



McLean's
Mercer

See page 6.

Newsbites

MILK CLUB GETS GRANT, OFFICERS

San Francisco, CA — The Harvey Milk Lesbian & Gay Democratic Club has received a \$5,985 grant from the Chicago Resource Center to continue AIDS education work within the gay community. This will enable the club's AIDS Education Committee to update and distribute nationally the popular "Can We Talk?" brochure. Also at its Jan. 24 meeting, the club elected these officers for 1984: **Carole Migden**, re-elected as president; **Ron Huberman**, vice president for political affairs; **David Mathieson**, vice-president for internal affairs; **Frank Epplich**, treasurer; **Vivian Hamill**, corresponding secretary; and **John Joiner**, recording secretary.

POLK STREET REGULARS CHEER RULING

Sacramento, CA — The state Supreme Court, reaffirming its long-standing policy, recently ruled that police may not detain and search people just because they happen to be in an area known for illegal activities. The court said law enforcement officials must have "articulable facts" that lead them to suspect that some illegal activity is taking place before they can stop or detain anyone. "A history of past criminal activity in the locality does not justify suspension of the constitutional rights of everyone, or anyone, who may subsequently be in the locality," Justice **Stanley Mosk** wrote for the court. The ruling said that a police policy of conducting a general detention and interrogation of all persons in a suspected area, hoping to uncover some evidence of crime by some person is illegal. (San Francisco Examiner, 1/26/84)

LOCAL GOVERNMENTS CAN'T DISCRIMINATE

Sacramento, CA — Senator **Milton Marks** (R-S.F.) has released a formal legal opinion that it is "unlawful" for local government employers to discriminate on the basis of sexual orientation. "I am very pleased to find that common sense and state law agree," Marks said in a press release. He had asked the state Attorney General for the opinion last summer at the request of the Governor's Commission on Personal Privacy. The formal opinion concluded that "it is not lawful for a local public agency to discriminate in its employment practices on the basis of sexual orientation." While not directly binding on local officials, an Attorney General's opinion signals the state's legal position on issues in future lawsuits. The opinion prepared for Marks relies on court decisions from well-known civil rights and personal privacy cases.



The once (and future?) presidential candidate **JOHN ANDERSON** as he spoke before the Golden Gate Business Association annual dinner last week.

MORE PROGRESS IN OAKLAND

Oakland, CA — On Jan. 18 the Oakland School Board passed on a 4-to-0 vote a non-discrimination based on sexual orientation policy for "all employees, certified and non-certified." The measure was introduced by **Elizabeth Laurensen** and seconded by **Darlene Lawson**. "During lengthy negotiations last summer a non-discrimination policy was presented by the union, and then dropped by them. The words 'sexual orientation' are now added to the current school board policy on non-discrimination," according to a press release from the East Bay Lesbian/Gay Democratic Club.

FEINSTEIN BLASTS COST OF AIDS

Washington, D.C. — San Francisco Mayor **Dianne Feinstein**, widely believed to be a leading candidate for this year's Democratic vice-presidential nomination, told the nation's mayors last week that the cities where AIDS has had the most impact have spent at least \$36 million in local funds to treat the fatal illness. Feinstein, who heads the U.S. Conference of Mayors' AIDS Task Force, told the group that local reaction has been "swift and generous" but repeated her appeal for more federal funds to help cities pay for screening and care of people with AIDS as well as for education. New York City has spent \$20 million on AIDS in 1983 alone, Los Angeles \$10.3 million, and San Francisco \$4.3 million. (San Francisco Examiner, 1/27/84)

STUDDS TO RUN AGAIN

Boston, MA — U.S. Rep. **Gerry Studds** (D-MA), censured by Congress last year for having a homosexual affair with a teenage House page, plans to run for a seventh term in November, his office confirmed earlier this week. Studds, who has represented the 10th district in southeastern Massachusetts since 1972, said he decided to run again "because I believe the issues of 1984 are so critical and because I believe that with my experience and seniority I will be in a position to make a difference." His primary opponent is expected to be **Joseph P. Kennedy III**, son of the late Robert F. Kennedy. (San Francisco Examiner, 1/30/84)

Exclusive:

Matlovitch to Helm New Conservative Gay Lobby



DAN OCHS and **JAMIE STARMER** pay tribute to longtime gay leader **Richard Gamble** who passed away last May. The Central YMCA, 220 Golden Gate Ave., dedicated a room to Gamble, who was for many years a YMCA board member.

by **W.E. Beardemphl**

Formalizing widening rifts within the national homosexual political community, **Leonard Matlovitch**, in an exclusive interview with *The Sentinel*, announced that he will assume the National Directorship of Concerned Americans for Individual Rights. The new organization will begin immediately to file for its credentials. It will be incorporated in Washington D.C. and in April it will be off and running, with the Board of Directors being announced in June.

Mr. Matlovitch outlined CAIR as basically "three organizations. It will be a political action committee to give money to candidates who are fiscally conservative and strong on national defense while encouraging a human rights record. It will also be an educational group to educate persons on conservative political philosophy. And it will be a lobbying group to promote ideas we feel must be legislated."

As of Feb. 2, Matlovitch had completed sale of his business and property in Guerneville, CA, a world renowned vacation resort area. He will soon take off for an extended European vacation and will then settle in Washington, D.C. While an address office and phone number are on hold until Matlovitch gets to Washington, funding for the group is already operating through a non-profit organization. Board members from all across the country are established. "We have decided to pool our money at first and then go after fundraising when we are functioning," Matlovitch said.

When questioned on the "bungling" of present national lobbying groups representing the homo-



LEONARD MATLOVITCH sexual community.

Matlovitch strongly responded, "It is time for a change. It is time for a real choice in the gay movement, in the gay leadership. It is time the spokespersons for the gay movement are no longer be liberals." But he diplomatically continued with, "I think we can all work together. I sure don't want to compete with them (NGTF). We will be appealing to an entirely different group of gay persons. We should compliment each other. They can lobby their liberal groups and we will lobby conservatives and conservative groups. We are all for the same goal in the end. I don't want their competition." Matlovitch emphasized that CAIR will make every effort to cooperate with other homosexual groups, privately and publicly, once the ball is rolling.

However, Matlovitch emphasized, "We will definitely know our past. A bit of orientalism philosophy is that the deeper the roots, the stronger the tree. I think it is extremely important that we should know our history. There is always room for new leadership coming along but that new leadership has to know that people before them also paid their dues so that they can be in the position they are in today."

"We, definitely, will support Reagan. There is no question about that. Our prime emphasis will be human rights. But everyone must understand that we are not going to be a single issue organization. We have to look at the whole picture. It would be a terrible tragedy if one area to work very

Continued on page 2.

NOW Sponsors Lesbian Conference

by **Lisa M. Keen**
Washington Blade News Service
Datesite Milwaukee, WI — Three hundred fifty lesbians from across the country convened here last week for a first-of-its-kind national lesbian conference under the sponsorship of the National Organization for Women (NOW).

The conference, Jan. 20-22, which drew only minimal press coverage, was billed as "Power and Politics '84," but discussions throughout the weekend swept freely from politics to homophobia, racism, and even semantics. The conference schedule itself was packed with an ambitious variety of panels on such topics as "Lesbian and Gay Candidates and Cam-

paigns," "Coming Out in NOW," "Minority Rights and Lesbian Rights," and "Recruiting Lesbians to NOW."

In addition to holding the conference to exchange ideas between NOW's national leadership and its largely visible lesbian membership, the conference served as a symbolic gesture of NOW's "renewal of our commitment" to working for lesbian and gay rights, said NOW national president **Judy Goldsmith** in her welcoming letter to conference participants. NOW also put some teeth into that commitment by carrying out a resolution passed at its last national convention to target one state to throw NOW resources and clout behind a gay rights bill.

The state chosen, New Jersey, was announced on Monday following the lesbian conference. According to NOW spokeswoman **Lisa Lederer**, New Jersey was chosen by seven of the eight members of NOW's board-appointed Conference Implementation Committee (CIC) on lesbian rights by consensus on Monday. Lederer said she didn't know how many other states submitted proposals seeking NOW's support for their state gay rights bills and that NOW would not be releasing a list of those state proposals. She said that New Jersey was chosen for its potential for success in passing gay rights legislation and for the people-support available to work on its passage.

