HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL!

Volume 7, No. 4

COMING UP!
The Lesbian/Gay Community Calendar of Events and Newspaper for the Bay Area

TRANSGENDERISM

what's your pleasure?

By Randy Turoff
Tasteless
I'll tell what's in bad taste — how dare someone say in a letter in your December issue that the photo of the guys dancing with the "Dan White Dead" headlines that you featured in your November issue is tasteless. What is tasteless is that Dan White escaped headlines that you featured in your November Issue wouldn't apologize. He could have killed again. I'm glad he's dead. I wish I'd been on Castro Street that night to join the happy group in the photographs.

Anne Marie Mills
San Francisco

Christmas Tree for Harvey Milk
I am writing in response to the National Gay and Lesbian Christmas tree that has been put up outside the Castro St. Muni Station at Harvey Milk Plaza. The banner for this tree states, "The Golden Gate Business Association Presents The National Gay and Lesbian Christmas Tree in memory of George Moscone and Harvey Milk." A list of sponsors follows among whom are indicated the Bay Area Reporter, Bay Area Gay Women, The Advocate, The Golden Gate Business Association and Others.

I am not opposed to memorializing Harvey Milk and George Moscone at any time of the year. But as a Jewish lesbian I am offended by this particular memorial. Like myself and so many others of the gay and lesbian community, Harvey Milk was Jewish. A Christmas Tree for it as it is alternately called in the article in the Bay Area Reporter, a Holiday Tree is inappropriate because it is a Christian symbol representing a Christian holiday.

We live in a savagely secular society — the separation of Church and State — nation (although those of us who happen to be raised in non-Christian cultures can attest to the arbitrariness of this belief). A memorial that transcends cultural differences and is dedication would stand. Figures should have no religious significance or use religious symbolism. The power of both George Moscone's and Harvey Milk's politics is precisely that they were able to transcend the cultural differences of San Francisco's neighborhoods and communities and thus unite them. I hope that any future memorials put up in honor of Harvey Milk and George Moscone will neither be a Christmas Tree nor bear any reference to Christmas.

Thank you.
Tori Gnuendahl
Berkeley

Homophobia at Tower
Today I was halfway through the long checkout line at Tower Records on Columbus Ave. with five copies of the record "That's What Friends Are For," when the significance of where I found the record hit me. It was right in between the single "Sun City" with a sign that the proceeds benefit the anti-apartheid movement, and the single "USA For Africa" with a sign that the proceeds help fight world hunger. On the back of "That's What Friends Are For" was a note saying that the profits from the record go to AIDS research, yet there was blatantly no acknowledgement of this fact in the store. I took this as a subtle form of homophobia and put all five copies back and left the store. While some people might say I am being too sensitive, I knew that I couldn't buy them with a clear conscience. There comes a time when one has to speak out to get things to change. Until we do, things will go on as they are. If you see an injustice, speak out and let others know. As a cohesive community, we have great power.

And to Tower Records: I won't be back.
Richard L. Reed
San Francisco

Mind-blowing Forecast
When I read Steve Bloom-Boom's (aka Jack Fertig's) review of Chell's work ("Why Do Birds Sing so Gay" before "Prince's," I was stunned. He's more bitter than any doped up old queen (sorry!). "How dare he! Obviously this man knows nothing about this fine woman nor about her fans. I think one of the things that Mr. Bloom-Boom likes about her is that she is not afraid to expand, stretch and explore. Ms. Mitchell shows more life and daring than many artists today; she explores and we, as fans, get to see her immense talent in new and different aspects of her talent — she is always growing.

Also worth noting is that Mr. Chell took part in BANDADA and her song "Ethiopia" is very touching. And, sorry, Mr. Bloom-Boom, world hunger and famine in Ethiopia is a bitter pill to swallow. Ms. Mitchell also happens to be a visual artist as well as a musician, and her work is pretty damned good! I wonder if Mr. Bloom-Boom has bothered to notice.

How can he (Byford) or anyone think that any individual with so much talent who expresses it by creating quality work (regardless of whether it pleases him or not) can possibly be bitter? By the way, Ms. Mitchell got married last year, and to all appearances seems very happy with that facet of her life as well.

Enrique Zaya
San Francisco

"Fag Bashing" At AIDS Vigil
Regarding the so-called "fag bashing" of the AIDS Vigil, which was titled "Why Do Birds Sing so Gay" before "Prince's," I was stunned. He's more bitter than any doped up old queen (sorry!). "How dare he! Obviously this man knows nothing about this fine woman nor about her fans. I think one of the things that Mr. Bloom-Boom likes about her is that she is not afraid to expand, stretch and explore. Ms. Mitchell shows more life and daring than many artists today; she explores and we, as fans, get to see her immense talent in new and different aspects of her talent — she is always growing.

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Enrique Zaya
San Francisco

SAVE UP TO 75% THROUGHOUT THE STORE
We're clearing our shelves to make way for the New Year's Merchandise!
AIDS went to support the Vigil group several nights ago, but was chased away by one of the participants on the grounds that (paraphrased) "this food is for the Vigil members only, and this chair is reserved for one of our organizers... but you’re welcome to come back and visit again." My friend with AIDS was pleased to be aware of the existence of the Vigil’s presence, even if just to drop by for a few minutes. I wonder if the original Vigil organizers are being usurped by a "second generation" of narcissistic glory-seekers who yearn to see their own faces on screen and tabloid. I question, therefore, the Vigil’s original intentions.

Street people have great wisdom of their own kind, just as gays have theirs. But if we refuse to see street folks as more than "just winks" (to quote the man who refused to shake the leader’s hand), then how can we expect them to see us as more than "just faggots?" They are long-suffering human beings who have found their own (appropriate) way to survive. A Vigil member was quoted as saying (in paraphrase): "Help yourself to any of our food, we have plenty." We gave up our comfortable homes to make this demonstration. "Well, it wasn’t a Vigil, was it? Vigil members (whom I now address directly)? Most of you, if not all, have places to return to each day: to rest in, bathe, and have friends over.

