



# The Sentinel

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SAN FRANCISCO'S LARGEST  
AND MOST WIDELY READ GAY NEWSPAPER

50¢ Outside San Francisco

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## Matlovich Settles For Cash

5-year battle with military ends with \$160,000 in damages for former Air Force sergeant

Dick Hasbany

(San Francisco) The five-year saga of former Air Force Sergeant Leonard Matlovich versus the United States military ended Friday when the former airman accepted a \$160,000 settlement offer from the Air Force. Matlovich's 1975 discharge came after he wrote a letter to his commander acknowledging that he was a homosexual. The decorated former sergeant fought the resulting discharge in the courts and had apparently won a victory on September 12 when U.S. District Judge Gerhard Gesell ruled in Washington that the Air Force's regulations regarding homosexuals were vague and confusing and that Matlovich should be reinstated with approximately \$60,000 in back pay.

Under the settlement, the Air Force contends that the discharge is in full compliance with the law, but agrees to pay Matlovich \$160,000 for damages. In accepting the settlement, Matlovich releases all claims against the Air Force.

Matlovich, who has become a symbol of the effort to gain civil rights for gay military personnel, told the *Sentinel* that his decision to accept the settlement was the hardest he had ever made. After learning of the Air Force's offer from his attorneys, who urged him to accept it, Matlovich consulted with gay rights lawyers and with persons whose discharge cases are still in litigation and might be affected. Everyone consulted, Matlovich says, recommended that he accept the proposed settlement.

"They told me it was better to have a partial victory now than a total defeat later before a Reagan-appointed-dominated Supreme Court," Matlovich said.

Lawyers dealing with military cases involving gays are pleased with the settlement. Don Knutson of Gay Rights Advocates called it a "glorious decision," and Lucia Valeska of the National Gay Task Force, in town for a military gay rights strategy meeting, labeled it "superb."

"We need to be gratified," Knutson said, "by the Air Force's recognition of the wrong it did to Leonard Matlovich as an individual and by the fact that the U.S. government has made an unprecedented admission that what it has done to him and others is morally if not legally wrong." Just as important for the future, Knutson went on, the settlement does not overturn the Gesell decision that reinstated Matlovich.

Gesell's September decision and the recent settlement were high on the list of agenda items in the four-hour Monday meeting in San Francisco to discuss a nationwide strategy for handling cases involving the military discharge of lesbians and gay men. According to Lucia Valeska, co-executive director of NGTF and chair of the meeting, every case now on the docket was discussed by the approximately 15 attorneys, who represented such public-interest law firms as Lambda Legal Defense Fund (New York), ACLU, GRA and NGTF. Valeska called the meeting "exciting" and said that it helped bring gay rights lawyers one step closer to a nationwide strategy on military cases and a step closer to the development of a packet of "do's" and "don't's" for attorneys taking gay military discharge cases and military personnel who come under investigation for alleged homosexuality.

The nationwide legal effort will be aided by a \$10,000 grant from the Playboy Foundation. The grant, announced November 11, is the largest grant ever awarded by Playboy to underwrite a specifically gay-issue project. It was awarded both the Gay Rights Advocates and the National Gay Task Force to facilitate their joint military project aimed at changing the current U.S. military policies which require the discharge of lesbians, gay men and other military personnel who associate with alleged homosexuals.



JOHN GIESKE

Last year on November 27, thousands of San Franciscans marched to City Hall to commemorate the assassinations of gay Supervisor Harvey Milk and Mayor George Moscone. This year on November 27 (Thanksgiving night), the Harvey Milk Gay Democratic Club asks the community to participate in a candlelight March Against Violence beginning at 7:30 p.m. at Castro and Market.

## Feinstein Tosses Some Bones to Gays on Violence Issue

(San Francisco) Mayor Dianne Feinstein and Police Chief Con Murphy spoke to a packed Tavern Guild meeting at the Casa de Cristal Restaurant yesterday on the subject of violence. The November 9 beating and stabbing of two men in Dolores Park remained very much on everyone's mind, though that incident served only as a jumping-off place for the Mayor's statements and the often heated questions that followed.

Following an introduction in which Guild President Wayne Friday told the Mayor that gay people were tired of being told they suffer mostly from paranoia, Feinstein chose to depart from a prepared text so she could "speak from the heart." Her comments contained what seemed to be some new steps to counter violence in San Francisco. As in the past, however, the Mayor dealt with anti-gay violence as part of the general rise of crime in the city, not as a unique phenomenon or problem.

Among the new tactics was an often-called-for decoy program. Chief Murphy announced that the decoy program would be instituted on a trial basis next week in the Castro area. Officers are currently being selected "who will blend into the neighborhood," Murphy said.

The Mayor reported that she has met with students at a middle school regarding intergroup tensions and has arranged through San Francisco Superintendent of Schools Alioto to meet "before the year is out" with student leaders at Mission High School. Feinstein pledged last year, as a mayoral candidate, to meet with Mission High School students on the issue of anti-gay violence.

The Mayor reported her offer to arrange for future meetings with the Eureka Valley Merchants Association, at which both Chief Murphy and the captain of Mission Station will be present. Such an offer represents, she suggested, an attempt to "extend communication" between the gay community and her office. Several times during the Guild appearance, Mayor Feinstein called for more reporting of both assaults and police problems to her office as well as to police, so she could know what and where the problems are. She further urged that the

community-gathered crime statistics, such as the Community United Against Violence statistics submitted to the Police, Fire and Safety Committee's October meeting on anti-gay violence, be made available to her.

Acknowledging that aggravated assaults in the Dolores Park area had risen 10% in the first nine months of 1980 compared to the same months in 1979, the Mayor recounted the steps being taken to make the park safer in the future. These steps included increased foot, Honda and mounted patrols and expanded weekend hours of supervised recreation in the park.

Responding to a question on the issue, the Mayor said she vigorously opposed any vigilante efforts to counter

(Continued on page 4)

## Brutal Murder in Buena Vista Park

(San Francisco) The body of a brutally slain man was discovered Monday morning by a man walking his dog in Buena Vista Park. According to the Coroner's Office, the victim, Donald Louis Meder, 42, of San Francisco, was identified Tuesday morning by his employer.

Meder was found lying a few yards off a heavily used path about 50 yards north of the parking lot at the top of the park. According to one of the witnesses, the victim was lying on his stomach and had his arm twisted behind him in such a way as to suggest that a struggle had preceded death. Both witnesses and police told the *Sentinel* that the victim's pants were around his knees when his body was found and that the encounter had probably been sexual before the actual murder. Death was caused by multiple stab wounds to the throat. No suspects are in custody.

Inspector Hendrix of the homicide division told the *Sentinel* that police have been receiving reports of people being robbed and having knives pulled on them in Buena Vista Park. He urges those who have experienced such incidents to call him or the *Sentinel*, because such information may be helpful in locating the murderer.

## Congress Knuckles Under to New Right on Anti-Gay Bill

Gay rights lobby and Senate allies draft anti-gay legislation to avoid passage of harsher measure

Larry Bush

(Washington, D.C.) The new political muscle of the New Christian Right delivered its first blow to gay rights in Congress last week, as a Senate/House conference committee approved a modified version of the McDonald Amendment barring Legal Services Corporation funds in cases involving homosexuality.

Conference committee approval of the amendment, watered down from the original language, came unexpectedly and unanimously. The amendment quickly won approval in the House of Representatives. The Senate is expected to consider the bill in the five remaining days of the lame-duck session after the Thanksgiving holiday.

The measure, incorporated in an appropriations bill for the Senate, Justice and Commerce departments, no longer can be deleted. The appropriations bill has been laden with amendments favored by hard-line conservatives, however, and may fail in a Senate test. Objections centered on an anti-busing amendment approved earlier and strongly opposed by moderate and liberal members of Congress and the Carter administration.

Washington observers say, however, that Senate failure to act on the measure or a presidential veto would not kill the anti-gay amendment. Instead, a continuing resolution that includes the anti-gay language but drops the anti-busing provisions most likely would win approval, permitting the three major federal departments to

continue operation.

Congressional approval of the anti-gay measure would mark the first time Congress has specifically moved against homosexuals since the McCarthy era, and action in the lame-duck session was believed to serve as a signal that the incoming and more conservative Congress may enact even greater restrictions.

The McDonald Amendment was first pushed in Congress in 1977, then died a quiet death in conference committee after first producing a House roll-call vote that put Congress on rec-

ord against homosexuality.

In 1978 the McDonald Amendment was included by Senator Paul Laxalt (R-Nev.) in his Family Protection Bill, along with provisions that would bar all federal funds from any gay organization and which would give congressional sanction to discrimination against gays in housing and employment.

This year McDonald again won a House roll-call vote on his amendment, producing an even larger margin of victory than three years ago. The Senate roll-call vote that put Congress on rec-

(Continued on page 5)

## Reagan Camp Welcomes Right Wing Blueprint

Report scuttles civil rights concerns and urges government repression of dissidents

(Washington, D.C.) A massive report issued last week by the ultra-conservative Heritage Foundation urges President-elect Ronald Reagan to revive the federal government's monitoring of "subversive elements" and to cut federal spending programs which "advance the causes of social change."

The conservative blueprint for Reagan's administration, kept under close wraps until after the election, will be relied upon "very heavily," according to Edwin Meese, who is slated as a top Reagan White House aide. A number

of the report's authors already have been named to official Reagan transition teams.

Among the report's recommendations are the revival of the Attorney General's list of "subversive" organizations and its expansion to include anti-nuclear groups; repeal of President Carter's orders limiting FBI activities and CIA domestic operations; a frontal assault on federal programs affecting minorities and "liberal" constituencies; and a policy of "benign neglect" on immigration reform.

"There are a broad range of alarming executive orders in the area of civil rights which could be reversed by administration fiat," the report's section on the Justice Department states. It calls for appointment of a Civil Rights Division chief "who would be willing to take the heat" as the Justice Department rolls back government affirmative action programs, including those affecting federal contractors, and withdraws from ongoing civil rights litigation.

The Justice Department volume also recommends broadening the definition of "national security" to include more federal employees; tightening the Freedom of Information Act, which permits disclosure of government reports; and making it easier to fire federal employees who "leak" documents.

Perhaps the most startling recommendations deal with national security through the Justice Department and U.S. intelligence agencies. The Heritage study calls for new emphasis on government security and subsequent reduction in individual rights.

"It is axiomatic that individual liberties are secondary to the requirement of national security and internal civil order," a portion of the study states. The bulk of the national security recommendations are contained in the Intelligence Agencies volume, which was withdrawn from press and public scrutiny after initial press reports provided a glimpse of its recommendations.

Turning to the Justice Department's role in clearing nominees to the federal bench, the reports suggest "as many as five" vacancies may occur on the U.S. Supreme Court and calls for reaffirming the Republican Party platform that bars nominees who are "anti-family."

In immigration policy, the report calls for President-elect Reagan to adopt a policy of "benign neglect" towards the Select Commission on Immigration and Refugee Policy report due in March.

"Most of the members of the Select Commission are very liberal, and this will be reflected in the report," the Heritage study says. "In due time, a new administration might want to consider whether tightened identification procedures, tougher border guards and a limited amnesty would be an appropriate response to the illegal alien problem."

The report does not mention policy proposals which would allow suspected homosexuals to be admitted to the country.

In other program areas, the study calls for massive reduction in federal programs affecting minorities and the

(Continued on page 5)



51

Demonstrators protesting shooting spree in which two gay men died and six were wounded block traffic in Greenwich Village.

## Bloodbath In Greenwich Village

Sue Zemel

(New York, N.Y.) Last Thursday night a lone drummer led a candlelight procession of more than 2,000 people through the streets of New York City's Greenwich Village to mourn two gay men shot to death the night before. Six other gay men were seriously wounded in a bloodbath that took place at two gay bars on Wednesday night.

The suspect, Ronald Crumpley, 38, a former New York Transit Authority policeman and the son of a Harlem clergyman, was arrested after a chase through Manhattan's East Side. He was charged with murder, attempted murder and possession of dangerous weapons.

In the back seat of the blue Cadillac the suspect had stolen from his father, police found an Uzi submachine gun and three automatic pistols, including a .357 Magnum. In a videotaped statement, Crumpley told the police that his attack on the Ramrod and Sneakers bars and the random shootings of gay men standing on the street outside the all-night Sim's Deli were motivated by "an intense hatred of homosexuals."

"I want to kill them all. They're no good. They ruin everything," the suspect stated.

Reverend G. Grant Crumpley told reporters that his son was obsessed

with hatred of homosexuals. "He told me that he knew who the serpent in the Bible was—homosexuals." When the minister asked Ronald Crumpley how he knew this, his son replied, "By the way they look at me and touch me."

The day after the Greenwich Village massacre, a young hustler who said he'd been seeing Crumpley for six months came forward. He told reporters from the *New York Post* that he was going to meet Crumpley at the Ramrod on the night of the shootings. Police detectives investigating the case believe that the hustler's story is truthful.

"I heard what I thought were firecrackers, then people started screaming and falling to the floor," said John Gamrecki, who was wounded by a bullet fragment which grazed his head. Gamrecki was one of about 150 patrons inside the Ramrod at the time of the shooting.

"It was like a bloodbath—it was a massacre," said Mike Greenberg, who was walking with two friends at Charles and Washington streets at 11:20 p.m., when Crumpley opened fire from the Cadillac.

George Wenz, 21, a Dutch immigrant who was standing in as doorman at the Ramrod, and Vernon Koenig, an organist at St. Joseph's Church in Greenwich Village, were killed by the

(Continued on page 4)

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## NEWS BRIEFS

### L.A.P.D. Criticized for Hollywood Raid

(Los Angeles) Though none of the 16 men arrested for lewd conduct at a Hollywood bathhouse's grand opening will be prosecuted, the November 8 raid has drawn sharp criticism from two Los Angeles councilmembers.

The arrests came after Hollywood Division vice squad officers purchased 320 tickets and attended the Hollywood Spa's grand opening party. According to Captain Jerry Feinberg, Hollywood Division commander, the officers went to determine if the spa were violating its permit guidelines which prohibit public sex and to see if dancing and drinking were taking place. Deputy Chief Daniel Sullivan said that the officers had an obligation to inspect for permit violations and, when they observed it, to make arrests for lewd conduct.

