"Back-to-School" Issues
Gay & the Schools

by Tom Ammiano

"kill the fagas before they fucik you!" This particular graffiti—written in the boys bathroom of Everett school—comes to mind when I ask myself: "What interest would a gay man or lesbian have in the public schools?"

I've been teaching in San Francisco for over a decade, and have observed that the gay culture is significantly present in the school community: among students, parents of students, teachers, administrators, and other personnel. But regardless of the category, gay people are not given a fair shake. Stereotyped attitudes and discriminatory practices in the public schools—whether intentionally or unintentionally promoted—sustain dispelling myths about gay people. The intentional prejudice that leads to violence and harassment of gay people. Through compiling and confronting techniques, we succeeded in obtaining passage of a resolution addressing "gay concerns" in public schools.

This resolution called for removal of negative references to homosexuality in the schools, workshops for teachers, administrators, and parents about homosexuality, and the formation of an Advisory Committee on Family Life for sex education. When this resolution was passed in 1977, local headlines screamed: "Fag" and sissy are familiar put-downs of gay people. Stereotyped attitudes and discriminatory practices in the public schools would present a great obstacle to the school officials who are anti-gay.

Gay teachers. The Gay Teachers Coalition challenged some of the school's most prominent anti-gay practices in 1975. We wanted gay teachers and other school workers to have access to the school's facilities, to have the right to educate our students. The compromise that leads to violence and harassment of gay people. Through compiling and confronting techniques, we succeeded in obtaining passage of a resolution addressing "gay concerns" in public schools.

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Gay men & women running with the Front Runners, 10am. Fort Mason/Marina Run (3 miles). Details: 829-9087.

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**Wednesday, August 23rd**

**Event:**
- **3:00 pm** at Berkeley Pit, 6th Floor, 1830 Shattuck Ave, Berkeley, CA 94704
  - **Event:** Annual Bay Area AIDS Walk: 13th Annual Bay to Breakers, Free Entry: 398-0800.
  - **Event:** 2nd Annual Bay to Breakers, Free Entry: 398-0800.

**Notes:**
- **List:** For more details, please check the official websites.
- **Directions:** Use public transportation or carpooling to reduce traffic congestion.
- **Parking:** Limited parking is available on-site. Parking in nearby lots may be more convenient.

**Thursday, August 24th**

**Event:**
- **5:00 pm** at San Francisco, CA 94117
  - **Event:** The Joshua Norton County Fair Council of San Francisco: San Francisco's Fair, Free Entry: 869-9000.

**Notes:**
- **List:** For more details, please check the official websites.
- **Directions:** Use public transportation or carpooling to reduce traffic congestion.
- **Parking:** Limited parking is available on-site. Parking in nearby lots may be more convenient.

**Friday, August 25th**

**Event:**
- **5:00 pm** at San Francisco, CA 94117
  - **Event:** The Joshua Norton County Fair Council of San Francisco: San Francisco's Fair, Free Entry: 869-9000.

**Notes:**
- **List:** For more details, please check the official websites.
- **Directions:** Use public transportation or carpooling to reduce traffic congestion.
- **Parking:** Limited parking is available on-site. Parking in nearby lots may be more convenient.

**Saturday, August 26th**

**Event:**
- **5:00 pm** at San Francisco, CA 94117
  - **Event:** The Joshua Norton County Fair Council of San Francisco: San Francisco's Fair, Free Entry: 869-9000.

**Notes:**
- **List:** For more details, please check the official websites.
- **Directions:** Use public transportation or carpooling to reduce traffic congestion.
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Rhino Stages Wilson Comedy

“A crazy, free-form, free-wheeling, ir­
revocable, never-oblivionization of gay
male time, love, life and theatre.”

This Tom Wilson describes his new
comedy Forever After, which sees its West
Coast premiere this month as the opening
production of Theatre Rhino’s new fall
season.

Forever After was first performed at
the Gay American Arts Festival in New
York this June, earning a favorable and
critical popular response.

The Rhino Productions feature Mar­
tin Kroh and Bache Cooper as Thea and
Melomina, voices of comedy and tragedy;
and Curt Colier and Alan Herman as the
young actioners descended upon by 
these voices. The play focuses on the
timeless need for self-portrayal among
audiences through Theatre Rhino’s pre­
viously well-received Street Gang and
A Perfect Relationship.

Forever After will be performed September 11 in San
Francisco. Tickets are $4.50 Thursdays and
Saturdays, and $5.50 Fridays and Sundays.
Curtain is 8:30pm for all performances, at
the Goodman Building, 1150 Sutter.

Call 775-1489 for reservations and further info.

Mile-a-thon
‘Women on the Move’

Once more time to sign up for the Women
on the Move Mile-a-thon, when hundreds of
men, women and children travel by foot,
wheelchair, bike & roller skates on a 15-mlle
route thru Golden Gate Park.

To participate in this event — In person, or
via phone or mail — call 778-1848 for reserva­
tions and further info.

To raise funds for the Women’s
Building at 883-5255, or drop by for sponsor
info.

This year’s Mile-a-thon — the third annual—
has netted some $50,000 for important projects
and services. To participate in this event — in person, or
with your paycheck — call the Women’s
Building and various nonprofit groups.

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Gays & Education...

(continued from front page)

Sexism? Are there books about sex­
asality in the school library? Are gay speakers welcomed? Are school counselors well-in­
formed and sympathetic? (Gay students rarely have counselors that they confide
in, except for their school counselors regarding their needs.)

GAY STUDENTS

In San Francisco, we’re blessed with a
small but aggressive group of “out” gay
students who are self-affirmed and power­
ful. They are fighting for the kind of support
and recognition they need to function at
their best.

Tom Ammen, candidate for San Francisco
School Board, sits on the Advisory Council
in the School District’s Advisory Committee to
Family Life Education. He has a Master’s In
Education from San Francisco State, and
has been involved with the city’s Gay and
Lesbian Community Services through the
Gay Community Services Center in San
Francisco.

If we want to list events in the calendar should mall
notices to us, so that they reach us
in advance, then we can.

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Terry Garthwaite
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Silvia Kohan, Elpine Miller, Sandra Wilson

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The First Annual West Coast
Women’s Music and Cultural Festival
September 26th - 28th • Yosemite, Ca.
(3 1/2 hours east of Bay Area)

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(3 1/2 hours east of Bay Area)

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Gwen Avery

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Co-Producers: Robin Tyler and Torie Osborn

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