

We The People

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Serving Lesbians, Gay Men, And Their Friends In The Redwood Empire

August 1989 Vol. II No. 4 FREE!

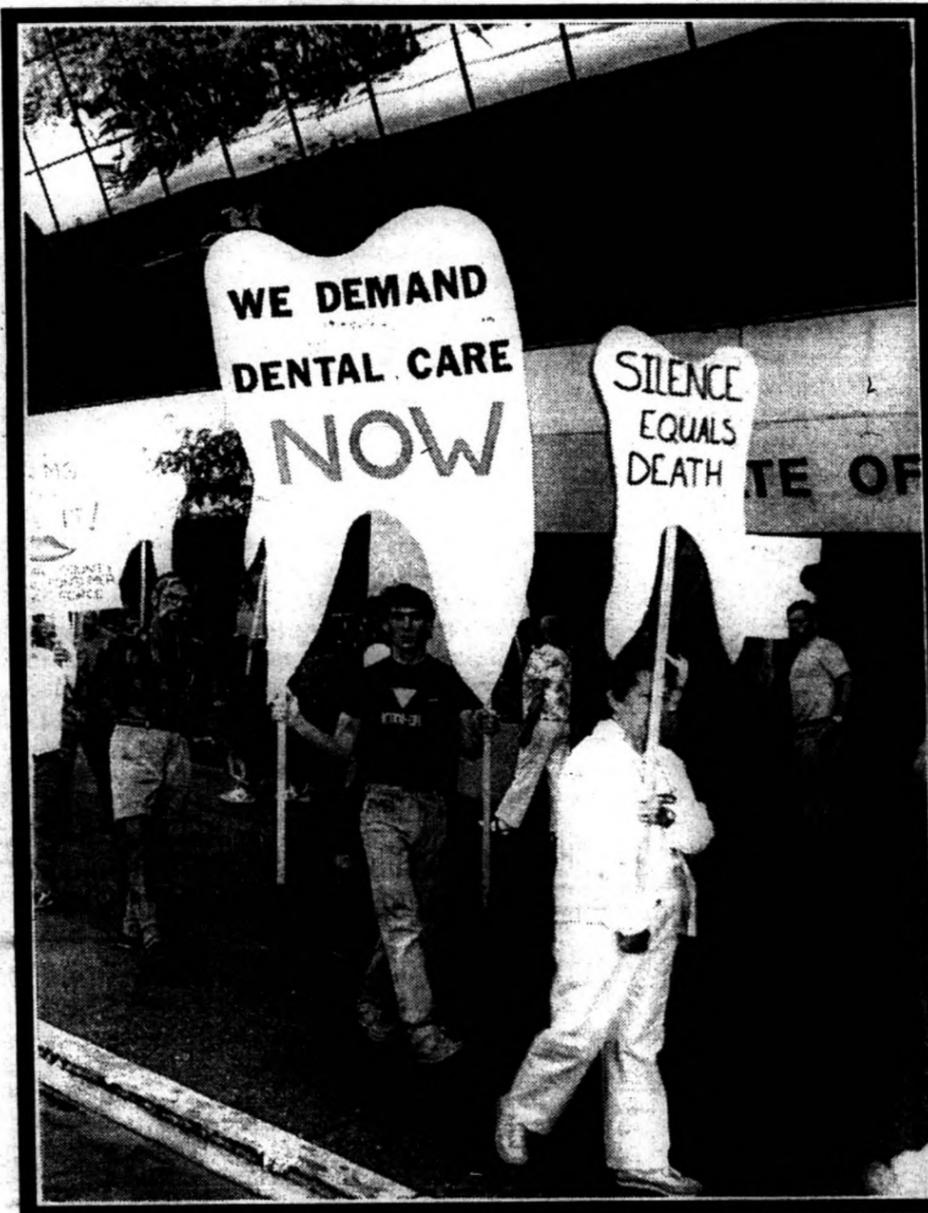


PHOTO BY JANET ZAGORIA/PHOTOGENICS

Sam Lawman of ACT UP bares his tooth at the State Building in Santa Rosa during a demonstration to demand better dental care for people with AIDS.

Community Leaders Plan Gay/Lesbian Center

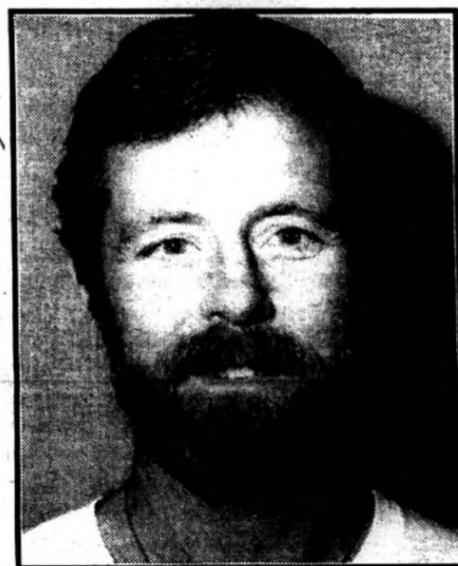
Twenty four men and women attended the July 15 meeting to discuss the need and possibility of a Community Center for the Gay/Lesbian community of Sonoma County. Those attending represented many aspects of our diversified community: LVAC, PFLAG, PWA's Food For Thought, ACT-UP, BANGLE, 12 Step Recovering Program, G/L Student Union SRJC, We The People, Social-Life Club, and those who are not affiliated with any specific group yet have a strong interest in this project.

The discussion was evident right from the start that everyone wanted this one to fly. Topics like what type of space, had minds running wild with the facility just fitting into the Rosenberg Bldg. Money and how to pay for a center was still exciting, yet a bit more subdued. The mention of alcohol brought the discussion up to an even greater level. Does alcohol have to divide our community and has it already, was a great discussion, with a majority of people agreeing that alcohol being sold as in a bar was probably not going to happen. Yet if a group wanted to sell wine at a special event that was a possibility. PFLAG had a great statement in that they were concerned that the Center be open for youth who have a large need of a space, and that alcohol would mean that they would have to be fraudulent about their age, which they are already doing at the bars.

Although no decisions were made, four committees were formed and the wheels are definitely turning. The committees are Research (which will look at other Centers and glean information), Site search (looking at places and prices for such a center), Funding and Outreach (keeping us all informed on the progress.

The G/L Community thanks all of you who gave your time and energy to such an exciting, timely, needed and fabulous project

The next meeting will be Aug 19, Sat, 10:30 am - 12:30 pm. at the Unitarian Universalist Church at Stony Point Rd and Tood Rd. Their L/G congregation is the motivating force that brought us together. If you are interested in any of the committees which can always use more help, contact Bob Casanta 887-1037 or Jim Sorrells 869-2336.



Local AIDS Activist Dies

A memorial service was held in July for Jeremy (Jerry) Bell, 40, who died July 2 in his childhood home in Santa Rosa.

Jeremy had lived in this area for 35 years. A 1966 graduate of Santa Rosa High School, he served as student body treasurer during his senior year. Jeremy went on to graduate from the University of California, Berkeley School of Environmental Design and operated a landscape design and contracting business locally.

When his illness made landscaping work impossible, Jeremy volunteered as office manager for Face to Face: the Sonoma County AIDS Network. During the past three years, he has worked as an in-home support volunteer helping people with AIDS.

Jeremy spent more than a year compiling a book for people with AIDS and ARC entitled, "Roads to Recovery: A Practical Guide to Options for People with AIDS and ARC." The book was published a year ago with sale proceeds going to Face to Face.

On May 28, Jeremy received special recognition for his work during the candlelight AIDS memorial ceremony in Santa Rosa's Old Courthouse Square.

Survivors include his parents, Jerome B. Bell and Frances Bell, both of Santa Rosa; his twin sister, Candace Roney, and brother-in-law, Gerard Roney, of San Jose; and several cousins in Canada, and many supportive friends.

The family requests memorial donations be made to the Face to Face People With AIDS Fund, 16626 River Road, Guerneville, CA 95446.

ACT UP Demands Dental Care

By Lois Pearlman

What do you do if you live in Sonoma County, you or your child is in need of dental care, and you can't afford the dentist's fees? Do you take your Medi-Cal stickers and pay a visit to your local dentist? No, not unless your dentist is one of the sixteen out of 233 surveyed that is willing to accept Medi-Cal patients. And even these sixteen dentists usually treat Medi-Cal recipients on a limited basis, often relegating them to a specified time slot each month. If you're HIV+ and dependent upon the Medi-Cal system your chances of receiving dental care are even more limited because most dentists in Sonoma County are also unwilling to treat people with HIV.

To address this gap in dental services representatives of over half a dozen local citizens action groups and health care agencies demonstrated on Saturday morning in front of the State Building in downtown Santa Rosa. Brought together by ACT UP Sonoma County and the Sonoma County Medi-Cal Consumers Task Force, about thirty determined picketers interrupted the early morning stillness to "urge legislators to increase Denti-Cal reimbursement rates. The demonstrators formed a circle, marching and chant-

ing. One by one they moved to the center to speak about how the lack of access to dental care and medical care affects different segments of the population.

Currently Medi-Cal/Denti-Cal reimburses dentists at about 20-30% of their usual fees. Due to this ridiculously low reimbursement rate, the mounds of paperwork, and the long waiting period for payment most dentists are unwilling to treat Medi-Cal patients.

Dave Hoffman, an advocate at Community Resources for Independence, said of the Medi-Cal card, "It's a worthless piece of paper. My own dentist gives away free care rather than get involved in the Medi-Cal system." He further added that many of his disabled clients, lacking their own vehicles, are forced to spend eight hours traveling on public transportation to receive dental care at the UC dental clinic in San Francisco. For PWA's in poor health a lengthy trip like this is all but impossible. The crowd responded by shouting, "Unacceptable."

Sam Lawman, a member of ACT UP and a PWA, read a letter from Northern California legislators Barry Keene and Dan Hauser. They referred to the 10% increase in Denti-Cal reimbursement rates proposed by the state legislature and reduced to 5% by the

Governor. But even the blue-penciled 10% increase would not adequately compensate dentists for their services.

Earlier in the month, at a press conference in Santa Rosa, Hauser acknowledged that the attempts to shore up the Medi-Cal system are just bandaid reform. "We're not dealing with the fact that the entire health care system has collapsed." For years he has unsuccessfully attempted to rework the state health care system based on the Canadian model which provides health insurance for those who earn too much to qualify for government aid but too little to pay for their own insurance.

Talking about how he fell through the cracks of the state health care system, Charlie Kidwell, also of ACT UP, described his life before and after he was diagnosed with ARC. "I had everything a person could want in this county. A really good job, full insurance, an ideal lifestyle. Then, when I got sick, I lost my job, my health insurance, and the same month my car was totaled. People in Sonoma County need to know that they can end up in the same situation. There's no safety net. When I applied for Social Security I was so sick that I could hardly walk but I still had to

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Adam's Apple

By Adam Richman



**Get Tested
Get Treated
Get Well.**

Its never too early to take charge of your health.