According to a *Los Angeles Times* article, 20 officers were involved in the raid.

Los Angeles Councilmembers Joel Wachs and Peggy Stevenson are unhappy with LAPD's story. Both councilmembers reportedly told Sullivan that if the department's intent had been to conduct a permit investigation, officers could have gone into the bathhouse in full uniform, cited the owners for violations, and then left.

Stevenson, who represents the Hollywood area on the Council, told Sullivan and other councilmembers that her constituents are "frightened" and they do not understand why officers are being used to enforce permit violations "when rapes, robberies and murders are rampant."

In the face of what she called a "litany of horror stories" regarding crime and police slow-response time, this kind of action seems to represent a strange set of priorities. The councilmember expressed anger at continued police harassment of gay establishments, according to the *Times*. "I really don't think this is going to end. I'm tired of this," she said.

Gerald Goulet, one of the Spa's owners, told the Council that officers used abusive language and ridiculed those they arrested.

### Parking Authority Considers Closing Castro Parking Lot

(San Francisco) Responding to a 50-signature petition addressed to Mayor Feinstein, the San Francisco Parking Authority discussed closing the parking lot at 18th and Castro at its November 20 meeting. A group calling itself the "18th and Collingwood Streets Residents Committee" circulated the petition, which calls for the closing of the lot as a public nuisance.

Margaret Brady, director of the Parking Authority, described the alleged problem to the Authority's members, saying that it is primarily one of people congregating, turning up stereos and partying after the bars in the area close.

Because it is a metered lot, it is actually under the authority of the police, and the Parking Authority can only recommend a particular course of action to the Board of Supervisors. According to Authority member Ruth Gupta, the police have received no formal complaints recently regarding the 20-car lot. She noted further that the merchants in the area wanted action postponed so that the problem could be resolved. The commission concurred and postponed consideration until its January meeting.

Steve Stegman, president of the Eureka Valley Merchants Association, told the *Sentinel* that the merchants in the area want the lot to remain open, but are very aware of the noise problem. He added that the lot is sometimes used as a public restroom and has been the site of beatings.

The lot is on the agenda of a November 25 meeting between representatives of the association and Mayor Feinstein, according to Stegman. He expressed confidence that some action, such as the installation of better lighting, will be taken and will help alleviate the problems.

### McGovern's Group to Sidestep Gays

(Pierre, So. Dak.) George McGovern, the former Democratic Party presidential nominee and recently-defeated South Dakota senator, is launching a new organization to counter the Right Wing that ousted him and a number of his liberal Senate colleagues in the November 4 election.

The group, to be called the Coalition for Common Sense, is expected to be fully functioning by mid-December, a McGovern staff aide said.

But while the new group seeks to become "a counterforce to the Right Wing around the country," in the words of McGovern's aide, it will avoid issues such as gay rights, which they believe spurred Right Wing growth.

"That's part of the problem that occurred in 1978 and 1980," said McGovern's assistant. "Single issues became a very distinct part of the dialogue in 1980. Issues that really had no relevance in terms of what had to be done in the larger issues in the country. The dialogue has deteriorated."

"I would hope we could stay away from single-issue involvement," the aide said. "We are trying to deal with the real problems facing the country, involving the heartbeat of the country."

The aide said invitations to national organizations to join the new coalition would be mailed in the next few weeks, but that no list so far includes gay rights groups.

In 1972 McGovern was the Democratic Party's standard-bearer against Richard Nixon, following a Democratic National Convention where gays were a visible force for the first time. McGovern was not a sponsor of the Senate gay rights bill of Senator Cranston's legislation which would end the immigration ban on suspected homosexuals.

### Asians Protest Alleged Discrimination

(San Francisco) Approximately 12 Asian and Caucasian demonstrators marched in front of the Castro Station Bar last Saturday, protesting what they claim to be discriminatory actions against gay Asians. The demonstration was the result of an alleged incident of discrimination against Randy Kikukawa, an Hawaiian of Japanese descent, on June 3, 1980, at the popular Castro Street bar.

According to Kikukawa, the person at the door asked him to wait in line, though there was, in fact, no line. Kikukawa reports that he complied and waited by the door, watching, as he did so, Caucasian men enter the bar unchallenged.

Castro Station manager Doug Kopecky told the *Sentinel* that though he does not remember the specific incident, the bar has never had a policy of discriminating against any minority. According to Kopecky, anyone can enter the bar who is wearing shoes and has one California ID that appears to be valid.

Kikukawa, a UC Berkeley student and member of the Gay People's Union there, and Ed Sebasta of the Gay Asian Information Network claim that San Francisco bars often subject gay Asians to arbitrary multiple carding, especially if they try to enter a bar in groups. Sebasta notes one instance at a Polk Street bar in which an Asian was asked to show five IDs while a Caucasian companion was not required to show even one.

Sebasta says that he hopes to organize a group that will monitor and document the alleged discrimination. In making such an effort, "we are not attacking the gay community as a whole for racism," he said. "We are attacking the racism in the gay community."

### Falwell Denies Discussion of Gay Issues with Reagan

(Lynchburg, Virginia) A spokesman for Reverend Jerry Falwell denied this week that Falwell had discussed gay issues with Ronald Reagan or set out an agenda to turn back the clock for gays.

Falwell's spokesman said that the minister, head of the Moral Majority and a Reagan backer, had not discussed gay rights with Reagan either during the campaign or after the election. He rebutted suggestions that Falwell would seek to have gay organizations labeled as "subversive" by a Reagan administration.

Those suggestions were contained in an anonymous memorandum sent to the National Gay Task Force and purporting to be notes from a conversation between Falwell and Reagan in early September. The *Seattle Gay News* first reported the existence of the memorandum shortly before the election.

The memorandum, dated September 9, 1980, said that Falwell and Reagan held a private meeting "and the prime topic of discussion was 'containing organized perversion.'" The memo went on to state that Falwell would seek to have either Senator Paul Laxalt or Representative Larry McDonald introduce a bill charging homosexual organizations with "national subversion," permitting the FBI "the right to seize all lists of members, users or subscribers to any homosexual group, including all publications, legal-aid, health-care, political or social organization."

According to the memo, the names gathered would be considered "hard-core activists" and available to law enforcement and governmental agencies across the country. The memo stated that Reagan and Falwell discussed "a federal homosexual registration act."

The National Gay Task Force had not circulated the memo, since it was unable to verify its contents.

Post-election recommendations to President-elect Reagan calling for a stepped-up monitoring of "subversives" led to concerns that gays might become future targets, as suggested in the memo.

### More Anti-Gay Action from USF Administrators

(San Francisco) The administration of the University of San Francisco (USF) put the Students for Economic Democracy (SED) organization on probation after it refused to withhold press releases announcing yesterday's rally to defend the rights of gay students.

The noon demonstration that took place at Harney Plaza in the center of the private Catholic university came on the heels of a decision by Student Senate President Frances Frischi to veto the charter of the Alliance for Gay and Lesbian Awareness (AGLA).

The veto was made a week after the Student Senate voted in favor of recognizing the undergraduate gay group, which provides emotional support for gay students and works to educate the campus community on the subject of homosexuality.

Members of SED who organized the rally and members of AGLA indicated that Vucelin's decision was made under pressure from the USF administration, which strongly opposes the group's existence. To recognize AGLA, said USF President Father. Lo Schiavo, would be construed as tacit approval of homosexuality.

"The University of San Francisco, as a Catholic institution, is guided by the principles of the Catholic faith," Father Schiavo stated. "The university believes that it should not endorse or sanction activities which are at variance with those principles."

Sam Phillips, vice-president of the Student Senate, disagreed with the president's decision. He told the crowd assembled at the rally that "Catholic educational institutions should be the first, not the last, to change oppressive attitudes about homosexuality."

San Francisco Police Commissioner Jo Daly, "a Catholic lesbian," told the *Sentinel* that she always wanted to attend a Jesuit college because she believed that the Jesuits were thinkers. "But I'm asking the Jesuits to think a little further on this issue," she stated.

Dev Nolly, chairperson of SED, said that students would continue to work on the issue of student rights at USF. "We must continue to question this institution's policies, such as denying recognition to gay students, as well as banking at the Bank of America, an institution opposed to apartheid in South Africa."

Supervisors Harry Britt and Carol Ruth Silver joined USF faculty members Patrick Smith and Barbara McKinnon in voicing support for the gay student non-group, which will hold unofficial meetings in space granted them in the College Ministry.

Throughout the rally, a group of students sat on the lawn, jeering and booing the speakers. When asked why he opposed the election of AGLA, a young man responded, "Why should we let a bunch of deranged, sick schizophrenics have a parade, let alone an organization?"

"This is a Catholic university, and we don't need guys trying to procreate in the wrong way," said another student.

### Shilts Nixes Milk Movie Idea

(San Francisco) San Francisco journalist Randy Shilts has pulled his upcoming biography of Harvey Milk out of current plans to make a movie based on the life of the gay supervisor's life.

"No option deal was ever signed by me or my agent," said the 29-year-old writer. After five months of research, Shilts now is writing the life-and-times Milk biography, to be published next fall by St. Martin's Press.

*Daily Variety* in Hollywood has reported that Jerry P. Wheeler Productions had purchased the option to make a film based on the book. "When we now are circulating a prospectus in the San Francisco gay community to raise money for a film which, the document says, will be based on Shilts' forthcoming book. Filming begins in January, the prospectus says. "Jerry Wheeler may or may not be making a movie on Harvey Milk," says Shilts, "but it will not be based on my book."

## PEOPLE

The worm turns. An almost appealing and very humble Antis Bryant tells all in the December *Ladies Home Journal*. And who would have thought there would be so much to tell?

Her story sounds like something from a prime Forties tearjerker or a *True Romance* epic—a valiant habit kicked and then replaced by sleeping pills, an obsessively jealous husband and the vague, suggestive admission: "I can't pretend to be lily-white."

On gays and gay rights: "I'm more inclined to say live and let live, just don't flaunt it or try to legalize it." On this one, Bryant seems to have lowered the key, though the song remains pretty much the same.

Boy Scouting has taken a bizarre turn at Kamp KKK outside of Houston, according to an article that appeared recently in the *Houston Chronicle*.

Joe Bogart, an ex-Marine cook who says his only enemies are homosexuals and Communists, is teaching survival skills to Explorer Scouts and Civil Air Patrol cadets. The young men will earn merit badges for such activities as "Strangling People," "Firing Semi-Automatic Weapons" and "Guerrilla Warfare Techniques."

According to Civil Air Patrol Major Paul Renfro, the parents were "very upset" when they learned of their sons' activities. Said one distraught mother: "Couldn't they go back to selling cookies and tying knots?"



Looking for some action? Come on over to the Eureka Theatre about midnight and spend some time "In the Dark" with Jane Dornacker. Jane promises an intimate, inventive evening with lots of surprises. Friday and Saturday at midnight, December 12, 13, 19 and 20. Don't be caught in the dark alone!

A Florida District Court recently ordered Bob Brandon, an openly gay actor who played Ronald McDonald in TV commercials, to never again don Ronald McDonald drag or to imply that Ronald is gay.

The McDonald's Corporation charged that Brandon's coming out would create the impression that their trademark is a homosexual. According to an unidentified spokesperson for the fast-food chain, the sexual orientation of the Big Mac has yet to be determined.

Frank Sinatra has been appointed entertainment director for the Nancy and Ronnie Inaugural Gala. At press time it was rumored that Old Blue Eyes

The Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence have a new sideline—selling T-shirts with the order's motto, "Perpetual Indulgence," emblazoned on each vestment in gothic print. Shirts will be sold at All American



had failed to line up a guest appearance by Booz; however, he had succeeded in engaging Roy Rogers and Dale Evans and their horse Finger (Finger died in an auto accident in 1938) to kick off the show. Also, the entire cast of the MGM Cavalcade will appear live, singing, "Come On, Baby, Light My Fire."

"What excuse has a gal like you for running around single?" asked a man in the 1935 film, *Gain to Town*.

"I was born that way," answered the legendary Mae West.

Last week the aging sex symbol and den mother of the gay community died at her art deco apartment on Sunset Boulevard.

Miss West, whose first performance was as a dance-hall queen in the 1928 play, *Diamond Lil*, wrote nearly all of her stage successes and her screenplays.

"It's not the men in my life, it's the life in my men that counts," she once noted. West's freeheeling sense of humor and famous double entendres brought sex into the open in a way that virtually revolutionized American lifestyle.

"I'm good, but when I'm bad I'm better," she intoned in her inimitable style.

As millions of her fans would agree, she was, in fact, The Best.

Having gotten wind of the success in the West of NBC's mini-series *Shogun*, the People's Republic of China has produced a sequel of sorts.

"The Trial of the Gang of Four," a pre-taped program, was broadcast to millions of Chinese television viewers last week. However, the question of who tried to kill M.T. (Mao Tseung) was answered long before the show was ever aired.

A court indictment in early November found Jiang Qing, Mao's widow, and his three closest associates guilty of charges filed against them. Their offenses included plotting to overthrow the government, killing and persecuting hundreds of thousands of people, framing and purging 425 national leaders, organizing a military coup to kill Mao and take over the country with Soviet help, and planning an armed rebellion.

Federal investigators say the California Department of Aging discriminates against old people.

A report by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services states that only 6% of the state agency's staff is composed of people over 60. The report claims that the agency's affirmative action policy of hiring older people is minimally satisfactory and that older workers have consistently been denied promotions.

The Fund for Investigative Journalism awarded a grant last week to Larry Bush, the *Sentinel's* Washington correspondent. The grant, which may be the first from a professional journalism group to an openly gay reporter, will pay Bush's expenses while he researches a story on the U.S. military's handling of gays in the armed services.

The story will appear first in *Inquiry Magazine*, and then will be reprinted in the *Sentinel*. Anyone who wishes to contact Bush with information on gays in the military may do so either by calling (202) 547-5601 or by writing to him at 425 D Street, SE, Apt. 303, Washington, DC 20003.

