

OUR PAPER YOUR PAPER

Volume IV, Issue 15

Next Deadline: August 21 — Next Issue: August 28

August 14, 1985

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

BWMT Convention Sparkles: Leaders plan for growth and militancy

By Morgan Pinney

Los Angeles — John Bush, a black professor from Boston, was re-elected co-chair of the National Association of Black and White Men Together at its fifth annual convention in Los Angeles, July 20.

He emphasized a platform of renewed militancy for the organization.

Tim Wilson, of Denver, re-elected as the white co-chair, said that several member chapters are now positioned for direct action after extensive documentation of racial discrimination at gay bars in their cities.

Seventy-five-year-old veteran black civil rights activist Bayard Rustin told the delegates that gay rights is the most difficult struggle of all because it is labelled anti-God, anti-family, and anti-children.

"No other civil rights movement faces such heavily emotional charges from its enemies," he said.

Rustin, whom Bush described as a role model for black gay youth, emphasized the need for homosexuals to build coalitions with other minorities — and with the vast wave of workers displaced by "an economic system which must be re-ordered to provide jobs for all."

Back in 1963, Rustin was denounced on the floor of the U.S. Senate for his homosexuality and earlier communist affiliation by Senator Strom Thurmond, just prior to the March on Washington, which the openly-gay Rustin helped organize despite the reservations of some black civil rights leaders.

Rustin says that many groups came to his defense at that time because of the coalitions he had built with them.

The two hundred black and white men who gathered for the four day NABWMT Convention represent a full 20 percent of the

total one thousand members in the 30 chapters around the country.

Ironically, there is not unanimous agreement in those chapters that a National Association of BWMT should exist at all.

Back in the local chapters, most members give little thought to the National Association during the year, and their dues provide less than a third of the National's \$15,000 budget.

Another third of that budget will come from pledges made by those who attended the convention just concluded.

NABWMT has received foundation grants of some \$6,000, according to outgoing Treasurer Jerry Mallon of Philadelphia.

Understandably, the goals adopted in the business meetings reflect a cautious approach for the coming year — encouraging new and struggling chapters, reaching out to gays about racism, educating minorities about AIDS, as well as continuing to document racial discrimination in gay businesses.

However, Bush emphasized that boycotts and picketing are now the logical next steps where discrimination has already been documented.

Valerie Terrigno, the openly lesbian mayor of the City of West Hollywood, and Steve Schulte, one of that city's openly-gay councilmen, thanked BWMT for input in writing their new ordinance which restricts businesses from demanding more than one piece of photo ID for admission.

So-called "multiple carding" had been a racially discriminatory policy documented by many BWMT chapters.

Atlanta has a similar ordinance in effect, drafted by that city's BWMT chapter.

AIDS Awareness played a major role in the convention.

"Safe Sex" kits were given to every convention-goer.

A lively debate was staged about the wisdom of closing gay bathhouses. And a moving memorial service honored members who have died.

The Philadelphia chapter proudly unveiled its professionally produced "rap" record, a format quite popular with the minorities they hope to reach with the message about AIDS.

The NABWMT Health Committee has produced an AIDS brochure targeted at minorities. Health Committee chairman Jon Peterson, of Berkeley, reported that third world men represent over thirty percent of male AIDS cases nationwide, and third-world women constitute over seventy percent of the national cases among women.

An exciting ongoing "leadership conference" is bringing members to grips with the fact that members and black members bring different styles to interracial gatherings.

"No black meeting would be conducted in the formal and restrained manner in which these business meetings were conducted," commented Jim Ivory of San Francisco.

"Blacks rely more on dynamic leaders," he said. However, the general sessions often resembled black church meetings, with whites picking up the spirit along with the blacks.

"A terrific high results from a gathering of 200 Black and white men who know that the very fact of their meeting is unique — and who know that the causes they promote are just," commented Steve Dorrel, of Los Angeles, chairman of the convention committee.

The Los Angeles chapter was



The mother of Melvin Truss.

Photo by Ted Sahl

On Tuesday, August 27th, the Santa Clara County Human Relations Commission has scheduled a public hearing from 1 - 9 p.m. in the Isaac Newton Senter Auditorium of the County Building, 70 W. Hedding, San Jose, to inquire into the circumstances surrounding the shooting of 17-year-old Melvin Truss by a San Jose undercover police officer. In this issue, Our Paper staff reporter Ted Sahl interviews Laura White, Melvin's aunt, and Constance Carpenter, attorney for Melvin's family. See page 6.

honored with an award for the thoroughness of the convention program and the excellence of the many speakers.

Charles Stewart, of Los Angeles, was the program committee chairman.

The President of the Los Angeles City Council, Pat Russell, greeted the conventioners in the opening session. The co-chairman of the national Human

Rights Campaign Fund, Duke Comegys, also addressed the group.

Wendel Roberson, of Chicago, was re-elected Secretary. Colin Gibson, of Los Angeles, is the new Treasurer.

Next year's convention will be a week-long affair in New York City, encompassing both Gay Pride Day and the Fourth of July.

NGTF executive director, Jeff Levi, addresses High Tech Gays

By Ted Sahl

Jeff Levi, executive director of the National Gay Task Force (NGTF), taking his cue from the High Tech Gay's meeting on its corporate outreach program, began his talk on that very subject.

His remarks were as follows:

Employment

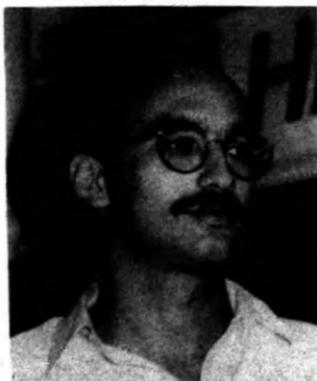
The National Gay Task Force did its own corporate survey four years ago.

The Fortune 500 companies were the target throughout the country to find out what their employment practices were.

The results were published in a handbook that is popular, even to this day, which prompted us to bring it up to date and find out

what was happening.

By the end of August, NGTF



expects to be sending out letters, again, to all the Fortune 500 companies to find out what their

current policies are.

We hope it will show some improvement, and we hope it will be an incentive for other groups to do something similar . . .

Most of us don't work for Fortune 500 companies, even though the "New Right" writers present the NGTF as a wealthy and powerful element in American society . . .

DISCO Suit

The other area that I think is exciting is the Defense Industrial Security Clearance Office (DISCO) suit, and the whole issue of security clearance.

[Levi referred to Judge Thelton Henderson's granting a motion to grant a class action status to the High Tech Gays suit. The

class consists of all gay persons who, since January 1982, have applied for, are applying for, or may in the future apply for secret or top secret industrial clearances from DISCO in any of the eight regions in the country, and all Gay persons who, since January 1982, have held, now hold, or may in the future hold such clearances. The suit was filed by attorney Dick Gayer.]

This organization [High Tech Gays] does not have to be told about the relevance of the broad-based civil rights issues that we are all fighting for. The relevance of those two is the basis of your very existence.

The security clearance battle is a difficult one. It's not as though the NGTF has immediate entry

into agencies like the Central Intelligence Agency and can sit down and negotiate with them over a change of policy.

Through law suits, political pressure, and P.R. efforts, we can make it increasingly less defensible for the military, for the Defense Department, and for the intelligence agencies to be carrying out these kinds of policies.

HTLV-III Testing

The most recent outrage that is being perpetrated by the Defense Department is that they are actively considering requiring HTLV-III testing for every uni-

Continued on Page 6

John Vasconcellos guest at BAYMEC reception

State funding for AIDS research, the future of the AB-1 gay rights bill, and other issues of importance to the lesbian/gay community will be discussed when the Bay Area Municipal Elections Committee (BAYMEC) hosts a reception with Assemblyman John Vasconcellos.

