

# OUR PAPER YOUR PAPER

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## Gay Boycott in Houston

Vivian Shapiro and Duke Comegys, co-chairs of the Human Rights Campaign Fund, have jointly called on the national gay and lesbian community to boycott businesses and organizations that opposed the city ordinance prohibiting discrimination against gay people.

Their views were announced following the Fund's February board meeting in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida. At that meeting, the board and some Fund supporters raised over \$2,000 to send to Community PAC, one of the Houston organizations which fought to save the ordinance from being overturned.

The ordinance, passed by the Houston City Council in June, 1984, amended the city's civil service and affirmative action program to prohibit discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation in city hiring and firing.

It was subsequently overturned in a January 19th referendum following weeks of anti-gay campaigning by a well-financed coalition of conservative and business groups.

"The Houston case is a very frightening and discouraging one for gays across the country," said Duke Comegys, who spearheaded the effort to raise the \$2,000.

"We're trying to lend our support to the group that fought in favor of the ordinance as a symbol of gay solidarity on a national level."

Community PAC was left with a sizable debt following the referendum.

Members of Houston's business community joined with the Houston Chamber of Commerce, local Republican groups, a city-wide organization of black ministers and local chapters of the Ku Klux Klan.

The coalition's campaign charged that the ordinance amounted to an "endorsement" of the homosexual lifestyle, would lead to quotas in the hiring of gays by the city, and would see Houston become a "gay mecca."

Efforts by Community PAC to dispel the coalition's charges were lost amidst the hysterical, anti-gay atmosphere that included marching Klansmen to Houston's City Hall and inflammatory sermons in many of the city's fundamentalist churches.

"We were surprised to see an organization as supposedly upstanding as the Chamber of Commerce join forces with the Ku Klux Klan in endorsing discrimination," said co-chair Vivian Shapiro.

"We're hoping that some flexing of the gay community's economic muscle will send businesses a message — both in that city and in others."

The Human Rights Campaign Fund is the only national bipartisan political action committee dedicated to supporting equal political treatment for gays and lesbians.

## Government report includes concerns of Gay/Lesbian victims

New York — Following a colloquium co-sponsored by the National Organization for Victim Assistance (NOVA) and the federal government's National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH), a panel has drafted a statement on mental health consequences of victimization that includes issues of concern to the lesbian and gay community.

The National Gay Task Force (NGTF) brought the problem of violence directed against gay men and lesbians to the attention of the colloquium, which presented two days of reports to a 16-member assessment panel of experts in the fields of mental health and victim assistance.

NGTF Violence Project Coordinator Kevin Berrill attended the event, held in Washington, D.C. Feb. 28 - Mar. 3.

Commented Berrill, "This statement is important because it will shape attitudes and policies affecting victims of crime; it also

will influence the nature of research into the mental health consequences of victimization."

Berrill told the assessment panel, "The rising tide of resources and concern and awareness about victims of crime has not lifted all boats. By and large, lesbian and gay victims of crime have been overlooked and underserved by people and agencies concerned about victims of crime."

"This is cause for concern, given the fact that members of our community are joining the ranks of victims at an alarming rate. If lesbian and gay victims are to benefit from this assessment statement, issues specific to their sexual orientation need to be addressed."

"Lesbian and gay victimization must be recognized not only as a gay issue, but a victims issue."

Continued on Page 16



Marchers thrust forward in Take Back The Night demonstration.

Photo by Ted Sahl

## Take Back The Night Rally

By Ted Sahl

Five protesters arrested during the annual Take Back The Night march sponsored by the San Jose State University Womyn's Center.

75 people listened to a program outside the Student Union Building. Words of anguish, and tears rocked the night as the mother of Tania Zack held up a picture of her daughter who was a murder victim.

The work of Ellen Bass was chosen for its impact this night, a chilling reminder of the times.

The following is a prologue to the dramatic reading\* — the speaker began:

We know we live in a violent society. The history of the United States is a history of violence. The genocide of Native Americans. Slavery and racism. Lynchings and sexism. Nativism and Nationalism.

We have a history of macho Saturday night entertainment of rape and gang bangs, burning down Chinatowns, beating up "the old lady," and shoot-outs with Saturday night specials. And wars.

We reap a bitter harvest. We have the highest crime rate and the highest homicide rate in the world.

In the United States, in the next 50 minutes, there will be 200 women beaten by men they know; men they live with. On the

average, a woman is battered every fifteen seconds; over 1.8 million women beaten each year.

In the next 50 minutes, 167 women will be raped; on the average, a woman is raped every eighteen seconds; sixty-five men and women will be assaulted; fifty-one homes and businesses will be broken into and robbed.

In the next 50 minutes, 190 children will be beaten. A conservative estimate is that two million children become victims of child abuse each year. Some research indicates the number to be over six million. Over 5,000 die as a result of such abuse.

Physical abuse and neglect, sexual abuse, emotional abuse and the problems continue to grow. In the next 50 minutes, 100 children will be sexually abused; one in every 5 victims is a child under the age of seven.

In the next 50 minutes, four people will be killed, one by a member of their family, another by someone they know.

Violence is learned behavior. By age 14, the average child in the United States has witnessed over 27,000 murders on television and seen over 200,000 other acts of violence. As many as 2,000 parents are killed by their children each year. Nationwide, researchers estimate one in ten parents are attacked by their children each year.

And the ultimate crime? Destroying the entire planet with

acid rain, pesticides, Agent Orange, polluting the water, lakes, wells, oceans.

The polluting is so subtle, so insidious: We throw away one little cigarette butt, one little plastic bag . . . it all adds up.

Companies in Silicon Valley, the cutting edge of Toffler's 'Third Wave,' have seeped toxic chemicals into public water supplies so that dozens of wells are now closed.

We can destroy our planet gradually . . . or quickly. All life is threatened by nuclear holocaust. World suicide. A dead planet. Nuclear winter.

In the next 50 minutes, this nation will spend over \$60 million on war. We spend over \$1 million per minute on bigger and better ways to blow up the world. In 1983, the General Accounting Office reported that the Reagan military program will cost \$2.25 trillion over the next five years.

Violence — from rape to nuclear war. Violence — from battered women to the manufacture of lethal gasses and germ warfare cannisters. It's all related.

Show women as body parts in pornography and women become targets for violence — rape, battery, molest, homicide. It's all related.

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(L-R) Tom Brougham, Barry Warren, signing Domestic Partner Affidavit for City of Berkeley. Photo by M.A. Brownstein

## First "Domestic Partners" sign up for benefits in Berkeley

At the March meeting of the East Bay Lesbian/Gay Democratic Club, City of Berkeley employee Tom Brougham and Barry Warren, his partner of 10 years, were among the first to sign their "Domestic Partner Affidavit."

By doing so, Warren will now be eligible for benefits previously granted by the city only to heterosexual married spouses of city employees.

Brougham first petitioned the city in 1979 for such benefits, but was given an administrative and bureaucratic run-around. He was told that such benefits are properly handled through union negotiations for fringe benefits. But when the unions proposed such benefits to the city in 1980, the city then turned them down, saying that the health organizations wouldn't go for it.

In 1982, with the founding of the East Bay Lesbian/Gay Democratic Club, Brougham felt that a new, and political, avenue existed for pursuing this goal. The club adopted Domestic Partner Benefits for the city of Berkeley as one of its chief goals, along with a Lesbian/Gay Rights Ordinance for Oakland, and the support of Senator Bill Lockyer for AB-1, the state employment rights bill.

The EBL/GDC decided to work slowly and methodically, building community support for the issue of domestic partner benefits. In this way, Brougham felt, the East Bay Lesbian/Gay community would avoid the negative backlash suffered by like attempts in San Francisco, and engendered by a hostile press.

The club sponsored a public forum on the issue, early in 1983, and tried to present its case before the public and the media.

Club member Leland Traiman, a member of the Berkeley Human Relations and Welfare Commission, pursued the matter before that body.

The Chair of the Commission, David Cunningham, invited Brougham to help the Commission draft possible legislation for the city. The Commission

also held a public hearing in the fall of 1983, at which time the public was invited to express their views on the issue.

In June of 1984 the Commission sent proposed legislation before the city council. In July the council voted to approve the "concept" of Domestic Partner Benefits, but delayed the granting of any monetary benefits until at least 1986.

"While we were pleased to be approved as a 'concept,'" said Brougham, "it was incredibly frustrating to have concrete implementation again delayed."

The EBL/GDC then worked for the election of Berkeley Citizen Action candidates in the fall, who had promised them immediate implementation of the Domestic Partner Benefits Policy. The BCA candidates swept the November elections, and the implementation of this policy was one of their first priorities of business in December. Prior to this action, the Berkeley School Board also adopted such a policy.