Boy for \$8 each, and special holy garments including will witness the Sisters raffling off select shirts and nun Christmas cards at the Ramrod (December 2), Chops (December 3) and Spurs (December 4) from 10 to 12 p.m.

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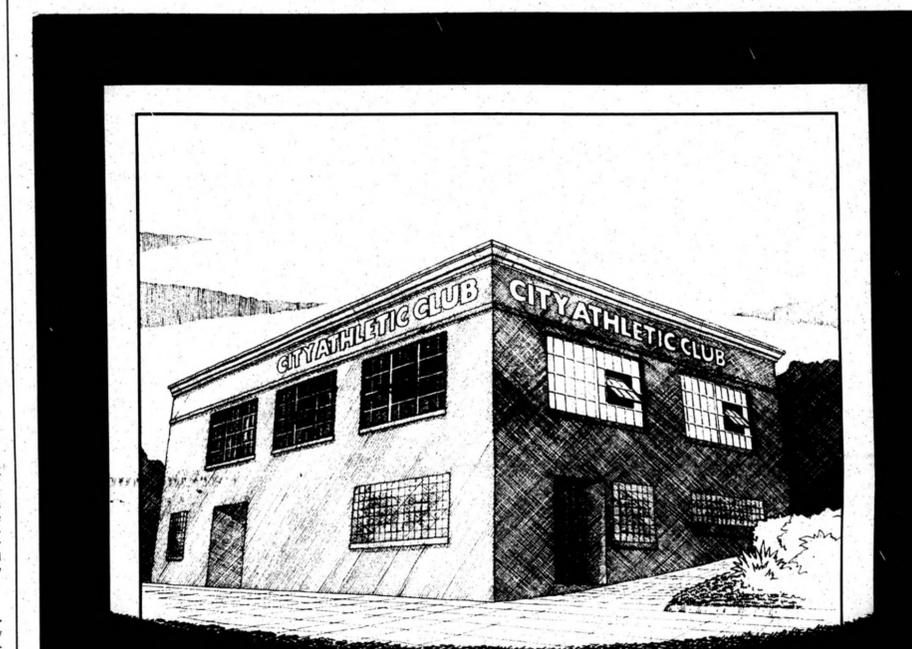
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# Gay Prospects in U.S. House Remain Unchanged

(Washington, D.C.) Even though conservative Republicans made gains in the U.S. House of Representatives, Gay Rights National Lobby Director Steve Endean hailed the November 4 election returns as "decent" news for gay voters.

All but two of the gay rights bill co-sponsors running for office were re-elected, Endean reports, and some new members are expected to join on the bill next session.

One co-sponsor, Jim Weaver (D-Oregon), faced a particularly tough battle for re-election against an opponent who used gay rights as a campaign issue. Weaver nonetheless emerged victorious. The race had drawn the attention of political pros and the media as a battleground on gay rights, since Weaver represents Eugene, Oregon, where voters three years ago rejected an existing gay rights ordinance.

Weaver's victory is destined to go into Endean's primer for political candidates nervous about gay rights issues.

The two defeated gay rights bill co-sponsors were not targeted on the basis of gay rights, Endean reports, although James Cormier (D-Calif.) lost to a conservative anti-busing candidate from the Los Angeles School Board.

Endean predicts that newly elected members Barney Franks (D-Mass.), Charles Schumer (D-N.Y.), Thomas Foglietta (D-Penn.), Mervyn Dymally (D-Calif.), Harold Washington (D-Ill.), Ron Wyden (D-Ore.) and Larry DeNardis (D-Conn.) are good prospects for co-sponsorship. The gay rights bill, HR 2074, has 55 co-sponsors this session, a number Endean expects to see equalled or perhaps slightly increased next year.

Meanwhile, Representative Ted Weiss (D-N.Y.), one of the bill's chief co-sponsors, said he will re-introduce the bill as expected next year and that discussions are continuing for new hearings next session. The first hearing was held last month in San Francisco.

"It seems to me that there was a total misunderstanding of our progress at the national level, at least legislatively," Endean said in a press statement. "While we've made good progress, we at the Gay Rights National Lobby have always understood that we are in for a very long, hard fight."

The hard fight, Endean told the Sen-

split the Democratic majority. A rules change would most likely be of significant benefit to gays, who may become an increasing target in the next session. Christian Voice claims credit for electing 26 new representatives and said it expects an increase in members of Congress serving on its board as well as an increased influence in the next Congress.

The Republican Congressional Committee announced this week that it already had begun plans to topple Democratic control of the House in the 1982 elections. Only 33 additional seats would be needed to swing the House into the Republican column. A conservative political action committee announced it would join in that effort and listed Congressman Phillip Burton (D-Calif.) as one of its targets.

Endean also said he saw encouraging signs from the work of gay groups at the local level, where their impact on local officials develops a base when those officials move into national politics.

"Hopefully we are seeing the beginning of what is going to have to be a trend," Endean said of the new members he hopes will become co-sponsors. "They are coming from the city councils and state legislatures across the country, and hopefully they are going to have been more exposed and sensitized to gay issues before they get to Congress."

As evidence of that trend, Endean points out that both the newly elected members from Illinois and Connecticut served in state legislatures where they supported gay rights bills, while gay organizations in Portland, Oregon, and Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, won pledges for co-sponsorship from their newly-elected representatives during the campaign.

Aides to House Speaker "Tip" O'Neill said he will continue to review a possible rules change for the next session, which would have the effect of killing the "sudden death" floor votes on gay issues and other controversial social questions.

The rule under review currently permits amendments on any issue to be attached to money bills, thus allowing a controversial measure to be attached to a sure-fire vote-getting bill. That route has been used repeatedly to attack abortion programs and was the method for passing the anti-gay McDonald Amendment this year.

Under the new proposal, such measures would be forced to go through the normal committee structure of hearings and review, where presumably they would get a more balanced consideration. Republican leaders say they oppose the change, but that would not affect the outcome unless they could

## Feinstein

(continued from front page)

violence. The vigilante tradition in San Francisco has caused some of the city's most tragic incidents, she claimed. Feinstein went on, however, to say that she does support individuals learning self-defense techniques.

Feinstein said her goal when the Police Department gets its full-strength complement of officers (by November, 1981) is to cut police response time to approximately two minutes everywhere in the city.

Finally, the Mayor cited as a positive development recent meetings in both the gay and Latino communities regarding violence. The meetings have been taking place under the auspices of her recently-created Human Rights Commission Intergroup Clearinghouse.

Though the Mayor did not elaborate on the Clearinghouse and its work around the Dolores Park incident, the *Sentinel* has learned that the numerous meetings since November 14 have involved leaders of organizations and other individuals in both the gay and Latino communities. The meetings are aimed at helping each group define the causes of violence and friction between

the communities and then enumerate steps that can be taken to alleviate the problems. The groups representing the two communities will apparently meet together after Thanksgiving for a dialogue that will result in concrete proposals for positive action.

Sources have told the *Sentinel* that though there is no clear mandate as to what the current meetings should produce, there is a working assumption that some specific and positive recommendations can be submitted to the Mayor at the Clearinghouse's meeting in early December.

When Guild President Friday opened the meeting to questions from Guild members (the press was not allowed to ask questions), some of the anger and frustration in the gay community around the issues of violence and the police surfaced. One man presented the Mayor with a three-page statement detailing an incident in which he was allegedly harassed by San Francisco police officers.

Friday questioned police priorities, asking why, if presently understaffed, the department can still muster forces to send from eight to twenty officers to raid discos, adult theatres and bookstores. Murphy responded that though there may be instances in which officers have not been used wisely, the department is charged with enforcing all the laws, and officers will be used to investigate incidents of possible permit violations and complaints of drug dealing.

Murphy was less successful in defending his position later, however. When the Chief claimed that it was mechanically impossible for the police emergency number to be tied up for 20 minutes, as a man in the audience charged, the Mayor stepped to the microphone and told him that it was possible—she personally had been unable to get through on it one night. The Chief seemed a bit flustered by his boss's testimony, but insisted again that it was mechanically impossible. He ended by saying that the 911 emergency number will be in operation in San Francisco by August 1981.

The Tavern Guild appearance was the first time Mayor Feinstein has faced a large gay group and fielded their questions since the violence of November 9. There seems to be no question that the Dolores Park incident has caused the Mayor's relationship with the gay community to become strained and marked by skepticism.

## SPORTS



Tennis Tournament Winners

Lupe Vasquez (second from left) is congratulated on his victory in the consolation division of the Gay Tennis Federation's tournament held November 15 and 16 in Golden Gate Park. Jake Reid won first place in the championship division by defeating Dean Bauer 6-4, 6-4. Lesbians or gay men interested in joining the Gay Tennis Federation should contact Tom Kelly at 552-9595.

## Greenwich Village

(Continued from front page)

barage of machinegun fire. Police said that Crumpley fired at least 40 shots at patrons of the Ramrod and at other persons walking in the East 10th Street vicinity.

After the attack, Crumpley, who had been sought in connection with the armed robbery of a savings and loan and a gun shop in Virginia on Tuesday, was pursued by two FBI agents who were in the area and by about 15 police officers. He was arrested after abandoning the Cadillac and trying to hide above the axle of a parked van.

The following day Manhattan Criminal Court Judge Stanley Gartenstein ordered Crumpley, who is married and

the father of two children, held without bail pending a psychiatric examination requested by his lawyer.

On Thursday night tearful marchers assembled at Sheridan Square in Greenwich Village and made their way to the scene of the shootings. Outside the gay bars, the 25-piece New York Gay Community Marching Band played "The Battle Hymn of the Republic," and the band's trumpeter played "Taps."

"The gay community is shocked and deeply saddened by this violent act of a madman," said Tom Burrows of the New York-based National Gay Task Force. Burrows told the *Sentinel* that "while the shootings were obviously committed by a very disturbed individual, violence against gays is on the increase in cities throughout the country."

# An Interview with the Gay Latino Alliance

The Gay Latino Alliance (GALA) is five years old this month, and the group celebrated the occasion with a festive dance at California Hall. The anniversary comes during a month in which the relations between the Latino and gay communities have been especially strained, a situation sparked by the November 9 beating and stabbing of two men in Dolores Park, but rooted in years of increasing misunderstanding and tension.

Given such intercommunity tension, GALA and its individual members occupy a unique position. They have a foot in each camp and understand the problems, angers and misconceptions under which each community labors.

The *Sentinel* spoke to three of the men of GALA, Ricardo Galvan, Jesus Barranga and a man we shall refer to as "C," who asked that his identity be withheld. The interview took place in an apartment overlooking Dolores Park.

**What is GALA, and what are its goals?**  
**Ricardo:** It was founded originally as an alternative for gay Latinos, male and female, to bars, which were discriminating against Latinos through identification checks and just plain racism and rudeness. We felt we could create a hub for gay Latin men and women. It was not only a social and political club, but also a support group, which was badly needed. Culturally it's a lot different for gay Latinos when they come out, not only because of what they face in their community and in their families, but because that is added to the oppression they've had all their lives as a minority.

**Jesus:** One of the key things we did in GALA was to decide that our work should involve the Latino community to a high degree. We decided we had to work with the Latino community and engage ourselves in its struggles and, by doing that, construct a working relationship and begin an educational process. They had to learn a lot on the gay issue. They had to learn what we felt. At the same time, we had to show our Castro and Polk Street friends that we're here and show them what we're all about as gay Latinos.

**Ricardo:** It was really difficult to establish a base in the Mission community, because even though they considered us Latinos, they still had that barrier because we were gay, queers, fags, whatever they wanted to call us. It was through our community work, through liberation struggles that we participated in with various Latin groups in the Mission, that GALA has gained a tremendous amount of respect. Especially now with the issues that have come up around violence, around immigration, many of the non-gay members of the community are coming to GALA asking what can be done.

**Can you give an example of some incident that helped you establish credibility within the Latino community?**  
**Ricardo:** The Nicaraguan struggle was a shining example. GALA worked with Casa Nicaragua through joint fund-raising and in helping get together a march with monitors. GALA has thrown many benefits for groups in the community—the Mission Cultural Center, the Committee for the Liberation of El Salvador (El Comité Salvadoreño).

**C:** El Comité invited us to march with them in a parade, and we marched as an open contingent with a GALA banner, and we were real close when the police attacked. I was arrested along with groups of El Salvadoreños, so GALA was seen as part of the struggle all along. Because of that experience, they called us the night before the gay parade and said, "You've supported us; we'd like to support you." They came with their banner to the march, and they stayed and parted with us late into the night.

**At this point, I feel that GALA has better relations with our own community than with people of our sexual preference. I think this is the first time there has been an article about us in the gay press, but years ago El Tecolote ran a series of articles about us. They accept our ads for dances. We don't feel the gay, white community has really attempted to listen to us.**

**How are we going to do this?**  
**C:** Basically by starting to meet together. I hear that mem-

## Reagan

(continued from front page)

poor and eventual elimination of a number of programs which have provided federal funding to gay organizations, although it does not deal with gay issues in the report.

"First and foremost," the report states, "most of the constituencies served (by federal social programs) are not conservative constituencies. In certain instances, faithful execution of the law will run heavily against the conservative grain."

The targeted constituencies in the report include "the poor, aged, native Americans and children."

Among the programs it suggests be cut or abolished are all "social science" research programs in the National Institute of Health. Those programs have channeled several million dollars into research on issues of concern to lesbians and gay men.

Research designed to advance the cause of social change," the report states, "as viewed by the New Class, would, of course, have no place in a conservative administration."

"Federal funding of social science research programs should be reduced and eventually eliminated," the report concludes. It suggests that, until reductions occur, new guidelines bar state agencies from making controversial grants with federal funds.

Noting that public-interest law firms play an increasingly important role in defining the rights of "targeted" constituencies, the study also calls for an

guage to limit the anti-gay impact.

"The feeling was that if we needed language as a last-ditch effort to head off the conservatives, we could put in some substitute that would not have been so vague," said a Weicker aide. "The difference is that it limits the number of cases under which the issue would arise."