I’m sure that Jewish women will have their own reactions to this quiet form of anti-Semitism. Many. I do not want to make light of the Christmas season. Certainly, Christianity has been and continues to be used to uplift women. The stories of Jesus, Luther, and Martin Luther King, Jr. are strong women in general, and indigenous people all over the world. My hope is that other non-Jewish Vigil members will also respond to the anti-Semitism of this album, along with sharing how they feel about this in general.

As they come around, the Vigil’s support of the patriarchy by singing, "It’s a Wonderful Life" as a Christmas album. It’s been a Christmas album by Christians in Europe who used the economic strategy. The "Family Protection Act" was a legal threat to lesbians as well as other people. Olivia Newton-John released a "Sisters Album" and that is that weren’t paid for by Osento but by further investments of the Christian church and the gallery are there. So now it’s time for you to show your appreciation for her trust in the women’s community that there can start to get a little return on all her output and also so that the working women someday get better than the nearly new pay we now more than earn. Again, thank you for your continuing marriage. It’s here to help you to enjoy and relax in your lives, everyday, all year round.

Religion "Good"!

There are some radical distinctions we need to make individually and as a community. First, there is a big difference between religion and the spiritual. They are not at all synonymous. The person believes—basically dogma and dogmatics of one kind or another—while the person awakens from inner experience. Jesus has apprehended the eternal, the absolute, within and from there springs their knowledge.

No one person, religion or philosophy has a monopoly of the truth. Especially not Judaism, Christianity, or Islam, all three of which are more than adequately educated. The Jews came out of Egypt and Islam developed from both of them. The sad fact is that this is a Christmas album. It’s been a Christmas album by Christians in Europe who used the economic strategy. The "Family Protection Act" was a legal threat to lesbians as well as other people. Olivia Newton-John released a "Sisters Album" and that is all that wasn’t paid for by Osento but by further investments of the Christian church and the gallery are there. So now it’s time for you to show your appreciation for her trust in the women’s community that there can start to get a little return on all her output and also so that the working women someday get better than the nearly new pay we now more than earn. Again, thank you for your continuing marriage. It’s here to help you to enjoy and relax in your lives, everyday, all year round.

Very sincerely,
Julie Dolkin manager

Osento Hot Tub and SAUNA!

We’re happy to let the women in the Bay Area know that Osento has gotten a new redwood sauna. It’s a lovely one-fingered gesture from us to our long-suffering women folk and goldfish barrel. This letter is to tell you, the rest, eat, bathe, and have friends over.

The orange on the "Lesbian Concentrate" album certainly the fact this may he a painful issue for many women who accept this album, there are probably a greater number who will find it offensive. But let’s not stop here. Let’s start by listening to each other.

Building New Coalitions
Taking New Risks
Being Strong, Together

OAKLAND

San Francisco

Elaine’s "Christmas Album"

An Open Letter to the Women of Elaine’s

The orange on the "Lesbian Concentrate" album must have heightened when you released this album, William; we say, "We are an Angel!" "No matter what, we love you."

Certainly the fact this may be a painful issue for many women who accept this album, there are probably a greater number who will find it offensive. But let’s not stop here. Let’s start by listening to each other.

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that these three religions have murdered countless numbers of people in the name of their "true" god. Christianity has an especially notorious record. That these religions have murdered countless thousands of people, and that these three religions are fit for human consumption, is beyond a shadow of a doubt as far as I am concerned. Christ, however, is one thing, Christianity and religion are something else.

Any view that is chauvinist and lacking balance is automatically suspect. Religion is more important than any other form. In the same way that the phenomenon of which a call can be described in as many ways as there are different languages, so is it with the sacred — the absolute. The truth is one and many. One truth — many traditions. One essence — many forms. One struggle — many fronts.

Gay liberation is a very important and valid front of the one great struggle for human liberation. Furthermore, the symbols of our pagan traditions from classical antiquity, as well as pagan traditions from other cultures, are valid and even more appropriate for our community to utilize in the quest for inner realization.

Anthony DePalma
San Francisco

Bathhouse Closure: The End of an Era of Stupidity

In the previous issue of Coming Out! (letters, December 1985) you republished a letter which had been sent to the San Francisco Chronicle by Timothy M. Brace, Chairman of the Committee to Preserve Our Sexual and Civil Liberties. This letter was addressed to the editor of the Chronicle which described AIDS as the "silent epidemic" and facilitated the public's perception of an archetypal bathhouse. Mr. Brace asserted the paper's attempt to "stir up" the audience and encourage the public to participate in the gay liberation movement.

There were, however, two long regulars who were missing — Ron Romanovsky and Paul Phillips. These fellows were staples at the early open events and moved on to solo-artist status. By not inviting them to play closing night, the organizers undermined their rightful place in the history of the movement.

San Francisco

Louise Rafkin is on vacation this month. She will return with her column in February.

WHAT'S GOING DOWN

Louise Rafkin

San Francisco

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A National Conference on Gay/lesbian Suicide
Keynote by Virginia Apuzzo
Saturday, January 25, 1986
8:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
San Francisco

Support Groups for Gay Men
Individual & Couple Counseling
Adrian Bruce Tiller, M.S.
861-2385
Scott Eaton, M.A.
861-0306

Call San Francisco Suicide Prevention
752-4866 for more information

AIDS. The truth is that our personal sexual and attitudinal foibles are to blame. Too often we were for the anonymous multiple sexual encounters which are facilitated by the bathhouses both provided and encouraged. The following letter is reprinted in the Chronicle.

Karen Thompson maintains that she will never again endanger our existence through the dilution and stupidity.

Sincerely,
Tom Youngblood
San Francisco

Romanovsky & Phillips Missed

November came to an end and so did the Valen­cu Rose. It's hard to imagine not stopping in for a meeting, cup of coffee or an art show. Under­standably, the last "Gay Comedy Night" was a hit­tenevent. The performers pulled together and delivered a marathon evening of powerfully funny material.

There were, however, two long regulars who were missing — Ron Romanovsky and Paul Phillips. These fellows were staples at the early open events and moved on to solo-artist status. By not inviting them to play closing night, the organizers undermined their rightful place in the history of the movement.

