$250 for grand patrons, and \$500 for benefactors. Just complete this form and send it to the address listed above. For further details, call (408) 737-0214.

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Amount of donation: _____

Desired participation (check as many as apply)
 Financial Support Advisory panel
 Exhibitor Performer Volunteer
 Other (specify) _____

ARTISTS APPLICATION

Name _____

Address _____

Phone (days/eves) _____

Yes, I would like to work with the Arts Council:
 Display of my visual arts (painting, sculpture, ceramics, etc.) Specify the form of art and please attach a resume and some photos of your work;

Display of my performing art (singing, dance, band, poetry, instrumentalist, etc.) Specify the type of performance, attach a resume, and be prepared to audition for us, or provide video or audio tapes, or provide reviews or references, or invite us to a rehearsal or performance;

Space: How much floor space and/or wall space (x ft by y ft) would you need to exhibit your art?

Facilities: What facilities would you like to have provided for you? (e.g. power, amplifiers and speakers, podium, stage, lighting, walls, easels, counters, etc.) Be specific:

I understand that this application provides no guarantees that The Arts Council will be able to sponsor my work, nor that I will be available for exhibitions at any particular time. I also understand that the Arts Council will expect to sign specific agreements for each showing covering such issues as fees, times and locations, insurance coverage, etc.

Signed _____ Date _____

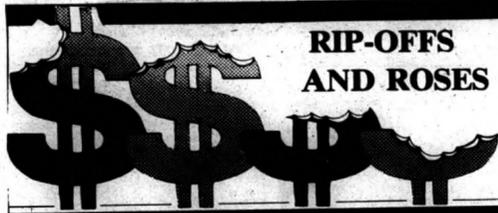
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M.C.C. documentary

The Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches has completed editing and producing an hour-long documentary called *God, Gays & The Gospel: This is Our Story*. This show tackles the timely issues of politics and religion, especially gays and lesbians and their religious struggles, through the story of the birth and growth of Metropolitan Community Church, founded by Rev. Troy Perry in 1968.

M.C.C. currently has 250 Churches in nine countries. The Fellowship is negotiating with several networks about airing the show in the next six months. For more information call or write: U.F.M.C.C., 5300 Santa Monica Blvd, 304 Los Angeles, CA 90029 (213) 464-5100

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HALLOWEEN MADNESS AT THE SAVOY
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 (formerly The Lawrence Lounge)



RIP-OFFS AND ROSES

"Let's Get Physical"

We doubt that any segment of the population at large spends so much time on personal appearance as do the Gay men and women of America. Almost all of us want to look good. We spend huge amounts of money on clothing, grooming, and cosmetics.

But all of that means little, if anything, if the body getting all the pretty stuff hung on it isn't very nice to begin with. As a result, the last few years have seen a huge growth in the Gay population of health clubs, spas, and fitness centers. The "healthy look" is "in," and we want our share of it.

That's a move we support. But at the same time, we've seen many cases of cheating, fraud, and double-dealing in health facilities, something you should be aware of before you get into a like situation.

Let's preface these remarks by saying that health clubs have problems of their own, situations and attitudes that they legitimately try to protect themselves against.

It's all too easy for anyone to resolve that he or she wants to do something about the condition of his or her body, and then run off to the neighborhood spa to start. But being pretty ain't easy. A body-improvement program requires a regular regimen of sweaty and often dull exercises. If it's easy to begin, it's even easier to drop out.

Equipping and staffing a reputable fitness center is an expensive proposition. The owners of those places have to make sure that they'll have a regular income to offset their overhead. So, most fitness centers require their cus-

tomers to sign some form of contract which requires regular payments, even when the bloom is off the exercising rose.

But that brings up the subject of the financial contract again. People with little physical discipline may soon find home gym equipment over in the corner gathering dust. Knowing that there's a financial obligation is an additional spur to making use of a health club; as much as some folks hate exercise, the physical act they find hardest is writing a check for wasted money.

There's another factor in joining a club. No matter what the state of your body, you'll undoubtedly find others in the club who are in the same sorry state, so you'll have company as well as a bit of competition while you exercise. That can be an impetus for continuing in your program.

So, if you're going to attend a fitness center, how can you choose one?

First, shop around. Most centers have some form of "get-acquainted offer" that allows you a visit or two before you have to sign a contract. Check out as many as you can, and don't make any long-term agreements until you know what each spa has to offer.

Don't forget your YM or YWCA. Often, they offer gyms and pools that are as good or better than more expensive establishments.

Compare the facilities you're offered. Boredom is a real danger for those of us who aren't into exercise. A health club that presents several different ways to achieve fitness may give you enough variety to keep your interest going over a longer period of time.