Continued on page 4.

New Hope for Polk St. Youth



ROSS ZELLERS (far right) and friends prepare to open the new **LARKIN ST. YOUTH CENTER**, located at 1040 Larkin St.

by **Gary Schweikhart**

Mayor **Dianne Feinstein** and Archbishop **John R. Quinn** will be cutting the ribbons this afternoon (Thurs.) to mark the official opening of the new **Larkin Street Youth Center**, a multi-purpose center designed to provide outreach, counseling, housing and employment services, and medical care for the street youth of San Francisco. Located at 1040 Larkin St., the Center is designed to become an important resource in the Polk-Tenderloin area and it will offer young runaways help and support and will provide an alternative to street life.

"There is a tremendous need for this Center," says director **Ross Zellers**. "We estimate that there are as many as 1,000 to 2,000 homeless youth on the streets on any given day."

While previous efforts to reach homeless youth have had to turn over to legal authorities those under the age of 18, the Larkin St. Youth Center will be exempt from this provision. "The police have been really fabulous on all levels. Of course, they are right on the streets, they see the magnitude of this problem, so they want this effort to succeed, too," says Zellers.

Those wishing to know more about the Larkin Street Youth Center can call 673-0911. Everyone, particularly area youth, are encouraged to attend the grand opening ceremonies at 6 P.M. today.

MARC HICKS

Newsbytes

GAY/LESBIAN DEPUTIES SOUTH

San Francisco, CA - Sheriff Michael Hennessey has announced the opening of an extensive recruitment drive for the position of Deputy Sheriff. This is the first time in more than three years that a test will be given for this permanent Civil Service position...



JAY DAVIDSON and WALTER MAYER, president of the Golden Gate Performing Arts, present MAYOR DIANNE FEINSTEIN with an award of excellence and a decanter of Louis XIII Remy Martin Cognac...

WELLER IN, ENDEAN OUT AT GRNL - Jerry Weller, the deputy director of Gay Rights National Lobby, has assumed the position of acting executive director until a new, permanent director is named.

NEWS NOW FIT TO PRINT? - Two obituaries printed last December in the New York Times appear to have made a significant change in its editorial policy toward gay men and lesbians.

CELEBS ENDORSE AIDS FUNDRAISING - Luminaries are lending their names to raise money for AIDS. Woody Allen, Paul Newman, Joanne Woodward, Leonard Bernstein, Dr. Jonas Salk, Rosalyn Carter, Arthur Miller, Vernon Jordan and Harvey Feinstein are among the 37 celebrities who have helped form the National Council of AIDS Medical Foundation.

NATO AIDE FIRED FOR BEING GAY - Bonn, W. Ger. - The lawyer for former NATO deputy commander Gen. Genter Kiessling charged Jan. 12 that Kiessling had been fired at the behest of West German Defense Minister Manfred Woerner because of reports that Kiessling often visited Cologne gay bars.

San Francisco AIDS Foundation

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Gay Lobby Supports Reagan

Continued from page 1. hard to gain human rights and then lose the whole nation in the process. There are some forces that would bankrupt this nation and that is what we are also fighting against," he added.

Matlovich pointed out, "With me being the National Director of CAIR, obviously it is going to have a strong emphasis on homosexuals and lesbians. But, we are not going to stop there; we are going to talk about ERA, abortion, death penalty, many different issues. We are really getting involved as conservatives with many, many issues."

"Nationwide, I find that most gay people are conservatives. I find most gay people are not liberals. The trouble is that conservatives have never reached out to homosexuals and now is the time."

"It is very sad that when I came out of the closet in his historic military case in 1975), Ted Kennedy, Ed Koch, who was in the U.S. House of Representatives at that time, all the liberals came to me. Not one conservative came to me. That will change; conservatives are getting involved now. The perception can no longer be of conservatives as people sitting behind big desks. We have to be people in the streets. We have to affect society and make society a better place."

"We have a dream like Martin Luther King Jr., but ours is a more universal dream than an American dream. In South Africa, we are blacks and we are whites; in Northern Ireland, we are Protestants and we are Catholics; in Israel, we are Jews and we are Moslems. I personally feel we live in a crazy, crazy mixed up world. In the military they gave me a medal for killing two men and a discharge for loving one. Hopefully, one day, man will meet on the fields of love and not battlefields of war. I think, yes, I'm a political conservative, yet, I believe in a very strong national defense. But, in the end the ultimate goal is no military at all."

Leonard Matlovich will be remembered for his challenge to the armed services treatment of homosexuals. He was featured nationwide and appeared on the cover of Time magazine, was the subject of a TV drama on his life as technical sergeant in the Air Force ending his last four years in the service as a human rights instructor for the military.

Matlovich cautioned that all homosexuals must remember that never have military courts ruled in favor of gay rights nor any human rights advances, and that our civilian courts have upheld the military's right to do just as they please. "It has always been Congress and the President that have made changes to better our human rights. Our pressure must be to educate this conservative President and conservative members of Congress," Matlovich pointed out.

"To implement this thrust through CAIR, we will have a complete staff, office, etc. I am very impressed with our preliminary budget. It is quite a nice budget," he added.

"Everyone must realize that this is just another step forward. Gay unity does not mean gay carbon copy. It means left of the movement, means right of the movement, all doing our own things. But, what we do not do is attack each other. If we are going to attack each other, how are we going to have any energy left to change society for the better," Matlovich concluded.

Feb. 2 (Thurs.) - Larkin St. Youth Center has its official grand opening. Guests will include Mayor Diane Feinstein and Archbishop John J. Quinn at 1040 Larkin St. 6 P.M. For info, call Ron DeLuca at 861-4552.

Windy Cooper, jazz and blues vocalist, at Fanny's, 4230 18th St. Show times 5:30 and 7:PM. No cover. Also Feb. 9, 10 and 23.

La Bodega has its San Francisco debut at Valencia Row, 745 Valencia St. 8 P.M. For details, dial 552-9114 or 621-6350.

Free VO Testing by the San Francisco and Castro, 11 A.M. to 1:30 P.M. 864-8100.

HF Hiking Club is sponsoring a "Wilderness Within the City" day hike. Meet in McDonald's parking lot, Stryan & Haight streets, 9:45 A.M. Free.

Bay Area Lawyers for Individual Freedom is sponsoring a conference on "Gay and Lesbian Legal Issues and Legal Cases." From 9 A.M. to 4 P.M. at Golden Gate University, 530 Mission St. Free. For info, call Peter Fowler at 442-7250.

Free VO Testing sponsored by SF Clinic. At 18th and Castro, noon to 3 P.M. 864-8100.

Stevener presents "A 10 Year Retrospective Performance" at the Castro Theater, 8 P.M. and midnight.

San Francisco Nuclear Freeze organizers at the Farm, 1499 Divisadero (at Army). Doors open at 9 P.M., admission \$5. Dance for a good cause 621-0858.

Lesbians of Color opening meeting to work on statement of purpose and to discuss future activities. For time and location, call either Gloria or Alice at 584-8283.

KSAN's GayLife presents coverage of the SF Human Rights Commission hearings on employment discrimination in gay businesses. At 4 A.M. on KSAN (95.1M).

FrontRunners plan a Lake Merced dash, up to five miles. For those who need rides or want to carpool, meet on E corner of Market and Church (Safeway parking lot) at 8 P.M. For details, dial Patrick Vitale at 621-7300.

HF Hiking Club's two short hikes in the East Bay. Meet at 9:45 A.M. McDonald's parking lot at Stryan & Haight.

40 Plus presents B.A.R.B., columnist John Barr on "Kamaal Knowledge: Ideas in the Gutler." At First Union Church, 1187 Franklin (at Geary) 2 P.M. Everybody welcome. 552-1997.

Reginald McDonald with his special guest Klaus Gannon. At Fanny's, 8:30 P.M. 54. Also Feb. 9.

ELL group for lesbian gay men. Signs holding its monthly meetings at the Pride Center, 690 Hayes (at Filmore). From 7:30 to 9:30 P.M. open to Italians, Italian-Americans and Italophiles.