San Francisco

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across from the Claremont Hotel
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Claremont, D.C.

 scramble a bright trail in gay life and music

Karen Black
(to the woman not the actress)
San Francisco

LETTER INFO: Deadline for letters to appear in the February 1 issue is January 20th. Please type and double-space letters if at all possible. We reserve the right to edit letters for length. All letters must provide a name, address and phone number for verification. We will not publish anonymous letters or letters submitted only with pseudonyms, but will withhold your name on request.

COMING UP!

Battle to Gain Continues Legal Rights to Disabled Lover

K
aren Thompson and Sharon Kowalski before

the accident.

that Donald Kowalski was in contempt of court by not allowing Thompson to visit. As well as attempting to establish grounds for contempt, the attorneys demanded immediate visitation rights, a retesting of Kowalski's capabilities, a change in guardianship, and a removal of Donald Kowalski's attorney due to conflict of interest.

Thompson and her supporters believe, based on medical evidence and previous visits, that Kowalski's ability to communicate and regain skills is far greater than acknowledged. Although Thompson would prefer to be the guardian, the MCLU favors appointing a neutral third party. Thompson concurs that may be a feasible alternative, and remains committed to working in Kowalski's best interests. Thompson explained, "I've read reports that say Sharon is sleeping in a fetal position, not making any progress, just spending time doing nothing. "We're becoming more and more sure that we're going to win this case, but it's a matter of time, and I hope it's in time for Sharon. We'll keep fighting — I don't know if we'll make it to appellate court, the state supreme court, or the United States Supreme Court, but we are gaining legal ground."

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Steve is a female-to-male transsexual. He’s been in both worlds, and neither side, he testifies, is greener at all. “The breaking of prescribed scripts is what’s healthy, no matter which side you’re on.”

By Randy Turoff

San Francisco Sex Information, a non-profit, community-based organization, gave a panel presentation late last year. The topic was Transgenderism.

The panelists were an odd bunch. Odd, not because they were freaks, but because they were free. Free to play whatever sex roles they wanted and brave enough to get up there and share their experiences with us. In a society which constrains sex roles they wanted and brave enough to get up there and share their experiences with us. In a society which constrains sex roles they wanted and brave enough to get up there and share their experiences with us.

The message gleaned from this evening, from all the speakers on stage and in the audience, was that no matter what your preference, what your biology, what you’ve been brought up to believe in, each of us is ultimately free to create our own scripts, to direct our own lives according to our own fantasies, needs and erotic desires.

Take, for instance, the couple on the panel. Dave/Barbara and Judy. Barbara is, on the surface, a male-to-female transvestite. In female attire (as Barbara) she says she believes sex to be comprised of physical-genital attributes, but defines gender as “What’s between the ears.” Gender-bending is the name of the game. Barbara splits in two. She has a male persona (Dave) and a female persona (Barbara). When she cross-dresses as one or the other, it’s a matter of self-expression. She balances herself successfully by going back and forth between the two. She likes to be identified according to gender roles she chooses for herself. Dave/Barbara’s significant other is named Judy.

Judy was also on the panel. She describes herself as a bisexual woman. Judy and Dave/Barbara are engaged to be married. Judy’s friends often ask her, “Isn’t your partner a kind of Sybil?”

Judy’s response is that Dave and Barbara, having both sides, are more complete and more completely satisfying for her as a bisexual woman. Barbara is, in a sense, Dave’s fantasy woman. Judy accepts that and says that it has nothing to do with what Dave wants from her. She’s her own woman and Dave/Barbara loves her for that. “Being in the gender community makes me, straight, hi irrelevant. I love Barbara and Dave because they’re both there. It’s fun of having both sides. It’s interesting, exciting, all rules get thrown out.

Tala would be considered to be a male-to-female transsexual. She looks like a dyke. She says she’s been through all the categories. She was raised as a male, but currently considers herself to be a woman, and is involved in a lesbian relationship. In the past, she has identified in many areas along the continuum: as butch, as femme, as a male transvestite, as a male-to-female transsexual.

Tala thinks of herself as a lesbian. She understands that this poses a threat to many women in the lesbian community. She simply doesn’t fit all the criteria in the lesbian community which women would want her to fit. She emphasized that although she has related to women in a male-gender role, she related as a woman, as butch, not as a man. Although she was born male, she states that her identity is female, and that she’s a feminist.

“When I was 30 years old, I finally found a support group and was able to come to the realization that I was female. It was a coming-out process. I went through a 3-year period where I was very young and inexperienced as a woman, and I went through a real adolescent stage where I was trying out everything for my female identity—trying on roles, ideas, clothes, behavior patterns.”

The option for surgery was something Tala ultimately decided against. She went for electrolysis—she still goes. And she started taking hormones. After the hormones, she started to explore the sensitivity of her nipples and found that she had more erotic sensation and feeling in her nipples than she had ever had in her penis. “It was incredibly erotic and a real turn-on for long periods of time, and I could hold a plateau phase and orgasm just from my nipples. Then I had surgical augmentation of my breasts, and I lost all of that.”

The problem, as she sees it, is that many of her friends who’ve had the final operation can’t feel, in their newly constructed female genitalia, the high pitch of erotic sensation which she personally would not want to lose with the removal of her penis. “My choice for me, especially after what happened to my breasts, is not to have any more surgery.” It’s a choice, she reiterates, but it’s not for her. “It’s not easy, it’s a glitch. The message is, if you have a cock you’re supposed to be a man. One of the big problems in this society is that we define people by their genitals. I would like to give people permission not to have to do that. I’ve had lovers who do not identify as the gender of their genitalia. And I’ve had lovers who switch their male or female gender identities, even without switching the roles they play in bed. We should be able to define gender as we would like to define it for ourselves.