Barry Warren, and other Domestic Partners who sign an affidavit will be eligible for dental benefits beginning April 1, 1985. In addition, employees with Domestic Partners will be eligible for leave with pay in the event of the illness or death of their partners.

Medical benefits are not expected to be available for at least another three months.

The city and the school district contract with three companies to provide health benefits, but those companies have been quite slow to contract for the new expansion of eligibility. The City also has its own "self-insured" health plan over which it has full control.

The Berkeley School Board and City Council were the first governmental bodies in the United States to adopt Domestic Partner Legislation, although similar health benefits were available for some time through the American Psychological Association, the National Organization for Women, and, somewhat surprisingly, the state-funded Australian Broadcasting network (ABC).

The policy declares that wherever the city and school district "grant benefits or assign liabilities on the basis of a marital relationship," they must create "a substantially equal application" for the domestic partner relationship.

To be domestic partners, a couple must file an affidavit with his/her employer attesting to a number of criteria. The major criteria they must meet are:

- 1) They must reside together;
- 2) They must not be married to anyone;
- 3) They must not be related closer than would bar marriage in the state of California;
- 4) They must declare that they are each other's sole domestic partner; and
- 5) They must declare that they are responsible for their common welfare.

This last requirement is especially significant, because it can be seen to create a contract between the parties which would be potentially enforceable under California law.

It speaks to the criticism of some parties that only married spouses are entitled to benefits because they are legally responsible for each other.

With the precedent of so-called "palimony" cases in California, such legal obligations are no longer confined to the heterosexual married world.

Brougham views the whole issue of domestic partner benefits as one of pay equity — equal benefits for equal work. It is of special significance to members of the Lesbian/Gay community, who are forbidden from

## Indianapolis to host national meeting of bathhouses

**Indianapolis** — Another major assault launched against the bathhouse industry has caused the owners of this country's bathhouses to agree to an unprecedented first-time meeting at which representatives from all major segments of the industry will be present.

Representatives of the Club Bath Chain (CBC), the Association of Independent Gay Health Clubs (IGHC), the closed San Francisco clubs, and New York and Los Angeles clubs will be just a few of the participants in this national meeting that is expected to bring to Indianapolis over 100 owners of bathhouses and gay health clubs from throughout the United States.

After a six-year struggle for this equity, Brougham said, "We can hardly believe that the theory has now become the beginning of tangible benefits."

At a recent Oakland, CA candidates forum, the EBL/GDC obtained pledges of support for domestic partner legislation from both candidates for Mayor, incumbent Lionel Wilson and challenger, City Councilman Wilson Riles, Jr.

Copies of the official report to the Berkeley City Council with implementing documents are available from the EBL/GDC, P.O. Box 443, Berkeley, CA 94701. (Please include \$3.00 to cover reproduction and postage.) Call (415) 843-2459 for further information.

The meeting will be held May 13 - 15 and will be hosted by the IGHC.

The major purpose of the meeting is to devise a national strategy that will curb future efforts to deny gay men their sexual civil rights.

Thomas Steele, the lawyer of record for the San Francisco bathhouse owners, will be present to outline the case in San Francisco.

The stricken Atlanta clubs have also been invited to discuss their problems with the group. Other problems similar to Atlanta and San Francisco are expected to erupt in other areas of the country. Substantial sums of money have already been expended in San Francisco and Atlanta. The IGHC's fundraising efforts have already channeled over \$100,000 into the San Francisco fight. Additional funds are already in reserve to assist any legal battle in other areas of the country where bathhouses might be assaulted.

Jack Campbell, founder of the Club Bath Chain, was reported to be "extremely concerned" about the condition of sexual civil liberties for gays in this country.

Stan Berg, founded of the IGHC emphatically stated that "the time for cooperation among owners of these clubs is here — it's time to put aside our competitive and personal differences and formulate a common strategy that will assure gay men and women of their inalienable right to sexual freedom." □

## Your paper your paper

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## Arts Council to hold Spring Showcase on May 5

Ron Schmidt, chair of the Arts Council of Gay/Lesbian San Jose, announced today that the group will sponsor a "Spring Showcase," featuring visual and performing artists. The event will be held on Sunday, May 5 at the Los Gatos Academy of Dance, 16 Lyndon Avenue, from noon till 6:00 p.m.

The Arts Council is now seeking Lesbian and Gay artists and performers from the San Jose area interested in participating in the spring event. The group's Winter Showcase, held last December, drew a crowd of over five hundred people to view the work of over two dozen local artists, which included painters, photographers, performers, and poets.

Visual artists will be asked to display no more than four examples of their work to the Arts Council board, who will act as a pre-exhibit jury committee. Performing artists will be expected to audition with a minimum of two selections from their repertoire. The jury selection and audition process will take place at the Los Gatos Academy of Dance on Thursday, April 11 at 7:30 p.m. and on Saturday, April 13 at 2:00 p.m.

For additional information on how to have their work considered for the exhibition, Lesbian and Gay artists should contact the Arts Council at (408) 737-0214.

## Announcement

To commemorate the fiftieth anniversary of Gertrude Stein's lectures at Stanford, there will be a week of musical and dramatic performances of her works by Bay Area artists at Stanford.

On Thursday, April 16, the NOH Oratorio Society will present Stein's opera *A Bouquet: Their Wills*, set to music drawn from various composers from the fourteenth to the twentieth centuries. The performance, by six voices and three instrumentalists under the direction of Claude Duvall, will take place at 8 p.m. in the Serra Lounge of Stern Hall, located on Escondido Road on the Stanford campus.

On Wednesday, April 17, the Gertrude Stein Opera Company will present two works by Stein, both set to original music. The first is a murder mystery entitled *Three Sisters Who Are Not Sisters*; the second is a fantasy entitled *Look and Long*. The performance will be at 8 p.m. in the Campbell Recital Hall of Stanford's new music building.

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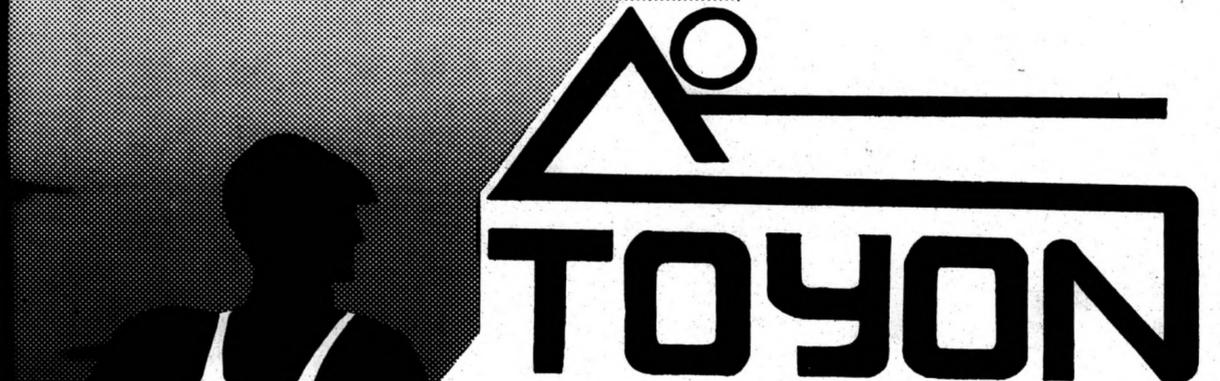
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## Dignify Us With A Response

We've all heard the familiar retort, "I wouldn't dignify that with a response." Its use generally signifies one of two reactions. Either an allegation has been made that is so outrageous it merits nothing more than dismissal, or one feels cornered by a statement and can come up with no effective defense. In either case, the refusal to respond puts an end to discussion of a subject, and a meeting of the minds is impossible.

In a battle of wits and wills, the refusal to respond is a tactic. Such a battle now seems to be going on between members of the gay and lesbian community and the United States Supreme Court. It's a battle which has already produced several skirmishes, and which promises a few more before it's over.

On February 25, the Supreme Court decided it would not hear the case of an Ohio guidance counselor who was dismissed from her job because she acknowledged her bisexuality to some of her coworkers. The case had been argued before various lower courts for more than a decade. The Supreme Court's refusal to hear the case lets stand the ruling of the Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals which overturned a previous court ruling in favor of the guidance counselor. The court had ruled that the counselor's admission of her sexual practices had not disrupted the school environment as the school had claimed, and that the school had violated the female counselor's right to free speech and equal protection by firing her.