The date is Thursday, Sept. 5, from 5 to 7 p.m., at the Sainte Claire Hilton, 302 South Market (corner of W. San Carlos) in downtown San Jose. The cost of \$15 includes hors d'oeuvres.

BAYMEC is a local lesbian-gay political action committee which works to protect human rights in the counties of Santa Clara, San Mateo and Santa Cruz.

State Assemblyman John Vasconcellos represents the city of Santa Clara and parts of San Jose. He is chairman of the Assembly Ways and Means Committee and is a strong proponent of increased funding for AIDS research.

To RSVP or for further information, please call (408) 297-1024 by Sept. 3. The hotel charges BAYMEC for every reservation. □



State Assemblyman John Vasconcellos is a long-standing supporter of human rights for Lesbian women and Gay men. Representing a district in Santa Clara County, he is considered the second most powerful elected official in the State Assembly, where he chairs the Ways and Means Committee.

Photo by Ted Sahl

Gay defendants get jail and fines in Wall Street Journal case

By Morgan Pinney

New York — Former Wall Street Journal columnist R. Foster Winans has been sentenced to 18 months in jail, fined \$5,000, and required to do 400 hours of community service work, after being found guilty earlier this summer of "insider trading" as a result of his leaking advance word of his columns to stockbrokers who profited from that knowledge.

His lover, David Carpenter, was fined \$1,000 and given a suspended jail sentence contingent upon his doing 200 hours of community service work.

Winan's sentence was consistent with a new toughness among judges to jail convicted inside traders, and coincides with a crackdown on this kind of activity by the Reagan administration. However, Winans was the first journalist who has ever been convicted as an inside trader.

Just before sentencing, Winans asked Judge Stewart to limit his sentence to community service work in the gay community, counselling AIDS patients. The judge said that the probation department would assign the work, but that he would advise them of Winan's wishes.

Winan's defense attorney Don Buchwald also asked the judge for leniency because the defendants had cooperated completely with authorities, invoking neither their First nor Fifth Amendment rights to remain silent. He also said that it was a "novel legal theory" for the government prosecutors to have applied insider trading laws to a journalist. Judge Stewart apparently was unmoved by these pleas.

Carpenter's attorney, Jed Rakoff, reminded the judge that Carpenter's involvement in the criminal activity was minimal and stemmed solely from his love for Foster Winans. He mentioned the homophobia Carpenter has had to endure in his life — including homophobic remarks in a letter to the judge from the third co-defendant in the case, Kenneth Felis, who is straight.

Felis received a six month sentence, to be served on weekends, presumably because Felis is a "family man," according to his attorney. Felis's fine was set at \$25,000, obviously reflecting his larger gains from the inside trading scheme. In addition he will do 500 hours of community service work.

The defendants have already announced plans to appeal and

TROY PERRY TO VISIT MCC-SAN JOSE

The Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches (UFMCC) was founded by The Reverend Troy Perry to minister to the needs of Gays and Lesbians throughout the world. Since its inception in 1968, the church's membership has grown in Los Angeles. The Fellowship now has over 200 churches in 10 countries.

Rev. Perry will be speaking at The Metropolitan Community Church of San Jose during the weekend of August 23rd through 25th. He will be preaching at a Friday evening worship service and a Sunday evening worship service. Additionally, he will be presenting the San Jose premier of the UFMCC's documentary film, "God, Gays and the Gospel: This is Our Story" on Saturday evening.

The film presents the history of the denomination and the church's deep commitment to the christian faith. The UFMCC's doctrine is based on New Testament premises that the revelation

of God in Jesus Christ is the religion set forth in the Scriptures. Open to all people, the film proclaims God's acceptance and love for all people and debunks the UFMCC as a Christian church that was called into being as an outreach to the gay and lesbian community.

Troy Perry has spent his time helping others discover the loving and caring God to whom he has devoted the majority of his life. Perry began his vocation in Florida at the age of 13 and was licensed as a Baptist minister two years later. During this period, Perry became aware of his sexual orientation and felt, as many Gays did in rural America, that he must certainly be the only one in the world who felt that way. In 1962 Perry was assigned to pastor the Church of God of Prophecy in Santa Ana, California. It was there that Perry experienced an "uneasy" coming out and came to terms with his gayness. Shortly thereafter he was excommunicated from the church.

After a two-year stint in the Army, Rev. Perry moved to Los Angeles where he was set on the

historical course his life was to take. "The Lord was dealing with me. I had been taught by my previous church that you couldn't be a Christian and a Gay person too. I kept this up until one day God got a word in edgewise and said, 'Don't tell me what I can do. I love you, Troy, and I don't have any stepsons or stepdaughters. Reread My Word.' And reread God's word I did."

It was following a close friend's arrest that Perry realized that "God cares," precipitating the birth of MCC in Los Angeles, and ultimately leading to the universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches.

Rev. Perry will be speaking at the local Metropolitan Community Church on Friday evening, August 23rd at 7:30, Saturday evening, the 24th at 7:00, and Sunday evening at 6:00. The services and film will be presented at the Grace Baptist Church Building, 484 E San Fernando Street at the corner of 10th Street. For further information, please call (408) 279-2711. ●

New program provides counselors for people with AIDS in So. Bay

ARIS, a program funded by private donations, is designed to provide emotional support for people with AIDS and their significant others. Recently, 15 members from the South Bay Area were trained by the "Shanti Project" from San Francisco, and are now available as volunteers. The second training session will occur in late August and add 30 new volunteers.

Documented cases of AIDS are increasing in Santa Clara County. This increase in cases

has also increased the need for counseling support for those facing this life-threatening illness, and those deeply affected by the approaching or actual illness and/or death of others. ARIS provides one-to-one support relationships through home or hospital visits.

Interested volunteers may apply and will be screened by the ARIS Board. People requesting information or services may contact the Project through Stephen Cooper (415) 965-0925 or John Hester (415) 497-5101. □

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New York City 212/242-6863
Published Biweekly at
973 Park Avenue
San Jose, CA 95126
News Phone: 408/289-1088
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A Lot More Than Phoney Baloney

If you're one of the millions of gay or lesbian Americans who has said "I love you" to a friend or a lover of the same sex, you could be going to jail soon.

If you're one of the millions of Americans who has, for whatever reason, utilized a telephone sex service, or had a similarly intimate conversation with someone, you could be fined \$50,000.

And if you're one of the millions of people who think 1984 was just a novel, and that your telephone calls are private, safe and personal, think again. The U.S. Senate is considering a bill that would change all that.

Labeled the "Cable-Porn and Dial-a-Porn Control Act," Senate Bill 1090 threatens to do a lot more than just keep Jack Wrangler off "Showtime." This bill would outlaw any telephone communication (paid, personal or otherwise) that contains "any comment, request, suggestion, or proposal which is obscene, lewd, lascivious, filthy, or indecent, regardless of whether the maker of such comments placed the call."

Happy days are here again. And who do we have to thank for this piece of "phoney" baloney? None other than the unofficial arbiter of public morality himself, United States Senator Jesse Helms.

As Carly Simon so aptly crooned, "Jesse, I won't put on a cologne and I won't sit by the phone for you-ou."

All kidding aside, this piece of legislation is made even more outrageous because it has actually been introduced in the Senate, where it awaits official consideration.