Cynthia is an attorney. She’s sitting on stage in a very Radcliffe Hall three-piece pin-stripe suit. She guesses she’s supposed to be representing a female-to-male transvestite. She also tells us that she loves to dress in high-femme, and that she takes erotic pleasure in both. “Gender for me is a role. I never wanted to be in my body. I relate well to my body sexually, as a woman. But I did want to be able to move in the world as males move in the world. I grew up as a tomboy in an Italian Catholic family. My mother always dressed me in three full slips with a skirt and blouse with puffed sleeves. It was classic humiliation. What happened to her was that she just stopped having any gender identification whatsoever. She felt completely neutered. She wore Catholic school uniforms and went into herself, not relating to gender or gender fantasies at all.

The way Cynthia managed to relate to gender again was much later on, when she started getting into s/m. “I discovered that sex could be an environment which fostered pretending, taking on roles, becoming something you didn’t ordinarily perceive yourself to be. I was in play. A place where I could be. The more I got into my butt, realizing it was just a role, I began to realize I could be someone female even though I had such a strong male gender identity.” It was a question of costuming and of acting out. Her conclusion was that a person can transform into whatever she wants, whatever she’s ever fantasized becoming. Someone on the panel asked her if she’d ever thought of getting into playing a female-to-male transexual/transvestite. Yes, she said, she’d thought about that.

Steve is a female-to-male transsexual. He’s been in both worlds, and neither side, he testifies, is greener at all. When he was a biological woman, he was male gender identified. He had money, cars, credit cards, houses, etc. “The breaking of prescribed scripts is what’s healthy, no matter which side you’re on,” he stated emphatically. He spoke about the rigidity of social roles in terms of gender: “If a man, for instance, can’t put in a dimmer switch, it doesn’t just affect the fact that he lacks the skill, it reflects on his lack of maleness.

Of course, there are definite physiological differences between men and women. Take muscle fibers, for example. A man has more muscle fibers in a bundle than does a woman. It doesn’t mean women are weaker. If a woman who is 5’4” works out, as compared to a man who is 5’4” and doesn’t work out, the woman will be stronger.... Sex drives are regulated by the ratio of androgens to estrogen in a person’s body. It doesn’t matter if the person has a clitoris or a penis.”

Because he’s a man now, Steve stressed the fact that this does not mean he’s turned into a macho pig. “I have a right to be bisexual, homosexual, transvestite, just like any man does. According to the gender clinics, I’m supposed to come out straight! It’s an identity issue here, not a sexuality issue.” Steve addressed (continued on page 16)
AIDS/ARC Vigil Continues; Political Support Grows

By Alex MacDonald

The second month of the ARC/AIDS Vigil outside the San Francisco offices of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services in United Nations Plaza saw significant progress toward the goals proclaimed when the Vigil began on October 28 [see “A Rite of Petition: The AIDS/ARC Vigil,” Coming Up!, December 1985]. Nine tents now cluster in the mall outside the old Federal Building, the Vigil numbers over one hundred participants.

On Wednesday, December 18, the Board of Supervisors unanimously approved a resolution proposed by Board President John Molinari in response to the Vigil. A week earlier, more than sixty speakers from the Vigil and its supporters presented testimony to the Board’s Human Services Committee in support of Molinari’s resolution. In the interval between the committee hearings and the vote by the full Board, a delegation headed by Steve Rusell, who started the Vigil, presented testimony in Los Angeles before the Human Services Committee of the California State Senate.

The resolution by the Board establishes a citywide policy regarding ARC and AIDS. Health officials are directed to establish a definition of ARC. Henceforth, ARC will receive the same medical priority as AIDS. The Board also requested state and federal officials to acknowledge the problems of people with ARC and to undertake urgent action on the issue.

In a separate resolution, the Board addressed the problem of ARC/AIDS discrimination. The resolution asks the Mayor to budget more money for the Human Rights Commission to pursue complaints of AIDS discrimination.

In introducing his resolution, Molinari spoke eloquently of the “jeopardy and pain” to which the Vigilers have subjected themselves in order to bring the AIDS crisis to public attention. He sent a decorated Christmas tree to U.N. Plaza for the Vigilers.

In his prepared remarks to the Human Services Committee, Molinari said that local officials of the Social Security Administration agree with him that a diagnosis of ARC should be presumptive evidence of eligibility for disability payments from Social Security. In an interview with Coming Up!, Molinari said that the real importance of his resolution lay in getting the attention of Congress, the President, and the Centers for Disease Control (CDC). Social Security officials, he said, agree with him that the City must send a message to Washington. Whether his resolution will have the desired effect, he said, will depend on the hard-fought skills of Bay Area Representatives in Congress.

The Senate Committee on Health and Human Services, chaired by Diane Watson, heard five hours of testimony from a variety of organizations concerned with the potential impact of the AIDS crisis on health care delivery systems and the plight of persons with ARC and AIDS. Among the professional bodies offering testimony were the California Hospital Association, Blue Cross of California, the California School Boards Association, and the Association of California Life Insurers.

In his testimony to the Committee, Steve Rusell stressed the magnitude of the ARC problem and the absence of services for people with ARC. Citing CDC estimates that ARC cases outnumber AIDS by about ten to one, he put the number of persons with ARC at over 140,000. Because of the system of classifications established by the CDC, People with ARC generally are not eligible for Medi-Cal, MediCare, State Disability or Social Security benefits. He himself, he reported, receives $288 monthly from General Assistance. “I am fortunate,” he said, “I live in San Francisco.” When living in Florida, “I was told by one welfare worker, ‘Please don’t come to the office. We don’t want to catch what you have.’”

Of the plight of PWARC generally, he told the Committee: “Many of us have been fired from our jobs solely because of our diagnosis. Then we lose our health insurance and are left with going to the few facilities that treat medically indigent adults. Families are being torn apart by this disease. Parents disowning children, throwing them out on the streets if they live at home or refusing any contact if they don’t, is not an unusual occurrence.”

Speaking for the Vigil, Mr. Rusell also strongly urged the Committee to consider the Vigil’s fourth demand for an end to discrimination against persons with ARC/AIDS. “Hysteria,” he said, “is a reason we need laws against discrimination. People who can work should be allowed to. I have been fired twice strictly because of my diagnosis. Also, I have been refused dental treatment, service in restaurants, evicted from apartments and basically treated like a leper. This is all a result of ARC/AIDS hysteria.”