This column does not intend to argue the merits of this particular case as they pertain to the guidance counselor and the school system. What is the most troubling aspect of the Supreme Court's decision is the red flag it raises with respect to the future settlement of gay rights cases.

The Court has steadfastly refused to hear cases involving the violation of the civil rights of gays and lesbians. The Court turns a deaf ear to them as if to say these cases and that issue will go away. As if to say the issue at stake is too preposterous to take up the Court's time, they refuse to dignify it with a response.

What the conservative majority on the Court is really saying with its refusal to hear gay civil rights cases is that it refuses to dignify the gay community with an acknowledgment that it is entitled to a hearing on the ongoing injustices it suffers. "Gay civil rights" is not a concept with which the Court is prepared to deal. The need for a direct legal precedent on an issue of direct importance to at least 10% of the nation's population doesn't exist. To the Court, gay people themselves seem not to exist, let alone discrimination against them.

To be fair, it must be pointed out that the Court has agreed to hear arguments in the case of *The Board of Education of the City of Oklahoma vs. the National Gay Rights Task Force*. But that case is unusual in the sense that it deals with an established state law which sets specific legal policy with regard to gay people. NGTF is trying to have the law declared unconstitutional.

Yet there are hundreds of cases throughout the nation which have been "judged" against gays and lesbians on the basis of prejudiced evaluation of ambiguous laws. The danger in the Court's refusal to hear the Ohio case is that it opens the door to other employers who want to dismiss gay and lesbian employees and who now see the Court's decision as an invitation to do just that.

No aspiring prizefighter expects to become champion without suffering a few knockouts. But even to get knocked out, the fighter has to have a round or two in the boxing ring. The progress of the gay civil rights movement has been more than hampered by the Court's refusal to consider our arguments — it's stopped cold.

The Court, as is customary, gave no explanation for its decision. But in a dissenting opinion, Justices Brennan and Marshall argued that gay civil rights is an "issue of national importance that cannot any longer be ignored." Would that their fellow justices agreed. The Court's refusal to hear the Ohio case and others like it is worse than a decision against us. The refusal represents an attitude that strips us of our dignity and shuns us as a community with no claims to civil rights.

But there is that second reason why someone would refuse to respond — the recognition that there is no rebuttal to the charge. We in the gay civil rights movement, and our supporters, know there is no rebuttal to the charge of discrimination against us. There is only justice. And there can be no justice served until the injustice is acknowledged. It is the ultimate irony and insult that the United States Supreme Court can't understand that.

VIC BASILE  
Executive Director  
Human Rights Campaign Fund

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## Letters

Editor:

Church blessings of homosexual relationships have arrived. The Unitarians unanimously approved such a blessing in 1984.

Other mainline churches unofficially have blessed homosexual pairs for years.

These advances already have saved lives in relation to AIDS by supporting stable relationships.

Now Episcopals are publicly into the issue.

Everyone concerned with this is an invaluable thread in the fabric of the movement. Any voice must be heard.

This, and realizing it is not just a local issue, will make everyone the peaceful victor.

I have coordinated the input of many, responding to Episcopal Bishop Swing's request for discussion of such a blessing. Here's my thread of that fabric:

Homosexuals were created to serve in at least three crucial ways — object, example, and altruism. Consider: If homosexuality is an answer, what is the question?

First, the homosexual has served as a necessary object relative to which others grow. That is, homosexuals have been one target group giving oppressors opportunity to grow, as oppressors are challenged to overcome prejudice and fear, and show understanding, compassion, and faith. The oppressed also have opportunity to grow in this process. Reversely, if no object, no opportunity, and no action.

Second, homosexuals have served as example, in a similar way. An example of little or no family, nor community, nor church, and the example of service in suffering and death in the AIDS crisis.

If AIDS is an answer, what is the question? One question *not* valid is how can the Creator punish, unless children with disease are likewise punished. One *valid* question is how can the Creator challenge all to work harder at relationships for better health and spirituality. Response to this challenge is a refining not defining method.

There must be found new, *active not reactive*, positive means for all to grow, and for all to work harder at family, community, church, and relationships.

If these two functions of homosexuals, object and example, are eventually eliminated, what's left? Altruism.

Third, homosexuals have more opportunity for altruism. While they are in all jobs, consider the large number in helping and artistic fields.

The key to the altruism aspect is separating inherent from reactionary

behavior. Well adjusted homosexuals serve in extended families with equal fulfillment to well adjusted heterosexuals in nuclear families. Socio-biological research has pointed to this.

Considering the wide range and changes within human sexuality, extended and nuclear families often overlap. However, the extended family has been undervalued and overlooked.

When homosexuals are understood and supported, including a church blessing when their relationships become stable and monogamous, they expand on their natural altruistic role. Expand in an active, positive way, more constructive and contributory.

In line with this altruistic role, proper timing for the greater good should be the framework for instituting such blessings.

Sincerely,  
STEVE WYNN  
San Francisco, CA

Editor:

As you know, the test for antibodies to HTLV III will be available in your area soon. You have probably already heard people refer to it as "The AIDS Test."

As you may know, it is not a test for AIDS and it can pose enormous dangers for people in at-risk groups who take it.

None of us wants to stop well-thought-out programs to protect the blood supply. We all want to encourage legitimate, protected epidemiological research. This test may not help the blood supply and will certainly hamper research.

Beyond these problems, we have a duty to inform our community of the many dangers to people who take the test. With no guarantees about confidentiality, those who take this test are risking their insurance policies and maybe, their jobs and homes.

This test will ensnare a lot of uninformed people. We need your help to make sure that very few gay people in your area are among those who suffer.

If you have any questions about GMHC's policy on the test, please contact our Director of Public Relations, Mark Chataway at (212) 340-9025 or (718) 624-6242.

Thank you for your support,  
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## SPORTS

The current team standings after three weeks of volleyball competition are:

|                 |           |        |          |
|-----------------|-----------|--------|----------|
| Orange Crush    | 90 points | 6 wins | 0 losses |
| Blue Bruisers   | 93 points | 5 wins | 1 loss   |
| Emerald City    | 79 points | 3 wins | 3 losses |
| Golden Boys     | 60 points | 3 wins | 3 losses |
| White Briefs    | 64 points | 2 wins | 4 losses |
| Silver Smurfs   | 59 points | 2 wins | 4 losses |
| Red Crosss      | 48 points | 2 wins | 4 losses |
| Purple Voyagers | 60 points | 1 win  | 5 losses |

Contact Person: Goldy Montana, Volleyball Commissioner

All sports fans are welcome to come out and watch the competition every Sunday afternoon 1:00 p.m. till 4:00 p.m. We play at Riverglen Park in Willowglen, San Jose. Enjoy!

**Youth on the Air** has produced the following programs aired on these radio stations:

Program: on "Gay Youth"  
Airing  
Sunday, March 31 at midnight on KFRC (610 AM)  
Thursday, April 4 at 5:30 p.m. on KPFA (94.1 FM)  
Sunday, April 7 at 8:15 a.m. on KALX (90.7 FM)

Program: on "Kids with Gay Parents"  
Airing  
Sunday, April 7 at midnight on KFRC (610 AM)  
Thursday, April 11 at 5:30 p.m. on KPFA (94.1 FM)  
Sunday, April 14 at 8:15 a.m. KALX (90.7 FM)

For further information call: Youth News at (415) 834-9050. □

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# FORTUNES

By Tycno

**Aries (March 21-April 20)** This is a period that could be very difficult to understand. Your career and future never looked brighter, your finances take a lucky turn, and some sharp definition makes your creative juices flow. Just take care with the friction you'll have at home, and watch your health.

**Taurus (April 21-May 20)** Once you get a basic confusion ironed out, life is smooth sailing; however, the question is one that hits you right where you live, so it may be a bit bitchy. A good friend helps, and some odd, new piece of trivia may lighten up a dark corner.

**Gemini (May 21-June 21)** If anyone can apply the mind to good advantage, you can, and some mental discipline gives you rewarding results now. Changes around your home won't be bad at all when this happens, and will wind up more secure than ever. You'll even start feeling better!

**Cancer (June 22-July 22)** Will you be offended if I tell you it's time to get your act together? Fun's fun, and certainly, you're going to be quite popular, but you know there's work to be done on the way you live, the way you regard yourself, and the way you think. Use that bright idea!

## Mayor visits Gay center — offers little support

BY Rick Rudy

San Jose Mayor Tom McEnery visited the Billy DeFrank Lesbian and Gay Community Center on Wednesday, March 13, to meet and answer questions from the gay community.

Speaking before an overflow crowd in the small facility, McEnery promised to look into charges of police harassment at bookstores, but offered no support for a proclamation on Gay Pride Day, nor for insurance for domestic partners.