Besides the more obvious problems the bill presents to such apparently obscene items as freedom of speech and the right to privacy, this legislation is yet another bit of evidence that the right wing is becoming more and more strident in its ceaseless campaign to repress lesbians and gays.

Under the guise of "protecting public morality," Helms' bill would open up all private telephone conversations to his own brand of scrutiny. His Bill addresses much more than private telephone sex businesses. It applies to all communication taking place over telephone lines. And its definition of obscenity is ambiguous enough to allow him and his henchmen to use its powers to harass you and me.

What next? A bill to put a scarlet "H" on all of our clothing?

What is, perhaps, most alarming about this latest salvo from the Battleship Helms is that he and his extremist cronies think they can get away with it. Even Jesse Helms wouldn't waste the time of the United States Senate on a bill he didn't think had a good chance of getting at least a lot of attention, if not a lot of support.

Helms' bill offers himself and his gestapo plenty of opportunities. First, it's yet another excuse to send out an urgent appeal for increased funds so right wing groups can push it through the Senate. Second, a vote against the bill will be, in their beady little eyes, a vote "for" pornography. And third, it will be another measure of how strong, unified and committed the national gay and lesbian community is (or is not) in fighting back against this kind of assault.

The betting in the Helms camp is that, again, the lesbian and gay community will respond in typical fashion -- we won't take him or his bill seriously and, therefore, will summon little more than a whimper against it.

Indeed, there are plenty of reasons not to take this bill seriously. But there are plenty of even more compelling reasons why we should. The right wing in this country is becoming more arrogant, wealthy, powerful and determined. They are about to enter the home stretch of what they consider their eight-year mandate to pack the courts and stack the deck against their favorite targets -- with gays and lesbians at the top of the list.

Helms' own words in introducing the bill "articulate" (if you'll excuse the expression) the mindset of ultra right wing America: "Can we expect to conquer the social pathology of . . . homosexuality . . . when vile and degrading depictions of illicit sex acts are no farther away than the TV set, the telephone, the mail box and the local movie theatre?"

This is the kind of thinking that is sitting on the benches of more and more courtrooms, in the chairs of more and legislative bodies and in the offices of more and more administrative policy makers. And the longer it remains unchallenged, the more dangerous and threatening it will become.

In that respect, the Helms bill is much more than phoney baloney. It is all-too-real evidence that the zealots who believe they represent mainstream American thinking will not stop until it is illegal for lesbians and gays to have any civil rights whatsoever.

It is sad to think that even in America we have to write letters and send money to keep the Peeping Jesses of the world from monitoring our telephone calls. But history is full of tragic episodes which prove that even the most fundamental human liberties have never been safe from the warped ideology of self-righteous bigots.

The latest atrocity from Jesse Helms is just one more reason why gays and lesbians have to start taking history seriously. Our destinies depend on it. Otherwise, the kind of repression some millions of our fellow Americans would like to visit upon us could be just a phone call away.

—Vic Basile
Executive Director
Human Rights Campaign Fund

Dignity Convention

Dignity, Inc., the North American organization of Gay and Lesbian Roman Catholics and their friends, will hold their biennial convention in New York City from August 22 to 25.

Under the convention theme "No Turning Back: Lead Us On O Lord", an estimated 800 members from over 100 chapters of the organization will attend including observers from European Christian groups and Australia, friends and people involved in ministry to gay and lesbian Catholics throughout the world.

The convention will be preceded by business meetings, and the election of new officers for the coming two years from August 19 to 22. Social events will be interspersed in their convention schedule which includes religious worship, major addresses, and over forty-five workshops of general topics and gay/lesbian interest subjects.

Among the social events are a New York Harbor cruise, dinner/dance, cocktail party and evening at the theatre.

Registration and other information can be received by writing to Convention, Box 1853, Murray Hill Station, New York, NY 10156. Registration is \$135 for members; \$150 for non-members.

LETTERS

RALLY REPORT

The San Jose Gay Pride Rally Committee feels that the Gay community should be informed what happens with the money we raise for the rally. The following is a breakdown of our fundraising operation and our costs for producing the 1985 Gay Pride Rally:

Revenue
Booth Rentals \$ 1,060.00
Donations 5,664.00
Fundraisers 2,110.00
Drink Sales 7,577.70
Total Revenue \$16,412.25

Expenses
Permits and Licenses \$ 460.00
Advertising/Printing 1,402.32
Entertainment 4,989.00
(includes transportation and lodging)
Staging and Sound 1,525.00
Ice 200.00
Booth Rental 900.00
Beer/Wine 1,645.65
Soft Drinks 708.95
Balloons and Helium 916.00
San Jose Sanitation 206.00
Insurance 810.91
Miscellaneous 250.21
(P.O. Box, First-Aid, etc.)
Total Expenses \$14,014.04
Net Gain \$ 2,398.21

This is the largest amount of money made from a rally in our history. In order to raise money for

next year's rally, we will begin Bingo games on a monthly basis, hopefully in September.

Thank you for your support and we'll see you in '86.

Rebecca O'Bryan
S.J. Gay Pride Rally Committee

AIDS AUCTION

Imperial AIDS Foundation of San Jose wishes to give the Gay community our deepest and warmest love for the donations and support they gave us on July 28 at the fundraising auction at the 641 Club. We raised \$900.

Love to a great auctioneer, Kevan, who really worked at getting that \$900. We also would like to acknowledge donations from: 641 Club, Kevan, Savoy, Boot Rack, Main Street, Victorian Garden Restaurant, Underground Records, Daisy Chain Florist, Watergarden, Wide Angle Camera Shop, Mr. Edwin L. Bilger, Holy Trinity Community Church and Nikki from Black Oak Press.

There are not enough words to express our gratitude to all these people.

On Sept. 15, we will be having a dinner at the 641 Club; the dinner will be from us to all of you. Please join us.

Love,
Yolanda
Imperial AIDS Foundation

AIDS: Danger for All — Not Just Gay Men

By Neil R. Schram

There is, at last, a growing awareness that acquired immune deficiency syndrome is a sexually transmitted disease that can affect the heterosexual population as well as gay men. We must look at what needs to be done to try to limit its spread.

The spread of the AIDS virus among gay men in this country has been dramatic. Only seven years ago the virus was rare; now 9,600 Americans have been diagnosed as having AIDS, and it is estimated that 500,000 to 1 million have been infected with the virus, which has an incubation period of at least five years.

Information presented at the recent International Conference on AIDS in Atlanta demonstrated the potential problem for heterosexuals: 77 cases have been reported due to heterosexual contact (9 from females to males and 68 from males to females); 3.4% of heterosexual men at a New York clinic for sexually transmitted disease showed evidence of infection with the virus, one-tenth the rate among gay men at that clinic, and, in a study at the U.S. Army's Walter Reed Hospital, five of seven spouses of persons with AIDS showed evidence of infection.

So it is clear that the disease is spread by sexual contact between men and women. This indicates a potential for a major spread of AIDS throughout our society.

Since there is neither treatment nor a vaccine in the immediate future, efforts to prevent the spread of the disease are critical. For these efforts to succeed in the heterosexual population, we must learn from endeavors to control the spread of AIDS among gay men.

Initially the major barrier to prevention among gay men was their denial that they could develop the disease. That denial has been overcome as their friends or friends of friends developed the disease. This has led to low-risk sexual behavior among many, if not most, gay men.

That same type of denial is appearing now in response to evidence that AIDS can be transmitted in the heterosexual

population. There is a tendency to focus on infection from prostitutes as the source of the disease in heterosexual men. What is overlooked is that men who are infected by a prostitute can spread the disease to their other sexual contacts, who then spread it to others. It is critical to understand that it takes only one infected partner to infect someone else, and two different partners to continue the spread of the AIDS virus.