Mr. Rusell concluded his prepared testimony with some background information on the ARC/AIDS Vigil. He revealed for the first time that he and the others who began the Vigil did so with the expectation that they would be arrested soon after. “We were not arrested,” he said, “and a week later the San Francisco Board of Supervisors passed a resolution supporting the Vigil and our moral appeal.” Since then, support has come from Senator Pete Wilson (R-Cal), Congressperson Sala Burton (D-DF) and, on December 18, Senator Alan Cranston (D-Cal). In addition, resolutions of support and endorsements of the Vigil’s demands continue to come in from churches, labor unions and political clubs in both major political parties.

In addition to assaults and abuse, the security people have also had to deal with alleged sabotage of the Vigil by men outwardly friendly to the purposes and tactics of the protest.

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learned that twenty-eight men had signed up for transportation. When the bus arrived, however, only half of the number expected to go felt able to leave because it had not been possible to arrange for medical personnel to go along. One man who did go, Michael Fitchard, suffered a convulsive seizure soon after leaving San Francisco. One who changed his mind at the last minute learned on the following day that he had active tuberculosis and must retire from the site. On the road back from L.A., the Vigil representatives learned again about the ARC/AIDS hysteria. When San Luis County Sheriffs ran a computer check on Vigilor Jack Hanna during a routine traffic stop, they found that he had been wanted on a minor parole violation. When Hanna clarified, they decided to hold him in solitary confinement because of their fear of contagion with either ARC or AIDS. He has since been released. At the site of the Vigil, security remains a continuing concern. Shortly before 4 a.m. on December 26, Fred McClure was struck and injured when he went to the aid of Bill Paul, who was being assaulted by a street person. McClure has undergone surgery on two occasions in the past week. He has asked to be put in solitary confinement because of his association with the AIDS syndrome. Mr. Hanna has not been diagnosed with either ARC or AIDS. He has since been released.

Security alleges that on Christmas day, two men represented themselves as Vigil spokesmen, approached long-term staunch supporters of the Vigil, and told them they were no longer welcome on the site and that their contributions were no longer wanted. Similar events have been reported with some frequency since shortly before Thanksgiving. Security also believes they have identified the source of bogus phone calls to local print and TV media saying that the Vigil has disbanded. Security referred the two men to the San Francisco Police, who discussed the allegations with them. No charges were brought. The Vigil has invited the two men to air their case and explain themselves at the next general meeting of the full Vigil Committee.

Morale has proven to be as demanding a concern as security. The holiday season especially has been a roller coaster of highs and lows, quite apart from the heady moments of progress in reaching out to the city and state governments. The March last month memorializing Harvey Milk and George Moscone gave the Vigilers their most massive and emotionally powerful expression of community support and concern. After the march concluded at City Hall, about 2,000 of the 6,000 marchers walked to UN Plaza where the Vigil awaited them. Representatives of the Stonewall, Bion's, and Alice B. Toklas Gay/Lesbian Democratic Clubs helped the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence post placards on the wall of the Federal Building bearing the names of more than 500 San Franciscans who have fallen in the course of the epidemic. Few, if any, of those present failed to find the name of a friend or loved one on the wall.

Of comparable power, though on a smaller scale, an ecumenical mass officiated by Fr. Bob and Alex, Old Roman Catholic and Celtic: Order priests, moved the Vigilers, including those who candidly assert that they have seen their last Christmas, to reaffirm the protest they have begun. The Mass ended, amid tears of affirmation, with the reading of letters from Congressman Ron Dellums and Senator Cranston. Both legislators commended the courage and purpose of the Vigil and promised continuing efforts in Congress to see that the Vigil's goals are realized.

Within the Vigil, discussions are now going on about carrying the Vigil to other cities and making alliances with other movements. Seattle and Sacramento, because of their proximity to San Francisco and their relatively benign climates, are under consideration. John Beltuskas, Wes North and Buck Stuart are considering plans to lead a colony from the San Francisco Vigil to Washington, D.C. Beltuskas is also looking into the possibility of enlisting the help of civil rights groups in establishing a Vigil in Newark, New Jersey, where more than half of the cases of diagnosed AIDS are among Black people. Looking still further ahead, plans are being formulated for an international march on Washington next summer.

If large concerns and ceremonial highs rekindle the Vigilers of the importance of their cause and sustain them in their resolve, the nuts-and-bolts stuff of helping one another through long days and long nights holds the Vigil together. Here, too, concerns for security intrude: training in non-violent techniques of self-defense began soon after the now infamous flag-bashing on last November and provides the Vigil with needed practice in working together in emergencies. Holding one another during those inevitable but unpredictable emotional crises when no words can alleviate pain, doing the laundry, keeping track of medications, helping a feverwrecked buddy change into dry clothes for the third time in as many hours — in short, all the merciful and sometimes greedy acts of tenderness and love that bind families and lovers — also bind the Vigilers.

Beyond the large issues, the high purpose, and the petty tasks, the Vigil's greatest strength lies in the youthful spirit of its leading actors. Most of them are in their twenties, and they show their age in the gentle way with which they rebound from even the cruellest stunts in the web of pathology that entices them. At 31, Wes North has been with the Vigil from its inception, sleeping during those first days with no certainty of ever waking up between him and the pavement. He frankly measures his life expectancy in months. He fears only being returned to his native Texas, because there the authorities now have powers of quarantine over persons with AIDS. When his worsening condition forced him to leave his walker in favor of a wheelchair, witnesses likened his response to that of a thirteen-year-old trying out a new skateboard. He claims that life with the Vigil improves his health. As though to prove his claim, he recently gave up his wheelchair and began walking with a cane.
“Feminism” is one of those changeable words that seems to have a new meaning every month. I've been thinking lately of how that concept has changed for me and what's gone on in my life. I've been thinking about how that experience — that had no choices and that someone else always knew best. It's taken time to remember how feminism/lesbianism felt to not be free until they no longer birthed or biologically gave birth to a child. She felt that science should have control over pregnancy and childbirth. She was a literal “baby out with the bathwater.”

