

OUT PAPER YOUR PAPER

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January 22, 1986

Larouchees do it, again

by Ted Sahl

Members of Lyndon LaRouché's National Democratic Policy Committee returned to the Campbell Post Office with all their wonderful written paranoia, to resume after a long relapse — we should be so lucky — their "Spread Panic, Not AIDS" campaign.

New faces for 1986 staffed the table covered with bumper stickers, information on you know who... and lots of pamphlets. The only new item I could see was a poster saying "Ban Cranston."

Your friendly "LaRouchee" named Fred wasn't so friendly and refused to make any sort of comment to any question I put forth, as a peace gesture, of course. Fred's female side-kick who was paranoid when I said I would take their picture for the Gay press, said, "No way," but was too scared to move. Fred was more cool, and posed by holding a bright hate bumper sticker, while bowing his head. Before I left, Fred insisted that I help myself to the latest edition of the N.D.P.C. newspaper. The latest publication had a special message from Great White Father himself; and Fred just knew I would like it. I would like to share some of the highlights with you.

Lyndon is calling for 100% screening of the entire U.S. population, and all visitors who enter the country; both must be tested for the AIDS virus. He calls the Administration's handling of the AIDS crisis a "political cover-up." Lyndon's proposal (one of five proposals) comes at a time when the tight political lid which has been put on the AIDS situation — as he puts it — has begun to "pop off" once again.

Lyndon wants everyone to know that the AIDS virus is not only an immune deficiency disease, but also is being found to be a deadly and untreatable assailant of brain tissue. (Thanks, Lyndon.)

LaRouché's article covers "why the administration has tolerated the C.D.C. cover-up" of the AIDS situation so far, as well as updating some good old medical statistics he heard while attending a symposium held at the San Antonio South West Foundation for Biomedical Research. The Director of Virology and immunology, Dr. Gordon Pressman said that he estimates that 2 million Americans have now been exposed.

Lyndon, however, based on discussions with scientists and a review of the literature, estimates that the group of individuals carrying the virus includes 50% of all homosexuals and a similar or higher percentage of heavy drug users.

Lyndon says that by about 1990, over 95% of all homosexuals will be infected with the disease which is presently



Larouchees return to Latimer St. Post Office in Campbell.

Photo by Ted Sahl

100% fatal. AIDS is now spreading rapidly outside the ranks of homosexuals and drug-users, and sexual intercourse with AIDS carriers does not account for this spread.

In light of this evaluation, Great White Father proposes the following measures:

1. 100% screening of the U.S. population and visitors for the presence of AIDS, or related virus. The present test is inadequate because it fails to detect a large population which is infected with the virus. The best test seems to be mass flow cytometers, which, when equipped with circular intensity diffraction (cids) capability, carry out spectroscopic screening for the virus itself, not just the antibody.
2. Isolation of carriers until they no longer communicate the virus. This requires facilities modeled upon the tuberculosis sanatoria of the past.
3. Measure of public sanitation, including pest eradication in urban and suburban areas.
4. Measure to provide sanitary, uncrowded housing for the legions of the superpoor who are already the main new target of AIDS. Once AIDS infects the poor massively, the infection spreads to the whole population, Lyndon says.
5. Measures to improve substantially the level of nutrition for the population as a whole, including

a sharp increase in per-capita consumption of animal protein, the key dietary factor in immunological potential. Lyndon admits that the N.D.P.C. Committee's approach contrasts sharply with that of the Centers for Disease Control, which has promoted drug and sex education.

What must be faced, says Lyndon, is that AIDS is not a sexual disease or a handicap, but rather a pandemic disease which is being spread rapidly by the spread of economic collapse conditions, which is being dictated by the International Monetary Fund and all those international banks. Further, Great White Father says, this means that the major way to stop the AIDS epidemic is to reverse the international economic collapse. Lyndon puts it this way.

The public health measures needed to stop the spread of AIDS are possible if the U.S. economy is put through a recovery program like that which President Roosevelt accomplished during the 1940-43 period.

That means that every economic policy of the Reagan Administration over the period since Summer 1982 has been a howling failure: It means that these policies must be scrapped and replaced. Th Th Th Thaaattss all Folks!

Newly Published Study Demonstrates Contraceptive Agent Kills AIDS Virus

A long-awaited research study has now been published and carries significant importance for reducing the rapid spread of the AIDS virus. The new scientific study shows that the AIDS virus is inactivated by small amounts of nonoxynol-9 ("N-9"), an FDA-approved substance used worldwide in spermicides — inexpensive family planning gels and creams which prevent pregnancy during sexual intercourse.

Such sexual use prompts special interest regarding N-9 and prevention of AIDS because most persons infected with the virus have contracted it sexually. About two million Americans already are believed to have been sexually infected with the AIDS virus, as have many more in Europe, Africa and South America.

The newly published research appears in the current issue of the medical journal, *The Lancet*, and details discoveries first announced in preliminary form by Dr. Bruce Voeller at the Mariposa Education and Research Foundation a year ago on February 1, 1985. The authors are all scientists at Mariposa or the U.S. Centers for Disease Control (CDC). They report N-9 inactivates the AIDS virus at concentrations of 0.05%. Spermicidal gels and creams contain 100-times greater concentrations. Thus, spermicides provide a lethal environment for the AIDS virus and offer the possibility of a significant means of protection to those at risk of sexually contracting the virus.

Until now, condoms have been the sole protection recommended by AIDS prevention organizations, despite the absence of published scientific research documenting the condom's effectiveness either in laboratory studies or ones with human subjects.

Dr. Bruce Voeller, the scientist who created the projects said,

"I think we have made a very important breakthrough. We found that the virus was equally killed whether 0.05% N-9 was tested in pure form or in a commercial spermicide. Inactivation

occurs in 60 seconds. For a widely used sexual product to have major toxicity to the AIDS virus is of great importance.