Who is at risk for the disease? Any sexually active individual who has not been in a mutually monogamous relationship for at least the last seven years has some degree of risk. An individual's degree of risk is dependent on the number of different partners, types of sexual activity, and the prevalence of the AIDS virus in the city of residence or sexual activity. And the degree of risk will increase significantly as more people become infected.

Clearly it is necessary for health officials to develop guidelines on low-risk sexual behavior for heterosexuals. The guidelines should include advising the use of condoms during intercourse and not ingesting semen. This information should be distributed widely, including in the high schools.

It has become clear that AIDS will be with us for many years to come, and what we do now in terms of prevention will have an effect two to five years from now.

We must learn from the gay men who have lost their lives to the disease or who are ill with it. We must learn how members of the gay community are finally dealing with the reality of AIDS. We must limit the spread of the virus by educating each and every at-risk individual in society—everyone who is sexually active and not in a mutually monogamous relationship—so that they take personal responsibility for protecting themselves and their sexual partners. Failure to do so will result in countless numbers of lives being lost needlessly.

Neil R. Schram is an internist and chairman of the Los Angeles City/County AIDS task force.

Reprinted by permission: L.A. TIMES - May 8, 1985

Radical Faeries

Los Angeles — Star Circle of Los Angeles will hold a nine-day Spiritual Gathering for Radical Faeries Oct. 25 through Nov. 3 on secluded land thirty minutes north of L.A.

What could be called the Faerie movement embraces many approaches and gay men of diverse visions, and it seeks to explore a gay spiritual essence that an increasingly respectable and mainstream gay culture has largely ignored.

Price for the nine-day gathering includes camping and three vegetarian meals and is \$110 per person, though no one will be turned away for lack of money.

For further information, contact: Star Circle, 4550 Hollywood Blvd., Suite 190, Los Angeles, CA 90027 or call (213) 930-1576.

Pride of 'Frisco Poster Project

Taj Hirji, President of Taj Communications, is pleased to announce The Pride of San Francisco Poster Project. The Pride of San Francisco Poster Project has set two worthy goals: to be the single largest privately organized fund-raiser ever for people with AIDS and to provide a valuable local and national advertising opportunity to businesses which support the Poster Project.

Accompanying the Poster will be a separate advertising directory called *The Guide to the Pride of San Francisco* which will list each participating business with their address, telephone and a brief review.

With the support of the entire San Francisco Bay Area Community, Taj's goal—to raise over \$100,000 for people with AIDS—can be reached.

Donations will administered through the San Francisco AIDS Foundation, with net proceeds going directly to benefit people with AIDS.

Jim Foster, San Francisco City Health Commissioner, gratefully acknowledges Taj and The Pride of San Francisco Poster Project for its generous contribution of proceeds supporting the ongoing challenge of the AIDS crisis.

Kevan's

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The family of slain Melvin Truss cries out for justice

By Ted Sahl

Melvin Truss, the black teenager who was shot to death at close range by San Jose police officer Paul Ewing is dead and buried. The story of his tragedy is still alive, and a growing storm is evidenced by the anger and frustration of community organizations and of Melvin's family trying to understand the tragedy — seeking help from city officials, only to be told, "We're working on it."

The family of Melvin Truss cry out for answers, but most of all, the mother of Melvin Truss cries out for justice.

A front-page story printed in the June 15 issue of Our Paper reported that a Deputy Police Chief stated at a City Council meeting that the victim's "lifestyle led to his death."

BAYMEC, a Gay/Lesbian political action committee based in San Jose, is up in arms over the killing.

"Historically, the police have justified the most brutal and heinous actions by labelling their victims with characteristics that typically evoke a negative response from the majority of society," said Wiggy Sivertsen, BAYMEC vice president.

A public hearing on the Truss case has been scheduled by the Santa Clara County Human Relations Commission from 1-9 p.m. on August 27 at 70 W. Hedding, San Jose.

I requested an interview with the family and their attorney, Constance Carpenter, to discuss the version of the killing presented by the San Jose Police Department, which in this writer's opinion resembles a hunk of swiss cheese, the holes of

which appear as serious questions that demand answers.

The meeting was opened by myself, stating there are questions about this case that really bother me.

Laura White, Melvin's aunt, asked me, "What are some of those questions?"

OP: What was Melvin doing on the day he was killed?

LW: Melvin was on his way over to my daughter's house to pick up his uniform to go to work. He had left his mother's home. He spoke to her before leaving. Later he was picked up. Melvin was at the bus stop.

I went there and walked twenty giant steps. I've taken twenty tiny steps because the officer said Melvin was picked up approximately twenty feet south of San Carlos on Second Street.

There's a shelter there and a bench. I took giant steps and ended up in the center of the shelter, which is a bus stop and a seat. Then I took twenty tiny steps and came to the center of the bench, so Melvin was at the bus stop when he was picked up.

OP: Was Melvin ever arrested before or in serious trouble?

LW: No.

OP: I understand, like all kids, Melvin had a hero. Who was his?

LW: Michael Jackson — on all four walls. Two hours of scrapbook filled with pictures of Michael Jackson. Four hours of making a glove like Michael Jackson wears. His mother showed me the white glove with silver sequins hand-sewn in design.

He was Boy George and Michael Jackson orientated, like most kids. Not only that, Melvin has been surrounded by the entertainment world ever since he

was born. My husband was in show business, a professional entertainer. His two uncles play professionally, and his mother plays bass.

So he was surrounded by music and entertainers.

This was a great influence, it is a great influence on all the kids in our family. This is something from birth they have been involved in. It was only natural to a kid to idolize someone. We all did at one point.

You know I had a great love for Patti Page when I was young in high school, only I was a black Patti Page.

OP: The police report claims Melvin was dressed in women's clothing. Can you describe how he was dressed?

LW: Yes. Melvin had on white loafers he bought at Eastridge; they were meshed leather. He had a pair of black shorts, a white polo shirt, and on top of that, an avocado-colored men's sweater with the sleeves rolled up, and a gray-and-white windbreaker tied around his neck.

We might as well go with the jewelry. He wore four plastic bracelets that glow in the dark. All the kids wear them, wave their arms when dancing.

The costume jewelry or broaches, whatever the police called them — if you look at pictures of Michael Jackson, on his sweater, he got diamond pins.

Poor kids can't afford what rich kids have. So they go to the five-and-dime store and try to find pins that look like diamonds in order to make it look like Jackson. Melvin had an owl pinned to his sweater.

OP: I have been documenting anti-nuclear protesters committing civil disobedience. In each case, the person is placed in a van or bus. In every case, he or she is handcuffed before boarding. Why wasn't Melvin handcuffed?

Constance Carpenter (attorney): I can tell you what the Chief of Police said. "Officer Ewing reported he stopped the vehicle ten to twelve feet south of the suspect who approached the car and asked Ewing if he was looking for a date. These actions confirmed Ewing's suspicion that Truss was aggressively soliciting. Officer Ewing was in an unmarked car, out of uniform..."

OP: (Interrupting) And Officer Ewing solicited Melvin. Do you want to comment on that?

CC: The police officer said Truss was soliciting him, obviously, the police officer said he parked twelve feet away and Melvin said, "Are you looking for a date?"... "The suspect entered the car and directed Ewing to pull into an area that is used by prostitutes between First and Second Streets under Highway 280 overpass." That is what the man said happened, Officer Ewing in the officer's statement, but Melvin solicited him for sex, but had not committed a crime yet.