Arriving at 7:40 p.m., McEnery made no opening statement, but began taking questions from the audience. Attorney Bruce Nickerson, with prepared visual aids, described what he called "a reign of terror" from the San Jose Police who, he asserted, felt they had a free hand to harass gays since the defeat of Propositions A & B in 1980.

McEnery responded that he was unaware of any harassment, but would investigate any documented complaints submitted to his office. He totally rejected the "reign of terror" description of Police Chief MacNamara's force.

On gay rights issues, McEnery called himself a "pragmatist", meaning he would not support any legislative extension of gays' rights. The Christian Right he claimed is too well funded and too influential to stand up against at this time, he said.

Initially supportive of Props A & B (in 1980), he now feels that any such legislation would deserve re-evaluation. Domestic partner insurance, such as was adopted in Berkeley this year, is out of the question, he stated, as is any issued statement of support during the upcoming gay pride celebrations in June.

Questioned by Liz Burkhouse on Downtown redevelopment, he failed to promise any subsidized facilities for non-profit groups, such as the Fort Mason enclave in San Francisco. But he did hope for a more lively and safe downtown area with more hotels, theatres and shopping.

He also hopes to snare the Giants into making San Jose their new home.

**Leo (July 23-Aug. 22)** You'll be a very responsible citizen in the next few days, and as long as you fulfill your duties honestly, the future holds basic promise. Grudging action gets grudging results, so show your generosity of spirit. The earliest results may be very tangible ones.

**Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)** Your sign may be thought of as the most duty-bound and responsible one, but it's time to put on the glass slippers and take off for the ball! Coupling some startling creativity with a new look at yourself changes life's outlook. Watch out for midnight, and beware step-sisters!

**Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)** A new concentration on home and possessions is just the right medicine for what ails you. When the unseen future seems foreboding, this reaffirmation of your basic security can't help but give you the strength you need. Face change by knowing what's unchanging.

**Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)** Impatience is not your usual quality, but it's one to look out for. Personal luck and a mind that's working on all cylinders impel you to take charge and forge ahead. Take it a step at a time. You know what you are; what do you want to be? Change for change's sake is no good.

**Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)** The material side of your life is in great shape; now, how do you handle the romantic aspects of it? First off, don't lose your temper. Change is coming in an unusual way that you may not like, but give it time. It will grow on you.

**Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)** Watch out, Leo and Aries! Capricorn is the great egotist at this time of year, and if he's not careful, he'll alienate a lot of friends. It might cut back on his love life, too, if he's not careful. Best thing for him to do is use that surety to ask the boss for a raise.

**Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)** Breaking up is easy to do for you right now. Some phase of your life closes gracefully, perhaps even luckily for you. Watch out for overdoing the celebration; your health may suffer from it. Stick by close friends, and let the future sort itself out.

**Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20)** A couple of nagging worries hang in your mind, and if health is one of them, watching your diet is a good idea. That's going to be tough, with all the new people you'll be meeting at some new places. Listen to your subconscious; it knows what's right.

## HAPPY GAY 'N FREE

BY CLAIRE MIX '84

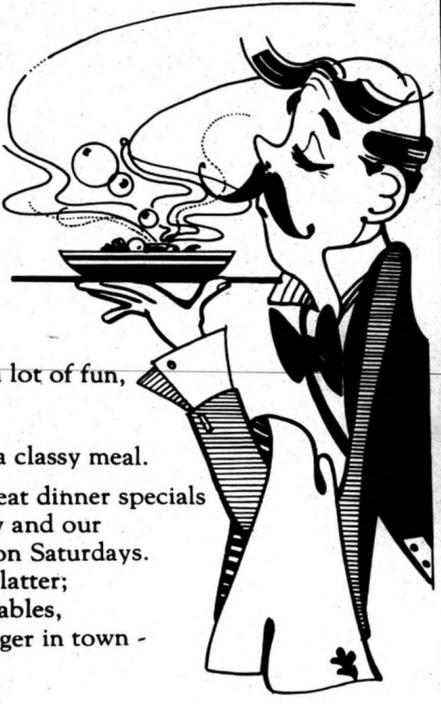


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## Community Center An Anniversary Message

By Ted Sahl

I'm talking to Liz Burkhouse, presently the president of the board of directors of the Billy DeFrank Gay/Lesbian Community Center.

Today is a big day because it's the 4th anniversary of the center. The Gay Womyn's Chorus, as well as the Liedermann Gay Men's Chorus will entertain a packed house, right at this moment enjoying cake, punch, coffee, and lots of goodies. The party is the center's way of thanking those who have supported the center.

While on this particular topic, I thought I'd interview Liz, who was the third director at large. Her face can always be seen beaming, and she works tirelessly.

**OP:** As you look back at this last year, are you happy with what happened at the center?

**Liz:** Happy in some respects, unhappy with others.

Happy because we seem to have gotten together a real good board of directors, people who have lots of skills and dedication and who all agree that we must move out of our present location and who want to work toward that goal.

Frustrated because we're still at the point here at the center of our old money problems that don't seem to go away.

We're maintaining, but it's difficult.

**OP:** Why do you think it's so difficult to get money for the center? This is four years now that the community center has been in operation.

**Liz:** You're not saying anything — this is your opportunity to speak out now.

**OP:** I'm going to lead you with a question. Is it too small to do anything productive?

**Liz:** Yes, the center right now is too small.

**OP:** I'm going to interrupt you. There was talk back a bit about actually moving, but nothing happened.

**Liz:** We're kind of at a point where we can't grow anymore. We can't raise any more funds without being in a larger space.

We have as many groups as possible using the center.

We can't offer a large hall or meeting place which seems to be a paramount need for some organizations not in the center.

**OP:** Have you ever thought of renting a large space away from the center to generate funds.

**Liz:** Yes, we have a group of womyn who are doing that, and that's where the Moonstruck Dance originated, and now the upcoming Heartsong event.

But what we want is a real center, a center where we can have counseling services, where people will feel comfortable to come in to the center to get information on the community, to volunteer more time.

**OP:** Is it possible you can get funds from the City of San Jose to help the center if you have a larger, more professional looking building?

**Liz:** I don't think so. We spoke to Councilwoman Hammer of District 3, and her response was that there is an organization called "Community Improvement Fund," who do give grants for that kind of thing, but...

**OP:** I remember now, Ms. Hammer spoke about that when she was at the center speaking on the open forum evening.

What happened, was anything done about that? Councilwoman Hammer invited the center to apply for funds.

**Liz:** No, nothing was done on that.

**OP:** Because of your present location, you think?

**OP:** That was an opportunity. Why didn't the center take advantage of that?

**Liz:** I think the reason the board of directors haven't done anything about that is that we are at a point where all of our efforts and energies are toward maintaining what we have right now.

We don't have enough volunteers, we don't have enough dedicated people coming to the center and taking responsibility and taking ownership for what happens here.

In our latest newsletter we mention three board members are resigning — David Treadwell, Linda Walden, and Ann McLaughlin.

Not having resigned out of anger or frustration or from a feeling that they can't do anything. Some of them are just tired, some have been involved two or three years.

I have been involved four years and I keep saying at board meetings, when I resign — and I'm not resigning yet — but I don't see people coming from the community to support the community center.

For those of us who have been involved here for so long, believe me that is disheartening.

We're talking about long hours of hard assessment of the community needs.

We're talking about looking at that very stringently — and saying to ourselves, are we filling the needs of the community — can we fill the needs of the community — do they even want us to, and if the answers to those question are no, well, close up shop.

Why are we here?

**OP:** That answered my question. Dynamite. I'm going to throw another dynamite question at you — myself, I have heard the remark, "Gosh, I don't like to go to that community center, it's a woman's place."

How do you feel about that statement.

**Liz:** I get frustrated because it's not true.

What's frustrating for me as a woman is, I have spent four years at the center. I've put a lot of energy in the center.

For a short period of time there were a lot of womyn's activities going on, but I'll tell you right now that we no longer have a lesbian rap, we no longer have a woman's coffeehouse on Friday.

The only active group of womyn here at the center are the S.O.L. (Slightly Older Lesbians) group, which are pretty much self-organized.

They're not part of the center, but use the facility — but not a center-sponsored group.

The most active group in the center are the men's group on Thursday night, and one more male group and the youth group.

So when you say it's a womyn's center, the only thing I can think of is maybe they're thinking the energy behind the center is womyn — and that may be true.

You're looking at, the president of the board of directors is a woman, the news editor is a woman.

We have more men on the board, but the core person at the

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center presently is the switch-board coordinator.

That is the person who organizes the staff to keep the center open and she is a woman. Now, who is responsible for that?