StoneWall Gay Democratic Club general meeting, election of officers, presidential nominating caucus. At Valencia Row, 18th St. near Valencia, 7:30 P.M. 552-4287.

The Healthy Obedience presents a lecture on hermaphrodites. At the Valencia Row, 8 P.M., 53 donation. 863-7784.

Pride Center presents weekly bingo games. Minimum admission \$5 for six cards. Per game, cash prizes start at \$50. At 690 Hayes, 7:15 P.M. 863-7845.

Operation Concerns brings a Coming Out Group for Lesbians. This is an eight-week therapeutic group for women who are now coming out as lesbians. From 7 to 8:30 P.M., Tuesdays/Thursdays at 3rd. Call Mary Foley or Anette Cohen for information at 632-7000.

March on Democratic community meeting to organize a lesbian and gay march and rally. At the Workers Building, 7:30 P.M. For info, call 552-4287.

Lesbian Gay Advisory Committee of the Human Rights Commission is seeking new members. For information, contact Jackie Winrow at 558-4901. Deadline is Feb. 13.

Die Mannerstimmen, a chamber chorus of men's voices, is holding auditions for the spring season. To schedule an audition, contact David Modell at 621-5295.

Equal Rights Advocates, a nonprofit, public interest law center, offers free information, legal advice and referral by telephone. Call 621-0505 for details.

Young Gay Men's Support Group has weekly meetings on Wednesdays from 1 to 4 P.M. For gay men under 21. At Pacific Center, 2712 Telegraph Ave. (near Divisadero) in Berkeley. For info, call 548-8293.

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Dan White's New Job?

Has Ma Bell adopted Dan White? That's the latest story out of Los Angeles. The word is that convicted killer Dan White has been hired in the security wing of the telephone company. The head of that department is former San Francisco Police Chief Cahill. So far... Ma Bell is mum on the matter.

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Shhh! At least two straight newspapers and one general agency are currently snooping around a major local gay business. Rumor has it that the joint is involved with laundering dope money up near Russian River. Everything is still pretty murky at this point, but if the story should pan out, it will be some awfully red faces among our community's brightest and shiniest.

+++++

Have you caught the latest black-and-white poster being distributed by the San Francisco AIDS Foundation... and I do mean black-and-white. Along with its "You Can Have Fun (and be safe, too)" message, there is a picture of two men embracing. Well, both the poster's picture and point relied up some of the folks attending last week's Taverna Guild meeting. One South of Market restaurateur blasted the poster for its "pornographic appeal," while another SF bar owner was publicly offended by the interracial implications. "What's the AIDS Foundation doing anyway besides this poster, with BWMT, and that group has done nothing but cause headaches for bar owners for months now," he snifed.

Rick Crane, the head honcho over at the AIDS Foundation, isn't disturbed by the controversy. "The poster is just one of many different approaches which we are taking to reach people who may be at risk of catching AIDS. It is important because the poster is both sexually-positive and gay-positive. It supports our rights and our need to be sexual. And it is part of our overall theme that sex isn't part of the problem, it is part of the solution," he said. Crane pointed out that they started putting up the posters in bars last weekend, and there hasn't been a bit of trouble. "In addition to being displayed locally, the poster is also hanging in both houses in L.A., Sacramento, Portland, Kansas City and other locations nationwide.

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Producer David Bandy has sold



Sex in the Age of AIDS

BRIGHT SIDE: The San Francisco AIDS/KS Foundation held a forum on safe sex recently, and sex therapist Tom Smith led our attention to the bright side. "There can be a tremendous amount of intimacy, a tremendous amount of sharing," he said. "We can also have safe sex with very intense sex, where we just really get into the other person."

Smith continued: "We can have safe sex that is very cosmic on many different levels. We can have safe sex that has a tremendous amount of novelty and [is] geared to our own liking, that's fun, and is also kind of animal in certain kinds of ways."

"We still have dicks, we still have balls, we still have butts, and we still have orgasms, which can all be safe. And the main thing, think, is that we still have each other."

DARK SIDE: Also addressing the forum was Richard Berkowitz, a co-founder of New-York's Gay Men With AIDS and co-author of *How to Have Sex in an Epidemic: One Trick, Best Trick*. Berkowitz considers himself recovered from "lesser AIDS," had this macabre

two of the dates which he has been holding at the Galleria. Both his Gay Day Tea Dance and the Seventh Annual Salute to the Men of San Francisco dates were purchased by Fred Badellamente. Reported price: \$10,000 each. Now Fred used to be a top assistant to Dr. Sanford Kellman of I-Beam fame, but has split to become a producer himself. Good luck.

+++++

Some big changes in store for Russian River. Not only has Leonard Matlovich sold Stumptown Annie's (see page 1), but the Woods was sold to two lesbians. Watch for some real exciting things



The S.F. AIDS Foundation's controversial new poster.

to be happening there in the near future. Also the fallout from the Fire Mountain Lodge fiasco continues to rain. The story took a nasty turn recently when Bill Gelbke decided to sue his former partners for multi-millions in damages. Ouch.

+++++

Tidbits and Take-outs. Watch for the Railwax Express in the Tenderloin to be closing soon. It seems the owner is involved in a nasty divorce settlement and this

is one way of getting back at his ex-Mrs.-to-be. † You heard about the big bash at the Vorpall Gallery a few weekends back for the dancers of the SF Ballet. Well, the "marvelous buffet" — and I do mean marvelous — was provided by the company's longtime friend, Read Gilmore. † Joe Roland, owner of the † Gateway and Queen Marys, won the \$1000 Super Bowl pool at Google's. A big congrats.

+++++

Gay Employer of the Month: Working conditions are so bad at the Locker Room bookstore up on Polk that the clerks aren't even allowed to use the restroom. It's located in the backroom video arcade and the porno-bosses don't want their employees to leave the front of the store unattended. **Solution:** the clerks are told to urinate in a plastic cup behind the counter, and then pour said contents out onto the sidewalk when no one is watching. I understand the local Human Rights Commission is looking into the situation.

+++++

Speaking of that... I mean the Castro, not Octavia's hips... it is time to come to somebody's defense. I'm referring to Kitty, the Salvation Army regular who often solicits contributions in the area. Kitty is a wonderful woman, not at all homophobic, yet she is often treated like shit by some of the gay men. Some guys have stood on the curb shouting obscenities at her, others have torn her collection box out of her hands and thrown it into the streets. Now I'm just as anti-religion as the next person, but this kind of behavior is uncalled for. Not only is it rude, it is also a bit sexist, I think. After all, when Kitty's husband Elmer collects for the Salvation Army up on Castro, he is never bothered. Only Kitty is harassed. So stop it!

+++++

Question of the week: Why are there so many vacancies at the million dollar residences for people with AIDS that are being coordinated by the Shanti Project? They were announced with all sorts of official hoopla and headlined by our own Lady Di (a certain Ann Landers look-alike who is hungry to get a new D.C. zipcode). Despite all the noise, these houses are almost empty — down to just two people in one of them at last count. Can it be that there are no applicants for the free housing... or is it just a problem of lousy administration? Octavia is interested — is anyone else?

+++++

Cluck Cluck Cluck: The item in my last column about political writer Wayne Friday abandoning the B.A.R. for California Voice apparently triggered a flurry of activity at both publications. The Voice dropped interest in their current in-house scandal (involving a certain employee and the models/masseurs who advertise on the classified page), while the editor of the other rag went into apoplexy over the mention. Oh well, as one B.A.R. regular confided to The Sentinel last week: "Even if we lost Wayne it wouldn't be that big of a deal. Hell, Gerry Parkes writes most of his column every week anyway."

+++++

Too Early to be Buried, but not Time to Plan the Funeral: The once awesome Coalition for Human Rights is not just a shadow of its former self. Bay Area Career Women pulled out in December "out of a sense that CHR is not sufficiently active in the community," and CHR is planning to purge the membership rolls this month of other groups which are no longer active in the umbrella organization. Other groups have expressed interest in joining CHR but have been unable to do so because the organization hasn't been able to get a quorum at the last three meetings. *Sic transit gloria mundi.*

nothing wrong with that, and it's not going to hurt you," Lourea advised.