Make sure you'll have some personal attention. A whole congeries of mysterious equipment standing around a club that doesn't tell you how to use it is a waste. You have your own physical traits to consider, and you'll need an advisor to show you what exercises you're seeking.

Check out the hours that you can use the facilities. If the club is closed when you're free, it won't be of much use. If it has some sexually-segregated nights,

will they conflict with your schedule? If the sexes use the place at the same time, will you be embarrassed?

Call the Better Business Bureau before you come to a final choice. They'll let you know if the spa you're interested in has a record of complaints from customers. Better yet, call them before you start, and get their booklet on health spas.

Beware of any fitness center that "Guarantees" results. No one can "make" you lose weight or become a muscular wonder without your complete cooperation. Such guarantees always disappear in the fine print of your contract.

And you will have to sign that contract, sooner or later. Even the "Y" will make you pay for some advance period of time for use of their facilities. The one definite thing for the novice is never to contract for a long period. Though the price advantage will be great in signing for a long-term contract, make sure that you're going to follow through.

Our advice is to take the shortest possible contract to begin with. Begin with a six-week "trial" plan, if there is one, and see what your own reactions are. At its conclusion, ask yourself if you're satisfied with what has happened with your body, and if you're sufficiently interested to continue. If so, go for a year's agreement. Even at this time you shouldn't engage in any long-range obligation; some spas will try to snag you for as much as five years, which can run into megabucks.

Take your contract just as you take your exercise: one step at a time. You won't be doing 200-pound lifts straight off, so why try a 24-month agreement? Meanwhile, take it easy, build it up, and enjoy the showers!

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VOTE Nov 6



SOLUTION TO
CROSSWORD NUMBER 27

G	R	O	P	E	A	S	S	E	S	
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1 BAYMEC is a non-partisan, non-affiliated political action committee that promotes gay and lesbian rights—and specifically raises money to support candidates endorsing those rights;

2 There is no on-going organization, committee, or club whose sole purpose is to promote gay rights in the three counties of Santa Clara, San Mateo, and Santa Cruz. We need many such organizations here and particularly one like BAYMEC working in the political arena;

3 BAYMEC's primary concerns for supporting elected officials include their support for: increased AIDS funding, the E.R.A., equal pay for equal work, and the enactment of non-discriminatory government, police, and corporate personnel policies to protect our civil rights;

4 "BAYMEC is a vitally needed and pragmatic organization whose founders bring a wealth of political, fund-raising, and public relations skills to its purpose—which is to gain and protect the civil rights of lesbians and gay men. BAYMEC deserves your whole-hearted support."
Iola Williams, Councilwoman, San Jose

Good gay reading

from
A·L·Y·S·O·N
PUBLICATIONS



THE LAW OF RETURN, by Alice Bloch, \$8.00. After a summer vacation in Israel, American-born Ellen Rogin settles in Jerusalem, adopting her Hebrew name Elsheva, to begin exploring Orthodoxy as well as her own feelings about relationships and sexuality, eventually coming to grips with her own love for women.



ALL-AMERICAN BOYS, by Frank Mosca, \$5.00. "I've known that I was gay since I was thirteen. Does that surprise you? It didn't me..." So begins *All-American Boys*, the story of a teenage love affair that should have been simple — but wasn't.



A DIFFERENT LOVE, By Clay Larkin, \$5.00. When Billy and Hal meet in a small Midwestern town, they feel sure that their love for each other is meant to last. But then they move to San Francisco, and the temptations of city life create complications they haven't had to face before.

SCIENCE FICTION FOR US

Science fiction offers writers a chance to escape the usual earth-bound conventions of sex and gender. More and more, writers are taking advantage of this. In *Kindred Spirits*, twelve science fiction writers explore the many possibilities of what

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Volume One — *Sweet Dreams* — has just been released

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BAYMEC

More on AIDS

By Henry Walter Weiss
Via GPA Wire Service

Confronting AIDS as a patient is the harrowing experience that over 1,000 gay men have had to deal with in the last two years.

Undoubtedly many fears and concerns press in on these men. Frequently medical issues become paramount for them, eclipsing all other matters.

The result is that an unfortunate number postpone, until it is too late, decisions with respect to legal matters.

Lovers and friends often contribute to this process, being unwilling or unable to raise serious questions which they are afraid may suggest that the patient "might not make it."

Some organizations which offer counsel and assistance to people with AIDS are also often reluctant to make suggestions which their clients might interpret as defeatist.

Thus a particular burden has been placed on the legal community. More than once in the last year, I've had a call from someone who wanted to know how quickly I could draft a will.

In each instance, the question was not grounded in idle curiosity, but rather in real and pressing need for a terminally ill patient.

In each instance I've responded with the assurance that wills can be prepared on very short notice, as needed.

Unfortunately, more than once in the last year, I have also been faced with a situation where a man died a victim of AIDS-induced diseases and without having written a will or without having revised an out-of-date will.