I thought my politics were completely consistent then but, in fact, I didn't feel as if I thought at all. I enjoyed the few children around me and always believed I'd eventually have children in my life. At the same time, I bought the current line that kids meant oppression. How did I miss the contradiction there? Childcare was being brought up as an issue, but mothers went on strike over kids should be treated on masses in huge numbers. It sounds so strange and alien to me now, but at the time, I thought she made perfect sense. And that was the climate lesbian mothers were dealing with in the early '70s. It was a literal “baby out with the bathwater.”

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Building Black Solidarity

By Rose Appleman

"B"lack Pride and Solidarity: The New Movement of Black Lesbians and Gays" was the theme for the annual conference of the National Coalition of Black Lesbians and Gays (NCBLG), held Thanksgiving weekend in St. Louis. The meeting drew 125 people — some 50 of them women — from all over the country and from as far away as London. Together they explored the theme in all its aspects, from the intimate to the international. Among the 18 workshops were "Bringing the Black Family Home," "Black Lesbian Leadership," and "AIDS in the Black Community," and "Our International Mandates." Two full and varied evenings of cultural presentations were highlighted by a banquet in honor of Mabel Hampton, an 83-year-old Black lesbian feminist, veteran activist and cultural worker.

Although this was not NCBLG's first national meeting, for many it really did represent a turning point, the beginnings of a "new movement"; they came away empowered, with a fresh sense of direction — and lots of work to do. After the conference, Coming Up! interviewed Gil Gerard, NCBLG's executive director, Michelle Parker and Louis Hughes, the two co-chairs, and Gwendolyn Rogers, the organization's secretary, to get some insight into the events of the conference and the new strategic direction that flowed from it.

[Coming Up!]: Was this the first national NCBLG conference?

[Hughes]: The NCBLG sponsored the first Third World/People of Color Conference and Conference and Conference, held with the March on Washington in '79. We've had two-part conferences since, the Third World/People of Color Conference and Conference. Now parts of the Third World Conference have spun off independently, and the next Conference itself is being organized from Los Angeles. So this represented more of a focusing back on NCBLG, our growth, outreach, evolution — going into our specific objectives.

[Coming Up!]: Could you discuss what you meant by "launching a new movement" at the conference?

[Rogers]: Launching a new movement means taking the issue of self-determination, Black pride and Black solidarity — an internal, familial kind of solidarity — seriously in a political vein in order to strengthen us. The state of the Black community, the Black movement in general — and it is definitely reflected in the Black gay movement — is one in which we have got to take our destiny in our own hands. It means doing the internal work of really strengthening ourselves, of saying no, we're not going to be in a position where someone simply tells us what issues we should be dealing with and not dealing with.

[Hughes]: People were exposed to and concerned about the various broad spectrum of issues in the world today — they had appetite for all the things going on. We talked about AIDS as a world issue, violence — racist, anti-woman, anti-gay, apartheid, prison issues; self-image, health. AIDS, you know, is not just a gay issue. We're doing a lot of work on AIDS in the Black community, looking at education: the information is universal on safe sex — where are the efforts to disseminate it? Where are the efforts to educate? What is the particular contribution the cultural work has for the organizing process? [Parkerson]: It gives a new sense of visibility and who we are, how we express ourselves not only in speaking and organizational terms but also in terms of the arts. [The cultural events at the conference] gave for many of the people there a new sense of the theme, of...

(continued on page 15)
Bomb Scare Fails to Deter Gay Business Convention Attendees

The sight of a generous dusting of snow on the San Jacinto mountains greeted lesbian and gay business people as they arrived recently in Palm Springs for the convention of the National Association of Business Councils, hosted by the Desert Business Association, the NABC affiliate that covers all of the Coachella Valley. If the coolness of the weather disappointed the events of the week generated enough heat to warm an activist's heart.

Headquarters for the convention was the Palm Springs Hilton Riviera, an architectural disaster which passes as a hotel. Tom Gowan, the affable general manager of the Hilton, received a phone call from an anonymous caller who said he was from the "Anti-Gay Delegation League" and had placed an incendiary bomb in the hotel which was to be occupied by the convention.

"On the other hand, I always walk out of the hotel, and throw a lively cocktail party prior to the concluding NABC banquet. The banquet was called 'Gay Business Week' featuring Bob Davis, who as police chief of Los Angeles was virulently anti-gay and now, as a potential candidate for governor, counts the gay vote. When Davis expressed his views, community organizers immediately made a point of keeping him in the city, and it worked out, but for business reasons, not because of his views.

Ironically, at the hour for which the detonation was threatened, the conventionists were networking their hearts out in true GUMP (Gay Upwardly Mobile Professional) fashion at a cocktail party at the Prescott Estate, a charming gay hotel in one of the better neighborhoods in town.

The cocktail party was one of a series of nightly social events put together by Barter and his committee to attract visitors beyond those attending as NABC delegates. Barter, whose store alone could attract serious tourism, said that some forty people had registered for the convention, while nearly 500 more were expected in Palm Springs that week for part or all of the festivities.

The Gay community in the desert kept a very low profile until 1983 when the entertainment director at the Hilton took the lead in organizing a major AIDS fundraiser, held at the hotel which was then owned by prominent local business interests.

The fundraiser netted $50,000 from some 1,500 attendances of all sexual preferences. The money went to AIDS organizations in Los Angeles, because at that time no AIDS organization existed in the desert. The event acted as a catalyst, too, in starting up the Desert AIDS Project, a new organization which was an outgrowth of the Desert Business Association.

"It was the first moment of true gay unity in Palm Springs," according to Trace Percy, a public relations and advertising professional who is a DBA member and was for a time the director of the Desert AIDS Project. Current, DBA and the Desert AIDS Project have buckets of condoms, free for the taking, placed in gay business establishments to encourage safe sex practices.

A sympathetic article titled "Gay Business," which appeared last year in a gay local magazine, Palm Springs Life, recognized the growth of the gay community in the Coachella Valley. "The valley is pretty much in step with the rest of the country with an increasing acknowledgement of the gay population and a respect for the gay community," the article read. It also noted that most of the bars are in Cathedral City, adjacent to Palm Springs.