This is the new motto we must adopt as a people facing AIDS. As new and promising therapies appear, this is not the unrealistic proposition it once seemed to be. Things have changed. It is true that there is no cure for AIDS, but the longer everyone lives, the more likely more of us will live to see real cures. So if you haven't been tested for HIV antibodies, go to it! Here are a couple of suggestions if you haven't yet gotten yourself tested. It takes a week for the results to come in. Take charge by making a plan for the week. Don't set yourself up for being isolated or anxious. Call friends and let them know that you are going to take the test. Take someone with you. Make sure you have support for the day you get your results. Taking the test is an important first step to taking charge of your health. This fact has really come home for me recently. Several friends of mine took the test, fully expecting to be negative. They were each positive. Each had immune systems that were slipping into dangerously low conditions. Without early intervention, they would have been left in the dark until a symptom occurred. Each of these guys have been able to avoid hospitalization. Sure, getting the test is a scary prospect, but putting it off only increases the fear, making it bigger than it needs to be. Complacency has never gotten anyone healthier. Call the AIDS Information Resource Line 579-2437 and make that appointment.

SEX
Call me old-fashioned. I just don't get it about this new breed of Gay men these days. Tonight close friend of mine is going to the "Buddy Connection", a safe sex workshop, sponsored by the Sonoma County AIDS Project. This seminar really seems to be the thing to do these days. Everyone wants to get those hot "Safe Sex Coach" buttons, they hand out. Each participant also gets a globe of Astroglide, my favorite lubricant, (even though Probe is more politically correct.) These safe sex sessions are now the new ritual of manhood that the baths played in my coming of age as a gay male, now a decade ago. The tubs were my homosexual ordination and going to the St. Marks Baths in NYC was the cathedral it happened in. It took me several joints just to get in the place with my older, more experienced and considerably smuttier host for the evening. I was scared to death with intimidation, but of course I just had to stay until 7:00 a.m. Now younger gay men actually get lessons in cruising for safe sex at a workshop—what a world! The only rule book I got was a Budweiser!

Magi Fedorka: Picnic Planner Matron
Our Magi Fedorka, the dynamic secret weapon of our community, has been tapped by the local Democratic Party to organize their prestigious Labor Day picnic. Magi, of course was responsible for organizing the last three lesbian and gay Pride Picnics. Fedorka already sits on the Democratic Central Committee, and her obvious talents did not go unnoticed by the pragmatic Party stalwarts, who were in a bind when their original organizer was called away from the county. By selecting main activities of the local party, signals a new level of acceptance of our community, particularly when that select directly follows the exposure Magi has gotten recently. The picnic will be held at Willowside Park, a private compound on Willowside Road. Jointly sponsored by the Democratic Central Committee and organized labor, represented by the Central Labor Council, there will be a special outreach effort to reach under-represented groups. Admission is free and there will be chicken dinners for sale at \$6.00. The fun starts at noon, there will be free admission for kids and a special program for them. Magi will need a few extra hands, and we ought to give them to her. She can be reached at 526-6244.

Letters

Dear Editor
I want to thank you for deciding to run my *Wishing Well* ad in June (surely you remember the one...) I was initially disappointed that my anticipated deluge of hot letters did not materialize; I'd thought Sonoma County Lesbians were more adventurous! But not to worry—my sole respondent has been more than enough woman for me, and I thank you from the bottom of my _____ (fill in your favorite anatomical part.)



AIDS Shelter Opens in Santa Rosa

By Sandy Lowe

A resident shelter for persons with AIDS and ARC in Sonoma County is set to open by August 1. The project, sponsored by the Family Service Agency of Sonoma County, will house six persons who are homeless or unable to maintain independent residence as a result of their illness. Planning and fundraising for the shelter has been going on for over a year, since the Family Service Agency board decided to respond to a call from the Sonoma County AIDS Commission for a program to meet the housing needs of persons with AIDS. No such non-sectarian facility exists in Sonoma County despite the fact that the county ranks second in the state in per capita incidence of AIDS.

Although state funding was offered early on, it was not sufficient to open the home. The funding would have been lost altogether were it not for an eleven hour appeal which succeeded in opening the hearts of donors countywide. Facing a deadline of June 30, Family Service Agency obtained commitments notably from the Sonoma County AIDS Foundation and Congregation Beth Ami necessary to make the project a reality.

Other funders of the AIDS Shelter include the State Department of Health, Office of AIDS; the Santa Rosa Housing Authority, the Sonoma County Fund for the Homeless, St. Eugene's Cathedral, the Church of the Incarnation and numerous private individuals.

The residence, a four bedroom - two bathroom home in Santa Rosa, will house six people with AIDS or ARC. Some residents will stay for a brief period while they arrange more permanent housing elsewhere, while others will maintain long term occupancy at the home.

The site will be staffed round the clock, while other service providers from agencies (such as Face to Face, Home Hospice, Medical Personnel Pool and the Department of Mental Health) will come in as requested and needed by the residents. The program will seek to be a model for inter-agency cooperation and the sharing of scarce resources.

The shelter will also invite the participation of community volunteers who can offer companionship, recreation and support to the residents.

Donations of furnishings, kitchenware and appliances are also being sought. Contributors and volunteers can call the Family Service Agency at 545-4551.

Family Service Agency of Sonoma County is a private non-profit organization which provides counseling and social services throughout the county. The programs offered include general counseling, treatment of sexually abused children, domestic violence treatment, services for widowed seniors and counseling services to industry. Support for these programs comes from the United Way, state and county grants, client fees and individual and corporate donations.

Anti-Gay Violence
Have you been a victim of homophobic violence in Sonoma County? Help the Sonoma County Community Against Violence (SCCAV). Document the problem—Call and answer a few simple questions on an answering machine. The statistics gathered will be used to raise issues of concern with the Sonoma County Sheriff's Department and to support anti-hate crime legislation.
SILENCE=Death
887-2650

Editorial

We The People has moved to a new location. I want to thank Mert Preston for all the help and patience he gave to me, while we were sharing space together. For me a person who cannot spell, working on a newspaper is probably the last place I should be, but with a roommate that responds to "Mert how do you spell _____", spelling wasn't such a big deal. Then there was the monthly layout and paste up which took over the dining room table and spilled out into the living room. Did Mert mind?, not really and he was always there to help me handle the stress during that time. Thank you Mert.

Another thank you is in order for Dial Tonello, the telephone installation, service and sales business. Marisa was fun to work with and donated the installation of the We The People phone line, and in the past donated the Anti-Gay Violence Hot Line installation. If you have a need for any telephone work give her a call, support those who support us is more than a slogan. It is very important for all of us to look at our advertisers and give them that support. Even if it means just telling them you saw their ad, at least they will know that it is in our consciousness for when we do need their service.

By Jerry Noakes

Theatre Involvement

An original play with a strong gay theme is presently rehearsing in Guerneville. The production needs volunteer technical and musical assistance. Also a fundraising person is needed to coordinate a banquet to benefit this production to be held in August (date forthcoming). Everyone is urged to respond by contacting producer Mary Anne Gianqueto @ 632-5091 weekdays 6-10pm only, and all day weekends till 10pm. NEEDS: (staff persons to handle fundraising, Videophotographers, set designer, pianist, guitarist, keyboardist, drummer, costumers, and all non-performing volunteers" (equipment) stage lights, dimmer board, two boom microphones.

We The People
We The People is published by the Northern California Gay Media Project, a collective of lesbians and gay men, and is being produced to serve the lesbian and gay community of Sonoma County and the Redwood Empire by providing forum for information, communication, community building, public consciousness raising, networking, access to resources, the exploration of lesbian and gay cultural history and for the reporting of the news in a forthright manner.
We The People welcomes contributions of news articles and features and seeks the participation of lesbians and gay men interested in its publication. Articles should be limited to 500 words, with suggested editing for length if needed. The copy deadline is the 12th of the month before the issue. Include your name, address and telephone number. Contributions may be sent to: We The People, P.O. Box 2204, Santa Rosa, Calif., 95405. Telephone (707 526-7464). Subscriptions / \$12 per year, 526-7464.
This issue was put together by Julia Elliott, Robin Gail, Sandy Lowe, Kris Mazure, Jim Melancon, Jaye Miller, Jerry Noakes, Tamra Orsolini, Lois Pearlman, Tom Phillips, Patrick Satterthwaite, Bill Shelley, Cheryl Traendly, Nick Valentine, Mark Watt, Janet Zagoria.
Circulation 5,000



Gayle Remick and Frances Fuchs celebrate their 11th year together, on August 16th. Still happy after all these years.

GALA III A Singer's Perspective

By Mike Koonce

By 9:45 in the evening, the crowd had half-filled Red Square. Some were sitting on the steps in front of Kane Hall; some stood, huddled, catching the last of the summer evening's light on their expectant faces. The singers began to gather too, clustering together for warmth and security. Minutes passed and some of the women began a song. It seemed good to sing, even though the director wasn't there yet, so we all joined in.

When Dennis Coleman of the Seattle Men's Chorus arrived, Red Square was filled with 4,000 listeners and 2,300 excited singers. He took his place on the platform before the steps, raised his arms high, and we all began this song by Holly Near.

Welcome, sang the women. It's great to see you with an open heart.
Thanks, we returned. It's good to be here with you, too.
We only wish we'd been here from the very start.

No matter, they assured us. We all have doors to walk through—we did too...
It takes time, sang all. And the view from the voice of unity has well been worth the climb.
We had to learn to stand alone and now we know we can.
We had to learn to stand together; now we know we do.

That's how the third triennial festival of the Gay and Lesbian Association of Choruses (GALA) ended—in unity, in song, as we all proclaimed our joy and need and love for each other as gay and lesbian people. The week of July 2 through July 9 was one of the most nurturing I have ever lived. 2,300 gay and lesbian singers from 57 choruses around the world gathered at the University of Washington in Seattle to share song with each other. The choruses ranged from the 13-member Philadelphia Gay Men's Chorus to the New York City Gay Men's Chorus, which enjoys a complement of 146. Several chorus sub-groups also performed, including Menage, from the Lesbian & Gay Chorus of San Francisco and the Rochettes, from the Rochester Gay Men's Chorus.

Don't think for a moment that this was any straight-laced (so to speak) gaggle of would-be musicians getting together to sing a few stuffy old church hymns. We were electric—every one of us excited to be there and energized by our diversity. The music we sang was sometimes magnificent, often humorous, and always from the heart. At times I was cleansed by my own tears and those of others around me. I was deliciously manipulated—made to laugh, to cry, to remember. I was exhausted now and then by my own feelings. Imagine—every day for a week—hour upon hour of music full of love, full of lesbian and gay joy, sadness, pride—songs we gave to each other and to ourselves, all in a setting of freedom! It was euphoric, and there were lots of standing ovations.

I was delighted and inspired by the women's choruses. They often moved me the most deeply (and I received an added dividend: I am now much more politically correct than I was before the festival!). Approximately one-sixth of the participants were women. The San Diego Women's Chorus and Muse: Cincinnati's Women's Choir was featured on National Public Radio while we were there. I will never forget standing hand-in-hand, trying to sing as the Tacoma Women's Choir led us in their last piece, a powerful rendition of Judy Small's *Keep on Walkin'* forward.

Every ensemble had its special gift to give. Some gave drama, some wit; some sang all new music, others presented beautiful classics. My personal favorites were the boys from the Turtle Creek Chorale (Dallas), decked out in black tuxedos and yellow roses, 70 strong. What a sound! Everyone else liked them, too. Even after they left the stage, Meany Theater roared with our ovations. One friend commented to me afterwards: "Didn't you just want to have sex

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REFLECTIONS

By Robin Gail

Weddings and Stereotypes

I've attended some lesbian weddings—trysts, ceremonies, whatever they're called—and I have had the honor and pleasure of leading some. Each was unique and meaningful. But last month I participated in what was for me the most memorable of all—my own. It was truly a remarkable experience; both Lee and I were profoundly moved.