The approved language bars LSC from "dealing with cases which provide legal assistance for any litigation which seeks to adjudicate the legalization of homosexuality," while the old language barred cases involved in "promoting, defending or protecting homosexuality." The substitute language came at the suggestion of the Gay Rights National Lobby, congressional and administration sources said.

The Justice Department, which had challenged the original language as possibly unconstitutional, said it was satisfied with the latest anti-gay version.

"We're satisfied with it now," said Justice Department spokesman John Russell. "We find no fault with the Weicker amendment."

The Legal Services Corporation said the new language "will have a minimal

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cludes gay programs, the report called for strong control over state agencies which were making grants affecting "social policy."

Overall, the report is being considered one of the most ambitious and potentially effective lobbying tools ever applied during the crucial period of transition between administrations. Many of the report's authors serve on key congressional committees, and their recommendations may well spill over into congressional action and create legislative pressure in areas where Reagan does not make clear his own positions.

Its conservative tone was established by the Heritage Foundation, which was started by a grant from Joseph Coors and the Coors brewing company. The Heritage Foundation acts as a counter to "liberal" think tanks such as the Brookings Institute.

A shortage of professionally trained individuals with conservative goals, however, remains a problem for the organization.

That showed up most clearly in the study's recommendations for the Legal Services Corporation, a federal agency that is considered a liberal plague by most conservatives.

The report briefly considers turning that agency into a bastion of conservatism, "to accomplish conservative goals" through its litigation staff. The report then notes, however, that the agency has 5,500 lawyers and that "we doubt that there are sufficient conservatives to fill a third of the positions." Instead, the report calls for the Legal Services Corporation to be abolished by the summer of 1981.

"We have to live with it," an LSC spokesman said, "and, in the end, our general counsel has got to interpret it. We've lost, and now there are no more opportunities to have a vote on it."

Gay Rights National Lobby Director Steve Endean had strong praise for the work of Senator Weicker in limiting the impact of the bill, but also expressed fears that this is a first salvo in congressional anti-gay actions.

"Senator Weicker was excellent," said Endean. "Clearly, under the language that was approved, cases could still be handled that involved housing, employment or child custody." Endean stressed that homosexuality *per se* was not illegal anywhere in the United States and thus would not be an issue in litigation.

"We were risking a lot to just let the original McDonald Amendment go," said Endean, explaining his role in the new language. "My duty was to try to minimize the damage. If we fail in our efforts to kill anti-gay bills, then the only responsible course is to minimize the damage."

solutions we work toward are going to have to be solutions that both sides can accept.

**Are you hopeful about finding solutions?**  
**Ricardo:** Oh, yes. I'm very hopeful. And I think a lot of the non-gay members of the community are hopeful. They don't like what's happening any better than anyone else.

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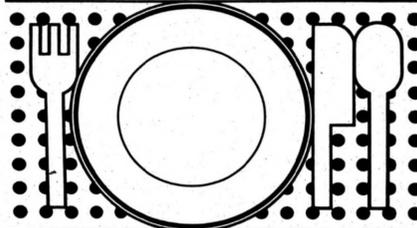
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Everything You Always Wanted To Know...

Discussing homosexuality with high school students

Sue Zemel

The tenth-graders in Terry Durant's nine-week "Family Life Planning Seminar" flop into their Berkeley High classroom and noncommittally move their desks into a circle.

"If we could all be together, I think that would be nice," suggests Durant, who before class began explained to The Sentinel that the student-developed course deals with "sexuality, drugs and anti-social behavior."

Talking and laughing among themselves, the students mostly ignore Durant's request for their attention. "I'd like to introduce our guests. They put their names on the board—Dan and Rhonda..."

"Just a minute..." says Durant. "Richard, I'm going to have to ask you to leave if you can't control yourself. Okay... quiet..."

The room settles as the students shift their gaze from Richard to the two visitors. Durant explains that they have come from the Human Rights Foundation, a gay educational organization in San Francisco.

"Are you both gay?" interrupts an incredulous young woman.

"Yes," answers Dan, a 25-year-old tree-cutter. The young woman utters a perceptible gasp. Other students titter nervously.

"And I feel real good about being gay," Dan continues.

Another hand shoots up. "But how did you feel when you found out you were gay?" queries a young man.

"At first I did a little denial. But then I realized I was trying to stop being who I am. And that was bullshit."

"What made you gay?" persists the woman who began the question-and-answer session.

"I don't know for certain," Dan begins.

"Were you born that way?"

"I think so..."

The woman stares at Rhonda, a 24-year-old graduate student in social work.

"Do you have a girlfriend?" she asks.

"Not right now," Rhonda answers. "Well, are you looking for one?"

The students break into laughter.

Several questions and 40 minutes of lively discussion later, the students fill out an evaluation form provided by the Demystification of Homosexuality Project (DHP). The project, sponsored by the Human Rights Foundation, brings its gay speakers program into high schools located in seven school districts in the Bay Area, as well as to two junior colleges.

With grants from the Hazen and Playboy Foundations and contributions from private individuals, the Human Rights Foundation has focused its efforts since 1978 on educating thousands of students about lesbian and gay lifestyles.

Bill Henry, administrator of the Human Rights Foundation, participates on the San Francisco Unified School District's Advisory Committee on Health and Family Life Education, which recommends to the San Francisco Board of Education changes in the subject matter content of high school Family Life Education classes.

According to Henry, one of their first recommendations was to send gay male and lesbian speakers into these classes.

"We hope to expand our speakers' program to the San Francisco schools in the near future," Henry stated.

Between the passing period and their next class presentation, Dan and Rhonda, who have recently joined the DHP as speakers, read the students' evaluation forms.

"I just picked up a little information on what it is like on the other side of life," writes one student in response to the question, "What did you learn from this presentation?"

"The most important thing I got is that gays are human beings," remarks another student. "And also that there is nothing wrong with being gay."

"I don't never want to be gay. If I had a choice to die or be gay, I would die," one student scribbled on his/her evaluation.

"I think the more exposure people have to gays in a relaxed and open situation, the easier it will be on everyone," observed another tenth-grader.

Bill Henry explained that, overall, 70-80% of the evaluations received from students and teachers who participate in the DHP are favorable. Five percent are noncommittal, and 5-10% are openly hostile.

"The purpose of the project is not to recruit students nor convince them that homosexuality is right or better," Henry stated. "However, we do bring the whole idea of homosexuality out of the stereotypes and myths that exist about lesbians and gay men."

Another of the project's goals, according to Henry, is to show the immense diversity of gay men and lesbians.

"We provide speakers of all ages, who come from a variety of ethnic and racial groups and who represent a range of professions and backgrounds," he said.

Carefully selected speakers who participate in the program undergo two training sessions facilitated by Stan Crollios, project director. The speakers participate in values-clarification and role-playing exercises and usually observe a class session before conducting their own presentation.

Before driving over to Berkeley, both Dan and Rhonda expressed some nervousness about their first presentation.

"Dan and Rhonda are, for the most part, pleased with their first speaking engagement at Berkeley High School. Rhonda comments that the intense question-and-answer session has left her full of feelings and spinning with ideas.

"Before driving over to Berkeley, both Dan and Rhonda expressed some nervousness about their first presentation.

"We'll be talking about real personal things, and that's always scary," Rhonda said.

"I'm going to try not to worry about talking for all gay men and just try to be myself," stated Dan.

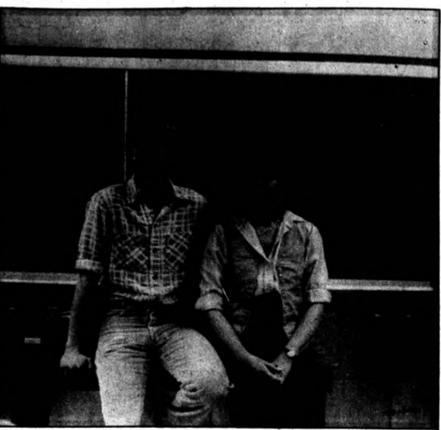
"Yes," Rhonda agreed. "I have to keep in mind that I don't have to be the perfect image of a lesbian."

"How did your parents take it when you told them you were gay?" asks one student.

"Does one person assume a dominant role in a homosexual relationship?" enquires another student.

"How do two women have sex?" ponders a young man who thoughtfully pondered a question and thought-provoking. And most of the students respond warmly to Dan and Rhonda's candid, honest and articulate answers.

However, there is, as one can reasonably predict, one somewhat hostile young woman who tries to hassle the speakers.



Dan and Rhonda gave students at Berkeley High a lot to think about.

"If you see a man you really love, would you stop being gay?" she asks Rhonda.

"I'm open to being friends with men, but I doubt that I will feel close to them in a sexual way," Rhonda answers.

"You think they aren't good enough for you?" the young woman asks angrily.

"I am not sexually attracted to women because I hate men," Rhonda continues.

"But what if you meet a man you like?" the student insists.

"It's important for you to make me straight, but I'm not," Rhonda observes.

"What's wrong—aren't they man enough for you?" the young woman snaps. Then, after a short pause, she taunts, "Hey, do you like fat girls?"

After this uncomfortable interchange, a young man raises his hand and proceeds to thank Rhonda and Dan for "having the courage to come today to talk to us about who and what you are." The class, or most of its members, applauds appreciatively.

In June the Human Rights Foundation joined forces with the Sexual Minority Youth Service Coalition to print the third edition of the "Youth Resource Directory." The wallet-sized booklet lists all of the services offered to people under the age of 21 in the city of San Francisco.

The two organizations also jointly produced a grant proposal presented to the Rosenberg Foundation of San Francisco. If accepted, the grant would add a peer youth speaking component to the program.

"Students have indicated that they would like people their own age to attitude towards gays," Fraga reports. "It took me a lot of fights, but it is okay."

Fraga, who was primarily responsible for a Miami-based program that resettled some 4,000 gay Cubans during the initial wave, said currently he is holding orientation sessions for the gay Cuban men to prepare them for life outside the camp. The men have been in refugee camps for the better part of six months, Fraga says.

Fraga also said that, contrary to many press reports, the remaining Cuban refugees are not in a "hard-to-place" category and that most have skills readily translatable to the American job market.

"I have 90 days to place these people," Fraga says. "Let's make someone happy for this Christmas, let's take a refugee out of the camp. Give it four weeks, find a job for them, and they can go on their own."

"We can take care of 600 of them, that's what I care about right now," Fraga said.

"They are very cooperative in their attitude towards gays," Fraga reports. "It took me a lot of fights, but it is okay."

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share their experiences," said Bill Henry. The proposed program will operate in the same manner as the existing adult program.

In addition to providing speakers in classrooms, the Human Rights Foundation has also produced a teacher's sourcebook entitled "Lesbian and Gay Male Sexuality and Lifestyles."

Written by Sage Bergstrom and Lawrence Cruz, the sourcebook incorporates recommendations on content and teaching methods made by educators, gay youth and community workers.

"It is hoped that the sourcebook will serve to eradicate negative stereotypes of homosexuality, while offering students a better understanding of his or her individual sexual orientation," reads the introduction to the sourcebook.

Following the completion of the first edition of the "Sourcebook, the project's sponsor, the Columbia Foundation, extended its grant to allow for professional editing and art direction.

The sourcebook will be class-tested this fall in Family Life and Sex Education courses in several high schools, after which it will be revised to incorporate suggestions from its users.

The Human Rights Foundation then intends to market the finished product on a nationwide basis in 1981.

"The Human Rights Foundation has an important educational mission: to assist in the ultimate elimination of myths and stereotypes about human sexuality," concludes Bob Sass, president of the foundation. And, indeed, the organization appears to be successfully achieving its goal.

As one Berkeley High student summarized quite simply, "I learned a lot about homosexuality and a lot about myself. Thanks a lot for being here."

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Tents, public showers and vinyl chairs to sleep on

A Look at Gay Life in a Cuban Refugee Camp

Larry Bush

(Miami, Florida) Eighteen men and one woman are sitting on pool deck chairs, folded out as cots, under a tent in a refugee center outside Miami. They are lined up three and four on a cot, listening intently to Joe Fraga, a gay Cuban exile of 20 years earlier, who is telling them about life outside the chain link fence that surrounds their camp.

It is a lesson in gay civics, one Fraga says is badly needed by these refugees, who must cope with a new language, a new nationality, and a new sense of gay community. Almost daily he is at their camp, interceding for them with U.S. officials, helping to find sponsors that will provide the needed papers that will win their release.

They are the remnants of some 75 lesbian and gay refugees housed at this camp, a small place by the standards of Fort Ord, Fort Chaffee, Arkansas, where they will be shipped to join the remaining unsettled refugees in a few weeks.

Overall, Fraga, with the help of the Dade County Coalition for Human Rights, has helped place nearly 2,000 lesbian and gay refugees in new homes and jobs around the nation. His program probably is the largest in the country, and the work is consuming him. Already it has cost him his apartment, after dissatisfied gay refugees, at first unwilling to identify with the gay community, left their sponsors and camped on his doorstep for help.

But if Fraga is dedicated to helping his fellow gay Cuban exiles, he is not spending his energy giving them platitudes and sympathy. He is a stern taskmaster, and today, as on other visits, he is lecturing them on the adjustments they need to make to American and gay life. He has, for example, pushed the men out of street drag and heavy makeup, and several are now growing mustaches as part of their new American look.

The most important task he set was to instill a sense of belonging to each other. When Fraga first arrived, he says, there was quarreling and petty jealousies that divided the gay Cubans from each other, and the nongay Cubans treated them all with disdain. As part of his effort to instill group consciousness, he has told them that they will all leave the camp together, after the last one has a sponsor, so none will be left behind without friends. Their admiration for him, and their willingness to follow his lead, is apparent. At this session, they are exchanging notes on where their new homes will be—some in Michigan ("where they make cars"), a few in the Miami area, some to the west coast. Fraga still is waiting for sponsors for the others.

The tedium of the camp is almost palpable. There is no housing, only tents, a few empty airchairs filled with the cheap deck chairs that double as cots, and underground bunkers. Laundry is done in a sanitized metal tubs along the crushed gravel road that winds through the camp, and showers

are public except for the modesty provided by a thin, knee-length cloth that veils and flaps as official cars drive by. No personal touches are permitted in the camp, by order of the commandant. The canvas tent sides are rolled up, letting a rare breeze in and providing a view of laundry hanging on the perimeter fence to dry. The rolled-up walls prevent pinning the drawings and pictures that have marked other refugee camps; this is a holding pen, not a home.