"Although I think anyone concerned about sexual exposure to the virus should indeed use condoms, we now have in N-9 a very significant addition to the arsenal for sensible sex. We now have more laboratory information about the AIDS virus and nonoxynol-9, properly published for peer review, than about the AIDS virus and condoms.

"Condoms have a well known failure rate for preventing pregnancy (a fact never mentioned by AIDS groups). The failure rate of condoms with the virus reasonably can be predicted to be at least as bad as with pregnancy. Indeed, viral failure rates probably will be a good deal greater, because the risk of pregnancy exists only a few days each month, when a woman is fertile; the viral risk is every day of the month.

"While the condom is undoubtedly one important step in protection, its widespread link to 'safe sex' is exaggerated. Combining use of the condom with that of an N-9 spermicide, constitutes a major movement toward protection, in my view. But even combining these two methods, no one should believe there is a guarantee of protection such as implied in the familiar phrase 'safe sex'."

The Mariposa Foundation expressed grave concern that while both the government and the private sector have rightly spent great sums on seeking a cure for AIDS, both have failed the public and future generations by not underwriting clinical trials of both condom-protection and nonoxynol-9 protection of human subjects from the virus. In the absence of a cure, prevention is of prime importance; even with well established cures for other STDs such as gonorrhea, lack of preventive education is linked with that disease remaining second only to the common cold in frequency in the United States. ●

SOL/FLSG Schedule

SOL (South Bay slightly older lesbians) meets every Tuesday evening from 7 to 9 pm at the DeFrank Community Center, 86 Keyes St., San Jose, for an informal support/discussion group. All newcomers are welcome. For information call (408) 293-4525 between 6-9 pm. The topic for January 28 is Role-Stereotypes.

S.O.L. Monthly potluck will be on Saturday, January 25th, 7:30 pm at Judy's house in Los Gatos. Newcomers are welcome. Call (408) 266-9966 for directions.

The Feminist Lesbian Social Group (FLSG) meets once monthly in the South Bay for a potluck. To receive the *FLSG News*, which announces the monthly potluck as well as other activities of interest to women in the South Bay, send \$12 for a one year subscription to: FLSG, POB 70933, Sunnyvale, CA 94086.

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The conference is produced by San Francisco Suicide Prevention and is planned to provide care-providers and interested community members with the facts that are available about gay/lesbian suicide, to destroy myths that have been perpetuated, and to share skills in dealing with the gay/lesbian client. The conference will be held at the Women's Building of the Bay Area, 3543 18th Street in San Francisco.

"Lesbians and gay men have long been restricted in their access to health, social and crisis services," says Patrick Arbore, staff member of SFSP, "faced with the fear of discrimination, many lesbians and gay men do not seek the assistance they need."

Initially, the problem may be one of illness or perceived illness, fear of death, employment or housing difficulties, family tensions, physical or drug abuse, or grief for loss of a loved one; but, any such problem can become critically exacerbated by isolation

and alienation. At some point, the option chosen by some lesbians and gay men is suicide. And Arbore believes, "Even in suicide, lesbians and gay men are the victims of more myths than truths."

Ginny Apuzzo, nationally known speaker on gay rights, and the former director of the National Gay Task Force, will be the keynote speaker at the Conference.

Workshops will address Suicide and AIDS, AIDS and the Gay Community, Gay/Lesbian Youth, the Aging Homosexual, Suicide and Lesbians, and advanced and basic clinical skills.

There is a fee for the conference: \$10 for Students, Seniors, and Low-income; \$15 for Community Agency Volunteers and Staff; \$40 for Health and Social Service providers; \$25 for the General Public. For more information call SFSP at (415) 752-4866 (business line).

The Conference is co-sponsored by the San Francisco AIDS Foundation, Lyon-Martin Clinic, Night Ministry, Pacific Center for Human Growth, Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays, and the Parsonage of San Francisco.

Our paper your paper

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Alcohol Education: Better Ways To Serve Gay Men & Lesbians

The National Association of Lesbian & Gay Alcoholism Professionals (NALGAP)'s Training and Education Committee is forming a network of educators concerned with gay and lesbian community education about alcohol use and abuse. Formed at the first national NALGAP conference, held in Chicago, September 26-29, 1985, the Training & Education Committee hopes that this network will be an effective way to share resources in this area.

Recognizing only in recent years that this community has long been neglected, city and state agencies responsible for alcoholism services are beginning to question ways of targeting gay men and lesbians for alcohol education. The past few years have seen some efforts made in training alcoholism service providers in combating homophobia; but few resources have been allocated toward community-wide educational activities.

NALGAP's Training & Education Committee will be a mechanism for resource sharing: Who is doing what? Planning what? All health educators involved in this area of work are urged to join in this networking by calling Robert A. Kajdan at (213) 201-6730 or Ron Vachon at (212) 566-6110; or write to Ron Vachon, Director, Office of Gay & Lesbian Health Concerns, New York City Department of Health, 125 Worth Street, Box 67, New York, NY 10013.

Announcement

AIDS-based discrimination public hearings will be held before the San Francisco Human Rights Commission on Feb. 4 and 5, from 5:30-8:30 p.m., at the State Building, 350 McAllister St., Room 1194. Wheelchair Accessible, S.L. Interpreter, and Child Care with 48 hour advanced reservation. Call Jackie, Sue or Dan, (415) 558-4901.