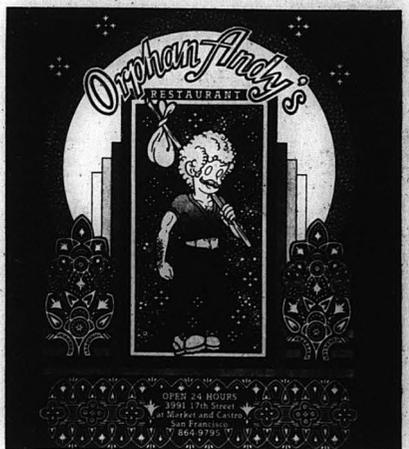
"I'd like to add my own word of caution here. If you do go to the baths, be careful not only about seminal contact between partners, but also contact with semen from people who are not your partners."

COMMUNICATE: "It's time for us to get in touch with what is unique about our personal sexuality," Lourea continued. "As a sexologist, the thing that is always unique to me is that each person's sexuality, each person's orgasms, our own eroticisms are as unique as our own fingerprints. There is no reason for what is right and what is wrong, and it's a very personal decision."

Lourea proposed that anyone who goes to the bars or baths should be prepared with mental lists of his own do's, don'ts and maybe's. He advised: "Start thinking about how you might share that with other people."

"A lot of us have this notion — and I would like to put it out that my feeling is that it's a very heterosexual bias — that sexuality does not need to be talked about, that it's just supposed to happen. It's supposed to be spontaneous, this fantasy. We're supposed to meet somebody out there, go off, and they will have all the answers for us. That's a bunch of crap, and it's not true."

"Sexuality is basically about communication," Lourea concluded, "and we need to start talking a lot at the ways that we've communicated."



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NOW Sponsors Lesbian Conference

Continued from page 1. Lederer said there was no budget figure yet decided for NOW's participation in the New Jersey effort, but that NOW would provide both staff time and attorneys to help in the effort in the coming year.

Although the New Jersey State NOW Coordinator Christine Carmody-Arey could not be reached for comment, Allen Kratz, president of the New Jersey Lesbian and Gay Coalition, said he was "delighted" to hear of NOW's decision and said their support "will help us make a very good showing" when the proposed amendment to the state's civil rights law is introduced for the first time next month.

NOW's newly-elected executive vice president Lois Reckitt, an open lesbian, said, en route back to Washington from the conference, that she felt the weekend "went very, very well."

"There was a lot of good dialogue and a chance to talk through some important issues," said Reckitt. "The challenge now is to go home and implement some of what [the conference participants] found was possible."

But while most conference participants agreed with Reckitt, there was considerable dissension heard

exhibition hall.

Still other women at the conference said they were against NOW making any endorsement at all. Candace Wagner and Shelly Davis of Chicago and Ellen Haywood of New York City who were distributing Socialist publications at a booth, said the endorsement was buying into a political party and system that does not really support lesbian and gay rights. But all three agreed that the conference was a positive step forward for the lesbian and gay movement.

"It's the first real concrete step [by NOW]," said Davis. "It gives us more of a mandate to go back and do lesbian rights work."

"I'm frustrated, but optimistic," said Haywood. "The vast majority of women here are frustrated that NOW is becoming partisan. NOW says Reagan is so bad we have to support Mondale," but we're frustrated we don't have a real alternative yet."

Asked at a press conference whether the National Gay Task Force supported NOW's endorse-

ment of Mondale, NGTF executive director Virginia Apuzzo replied, "NGTF supports NOW's right to endorse Walter Mondale. NGTF has been historically non-partisan." But Apuzzo added that NGTF would be deciding next month whether they, too, would break with tradition and endorse a candidate before the upcoming Democratic National Convention.

Despite the heavy emphasis on politics during the weekend conference — including passing the hat on at least three occasions to raise contributions for NOW-supported women candidates to political office — and continued pressure by lesbians to gain more support from the national NOW, the weekend was also heavily marked by enthusiastic, frank, and serious discussions among participants on specific strategies for combating homophobia and gaining lesbian and gay rights both within and outside of NOW.

"Never censor gay and lesbian visibility at NOW events," advised Mary Rooker, the Lesbian and Gay Rights Coordinator for the Maryland NOW chapter. "Our invisibility is the worst thing holding us back." Rooker, a member of the Southern Prince George's County NOW, spoke at a panel on "Recruiting Lesbians to NOW."

"You can't leave too much in the hands of partisan politics," said Pat Maher of the Lambda Legal

Defense and Education Fund, referring to the still unsuccessful New York City gay rights bill. Maher, speaking at a panel entitled "Work with Public Officials," said that "documenting discrimination is really, really, critical" to gaining passage of gay rights legislation. "People don't believe gays and lesbians are discriminated against or that it destroys our lives."

"Action on lesbian rights has to begin to take place on the chapter level," said Kathy Webb, NOW National Secretary and former president of the Arkansas Gay Rights organization. Webb spoke at a panel on "Where Lesbianism and Feminism Meet."

In addition to workshops, participants heard from a number of women leaders within the lesbian and gay movement. In the opening plenary session, openly lesbian state representative Karen Clark of Minnesota warned that it was important to become "independent" as lesbians, but not isolated as lesbians." Clark pointed to the recent attempt in Minneapolis to



G.F.'s own GWENN CRAIG at NOW Conference.

enact an anti-pornography law. The bill passed the City Council, but was vetoed by the mayor and became "a heated issue in our city," said Clark.

"People started saying, 'That's just a bunch of lesbians behind the bill,'" said Clark. "Bunch of lesbians" was a way to discredit the bill and make its success a lot harder."

Speaking to the Saturday night plenary dinner session, NGTF's Apuzzo blasted President Reagan for, among other things, "attempting to rewrite the civil rights laws by changing the definition of discrimination."

"We have to educate and coax all of those who have given up on this system," urged Apuzzo. "If we make the effort, we can make the difference."

Apuzzo's speech was interrupted with sustained applause and cheers when she referred to NOW's some-time reputation for wanting to keep lesbians out of sight, saying "We are not any organization's nasty little secret any more."

Gwenn Craig, co-chair of the National Association of Gay and Lesbian Democratic Clubs and an openly lesbian delegate to the 1980 Democratic National Convention, picked up on Apuzzo's comments about the struggle of lesbians within NOW.

Craig said that in 1971, lesbians were "an embarrassment and a menace" to NOW. "Some lesbians left NOW for the good of the women's movement," said Craig. Craig's speech, too, was interrupted with applause when she said that today "we are in the ranks of NOW, we are in the halls of Congress, we are on the professional tennis courts."

"We are defeated in the end," said Craig, "if our ambassadors are closeted. The price of maintaining our secret is maintaining silence."

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Minnesota St. Rep. KAREN CLARK.

The NGTF may reject traditional non-partisan stance and endorse a candidate before the Democratic Convention

throughout the weekend over the conference's lack of opportunity to pass resolutions to carry to the national convention in June and over NOW's recent endorsement of former Vice President Walter Mondale for President.

In her speech at the plenary dinner session, President Goldsmith said the endorsement of Mondale was made with "extraordinary" and "powerful consensus" by the board of directors. However, later unconfirmed reports were circulating that a petition was being prepared to have the lesbian conference endorse Sen. Alan Cranston (D-CA). Both Cranston and Mondale had booths at the conference



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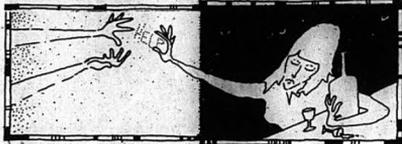
WELL AND GOOD

Pat Norman

Thinking About Drinking

San Francisco is the number one city in California for alcohol consumption. Our fair city outranks Los Angeles, Sacramento, San Jose in per capita intake. According to a report prepared for this city's Department of Public Health by an East Bay research group:

- Drinking played a part in 40 percent of the traffic deaths in 1981.
- 50 percent of the people killed by guns in this city, in 1981, died drunk.
- Over 50 percent who were beaten to death were drunk.
- 20 percent of those who choked to death were drunk.
- Liquor sources are very prevalent here — there's one bar for every 186 people, in comparison to Los Angeles where there's one for every 429 people, or one for every 333 in Oakland, or one for every 503 in San Jose.