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Thoughts and Trends Heading into 1986

I t occurs to me that 1985 has generally been a frantic and depressing year for our community. The focus of the majority of our activities has been the issue of AIDS. We all watched the morbidity and mortality figures climb, and it became increasingly difficult to find someone who was not intimately affected by the epidemic. It has created an enormous toll and left us drained.

In travelling to other cities and listening to guests who were visiting San Francisco, I began to perceive a general attitude about our community as being "a very depressing place for gays" and the notion that we were the "AIDS Capital of the World," it is based on a per capita rate, not on total numbers. Our gay male population is small compared to many other cities, and it is more geographically unified than most other cities, so we could reasonably expect the statistics on AIDS to reflect a high per capita rate. In truth, there are twice as many cases in New York, and Los Angeles is rapidly moving up on San Francisco. It is also true that in cities like New York and Los Angeles, there is a significant number of men who have contracted AIDS and are treated by private physicians who never report the cases. The stigma of having AIDS and the difficulty of getting insurance services in other cities are compelling reasons to make the diagnosis as covert as possible.

Another consideration when looking at the statistics for San Francisco is the fact that symptomatic gay men from other cities will opt to relocate here because they know they will receive the attention they need and can survive more easily in a supportive environment. This, of course, further increases the per capita rate in San Francisco and reduces it in the city of origin.

So, if San Francisco has the dubious distinction of being the "AIDS Capital of the World," it is based on quality of care and service rather than on a rampant case load. We can be proud of the programs that have developed in our community in response to AIDS.

As for the depression in our community: our brothers are dying, and we struggle to take care of our own. The ancient prejudices against homosexuality have left their respective closets in response to AIDS.

We all watched the morbidity and mortality figures climb, and it became increasingly difficult to find someone who was not intimately affected by the epidemic. It has created an enormous toll and left us drained.

The epidemic appears to be leveling out. The last few months of 1985 have signalled the crest of a wave of success, we are reassessing ourselves and making important changes and decisions.

In spite of our problems, life has a way of manipulating itself ahead of all distractions and it is a testament to our spirit that so many positive things that are not our lives but also move us in the direction of unity and common purpose in the face of a crisis. The epidemic appears to be leveling out. This can be attributed in no small degree to one of the most remarkable modifications of behavior the world has ever witnessed. We have not been without our follies, but we have been responsible for putting our house in order. New institutions and new priorities have emerged in our community, and we can rightly claim to be the "AIDS Awareness Capital of the World." There's even more on the positive side. Our cultural institutions have clicked into a new gear. Energies go into creative activities, and we can boast of a proliferation of both esthetic and entertainment achievements. Just check the monthly calendar of events in this paper, and imagine the resources and the people involved. Theater, music, dance, film, cabaret, street fairs, revues and even a plethora of organized sports activities. We're doing it all, and we're sharing it with everyone who wants to take notice. (The gay San Francisco Trojans Football Team and the Sheriff's Deputies Football Team just played a game and raised $5,000 for several gay charities...lots of people to thank!)

I went to hear and see the San Francisco Band Foundation's "Dance Among Nutcrackers" last December 22, a woman sitting behind me said, "I think I'm going to be some people having fun, I didn't think it would be so professional!" Right!

And now it's 1986, and the year of the Gay Games. They're just eight months from now, and they promise to be ever so joyous. The last few months of 1985 have signaled a wave of success for us. There's reason to expect it to continue. Perhaps the lessons we have learned and are learning from the AIDS crisis will enable us to address other issues that plague us not only as a community but as citizens of the world. It would be wonderful to think that when we have beaten AIDS (we and all of us), our attention might focus on a unified statement and action about tolerance and fairness to all people regardless of their color, their gender, their age, their sexual preference, or their disease. I wish a creative and positive 1986 for all of us.
I've been around for a while

And I've spent a lot of my life seeing situations that weren't taken care of. So what's being done here impresses me. I know of instances where someone didn't have family. So at Shanti, we make a family for this person. Shanti is doing so many creating ways where people can be loved and cared for and supported.

Life in this country is wild enough, isolating enough, and frustrating enough. I think the people being served by Shanti is living and the example of what can be done with people working together is incredible. I may be naive, but that's how I feel.

Shanti is satisfying some part of me in some way. I feel very much more secure and stable. It's feeling part of me that has been touched. I may eventually not want to continue, but I can't imagine not caring for people with AIDS.

Shanti Project
AIDS/lesbian/gay/bisexual project
Volunteers needed. Call today for more information.

The Condom Study, At Last

The virus associated with AIDS does not pass through either latex or natural membrane condoms, according to UCSF researchers Jay Levy, MD and Marcus Conant, MD. Local observers who follow the progress of AIDS research probably get the release of the condom study findings with both satisfaction and exasperation.

The five brands tested included three types of latex condoms, one made of natural lamb skin, and one pre-lubricated synthetic type; and Fourex, by the San Francisco AIDS Foundation, are marketed under the following brand names: Trojan, with and without lubrication; Rames, with a spermicidal lubricant; Skinless Skin, a pre-lubricated synthetic type; and Foorex, made of natural lamb skin.

The results from the study, commissioned by the San Francisco AIDS Foundation, are very important to those who are concerned about AIDS prevention messages and general risk reduction education. As staff members at the Foundation often comment, "Prevention is the only vaccine we have." Condoms can prevent the spread of AIDS; anyone who doubts the efficiency of rubbers earlier should now protect themselves and others by making condom use part of their sex play.

The exasperation comes with the lengthy delay for conducting this relatively simple study. It was known that the UCSF researchers tested condoms marketed under the following brand names: Trojan, with and without lubrication; Rames, with a spermicidal lubricant; Skinless Skin, a pre-lubricated synthetic type; and Foorex, made of natural lamb skin.

The study, done at UCSF, was to determine whether the use of a condom would prevent the transmission of the AIDS virus. The researchers found that when the product was used as intended, it was highly effective in preventing infection. However, the study was not able to determine the exact effectiveness of each condom type.