Exploring Our Sex Lives

JoAnn Loulan, therapist and author of *Lesbian Sex*, presents a day-long workshop on the emotional and sexual concerns of lesbians, *Exploring Our Sex Lives*, on March 22, Saturday, at the Women's Building in San Francisco, from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Pre-registration of \$45-\$60 sliding scale is due by March 8, to 2443 B Ash St., Palo Alto, CA

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The focus of the workshop, which is equally applicable to single or coupled women, is on creating specific and practical ways to work on our sexual and emotional concerns. Topics include desire, getting sexual needs met, lack of trust, fear of intimacy, power and communication in relationships.

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personal issues and concerns. Some lecture and education will be included, but emphasis will be on experimental work - including exercises specific to problem-solving in our sex lives. Psychodrama, group discussion and other exercises will be used. Women who have a difficult time in groups can participate by watching and offering information when they are willing.

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WE'RE CELEBRATING

Drug Abuse as the Co-Factor in AIDS Deaths

(Part III — Conclusion)

By Stanley E. Berg

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Closure of Gay Businesses Not The Answer To The AIDS Problem

In the case of gay men in particular, it seems persuasive to the heterosexual community that if all legitimate gay meeting places were closed down, then the incidence of AIDS would dramatically decline.

In particular the politicians would like to point to the gay "bathhouses" and "back room" bars as being the principal cause of the spread of AIDS.

Attempts at bathhouse closure have occurred in San Francisco and Atlanta. In both cities the courts have re-opened the bathhouses.

Most recently talk in New York City has reached a fever pitch on proposed bathhouse closure. NYC Mayor Koch in early November began closing gay businesses with the padlocking of a well-known New York City gay bar, the Mineshaft. Several other mostly "leather" bars have closed voluntarily, and Mayor Koch is now threatening the St. Marks Baths.

In mid-November the Centers for Disease Control called for the closure or regulation of the bathhouse industry by local health departments. The CDC thinks that closure will control

anonymous sexual activity.

Also in mid-November the State Health Commissioner of Indiana went so far as to call for the closure of all gay or gay-oriented businesses — bars, bathhouses, bookstores, and movie houses.

In the midst of all this insanity Los Angeles once again reiterated its position that closure might be more harmful than beneficial, and would not close its baths or bars.

Would the closure of bathhouses, bars, and other gay businesses significantly decrease the number of AIDS cases in this country? Using the City of San Francisco's own statistics, Alan R. Kristal, at the time director of the Office of Epidemiologic Surveillance and Statistics of New York City, stated under oath that he had "calculated a maximum overall reduction in AIDS from bathhouse closure only of 0.22% (i.e., less than 1/4 of 1%)."

That means that had all bathhouses been closed five years ago, and assuming there are 14,000 AIDS cases in the U.S. today, then there would have been 35 — that's right, 35 — fewer AIDS cases than the current 14,000.

Statistics prepared by the City in the San Francisco bathhouse closure case revealed that men having sex outside of a primary relationship (lover) met 42% of their sexual contacts in bars, 36% met sexual contacts at the office or a friend's house, and 26% met contacts in public areas. Only 14% met contacts in bathhouses. (Note: Percentages add to more than 100% due to multiple responses on meeting places.) Other meeting places for sexual contacts included sex clubs (19%), gyms (6%), and pornographic movie theaters (5%).

The conclusion that must be reached is that even if all gay businesses (primarily bars and baths) were closed in this country, gay men who wished to meet other gay men would simply move the meeting place to more public areas.

In fact, when the baths were first closed in San Francisco in October 1984, local YMCA's started to complain of increased sexual contacts in their gyms.

The police in San Francisco also reported a 50% increase in the arrest rates in public parks and restrooms for sex-related offenses.

Use Existing Gay Businesses To Help Educate

The answer, it appears, is to use the existing legitimate gay meeting places as forums for educating the gay male on AIDS risk reduction — that is, on ways to have sex which do not transmit the AIDS virus, and on ways to keep the immune system functioning normally through reduction in the recreational use of drugs and alcohol.

Many, many gay health clubs and bars across the country are already participating in these programs.

If the legislators really feel the need to pass some legislation, then let them pass legislation requiring that all places where people come to meet other people in the hope of finding a partner for sex (both straight and gay) make available information on "safer" sex, and on alcohol and drug abuse.

Stanley E. Berg, age 36, is the publisher of *The Works News-magazine*, a gay publication in Indiana. Mr. Berg is also the founder of the Association of Independent Gay Health Clubs of America (IGHC). Mr. Berg has been a gay activist for the last 10 years in Indiana. Stan is also a graduate of the Indiana University School of Business.

Controversial Gay Mens Chorus of L.A. to be Hosted by San Jose Gay Mens Chorus the Liedermann

The 75 member L.A. Gay Mens Chorus directed by Jerry Carlson was selected by a blind audition tape to perform during the American Choral Directors Convention at the Le Baron Hotel on February 15th, 1986.

The controversy surrounding them stems from the word "Gay" in the chorus' title. This action is the result of the convention directors' unwillingness to accept the word gay. The result is the convention directors request that the word "Gay" be deleted from their proper title. However, the chorus was told that their initials in full would be acceptable.

It is unfortunate we live in a world where some place more importance on "words" rather than the human element.

The Liedermann chorus is showing their support for the group by hosting them during their brief stay. Later on the evening of the 15th, a reception will be held at a location to be announced at a later date.

To show your support for the L.A. chorus, Mr. Jerry Carlson is urging those who are interested in the Gay Music Movement to write letters addressed to: Hugh Sanders, Pres., American Choral Dir. Assoc., P.O. Box 5310, Lawton, OK 73504.

Those interested in singing or supporting the Liedermann Chorus should contact Mr. Dan Jepson, Director at (415) 790-0288. Open rehearsals are held every Monday evening at the First Unitarian Church, 3rd and St. James St. from 7:00-9:30 pm.