In those circumstances, there is nothing a lawyer can do but redouble his efforts to make sure the living do not make the same mistakes.

Of course the need for a will is not special to people with AIDS. They are, however, a special high-risk group.

As individuals they should each confront the legal implications of their disease as early as possible.

The things such a patient should consider include the following:

1. The need for a current will.

Absent a will, a person's property is distributed to those entitled to take it under law, in certain stated degrees of relationship.

Thus if a man has never married and has no children, his parents (if living) will take all his property if he does not make a will. Such property includes not only cash in the bank but also the tangible items in one's home.

Any man living with a lover, whether he has AIDS or not, who does not have a will which at least gives his lover the furniture and furnishings in their home is doing his lover an enormous disservice.

2. Review of living arrangements.

A review of one's living arrangements is imperative. If the man rents and lives with a lover, it is important to make sure the lover will be protected in the apartment if something happens to the renter.

If the dwelling is owned, one must consider the ramifications, including estate tax, if any, in the event of the owner's death.

3. Review of care provisions.

There must be a review of issues involving who can give instructions about care in the event the man involved is unable to make decisions for himself.

It is important to grant a power of attorney to a lover or friend to permit bills to be paid.

All legally available processes for delegation of responsibility should be reviewed.

Different cases will call for different solutions.

4. Review of governmental entitlements.

Care providing organizations,

such as Gay Men's Health Crisis in New York, have been excellent in providing information on such things as Social Security disability payments available to men with AIDS.

Of course, it is important for a person with AIDS to be aware of his entitlements and to take advantage of them.

In short, the legal implications for one suffering with AIDS are profound.

While his first concerns must inevitably be medical matters, he nevertheless should also promptly consider relevant legal issues.

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CROSSWORD NUMBER 27 by Joan Gold

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ACROSS

- 1. Feel, look for blindly
- 6. Beasts of burden or butts
- 11. Greaser or Houston player
- 12. Upper house of Parliament
- 13. Consumer advocate's surname
- 14. Indian mystic
- 15. Consumed, put in mouth
- 16. Driver's club (abbr)
- 18. Idiot, fool (obs.)
- 19. Words describing man who is aerial artist
- 22. Dope supply
- 23. Old original nitrate
- 26. Army food or what it looks like
- 30. Info, pot, or clod
- 31. Dance movement or stair part
- 32. Get there (abbr)
- 33. Cravat
- 34. Scots et al
- 37. Surprise, astound
- 39. She's a real cow, but Elmer loves her
- 40. Pondered, thought on
- 8. Army term for mixup
- 9. Irish name that means Edmond
- 10. Insect bite sharp pain
- 17. One of the Khans
- 20. Poetic island
- 21. Electrical units
- 23. Saying, maxim
- 24. "The majority is neither"
- 25. WWI Battle site
- 27. Wonder Woman's pal and others
- 28. Grab, grasp
- 29. Velocity
- 35. Roman 51
- 36. Direction (abbr)
- 37. Common verb
- 38. Greek M

DOWN

- 1. Sex gland
- 2. Spanish lasso
- 3. More aged
- 4. Urinate (slang)
- 5. Wandering, mistaken
- 6. Weights, tests, tries
- 7. Stitch

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Announcement

The Gay and Lesbian Alliance at Stanford (GLAS) will sponsor a Halloween Ball on Saturday, October 27, 1984 beginning at 8:30 p.m. in the Old Firehouse on Santa Teresa Street, near Tresidder Union on the Stanford campus.

Refreshments will be available. A \$2.50 donation will be requested at the door to help cover expenses. Everyone is welcome, regardless of sexual orientation or Stanford affiliation. For more info call the GLAS events tape (415) 497-1488.

Toyon celebrates sixth anniversary



© 1984 Ted Sahl

Toyon celebrated their sixth anniversary with a super show and a buffet that didn't last long. Jam packed - a happy crowd danced to rock live music and cheered wildly for an upcoming star, Ronna, a hot vocalist from San Diego, who can only go up! You should've been there.



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South Bay Gay/Lesbian Volleyball League

The South Bay Gay/Lesbian Volleyball League is off to a terrific start. Over 80 people showed up for the first day of play and all were selected to play on a team.

Following are the results of the first week of play. For more information, contact Goldy Montana, Volleyball Commissioner, 1984 season at 248-5789.

Team/Captain	Wins	Losses
White Team Tim Toole	3	0
Silver Team Robt. Sissinstein	2	1
Purple Team Don Hubbard	2	1
Red Team Neil Christie	2	1
Green Team Goldy Montana	1	2
Gold Team Don Lavoie	1	2
Orange Team Phil-David Soto	1	2
Blue Team Don Dufford	0	3

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