I've said here I believe in honoring our relationships with public ceremonies, but believe me, there is a BIG difference between the theory and the reality! I mean, it's easy to suggest other couples ought to do it, but doing it yourself means taking risks on more levels than I imagined.

To begin with, we have to be willing to risk intimacy. To acknowledge to each other that we intend to be there tomorrow—not to run when it gets too close or too frightening. We have to be willing to put our emotional needs on the line, and we each have to be willing to risk accepting the other's love and commitment and not be afraid of her demands. Pretty intense stuff there.

I had to examine why I had never done it before—even when I was straight. It's easy enough to avoid when you're gay. After all, weddings are for straight folks who are allowed to make it legal. It seemed to me that for gays to call a ceremony of union a "wedding" was imitating hetero tradition and was therefore to be scorned. It was too much mimicry of straight roles for me to accept, and I never pursued the issue.

When I was straight I was a hippie and just as resistant of traditional culture ritual. "We don't need to sign the Man's papers," we said, and I never did.

Today I can look at both those excuses for never participating in any kind of commitment/union/marriage ceremony as just that—excuses. I held a very negative picture of marriage. I believed if I got married I would immediately turn into a—gasp—Wife! That little Anglo Saxon word was a suitcase full of negative images. It wasn't marriage I was afraid of but the role I thought I would have to accept.

I knew I never wanted to subordinate myself to anyone. At the age of 10, my best friend Judy and I swore we would never get married. (or if we did, it wouldn't be till we were really old like 21.) And I never did get "married"—legally or otherwise.

And yet, though I never made any formal commitment to anyone, I still entered relationships with hidden attitudes, and I superimposed some of my negative ideas of marriage on them. At one point I found myself, hippie earth mother that I was, nursing my baby, cooking at a wood stove, baking bread while my old man rolled joints at the kitchen table. I looked around, woke up, and thought to myself, "I never wanted to get married, so what am I doing here?" Eventually I discovered the women's movement, came out, and gave up all that.

Or so I thought. I quit cooking, but I still gave up my Self quite unconsciously in relationships, just as I had been programmed to do.

Today I am beginning to see that much of what I have feared in life has not been reality but an idea I carried within. Today I think I can be "married" without necessarily having to be a Wife in a negative sense, but I also see I could accept the concept of "wife" without accepting all those negative connotations.

It's like when I grasped the Third Step concept of "God as we understood God," (12 Step Program stuff) as meaning realizing that one's higher power is whatever one imagines it to be. Today I get the concept of "wife as we understand wife." It's also like taking the label "dyke" and accepting it and honoring it—owning it to defuse its negative connotations. "Wife", as I understand wife, is partner, lover, friend, helper, etc. Not subordinate. Not housekeeper. Not less-than. And though butches might freak out, it isn't simply a "femme" term either, but a name that can truly honor women's contributions to relationships.

But as usual, I digress. I wanted to stress how moving and meaningful a commitment ceremony is. I recommend the experience. It's a Beginning. After this, of course, we get down to the nitty gritty of following through on all those risks...

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Two Way Closet

By Michael Brewer

I am neither gay nor straight. The nearest label that applies to me would be bisexual. It is one I wear uncomfortably, having a strong aversion to labels. Since it is necessary to give a convenient handle to identify my chosen sexual preference, I will refer to myself as bisexual. This article is an attempt to shed some light on how one bisexual has adjusted to life within the changing social structure of the 70's and 80's.

While growing up, I can remember having crushes on both boys and girls. I always picked boys I wished to emulate, beautiful in both body and mind, while I picked girls who were intelligent and nurturing. Growing up on Fire Island, New York allowed plenty of opportunity for me to explore my crushes and I felt uninhibited in doing so. I understood that men could choose to be with men, women with women and men with women. These role models were all around me. Yet never did I find a role model for what I was feeling. I couldn't understand why a man could not choose to be with men and women or why a woman couldn't choose a similar life. I just knew I was different and kept my secret to myself.

Thus began the segregation of my sexual and social life. I quickly learned how to function in both worlds with smooth efficiency. No one in the gay bar would ever guess I had a girlfriend, and the same went for my straight friends. Why did I keep my two worlds apart? For safety. In gay circles, it was a major faux pas to sleep with a "fist". While in the hetero world, to be a gay was an unpardonable offence. This lifestyle bred self-deception and self-contempt. I knew I had to find another way.

I moved to California in 1976. It was the height of the sexual revolution. I found a world where "anything goes". Well, almost anything. I still ran up against the stereotypes

and prejudices I had grown up with in New York. But, on the West Coast it was possible to meet more open minded people. I began to meet others, both men and women who were "bi" and were also tired of deceit. We found that gay society disliked us for our ability to "hide" in straight society, while we hardly dared tell our straight family and friends about our life on Gay Street. So we bisexuals clung to one another. We formed "trap groups" or found cliques. To us, one bisexual friend, one who was able to accept both sides of our sexuality was worth an army of gays or straights.

Many of my bisexual friends could not stand the pressure. To gays we were "fence sitters". My first bi girlfriend ran off and married a "dyke on bike". To straights, we were closeted, and therefore also straight. Many of my bi-boyfriends got married to straight women. They did not give up their bisexuality, only stifled it. The bushes of San Francisco and highway reststop now tell their tale of quiet desperation. I don't blame these friends. We all yearned for a lifelong relationship and family. They felt that they would never find one person that would satisfy all their needs. They settled for the next best thing, many of them suppressing their "other half" in the process. I believe this is the great challenge and often the great tragedy of bisexuality. We cannot satisfy our need for life partner in just one person. The nature of our being calls for a relation with both sexes.

I began to integrate my social life. I chose friends who were at least compassionate about, if not sharing in my lifestyle. I was still in the closet to many friends and business associates, but I found myself spending most of my quality time with those with whom I was comfortable. I began to seek what I yearned for, a way of living in peace. I was in college then and in love with a school mate. It was at this point that I learned that being bisexual doesn't mean the same thing to everyone. A bisexual doesn't necessarily desire women to the same degree as he/she desires men/women. It can be more accurately described in percentages such as 20% preference for women and an 80% preference for men. The boy I was in love with at school had a 90% preference for women and a 10% preference for men. Too bad for me, I needed more than 10%. Several semesters passed in a less than satisfactory manner. A new girl enrolled one fall and fell in love with me. She was 70% straight and 30% gay. Soon we all lived together in a passionate triangle and most of our needs were met. It was short lived but showed me that it was possible to live an openly bisexual lifestyle.

Not long after I was done with school I began a spiritual

exploration which led me down many a long and mysterious aisle. I began to see my sexuality as less important and that relationships are based on much deeper foundations than sexual preferences. I put my quest for my life partner on the back burner while I pursued my quest for inner peace. It was at this time that I found my life partner. In 1984, I met a European woman in California on her own spiritual quest. We formed an instant and strong bond. I told her about my sexuality, but it seemed insignificant in comparison to all that we felt and were experiencing together. She was not bisexual and had very little experience in this area. She taught me that relationships are based on much larger things. We planned to live together here in California and married to ease immigration matters. For a while the sexuality issue slept.

After a number of months it awoke. I began to dream and to feel restless. I realized I had done what so many of my friends had done, choosing one side of myself and suppressing the other. It scared me into action. Although my wife had known about my sexuality before our relationship, had met my gay and bisexual friends, we even had a gay roommate, she had yet to deal with the reality of my own sexual feelings. At first I chose the route of many closeted bi's. I had anonymous encounters or dishonest short term ones. This, of course, was very unsatisfactory, leaving me with a feeling of revulsion and self-loathing. The pressure built until I had to pour out all my pent up feelings to my wife. She was shocked that I could be going through so much inner turmoil without sharing it or showing it to her. She didn't know what consummate actors we bisexuals can be. I found the Pacific Center in Berkeley, where they have a support group for married gay & bi men each week. With her encouragement I began to attend. Most of the guys in this group were older and divorced or in the process of divorcing. However, I did meet a man my own age who was married and trying to make it work. A relationship developed between the two of us and a friendship grew between both our wives. It was not easy for any of us. My wife went through many traumas and sleepless nights coming to terms with the reality of my bisexuality. I also had to deal with feelings of guilt and other emotional issues. Together we all learned that although a relationship is built on a deep and spiritual foundation, sex is still an issue and can be one filled with strong emotions. It proved too much for my boyfriend and his wife, their marriage ended. He wanted me to end mine and to go away with him. I couldn't knowing that the woman I was with was

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Portfolio

By Peter Masian

VALARIE JAMES AND LIZ CUNNINGHAM

Valarie James and Liz Cunningham are part of that small and lucky community who can claim to be partners in life as well as in art - an activity which they have elected to call MOJAVE DESIGNS. This collective of two artists is committed to the re-integration of Sacred Crafts into our culture. This commitment involves the creation of Ritual and Ceremonial Art Works for personal and group Empowerment, Healing and Transformation. They draw from their heritages of Afro-Cuban, Native American and White Women as well as their own personal histories to create pieces that bridge the ancient to the contemporary. What overshadows this enviable situation is that they are two people working together to do "the work of women". Both Cunningham and James agree that the work they do is more than art. "This is part of our everyday work and we don't consider it as a separate function." MOJAVE DESIGNS began their work making Medicine Tools which were in the form of rattles. The process first starts with the hand gathering of gourds from the land. The gourd is first cleaned, cored and baked for a short time to assure a fine tonal quality. It is then filled with seeds or small quartz pebbles from the earth. The handle is often constructed of cottonwood or willow and can also be bone, buffalo or bullhorn. The final step is when the gourd is smoked with cedar, sage, and sweetgrass.

"It is important to us," states Cunningham, "that any bone, feather, or shell that we use are dropped objects." This commitment to a natural and organic process of work influenced them to evolve from the making of rattles to creating Spirit Vessels. Gourds are the oldest containers around. They were hand painted and carved and used as vessels by indigenous people all over the world and have been found buried and still intact dating back to 7000 B.C. A coiled snake, the ancient symbol of the Matriarchy representing the phases of the Moon, and a lizard symbolizing Fire, Intuition, and the Spirit are often used by MOJAVE DESIGNS on their vessels.

Upon entering their studio one is first struck with the smell of the earth, of things growing and the sense of being surrounded. The room itself is a vessel containing more vessels. Gourds are stacked on shelves which surround the place of work. Each gourd is individually decorated in colors of blues and reds. Some have animal motifs painted on them, some have small feathers attached to braided fibers tied around the necks and some are plain allowing the texture of the gourd itself to make the major visual statement under the colors. The gourds in their similarity to the pregnant torso, when grouped together, leave a very powerful image of birth, life process, and anticipation. Each vessel is intended to serve as a transmitter of energy. Many of them are adorned with crystals.