OUR OPINIONS/YOUR OPINIONS

(The following letter was sent to KTEH Channel 54 by one of Our Readers.)

NOT FAIRLY FUNNY

As a gay man and a partner in membership of KTEH with my lover, I feel that I must sharply criticize KTEH for its recent airing (Jan. 8) of a *Dad's Army* episode in which there was portrayed a stereotyped image of a homosexual priest. The ending "joke", directed at this character, was "I've heard you're an expert on fairies".

Not only am I outraged and insulted by such "humor", I am also shocked that I would see such a degrading, backward image on a publicly supported television station. I believe that public television should, in addition to entertaining and providing educational and instructive programming, uphold a policy of enlightened attitudes towards all minorities, including gay men and lesbians. It should not be forgotten that many of your member-supporters are, like my lover and myself, gay people who deserve your respect and your sensitivity.

I realize that *Dad's Army* is a

British "import" and not a production of KTEH, but this is not sufficient to explain why the show was aired. It is the responsibility of your programming staff to know what is being broadcast. It is the station's responsibility to be selective, not merely on the basis of what may offend, but why it may offend. Controversial broadcasts may offend, but if this "controversial" material is only meant to get a cheap laugh in and means to re-enforce a debasing stereotype at the expense of an oppressed group in the community of humans, then I feel that it has no place on public television, just as "nigger-in-the-woodpile" "jokes" have no place there.

I would hope that an apology would be forthcoming from the station for its irresponsible broadcast of this program. I demand that KTEH not subject its gay male and lesbian viewers to such demeaning and ugly "humor" again.

K.L. Ratliff

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The police in San Francisco also reported a 50% increase in the arrest rates in public parks and restrooms for sex-related offenses.

Use Existing Gay Businesses To Help Educate

The answer, it appears, is to use the existing legitimate gay meeting places as forums for educating the gay male on AIDS risk reduction — that is, on ways to have sex which do not transmit the AIDS virus, and on ways to keep the immune system functioning normally through reduction in the recreational use of drugs and alcohol.

Many, many gay health clubs and bars across the country are already participating in these programs.

If the legislators really feel the need to pass some legislation, then let them pass legislation requiring that all places where people come to meet other people in the hope of finding a partner for sex (both straight and gay) make available information on "safer" sex, and on alcohol and drug abuse.

Stanley E. Berg, age 36, is the publisher of *The Works News-Magazine*, a gay publication in Indiana. Mr. Berg is also the founder of the Association of Independent Gay Health Clubs of America (IGHC). Mr. Berg has been a gay activist for the last 10 years in Indiana. Stan is also a graduate of the Indiana University School of Business.

Controversial Gay Mens Chorus of L.A. to be Hosted by San Jose Gay Mens Chorus the Liedermann

The 75 member L.A. Gay Mens Chorus directed by Jerry Carlson was selected by a blind audition tape to perform during the American Choral Directors Convention at the Le Baron Hotel on February 15th, 1986.

The controversy surrounding them stems from the word "Gay" in the chorus' title. This action is the result of the convention directors' unwillingness to accept the word Gay. The result is the convention directors request that the word "Gay" be deleted from their proper title. However, the chorus was told that their initials in full would be acceptable.

It is unfortunate we live in a world where some place more importance on "words" rather than the human element.

The Liedermann chorus is showing their support for the group by hosting them during their brief stay. Later on the evening of the 15th, a reception will be held at a location to be announced at a later date.

To show your support for the L.A. chorus, Mr. Jerry Carlson is urging those who are interested in the Gay Music Movement to write letters addressed to: Hugh Sanders, Pres., American Choral Dir. Assoc., P.O. Box 5310, Lawton, OK 73504.

Those interested in singing or supporting the Liedermann Chorus should contact Mr. Dan Jepson, Director at (415) 790-0288. Open rehearsals are held every Monday evening at the First Unitarian Church, 3rd and St. James St. from 7:00-9:30 pm.

OUR OPINIONS/YOUR OPINIONS

(The following letter was sent to KTEH Channel 54 by one of Our Readers.)

NOT FAIRLY FUNNY

As a gay man and a partner in membership of KTEH with my lover, I feel that I must sharply criticize KTEH for its recent airing (Jan. 8) of a *Dad's Army* episode in which there was portrayed a stereotyped image of a homosexual priest. The ending "joke", directed at this character, was "I've heard you're an expert on fairies".

Not only am I outraged and insulted by such "humor", I am also shocked that I would see such a degrading, backward image on a publicly supported television station. I believe that public television should, in addition to entertaining and providing educational and instructive programming, uphold a policy of enlightened attitudes towards all minorities, including gay men and lesbians. It should not be forgotten that many of your member-supporters are, like my lover and myself, gay people who deserve your respect and your sensitivity.

I realize that *Dad's Army* is a

British "import" and not a production of KTEH, but this is not sufficient to explain why the show was aired. It is the responsibility of your programming staff to know what is being broadcast. It is the station's responsibility to be selective, not merely on the basis of what may offend, but why it may offend. Controversial broadcasts may offend, but if this "controversial" material is only meant to get a cheap laugh in and means to re-enforce a debasing stereotype at the expense of an oppressed group in the community of humans, then I feel that it has no place on public television, just as "nigger-in-the-woodpile" "jokes" have no place there.

I would hope that an apology would be forthcoming from the station for its irresponsible broadcast of this program. I demand that KTEH not subject its gay male and lesbian viewers to such disarming and ugly "humor" again.

K.L. Rutliff

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Alcohol Education: Better Ways To Serve Gay Men & Lesbians

The National Association of Lesbian & Gay Alcoholism Professionals (NALGAP)'s Training and Education Committee is forming a network of educators concerned with gay and lesbian community education about alcohol use and abuse. Formed at the first national NALGAP conference, held in Chicago, September 26-29, 1985, the Training & Education Committee hopes that this network will be an effective way to share resources in this area.