- San Franciscans spent enough money to serve every city resident \$102.30 worth of liquor in comparison to \$30.47 in Los Angeles, and \$41.91 per person in Oakland. The statewide average was only \$34.26.
- 25 percent of the businesses in the Haight, Castro, Noe Valley, the Mission and Upper Market are bars.

From these statistics, it seems safe to say that lots of people drink in this city. In the gay and lesbian community, one of the major institutions is the bar — where we have gotten our support and safe space for many years. There is a lot of drinking in our community — it's been a significant social phenomenon. It has become more and more a very obviously dangerous problem.

Research completed within the last few years estimates that a range of 33 to 50 percent of our community (both men and women) are alcoholics. Alcoholism is defined in many ways but is usually identified as a disease that can be treated. Simply put, alcoholism is the feeling of need for, or dependence on, alcohol to make oneself

feel better. People abuse alcohol, for example, in order to escape from problems, disappointments, frustrations; they use alcohol excessively, sometimes to ease the pain of loneliness, boredom, fear, growing up, getting old and/or feelings of inadequacy. In the lives of gay men and lesbians there are additional issues that can add to the pressures of day-to-day living. For some gay people who believe the myths perpetrated about homosexuality, alcohol becomes a drug to save any feelings of shame or guilt about sexual orientation — it's used to soothe feelings of rejection by families and/or society, guilt, fear of exposure, loss of a job or housing, and sometimes loss of relationships.

Alcohol abuse affects individuals on many levels — physical, mental, emotional, social, vocation and spiritual, to name a few.

Symptoms of alcoholism include: frequent use of alcohol; sudden

intoxication, often after only one or two drinks; loss of memory or "blackouts" (not being able to remember what happened during periods); loss of self-control; slurred or confused conversations; neglect of responsibilities; physical complaints; inefficiency, low energy, hangovers (including physical sickness).

Obstructions to treatment usually center around denial of the problem. People often deny their alcoholism because they feel shame or guilt about their addiction and, also, because facing the addiction will mean the need to confront the problems behind the addiction and will mean change. Alcoholism is a community problem, too. When groups within the community are low functioning, in many cases it delays progress or interaction that needs to take place to further benefit the majority.

The answers are awareness of the problem, willingness to confront it, and the commitment to make changes and get treatment. These answers are for the individuals and their partner(s) and friends. Help is readily available. Take it. Call 558-2421 for more information and referral.

February 2, 1984

Who Are You Tired of Hearing About?

Asked on Castro Street the day after Ronald Reagan announced his re-election plans.



Robert Bank teller, Polk area: Michael Jackson



Randy Salesman, Castro: Reagan



Allen, musician, Cole Valley: Margaret Thatcher, Ronald Reagan, people who are politicians and really have nothing to say.



Beverly, Basket weaver, Castro: Ronald Reagan.



Doug, Restaurant, the Avenues: Reagan — Reagan — Reagan.

LETTERS

UNCUT
In reading one of your editorials, I thought it worth commenting upon. Although Mr. Goodstein and the Advocate are slated over the tributes paid in your editorial, we were distressed to read your comments about alleged distribution cut backs of the Advocate. On the contrary, the Advocate is alive and doing better than ever! Our recent termination of street vending racks is due to the fact that in the immediate future, the Advocate will be available everywhere presently selling all major publications distributed in this country. This move on our part, is indicative of the continued effort the Advocate staff makes to acknowledge the social, political and economic validity of the gay communities throughout America. Charles Arnone, Director, Newstead Sales, the Advocate

TAR-BABY EFFECT
Responding to your editorial, "Recall God..." etc. (Vol. 11, no. 2, 1/16/84), I agree that organized religion today exhibits pernicious flaws which tend to

promote ignorance and hatred. Reacting to religion as mere superstition or satirizing it as stupid folly does not nourish our basic need for spirituality. Reacting to religion with atheism or disgust produces only the "tar-baby effect" — more ignorance and a secular kind of superstition.

Since a lot of religious people do not experience God as a living reality, rather as a mental concept — we have that apparent barrier between mere belief and certain knowledge. My own experience affirms the reality of miracles and both a transcendent and immanent Divinity. Thomas Aquinas notwithstanding, the Infinite & Eternal is not logical — doesn't make sense — and as yet our science seems rather limited in face of miraculous healings and the perennial power of Love!

The Truth is the greatest power on earth, and that's why it's righteous to cut through hypocritical bullsh*t. And, the Truth needs no defense. Concerning infinity, it's wise to keep an open mind and a receptive heart. Michael D. Delaney, San Francisco

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Films

'I Have Been to a Marvelous Party'

by Pennil Kimmel

"You thought you had a counter-culture!" exclaims one of the 15 peppery personalities of *Seeing Red: Stories of American Communists* (Opening at the Clay, 3rd and Northside, Feb. 17). And that counter-culture, the radical "old" left, rather than the popularly set-in-stone causes and issues, is the gist of this uncommon and uncommonly interesting documentary. The film rereviews, in interviews smoothly intercut with pertinent footage and much song (did you know the "lyric, dirty, shrewd, insouciant, godless, erratic, and spying, murderous kike-and-nigger lovin' commie queers" sang aloft?) a single, bright strand out of the deliberately shredded tapestry of the 20th century American history.

The six-year collective effort, in the hands of James Klein and Julia Reichert, heartlanders out of Dayton, Ohio, is full of the fires of that Depression juggernaut and the ashes of the Cold War that reinvented the Communist Party, as the Great American Taboo. It eschews bland statistics and static quiz-and-quote for an intimate revelation of the most controversial — at one time largest, and most effective element — of the socialization of this country in the full thrust of unionizing, anti-racist, fascist, poverty, and oddly individual. How many recall that *Time* magazine knew.

In a fraction of excerpts from a lengthy talk with Julia Reichert, co-director, some selected commentary follows. If the subtitle of the film is vaguely familiar, its approach and style will be even more so:

"*Word is Out* (Stories of Some of Our Lives) was a very influential film for us. We called Peter Adair — he was at Antioch, too, in another year — about how he did his interviews and what he was trying to do. He came out. We looked at others: *The Screen and the Pity*, *Hearts and Minds*, *Hollywood on Trial* — but *Word* was the film we studied for the intimacy of the interviews. You introduce the people and let them tell their stories. Our number one job was to try and get the audience to stand in the shoes of a Communist and see what the world looks like from there."

"Making this film was a discovery for me, day after day (over 400 interviews in all). Why is it we don't know this? Where has this history gone? All we know is what

happened from the 50's on; the rest is blanked out . . ."

Blanked out and shifted around. How many recall that *Time* magazine's Man of the Year for 1940 was Joseph Stalin?

We discussed deception and hypocrisy and disillusionment within and without the Party. The "queer" part of the "conspiracy" was conspicuously missing from the film — why?

"I know there were many gay people in the CP; those who started the Mattachine Society were, some of them, Communists. There's

"The late 60's drove me to be interested in the 30's, an intense period of awakening. They were wiped out so fast, and so totally and it's particularly scary that the liberals of the time who had worked with the communists, knew who they were and what they were about, just turned tail and ran so fast in the other direction. Ultimately, it gets down to: you want to be part of the mainstream or do you want to change the course of the mainstream?"

"I remember how threatening it was [in college] to the male radicals,



SEEING RED: Stories of American Communists.

when the women said they were going to have a separate meeting — those guys shit a brick . . . used every argument in the world about why it was politically incorrect. We did it anyway, but they were scared and their disapproval really hung over us. But I think it drove us to be more radical than if they'd just said all right, go ahead."

The parallels 30 years apart, positive and negative, social and political, are part and parcel of the revelations of the film. "What comes through is that those people had so much courage and commitment; it brings out ideas about doing something about the social injustices that surround us still, though the CP and its essentially democratic structure is gone itself. We focused on the Communist Party because this is the hardest thing for Americans to get over — not what they said and did, but our fear and mystique about what communists are."

Take your sound arguments, disagreements, prejudices and cherished beliefs with you to *Seeing Red* and meet some fascinating people including several Bay Area residents. It's not meant to change minds — just let in some clear, not always pinkish, light.