Who are the people who come to the center and take ownership — womyn.

Now I say to those men who are responding to that conception out there in the community — it's a womyn's place — that if it's a womyn's place, it's because they made it a womyn's place by not coming to the center and taking ownership.

**OP:** Are you saying you want them out of the bars and into the community center?

**Liz:** No, I don't want them out of the bars.

But if they're going to criticize the community center, at least my message to them is to be here and work with them.

I want to backtrack a bit on moving.

Going back to about a year ago when the idea of moving was exciting and that enthusiasm was very real, what wasn't real though was the basis behind it.

I mean we have to realize in order for us to move certain things must be done to set up ahead of time.

We have to plan to move. We're looking at having at least a six-month money supply to pay for our bills while we're in that process.

The board of directors right now is working on that.

We're trying to make long range and short range plans so that we can move and not immediately fall apart in our new location.

**OP:** A separate pool or moving fund?

**Liz:** Yes, a separate fund. Call it a building fund. You know we have that original \$5,000 that Lambda Association gave to the center.

**OP:** You still have that money? Everyone was sure you'd spend it fast.

**Liz:** Yes, and we consider that a trust, to buy a building or maybe

think of using that money to maybe lease a better building — that hasn't been worked out yet.

We take the position that it is our money. We have taken ownership of the money, and the board of directors will do with it what they think they should.

The board of directors have just elected Mike Stahl as the center's moving fund coordinator to raise money for this effort.

He actually joined the board of directors precisely so he could head the coordinating of a moving fund.

He has already begun working on two events, one an auction at the Silver Fox and some kind of talent show sometime this summer.

**OP:** Well, that sort of summed up the whole four years... and she said Yup!... and you should have been there.

## Breaking Thru The Wall Run

By Ted Sahl

One hundred men and womyn joined in "Breaking Thru The Wall" Run at St. James Park — well, that's where it started and ended.

Guys and gals ran their hearts out in the event to celebrate international Womyn's Week.

While it's true a woman did not finish first — the men did — the first womyn who did finish was Robin Campbell #269 — the same lady who finished 9th in the 800-meter race of the 1984 Olympics. Sorry 'bout that, fellas.

Each runner paid \$6 to enter and received a T-shirt, an orange, and lots of cheers.

You should have been there.

## Announcement

Singer, songwriter, guitarist Deidre McCalla performs on Saturday, April 20, at Jonah's Wail, basement of the Campus Christian Center, 10th St. and San Carlos in downtown San Jose. Shows are at 7:30 pm and 9:30 pm. Tickets will be available at the door for \$3. Sisterspirit, a nonprofit project to start a women's bookstore/coffeehouse is sponsoring the event.

Deidre has been a working musician for twelve years. She has toured across the United States performing in solo concert, as a part of an acoustic duo called Gypsy, and as lead guitarist/vocalist for Milwaukee's six-woman jazz/rock band Breakwater. Known for the rhythmic undercurrents of her music and the poetic integrity of her lyrics, Deidre creates vocal textures which glide easily from mocha rich sweetness to high energy dramatic intensity. An inspiring, evocative performer, Deidre has delighted and deeply touched her audiences.

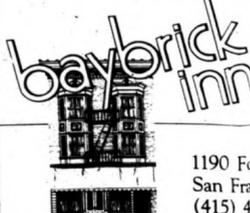
Deidre is touring to promote her release on Olivia Records, *Don't Doubt It*. Her mainstage performance highlights have included the New England Women's Retreat, the National Women's Music Festival and the Michigan Woman's Music Festival; as well as major clubs in New York, Chicago and San Francisco. A theatre graduate of Vassar College and the National Theater Institute, Deidre was a member of the ensemble cast of the film *Chords of Fame* — a documentary on the life of sixties folk singer Phil Ochs.

Deidre's songs have been published in *Home Girls — A Black Feminist Anthology*, *Conditions Five: The Black Women's Issue and Sister*; while her non-fiction work can be found in *The Coming Out Stories*, *Chrysalis*, and *Paid My Dues*.

For more information, call Sisterspirit at (408) 377-2007.

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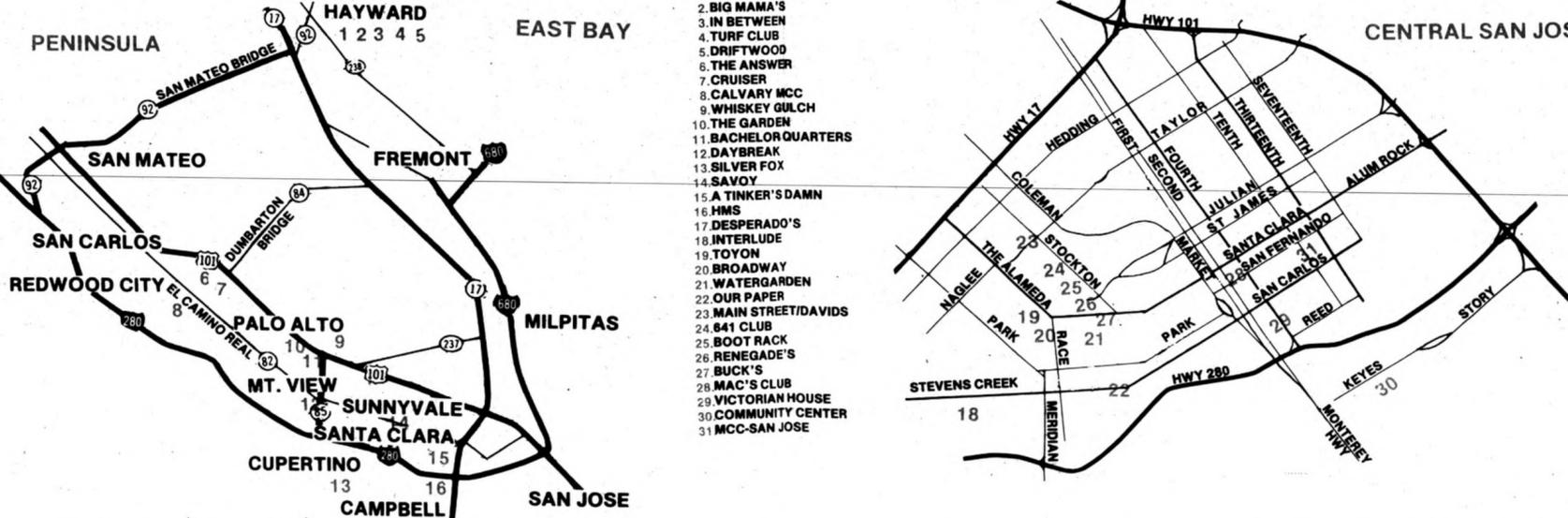
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Demonstrators picket local porn shop. Photo by Ted Sahl

Power. Anger. Misogyny. M-X Missiles (now officially called 'the peace keepers'), Cruise Missiles. Nuclear stockpiling. Over-kill. My gun is bigger than your gun. A man's home is his castle, and don't you forget it!

Mucho macho hierarchical patriarchy . . . the world held hostage. The media glorifies it. In fact, most people cannot even imagine a world of peace — a world of plenty — a world without hierarchies of power.

Our children may not grow up. The world may very well be destroyed by those in power — in Congress, in the Oval office, the politburo, the Pentagon. Everything people have created through the cons — gone. OUR STUNNING HARVEST.

And that was just the openers. Five adults and one child continued to read the full text.

Later, Nikki Craft, feminist activist, spoke to the audience.

She displayed large color posters of nude women, bound and strung over tree limbs, exposing their genitals.

The pictures are the subject of her wrath against *Penthouse* December issue that features the pictures of Asian women, under the title of Majic.

Craft is no stranger to San Jose. She and seven others from her group, called Preying Mantis, from Santa Cruz, was arrested last year at the Miss Nude San Jose Pageant for pouring blood on the steps of the Center for Performing Arts.

"We protest violent pornography," Craft said. "Our purpose is to reject as strongly as we can the lies perpetrated by Bob Guccione, publisher of *Penthouse* magazine."

"We are not for censorship of *Penthouse* nor are we opposed to nudity and sexuality" — a point made clearly with signs at every store that an action takes place.

The march began from the university, winding downtown to Santa Clara St. deliberately passing the Circus Bookstore.

*Take Back The Night, Take Back the Day, Save Revolution In the U.S.A.*

— they chanted often. Each person held a sign, candle or both.

Up First Street, the marchers began a wail as they approached the Pussy Cat porno theater.

*No rape! No war! Men stay out of The porno stores!*

The line of march stopped traffic everywhere — drivers and passengers gawked.