Each refugee is given an aluminum-ribbed, vinyl-webbed deck chair to sleep on. At night they take a single sheet and blanket to curl up with. Personal belongings, mostly favored items retrieved from a donations shed, are unsexily and never allow gay people to have any rights."

"There will never be a place in Cuba for gay people," he says. "The government hates homosexuals, and for that reason would never allow gay people to have any rights."

The question of gay rights came up once in the memory of those here; Barbara Walters, in an interview with Castro broadcast on Cuban television, asked about discrimination. Castro denied it.

"I wish I had been interviewed in Cuba about this," one says. "I would ask for the freedom of homosexuals."

The group choruses agreement. These refugees are having, despite their camp surroundings, an easier time than many. Fraga is one of the few gay Cubans in Miami willing to stand publicly with them; his visits have made a difference beyond an Anglo's ability. The camp officials, many of whom are Cubans pressed into emergency work, have come to respect him and one, a doctor, has provided strong support for both Fraga and the gay refugees.

Still, the problems are unavoidable. Two nights before, one of the gay Cubans tried to commit suicide to escape the unknown future. He is back with the group today, and is being given a warm reception.

A few miles away, in downtown Miami, the situation is much different. Here there is also a tent city, squatting under a freeway access ramp to shield it from Florida rainstorms. This is the camp that has become a national scandal, declared unfit for human habitation after health officials found rat feces in the food and no sanitation facilities whatsoever. It is home now for those moved from the Orange Bowl after the football season started, men rejected by sponsors or who discovered their situation in this tent city, like its sister camp in the outlying flatlands west of Miami, are a number of gays.

Their situation has moved past the desperation point. Lacking work or future homes, many have turned to street hustling for a \$5 bill. Their knowledge of American gay life comes from the men (often married) who drive by and pick them up for half an hour.

For them, there are no visitors. Their problems, Fraga says, are beyond the resources he has available. In his mind, they are already fatalities, part of the tide of refugees who needed help when there was none. His job, he says, is to work with those who still have a chance, and he no longer drives by the tent city under the freeway.

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# HEADSPACE

I have read with interest all your columns and now by this letter write of my sheer anguish, embarrassment and total despair in being unable, at any time, to get an erection. I'm 49, well-adjusted and in perfect health. I've been checked out by physicians and urologists and have been in and out of all kinds of therapies for the last four years with no results. I implore you, if you have any knowledge which would help me, or can direct me to a good therapist, please... I urge you. I lead an unbearable life.

So behavioral therapy may be the answer for you, but be sure you and your therapist spend sufficient time exploring your situation so that the right behaviors are being dealt with. Be patient and hopeful, and if our recommendations don't work out for you, write again, and we'll continue until we find the right therapist for you.

**Dear Head Space,**  
I'm married to a good woman, and we have three kids that I deeply love. No one at my job, in my neighborhood or among my friends would ever believe that I'm writing your paper. My gay feelings go way back, and it's too complicated to write about, but the issue for me now is that those feelings are getting much stronger and I'm beginning to act on them by going to a bath whenever get the chance. I feel I'm out of control and acting crazy since I know I could not give up my wife and family. I see no answer except to put the lid back on my gay feelings and fight again, just on my straight life. If you think there are other possibilities, please share them with me.

Time to say a couple of nice words about that investment creature known as the "convertible" security. The bouquets are in order for lots of reasons, but one stands out: ever-innovative Wall Street has been so busy lately inventing other exotic fare, we're afraid the tried and true convertible just might get lost in the shuffle. Not if we have anything to say about it!

The convertible has a track record of doing many things "for" but not "to" investors. A lot of that new exotic stuff can't make the same boast, at least not yet. But there's another important reason to hearken to the call of the convertible, too. A solid sophisticated consensus prevailing today tells us that we are standing at one of those rare watershed moments in investment history when both stocks and bonds are good investments. If this turns out to be true, even partially, wouldn't it make sense to consider an investment that has in its pedigree some of the virtues of both stocks and bonds? Review the following before you answer.

Bonds are sought out by investors because they represent safety of principal and a dependable, safe income stream not subject to interruption. Stocks, of course, are bought for different objectives: capital appreciation, growing dividends. With stocks, also, goes an inherent risk that must always be reckoned with, the risk of loss.

Enter now the convertible bond, which gives investors a shot at both with the same buck. First, convertible bonds are like other bonds—safe, income-producing, etc. The convertible feature means that they are exchangeable into the common stock of the

company at a pre-fixed rate and at the option of the bondholder. If he prefers, he can hold onto the bond and treat it like any other bond investment. But if it turns out the company is growing and the common stock reflects this by growing, too, the bondholder can trade his bond for a predetermined portion of common stock and enjoy the ride right along with other shareholders.

Convertible bonds might also suffer in the quality category. Oftentimes the companies that issue them can't raise the borrowed capital without "giving the store away." They either issue convertibles, or they don't get the moolah. But many investors don't mind. They'll take these handicaps as fair exchange for the right to own bond or stock at one's own bidding.

That's the convertible story. We think it's an exciting one. And like we said, they do it a lot more for investors than to them. With a little extra homework, you can sample this investment fare and perhaps have another reason to be thankful this upcoming Thanksgiving.

**Ms. Harter is a stockbroker with Thomson McKinnon Securities, Inc., San Francisco.**

# INVESTMENT NOTES

**Lesley Harter**  
Investing in an economy troubled with varying rates of inflation presents many new (and old) problems to the individual investor. So many, in fact, we thought the subject deserved attention on a continuing basis. Therefore, this newspaper will publish in the weeks ahead a regular column keying not only on inflation's problem but also dealing with other common investment subjects as well.

Time to say a couple of nice words about that investment creature known as the "convertible" security. The bouquets are in order for lots of reasons, but one stands out: ever-innovative Wall Street has been so busy lately inventing other exotic fare, we're afraid the tried and true convertible just might get lost in the shuffle. Not if we have anything to say about it!

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# ON LIVE!

**with Randy Allred**  
**SPLIT DECISION:** The 97th Congress, which convenes in January, will be only the fourth to have the Senate controlled by one party and the House of Representatives by another. The phenomenon first occurred in the 3rd Congress (1793-95), when Federalists ran the Senate and Democrats-Republicans ran the House.

Twice in the 1840s, Democrats and Whigs split Congress, once each way. And twice in the 1850s, the fledgling Republican Party controlled the House while Democrats continued Senate dominance.

Since 1875 there have been nine such splits, each with a Republican Senate and a Democratic House. It's happened only twice previously this century, in the 62nd (1911-13) and 72nd (1931-33) Congresses.

**SENIOR POWER:** On January 20, Ronald Reagan, 71 days short of his 70th birthday, will become the oldest U.S. president at the time of inauguration. He will be the third oldest president ever, but not for long.

Six days later, Reagan will surpass Andrew Jackson's age at retirement. And 116 days after being sworn in, on May 16, to be exact, of Ron will become the oldest president ever, exceeding Dwight Eisenhower's retirement age of 70 years, 98 days.

**AGE BEFORE DUTY:** Reagan will be the ninth president to assume office in his sixties. Gerald Ford, sworn in at 61, is still putting around at 67. Of the other seven, five did pretty well for post-inaugural longevity. John Adams, sworn in at 61, lived to be 90. Jackson, 61, reached 78. Harry Truman, 60, got to 88. Eisenhower, 62, attained 78. This group averaged a life span of 20 years, 53 days, after first inauguration.

However, two of the three oldest at inauguration died in office, and they were the first two presidents to do so. The oldest, William Henry Harrison, 68, contracted pneumonia at his inauguration and died a month later in 1841. The third oldest, Zachary Taylor, 64 at his inauguration, died of typhus after 16 months in 1850.

**TECUMSEH'S CURSE?** That brings us to the Zero-Year Curse. Since Harrison, every president elected in a year ending in zero has eventually died in office. Abraham Lincoln (1860) by gunshot in 1865, James Garfield (1880) by gunshot in 1881, William McKinley

(1900) by gunshot in 1901, Warren Harding (1920) of "apoplexy" or poisoning (perhaps intentional) in 1923, Franklin D. Roosevelt (1940) of cerebral hemorrhage in 1945, and John F. Kennedy (1960) by gunshot in 1963. In fact, the only non-zero-year president to die in office, Taylor (1848), died in a zero year, 1850.

According to legend, the zero curse was placed on Harrison and succeeding presidents by Chief Tecumseh, whose braves then-General Harrison defeated at the Battle of Tippecanoe in Indiana in 1811.

Does all this portend anything for Reagan, or are we just beating around the bush?

# LETTERS

**Thanks for leaving my chaps**  
Editor,  
On November 8th, at 3:30 am, I and others ran for our lives because of the fire at 1242 Polk Street, leaving everything we owned to the flames, water and smoke.

In the morning, hours after the fire, I discovered just how some members of the San Francisco Fire Department get excited when it comes to fires. I don't mean to attack all firefighters, because many do an outstanding job. Mine was a third floor corner apartment that overlooked Polk Street and Fern. The fire was stopped just about at that point after burning through the hall, which was the wall to my closet. I lost everything that was in the closet. The rest of the damage was from water and smoke.

To re-enter the apartment building, the other tenants and I had to be escorted by a fireman, and since it was only six hours after the fire had started, the SFFD was still there standing by, and I'm sure no one other than those who lived at 1242 Polk had entered the building.

I would like to thank only those firemen who were involved. I would like to thank you for putting out the fire in my closet and not letting it burn the bedroom or the living room or the kitchen.

I would like to thank you for breaking the glass on the coffee table. I want to thank you for smashing the color TV, which Rent-A-Color wants me to pay for. The screen was smashed inward.

I want to thank you for throwing or knocking my stereo units to the floor, which was in no way in danger from the fire. The system sat on a cabinet that also housed my records, tapes and other items which had not been disturbed. Even if it had accidentally been bumped, the turntable, tuner and tape deck could not have fallen to the floor.

I want to thank you for saving the life of my 35mm camera and flash, and leaving the less expensive camera behind.

And my warmest thanks, for removing, from the living room sofa, my leather, neatly laid out for the special events of the weekend, which included a vest, leather cap, gloves, jacket, collar, arm and wrist bands, collar and handkerchiefs. Thanks for overlooking or leaving my chaps.

I'm not sure if you did this because of the nude male photos and other items around that old you that I was gay, but I honestly feel that's why it was done.

Maybe it was done to cover up the fact that four cans of beer were taken from my frig and the empty cans tossed aside. And according to my ex-apartment managers, a Fire Captain was caught red handed with one of my canvas collages.

The fire caused me a great loss, but those extra helping hands that didn't give a damn, didn't help one bit.  
Lonnie W. Lee

# OUTLOOK

Charles Lee Morris

## The Crunch May Be Here

Not since the anti-Communist witch-hunting days of the late Senator Joseph McCarthy in the early 1950's has America witnessed as drastic a swing to the right as we saw on election night November 4.

What this devastatingly reactionary movement portends for the gay movement, for the women's movement, for the black movement and for civil rights in general may be difficult to accurately predict at the moment, but we believe it a safe bet to say that the civil and human rights of Americans are not a major concern of the ultra-conservative politicians who will take over the White House and the United States Senate very shortly.

Ronald Reagan, during the televised "Great Debate" with President Carter just a week before the election, revealed a great deal about himself and his woeful lack of knowledge when he said that, when he was a boy, America didn't even know it had a race problem.

We doubt that Ronald Reagan, as an adult, knows that there are a lot of problems facing this nation: racial and sexual discrimination; the rape, plunder and murder by poisoning of this planet; and people so beaten by generations of poverty that they have simply lost all hope that America will deal with their plight.

No one can really predict what Reagan, as president of the United States, will do. But, again, we think it a fair assumption to say that civil rights and cleaning up our environment will take a back seat to a renewed arms race and a "morally" pure America.

The consequences of a Reagan administration and the new-found political strength of the religious Right wing could have far-reaching implications for San Francisco.

Using figures supplied by the Census Bureau, we were able to estimate a few months ago that the gay population of San Francisco had more than doubled in the 1970's.

Given their pledge to "morally" re-arm America, it is quite plausible to believe that the Right Wing (afraid of tackling the women's movement head-on and fearing a repeat of the race riots of the Sixties if they go after blacks) will scapegoat gays on a scale unprecedented in this nation's history.

As conditions worsen for gays in other parts of the nation, it is more than likely that gays will flock here in unprecedented numbers. Which, in itself, raises a host of problems.

We cannot help but wonder if San Francisco is truly prepared for what could transpire here in the next few years if the influx of gays continues. Are we ready for the even more severe problems of housing than we now face?

Have we given any thought at all to how this influx will change the complexion and social needs of this city? Have we looked at the employment area and decided how to keep businesses here in which to find jobs for all these thousands of new immigrants?

There should be little doubt about it: the Right Wing fundamentalists who were so instrumental in both Reagan's election and changing the leadership of the United States Senate are going to go after gays with every resource at their command. They genuinely believe they are being divinely inspired to eradicate "sinfulness" (and the "sinners") from our society.

The so-called "gay leadership" of San Francisco had better get its act together and start looking towards the future. And we are indeed talking about leadership, not the blind following of public opinion and "political correctness." Some very difficult problems will present themselves to us in a very short period of time, and we need real leadership to grapple with these issues.

San Francisco may indeed become one of the few bastions of freedom in this country, and the day will shortly arrive when we must deal with the flood of immigrants seeking to bask in that freedom.

# LETTERS

**More on anti-gay violence**  
Editor,  
Yesterday I heard that a friend of a friend was attacked in the Mission by a pack of anti-gay punks, robbed and stabbed in the throat. Last night I and about 30 other guys were hounded out of Lafayette Park by the police shining bright lights through the bushes.