As a Native American, Valarie James springs from the



tribes of Seneca, Algonquin, and Cherokee. Her first memories of art work were as a child making her own paints and natural dyes from the earth and grasses and berries. "No one taught me how to do this. I just knew how to do it from my own memories." Her early training in art was limited to a short time in an art school that her mother sent her to. As an adult Valarie studied Fine Arts at the San Francisco Academy of Art. Her education was further supplemented with work in the Art Therapy program at Antioch University. She worked for a number of years as a Psych. Nurse. MOJAVE DESIGNS is also enriched by the Afro-Cuban heritage of Liz Cunningham. She worked for many years in Manhattan as a free lance makeup artist for the Theatre and Fashion industry. "After doing that for ten years the charm and excitement of living in Manhattan wore off and I knew I didn't want to be a makeup artist any longer. I became interested in having my own business as a woodworker. I saw a lot of parallels between the craft of wood-working and makeup." After an apprenticeship with a woodworker Liz moved out to Sonoma county to be with her family. It was at this time that she met Valarie James and together they formed MOJAVE DESIGNS.

Their work can be found in various collections throughout the country such as The Von Grobil Collections in Ashland, Oregon and The Sundance Institute, developed by Robert Redford in Sundance, Utah. This fall they will be represented in four different Arts and Crafts catalogues. MOJAVE DESIGNS purposely strives to maintain itself as a small business. "We have no desire to have a warehouse full of our work waiting for homes. Each vessel has a journey to make until it reaches its ultimate owner."

Much of the inspiration for their work comes from dream experience and the element of coincidence. "A lot of the time an idea will be given to one of us through a dream and before we can discuss these impressions the other one of us will just start doing it. There is a saying that 'Art is 99% the work of the Spirits who counsel us and 1% the work of the artist: - The artist should have as little to do with it as possible.'" We have been blessed in our making of these pieces."

MOJAVE DESIGNS can currently be seen at Quicksilver Mine Co in Guerneville, Surroundings in Sebastopol, Earthworks in Coddington and The Clay Company in Santa Rosa.

Hot To Trot

By Blayne Gullbeax

Let's take a trip south of the border to Mexico!

ACAPULCO, one of Mexico's most popular seaside resorts and an old favorite with gay travelers, has been miraculously spared the destruction of the September "85 earthquake that had a disastrous impact on Mexico City. The city is surrounded by mountains and has more than 20 fine sand beaches around Acapulco Bay. The gay area is located at the La Condesa Beach in front of Beto's with many seaside restaurants and cafes. The portion of the Costera between the Exelaris Hyatt Regency and the Ritz Hotel is known as the "strip" and one of Acapulco's busiest and most exciting areas.

Acapulco is known for its exciting nightlife. Discos usually open at 10 p.m. and stay open until the last customer leaves. Many bars and discos have international reputations and cater to the fun loving jet-setters from around the world. Gay oriented discos for both gay men and lesbians include the "Gallery" and "Peacock Alley". Both bars have an international ambience.

Visiting BETO'S Restaurant, on Condesa Beach, is a must. It is a five star restaurant specializing in both Mexican and seafood dishes.

Several very nice hotels/guesthouses cater primarily to gay clientele: THE VILLA HOMBRE is a private hotel for gay men where you can be yourself and enjoy the company of like-minded guests. Villa Hombre was attractively designed to reflect the colonial period of Mexico in tropical surroundings. It is located just a short walking distance to Condesa Beach and the famous Beto's Restaurant. The CASA COCO is a private guesthouse located just above the Condesa Beach section of town. Rooms are luxurious with private marble bathrooms, air conditioning, fans and balconies overlooking Acapulco Bay. The property has a swimming pool, sauna, kitchen, and bar facilities.

Several villas are also available. LAS BRISAS is part of a multilevel housing hillside complex of stylish design located right on the bay. A private sundeck overlooks the bay. The private pier on the premises makes it an ideal place for motorboating and water skiing. Skin-diving is also popular sport at this villa. LAS AMERICAS is a house located on the Gran Via Tropical Peninsula. It provides outstanding views of the open ocean, the Las Brisas area, and the Bay of Acapulco. From the moment you enter this unique property, you will unwind in an atmosphere of elegance and comfort.

Don't forget to see La Quebrada Cliff Divers... an absolute must!

Air fares from San Francisco to Acapulco are very inexpensive this year. An exciting adventure filled visit to Acapulco can be had for excellent rates.

Blayne works at CBC Travel, in the Santa Rosa Mall.

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INTERVIEW: GAIL SMITH

Crossover Performer at Molly Brown's

By Tom Phillips

"Catch this rising star!" proclaims the advertisements for Ms. Gail Smith, weekend entertainer at Molly Brown's Saloon in Guerneville. In her short tenure at Molly's (less than two months), Gail has already developed an enthusiastic following. She does two shows each on Friday and Saturday nights, one at 10 pm and another at midnight.

A Bay Area native, Gail has been performing for 20 years. She has travelled extensively, touring parts of the United States and abroad. In 1986, she was with the famous Dyketones on their East Coast tour, which included a stint at Provincetown (p-town) for those in the know. It was then that Gail decided she wanted to perform for primarily gay and lesbian audiences. She had become increasingly frustrated with the straight mentality in lounges and clubs. As she puts it: "I can't go to Harrah's and sing 'Pretty Woman'; [I] just can't do it. This is my preference."

Gail's act focuses on country music, with some classic rock-and-roll mixed in. Topping that off are some Bette Midler standards. In fact, the two strongest influences on Gail's style are Bette Midler and Patsy Cline. Bette, long a favorite of the gay community, provides Gail with source material, both in musical selections and some between-song patter. Gail is quick, however, to point out that she doesn't attempt to duplicate Bette's style or appearance, just her "intent". "She's a brilliant woman; it's frightening," says Gail. One often-requested song is "The Rose," along with the recent hit "Wind Beneath My Wings," from the film Beaches.

But Patsy Cline remains the single most pervasive force in Gail's show, a tribute to Patsy's longevity so many years after her death. Gail acknowledges Patsy's powerful 'crossover' appeal. Again, as with Bette: "I don't copy her." Indeed, that might be considered "crazy." But parts of Patsy Cline's repertoire are heard regularly in the show. Other artists Gail 'covers' are Anne Murray, Bob Seeger, and Alabama.

According to Charley Borup, co-owner of Molly Brown's Gail fits in very well at the saloon. It has become a mutually satisfactory arrangement. Gail and her lover Jennifer have already become part of the 'family' at Molly's. And because the saloon is open year-round, it has become a popular spot for the locals. "Gail has been able to diversify the show so that the locals continue to enjoy it," says Charley. "That's

one of our successes. Regulars continue to be regulars." Gail's act reflects the atmosphere at Molly's, which Charley says is intended to be "the friendliest bar on the River."

Gail wants to be considered a 'crossover' performer, one who mixes with the crowd during her performance. And Charley says she does just that. "She works the audience, which is just what we want at Molly's."

Isn't it true that behind (beside?) every good woman stands another good woman? For Gail, that's her lover and partner, Jennifer, whom she describes as a "wonderful helpmate." Jennifer handles a variety of behind-the-scenes tasks: public relations, advertising, and assisting Gail with her hair, makeup and clothing for the show. During the show, Jennifer can usually be found, tray in hand, carting cocktails back and forth in the audience. Gail and Jennifer were married this past April.

One of the strengths Gail considers to be part of her show is that she is the sole performer. Her backup music is provided by instrumental tapes. Therefore, she controls not only the selection of numbers but the volume and mixing as well. Gail finds this preferable to working with a live band. "This system never shows up late, never lets me down, never shows up with a marijuana cigarette hanging out of [its] lip... it never goes out of tune, and the only ego I have to contend with is my own." Gail tried out the tape system last year in Sacramento and found it satisfactory. "It would be very hard for me to go back and work with a band again."

In addition to weekends at Molly Brown's, Gail performs one night a week each at Faces in Sacramento and Faces II in Stockton. That make for quite a bit of travelling, but Gail says it's worth the effort. The future remains open, however. "Molly Brown's has exposed me to the possibility of open doors at other places; but I don't have a clear-cut plan. I was kind of surprised at my success in Sacramento. I'm just kind of letting it go... it's a gamble; [but] we have a good time."

Reception to Gail's act has been very favorable. Charley says that one indication of her success is that the 10pm show is usually packed—"that's quite a compliment to Gail..." Her 80-minute show is repeated at midnight, usually with several changes. She will take request if she has the taped accompaniment available.

Gail Smith performs every Friday and Saturday at Molly Brown's Saloon in Guerneville. Gail says come check it out, "If you don't have a good time here, it's your own fault!"

Eating Out

By S. Rutherford

I was first brought into Prospect Park by a friend, it was lunch time, and we entered a restaurant with energy: Good energy. Everything flowed smoothly, from the service personnel to the constant flow of satisfied customers. My first meal was a wonderful salmon in garlic crust, cooked just right, with a lemon-time butter sauce.

My next experience at Prospect Park was dinner on a Tuesday evening. I mention the day, because if you love Maine lobster, they fly them in fresh every Tuesday. Mine was perfectly cooked and succulent. My partner had the Indonesian grilled chicken with angel hair pasta. Our wait-

ress, Sandra, told us this is one of the most popular dishes on the menu and understandably so. A delicate balance of peanuts, cilantro and lime set this dish off just right.

On my third trip to Prospect Park, I finally figured out the right way to dine here: we sat in the "non-smoking" section, the room with the waterfall, I invited five of my closest dining buddies, and we ordered lots of appetizers and extra plates. The beauty of Prospect Park is the diversity of the menu, balanced with the consistently fine quality of the food. It is a casual restaurant with professional, knowledgeable and friendly service. It reminds me of why I live in Sonoma County. From the mushrooms under glass, grilled chicken skewers Sante Fe and steamed clams, straight through to the

A New Face at Face To Face

Face to Face, Sonoma County AIDS Network has selected Andrea Learned as the new Executive Director of the agency. She is scheduled to start August 21. She is currently the Director of the Lake-Mendocino Area Agency on Aging.

Dental Care

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

fight for Social Security for nineteen months."

Lucy Forrest, a member of the Gray Panthers who was marching in support of Medi-Cal recipients, said that her organization agrees with critics of the health care system like Assemblyman Hauser. "We have worked for years for a national health system." Among the industrialized nations of the world only South Africa and the United States fail to provide accessible health care for all residents. "Keep your eye on the big goal," proclaimed Forrest.

Maria de Santis who was part of a contingent from the Commonwomen's Health Project believes that women and children are particularly vulnerable to the lack of access to medical and dental care. "Health is the key to women's well being because they bear and raise children. A woman can't enjoy any other freedom unless she has health and reproductive care. It is the best way to keep women down at the bottom of society."

As more participants stepped forward to address their special areas of concern the focus of the demonstration shifted from Denti-Cal reimbursements to a consideration of our entire health care system. These beginning steps towards building a human services coalition in Sonoma County come at a propitious moment. Governor Deukmejian has just chopped \$646 million from the state budget, most of it in health and welfare programs, including \$75 million in AIDS programs, \$2.7 million in Denti-Cal reimbursement increases, and funds for family planning, mental health programs and minority health programs. Also a class action suit charging that "California is violating federal law that requires states to provide dental care to low income residents" is currently pending in Sacramento Federal Court.

In future actions ACT UP Sonoma County plans to continue working in coalition with other groups to assure a more acceptable standard of medical and dental care for all members of the community. As Pam Peak of the Medi-Cal Consumers Task Force cautioned, "We either unite or we're going to die."

AIDS News

By Doug McCulloch

The perennial question at the Buddy Connection and on the AIDS Project Hotline is: Can I suck dick? Some of the variations on this question include: How much can I suck? Can I ingest cum? Is pre-cum dangerous?