The march ended at San Jose State University.

A spiritual happening took place while organizers decided tactics. It was decided to demonstrate in front of the Downtown Liquor store on Third.

The manager panicked, rushed to the door with two of his clerks and locked it, dimming the store lights.

People just mulled around claiming a victory.

I took the time to ask Mrs. Zack why she marched tonight with these womyn.

She clutched her daughter's picture in her arms.

"I will never let my daughter be forgotten, and I am here to warn other womyn."

While we were standing in front of the store, five people walked off and were arrested at a 7-11 store near the University for tearing up *Penthouse* magazines. You should have been there. □

\*The complete text of Ellen Bass' dramatic reading "Our Stunning Harvest" is available as a 40-page booklet for \$4.95 plus \$1 for postage/handling from: HOT FLASH PRESS, P.O. Box 21506, San Jose, CA 95151, ©Meg Bowman 1984.



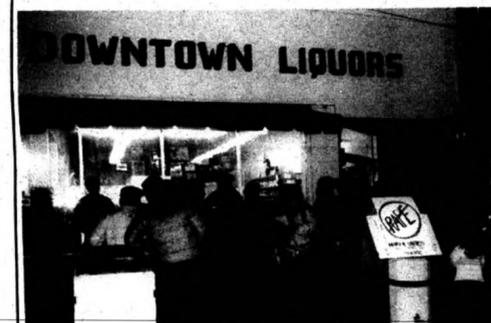
Mother of murder victim, Tania Zack (far right, holding picture of daughter) cries during anti-rape march. Photo by Ted Sahl



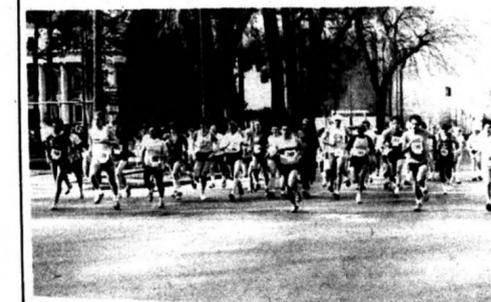
All's Green That Ends Green. St. Patrick's Day, that is. If you didn't polish up your new green-colored shillelagh and head on down to Mac's Club, you missed a great show! LuLu and the Gang put on a St. Pat's show for all you Irish fans. You should have been there. —Ted Sahl



Meg Bowman (center, facing stands), sociology professor, leads dramatic reading of Ellen Bass' "Our Stunning Harvest" for Take Back The Night rally at SJSU. Photo by Ted Sahl



Take Back The Night 1985 Photo by Ted Sahl

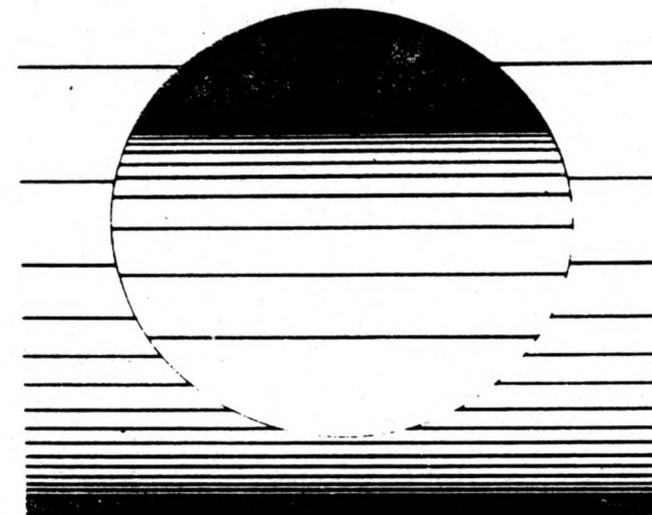


Womyn's Breaking Thru The Wall Run Photo by Ted Sahl



Robin Campbell, Olympic star, "Breaking Thru The Wall" for International Womyn's Week. Photo by Ted Sahl

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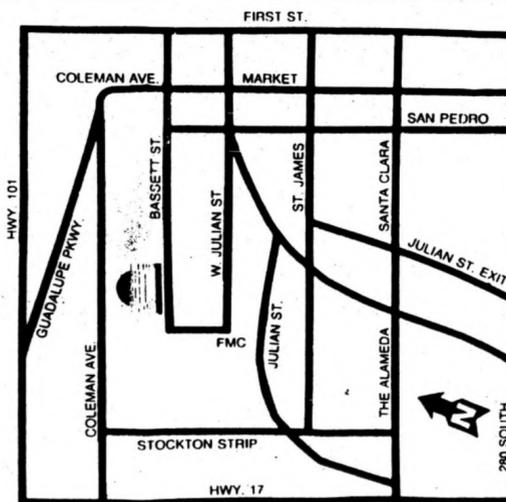
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# Theatre Reviews

By Rick Rudy

## The Country Girl

Strong emotions, good solid acting, and a happy ending are the elements which make up *The Country Girl* (1950) by Clifford Odets, now playing at the San Jose Rep.

Odets was the boy wonder of his generation: six hit plays before he was 33 years old, and called "the most promising playwright since O'Neill." His 1930's plays delivered radical messages, but by 1950 he was more commercial.

*The Country Girl* is the story of an aging, alcoholic actor, Frank Elgin, who is coerced by an arrogant young director, Bernie Dodd, into taking the lead role in a new play bound for tryouts in Boston, then New York.

Elgin hasn't acted in years and relies entirely on his strong wife, the country girl Georgie, to support him psychologically and keep him on the wagon. Georgie is caught between her husband's dream of a comeback, and the reality of his imminent return to the bottle under the combined pressure of the director and producer for a hit.

While the first act builds the tensions among seemingly complex characters, the second act turns into a melodrama revealing the players to be the simple stock figures of an all American "morality overcomes all obstacles" play.

Bruce Gooch plays the tough director with the soft heart. He appears at first to be the villain and we eagerly await his villainy. But the worst he does is kiss a married woman, Georgie, and then is filled with remorse. Gooch handles the role strongly and convincingly.

Megan Cole is the country girl, Georgie Elgin, with the soft exterior but a tough inner strength. She has put up with Frank through thick and thin, and won't abandon him in his hour of need. Cole is the star of the show, and every moment on stage supports her claim to that title.

Tom Ramirez is the alcoholic Frank Elgin, heartily good humored on the outside, but anguished and insecure inside. Ramirez gives a touching and believable depth to the part.

John C. Cook is pleasant as the boyish playwright, Paul Unger, and Al Blair is blustery but frequently unintelligible as the producer, Phil Cook, terrified of entrusting his investment to a drunk.

J. Stephen Coyle and Christianne Hauber are tiny gems as the director's assistant and budding actress, respectively.

The sets by Ken Holoman are staggering in size and exquisite in detail.

The direction by Joy Carlin is excellent, even fooling us to believe, in the first act, that there may be something of substance coming in act two.

That there isn't, isn't Carlin's fault, of course. That the alcoholic will recover and be brilliant in the play, that the wife will stand steadfastly by her husband, that the hard-bitten director will turn maudlin, are all a part of the postwar style.

But for all that, the acting is first rate and the evening enjoyable. So give up late night TV reruns for a while, and get your fill of 1940's melodrama at the Montgomery Theatre, through March 31. Call (408) 294-7572 for tickets.

## Our Town

*Our Town*, by Pulitzer Prize winning author Thornton Wilder, opened on March 12, as a part of A.C.T.'s repertory season. "In all my days as a theatregoer," said Alexander Woolcott at the 1938 premiere, "no play ever moved me so deeply." Whatever it was that moved the crusty old critic then, seems to have evaporated by the time it reached the Geary.

*Our Town* is traditionally done on a bare stage. But that didn't stop several wags from quipping

"I knew ACT was in financial trouble, but I didn't realize they couldn't afford sets!" Sad to say, the most interesting part of the evening was the opportunity to see what the Geary Theatre stage looks like completely empty.

The empty stage *should* focus attention on the warmth and genuine emotion of the characters.

The simplicity of Grover's *Corners*, New Hampshire, *should* awaken in us the beauty in the countless unimportant little events in everyday life. Should, but doesn't.

This production hardly comes to life until most of the characters on stage are dead (the third act is set in a cemetery), and even then the speeches are labored and carefully studied. One wants the folksy charm of Will Rogers and gets instead the intellectualism.

Peter Donat is the Stage Manager who narrates the episodes of family life, love and death. He is cool and precise, leaving long pregnant pauses for emphasis where a grin and moving along would serve better. He does have one marvelous moment, though, when he pantomimes the making of two strawberry ice cream sodas.