February special: For the few who accidentally missed the film experience of a lifetime, **BERLIN ALEXANDER-PLATZ** is back, the lazy way — five successive Tuesdays from Feb. 7 at U.C. Theater Berkeley (just 15 blocks from BART). . . **Women's Film Weekend** (through Feb. 4; seminar Feb. 5) features the wielder of *Sappho's* dam: Barbara Hammer, with work-in-progress, Dorothy Fedman and Bay Area pro, Emilio Osofsky, full range of style, technique and tips on film & video at New College. . . **77 Valencia**, call 494-8640 for details. . . **DEEMON POND** pools Kabuki, folktales and film (York, Feb. 8) in stylized fantasy drama, extraordinary sets & settings, with rare movie appearance of Kabuki on stage, Tomesaburo, in his dual roles of ingenious and witch of the western lake: odd and special. . . **FUNMI**, too on civil rights/SNCC leader, Ella Baker, 7:30 Feb. 9 at Women's Bldg. . . CBS TV's sad history of irresponsible sensationalistic Journalism goes way back. For a giggle at Harry Reasoner and see where their later ugly gay-baiting style came from, check out **THE PHILIP YEAP** (York, Feb. 17) — years young (Red Victorian, Feb. 10 & 11).

• Premiere of Reinhard Heuff's dark, tough **BLOW ATTACK** (York, Feb. 3 & 4) plus **Wen Wender's THE AMERICAN FRIEND** w/Dennis Hopper and Bruno Ganz at their best. Wenders winds on with **LIGHTNING OVER WATER** (Red Vic, Feb. 7) and **THE STATE OF THINGS** (Red Vic, Feb. 14) wherein Roger Corman comes as mean Hollywood lawyer. . . Castro Theater's song-and-dance fest continues bubbling daily doubling (breaking for *Sylvestre* on Feb. 4). Look out for **Leslie's STORM** (York, Feb. 7) and **WEATHER**, Channing & Lillis doing opposite numbers on Andrew's **THOROUGHLY ENGLISH** (York, Feb. 7) and a 1937 musical with Irene Dunne (Feb. 19) still more to come.

• With a **YORK** **LA CAGE** for two (Strand, Feb. 3); **Line Wertmuller's classic LOVE ANARCHY** (Red Vic, Feb. 3 & 4); **THE WALL** w/Plas Poyd and **TOMMY** at the U.C. Theater; Feb. 10 **THE** marathon of six **Stephen King's** (York, Feb. 5); Indonesian settings for **MERYL STREEP**, **MR. LAWRENCE** and **YEAR OF LIVING DAMNED ROUSSEAU** (York, Feb. 7); **Belle** in **HOW VOYAGER** and **THE LITTLE FOXES** (Strand, Feb. 7); **On the road** Kerouac narrates **MY DAIKYO** (Roxie, Feb. 7); **Never an Oscar brick**, but often best man **Casey Donovan** with **ALICE** **WED BELL EXPRESSES** (Strand, Feb. 9); **Mean dreams in CLOCKWORK ORANGE** and **PERFORMANCE** (York, Feb. 9); **The Dean in REBEL WITHOUT A CAUSE** and **EAST EDEN** (U.C. Theater, Feb. 10); **Youth in amber: RUMBLEFISH** and **TIME STANDS STILL** (York, Feb. 11) **Four Jacques Tati's** plus shorts and chuckles (U.C. Theater, Feb. 12 & 13); **Bowie's** **LAURENCE** **THE** **100** **partly THE HUNGER** (York, Feb. 13); **Fellini's AMARCORD** and **LA DOLCE VITA** (York, Feb. 16). Every Feb. 15 day is a Valentine at the movies!

as individuals, collectively they are a bundle of musical dynamite. The show screens for more Manhattan Transfer-like harmonies which work so effectively in such group efforts as a sizzling "Glow Worm" and the gap-happy "Accentuate the Positive."

As a trio, Thomas et al. pay toe-tapping tribute to Mercer's range as a lyricist, from the raunchy ("Strap Polka") to the righteous ("Days of Wine and Roses"), from the familiar ("Goody Goody") to the favorite ("In Old Fashioned"). There is also an audience-wowing "The Country's In the Very Best of Hands," which seems more apropos today than it did in the Broadway show *L.A. Boyer* back in the late 50's.

Deftly directed and choreographed by Donald McLean (look directly northeast on this very page), . . . and lyrics by Johnny Mercer makes for a truly enjoyable hour of music. Tickets are only \$10 per person, with a no-drink minimum. A special dinner package for \$25 includes dinner at Mama's (at 1177), three hours of free parking and preferred seating. Call 776-2100 for reservations.

This reviewer can recommend the show for its own sake, but my cold, but the music, the fun and the laughs made me forget for a while.



(L-R) Joe Ross, Jamie Thomas and Steven Rogino. . . AND LYRICS BY

forming. They sparkle and smile and sing, sing, sing. Co-producer and star Jamie Thomas has a nice voice and an interesting on-stage personality, with her Frankie from *Member of the Wedding* haircut and eyes as wide as the saucer-dogs in the children's fairy tale, "East of the Sun, West of the Moon." Her singing style alternates from winsome to brassy, with an occasional rappy lase which may have been due to the singer's sore throat and not a deliberate June Carter Cash imitation.

Her back-up boys (Joe Ross and Steven Rogino) are properly perky, but lack the polish of Thomas. Ross seemed to me to have missed all of the inherent power of a song like "Skyline," but Rogino was fine on the little known "Early Autumn." (In one of the too few references to the man Mercer, the audience is informed that "Early Autumn" was the lyricist's favorite work, which is an example of an author's agnosticism ranking with Margaret Mitchell wanting to call her heroine Pansy O'Hara.) Yet if the three performers vary

Donald McLean's Critics' Corner

STAGE: A SENSE OF HUMOR
Just a few years back, Ernest Thompson was a third-rate actor with two expressions; now, thanks to *On Golden Pond*, Kate Hepburn and one Oscar, he's a third-rate playwright with two emotions — angry and desperate. It's not Mr. Thompson's fault that he keeps grinding out bad plays; it's the fact that people keep producing them and charging the public good money to watch grand old veteran actors star in lengthy monologues while Mr. Thompson struggles painfully to learn the craft of playwrighting.

On Golden Pond was a far better film than play; Hollywood, assorted Fondas and La Hepburn can work wonders with mawkish soap opera, and the camera can do far more than reams of words. Then came the interminable *West Side Waltz*, a vehicle notable only for the fact that Ms. Hepburn presided live, in person, eight times weekly. . . and how often do we get a chance to see Katherine Hepburn in person? So it made a few bucks, got sold for the screen, and we have the supreme thrill of knowing somewhere down the pike Hollywood will try to make cohesive sense out of another Thompson epic of unstructured, unfocused drivel.



Jack Lemmon in A SENSE OF HUMOR.

Now comes *A SENSE OF HUMOR*, currently caged at the Curran Theatre thru Feb. with Jack Lemmon. Mr. Lemmon is a superb actor, and how often do we get to see Jack Lemmon in person? *Deja vu!* I'm sure next season we will get the fourth Thompson effort, which may take at least a week to write, with Kate Hepburn and Jack Lemmon together. . . and we line up at the box office for that duo??? You better believe it!

It is said that a great star/actor can read the phone book and hold an audience. I'd suggest Mr. Lemmon get out the yellow pages. . . fast . . . because they would be vastly more entertaining than *A Sense of Humor*.

A fluffy evening about death, this isn't so much a play as a long harangue about one bitchy, unpleasant father trying to adjust to the fact that his drugged-out 25-year-old daughter drove her car off a cliff in a suicide pact with her boyfriend. If her house is any indication of her mental state, suicide must have been a relief. Gerry Hariton and Vicki Baral have more of a sense of the macabre than sense of humor to design the busy set that almost buries the actors alive. You have got to see this set to believe it! Better yet . . . don't!

Lemmon is excellent; the trouble is you really intensely dislike him from the second line he utters. . . and you don't like Mama any better. Estelle Parsons wanders through the rde without any solid foundation, "acting" the bereaved mother in capital letters, and never do we get a glimpse of any of her human flaws that Lemmon keeps telling us exist. Does he lie or has Thompson just forgotten to write character instead of high-priced cueing machine? Clifton James is another victim — a first-rate actor used, deplorably, to little effect as the friendly landlady with a lech. His character's own Big Secret comes so fast so long that it has the effect of a punchline to a bad joke; you moan at the sheet titters to which Thompson has strolled.