Additional Funding Needed

The bad news is that there still isn't enough money for AIDS. There is only \$12 million in that budget amendment for additional funding for treatment protocols.

The costs of doing clinical trials for drug therapy is extraordinary, and the government simply isn't facing up to that issue.

One of the challenges the NGTF, the AIDS Council, and a host of other groups that are working on this problem will have during the congressional recess is to come up with a documented proof that we can show to the congressional appropriations committee that they still have not asked for enough funding in dollars... before October 1st, when the new fiscal year begins.

Threat to Civil Liberties

There are going to be lots and lots of efforts to take a public health crisis and use that as a method to deny us our civil rights, and civil liberties.

If any of you saw Jerry Falwell on "Night Line," it is an incredible thing to all of us that Jerry Falwell is considered a legitimate spokesperson on an alleged public health crisis...

He is being given legitimacy by the media on numerous issues like quarantine and denying insurance to people who have the AIDS anti-body. These are all issues we are going to be grappling with.

... these issues are going to have to be solved at the state and local levels. Those of us who work in national groups can't do it.

... the local groups are going to have to do this job. You can't regulate the insurance industry from the national level.

... I don't want to stop on a down note, because the most hopeful thing we are seeing in the AIDS crisis is the way communities are coming together...

You can run into the closet, or you can come out fighting. We have invariably seen people in the community "come out fighting." They have realized that running back into the closet isn't going to save their lives.

... There are two types of "coming out."

First, there is coming out to ourselves, acknowledging to ourselves that we are gay.

The second is coming out and becoming part of the community, like High Tech Gays...

Basically, you're all of the same set, working in the Silicon Valley high-tech industry, and you have managed to transfer that experience to some of the larger civil rights issues, and take the initiative on those.

That is something you should be proud of. I hope you encourage your colleagues and other high-tech organizations around the country to do the same.

Two years ago we got language into the appropriation bill that said, "\$150,000 is to be set aside for community-based risk-reduction programs."

So he was surrounded by music and entertainers.

This was a great influence, it is a great influence on all the kids in our family. This is something from birth they have been involved in. It was only natural to a kid to idolize someone. We all did at one point.

You know I had a great love for Patti Page when I was young in high school, only I was a black Patti Page.

OP: The police report claims Melvin was dressed in women's clothing. Can you describe how he was dressed?

THE SAVOY PICNIC

Photos by Ted Sahl

By Ted Sahl

Chicken, spare ribs and all the trappings that go with it; games of chance, and lots of beautiful women were on hand Saturday, July 27th, at Blackberry Farm in Cupertino. The energy was high and there were lots of challenges to work it off.

The beer lines and cool wine lovers kept the atmosphere light and happy. Football took over the dance floor temporarily. It was a family day for those lesbian moms who brought their children.

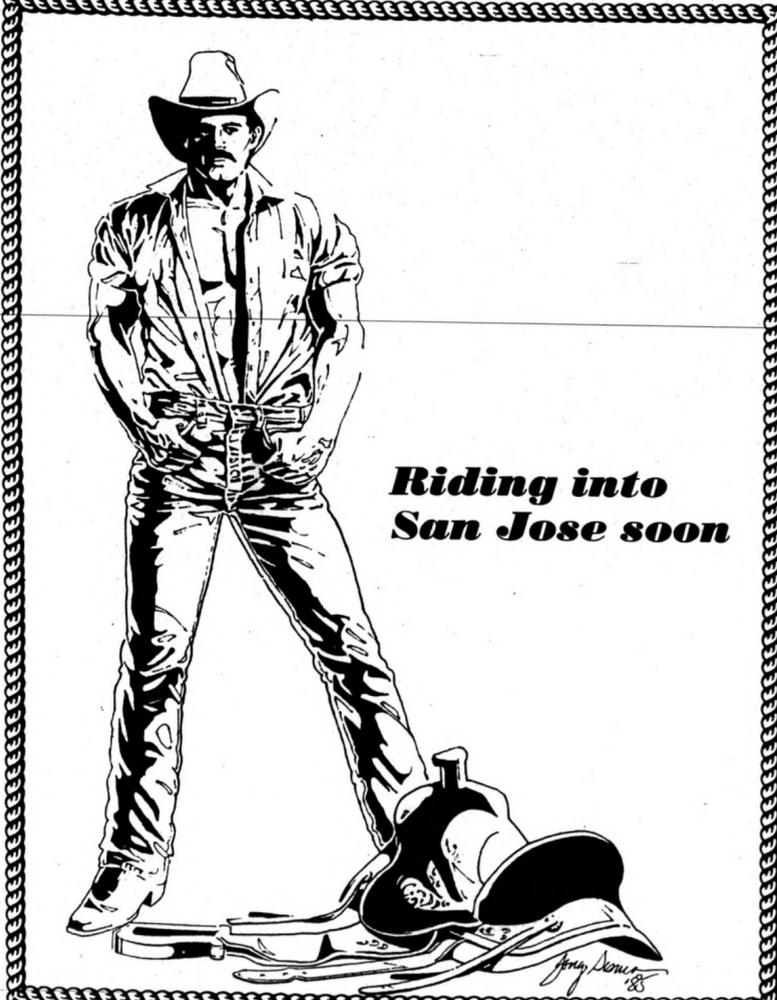
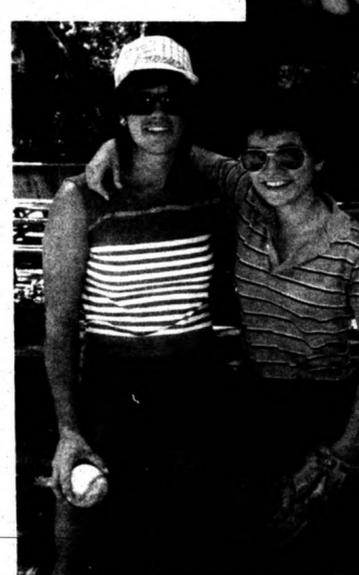
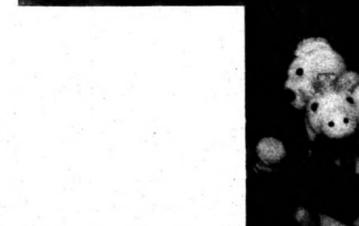
For those who came with a little mischief in mind, water guns were provided. I might point out that I was frequently caught in the cool, wet crossfire as I worked.

Double your pleasure — double your fun was provided by a dunking pool, where two womyn at a time were dunked by those lucky enough to hit the bull's eye. The beer was poured fast, and was guzzled by the picnickers... it was a hot one!

The water pistol fighters got ferocious. I kept ducking, and got better at it, although I can't help feeling there might have been one or two shots aimed from the rear.

Earlier in the day a golf tournament took place and handsome plaques were awarded to first and second place winners.

After awhile the lovers took over the dance floor and it was time for just cuddling with your favorite gal.



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New Yup! Never Gets It Up

Review by Rick Rudy



Kathryn Nymoen sings "Tymshare Sherry" in San Jose Rep's new cabaret, UP THE YUP! playing Upstairs at Eulipia, 372 South First Street, in Downtown San Jose. Photo by Charles I. Savadellis

Following their great success with YUP! last summer and this past June, The San Jose Rep is staging a sequel, Upstairs at the Eulipia, called Up the YUP!. Like the majority of sequel attempts, this fails to live up to its predecessor.

Like YUP!, this hour of songs and comic scenes is written by Roy Zimmerman. Unlike YUP!, this show never gets beyond the very superficial, relying entirely on an unending stream of yuppie buzzwords, cemented together more by the unbound energy of the performers than by the skill of the author.