As reported in the Sentinel, two men were beaten a week ago near Dolores Park by 20 Latino punks; we all know (though the city refuses to admit) that violence against gays is escalating. As noted in the Sentinel, both the CMC Carnival and a private party at the Music Hall were raided by the police. On Halloween, the police raided the Argonaut.

I just want to know one thing: when are we going to fight back? I want to know because I want to be there.

Very sincerely,  
Robert Chesley  
Bay Guardian theater critic

**Correction**  
Editor,  
Thanks for the inclusion of the Bay Guardian in your election wrap-up and in the Endorsement Scoreboard chart in your November 14 issue.

Unfortunately, the chart is not completely accurate in its listing of the Guardian's endorsements. In addition to those endorsements indicated by check marks, the Guardian also endorsed Tom Lantos for the House of Representatives in the 11th District (San Mateo) and Libby Demehne for the San Francisco Board of Education.

By my count, that gives the Guardian 21 successful endorsements out of a total of 30 listed on the chart, for a 70% success figure.

Having been through the craziness of journalistic coverage of the election, I can well understand how details can sometimes go astray. But we work hard at our endorsements, and feel they deserve to be listed accurately.

I've enclosed a copy of our clip-out endorsements guide for your information. Thanks.  
Sincerely,  
Alan Kay  
Managing Editor, Bay Guardian

**Write to Low Rider**  
Editor,  
I think now is the time for lesbians and gays to initiate a dialogue with the Spanish-speaking (actually bilingual) community. Need I elaborate why? There's an excellent vehicle already provided by Chicano in Low Rider Magazine. It's been published since late '76 and claims to enjoy upwards of 100,000 circulation, with a readership ranging in age from 11 to about 45-50. If you haven't seen it around, it's because they concentrate distribution mostly in the mom-and-pop stores in or near Chicano communities (barrios) where Chicano youth buy and hang out.

We should use LRM's popularity to our advantage to exchange ideas and information to help erase the negative stereotypes laid on us. Address your letter to:  
Low Rider Magazine  
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I have a strong feeling all concerned would benefit immensely.  
Sincerely,  
Antonio Perales

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ENTERTAINMENT & THE ARTS

**Monkey Business at the Asian Art Museum**

Dick Hasbany

A Chinese friend and I were talking about monkeys the other day as we made our way to an exhibit of monkey carvings at the Asian Art Museum.

Western people find it difficult to understand how Asians feel about animals, he began. The Eastern lunar year zodiac, he reminded me, is an animal zodiac, which suggests how closely related Asians feel to animals, how much animals seem to be our mirror or we theirs. And this mirroring relationship is especially true with monkeys, he said.

Every Chinese, pre-revolution or post-revolution, knows scores of monkey stories. Several of the pieces that the Peking Opera performed in their U.S. tour were based on the classic Chinese tale, *Journey to the West*, in which monkeys help the Buddhist priest Yuan Chuang travel to India to fetch the texts of Buddha's teaching. For an Asian, the monkey is not just another mammal—it is a richly evocative creature that stirs the creative, totemic imagination. I would have to understand that, he concluded, if I were going to appreciate the exhibit of tiny sculptures commemorating lunar year 4678, the Year of the Monkey. And with that, we walked in.

These *netsuke* sculptures of wood, bone, ivory and porcelain are primarily the work of 18th and 19th century Japanese carvers. They were used mostly as counterbalances for the tobacco cases men wore on their belts at the time. The style and workmanship of the pieces vary greatly. An ivory or porcelain piece in which a monkey rides a catfish seems quite primitive, but most pieces, in whatever medium, are exquisitely detailed and executed.

The tone of the pieces also varies. The pair of finely detailed and polished monkey actors wearing *Ho-dog* costumes have an elegant, formal feel; the minutely detailed ivory piece telling the story of a monkey, bee and persimmon has a familiar, comic tone as the primate scrambles away from the threatening insect. The *netsuke* carvers seemed to delight in conceiving every imaginable posture and circumstance for their monkey subjects. In one beautiful ivory piece, three monkeys scramble over the back of an elephant. In another, a smiling monkey sits astride a tusked boar. See no evil, hear no evil, speak no evil monkeys tumble out of chests; one double-jointed creature gets into a convoluted see, hear and speak no evil position all by itself.

Though I was beginning to know it would be fruitless, I tried to think of a Western, specifically American, counterpart to the monkey and its rich, varied artistic representation here. If such a counterpart exists, it might be *equus*, the horse, the one animal that seems to recur as part of our history and destiny. Almost everyone has at least some vague knowledge of the Trojan horse, which saved the day for the West. Then, skipping centuries, there are our American animal stars, the fast, rugged Pony Express animals racing across the plains, the good steeds carrying long columns of cavalrymen. Remington gave us fierce, dramatic horse sculpture in bronze; Hollywood gave us Trigger, Silver and Flicka.

But as I continued to look at these 60-odd monkey *netsuke* in the Adrian Gruhn Court of the museum, I began to realize that the horse is not for us what the monkey is for Asians. We love the horse primarily because of its beauty and grace and because it is a useful partner in our tasks. The Asian, artist or not, loves the monkey because the animal is a projection of lovable, fallible humanness, not because it is a beautiful tool.

If observed closely, the tiny sculptures portray the zodiac qualities of monkeys—that is, the characteristics shared by humans born in the Year of the Monkey (in this century, 1908, 1920, 1932, 1944, 1956, 1968 and 1980). In a few cases, the sculptures portray allegorical monkey tales that supposedly shed light on human frailties and foibles.

Monkey Year people are the "erratic geniuses" on the 12-animal lunar calendar. They are clever, make good financial deals, are inventive and can solve hard problems. On the other hand, they talk too much, tend to judge others harshly, give up easily on difficult tasks and are generally just a bit naughty. They tend to be passionate, ambitious, and have a deep desire for knowledge.

Their ambition and willfulness can be both admirable and lamentable, as seen in Zen tales in which monkeys reach for the moon's reflection in the water (which is the subject of an unusual, long black sculpture in the museum's exhibit). Folk and religious wisdom began to understand desire for the unattainable moon as a perfect symbol of greed, and the tales began to reward the overreaching with a good dousing in the water.

In one Japanese fable, some long-armed monkeys one night spied the moon's reflection in a well that lay directly beneath a tree. Wanting what they supposed to be the moon, they hit upon a plan to catch it. Using their long-armed anatomy to its best advantage, they linked themselves together arm in arm and made a long chain that stretched downward from the branch almost to the surface of the water. The moon, it seemed, was about to be theirs, and in their monkey way they chattered in glee at their cleverness and their good fortune. But suddenly, amidst all the noise and happiness, the branch cracked, then broke, and they all, every last one of them, fell into the cold waters of the well and drowned.

My Chinese friend was right after all, I think. The *netsuke* sculptures embody something one doesn't sense in Western sculptures and paintings of animals. I would call that something a combined respect for the natural animal (which is totally lost in our cartoon animals and those cards and posters in which animals are dressed up like Mom and Pop or Sherlock Holmes or someone else) and a deep sense of animal/human kinship. The artists have also embodied in their work, somehow, a deep sense of love.

The observer has to slow down, looking at this exhibit, slow down and let the subtly monkey/human spirit of the pieces emerge. If the observer can slow down enough to allow that, this most inconspicuous of exhibits can become a curious, delightful and even memorable experience.

The Year of the Monkey Exhibit can be seen in the Adrian Gruhn Court of the Asian Art Museum in Golden Gate Park through February 4, 1981.



Monkey Mask with Large Headgear. Wood. 19th century A.D.

Monkey Holding a Branch of Persimmon, Being Attacked by a Bee. Ivory. 19th century A.D.



**The Getting of Wisdom**

Sue Zemel

The *Getting of Wisdom*, directed by Bruce Beresford, is a smartly made Australian period film about the growing of a willful young woman.

Eleanor Whitcombe, who wrote the script for *My Brilliant Career*, has adapted Australian novelist Ethel Richardson's turn-of-the-century autobiographical work about life in an exclusive girl's school into a sensitive and subtle study of adolescence.

Richardson is sort of an Aussie version of Willa Cather. Like Cather, her feminist values feel clearly defined, especially for the time in which she wrote.

Whitcombe does an excellent job transposing the Victorian story into a soft-hitting but decidedly feminist screenplay. It is a pleasure to watch intelligent and independent women characters portrayed in this engaging film.

Director Beresford, one of the new wave of Australian filmmakers, pays meticulous attention to period authenticity, and the visually elegant film is photographed by Don McAlpine (also of *My Brilliant Career*).

The film follows Laura Tweedle Rambotham, a feisty and musically gifted young woman, as she comes of age. Laura, played by newcomer Susannah Fowle, leaves the small bush town where her mother runs the post office to attend the elite Ladies College of Melbourne.

Laura arrives at the school outfitted in a gaudy, homemade dress, complete with a rather tacky hat. From the getgo she stands out like a sore thumb, or as one of her teachers remarks, "You look like a big red double dahlia."

The icy headmistress (Sheila Helpmann) barks orders at the ingenuous new student, and Laura undergoes culture shock as she meets her snobbish classmates. They cruelly taunt her for her lack of breeding and her working-class background with the full fervor of their adolescent insensibilities.

But Laura is by nature a fighter, and she zealously tries to win their approval. When another working-class girl arrives at the college, Laura initially slips into the same catty behavior as her classmates. She soon relents, however, and befriends Annie Jones (Alix Longman), who becomes her devoted sidekick.

When a new minister arrives at the college, Annie suggests to the other girls that her friend Laura is so charming that she could have an affair with Rev. Strachery (Barry Humphries) if she desired. Laura sees a great opportunity to act out her crush on the minister and fabricates a true romance story that captures the imaginations of her classmates and frustrated teachers as well.

Laura manages to wheedle an invitation to his home for the weekend and, upon spending time in his stuffy household, discovers that he is a bellowing, ill-mannered and brutish Victorian male. But she continues her charade for the other girls, enjoying the popularity the torrid affair gives her. When another girl stays at the parsonage and finds out the truth about the Reverend, Laura suddenly finds herself as unpopular as when she first arrived.

She is befriended by a senior girl, Evelyn Souttar (Hilary Ryan), who admires Laura's intelligence and spirited nature and her ability to play the piano. "I play too much from the heart," she tells Laura, "and you play too much from the head."

Laura falls in love with the warm and worldly Evie and loses herself in the relationship. She neglects her studies and her music, and when Evie announces that she feels trapped by Laura's devotion and intends to leave the College, Laura feels betrayed and abandoned.

The honesty and sensitivity found in Whitcombe's and Beresford's portrayal of love between young women was one of the best surprises of the film.

Laura spends the rest of her school career making up for lost time and cramming for her final exams. She manages to make it through a history exam with the aid of a crib sheet and wins a music scholarship to study piano in Germany.

Fortunately, this finely crafted film avoids becoming a Pollyanna picture. The emotional tones reflected in the young heroine are rich and varied. Although Laura acclimates to her surroundings, in important ways she remains an outsider. In the end she abandons the pretensions of her peer group and defines her own values in a self-conscious but sincere learning process.

Beresford captures the spirit of the Victorian writer's novel and uses gentle satire and a touch of romanticism to tell this charming story.

The *Getting of Wisdom* is currently at the Surf Theater.

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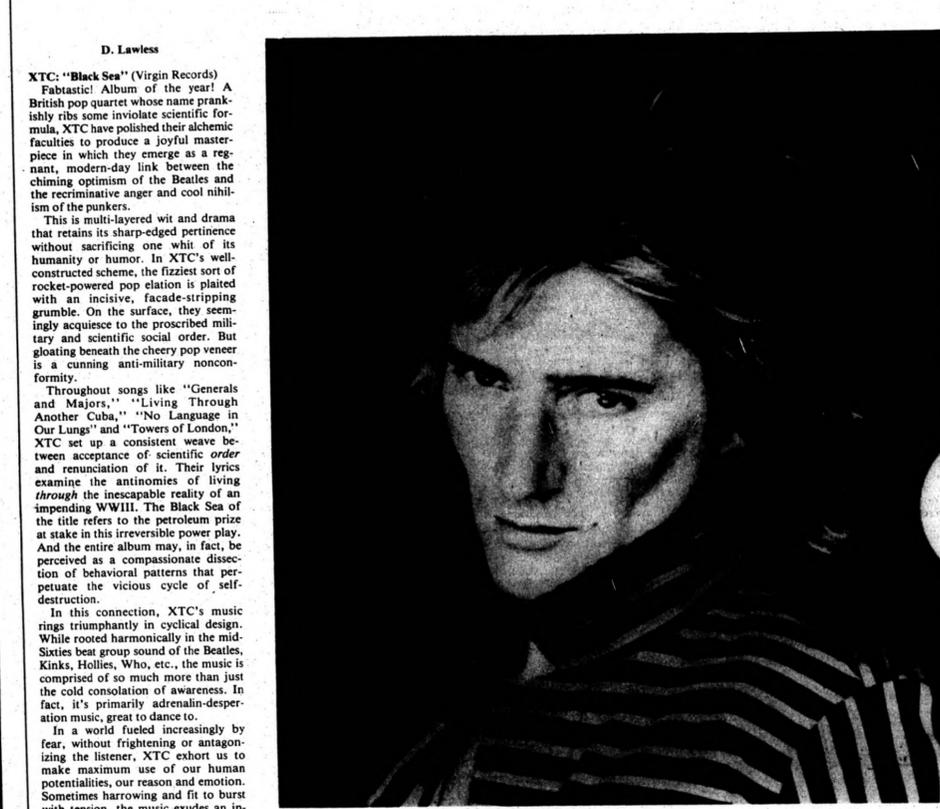
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For a discussion of raspy Rod's rut, see below.

**D. Lawless**

**XTC: "Black Sea" (Virgin Records)**  
Fabriatic! Album of the year! A British pop quartet whose name frankly ribs some inviolate scientific formula, XTC have polished their alchemic faculties to produce a joyful masterpiece in which they emerge as a regnant, modern-day link between the chiming optimism of the Beatles and the recreative anger and cool nihilism of the punkers.