Scott Bishop is the young George Gibbs who falls for the girl next door. He is too old for the sixteen year old, missing the necessary innocence for the confession of love in the ice cream parlor.

Emily Webb, George's girl, is played with a whiny arrogance by Annette Bening. We must all fall in love with her, or her death is wasted. As it is, we barely mourn her passing.

Some of the tiny character parts, however, shine with a true luster. Marrian Walters is excellent as the busybody, Mrs. Soames; Sydney Walker is fine as the drunken, embittered church organist, Simon Stimson.

Dr. and Mrs. Gibbs, Richard Riehle and Rosemarie Smith, are remarkably bland. And though livelier, Mr. and Mrs. Webb, Ray Reinhardt and Francine Tacker, make one glad not to be living at the turn of the century.

The direction, shared by Janice Hutchins and William Ball, never achieves the emotional intensity which Woolcott says he felt in 1938. I fear it is partly the aging of the play itself, but mostly the problem lies with the direction.

Many of the actors affect a Down East accent, but these accents vary so widely that one wishes for a Henry Higgins to point out just which parts of California they all come from.

Also, since no props are used, everyone is constantly miming some activity or other: cooking, tossing a ball, stringing beans, mowing the lawn, soothing a skittish horse, etc, etc. It finally becomes like watching a game of charades.

Unfortunately this American classic is lacking both the charm of nostalgia and the vibrance of good theatre. A.C.T.'s *Our Town* is but a faded memory of the *Our Town*'s we all saw, or played in, in high school.

*Our Town* continues through April in repertory at ACT's Geary Theatre.

## Oklahoma

San Jose Civic Light Opera continues its 50th season with a radiantly sunny and bright production of the Rodgers and Hammerstein musical *Oklahoma*.

After writing dozens of shows with Lorentz Hart, Rodgers teamed to Oscar Hammerstein for book and lyrics for this 1943 show, breaking traditions in lyrics, story line and integrated ballet.

CLO has taken advantage of all these aspects, and abandoning its previous policy of hiring "name" stars for the leading roles, has instead assembled a cast of good actors who can also sing and dance.

Michael G. Hawkins plays the handsome cowboy Curly with boyish charm and unbounded energy. From his opening upbeat *Oh, What a Beautiful Mornin'*, to his bragging *People Will Say We're in Love* he captivates the audience.

Laurey is played with unusual spunk and drive by Jennifer Adams. The role of Laurey is too often played as sweet and brainless, but Adams blends a tenderness with feistiness and this is a welcome change. She also has a lovely voice and uses it well.

Perhaps because Curley and Laurey are so peppy, the comic couple of Will Parker, Michael Levesque, and Ado Annie, Karyl Lynn Burns, fails to attract as much attention as in most productions.

Levesque is a good dancer and does a lot with *Kansas City*. He is also good in his dialogue scenes with Ali Hakim, the peddler man who is looking for a quick fling with Ado Annie.

Burns is an impish Ado Annie, but her nasal, whiny voice gradually becomes as irritating as Gertie's obnoxious laugh. She comes across more as dimwitted than naive. Ali's astonished "You want to marry her, on purpose?!" speaks for us all.

Dan Flood is a marvelous Judd Fry, the sinister hired hand who has a fixation for Laurey. His solo *Lonely Room* is very powerful as is his duet *Pore Judd* sung with Curley. He is a good enough dancer to dance his own role in the Dream Ballet, and does it very well.

Kari Bol is a warm and winning Aunt Eller, and Doug Baird a youthful but strong Ike Skidmore.

The Dream Ballet is excellently done, especially the Dancing Laurey and Curley; JoAnn Klaus and Thomas Slattery. The other male dancers, however, are not quite coordinated, and they distract from the smooth flow here, as well as in the *Kansas City* number.

The choruses are well sung, particularly the Girls in *Out of My Dreams*, and the seven-part title tune *Oklahoma*.

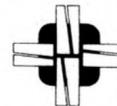
The scenery is strikingly handsome from the opening scrim painted with a map of the Oklahoma Territory to the lantern draped Skidmore Ranch, to the shadowy interior of the barn.

The direction by Bonnie Hellman is clean, fast-paced and

Continued on Page 16

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## Dangers of AIDS Blood Test

New York — An ad campaign launched here this month warns of dangers in the new "AIDS Blood Test."

The test detects antibodies to the virus believed to cause acquired immune deficiency syndrome but, according to medical experts, it does not show whether someone has AIDS, will get it or will be immune from it.

Scientists, physicians and gay leaders are concerned that the test may not be useful and it is certainly dangerous.

The test kit is already being used by researchers; it is expected to be in use by blood banks and private physicians very soon.

Although the new test is not diagnostic, gay leaders fear that it could be used to discriminate against those who test positive.

"It could be our worst nightmares come true," said Rodger McFarlane, executive director of Gay Men's Health Crisis.

"If insurance companies start misusing this test, they could deny coverage to anyone with a positive test.

"From there it could spread to employers and even the military.

"The government has already proposed a national registry for blood donors and, although that idea is on hold for the moment, there will be local lists."

Scientists are concerned that fears over confidentiality might obstruct vital research.

Dr. David Lyman, an epidemiologist at the University of California at Berkeley, promised to burn records in violation of any court subpoena that might be issued.

"We simply could not have got an accurate sample without it at the time," he said.

The federal government has existing legislative power to ensure that these records cannot be subpoenaed or used by other government agencies. These regulations are already used to protect studies involving intravenous drug users but have not yet been extended to all AIDS studies (Lyman's study was eventually given this protection).

Physicians worry that the test will be seen as a diagnostic tool.

"There is no reason to take it," said Dr. Stephen Caiazza of New York Physicians for Human Rights.

"It doesn't tell you anything about your health and it will be in your medical record for ever."

Caiazza is also concerned that unscrupulous physicians might try to sell the procedures as a "test for AIDS."

It is not even certain that the test can help protect the blood supply. Authorities feel that most people in high risk groups have refrained from giving blood since asked to do so two years ago.

Now, it is feared, many will give blood in an attempt to find out their results on the antibody test.

Because the test fails to detect the presence of antibodies five or more percent of the time, a great deal of exposed blood may slip through.

Almost as worrying as these "false negatives," are the "false positives." Studies indicate that the blood test registers antibodies where none exist in many people.

Thousands of people may be told that they have been exposed to HTLV III when, in fact, they have not.

GMHC has prepared a print advertisement that highlights some of the dangers of the test and stresses the group's position that people in high risk groups should only take it as part of a legitimate research study that guarantees in writing that it will never pass on the name of participants (a study protected by the regulations mentioned above).

The theme of the campaign is, "The Test Can Be Almost As Devastating As The Disease." The ad features a photograph of

a male body torn in half. It was prepared by volunteers at a major national ad agency. It will be made available to any publication free of charge.

GMHC issued a statement with the release that stressed that the group was not opposed to research.

"In fact," it said, "we are concerned that vital research is being jeopardized by a failure to safeguard the confidentiality of results. It will be more difficult to recruit study participants and the samples will be skewed since they will exclude gay men and others who are informed and educated enough to know of the dangers of the test."

GMHC also advised people in high risk groups to continue voluntarily excluding themselves from the pool of blood donors. □

## OKLAHOMA

Continued from Page 12

never lets this be another ho-hum Oklahoma!

The only real problem is the awful sound system at the CPA. If this theatre were in Battle Creek, Michigan, on could forgive the constant snap, crackle and pop. But we're in San Jose, the home of High-Tech. Can't someone fix the damn thing? Off-stage entrances are louder than on-stage dialogue, and two miked performers embracing sounds like a railroad collision.

However, ignoring this perennial problem, this *Oklahoma!* is one of the nicest things seen at the CPA in a long time. Congrats CLO!

## Bike-A-Thon for AIDS

San Francisco — A novel and courageous community response to the AIDS epidemic is planned to "pedal-off" on Saturday, April 6, according to organizers.

Different Spokes, the lesbian and gay bicycling club of San Francisco has initiated a collaborative fundraising effort with the San Francisco AIDS Foundation to raise funds in support of the programs and services of the AIDS Foundation by cycling 100 miles from San Francisco to Guerneville in the first ever "Bike-A-Thon for AIDS."

At 7:00 a.m. on Saturday, April 6, scores of bicyclists will depart from the Castro Theatre (Castro and Market Streets) on their way to the Russian River.

"100-mile 'Century Rides' are quite frequent," says Bob Humason, president of Different Spokes, "but this Bike-A-Thon is a real challenge because you don't start and end at the same point. This effort promises to be extraordinarily exciting, given the important cause we will be riding for."