Being as concerned about these questions as anyone I set out to research the issues surrounding oral sexual transmission of HIV (Human Immunodeficiency Virus).

The first reference I ran across in my research was in an article in the May 25, 1989 issue of the San Francisco Sentinel. The article, "Safety and Variety", made reference to a "widely publicized report on safe sex by the Canadian government". The author, Tim Vollmer, also quotes a nurse as saying "the virus is really fragile... The mouth is too hostile an environment. Saliva has properties which kill it instantly, not to mention stomach acid." This information really piqued my curiosity!

My next step was to track down this Canadian study. I started with a library search at the Community Hospital Medical Library. Nothing turned up regarding studies of oral-sexual transmission of HIV.

Next I went to our computer and accessed CAIN (Computerized AIDS Information Network). I was able to track down the research study cited in the Sentinel. Actually there turned out to be several abstracts on the subject published in the American Journal of Epidemiology in 1987 and 1988. The abstracts were short summations from the various Canadian Lymphadenopathy studies.

It seems that the Gay press, in order to justify what should still be considered a risky practice, took out of context a few key sentences from several rather complicated and lengthy reports. For example: "There was no consistent evidence in the current study for oral-genital, oral-anal, or other sexual transmission of HIV." This is from the June 1987 issue of the previously mentioned journal. In the same journal in October of 1988 the authors state "We have not been able to demonstrate a significant elevated risk associated with either insertive or receptive oral-genital contact". Taken out of context these two bits of information would lead one to believe that oral-genital contact poses no risk. What the Gay press has failed to mention is (from the same articles) "The risk of transmission of HIV in relation to sexual activity that involves

oral-genital contact remains controversial. The virus has been isolated from saliva, although much less frequently and in lower concentrations than from blood or semen." And again from the June, 1987 report: "Whether HIV is also spread orally or through other sexual practice is not clear... This study cannot rule out such transmission..."

Most importantly the gay press fails to comment on the quality and reliability of these studies. Firstly, the studies were done between 1983 and 1985. The studies began before HIV antibody testing was available so there was no way to know if the controls in the study were already HIV infected. When the antibody test did become available many of the control subjects were found to be HIV positive thus invalidating much of the gathered information.

Because of human nature it is very difficult to design a study in which the only behavior practiced by participants is oral-genital sex. The studies were poorly designed and poorly controlled. It is not fair, or wise, to base decisions on risk behavior based on such studies.

The risks posed by oral-genital sex are several. Firstly, gums bleed very easily. If you are infected, blood from your mouth could get into your partners urethra - a potential site of infection. If your infected semen or pre-ejaculate fluid gets into the uninfected mouth of your partner there is potential for transmission via the mucous membranes.

Research has indicated that saliva may have some anti-HIV properties yet I have not been able to track down these studies to check their validity.

The bottom line is we don't have any clear-cut answers. It seems that oral-sexual activity is less risky than unprotected anal sex, but we have no real proof. My personal feeling is if I were uninfected I would do everything possible to protect myself from becoming infected. That would include only safe oral sex until there is more clear information, one way or the other, about the real potential for this route of infection. For those of us already infected oral sex, exclusive of pre-ejaculate and semen ingestion, poses little risk. There is, however, the issue of reinfection to consider. We all need to make informed decisions as to the degree of risk we are willing to take. There certainly are many exciting and creative alternatives to the risky behaviors of the past. Exploring these alternatives are just as exciting at the Buddy Connection. See the ad in this issue for dates and times.



Homophobia In Religion and Society

Robert Nugent has been a Roman Catholic priest since 1965 and Jeannine Gramick has been a Catholic Nun since 1960. Both have written numerous journals, articles and books dealing with the issues of homosexuality and the Catholic church and homophobia in religion.

Together they will be presenting a one-day seminar sponsored by The Center For Homophobia Education, on Tuesday, September 5, at the Angela Center in Santa Rosa.

"Homophobia is an unwarranted fear of homosexuality in oneself or others — usually based on ignorance, stereotyping or other psychological factors. Unfortunately, some religious teachings are often used to justify homophobic reactions. In its mildest form, homophobia can be a general uncomfotability about the topic; its most virulent forms can result in physical violence against persons and property.

Homophobia can show up in the language and tone we use in speaking about homosexuality and gay and lesbian people; in the reasoning we use to oppose gay and lesbian rights; in the myths we continue to accept and circulate about homosexual people; in some religious teachings on homosexuality and in our silence and neglect of these people in our churches and society," reads their brochure.

The seminar is designed to promote sound education and discussion of issues based on current scientific information and contemporary church teachings. It will be especially helpful to clergy, pastoral workers, educators, counselors, parents, youth ministers, peace and justice activists and people of all religious denominations who are concerned about this issue. A \$25 pre-registration fee or a \$30 at the door fee is being charged. For information regarding this day long seminar call Jim Devereux (525-8001).

Golden Gate Business Association Northbay Chapter On A Roll

The third meeting of the Golden Gate Business Association, Northbay Chapter, met again with eleven people attending, including four new potential members. Among them were three women with their own business in Sonoma County.

This meeting brought to light three separate groups to facilitate and help direct the growth of the organization. An Events and Special Functions group to plan and organize future meetings. A Membership group was formed to secure

more member. A Chapter Coordinator was also appointed, Andrew Russ, to work with and between both the San Francisco main office and the local Northbay Chapter.

Future meetings will include guest speaker or deal with special issues that effect business and their owners. Coming events will continue to be informative as well as fun! "Membership Showcases" are planned with special meetings and events located at members places of business. Plans were

also discussed to have a "Third Thursday Dining Out" located at restaurants around the County, hopefully Gay owned.

The next meeting will be at the Community Office of Coddington Shopping Center, Santa Rosa, at 7:30pm. Wine, cheese, fun and education will be shared by all. For information call Bob (528-8533) or Andrew (546-6904).

The Forestville Real Estate Co. Broker/Realtor Larry Dickinson Multi-Million Dollar Club Member Serving the Gay and Lesbian Community Since 1978. Real Estate Broker serving Sonoma County for the past eight years Larry specializes in the sale of residential properties, single-family homes, and multi-unit buildings. He has served as Chairman, Sonoma County Real Estate County Board, President, California Real Estate Association, and as a member of the National Association of Realtors. He has been named as a "Top 100" Realtor in the past three years. Mention this ad and a \$500 donation will be made in your name to Face to Face, Sonoma County AIDS Network at the close of escrow of your home, (limited time offer - some restrictions apply). 6665 Front St., Forestville, CA 95436 • 707/887-1456 Car phone • 707/483-0137 Residence • 707/887-9465

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Stage Door

By Michael Tabib

"ROAD" by Jim Cartwright
Darkness. Lights come up on a derelict street corner in a small town in Lancashire. Town drunk speaks at us. Foul language littered with guffaws, laughs. Lurid references to sexual and thieving exploits. He leads us through scene after scene of life "inconspicuous to have reached the papers; more vivid than memory."

ROAD, an episodic play was commissioned by the Royal Court Theatre in England and has played to sold out houses in Chicago and London where it won the George Devine Award.

Although the play observes the private sexual and social lives of the British public (possibly based on archives written in 1937 by volunteer academics), the universal characters mirror the realities of our own every day lives today. From the skinhead to the town whore: the rebellious daughter to the frustrated old widower; the clumsy older woman seducing the young drunken soldier to the poignant sweet song of the lady of the night; the desperate unemployed young man to the "secret" soul songs of two youths. They are all searching to re-capture something of their lives. And they fail. But despite of "can we not have before again?" lingering like poison gas, their indomitable spirit soars over the hovel of their lives.

The vivid language reminds one of a cross between Dylan Thomas and Kerouac. "Why is life so tough? It's like walking through meat with high heels." shades of Ancient Greek drama also appear when one young woman pleads, "If I keep shouting, maybe, somehow... I might escape." Lyrical and real. Sheer poetry.

This production, directed by John & Elizabeth Craven, ended the fifth season for Western Union Theatre Company at the Cinnabar Theatre in Petaluma on July 8. Playing a short eleven performance run, it was exemplary in its faithfulness to the author from the use of "promenade" seating (where the audience traveled with the action) to the partial spotlighting of playing areas (by Robert Moore). Scenic design by Ms. Craven was simple and useable, while intermission music ar-

ranged by Christian Souza was appropriately squalid. Those who were fortunate to witness this company at work were treated to one of the more sensitive productions in recent months.

Assisted by a three-piece ensemble of musicians, both directors and eight actors (playing multiple roles) stood up to the material and did it more than justice. Except for one major slightly over-written scene on a bed, the ensemble demands were beautifully complimented by the performers' deft physical agility. Roles played by Tahmus Rounds, though strong, lacked adequate delineation.

The Lancashire accent was localized and enunciated to keep pace with the flavor of the lines, thanks to the constant demanding watch of Mr. Craven and the use of dialect tapes.

"The world is a running toilet... constipated with bitterness

"was typical of provocative lines that peppered the play throughout. What can sound capricious or self-indulgent from the mouths of other actors, here rang of nothing but the truth.

In one final scene, a young woman, on a drunken binge with three companions complains, "nothing worse than an empty cry. It's like choking." The use of simple words to make a profound statement delivered with conviction by a young actress was thrilling to witness.

Keep an eye on WUTC. It deserves your full support. Their 88-89 season ought to be just as challenging in content. Scheduled are: "Hunting Cockroaches" by Janusz Glowacki (Oct. 13 - Nov. 4); "The Real Thing" by Tom Stoppard (Mar.

FOURTH ANNUAL WOMEN'S COMEDY NIGHT



Women's Comedy Night on July 11 at the Daily Planet showcased 5 women comedians and had a Lucille Ball lookalike contest. Karen Ripley (L) demonstrated the use of a safe sex dental dam. MLavelle (above), a hair stylist in Santa Rosa, walked away with the Lucy award. Gayle Remick, local comedian extraordinaire, was also on hand. (Look for an interview with Gayle in September's issue.)
JANET ZAGORIA/PHOTOGENICS

9 - Mar. 31); and "Red Noses" by Paul Barnes (Jun. 15 - Jul 7).

I will keep you abreast of ticket information and play content in future columns.

Due to deadline complications it is difficult to publish a review before the closing of most productions in Sonoma County. Therefore, the intent of this column is to share with our readers one person's viewpoint and keep you abreast of upcoming productions when possible. All suggestions and related announcements will be considered. Please address the to: Michael Tabib, PO Box 648, Windsor, CA. 95492

GALA III

Continued from page 3

with every one of them?"

The Independence Day celebration was particularly special for about 100 of us jammed into the tenth floor lounge of Terry Hall Dormitory. We stood shoulder-to-shoulder on anything that would support us, watching a wonderfully orchestrated fireworks display over Lake Union through 15-foot windows. We sang, of course, all in our holiday finery. Who would have dreamed that exploding fireworks make a perfect backdrop for Over the Rainbow? And who could have guessed that so many men decked out in black leather and chains have such beautiful tenor voices?

I am changed. Inspired. Comforted. Filled with music. What a joy was GALA III! Anyone who wasn't there missed a splendid opportunity, but never fear—GALA IV is coming to Denver in 1992. All you have to do to be there is become part of one of the 75 member chorus of GALA (there are 15 in California, five of them in the Bay Area). If you like to sing (or even if you just like singers), don't be shy—there might be a place for you.