Then there is Polly Holliday ("Flo" of *Alice* to you TV viewers). Here is a consummate actress who grabs the bit in her teeth and runs for the touchdown, sweeping all before her. Her role, which doesn't appear until Act Two, is that of a Welcome Wagon of Grief, a mad hybrid of Madame Franchi on Broadway and Holliday is almost worth a trip to the Curran just to see how one supremely talented actress can take a clichéd bit of comedy relief and make it almost majestic in its stupidity. When she finishes her long monologue, the house applauds, because it is the first true energy of the evening and we know we have seen the theatrically impossible — the bad made wonderful.

All this waste is directed by Robert Greenwald with fussy superficiality — but who can blame him? When you have nothing solid to work with, keep the actors moving if nothing else.

A Sense of Humor is headed for Broadway from here. With lines like "I could use a little cancer. I need an interest," New York audiences will need more than a sense of humor to pay good money for this.

• It stars a lemmion; it IS a lemmion!!!

DISH, DIRT & DATA

A reliable source (thanks J.E.) tells me that Harvey Fierstein is none too fond of LA CAGE star Gene Barry because Mr. Barry refuses to allow his dresser and/or hairdresser to use his bathroom — he's afraid of getting AIDS.

NINE, which has been struggling to hold on for months, will close in New York on Feb. 4th with Sergio Franchi to go on tour. This came as a great surprise to Frank Langella, who was supposed to take over for Franchi on Broadway in March. And where does that leave our own SAMANTHA SAMUELS, originally cast for the national tour last year and then the tour was cancelled??

When ON YOUR TOES, the glorious Rodgers & Hart revival, plays L.A., it will star Leslie Caron in the role of the Russian ballerina who dances "Slaughter on 10th Avenue."

Opera

Opera Returns in Concert

by Bill Huck

Opera can become an addiction. Once begun, it acts like all the other bad habits: opera can cost you lots of money. After awhile you find that you associate mainly with other junkies. An especially dangerous sign is when you begin to downplay exactly how many times you saw *Manon Lescaut* last season. You start to crave the thrill of a high C. You begin to worry about where you are going to find your next coloratura fix.

Opera addiction does, however, have one advantage. Of all the pleasurable stimulants, opera is the one easiest on your liver and your lungs.

The short, but opulent, San Francisco Opera season has led many down this garden path. The problem is that it creates a need it cannot sustain. Having started up in September, it closes back down by early December. Who can wait until Summer for their next dose of golden sound?

Donald Pippin's Pocket Opera long ago saw this gap and the possibilities inherent in it. They returned this January 17th with Donizetti's *Maria Padilla* in Herbst Hall. Kathryn Cathcart's Concert Opera Association recently spied this same opportunity and they premiered on January 22nd with the same composer's *Lucyella Borgia*. Pocket Opera has already worked itself up to a weekly supplier; their season will run, with an interlude in Berkeley, all the way up to Summer Opera.

Concert Opera, on the other hand, is still just beginning, and it will not be heard from again until July when it presents Virgil Thomson's sure-fire *Mother of Us All*.

Although both organizations address the same need, they offer quite different qualities. These differences can be readily traced back to each company's place of origin. Pocket Opera began with pianist Pippin being out a living in the Old Spaghetti Factory. In order to vary his routine, the lively musician asked friends to join him. Gradually the idea evolved of presenting obscure operas in Pippin's own translation. Pocket Opera maintains to this day the



Pocket Opera performs MARIA PADILLA.

advantages and disadvantages of those humble origins. The plusses are Pippin's witty and lyrical translations, the experience of opera as a drama involving people who say things you can understand. The whole enterprise has the brio of high art pretending to be no more than good entertainment. The minuses are slighted preparations and a tiny orchestra that cannot hide a single wayward pitch in a lush hand of sound.

Concert Opera began in the rehearsal rooms of the San Francisco Opera, where Cathcart works as an accompanist and coach. This new organization has all the resources and ambition its origins suggest. They promise the luxury of a full orchestra, drawn mainly from the Opera orchestra itself. They take the cream of the big Opera's younger singers and will add to them international voices. They perform operas in their original languages, but with scant synopsis in the program. All in all they have the solemnity and musical good manners of entertainment aspiring to be high art.

The two companies also contrast vividly in their place of destination. After more than 15 years of struggle and slow growth, Pocket Opera arrived this season at the elegance of the 900-seat Herbst Hall. It is not as intimate a space as they are used; on their opening night there, they rarely made it ring with sound. More of their works were lost in its open spaces than I am used to with Pippin's singers. But with a

little practice, Herbst can become a most useful theatre for them. Its "uptown" aura should help inspire the whole company to more polished productions.

Concert Opera, imbued from the start with the ideals of the establishment, begin their life in the 3000-seat Davies Hall. Unfortunately on their opening night, Concert Opera scantily filled Davies. Perhaps this organization needs to lose their shirt on the first few go-arounds before the opera audience will realize the opportunity they are being offered. In these initial stages, however, Concert Opera performances will suffer greatly in the barren stretches of Davies. Opera is too much an audience participation sport to thrive in half-full houses.

The major problem with Cathcart's opening enterprise was her foreign import. When Eve Queler offered *Lucyella Borgia* in a concert format in New York back in the middle sixties, she introduced the unknown Montserrat Caballe in the title role. On that night alone, Queler secured 10 years of audience allegiance, because every opera lover in town wanted to be around the next time she pulled off a debut like that. Unfortunately, Cathcart's *Lucyella* introduced a considerably less exciting singer. Unless Gabriela Cegolea radically improves her raucous sound and refines her musicianship, she will always remain a provincial back-up.

Tommy Flanck

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LINDA LEILANI BROWN

Critic's Corner

Continued from page 6.

Ex-local director Barry Koren and ex-local star Carolyn Zameba, who created AN EVENING AT WIDOW BIGBECK'S a few years back amid screaming arguments and flying plates of spaghetti, have both moved to New York, rediscovered each other, fallen madly in love and are now altar-bound. Must be something in that East Coast air.

Linda Leilani Brown, the Diana Ross sensation of DREAMGIRLS, and a heckuva nice person, is all over town promoting her Feb. 13 concert at the Marines Memorial. She played the Moscone Center New Year's Eve, flew down to L.A. two days before to pick up her gown, and then discovered the day before she couldn't find a feather boa anywhere for sale in S.F. Being a tasteful lady, she knew the dress cried for a boa, then she remembered where she was — and promptly called a drag queen to borrow a boa for the night... and, of course, got tons of feathers.

Bob Bendorff's new musical STRIKE gets previewed this Sunday, Feb. 5, at Fanny's at 3:30 P.M., with an all-star local cast: Stephen Slesnick now in DEAD END KID in the One-Act thru Feb., checks in at Fanny's Feb. 26 at 2 P.M. for a solo shot.

When Dreamgirls closes, look for Mitzi Gaynor at the Golden Gate with her elaborate Vegas show, which is dynamite, and Linda Ronstadt due in concert in March. This will be the first time La Gaynor has played S.F. in over 15 years. A local girl, she started her career dancing for the Civic Light Opera as Mitzi Gerber at the Curran.

Let's leave it to that great dancing ditz, Ann Miller, to finish off this issue — at the FRIENDS OF OSCAR HAMMERSTEIN fund-raising dinner, Miller stood up and said, "Take a bow, Oscar, take a bow." Someone pulled her down to her seat and informed her that Hammerstein had been dead for many years. Replied Miller, "How would I know, I've been outta town with a show."



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Dining Out

Folsom's Fine French Cafe

by W.E. Beardemphl

Castle Grand
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Chef: Walter

Ever since the present management took over at this restaurant, the Castle Grand has become one of the mainstays of fine dining for the homosexual community of San Francisco. John and I decided to revisit this French restaurant for a review. I am happy to report that it has improved and that we will be the best of our restaurants.