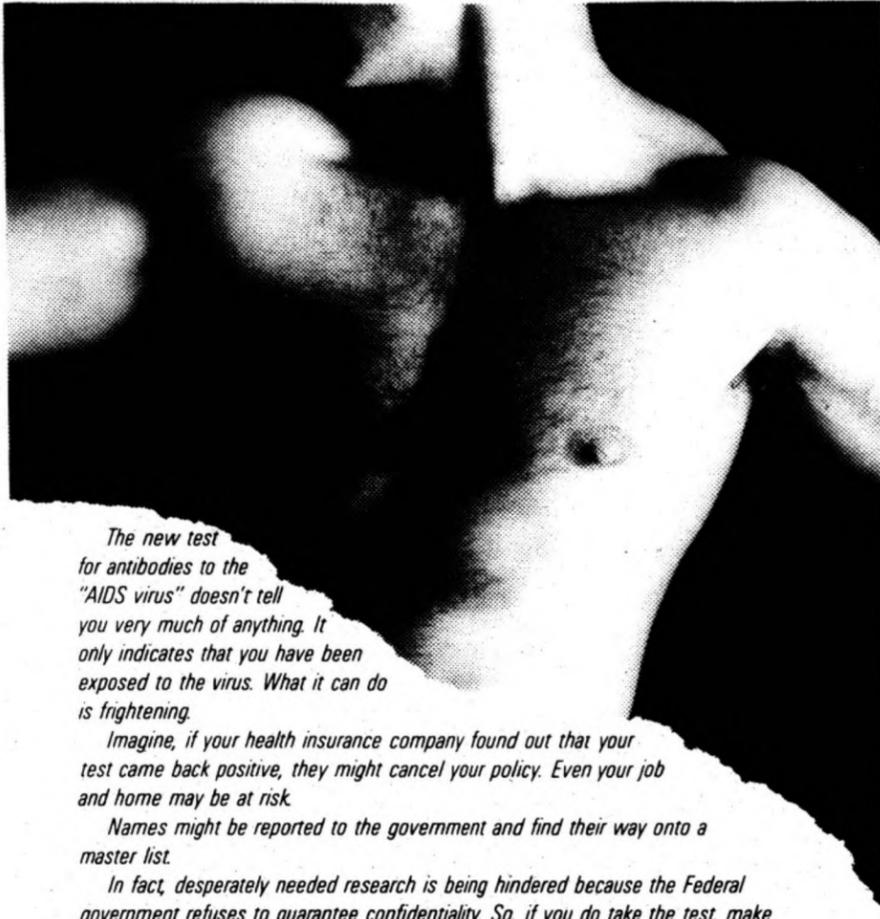
Cyclists need to pre-register by March 29 by contacting Bob Humason at (415) 282-3032.

The Bike-A-Thon will depart San Francisco at 7:00 a.m. and arrive in Guerneville around 5:00 p.m. A buddy system will be in effect so that no single rider will be alone during the event.

Checkpoints, staffed by Front Runners (the lesbian and gay running club of San Francisco), will be stationed every 12½ miles, with food and rest stops established at 25 mile intervals.

Support vans will trail the touring cyclists to provide on-the-spot repairs when needed, first-aid if necessary, and "rides" for participants who find themselves flagging before the Guerneville finish line. □

## THE TEST CAN BE ALMOST AS DEVASTATING AS THE DISEASE



The new test for antibodies to the "AIDS virus" doesn't tell you very much of anything. It only indicates that you have been exposed to the virus. What it can do is frightening.

Imagine, if your health insurance company found out that your test came back positive, they might cancel your policy. Even your job and home may be at risk.

Names might be reported to the government and find their way onto a master list.

In fact, desperately needed research is being hindered because the Federal government refuses to guarantee confidentiality. So, if you do take the test, make sure you get a guarantee in writing that your name and the results of your test won't ever be released to anyone.

Otherwise, our advice is, stay away from the test. It's bad news. GMHC Hotline 212-807-6655

Sponsored by GMHC © GMHC 1985 Model: John Burke

## Nothing unearthed in The Mound Builders

By Rick Rudy

Did you know that there were thousand-year-old mounds in Blue Shoals, Illinois, containing Indian remains and artifacts?

Well, now that you know that, you needn't bother to see Lanford Wilson's *The Mound Builders*, currently being produced by the San Jose Stage Company.

*The Mound Builders* (1975) is a somewhat obscure play by the modern American playwright Lanford Wilson whose other works include the celebrated *The Hot I Baltimore* (1973), *The 5th of July* (1978) and the Pulitzer Prize winning *Talley's Folly* (1979).

Wilson is noted for his "front porch" dramas, so-called because many of them take place on or around rural front porches where just plain folk are wrestling with life's problems.

*The Mound Builders* is in this category, and here two archeologists and their families are obsessed with the buried past while the present runs roughshod over them.

Blue Shoals, Ill., has completed a dam creating a lake which is threatening to cover the remains of "Mississippian culture" mounds located on the property of one Old Man Jasker.

Jasker's son Chad has rented a house to the archeologists August Howe and Dan Loggins who are digging frantically, trying to beat the rising water.

While Howe and Loggins are engrossed in the past, Chad is waiting greedily for the promised Holiday Inn and Interstate highway to be built on his new lakefront property. In the meanwhile he is trying to put the make on both of the wives (and perhaps on Dan Loggins as well?).

Howe's 15-year-old daughter, Kirsten, and his drug-ravaged sister, Delia, complete the house full of plain folk.

Sounds like it might be interesting, doesn't it? Well, it isn't.

Three of the seven actors manage to stay above the water line, but the others are neither

believable nor engaging enough for us to care about their problems.

James Reese is energetic and convincing as Dr. Dan Loggins, assistant archeologist. Reese is strongest when Loggins is either stoned or drunk or just high on the past.

Mary Gibboney is a warm Dr. Jean Loggins, a gynecologist taking a leave of absence to have a baby. Gibboney is sympathetic and understanding about her husband's obsession, while fending off Chad's advances.

D.K. (Delia) Eriksen, the cynical and worldly sister to Howe, is finely played by Wendy Howard-Benham. Delia arrives almost dead from drugs, and still is the liveliest thing on stage. As a role model, she makes "recovering addict" seem infinitely preferable to "obsessive archeologist."

Of the rest, the less said the better. Kenneth Czorniak is a dull, boorish August Howe, always sullen and growling. Marcia Noble Henry is a disinterested yet abrasive Cynthia Howe, the Prof's wife.

Heather Wilson is invisible as the Howes' daughter, Kirsten. And B. Edward Fairbairn plays the landowner's son Chad like a street tough, without the acting skill to make us ever understand why.

The set, by William Pfahni, is cramped, and unaccountably, has the front door located such that the players must cross all the way in front of the set to enter and exit. This "fourth wall" is sometimes transparent to the actors and sometimes not, apparently at the whim of each player.

The direction by Robert Jenkins is superficial, at best. Speeches which should be

charged with emotion are merely shouted. The acting space seems constantly over-crowded, and the frequent blackouts give little hint to the time elapsed between scenes. When Chad takes Dan Loggins and the few artifacts out to drown in the lake, the most we feel is relief that, at last, the play must be nearing the end. □

## VICTIMS REPORT

Continued from Page 1

The draft assessment statement, released Mar. 4, called for additional research "on populations that are at special risk for advanced mental health consequences of victimization," including members of the lesbian and gay community.

In evaluating treatment for victims, the report states also that "gay and lesbian victims could not be expected to do well in unsympathetic programs."

In his remarks to the assessment panel, Berrill also pointed out that "the great majority of lesbian and gay crime victims — some estimates run higher than 80% — do not report crimes against them to the police . . . Those who do report often experience indifference, hostility and discrimination."

The assessment panel called for more research to clarify "the characteristics and mental health status of crime victims" who do not seek mental health assistance or report their victimization to the police.

Berrill also called for more research into lesbian and gay victimization and its mental health consequences. Researchers interested in examining these issues are urged to contact NGTF for information about the subject and possible sources of funding. □

## Announcement

The Gay and Lesbian Alliance at Stanford (G.L.A.S.) will be sponsoring a dance on Friday, April 12, 1985, beginning at 8:30 p.m., in the Old Firehouse on Santa Teresa Street, near Tresidder Union on the Stanford campus. The dance will feature current hits on video, and refreshments will be available. A \$2.50 donation will be requested at the door, and the proceeds will benefit the Mid-peninsula chapter of Parents and friends of Lesbians and Gays. Everyone is welcome regardless of age, race, gender, sexual orientation or Stanford affiliation.

For more information, call the Gay and Lesbian Events Tape at (415) 497-1488.