Come out singing!, invites Holly Near's piece, commissioned for GALA III. I'm very glad I did. We all were glad we did.

Mike Koonce sings with the Golden Gate Men's Chorus of San Francisco (formerly the Dick Kramer Gay Men's Chorale), and lives in Santa Rosa.

Living Sober Hits New Record 5,264

One of the most unique institutions of the Bay Area lesbian/gay community is the Living Sober conference, which was held over the Independence day weekend. This round-up of gays/lesbians in Alcoholics Anonymous and Al-Anon Family Groups was attended by a record 5,264 persons at the Civic Center Auditorium in SF. The conference has met annually since 1976 and has grown steadily, reflecting the massive influx of gays/lesbians in AA & Al-Anon, aka "The Program". An estimated 100 Sonoma County residents joined the gathering of recovering alcoholics and co-alcoholics, which drew attendees from all across the U.S. and Canada. Similar gay and lesbian round-ups occur throughout the county, but Living Sober is by far the largest of them.

One of the most unusual additions to this year's conference was the "Artists in Recover" exhibit. Around 50 pieces were displayed in a masterfully arranged gallery. They ranged from a classically-inspired bust, "Study of Young

Man" by a Sonoma County sculptor, to an avant-garde exposition of the new art of Soma, the hip South of Market art ghetto. There were performance pieces and a live demonstration of demographics, or tattoo art. All items and performances were done by recovering alcoholics and co's, and none were offered for sale in keeping with the tradition of not endorsing or promoting any individual. This show is destined to become important, since it is one of the few collections of gay art aimed at a non-art crowd. Despite the vast array of media and style of work shown, it was a blend that worked to stimulate and expand one's perspective.

Most of the conference was devoted to a spectrum of workshops and meetings. During each of the four days, dozens of subjects could be picked from, all relating to the recovery process of the twelve-step program that AA and Al-Anon have forged. Homophobia was explored in several aspects: internalized, institutional and cultural as it related to recovery. Financial recover, the spiritual growth required to maintain sobriety, and freedom co-dependency, (the unhealthy dependence upon other people, frequently addicts or alcoholics, for self esteem), are just a sampling of the offerings.

The Living Sober Conference comes just before the national distribution of a long-awaited and long-struggled for AA pamphlet directed toward welcoming gays and lesbians. It is estimated that one third of homosexuals are likely to develop alcoholism, three times the usual rate. Acceptance nationally has come slowly and unevenly but it is growing. The tame but controversial pamphlet had been blocked by conservative elements. AA and Al-

Anon, two entirely separate organizations, both have large and active gay and lesbian memberships in Sonoma County, with special meetings for gay people.

The Living Sober Conference will not be held at its usual time of year in 1990. Living Sober will be held over the Labor Day weekend instead of Independence Day. This is to accommodate the AA World Conference to be held in Seattle, which is expected to draw over 50,000 participants. In Celebration of Life, a local conference of Sonoma County gay/lesbian members of all "Twelve Step" groups will be held at Sonoma State University over the Columbus Day weekend. That gathering draws 305 yearly.

Closet

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

my life partner. We are still together. Together we learned that we both had to be honest about our needs and feelings while being sensitive and considerate about each others'.

Since then we have bought a home and moved to Santa Rosa. I have developed close platonic friendships with several men in similar situations. For a long time I was unfulfilled in my bisexuality. My relationships with men were full of false starts and dissatisfaction. I have put my

energy into building a home, my work, my spiritual and emotional growth and my relationship with my wife. In recent months things have changed. We soon will have a child and are becoming a family. I have met a man with whom I am comfortable and very happy. He and my wife like one another and that is a joy to me. He is supportive of my choices in life and is dealing with some of the same issues as myself. I am very happy and grow more confident and self-assured with each passing day.

Why have I written all this? Because I know that the issues I have had to deal with in my life are ones shared by many others. I think that bisexuals are the most closeted group there is. I also believe that if we were to stand up and be counted, we would astound the world with our numbers. I do not say that my choices are right for anyone but myself. I did however want to show those out there struggling with the issue of bisexuality that it is possible to come to peace with the issue. It is possible to have a life-long relationship and to have all your needs met. It is possible to achieve a sense of family and it is possible to be happy. My second reason is to speak out and be visible. I am proud of my gay brothers and lesbian sisters. They have made great strides for personal freedom and I admire their efforts. They stand up for what they want and they are getting it. Isn't it time that we bisexuals also develop a group consciousness and presence? I believe that it is. I propose to start a non-profit support group for bisexual men and women living in and around Sonoma County. Those who are interested can receive more information by writing to me in care of We The People.

Cruising The River

By Patrick Tifer

GOOD NEWS... for everyone who lives on the River and has had to go to Santa Rosa and beyond just to get a simple workout. The Body Works is now open on Main street across from the Bank of America. The new physical workout club features universal and free weight equipment along with personalized instructions. The Body Works is being managed by its new owners and proprietors Andre Miller, Wendell Wilson, Tom Stanley and Charles Grantham.

DATECHANGE... Food for Thought reminds us that the planned fundraiser at the Hacienda originally scheduled for July 15 has been reset for August 12. For a \$7 donation you can treat yourself to a bar-b-que and live entertainment featuring Torch, Gayle Smith and Johnnie Holiday. Don't miss it!

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LEATHER WEEKEND

at the Russian River

In the Old West, "Slap leather, Sucker!" usually was an invitation to a gun fight. But in Guerneville on July 21, 22 & 23, it was more of an invitation to spend the night. The weekend, hosted by The Woods Resort, included a leather mania party, a leather arts and crafts fair, an erotic fantasy masquerade (near right and far right) and an erotic leather fashion show. Approximately 20 motorcycle riders showed up for the non-alcoholic motorcycle run through the wine country (center).

PHOTOS BY PATRICK SATTERTHWAITE



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PHOTO BY IRENE YOUNG

Karen Thompson, co-author with Julie Andrzejewski of WHY CAN'T SHARON KOWALSKI COME HOME? will appear at ClaireLight Women's Books on Saturday August 5 at 5 p.m. Karen, the shy college professor who became a human rights activist and legal expert in two short years, will discuss the most recent turn of events in her fight to bring Sharon Kowalski home. This is a brave story and the victory for Karen and Sharon now seems to be only months away.

Sonoma Swimmers Sprint to Gay Games III

By Sandy Lowe

Want to swim at the Gay Games in Canada next year? There's an easy way to get involved and this is the time to start thinking about it. "Celebration '90", the third international gay and lesbian athletic and cultural festival, is gearing up for its first gathering outside the United States. Gay Games III will convene in Vancouver, British Columbia for eight days, August 4-11, 1990.

Sonoma County already has a volleyball team with its eyes set on Vancouver and there has been talk of a Team Sonoma to include women's soft ball and physique competitions. At the moment each team seems to be working on its own. Now it's time for the swimmers.

With enough participants, Sonoma County could send its own swim team to the games. Large teams are fun because they can allow for different age and gender categories of

competition and lots of variable relay races. If there are only a few ready to go from Sonoma County, there is also a welcome opportunity to join with others in a greater Bay Area team.

The Berkeley swim team which competed in the Gay Games of 1982 and 1986 is willing to expand its experience and identity to include greater Bay area participation. It is also willing to share its dynamite, gold medal coach, Melon Dash.

The Vancouver Games will require swim competition in a 50 meter (olympic) pool. The standard and generally available American pools are 25 yards, about half the size of the olympic course. The team has researched the location of the few 50 meter pools in the bay area, one of which is in Petaluma. The current plan involves people doing their own work-outs on their own, but coming together for occasional coaching instruction and team work-outs in a 50 meter pool.

Gay Games III is open to all genders and sexual orientations and, unlike the homophobic Olympic Games, it welcomes the participation of openly gay people. The Gay Games are structured for competition according to age, gender and skill level and are geared to include everyone and anyone who is willing to try. Prior competitive experience is not required.

What is required is sustained effort and some financial planning. The games in Vancouver will obviously require an expenditure of time and money not only for team uniforms, but for travel and lodging. The Vancouver sponsors have a list of hotels, guest houses, college dormitories and billing arrangements to meet everyone's budget. Still some early planning with others of like mind and interest is important.

The Games planners estimate that more than 5500 athletes will participate from many different countries. Upwards of 20,000 spectators are expected from California, the North West and Canada.

People interested in swimming at Gay Games III call Sandy Lowe at 527-9052.

Coming Out?

A new weekly group is starting August 2, a Wednesday from 7:30 to 9:30 PM, at 3632 Airway Dr. This will be an ongoing drop-in group dealing with issues surrounding coming out, and will be facilitated by Jerry Noakes. Jerry has been wanting to get such a group started but has been having difficulty finding a public place to hold it. John Torres the minister of the MCC (Metropolitan Community Church) was interested in getting this type of a support group going in Santa Rosa also. So the MCC is sponsoring the group even though Jerry and the group are not affiliated with them. "Another way that our community and church can serve our needs," says John. "Since coming out is one of the most difficult and continuing processes we do," says Jerry, "I believe that a support group is very necessary".

The group will be open to men and women and will not be limited to just dealing with coming out to parents. It should be a support system for dealing with all aspects of coming out such as to friends, children, wives or husbands,

employers and ourselves. If you would like more information contact Jerry at 526-7464. If you have a coming out story that you feel would be of interest and support for others please drop in and share. Jerry emphasizes, that is what it is all about.

Demo Club Plans Dinner, Harry Britt to Speak

Volunteers and donated services are needed to help for the Second Annual Sonoma County Lesbian and Gay Democratic Dinner, which will be held on October 10, at the Sebastopol Veterans' Building. The dinner highlights the emerging political growth of our community and is expected to draw 300 persons. It is organized by veteran activists/events planners Kerry Blume and Georgia Prescott, who are now beginning to make the dinner even more of a success this year. Last year, the dinner attracted political officials and candidates seeking our community support in a way never seen before. The guest list read like a who's who of our community, and was a true expression of our community pride. Supervisor Harry Britt of SF, our state's highest openly Gay elected official, will be addressing the audience a mere three weeks before the voting booth show-down on his progressive domestic partnership law. The Pride awards will also be presented. Donations, particularly of professional goods and services are particularly requested at that time. Restaurant quality white table cloths, flowers, sign makers, a case of white wine, soft drinks, sheet cake are among the items needed. Volunteer waiter/waitresses, cleaners, and prep cooks are also needed. If you can help, contact Kerry at 527-0485.

Pride Awards

The Sonoma County Lesbian/Gay Democratic Club is accepting nominations for the "PRIDE Awards" to be presented at their annual dinner on October 10th at the Sebastopol Vets Building. Harry Britt will be the featured speaker.

Kerry Blume, Co-Chair of the Club says they are looking for a lesbian, a gay man and a friend of the community "whose courage in living prideful lives serve as a role model for us all, as well as those who have made contributions to improving the quality of life for lesbians and gay men in Sonoma County. We are especially looking for the unsung heroes" she said.

Applications for nominations can be obtained by calling 527-0485

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Classifieds

Gay Mecca? Not yet, but still trying. Apt. Bldg. in Santa Rosa, 1BD \$425, 2BD \$525, 3BD \$600. Gays appreciated and welcomed. Call Sport 578-4552 for details.