Recognizing only in recent years that this community has long been neglected, city and state agencies responsible for alcoholism services are beginning to question ways of targeting gay men and lesbians for alcohol education. The past few years have seen some efforts made in training alcoholism service providers in combating homophobia; but few resources have been allocated toward community-wide educational activities.

NALGAP's Training & Education Committee will be a mechanism for resource sharing: Who is doing what? Planning what? All health educators involved in this area of work are urged to join in this networking by calling Robert A. Kajdan at (213) 201-6730 or Ron Vachon at (212) 566-6110; or write to Ron Vachon, Director, Office of Gay & Lesbian Health Concerns, New York City Department of Health, 125 Worth Street, Box 67, New York, NY 10013.

Announcement

AIDS-based discrimination public hearings will be held before the San Francisco Human Rights Commission on Feb. 4 and 5, from 5:30-8:30 p.m., at the State Building, 350 McAllister St., Room 1194. Wheelchair Accessible, S.L. Interpreted, and Child Care with 48 hour advanced reservation. Call Jackie, Sue or Dan, (415) 558-4901.

Where It's At!

By Dot James



On the Russian River in the Winter!

Text and Photos by Dot James

"Welcome to the River!" Lots of our South Bay family think when Fife's closes for the winter season that means gay vacationing at the Russian River is over, too.

Think again; if you've missed hearing that friendly "welcome to the River" greeting from Labor Day through March, despair no more.

tub, and an opportunity to make friends with "attack cats," Charcoal and Heidi. (The large swimming pool is closed for the winter months.)

After checking in and checking out your cabin or poolside suite, drive down to **The Woods** on Armstrong Woods Road for the \$8.50 all-you-can-eat buffet served Monday through Friday from 6 to 9 p.m. Chef John Hyer

arly good comin' out of the kitchen the day you're there.

There're lots of things to do on Saturday afternoon at the River. We chose to idle a while at the **Rusty Nail** about a half-mile past The Hiding Place.

Bar conversation is easy to get into in the relaxed winter season atmosphere at the river, and the locals are very willing to give you good tips about River activities and places they favor.

Coming back from Forestville, you'll pass right by the **Korbel Champagne Cellars** on River Road where you can tour and wine-taste. This is the most convenient winery on the Russian River Wine Road, which stretches from Forestville all the way to Cloverdale through Sonoma County. Pick up a brochure which maps the other wineries if you're into making it a day of wine-tasting.

Or take a drive or a hike through **Armstrong Redwoods State Park**, which is breathtakingly beautiful during the winter months. Or try your hand at fishing for the steelhead that are running in the River now.

Be advised, though, that there may be some pollution problems

mineshaft decor including cave-like ceiling is going to be converted to a bayou.

Its owners plan a Mardi Gras celebration the weekend of February 8th and are encouraging other River establishments to join in.

Saturday evening was really special for us; we stepped across the street from The Mine to **Molly Brown's Saloon** for dinner.

Molly Brown's is a C&W bar, and the place was jumpin' early on. **Hamburger Molly's** is the restaurant housed in the same building. Marilyn had a dozen "peel and eat shrimp" boiled in beer and served with lemon-garlic butter, an unbeatable deal at only \$6.50. I sampled one of the tempura baskets, which are equally delicious and reasonably priced from \$2.75 to \$5.75.

Don't look around too long before ordering, however; for if you see some of the other diners nibblin' at chicken fried the ol' fashioned way, or the hearty country pot pies, or the home-made lasagna or rigatoni, or the huge baked potatoes stuffed with all kinds of goodies, you may

with John, manager and chef at **Hamburger Molly's**.

John is a delight and a man who knows good food and how to prepare it, having formerly been a restaurant executive in charge of training for 22 restaurants. (And you'll love John's apron!)

We arose late on Sunday morning, again enjoying the coffee and hospitality in the fireside room at the Highlands Resort. After packing and checking out, we decided to take the scenic route home, so we headed down



Affable bartender Peter drew a couple of beers for us at the Rusty Nail in Forestville.

the road toward Jenner, where the River meets the Sea.

We stopped for brunch at **The Village Inn** in Monte Rio, a ten-minute drive from Guerneville. The decor is charming and the food good; I had the brunch specialty called Yorkshire Buck Eggs, while Marilyn sampled the more down-to-earth Pigs-in-a-Blanket.

So, what does a weekend at the River, such as Marilyn and I enjoyed, set you back? — Not as much as you might suppose, especially if you travel with another couple as I suggested.

That's less than \$70 per person for the entire weekend, including taxes and tips but not including drinks.

You can go 'way upscale from there, depending on how much you drink at the local watering holes, how much more you want to spend at dinner, what you envisage as good entertainment, such as disco dancing to a cover charge.

And you can actually go down-scale from that \$70, too, by taking a cabin with a kitchen where you can fix some of your own meals and by taking advantage of the free entertainment opportunities, such as wine-tasting, fishing, and walking through the redwood state park.

In one weekend you can't begin to do everything there is to do at the Russian River, nor could we. There're dozens more lodges, bars, and restaurants than we could get to. But then, that's going to be a part of your enjoyment of your winter weekend at the Russian River — finding all those cozy and commendable spots Marilyn and I missed! And, I hope, thoroughly enjoying some of those I've recommended in this column. □



Marilyn, pre-pubescent firebug that she was, really got into stoking up the wood-burning stove in our cozy Highlands Resort cabin.

never make up your mind! Plan to spend a part of Saturday evening after dinner at Molly Brown's kicking up your heels to music such as "Don't Mess with My Tutu." We ran into two couples we knew from the Bay Area; hands down, we all agreed that Molly Brown's is a not-to-miss experience on the River.