Two stories run through the evening. One is of a marketing manager of a software company which is bent on selling a completely useless software package called FIG. The belabored point, of course, is that business morality has disappeared in Silicon Valley and that conning the public into buying anything useless but "high tech" is the stock in trade of Yuppies.

The other is of a fictitious game show called "Transcendental Pursuits" in which the player's answers have no bearing on the progress of the game.

The songs ape the styles of the Beach Boys, Peter, Paul and Mary and other easily recognized forms, and cover the gamut of yuppie symbols from Mastercards to timesharing to pocket beepers to leather attache cases to egoism to espionage. The author

seems completely satisfied to simply mention these subjects without developing them further.

A pleasant interlude is a Swingle Singers style version of a Bach prelude (or some such) all sung on the word "Me." As the number progresses, the egos of each singer expand with each me, until they are elbowing each other aside for the limelight.

The performers are Kathryn Nymoen, often unintelligible, Steven Repetti, the morally troubled marketer, and Rob Schneider, the game show host.

Up the YUP! has been extended through Sunday, August 25 at Eulipia, 372 South First Street in downtown San Jose. □

Just a Sprinkling of Fun in Sugar

Theatre Review by Rick Rudy

"Sugar," the 1972 musical based on the film "Some Like It Hot" opened a run at the Saratoga Civic Theatre on June 29, in a production by the West Valley Light Opera Association. If you were to suppose that having the two main characters in drag through most of the show would make for a fun evening, you would have guessed wrong.

Picture two down-and-out musicians, Jerry and Joe, in 1931 Chicago, down to their last dime, who take on a simple delivery job, only to be witnesses of a gangland murder. In order to escape from the gangsters, who don't like loose ends, the two don ladies' clothing, becoming Daphne and Josephine, and join an all-female band which is on its way to Miami Beach.

On the train ride, both men fall for the same girl, Sugar, the lead singer, but have a hard time wooing her since she doesn't know they are men. So Joe dresses up as the millionaire son of the Shell Oil magnate to impress her. Meanwhile Daphne is being courted by Sir Osgood, a real millionaire.

The story is cute and the movie was a hit, so where's the problem? Well, the problem is the music and lyrics, by Jule Styne and Bob Merrill, which are about as uninteresting as any show in recent history.

This production also has some flaws of its own.

William Wilson plays Joe/Josephine with a warm baritone voice and slow, easygoing manner. He is at his best, though, as the Shell millionaire, which he plays in voice and style like Cary Grant.

Jerry/Daphne is played by Mike Moon with high camp and boundless enthusiasm. His dance with Sir Osgood is the hit of the show.

Bets' Jernigan is the singer Sugar. What we want is a Marilyn Monroe type, and what we get is a small frightened girl.

Les Dale is Sir Osgood who, while looking for a fourth wife, becomes infatuated with Daphne. The romance builds until, at the final curtain, Daphne pulls off her wig, revealing herself to be a man, and Sir Osgood, undeterred, murmurs "Well, nobody's perfect." Dale starts off slowly, but builds the character satisfactorily by the end.

The truly great concept of the show, however, is the tapdancing gangsters. They tapdance not only during the songs, but for all their entrances and exits as well.

Unfortunately, the tappers in this production appear to be mostly novices at tapdancing.

Ernie Sandoval plays the head gangster, Spats Palazzo, watching his feet more than the plot. He puffs at a cigar and growls his lines very nicely, but he isn't the polished dancer this role demands.

The chorus of women band-members and gangsters are merely adequate singers and dancers, though some, like Beverly Olivier-Blount, shine in certain spots.

The settings for the Miami hotel and the lounge on the yacht are quite attractive. But the others are shabby, or worse, nonexistent, so that many scenes are played in front of a plain black curtain.

The musical direction by Lorraine Stribling is fine, though individual musicians in the pit could use more practice.

The stage direction by Fayra Teeters is quite static, except for Mike Moon as Daphne, who never ceases to move. The choreography by Brien Mahoney, of necessity, makes do with the talent at hand, so the dances are elementary and the dancers, often self-conscious.

It's hard to make this show work well at the best of times, and the summer of '85 isn't one of them for "Sugar," which plays through August 3. □

Artists to produce AIDS videos

Artists for Community Life (ACL) will hold its next meeting on Thursday, August 22, at 8:00 p.m. The network of individuals involved in the arts and in AIDS prevention has chosen the medium of videotape for its first several projects. Creative and logistical details for the first tape will be discussed at the upcoming meeting.

Individuals who want to work on the videotapes, develop future musical, graphics or other projects or contribute organizing skills towards coordinating the network, are invited to attend.

To communicate with the group write to: Community Life, P.O. Box 20305, Oakland, CA 94620-0305. Meetings are held in San Francisco.

For information about the August 22 meeting, call Alan Goodman (415) 839-1923. □

Xmas in July

By Ted Sahl

Everybody talks about the weather, but nobody does anything about it... right? — wrong.

Folks over at the Silver Fox who were fed up with the present heat wave decided, enough is enough. A spokesperson for the club said, "The only way to cool off is to think cool. It's cold in winter, right? There are snowballs and ice." The idea is not as far-fetched as one might think. It was working. I was beginning to cool off myself.

The preparations began. Tinsel and Christmas bells went up over the bar and on the walls. Santa Claus was playing songs on the piano. And over head, wall to wall, Happy New Year greeted the patrons as they entered the club.

Entertainment was provided by a very talented musician. Mike Morris' one-man show kept people dancing throughout the night. It was so cool that to stay warm you had to keep moving, or get frost bitten.



Musician Mike Morris kept the dancers hopping, as the Silver Fox brought in a new fiscal year in style. Photo by Ted Sahl

Patrons with lucky drink tickets received free gifts wrapped in paper and ribbons. Santa Claus made a surprise visit. What would this celebration be without the you-know-who greeting the patrons with a ho ho ho, and giving everyone a tree ornament?

Human Rights Internship Program

The Human Rights Campaign Fund announces that internships will be available in its Washington, D.C. office beginning in September, 1985. Each position will be at least 20 hours per week and last three months or longer.

Interns will work on Campaign Fund projects which may include public relations, conference planning, fundraising or political research, depending upon the needs of the Campaign Fund and the interests of the intern. Clerical and administrative tasks will also be a part of the position. Any intern who is a student may be able to receive credit from his or her school.

For further information, contact Eric Rosenthal at the Human Rights Campaign Fund, Post Office Box 1396, Washington, D.C. 20013 or call (202) 546-2025.

The Human Rights 'campaign' fund is a non-partisan political action committee dedicated to educating and electing candidates who support civil rights for lesbians and gay men. The Campaign Fund has participated in races for House and Senate since 1982. □

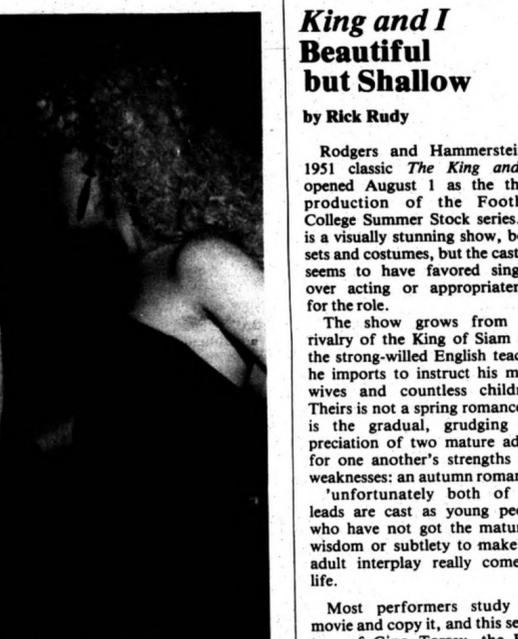
Pool Party

By Ted Sahl

Slightly Older Lesbians (S.O.L.) enjoyed a special treat last month. The group was invited to the home of Ms. Madelon G. McLeod where fine food was provided by a potluck lunch, and a great disc jockey kept the music going all day.