This is multi-layered wit and drama that retains its sharp-edged pertinence without sacrificing one whit of its humanity or humor. In XTC's well-constructed scheme, the fuzziest sort of rocket-powered pop elation is plaited with an incisive, facade-stripping grumble. On the surface, they seemingly acquiesce to the proscribed military and scientific social order. But gloating beneath the cheery pop veneer is a cunning anti-military nonconformity.

Throughout songs like "Generals and Majors," "Living Through Another Cuba," "No Language in Our Lungs" and "Towers of London," XTC set up a consistent weave between acceptance of scientific order and renunciation of it. Their lyrics examine the antinomies of living through the inescapable reality of an impending WWII. The Black Sea of the title refers to the petroleum prize at stake in this irreversible power play. And the entire album may, in fact, be perceived as a compassionate dissection of behavioral patterns that perpetuate the vicious cycle of self-destruction.

In this connection, XTC's music rings triumphantly in cyclical design. While rooted harmonically in the mid-Sixties best group sound of the Beatles, Kinks, Hollies, Who, etc., the music is comprised of so much more than just the cold consolation of awareness. In fact, it's primarily adrenalin-desperation music, great to dance to.

In a work later, the Black Sea of the title refers to the petroleum prize at stake in this irreversible power play. And the entire album may, in fact, be perceived as a compassionate dissection of behavioral patterns that perpetuate the vicious cycle of self-destruction.

**The Doors: "Greatest Hits" (Elektra Records)**  
Stemming perhaps from the best-selling biography of lead vocalist Jim Morrison, the Doors are currently enjoying a resurgence of popularity with three of their old LPs in the charts. Morrison died in 1971 at the age of 27, and the remaining Doors disbanded a year or two later. A newly assembled music circa 1967-71, "His" is every bit as relevant today as the latest releases from John Lennon, Neil Young or Rod Stewart.

As the originators of a rock noir style and purveyors of psycho-pop par excellence, the Doors were the principal psychedelic forerunners of what's been tagged New Wave music. In his heyday, Morrison was a courageous provocateur who used his music as a dramatic vehicle to illustrate how we're all captives in a process of diminishing alternatives. By divebombing into the malaise, exploring the space between idealism and violence, the Doors brought a daringly unromantic sensibility to rock. They set the stage for the emergent avant-garde rock of the '70s, and if we're lucky the '80s will see the dawn of even stranger days.

**Grover Washington, Jr.: "Winelight" (Elektra Records)**  
Sumptuous, hip, easy-listening pop-jazz from a saxophone player who offers music to dine by, not to eat. Gleaming with the sheen of 1,001 interrupted TV shampoo commercials, Washington's flawless execution of these routine romantic ballads (with a slight samba pulse) results ultimately in a nimble sort of numbness that might be allayed by the teeniest infusion of working sweat or salvation.

**Neil Young: "Hawks and Doves" (Reprise Records)**  
From somewhere high atop a mesa overlooking the point where radicals and conservatives converge, Young explores the "all or nothing" mythos, contends that there's some hawk in every dove and inadvertently reveals the chicken in his own coop by deliberately hedging back off the sharp edges.

From a musical standpoint, Young's sound is gentler and cleaner here than on his last two rusty epics. On the surface, this is one of his soberest recordings. But there's something off-putting about his even-toned ambivalence. Young's always been best when illogical and basically pessimistic. This kind of straight-laced sanity (coupled with the political double-talk) doesn't serve him well. The saner he allows himself to be seen, the daller he seems.

Of course, the possibility exists that he's purposely demystifying his "star" badge by veering away from the outlaw role. It seems more likely, however, that he's trying to shoehorn the bold-face banner of the title into some mightily minor, muddled metaphors that aren't half as mysterious or profound as he'd like to believe.

A rambling acoustic ditty, "The Old Homestead," and a mild electric hoe-down, "Comin' Apart at Every Nail," are on-target. But his generally gritty irony is weak-hearted at best, evasive at most, and his sentiments run the gamut from downright dippy to tepid. There's precious little of his customary path, mostly watered-down cold suds and half-stiff patriotic duds. What it all boils down to is something like: "Uncle Walt (Disney) welcomes you to Neil Young's America . . .," and the show sinks from low pep to no pep at all.

**Dee Dee Bridgewater (Elektra Records)**  
While critically lauded for her winsome mastery of everything from jazz to disco-funk, the maastry pot o' gold has thus far eluded the grasp of this versatile songstress. Unfortunately, her collaboration with illustrious producer Thom Bell (Spinners, Stylistics, etc.) on this set of lushly-orchestrated, surprisingly inert R&B ballads is unlikely to ignite her commercial potential.

Departing from her ornate jazz-like approach in accord with the simple sentiments of these neo-Motown soapers, she adapts a girlish kiddie butter purr. Whereas Sarah Vaughan was once her main influence, her main source of inspiration here is the boyish near-castrato of Smokey Robinson.

"When Love Comes Knockin'" —delivered in a languid Roberta Flack style —deserves to be a huge hit. "When You're In Love" and "Jody" are also decent songs. And Bell's impeccable arrangements, while typically mammoth, are equally attentive to the small details of the songs.

Most of the songs, however, are 30-violin, low-risk relics. Though Bridgewater's baby-blue vocal curves glimmer occasionally, they're more frequently tinged with a subdued weariness derived (most likely) from her inability to find her own voice in the face of these sicked-up but down-right drab and dusty hope-chest drams.

**Madness: "Absolutely" (Sire Records)**  
Absolutely . . . innocuous. This jolly septet fling another slew of chirpy Cockney nursery rhymes into their ska-flavored stew. I remain unamused by the flea-brained triteness of their vaude-villain hokum. This is entertainment?

MOVIE NEWS & NOTES

**Punk Goes Au Go Go  
For Huestis Flicker**

**Edward Guthman**

Years had passed since I'd seen *Beach Blanket Bingo* starring Frankie and Annette, Deborah Walley and Candy Johnson, the Perpetual Motion Dancer. 1965. I think I wore butch wax, Bermuda shorts and thongs, ate Necco wafers and Flicks in the Covina Theatre balcony and wondered if my shoulders would ever look like Jody McCrea's.

Last weekend *Bingo* and I reunited, but the venue was changed and the cultural context—1980 nouveau punk—was so radically, wickedly different that my memories seemed like sweet, stale antiquity.

This time *Bingo* was projected on a huge, overhead screen—without sound—for the party scene in *Whatever Happened to Susan Jane?* Marc Huestis's comic sequel to *The Outsider* (a late-Fifties short on How To Be Popular).

Since *The Outsider* takes place in the days of teased flips, St. Christopher medals and poolside skirts, and *Susan Jane* is in this time of black-on-black anti-style, it was fitting that the two genres coalesced for Marc's "ultra-underground" scene at Project Artaud. Go-go girls in Nancy Sinatra boots hullabaloo'd on raised platforms; the *Wasp Women* sang "Fuck You, You Queen" in tumbledweave wigs and cadaver make-up; Lulu (of *Holy Cow* and *Strawp*) jerked and pointed in his Jean Shrimpton mindsets; and a tribe of surly Fab Mab refugees scrawled lipstick graffiti and shoved garbage on stage during the live music acts.

My biggest laugh came when ten male and female candy strippers in mime face and Aunt Jemima headrags arrived, each carrying Lucy Ball face masks on a stick. Huestis cross-stitched the crowd, catching atmosphere with his CP10 news camera, while Bill Jersey, an Oscar nominee (*A Time for Burning*) and SF State film prof, shot *Cha-Cha* and *Joey's* semi-nude simulated love act and zeroed in on the *Wasp Women's* water balloon boobs.

There was more: Coco Vega, SF's own amazing Puerto Rican drag queen, screaming through the evening in cat burglar boots and Sheena-Queen-of-the-Jungle rape-me dress; Francesca Rosa, playing high-school-wallflower-turned-SF-trendy Susan Jane, wearing cholo jacket and bobby socks, giving ennuui to Marc's camera; and first-time actress Ann Black (what a find!), playing Susan Jane's friend Carmel Clark in laquered bouffant and green chiffon mother-in-law dress. Great stuff.

The music, just like the drag, ran all the way from the Ronettes to "Theme From Batman" to the Talking Heads. The mood and the cadence were full-throttle frenetic, just like an early Richard Lester film or *Rock and Roll High School*. It was all—how else can you say it?—very San Francisco. And in six or seven months, it'll all be a movie.

Let me end this item with a word to the philanthropic: Marc Huestis, like all the best independent filmmakers, is sorely in need of financing to complete the work, printing and sound-mixing of *Susan Jane*. Write me at the *Sentinel* if you're hankering for tax deductions in the name of art.



Wasp Woman Rodney Price

They Shoot Directors, Don't They? Michael Cimino's *Heaven's Gate*, which just closed after one catastrophic screening in New York, could be the biggest bomb in movie history. I called Stephen Silverman, a film writer for the *New York Post*, who described the scene at the Manhattan premiere of Cimino's albatross: "It was a disaster. You knew in five minutes it was horrible —no saving grace at all. None of the performers looked any good because Cimino had edited them all so badly, and the critics were talking out loud about how awful it was—in earshot of all the actors. Sam Waterston was burying his head in shame. Kris Kristofferson looked in a state of shock."

Sheila Benson, Mill Valley's flamboyant movie critic (*Pacific Sun*) and social butterfly, is in L.A. prepping for her movie *Down Under* to assume the *L.A. Times* film reviewer's post.

Sheila's a good writer and a helluva pushy reporter, too. I'll never forget her footwork at the late Mae West's Warfield Theatre tribute two years back. Sheila sat four seats down from La West during *Sexette*, constantly plotting the great lady's reactions to the audience response. And when Mae got up to slip backstage, Sheila tailed behind her like the scoop that she is.

With talons poised, Elizabeth Taylor will do furious battle with Kim Novak on next month's movie screens. The picture is Agatha Christie's *The Mirror Crack'd*, Elizabeth's first since *A Little Night Music*, and it pits her against Novak as feuding, arch-rival movie

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**Lotte Lenya, c. 1930**

Lotte Jacobi's portrait of Lotte Lenya is part of the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art's forthcoming exhibition, *Avant Garde Photography in Germany, 1919-1939*. Following its San Francisco display (December 19-February 8), the exhibit will travel to several other U.S. cities, including Los Angeles and New York.

The three hundred prints which comprise the show represent the finest examples of innovative photography in Germany in this century. Of primary importance to these artists were new developments in camera design and technique, particularly the "free" use of the 35mm lens.

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# CABARET

## Low Camp Elevated to the Sublime?

**CHARLES PIERCE.**  
At the Plush Room.  
Through November 30.

Steve Beery

If there were only one practicing drag act in the world, it would have to be Charles Pierce's. "This is my street makeup: asphalt and tar," he proclaims in his new show at the Plush Room, where he is currently holding court like a patrician St. Ursula of gotty. "I used to write confessions for dull Catholics." And, "I came from the West, where men are men and the sheep know it."

The show is simultaneously hysterical, tightly controlled and shamelessly vulgar. It's nice to see Pierce equipped with (mostly) new material and a spiffy new pianist in place of the slide shows, puppets and taped musical accompaniment of earlier visits. The songs are terrifically bouncy. "You're Getting To Be A Habit With Me," "You'd Be Surprised." A bit wrinkler now than the eyes, he makes an even more smashing Bette Davis. Pierce is a natural comic. His deadpan delivery suggests a Jack Benny of drag. He is particularly well suited, both visually and vocally, to make the lowest of low camp seem sublime. As an impressionist, he evokes Carol Channing, Mae West, Gloria Swanson; never deigning to actually impersonate his characters, he chooses instead to adopt their broadest mannerisms for a burlesque of Hollywood stardom and of drag itself. Heaven only knows what will become of his satirically unkind Mae West in the immediate wake of the lady's passing. A week ago he seemed to be toying with the naughty but funny idea of doing a post-stroke Mae, sexily slurring her "ohhhhs," but just when he was on the verge of being nasty, he reverted to a more standard presentation.

Watching Pierce's complex performance raises all sorts of questions about drag and its "political correctness." His is an admirably pansexual point of view, but some of his oldest and bluntest Tallulah Bankhead insults come from a pre-gay rights era, when many of us were not around to experience firsthand the oppression that existed and the barriers that needed breaking down. Occasionally we need to remember that our closeted gay brothers and sisters used to gather in tiny bars, daring to dance together, fearing nightly for their safety from police, having to reassure each other in the face of all admissible evidence that homosexuality was not a perversion, not a vice and not a sin. They were more oppressed, and their in-jokes were more defensive, even slightly desperate. Twenty years later, those same in-jokes can sound mean-spirited and misogynistic. It is to Pierce's credit that he was, in those dark days, working as a gay performer to fight straight oppression. Seen in this light, his show and its attendant cultural assumptions can be seen as a sort of time capsule of the pre-Stonewall gay struggle. But



Charles Pierce as Lucille Ball

today, the act would not suffer from the exclusion of a couple of the cruder "cunt jokes."

In a larger sense, Pierce's Bette-Tallulah duel is a real actee coup. He demonstrates an uncanny ability to suggest two people at once, circling each other in the same cocktail dress onstage. It is a surreal, almost eerie moment. And Pierce never plays effeminate in his drag impersonations. We begin to realize that he is "doing" women who themselves have gotten a lot of mileage out of playing butch. One senses that Davis, Bankhead, West, et al., fully aware of the ambisexual nature of their own original characterizations, would wholeheartedly approve.

Pierce depends upon building an iron rapport with the audience, and he is a master at controlling the intimate space of a nightclub stage. The one-liners ricochet like stray bullets. He knows when and how to ad-lib. By gaining the complicity of the audience, he is able to lure us into the blue material and make us laugh at the underpinnings of sexuality itself.

The show's finest moment comes when, as Bette Davis, he lets his hair down in the stalled car scene from *All About Eve*. For an instant he becomes serious and accurately conveys the emotion of Margo Channing's monologue. "Funny business, a woman's career..." he begins, and a hush falls over the room. That moment, and its resultant explosion of applause, must make it all worthwhile. Charles Pierce is a real actor. Slow curtain. The end.