Happy Anniversary Toots! You're the one I choose to walk always by my side. You give me light and love and inspiration, you give me sustenance, spirit and frivolity. You have my deepest respect and love. Schweetie.

Two "older" professional men (R.N. & Teacher) would like to rent/lease a year-around home in the Russian River area (Forestville, Rio Nido, Guerneville or Monte Rio). We are permanently relocating to the River area and will consider negotiating a lease/option. We have two very well behaved, clean, indoor-only cats that will be moving also. SPECIFICATION: 1 or 2 bedroom home with fireplace and deck (and hopefully a garden

Garage Sale: This charming, lovable, cute lady is selling her worldly possessions. Furniture, plants, dishes, roommates?? Everything-Come see-all must go-Aug. 4th & 5th- Early 7:30 AM till 7 8276 Lancaster Dr. #4, Colati, CA.

Non-smoking, employed lesbian seeks same to share 2 bedroom R.P. townhouse w/ pool, \$275/mo. Eris 795-2157

Queer Happenings Dept...
Actress Whoopi Goldberg recently said: "Last year after I went on the March on Washington, people said to me, 'What are you doing?' They're gonna think you're gay." People think that already because I hang out with a lot of women. There hasn't been a studio head I've worked for who hasn't asked me if I'm a lesbian. I say, "Normally this would be none of your business. However, I will answer you." And I say, "It's possible, I'm not practicing at the moment, but I will not say it will never happen or hasn't happened in my past." (Lesbian Connection The Advocate)

Yale academic John Boswell has uncovered ancient Christian marriage rites for same sex unions. He says the Greek language ritual is still in use in Eastern Europe Orthodox churches. Other copies of the ritual, some dating back to the fourth century, have turned up in the Vatican. (Lesbian Connection Outlines)

National Museum of Lesbian and Gay History - The Lesbian and Gay Community Services Center, located at 208 West 14th St. in Manhattan, announces the founding of the first museum in the US devoted to lesbian and gay history. The Center is acquiring a substantial portion of the contents of the International Gay History Archive. It includes periodicals, books and memorabilia. (Press Release)

INTIMACY, RELATIONSHIP AND FAMILY - A GROUP FOR GAY AND BISEXUAL MEN AND MALE COUPLES. This group is now forming and will begin meeting in September 1989. Facilitated by Bob Casanta, MA, MFCC (Reg. # 1H13379). \$15 per meeting. For information call 877-1037.

HOLY UNIONS done your way. Lesbian/Gay Partnership Promises/Vows. 526-4673, Reverend John I. Torres

Rural house to share w/ man. Private, 2 acres, large garden fruit trees. \$150 plus 1/3 utilities, CLOVERDALE. 894-4623. Steve.

Share Mobile Home - garden, pool with male over 55. No deposit. Rent \$200 month, less for help with house and garden chores. Ed 838-2357



Ronnie Gilbert in concert:
Saturday, August 19, 8 p.m., at Ukiah High School Cafeteria, 1000 Low Gap Road, Ukiah. The evening will also feature a Traditional Presentation: Songs of Beauty by Lois Forrest and Donna Brown, Pomo women of Mendocino County. This event is being sponsored and produced by Rural Women's Resources, the Wave Making Women's Network of Mendocino County. (Tickets available at ClaireLight Bookstore, S.R.)

The Wishing Well

To place a personal in the Wishing Well, print your ad clearly, count the words and multiply by 10 cents. To use the Wishing Well AD number add an additional \$8.00. Mail to Wishing Well, PO Box 2204, Santa Rosa, CA 95405. Your replies will be forwarded to you weekly for two months. To answer a Wishing Well Ad that used the AD number, Mail your reply to Wishing Well, AD number, PO Box 2204, Santa Rosa, CA 95405

Housemate Wanted, Gay male looking for male or female to share Victorian near J.C. Available Sept. 1, rent \$400 + 1/2 util. Contact after Aug. 19. (527-8779).

Femme lesbian, looking for honest caring lesbian, to hang out with and possible mtgoga-

Share Mobile Home - garden, pool with male over 55. No deposit. Rent \$200 month, less for help with house and garden chores. Ed 838-2357

Food For Thought, the private, non-profit food program for PWAs and PWARCs in Sonoma County has new hours and a new phone. We are located at 6544 Front St. (near, lower floor) in Forestville. 887-1647. Our new hours are: Tues. 9 am-2 pm; Thur. 4 pm-7 pm; Sat. 10 am-4pm. Donations of non-perishable food items are needed and gratefully accepted.

Gay and lesbian computer users can get up-to-the-minute information from the nation's capital by signing on to the Human Rights Campaign Fund (HRCF) computerized bulletin board. HRCF NET features a variety of information on federal legislation, voting records, constituent mobilization and other news. The access number is (202) 639-8735. (Modems must be at a minimum of 300 baud rate.) Use of the bulletin board is free, except for phone line charges. For information write HRCF, 1012 14th St. NW, Suite 607, Washington DC 20005.

Survivors of lesbian battering sought to answer an anonymous survey about how they have survived and what they have learned from the experience. For more information and a copy of the survey write: Karen Asharah, 309 Jessie St. Santa Cruz, CA 95060. (408) 429-6060.

Adult women survivors of brother-sister or father-daughter sexual abuse needed for confidential research questionnaire. Autumn Cole, Rt 2, New London, MN 56273. (612) 235-4613.

Call for contributions for an anthology by fathers of gays and lesbians. Send narratives, letters, fiction, poems etc. to Ann Davidson, P.O. Box 8265, Stanford, CA 94305.

A literary journal of the highest quality will make its debut this winter. Triba, to be issued quarterly and distributed nationally, will feature fiction, poetry and essays by, for, and about gay men. Manuscripts are now being solicited. Short, medium-size, and long pieces are welcome. Manuscripts may be submitted to: Triba, c/o Columbia Publishing Company, Inc., 234 East 25th St., Baltimore, MD 21218. (301) 366-7070. Please include SASE.

Erotic lesbian poetry - for upcoming anthology. No s/m; 5 poems max, typed and double-spaced, SASE. No previously published work; payment in contributor's copies. Deadline 9/30/89. Send to: Sidewalk Revolution Press, PO Box 9062, Pittsburg, PA 15224.

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Mon, Aug 21	6:30-10pm	Public Health Rotunda 3313 Chanate Rd, SROsa

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Calendar

AUGUST/SEPTEMBER

TUESDAY AUGUST 1

Exploring Metaphysics, 7:00-9:00 pm. Sponsored by the Social Life Club. For information call Jerry at 526-7464.

Veterans C.A.R.E., gay and lesbian veterans and their friends, meets 1st Tuesday of the month. Dinner, 6:30 pm, Petaluma Veterans Building. For information call 829-5393.

WEDNESDAY AUGUST 2

Computer Group 7:00 pm. Sponsored by the Social Life Club. For information call Jerry at 526-7464.

Sonoma County Lesbian/Gay Democratic Club, meets 1st Wednesday of the month. 7:30 pm. For information call 527-0485.

FRIDAY AUGUST 4

Goddess Celebration Aug. 4-6, Mt. Shasta. (See Other Programs)

Second West Coast Conference and Celebration of Old Lesbians Aug. 4-6, San Francisco State University. (See Other Programs)

SATURDAY AUGUST 5

Dignity, gay Catholic organization, meets once a month. 8:30 pm. Mass at 7:00, followed by potluck dinner. For information call Curt at 538-3370, or Mert at 579-5308.

Karen Thompson discusses the most recent turn of events in her fight to bring Sharon Kowalski home. 5:00 pm, ClaireLight. Donations requested. 575-8879.

Rafting on the Russian River, above Cloverdale. Sponsored by the Social Life Club. For information call Jerry at 526-7464.

SUNDAY AUGUST 6

Bike Ride, easy to moderate, 15-20 miles. Sponsored by the Social Life Club. For information call Jerry at 526-7464.

Brunch at the Russian River Resort in Guerneville, 11:30 a.m. Sponsored by the Social Life Club. For information call Jerry at 526-7464.

Goddess Interfaith Circle for Womyn meets 1st Sunday of the month. 7:30 pm in Guerneville area. Sponsored by Yolode-Mother River Spirit. For information call 869-3445.

TUESDAY AUGUST 8

Buddy Connection/Safer Sex Workshop. 6:30-10:00 pm, Face to Face, 16632 River Road, Guerneville. For information call 579-AIDS.

Healing Alternatives Group, for people with AIDS/ARC or HIV positive, meets 2nd Tuesday of the month. 7:00-9:00 pm, Face to Face, Guerneville. 865-2411.

Movie Night & Discussion, "Scenes from the class struggle in Beverly Hills". Sponsored by the Social Life Club. For information call Jerry at 526-7464.

WEDNESDAY AUGUST 9

BANGLE, Bay Area Network of Gay and Lesbian Educators, meets 2nd Wednesday of the month. 7:30 pm, Santa Rosa Junior College, Faculty Senate Room. For information call Jaye Miller at 433-9158.

Energy, Intuition and Personal Symbols, an evening with Helen Lardner who works with energy, massage and crystals in healing. This is an opportunity to bring favorite objects or personal memorabilia to give answers and guidance to everyday challenges. 7:00 pm, ClaireLight. No fee. 575-8879.

THURSDAY AUGUST 10

Current Events Discussion 7:00 pm. Sponsored by the Social Life Club. For information call Jerry at 526-7464.

FRIDAY AUGUST 11

Games Night 7:30 pm. Sponsored by the Social Life Club.

Club. For information call Jerry at 526-7464.

Gay Fathers Group meets 2nd Friday of the month for potluck in members' homes. For information call 823-6190.

SATURDAY AUGUST 12

Hot Times at the Hacienda, a benefit for Food For Thought, the food program for PWAs and PWARCs in Sonoma County. An afternoon of music by the pool with Stuart Nelson, Gayle Smith, Johnny Holiday & the Inns and Torch. 1:00 pm-7:00 pm, Hacienda Del Sol, 17525 Sweetwater Springs Rd., Guerneville. \$7 includes barbecue and pool use. No-host full bar and soft drinks. Over 21 only please. Bring a towel and suit. For ticket info call 887-1647.

In Celebration of Life, auction and picnic. A fundraiser for the ICL conference. 11:00 am-5:00 pm, Upper Jack Rabbit Picnic Area, Spring Lake Park, Santa Rosa. For information call 829-5396.

Run, Jog or Walk around Spring Lake. 10:00 am. Sponsored by the Social Life Club. For information call Jerry at 526-7464.

VCR Night. 8:00 pm, Santa Rosa. Sponsored by the Social Life Club. For information call Jerry at 526-7464.

SUNDAY AUGUST 13

Picnic, Games and Hike. 11:00 am-6:00 pm, Armstrong Woods Park. Sponsored by the Social Life Club. For information call Jerry at 526-7464.

Womyn's Spirituality Goddess Circle meets 2nd Sunday of the month. 7:30 pm in Russian River area. Emphasis on Womyn/Goddess in the Hebrew/Christian traditions. Sponsored by the Russian River MCC Womyn's Spirituality Group. For information call 869-3445.

MONDAY AUGUST 14

Peggy Parish, local therapist, will speak on the topic "Breaking up is hard to do". 7:00 pm, ClaireLight. Admission \$3-6 sliding scale. 575-8879.