When one enters the antique leaded-glass and oak doors into the vestibule, a head waiter in tuxedo greets you. You are then seated at one of the marvelous red-marble tables. The walls of the room have fine oak wainscoting, the floors are oiled-wood planks, two large overhead fans turn lazily to hurry any smoke from the room, the windows looking out on the street are covered on their lower half with curtains on shining brass rods, there are a few carefully placed framed prints on the walls, some green plants are appropriately in the corners; everything is terribly, terribly French Cafe down to the blackboard menu on one side of the room.

A jewel of a waiter, Bill, came to our table and took the white linen napkins rolled in our wine glasses, snapped them smartly and laid them across our laps. All of the waiters are dressed in black shoes, pants and vests, white shirts with cuffs rolled precisely twice, black bow ties. Bill remembered from long ago at Burton's — before that place was sold. It was a joy to have his careful, superb attention as our waiter, again.

Bill asked if we wanted cocktails. We responded that we would just have wine with dinner. So, he brought a wine book that has doubled in size since last we saw it. Someone has been sending a ball of twine and adding to this extensive list — that includes on its last page Clos-Vougeot, numbered bottles, at \$54 each. But everything on this list is carefully selected and good. We tried a Sonoma Merlot, which was once overwhelmed by a Stags Leap 79 Merlot Gundlach Bundschu wineries, estate bottled, 1981, Rhinefarm vineyard at \$16. It was very easy to drink, with a good bouquet, and an excellent flavor that lingered with a pleasant slight bitterness.

While we enjoyed the wine I copied from the blackboard the five preludes and five entrées for the evening. More on that later. John started with scallops and

cucumbers — \$5.25, in a white wine and cream sauce, served in a shell, very hot and perfectly cooked. It was held in the plate with a lettuce leaf and garnished with lemon slice and chopped parsley. Naturally, I picked a little at John's starter and it was delicious. The bread was served warm, an average San Francisco sourdough — which means good, or great depending on how far from S.F. you live. It was accompanied with a ramekin of sweet butter.

Next, John had an excellent



dinner salad; cold plate, dry crisp green leaf lettuce garnished heavily with mushrooms that had been marinated in sesame seed oil, and topped with a good french dressing. I had the soup-of-the-day, a cream of leek which was pleasant. It consisted of diced leeks in a veloute that was rather lightly creamed. The bowl in which the soup was served was not heated.

My wine was halibut at \$14.95 that was cooked in casserole with chopped tomatoes, julienne of leeks, and white wine. It was served with baked rice and brussel sprouts and carrot sticks all perfectly cooked. This entrée was very enjoyable.

John had boned, skinned half-of-chicken-breast at \$9.95 that was sautéed and finished with minced onions and lemon. This was also

served with the same rice and vegetables. Very nice.

During the eating of our entrée, the background music changed from the lovely French records to someone at the grand piano playing wonderful show tunes.

For dessert I had chocolate flambee: a moist, steamed chocolate pudding served hot with lots of flaming brandy and a hard sauce on the side. John had a delightful Key-lime pie: which was a smooth, creamy distinctly lime tasting pie. Coffee was fine, dark, French-roasted Viennese. It hid added up to a lovely meal and a great time. I noticed many people thoroughly enjoying themselves at the Castle Grand.

There are many who wonder if I can still be picky. In such a good restaurant perhaps it would be the time to criticize. Please realize that I find this castle very grand indeed. BUT, if I wanted to be Charley Brown, there was a window that had the distinct outline of the squeegee in soap suds. And, to faint over, Bill did mix our entrée orders when he set them on the table. Oh yes, while I do not presume to be an expert on French, shouldn't John's entrée be written *Suprême de Volaille au Citron* and not *Pot au Grille Citron Vert* (What is Citron Vert anyway?) and, my dears, wouldn't one write my halibut more like *Filet à la Provençale* instead of *Filet à la Americaine*. Somehow, I like to think of *à la Americaine* in fish dishes as a strained thick lobster, tomato sauce with the distinct taste of brandy. Let us never forget our reputation: homosexuals are supposed to be VEDDY bitchy and particular!

Theatre

Alice-in-Lotusland Revisited

by Mark Woodworth

A one-man show is as tricky to pull off as an evening-length concert by a solo cellist or dancer: if the character and ideas, the sounds, or the movements fail to compel your interest, you can hardly transfer your attention to another performer on stage. You're left with sinking into hallucinations, oozing toward an exit, or mentally rewriting the show in a way that's more attractive to you. But the one-man vehicle seems to elicit a curious empathy: you can identify more easily with a soloist, feel the nakedness of his exposure, thus subconsciously root for him to pull it off. You'll crawl the extra mile, even with dust in your mouth.

When the performer has superb material or characters to work with — Dickens, Joyce, Bernhard, Wilde, Emily Dickinson, Will Rogers, Mark Twain, Isadora Duncan can be mind as fascinating subjects brought to life on stage over the last couple of decades — there's almost no way to lose. The lines have their own vigorous life; the material is embedded in a known context. But new material performed by a virtual unknown can be more problematic and, paradoxically, more of an adventure. The show by Bill Talea as part of the New Performance Gallery's American Inroads series is a case in point. Talea's a new name to me, though he's done shows at the Boarding House, Savoy Tivoli, On Broadway, Mabuhay, Intersection, and so forth. Last year, heart in mouth and hat in hand, he moved to L.A.'s Ang'ns, for the usual reason. Entries in his diary form the backbone of his one-man show **Los Angeles... Excerpts from the Pre-star Condition**. Direction is variously credited in publicity to himself and to Scott Paulin.

The new culture he enters in "going down" seems as foreign as work at the Mustang Ranch would be to a nun, or night sleeping under bridges would to Nancy Reagan. Admittedly, omitting to knock L.A. at every opportunity is grounds for revoking one's citizenship in the state of Northern California. But Talea doesn't knock L.A., he swims in it like a sensitive tropical angel fish consorting with hammerhead sharks.

Act I is a series of set pieces fluidly, almost mesmerizingly, melded together — an impressionistic landscape studded with sharp details, realistic cacti asserting their needles, venomous snakes sunning on every other rock, sunsets eerily brilliant to a dazzled traveler. From a set consisting of a

Wassily chair beside a potted tree, not straying outside a small circle of lights, Talea sits in waiting rooms for auditions with demigods, guides his red sweater down the merge-left-or-die freeway, wonders whether his motivation is to make art or a million dollars a minute, lunches with film-film media women who "play ping-pong with dropped names," fights going with the flow if it means joining the "health-through-vanity" program that is *de rigueur* for anyone not native to L.A.

Since Talea did a show last year about a man who got "urban d'out" and fled to inspect the "Songbirds of Central Nevada," it's odd that he would be sucked into the maw that is Los Angeles, a valley full of "over-handsome people" trying to learn the art of letting producers come to them bearing roles, trying to cultivate what he calls a "fuckability quotient" that is one's chief asset for any Hollywood role. Just when he thinks he can maintain his integrity, he's surrounded by the stare of a movie mogul who can "read the underwear size on your soul."

Reality sometimes intrudes on the Alice-in-Lotusland quality of his daily routine — the environmentalist and post-modernist hookers he sees pounding the pavement, a sloop he makes down Sunset Blvd., incredulously reading aloud the movie billboards with their riotous made-up names and teasers.

The pace and flow, the silken form, the dynamic levels of his Act I (from slow-motion to frenetic) are abandoned in Act II, which is mostly an improvised chat with the audience. Some of it is disarming, some of it earnestly would-be-intellectual on politics, not always holding my interest. With spontaneity come slips in grammar and mispronounced words ("ancillary" for one).

"Go home" is a message that, as he intones it, becomes a mantra; not a bad idea, since the movie he's cast in flip-flops in locale and structure. Eyeing a stalagmite of scripts in an agent's lair, Talea wonders whether to take a role for the bucks or for the euphony that the script title will add to his name: How will Bill "Dime Novel Sunset" Talea look in *People* magazine, or on his tombstone?

The man's got charm, verve, a bit of the devil, and bright-eyed imagination, not to mention a great body and looks (hey, I can have L.A. values too). I hope he lands a lot of roles, holds onto his identity, and changes his name only to Bill "Up Yours, Hollywood!" Talea.

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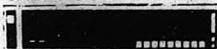
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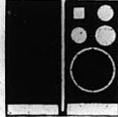
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