# EVENTS

## FRIDAY, DECEMBER 5

**Yosemite Valley Trip**, sponsored by **Great Outdoor Adventures**, a lesbian alternative. Three cabins have been reserved for this winter weekend in Curry Village—four meals and linens provided. Info: 641-4020. Cost \$40.

**Continental Savings and Loan Association**, the nation's most profitable S&L for the past two years, will formally open its new main office at 2099 Market Street the week of December 1 through 5, culminating on the 5th at 11 a.m. with a ribbon-cutting ceremony led by Mayor Dianne Feinstein and aided by members of the Board of Supervisors and other prominent dignitaries. The public is invited to join in the celebration.

## SATURDAY, DECEMBER 6

The 18th Street Merchants' Association presents a **Holiday Fete**, noon to 6 p.m., 18th Street between Texas and Connecticut on sunny Portrero Hill. Santa... live music... street theatre... and lots of good cheer.

## SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7

**Donald Catalano** will speak on a **Gay Convalescent Project** at the **G 40 Plus** meeting—2 p.m.—1668 Bush Street.

## FRIDAY, DECEMBER 5

**Orquesta Sabrosita**, a 12-piece women's salsa band, will be back for salsa dance nights on Thursdays, December 4, 11 and 18, at **A Little More**, 702 15th Street at Portrero, from 9:30 p.m. to 1:30 a.m. Admission will be \$2. For more information, call **A Little More** at 864-9123.

## FRIDAY, DECEMBER 5

**Les Ballets Trockadero**, the fabulous and hilarious all-male ballet company, will make its San Francisco debut at the Opera House with four performances, December 10-13 at 8 p.m. Tickets on sale at the Opera House box office, 431-1210, Macy's, BASS and all major Bay Area agencies.

## FRIDAY, DECEMBER 5

**Versatile San Francisco vocalist Pam Brooks** will appear at **Fanny's Restaurant** and **Cabaret Fridays** and **Saturdays** in November and on December 19, 20, 26, 27, 4230 18th Street in the Castro.

## FRIDAY, DECEMBER 5

**Alice B. Toklas Memorial Democratic Club** membership meeting and pot luck dinner, 6:30 p.m., 150 Eureka Street. Nominations for officers.

## FRIDAY, DECEMBER 5

**"Gay & Lesbian Lifestyles Expo"** at the Los Angeles Convention Center. A first-time consumer show designed to allow businesses and service organizations an opportunity to conduct retail sales and have direct contact with the gay and lesbian community. Continuous entertainment, dancing, fashion shows. Admission: \$4.75 each day. For further information, call (213) 467-1362.

## EVENTS ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Organization for Women Over Forty** is an organization for women in the middle of life. "We help mature women make a place for themselves—a place where experience counts; a place where women can meet and merge their strengths." Every Sunday, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., Third Floor, The Women's Building, 3343 18th Street. \$2 donation. For more information, call 431-6405 or 431-6944.

Auditions are now being held for the **Tennessel Gay Men's Chorus**, currently forming in the East Bay. Needed: tenors, baritones and basses. Some musical background or choral experience is preferred, but not a necessity. For information and auditions, please contact **Charles Baker**, 654-0604, evenings.

**Gay Square Dance Club** for beginners and experienced men and women—anyone in the Bay Area interested in having a lot of fun plus square dancing—should contact **Barrett** at 441-4112. Learn pattern and Western dancing. Only those who are seriously interested in square dancing should call.

The **Life and Times of Rosie the Riveter**, November 26-December 2 at the **York Theater**, 24th and York. Advance tickets available now to benefit many Bay Area organizations such as the **Equal Rights Advocates**, **SF Women's Press Project**, **Displaced Homemakers**, **Labor Law Projects**, **Advocates for Women**, the **Pleasanton Prison Project** and more. Call 655-4725.

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# MOVIES

## Witches and Faggots—Dykes and Pootlers

Four recent gay films from Australia will be presented by **Frameline** at the **Roxie Cinema** beginning at 7 p.m. December 3 and 4. **Witches and Faggots** documents the **Mardi Gras** debacle in June, 1978 when the **Sydney state police** attacked a crowd of gay people and their supporters.

**Megan McMurchy's Apartments** explores a romantic discussion between two women drawn to one another by their erotic fantasies. **Farewell to Charms**, by **Carla Pontic**, and **Showtime**, directed by **Jan Chapman**, will also be shown.



# THEATRE

## Theatre Rhinoceros Scores Again

**BEER AND RHUBARB PIE.**  
By **Daniel Curzon**.

**THE LINE FORMS TO THE REAR.**  
By **Cal Yeomans**.  
At **The Theatre Rhinoceros**.

### Les Attitude

Two very good and very simple gay one-act plays are appearing at the **Theatre Rhinoceros**, located in the **Goodman Building** on **Geary Street**. These two little dramas make minimal use of production and staging, but each is eloquent in its simplicity and contributes to a richer understanding of gay life.

In **The Line Forms to the Rear**, actor **Blaine Souza** presents a touching and a well-modulated performance as an ex-drag queen quietly living with his mother in a mobile home in Florida. In an extended soliloquy, this single character narrates his aspirations to show business, a resultant nervous breakdown and his current, complacent life crocheting, shopping at the **K Mart** where it's air-conditioned, and performing "mercy sex" with any and all

takers at the local glory hole. The script, by **Cal Yeomans**, is distinctly minimalist, but is solid and full of small observations. This story of a downtrodden gay man is a cautionary tale: don't let this happen to you.

**Beer and Rhubarb Pie**, the second play of the program, by the **Sentinel's** own **Daniel Curzon**, is somewhat more elaborately staged. This is the story of a gay man and the macho Cuban carpenter who's doing repair work in the kitchen. The carpenter is supposedly straight. "I don't bend over," he says defensively. "I suppose you leave that to your wife, too," the gay man replies.

**Richard Staven** is adept as the gay man who can't help but pick up on the sexual curiosity of his uptight friend. **Thomas Mark** steals the show as the hot carpenter, turning in a very funny portrayal of "sex talk" at the finale are just short of being embarrassing, the play's point is made effectively and economically—it doesn't hurt to loosen up.

**Beer and Rhubarb Pie** and **The Line Forms to the Rear** continue in weekend matinee performances through November 30.

**Richard Staven and Thomas Mark** in **Daniel Curzon's Beer and Rhubarb Pie**.

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—Tom Shachtel, *Los Angeles Times*

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—Arthur Waines, *NY Post*

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BOOKS

Swanson on Swanson

"We didn't need voices; we had faces then!" Gloria Swanson, who, as Norma Desmond in Sunset Boulevard, uttered the undying swan song for silent pictures, has just written the hottest movieland memoir since Mommie Dearest. Swanson on Swanson, at a hefty 535 pages (Random House, \$15.95), details her films with directors Mack Sennett, Cecil B. DeMille and Erich von Stroheim; her co-stars, from Rudolph Valentino to Sir Laurence Olivier; her marriages to Wallace Beery and the Marquis de la Falaise; her illicit love affair with Joseph Kennedy, husband of Rose and father of J.F.K. (The book's funniest line: "Only a few years older than me, Rose Kennedy is sweet and motherly in every respect." p. 386.)

In inimitable fashion, Swanson discusses the phenomena of her worldwide celebrity at age 25, her early discovery of natural foods, her invention (with Coco Chanel) of a revolutionary, long-line girdle, and the time Barbara Stanwyck kissed her hemline. Also covered are her roles in films from The Danger Girl (1916) to Airport 1975. Intensely personal, richly anecdotal, Swanson on Swanson is terrific holiday-season entertainment.

-Steve Beery

FOOTNOTES: The Bay Area Guide To Dance. By Beth Witrogen. Oakland, 1980. Two Step Press, 323 pp.

Renee Renouf

Compilations of data are fairly heroic undertakings, and Footnotes: The Bay Area Guide To Dance is not to be excepted. Ms. Witrogen has done a salutary job, if there are some curious lapses and inconsistencies. But, with these exceptions, which will be detailed later, one can only congratulate her for unremitting effort and perspicacity in seeing such a work to the end. For me, it is like seeing my two and a half decades of haphazard, if comprehensive, involvement in the dance summarized and spread out before me, sans memories.

While there is an acknowledgement that changes were going on up until press time, the lapses tend to occur with those organizations that have been on the scene enough so that one feels the length of their presence is something stable. Here one feels that Ms. Witrogen is relying more on the written returns to her questionnaire than the kind of working knowledge a critic carries around as mental briefcase. Also, in some instances where claims have been made regarding the purity of Russian balletic lineage, the statement is accepted as fact, even though the training might have been a two-week seminar or even created from the mists of the imagination. Fortunately, these errors are by far and away in the minority.

Such errors occur in organizations like Pacific Ballet Center on page 29, where the company's activities tend to indicate it may never rise again. Here, some editorial judgment might have been exercised.

Also, in the Body Work section and in the Yoga section, the names of Norma Lesteko and Yoga College of India are missing. In the Belly Dance section, the figure of Jamila Salimpour is absent. This may be due to the failure of the individuals to return the questionnaires, but manuscript revisions and press time still might have permitted changes.

One of the more interesting sections to me is the list of organizations which provide support and funding services to dance. Here Ms. Witrogen

reads like some of my introductory courses to Arts Administration. It is a very thoughtful and helpful compilation, as is the listing of dance spaces available.

Paraphrasing, Ms. Witrogen's entry on the Sentinel must have been received in 1979; the dance critic has changed.

THE HERPES BOOK. By Richard Hamilton, M.D. J.P. Tarcher, Inc., 206 pages.

Steve Beery

Here it is, collected between hard covers at last: everything you always wanted to know about herpes but were afraid to ask the cute doctor at the clinic. With medical officials currently estimating that between 50 million and 150 million Americans have had an outbreak of this tenacious little virus, and since herpes is both incurable and occasionally infectious, there is undoubtedly a large potential audience for this book.

Dr. Hamilton's position is that the person with herpes need not feel permanently quarantined. He dispels some of the myths surrounding the infection—for one thing, the virus is not always recurrent, and many people who have contracted herpes are never again bothered by it. Women infected with general herpes are fully able to give birth to healthy babies. There is no direct correlation between herpes and cancer.

The author promulgates an ABC approach to coping with the virus—Attitude, Behavior, and Constitutional factors. He outlines several different ways the herpes victim can minimize or eliminate factors that lead to recurring outbreaks. General good health and positive mental outlook are serious deterrents to recurrences, more than one might think.

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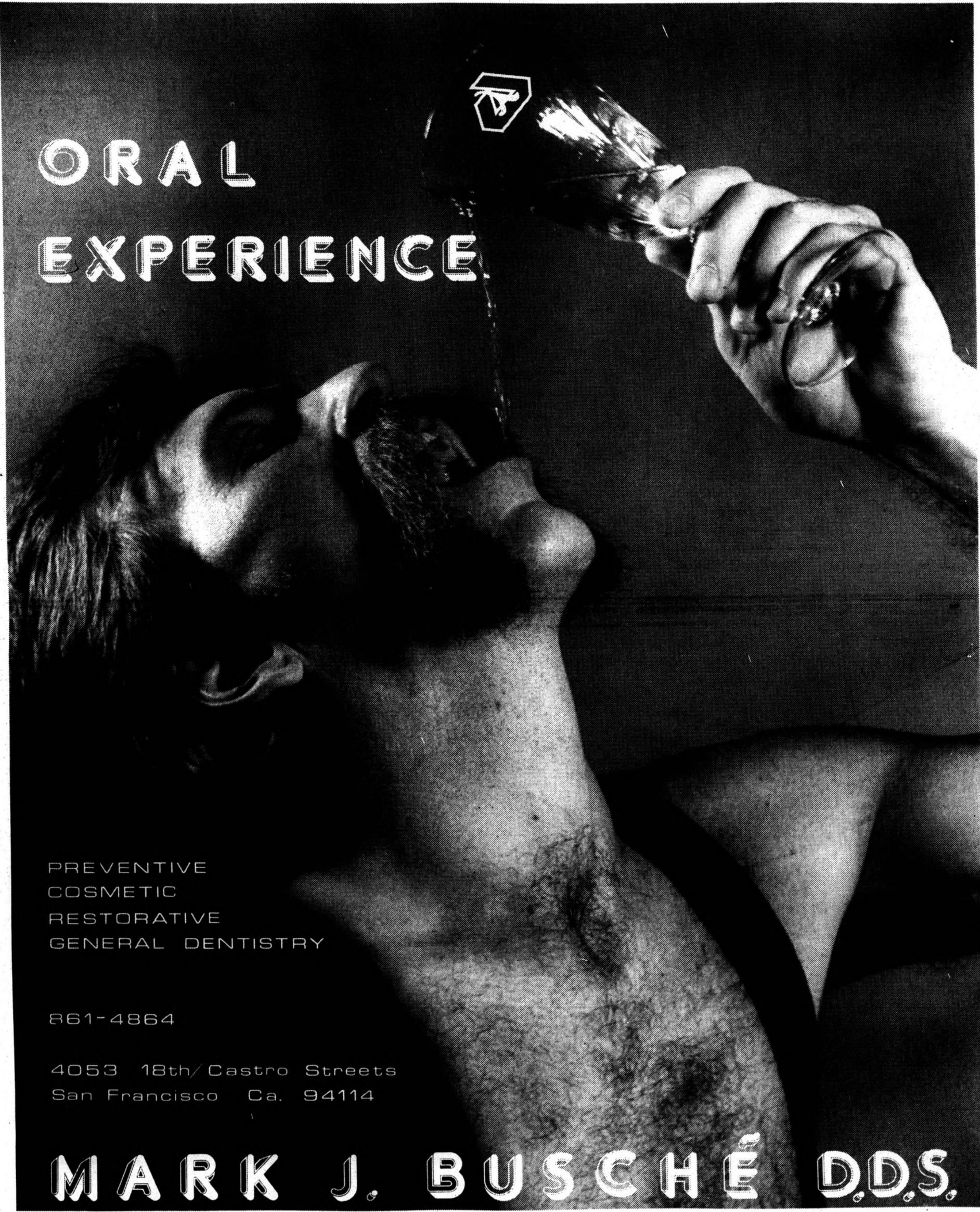
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