Here's an idea of what four people might spend:

Gas for auto.....	\$ 10.00
Two-bedroom cabin at Highlands Resort.....	150.00
Friday buffet dinner at The Woods.....	42.00
Sat. breakfast/lunch at A Hiding Place.....	21.00
Sat. dinner at Hamburger Molly's.....	30.00
Sun. brunch at The Village Inn.....	25.00
Total.....	\$278.00



We ran into Craig and Tom of San Jose's Liedermann Chorus enjoying the complimentary continental breakfast in the fireside room at Highlands Resort.

That's the choice Marilyn and I made, getting up in time for a cocktail, served up with chips and homemade Cajun salsa, at **The Mine** before dinner. The Mine was recently purchased by four guys from Louisiana, so it becomes **The Bayou** at the end of January. If you've been in The Mine, you may be wondering, as we did, how its



The cabins at Highlands Resort stretch through a grove of magnificent redwood trees shrouded with atmospheric morning fog.

As one Guerneville local puts it, "You can do anything here on the River in the winter that you can do in the summer except lounge around a swimming pool — and be more relaxed doing it!" (Even Fife's is getting with the winter program; it'll open on Valentine's weekend this year.) My mate Marilyn has been vacationing on the Russian River for more than twenty years, long before it became renowned as a gay resort.

I made my very first trip a couple of weeks ago. And I loved it, so you are going to be treated to — or subjected to, depending on how you look at it — an essay on "How I Spent My Winter Vacation" in this issue's column. Actually, I hope to encourage you to plan a weekend on the River sometime this winter by giving you some suggestions about places to go and things to do.

My first suggestion is to plan to drive up with another couple. Not only can you split the gas money four ways, but most of the lodges offer accommodations for four for very little more than for two.

Marilyn and I stayed in a two-bedroom cabin with wood-burning stove at **Highlands Resort** in Guerneville; for only ten bucks a night more, two of our friends could have enjoyed the bedroom that went vacant.

Remember, too, that the Highlands and most of the other lodges offer winter rates significantly lower than summer and holiday rates.

We drove up to Guerneville Friday evening after work and checked into the Highlands Resort where Paul, the evening manager, greeted us with our first "welcome to the River."

Paul, day manager Peter, and owner Mike McCarthy will do everything humanly possible to make your stay at the Highlands a pleasant and memorable one, so my second suggestion is to give Highlands Resort a call the next time you're making reservations at Russian River.

Included with your accommodations are access to a large video tape library, continental breakfast (coffee, fresh fruit, sweet rolls) from 9 to 10:30 a.m., a hot



Nancy, waitress at A Hiding Place in Forestville, served up helpful suggestions and huge platters of delicious breakfast comestibles.

dancing and afterhours. Or try the Sunday afternoon tea dance. If you're planning to spend Valentine's Day on the River, remember that Sharon McKnight will be performing that evening at The Woods.

Marilyn and I had an after-dinner drink in The Woods' lounge, where at about 10 p.m. every evening a family of raccoons appears at the glass door to be hand-fed by bar manager Terry.

Every evening except Saturday, Terry sez, for the disco music is too loud for "Rocky" and her babies to look for free handouts! Marilyn's the sleep-in type on weekends, but I enjoyed the continental breakfast and a blazing fire in the Highlands Resort lodge on Saturday morning.

Then we opted for a late breakfast at **The Hiding Place** in Forestville, a ten-minute drive down River Road from Guerneville.

This is a comfortable, inexpensive, kick-back kind of place open seven days a week from 7:30 a.m. until 9:30 p.m. Breakfast is served until 3 p.m.; hamburgers and tacos are also house specialties. Ask Nancy or the other waitpersons what looks particu-



Malcolm, the new bartender at Molly Brown's, and John, waiter at Hamburger Molly's, consulted over the menu when we asked for dinner suggestions.

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Theatre Reviews By Rick Rudy

Streamers Recalls 1965 Bigotry

by Rick Rudy

The City Lights Theatre Company of San Jose has opened its fourth production of the season with David Rabe's drama of army recruits, *Streamers*.

Streamers won the New York Drama Critics award for Best American Play of 1976, but this production, although compelling at times, lacks a cast of sufficient acting maturity to ever become convincing. The theme of fear and bigotry is genuine enough: blacks vs whites, straights vs gays, Americans vs foreigners, but the execution is unsatisfying.

Three army recruits share a room of a barracks near Washington, D.C., in 1965. Billy (Gordie Prodis) is educated, white, straight; Roger (Stephen B.W. Barnes) is streetwise, Black, straight; Richie (Dan O'Neill) is the rich kid, white, gay. The pressure on them is that they don't know when, or if, they may get sent to Vietnam.

One boy, Martin (Lucian E. Grathwol) has already cracked, slashed his wrists and been sent home. Enter Carlyle (Tim King), a Black street punk who stirs up trouble with everyone, bringing the worst in each to the surface.

Add two old sergeants, Rooney (Scott Patterson) and Cokes (Filipe Rodriguez) always drunk and filled with war stories from Korea and WWII, and the soap opera cast is complete.

Is Richie spoiled, nelly and unhappy? Sure. (Remember this is 1965.) Is Roger a basketball player, uneducated and put down? Natch. Is Billy "overeducated for the army", socially immature and hides *Playboy* under the pillow? Of course. Does Carlyle jive everybody and carry a switchblade? Need you ask?

It is not hard to build a drama around these stereotypes with their fears and hatreds. It is hard to portray them well, make them real people, and uniformly real over two acts.

Each of the cast members has some fine moments, and David DeLong's tight direction helps each to move us to a better understanding of their emotions. But, unfortunately, these moments never last long. Akward phrasing, abrupt mood changes and simple lack of acting skills, burst these magic bubbles.