S.O.L. members and guests enjoyed Old Sol at a recent party where some Lesbians enjoyed their day in the sun, while others got in the swim of things. Photo by Ted Sahl



Dancers at the Silver Fox Xmas in July obviously had a blast — but did the event reflect the true spirit and traditional values of the season? Tune in for Easter in August... Photo by Ted Sahl

When I arrived a dozen womyn were lounging around the pool soaking up the sun — others already in the pool were enjoying the water. The sun was hot — that pool was out of sight... The womyn, for the most part, were all at The Savoy picnic. While I was made to feel at home, I decided to take a couple of pictures and let the ladies enjoy their day. □



Lesbian watersports. Photo by Ted Sahl

great energy, but despite his endless proclamations "I am the king!", I never felt that he really believed it. He also rushes his lines so that many are lost in the wings.

Anna Leonowens, the English teacher, is played with genuine warmth and a very lovely voice by Rachel Louis. But, again, her youth cramps her believability. The beautiful hooped skirts help make her look older, but in one critical scene where she sings *Shall I Tell You What I Think of You*, her night clothing and loose hair make her look 18, not fortyish as the script requires.

The subplot, of the illicit love affair between the girl Tuptim, played nicely by Polly Howard, and Lun Tha, played by David Lamm, is well handled, though the strength of their love must be inferred from the action, since they show very little of it on stage. It is somewhat disconcerting, though, that these actors who are supposed to be very young, are played by actors considerably older than required.

The ballet section, *The Small House of Uncle Thomas*, choreographed by Renee Pulliam, is quite well done with all of the dancers in very good form.

The chorus of wives and children is fine, the tiny ones upstaging everyone whenever they appear. Naturally.

Overall *The King and I* is beautiful to watch and beautiful to listen to; Rodgers and Hammerstein created perhaps their loveliest score for this show. But with a king who looks and acts as if he were young enough to be Lady Tiang's son, we have a burden hard to overcome. □

Redwood '85 Music Festival To Be Held In September

Redwood Records and the Great American Music Hall have announced plans to host a musical extravaganza that will celebrate Redwood's 13 years as an independent record label and herald a new period of visibility and growth for the Bay Area company.

"REDWOOD '85" will be a 7-hour concert extravaganza on September 15th at Berkeley's Greek Theatre. The show will include familiar Redwood performers as well as a sparkling sample of new artists on the expanding label - Holly Near, Arlo Guthrie, Sweet Honey in the Rock, Ronnie Gilbert, Ferron and the Shadows on a Dime Band, Inti Illimani, Linda Tillery and Band, and Judy Small.

Founded in 1972 by singer-songwriter Holly Near, Redwood Records has long enjoyed respect for combining professionalism with a commitment to cultural vision. Redwood has garnered a reputation within the music industry for the high quality products, creative marketing, and a commitment to artistic

integrity. In the past year, the company has begun to extend its musical horizons toward a larger, more diverse audience — more than tripling their catalog with music representing impressive talent in the Folk, New Age, Latin American, New Song, Folk/Rock, and Urban Contemporary musical genres.

An exciting showcase for Redwood's expanded image and new artists, "REDWOOD '85" promises to be a unique and dynamic event, musically rich in talent, and visionary in cultural scope. □

Womyn's Chorus

The South Bay Womyn's Chorus will be taking a break for the month of August, then having a special "sing into our next year" celebration on September 7.

A potluck will be followed by a tape of a popular musical to sing along with. If you think that you can't sing, you will be interested in the newly formed bottle band — BYOB (empty). All womyn are welcome to attend.

For more information, call Diane (408) 730-8358 or Phyllis 245-2358. □

Things to Do

Are you interested in the Renaissance Faire in Novato? Would you like to be a part of the new spirit of the Tudor era Merry Old England? If there is a bit of a gypsy in you and a need to express yourself — call 248-5789 after 6:00 p.m. Gay Day at the Renaissance Faire in Novato this year is Labor Day — Monday, September 2. Put it on your date calendar now!

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I.A.F. fundraiser successful

By Ted Sahl

The 641 Club, one of San Jose's favorite "hot spots," on the Stockton Strip, hosted the Imperial AIDS Foundation's second fundraiser on Sunday, July 21.

Rachel, Grand Reina III, and friends created the I.A.F. to help future AIDS persons who reside in San Jose.

With the loss of Frank Ignascio and John Molinar in the last 2 months due to AIDS, the reality of the disease hit home very hard.

The fundraiser was an auction of such items as a clock radio, an Elvis Presley collector's bottle, a live poodle, and a giant stuffed teddy bear. The items were donated by individuals and gay businesses.

Kevan Daniel did a superb job as Grand Reina Auctioneer. \$900 was raised by the event.

Bernie and Rachel got a good workout delivering the items to the bid winners. Lord, can that girl Rachel run in high heels! Eat your heart out, Dolly! "Money is a girl's best friend, not diamonds," declared Rachel.

Jack Britton, owner of the Boot Rack and Main Street, was a big spender, as always, when it comes to a good cause. After

winning the bid on the giant teddy bear for \$216, Jack walked over to Queen Mother IV, Dorene Tinney, and presented the giant teddy bear to her.

A big, heartfelt thanks to every one of the more than one hundred people who participated in this event is extended by the I.A.F. The next I.A.F. fundraiser will be held at Kevan's on August 17 at 9 p.m., featuring Rachel as emcee and including female impersonators Camille, Nickie Nations, Toby and Connie, the Hot Chocolates from San Francisco and various speakers. A donation of \$4 is requested at the door.

Yolanda and Bernie announced that the new foundation has been officially recognized as a non-profit organization as of August 7.

They emphasized that the Imperial AIDS Foundation is a brand-new organization and is not connected in any way with Casa, Inc. of San Jose.

A free spaghetti dinner is being planned for September 15 at the 641 Club to thank those in the community who have helped the foundation get started on its fundraising project. □



San Jose's favorite auctioneer, by acclamation, Kevan Daniel, puts another teddy on the block. Photo by Ted Sahl



Black and White Men Together had it together on August 4 at their 3rd annual picnic at Stevens Creek County Park. Jim Hittner shows off the BWMT banner to part of the group gathered for the sociable occasion. Coming up — a cruise on the Sacramento River. Photo by Ted Sahl

Humanist Forum

How does a fourteen-year-old female lowland gorilla use human language to express her views of life? After millions of years of evolution, are her views so different from ours? Does Koko's creative use of our language indicate that human language is, in fact, species specific as has been believed?

Conversations with Koko will be the topic at the Humanist Forum on Friday, August 16.

Deborah Stratmann, president of The Gorilla Foundation Auxiliary will present a video and conduct the discussion. Doors open for refreshments at 7:30 p.m. The speaker begins at 8:00 p.m. in the Community Room of the Saratoga Library, 13650 Saratoga Avenue, Saratoga. The public is invited at no charge.