FRIDAY AUGUST 18

Actor's Theatre of Sonoma County will be holding auditions for their 88-89 season, Aug. 18-19. Call 523-4185 for an appointment.

"Deep Dish" - Gay Men's Potluck meets 3rd Friday of the month at 7:00 pm. For information call 544-4109.

SATURDAY AUGUST 19

Actor's Theatre of Sonoma County will be holding auditions for their 88-89 season, Aug. 18-19. Call 523-4185 for an appointment.

Robbi Sommers, local author, will read selections from her book Pleasures, a collection of erotica just released by Naiad Press. Tickets to a publication party later in the evening will be available at the reading. 5:00 pm, ClaireLight. No fee. 575-8879.

Ronnie Gilbert in concert, also featuring a traditional presentation by Pomo women of Mendocino County. Sponsored by Rural Women's Resources. 8:00 pm, Ukiah High School Cafeteria, 1000 Low Gap Rd., Ukiah. Advance tickets \$10 (\$13.50 after 8/15). Tickets available at ClaireLight, or by mail: send checks payable to RWR, 759 S. State St. #133, Ukiah 95482. For info call RWR at (707) 468-1158.

Russian River MCC - yard sale and bake sale. (See Announcements) 8:00 am-8:00 pm, Russian River Community Service Center, 15999 River Rd., Guerneville. For info contact Eve at 869-1254, or Yolanda at 869-3445.

SUNDAY AUGUST 20

LGRN Men's Potluck meets 3rd Sunday of the month at 6:30 pm. For information call Mert at 579-5308.

Rafting on the Russian River, above Cloverdale. Sponsored by the Social Life Club. For information call Jerry at 526-7464.

MONDAY AUGUST 21

Buddy Connection/Safer Sex Workshop. 6:30-10:00 pm, Public Health Rotunda, 3313 Chanate Rd., Santa Rosa. For more information call 579-AIDS.

TUESDAY AUGUST 22

Vegetarian Discussion 7:30 pm. Sponsored by the Social Life Club. For information call Jerry at 526-7464.

SATURDAY AUGUST 26

Card Party 7:00 pm. Sponsored by the Social Life Club. For information call Jerry at 526-7464.

Horseback Riding. Sponsored by the Social Life Club. For information call Jerry at 526-7464.

Monica Grant, Bay Area singer/songwriter/comic, celebrating the release of her first tape, "Harbor Girl". 7:30 pm, ClaireLight. \$5-7 sliding scale. 575-8879.

Run, Jog or Walk around Spring Lake. 10:00 am. Sponsored by the Social Life Club. For information call Jerry at 526-7464.

SUNDAY AUGUST 27

Hike, Picnic, Swim, Lake Sonoma. Sponsored by the Social Life Club. For information call Jerry at 526-7464.

MONDAY AUGUST 28

PFLAG, Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays, meets 4th Monday of the month. 7:30 pm, Faith Lutheran Church, 4930 Newanga, Santa Rosa (1 blk above Hoen Ave., off Summerfield Rd.) For more information call Beverlee Laird at 433-5333.

THURSDAY AUGUST 31

West Coast Women's Music and Comedy Festival. Aug. 31-Sept. 4, Yosemite. (See Other Programs)

SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 3

Goddess Interfaith Circle for Womyn meets 1st Sunday of the month. 7:30 pm in Guerneville area. Sponsored by Yolode-Mother River Spirit. For information call 869-3445.

TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 5

Veterans C.A.R.E., gay and lesbian veterans and their friends, meets 1st Tuesday of the month. Dinner, 6:30 pm, Petaluma Veterans Building. For information call 829-5393.

WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 6

Sonoma County Lesbian/Gay Democratic Club, meets 1st Wednesday of the month. 7:30 pm. For information call 527-0485.

FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 8

Gay Fathers Group meets 2nd Friday of the month for potluck in members' homes. For information call 823-6190.

SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 9

Dignity, gay Catholic organization, meets once a month. 8:30 pm. Mass at 7:00, followed by potluck dinner. For information call Art at 546-8216, or Mert at 579-5308.

WEEKLY MEETINGS

AA Gay Freedom Group Thursday, 8:00 pm, Methodist Church, 17790 Greger Ave., Boyes Springs.

AA Gay Men's Group Sunday, 8:00 pm, Unitarian Church, Stony Pt. and Todd Rds., Santa Rosa.

AA Gay Newcomer's Group Friday, 6:30 pm, Benton St. Clubhouse, 1055 Benton St., Santa Rosa.

AA Gay People's Meeting Friday, 8:00 pm, Benton St. Clubhouse, 1055 Benton St., Santa Rosa.

AA Gay Petalumas Tuesday, 7:30 pm, First Presbyterian Church, Petaluma.

AA Gravenstein Gay Group Wednesday, 7:00 pm, Church of Christ, 420 Murphy Ave., Sebastopol.

AA Stein Group (Lesbian) Sunday, 8:00 pm, 167 High St., Sebastopol.

AIDS Healing Group. Spiritual Healing Group for those involved with and affected by the AIDS crisis, facilitated by Dan Perdios and Laurel O'Neill, meets every Monday, 7:30-9:30 pm. Call (707)865-2159 for more information and location.

AIDS/ARC Support Group, facilitated by Marjorie Thirkettle, MFCC (ML021923), meets every Thursday, 12:45-2:15 pm. No fee (donation accepted). For information call 869-3304. Sponsored by the Russian River Metropolitan Community Church.

Coming Out Group, facilitated by Jerry Noakes, meets every Wednesday, 7:30-9:30 pm. 3632 Airway Dr., Santa Rosa. For information call Jerry at 526-7464.

Gay and Lesbian Support Groups, weekly on-going sessions. Presented by Ministry of Light, 1000 Sir Francis Drake Blvd., San Anselmo, Marin County. For information call (415)457-0854.

HIV/ARC/AIDS Health Maintenance Group, a closed entry level process group focusing on how we can care for ourselves. Facilitated by Donna L. Jones, RN, FNP and Marjorie Thirkettle, MFCC. A 10-week commitment is asked of each member. Limited to 8-10 people, the group will repeat every 10 weeks. Meets every Monday night in the library conference room at Community Hospital, Santa Rosa. For information call 578-0855 or 869-3304.

HIV Positive and Spirituality Support Group, meets every 1st and 3rd Tuesday of the month. 7:30-9:00 pm, Knox Presbyterian Church, 1650 West 3rd Ave., Santa Rosa. For information call Dennis at 575-5132. Sponsored by the Santa Rosa Metropolitan Community Church.

HIV Positive Support Group, facilitated by Marjorie Thirkettle, MFCC (ML021923), meets every Thursday, 2:45-4:15 pm. No fee (donation accepted). For information call 869-3304. Sponsored by the Russian River Metropolitan Community Church.

HIV Support Group, sponsored by the Napa Valley

AIDS Project, meets every Tuesday. 7:00 pm, First Presbyterian Church, 1333 3rd St., Rm. 16, Napa. For information call 258-8421 or 252-3207.

Lesbian and Gay Overeaters Anonymous, meets every Wednesday at 8:00 pm. Christ Methodist Church, 1717 Yulupa Drive, Room 5, Santa Rosa. For information call 823-5845.

Lesbian Co-Dependents Anonymous, meets every Monday at 7:00 pm. Santa Rosa Senior Center, 704 Bennett Valley Road. For information call Faye at 829-5392.

Lesbian Support Group, facilitated by Marjorie Thirkettle, MFCC (ML021923), meets bimonthly, Fridays at 7 pm. For information call 869-3304.

Living with AIDS Support Group for PWA/PWARC, facilitated by Carol Owens, MA, meets every Monday. 7:00-9:00 pm, Face to Face office. No fee. Call 887-1581 to enroll.

Positive for Positives, support group for HIV/AIDS/ARC, meets every Wednesday at noon. For information call 865-1834 or 869-3255.

PWA/ARC Spiritual Support Groups meet weekly. Russian River Metropolitan Community Church. For information call 869-0552.

Rainbow's End, gay/lesbian/bisexual youth project sponsored by the Ministry of Light, meets the 1st, 2nd and 3rd Thursday of each month for support and discussion. Ages 15-21. Ministry of Light offices, 1000 Sir Francis Drake Blvd., San Anselmo. For information call (415)457-1115.

Santa Rosa AIDS Awareness Group. An open informational/support group committed to decreasing the isolation of people with HIV, ARC, and AIDS. Sponsored by Face to Face. Thursday nights, 7:00-9:00 pm in the library conference room at Community Hospital, Santa Rosa. Newcomers, family and friends welcome. For information call 578-0855.

Support group for lesbians living with life threatening illnesses, facilitated by Carol Owens, MA, meets every Wednesday. 6:45-8:45 pm. For information call 869-0869.

Support group for women lovers of women who were sexually abused as children, meets every Tuesday. 7:00-9:00 pm. Free. For information call 523-3953.

Weekly Groups Now Forming: Couples Group where one or both partners are HIV positive or have AIDS/ARC; and a Support Group for women who are HIV positive or have AIDS/ARC. Both groups facilitated by Marjorie Thirkettle, MFCC (ML021923). For information call 869-3304.

OTHER PROGRAMS

Goddess Celebration Aug. 4-6, Mt. Shasta. For information contact Sola, PO Box 942, Encinitas, CA 92024; (619)944-7363.

Lesbian Business Owner's Association meets once a month. For dates, times and further information call 585-7654.

MCC Santa Rosa meets Sundays at 11:00 am. at 3632 Airway Drive. All lifestyles welcome. For more information call 526-HOPE.

Napa Valley AIDS Project offers an ongoing Support Training for volunteers. For information call 255-6917.

Russian River Metropolitan Community Church is a church for all people regardless of sexual orientation. Service every Sunday at noon. Pastors: Jack Ibell, Yolanda and Claudia Vierra-Allen. 14520 Armstrong Woods Rd., Guerneville. For information call 869-0552 or 869-3445.

Second West Coast Conference and Celebration of Old Lesbians will be held at San Francisco State University Aug. 4-6, 1989. Contacts in the Bay Area for more information are: Natalie Zarchin (415)528-0018 and Sally Binford (415)989-5372. Registration materials will be available on request from West Coast Conference and Celebration, P.O. Box 31787, San Francisco, CA 94131.

West Coast Women's Music and Comedy Festival. Aug. 31-Sept. 4, Yosemite. \$100-165 per woman includes food, accommodations, entertainment. For information send SASE to WCW/MCF, 15842 Chase St., Sepulveda, CA 91343; or call (818)893-4075.

Women in Touch, a lesbian social group, meets every second Sunday for brunch. For information call 539-7885.

Items for the Calendar of Events should be submitted in writing by the 15th of the month. Late items will be included as space permits. Please note that because of our press time, events scheduled before the fourth of the month should be submitted two months in advance. We the People, P.O. Box 457, Graton, CA 95444.

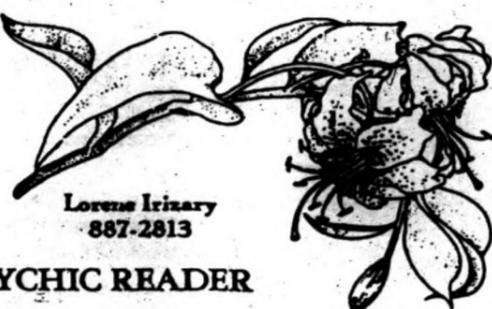


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