The small acting space is used well, and the thrust stage arrangement, having the audience on three sides, works nicely to bring us close to the performers. The set, lighting and costumes, also designed by David DeLong, are excellent, and constant undressing on the stage keeps the sexual undertow strong.

The Play's impact might have been strengthened by cutting Sgt. Cokes' interminable monologue at the end, and surely there is no need for the "choreographed" bows which continued well past the enthusiastic audience's desire to applaud.

But applause must go to City Lights for its commitment "to the adventurous and outrageous" and for keeping San Jose audiences aware of modern drama and intimate theatre spaces.

Streamers continues through January 26 at their theatre at 70 N. Almaden Ave. Call ahead for tickets at (408) 295-8318.

City Lights is adding a non-subscription production, *The Island* by Athol Fugard, on the subject of apartheid in South Africa, running from February 21 through March 2.

★ ★ ★



City Lights Theatre Company of San Jose production of *STREAMERS* by David Rabe. Left to right: Tim King as Carlyle, Dan O'Neill as Richie. Photo by Scott Baker

Company Challenges L'ACT

by Rick Rudy

Stephen Sondheim's *Company* is a difficult show to do well because Sondheim abandons the usual conventions of "Broadway" and challenges the actors, director and audience to take a fresh look at musical theatre. The Los Altos Conservatory Theatre (L'ACT) has made a partially successful response to the challenges.

Company has no story. It is simply a series of scenes depicting a thirty-five year old single man, Robert, interacting with his

married friends, (five couples) and three of his girl friends. Sondheim is addressing the pluses and minuses of marriage and the pressures on a single person of 35 on getting married.

The setting is New York City in 1970, and the milieu is the pseudo-sophistication of Manhattan social life. With few exceptions, none of the cast members manages to portray "New York" at all; it is all laid back California, and quite inappropriate.

The leading man, Robert, is played by Tim Reynolds, an adequate actor with a very fine voice. He looks like a lost puppy, but truly grabs the audience with his "Someone is Waiting" and the finale "Being Alive."

Linda Kirk is superb as Joanne in the bitter "The Ladies Who Lunch," but the comic "The Little Things You Do Together" is out of her vocal range.

Kathleen Young shows a fine voice in "Getting Married Today" and a pleasant comic style in the scene where she and her husband David (Lawrence Diggins) get stoned for the first time.

Georgia Bibeau is fun as the Stewardess April, especially in the duet bedroom song "Barcelona" in which Robert makes the obligatory request for April to stay after their one night stand, fully expecting her to leave for her flight, but to his horror she stays.

Sheryl Abbott is entirely inappropriate as Marta, another girlfriend, who sings the ultimate New York song "Another Hundred People." She performs as if she were doing Sweet Charity.

Harold Hughes has a fine voice and, as Harry, enjoys the playful karate scene with wife Sarah (Paula Gray). Neither Anton Orazem (Larry) or Phil Graves (Paul) can carry a tune and damage all the music they touch, though their acting is fine.

The ensemble vocal work is generally very rough and needs more rehearsal, especially in the opening "Company," the male trio "Sorry-Grateful," the female trio "You Could Drive a Person Crazy" and the soft-shoe routine "What Would I Do Without You." The women, however do a bang-up job on "Poor Baby."

The choreography, by Joan Burdick, is unimaginative at best. The direction by Sue Hale suffers from static staging, too much follow spot and a lack of the "real New York" zing.

The production is worth attending, however, for the Sondheim magic which shines through despite the obstructions, and *Company* continues and the L'ACT theatre in Los Altos through February 1. Call (415) 941-Lact.

★ ★ ★



Marian Walters (right) is forced to reassess her comfortable life when her daughter (Elizabeth Huddle) calmly announces her intention to end her life in the American Conservatory Theatre production "Night, Mother." Directed by Lawrence Hecht, Marsha Norman's Pulitzer Prize-winning drama runs through Jan. 25. Photo by Larry Merkle

'Night Mother Opens with a Bang

by Rick Rudy

Marsha Norman's *'Night Mother* (1983) opened at San Francisco's American Conservatory Theatre, attempting to penetrate the mysteries of love and suicide. This is not an easy task since the motivations for suicide are among the most closely held personal secrets.

This two person, Pulitzer Prize winning play stars two of ACT's finest actresses, Elizabeth Huddle and Marrian Walters playing Jessie, an end-of-the-road woman, and Thelma, her aging mother.

Within minutes of the play's start, Jessie Cates (Huddle) announces that she intends to

commit suicide that evening, and the play's material is Jessie's attempts at explanation, and her mother's attempts at diverting her daughter from her goal of self-destruction.

It sounds, and is, grim. But the dialogue and the performances are so real and compassionate that one waits on tenterhooks to see the ending. In our world of TV crime and whodunit dramas, we naturally expect surprise twists to the plot. The fact that there is no surprise twist here is, in itself, a surprise, leaving the audience to ponder the content of the play, not the devious skill of the author.

It is almost a given that anyone who commits suicide is in some way disturbed. So how can one write a play about a planned suicide without portraying a crazy person? This is one of the play's shortcomings: from the moment Jessie announces her plan, we perceive her as deranged, and block out her arguments as necessarily being mad.

But Elizabeth Huddle is a fine actress and she keeps the obviously broken Jessie together for us. She explores a wide range of emotion without the shrieking and hysterics which usually substitute for dramatic skill. Her

body, face, hands all tell part of the story: it is wonderful to be in the presence of such a consummate performer.