For information on the Humanist Community of San Jose, call (408) 251-3030, or write 3032 Warm Springs Drive, San Jose, CA 95127. □



Teddy Bear (left) priced \$216 out of Jack Britton (center, with Boot Rack t-shirt), then went home with Dorene Tinney. That is NOT Dorene on the right! Photo by Ted Sahl

Things To Do

The San Jose Symphony presents its 3rd annual Symphony on the Green on the lawn of the San Jose Country Club on Sunday, August 18 at 6 p.m. Pre-concert festivities, beginning at 4 p.m., include clowns, mimes, pony rides, face painting and "Rikhan," Marine World's spectacular Bengal tiger. Concert-goers are invited to bring their own picnic baskets or reserve a box dinner for an additional \$6.75.

Concert tickets are \$12.50 for adults, \$5 for children under 18, children under 4 admitted free. For tickets, call the Symphony Box Office at (408) 298-2300.

Black and White Picnic

By Ted Sahl

Black and White Men Together held its 3rd annual picnic at Stevens Creek County Park on Sunday, August 4.

According to Jim Hittner, the San Jose chapter of BWMT was formed in December of 1982.

"Michael Torain and myself started the San Jose chapter because we were tired of driving all the way into San Francisco," said Hittner, "and our goal is to build a fellowship of men. There are many amongst us who find the differences of race exciting and captivating, and who view our diversity as a challenge and opportunity, and an invitation to interact together."

He said, "Our members, both singles and couples, represent differing ages, professional, political, and social attitudes."

Hittner said, "Members share two goals; meeting other gay men with compatible values and interests, and expanding cultural and social opportunities through a variety of activities from small groups to large socials such as this picnic. In addition to rap sessions, we promote intra-group get togethers: BYO's, potlucks, theater parties, at home movie/slide nights, political activities, consciousness raising sessions, forums, workshops and guest speakers."

I asked Hittner what's next on the agenda.

He replied, "A Sacramento River cruise, on October 19th. The cruise ship leaves from Fisherman's Wharf."

Check the group out . . . call Jim at (408) 356-6932. □

FORTUNES

By Tycho

ARIES (March 21 - April 20) You should be right in your element at this time. An exceptional combination of emotional and intellectual surety gives you the chance to see how to overcome limits. Responsibilities change because of new ideas. Friends are a big help.

TAURUS (April 21 - May 20) Taking on a new job? Some sort of obligation comes along that offers a bright reward. Don't allow domestic thoughts to keep you away from it; any problems along those lines will solve themselves soon enough. By the way - you look maahvelous, simply maahvelous!

GEMINI (May 21 - June 21) Sometimes the strength of our natures comes through just in time. Have you been thinking about how bad your thinking has been? Bad for you, maybe, but some slight idea you toss off in idle chatter may turn out to be a winner for someone else.

CANCER (June 22 - July 22) Time to push forward to what you want to achieve. Your personal magnetism is high, and you have an excellent base that you're sure of and can speak from. Home? Oh, that will take care of itself. Go out into the big world and be a big person.

LEO (July 23 - August 22) Irish or not, you've got a gift of blarney that anyone could envy. Aren't you ashamed of that line you hand out? Well, there's no reason to be; what you think of as simple booshwah has a lot of real meaning for someone else. Careful! People believe what you say!

VIRGO (August 23 - September 22) There's a remarkable amount of energy for you to use; how to use it may be a question. Go for the gold! Sound financial planning will hedge all those doubts about the future. As far as love is concerned, your best bet is an old flame.

LIBRA (September 23 - October 22) What catches your attention now may not seem to lead to the brightest ending, but it gives you great personal satisfaction. If it's done with concern and care, it will wind up with a finale that revises your view of happily ever after.

SCORPIO (October 23 - November 21) Work, work, work. Does it never end? As often as it seems that you're beating your brains out for nothing, you're on a track that leads to good fortune. Stick with it, and see if your view of things doesn't change in a week or two.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 - December 21) A sense of the mysterious colors your life. Looking for a vision, you may ponder dreams or wonder if happenings are omens. Let images that strike you flow together; they may connect with one or another to form something new and valuable. Passion fuels the fires.

CAPRICORN (December 22 - January 19) Pay close attention to the needs and secret messages of those closest to you — friends, lovers, relatives. This is a time for reshaping relationships and reaffirming bonds. The effort helps move your life forward to unexpected areas of enjoyment.

AQUARIUS (January 20 - February 18) It's going to feel like you're pulling lots of dead wood with you right now. People around you bring you down, make you bored. Keep on truckin'! If you don't, you'll just fall into a funk yourself. Light my fire, Aquarius, and let's have another drink!

PISCES (February 19 - March 20) You know what you've got, and exactly how to use it to your best advantage. With proper thought, you can increase your wealth. What may bother you is how to share your windfall; stay tuned into your subconscious for the answer to that one.

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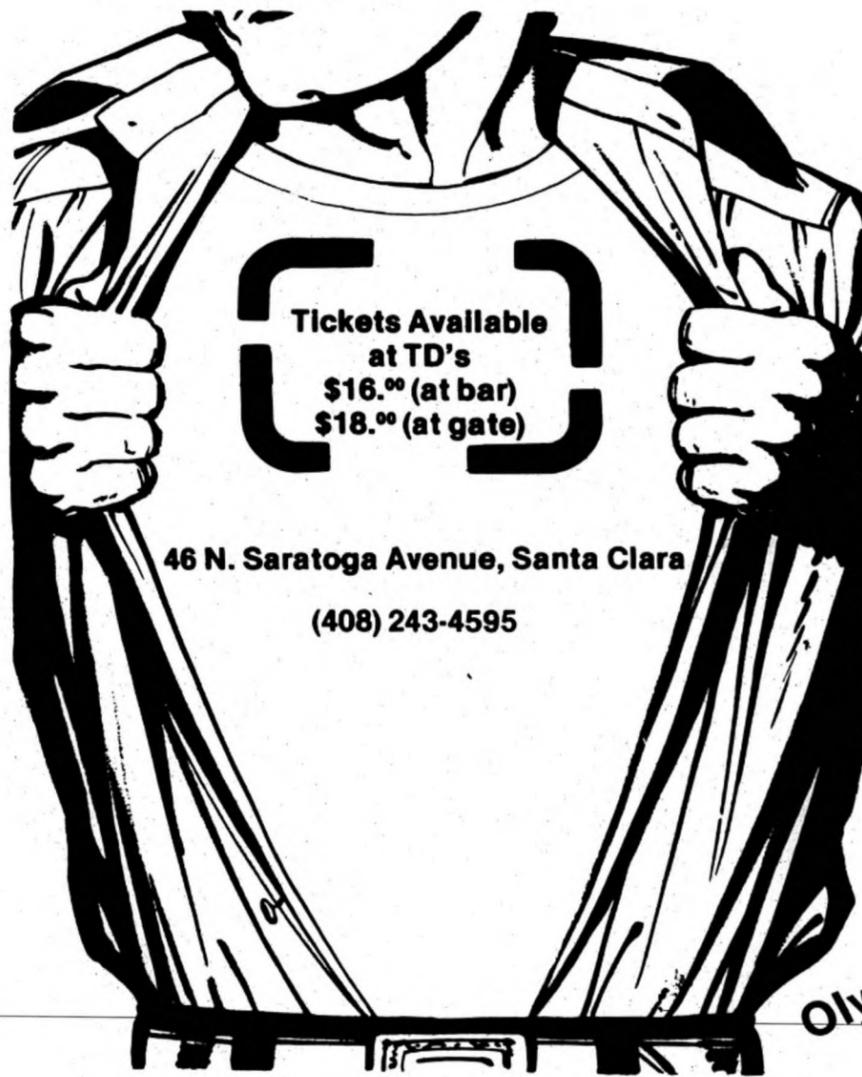
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