Marian Walters is no less engaging as the mother Thelma Cates. How would we react if a loved one announced an impending suicide, and then proceeded to tidy the house, make lists of chores, and clean a revolver, all with equanimity? Walters shows us the disbelief, the horror, the cajoling, and finally the despair of a woman in her late years, terrified of being left all alone.

The direction by ACT Conservatory Director Lawrence Hecht

is tight and compelling. The endless setting to rights of the kitchen, bagging the trash, putting out dishes of candy, keep the show from bogging down in its own oppressiveness.

While this show is not for those interested in a light evening out, it is a chance to watch two superb performers in a unique and engrossing drama. *'Night, Mother* continues at ACT through January 25. Call (415) 673-6440 for tickets.

★ ★ ★ ★

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Frameline is now accepting entries for the 10th San Francisco International Lesbian and Gay Film Festival, June 20-29, 1986. Held each year during San Francisco's Lesbian/Gay Freedom Celebration, the Festival brings together the best in feature, documentary and short films and video works by and about lesbians and gay men. Awards will be presented to outstanding works in several categories. Formats accepted are 35mm, 16mm, super-8 films; ¼" and ½" VHS video cassettes. The deadline for entries is April 15, 1986. For more information and entry forms, contact *Frameline*, PO Box 14792, San Francisco, CA 94114, or call (415) 861-5245. ●

This, the world's oldest and largest annual screening of lesbian and gay film and video, is sponsored by *Frameline*, a non-profit media organization, to develop an audience for lesbian and gay media arts and to promote a demand for quality productions and wider exhibition of these productions.

GAY PRIDE Conference in Los Gatos

Jon Snell, owner of Desperados, is hosting the first California Gay Pride Rallies Conference on Feb. 1-2 in Los Gatos. Representatives from every major city in California will be on hand to discuss "How to Put on a Better Gay Pride Celebration," the conference theme. Anyone interested in participating in the conference can contact Snell at Desperados (408) 374-0260 for more information. □

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Singer, songwriter, and acoustic guitarist Diedre McCalla comes to the Stanford University Coffeehouse in Tressider Memorial Union on Saturday, January 25 at 8 p.m. Diedre celebrates her new release on Olivia Records, *Don't Doubt It*, a delightful blend of ballads, soft rock and reggae styles. We are also proud to announce that *Don't Doubt It* was a 1985 New York Music Award Nominee for Best Album on an Independent Label. (Olivia Records, based in Oakland, is one of the most successful independent labels in the U.S.) Diedre has been playing for twelve years with a background ranging from solo acoustic work to a six-woman jazz/rock band. (She will be performing solo at Stanford) She is known for both the enchanting rhythmic undercurrents of her music, and the poetic intensity of her lyrics. The Boston Globe says of McCalla: "(she) shone as the evenings unexpected musical star," and "a major singer-songwriter...a cool, sweet, silky singer with a gift for exquisite ballads." Tickets for the concert will be \$5.00 at the door. Advance tickets are not available. Diedre McCalla's performance is wheelchair accessible and will be ASL interpreted for the hearing impaired. For more information, call 323-9922 or 856-3206 (eves). For information about interviews or articles, please call Robin at (415) 856-3206 (eves). □

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- BUMPER STICKERS
- BUTT PLUGS
- CALENDARS
- CAPS
- CATTLE PRODS
- CHAINS
- CHASTITY BELT
- CLITORAL STIMULATION
- COCK RINGS
- CONDOMS
- CREAMS
- DILDOES
- DOG COLLARS
- DOLLS
- DOLDS/EQUIPMENT
- EYE PATCH
- GAS MASK
- GLOVES
- HAIR CLIPPERS
- HEAVY DUTY HOST HOODS
- INHALERS
- JACKETS
- JAC PADS
- JOCKSTRAPS
- KEY RINGS
- LEATHER GARMENTS (CUSTOM MADE)
- LEATHER NECK TIE
- LEATHER ROSE
- LUBRICANTS
- MAD MONEY
- WRIST BAND
- MAGAZINES
- MASKS
- MASSAGERS
- MOUTH CORRECTIZER
- MOUTH GUARDS
- MOVIES
- PADDES
- PERIODICALS
- POLICE EQUIPMENT
- PORTABLE TOILET
- PUMPS
- RESTRAINTS
- SEX GREETING CARDS
- SLINGS
- SUNGLASSES
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Our Paper reserves the right to reject any ad not in good taste or not consistent with our established advertising policies. This coupon expires Feb. 5, 1986. * Fill out this form and return to: OUR PAPER, 973 Park Avenue, San Jose, CA 95126 *

INTERLUDE

Cabaret Lounge • Bogie's Back Door
Speakeasy

Interlude Restaurant & Speakeasy
would like to thank Santa Clara County Gay Community
for their support and patronage in 1985.
Special thanks to Don Tibeaux and his Las Vegas Review
for making our 1985 'Toys for Tots' holiday drive
a tremendous success.

The festivities are not over . . .
Saturday, February 1, 1986 at 8 P.M.

The Interlude presents

OUR GRAND REOPENING GALA ROARING 20'S STYLE

SPECIAL GUEST PERFORMANCE

JETT LAGGE

in our Cabaret Piano Lounge
Dancing in Bogie's Back Door

An Evening of Yesterday's Prices
in combination with today's best entertainment
Prizes awarded for most in theme
Best Charleston Dancers and Most Authentic Dress
Show Times 9:30 and 11:00 P.M.

Carolyn Clark at the piano 9 P.M.

Dancing nightly in our Room 21
Sunday-Thursday 6-10 P.M.
Friday-Saturday 6-11 P.M.
Sunday Brunch 11 A.M. - 3 P.M.
Call for Reservations

The Cabaret Lounge introduces

Debora Bargam

Sunday-Thursday 9 P.M.
Call for Reservations & Information

(408) 244-2829