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The researchers emphasized what they recognized as a "critical issue in immunorelating trials in patients infected with HIV-3LAV," namely, that since there was no decrease in the number of T-cells and since slow clinical improvement occurred, the findings suggest that DDC may not induce T-lymphocytes more sensitive to the AIDS virus.

A Call for DNCB Data

In October this column presented preliminary findings about a drug compound called DNCB, a substance that, when applied to the skin, triggers an immune response against HIV. However, the researchers had not conducted a comprehensive study to determine the effectiveness of DNCB in treating HIV.

The UCSF researchers, who tested DNCB on patients with HIV, found that the skin reactions were weak and varied in effectiveness. The researchers concluded that DNCB may not be a viable treatment for HIV infection.

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Related News from France

In France, the search for an effective AIDS therapy continues to focus on agents that enhance immune function without providing the AIDS virus with new cells to attack. One such agent, thymus extract, is currently in early trials in France. The drug, with a name conveniently shortened to Met-Enk, is a substance composed of five amino acids (thymus extracts) a few American entries (AL 721, ansamycin, Compound S, and DNCB) and one European (the science of it). Conant Is especially interested to see whether the reported elevations of T-cells and ratios are statistically significant or simply aberrations. He said the data need to be reanalyzed and reviewed to determine whether the observations are reproducible by other researchers.

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Taking the Test in Europe

The AIDS antibody test appears to be much more popular among gay men in European countries than it does with their American counterparts. Gay physicians and researchers from several European nations noted the widespread use of the LAV/HTLV-3 antibody test among gay men in their countries. In contrast to the neutral or hostile positions taken by American gay organizations and AIDS service agencies, several European groups encourage the test, according to the physicians attending the recent AIDS conference in Brussels. In addition, individual men have apparently decided that it is best to know one’s status to protect oneself from the AIDS virus. As one man attending an AIDS forum in a gay bar in Paris commented, “We simply want to know where we stand, positive or negative, we want to know.”

Other reasons given during an informal survey for taking the test included a desire to pursue experimental drug therapies if one tested positive or to at least be ready for the test once a treatment becomes available. Many men want to know if they have AIDS or whether they could be the two millionth man waiting in line for a cure for AIDS.

One man in Brussels quipped, “I don’t want to be the two millionth man waiting in line for the test once a cure becomes available.”

There also appeared, to this reporter, to be a fundamental difference between the European and American AIDS communities. While many San Francisco gay men, for example, believe they have been exposed to the virus, they choose to avoid the extra stress they assume would come with a confirmation of their suspicions. Several of the European men, however, seemed to take a more dispassionate view of the issue. Perhaps the more intimate civil rights for gay people, and most guarantee of an AIDS-related backlash? Maybe, maybe not. Unless we take up a scientific survey of assailants, we’re not in a position to make such a claim. Logically, we can assume that the public hysteria over AIDS explains homophobic violence, but we can’t say that it causes anti-gay violence. One flash of graffiti from a recent controversy may be the issue of AIDS and anti-gay violence in a perspective for me: AIDS = Salvation: Murder Homosexuality

At this point, AIDS and homosexuality have become synonymous in the American Public’s mind. Based on a person because she or he has AIDS is not different from beating up a queer — period. For the homophobic mind, it is simply another justification for violence.

Even if we could demonstrate a direct correlation between AIDS and anti-gay violence, then what? Could we end the war on terror? Could we end the war on crime? Could we end the war on drugs? Could we end the war on poverty? Could we end the war on crime? Could we end the war on drugs? Could we end the war on poverty? Could we end the war on poverty? Could we end the war on poverty? Could we end the war on poverty? Could we end the war on poverty?

The people currently holding the reins of state power. Clearly, King Ronald and his Court are not the people we can look to for support of AIDS research or justice in the courts when AIDS-fueled homophobia spills over into violence on the streets.

In the meantime, what can we do? At the risk of sounding simplistic, I will say that the only way to protect ourselves is to protect ourselves, to understand that the incidents of anti-gay violence can and do occur in any neighborhood, our figures show that they occur most often in the Castro (29%), Polk-Tenderloin (18%) and Mission (11%). Organizing block clubs and helping to popularize the use of whistle neighborhoods crime prevention efforts that can help save a life or, at the very least, months of pain, frustration and anger.

Homophobia is what leads people to commit acts of anti-gay violence, and, like us, homophobic people are everywhere. San Francisco’s much-touted tolerance of the lesbian/gay community does not translate into safety on the streets, nor does it mean that non-gay San Franciscans are flocking to the libraries and schools in an effort to learn from the homophobes’ myths that allow them to objectify and violate us. That’s our work, and it is ongoing. Our safety as a community and the realization of our right to live with dignity as gay people rests entirely on our willingness to act — to confront homophobia at home, at work, on the streets or wherever it rears its ugly head, to link our issues with those of others whose lives and dignity are violated daily simply for being who they are, to lobby our legislators, to take seriously the belief that each and every one of us is vital to the life of our community. Carmen Vazquez is a staff member at CUAV.
Who is That Shopping Bag Lady?

An interview with Kozmick Lady

By Randy Turoff

You see her around town, on Market Street, on Castro, at women’s writers’ conferences, the transgender panel, AIDS meetings, gallery openings. You’re attracted to her energy. She circulates some kind of crazy flyers at all sorts of events where she frequently delivers her poetic orations as a member of the audience, in the slot­time slot. She gets right to the point, in a wisdom on xerox flyers at all sorts of events, as a member of the audience, in the slot­time slot. She’s a free agent, gets paid nothing. She lives as a shopping-bag lady on the street, spending her days and nights spreading the word.

Maybe she’s a messenger of some sort. Maybe a celestial traveler from an intergalactic realm other than, and also touching, ours. There are eyes within eyes within eyes through perspectives which are not ours. They have an overview, travel lighter, pass through higher vapors, are further out there by mind expansion and work on many levels at once, making appearances on one or another. Her name, she says, is Kozmick Lady.

We all play different games and different roles for different reasons. Fascinated by her energy, her openness, and erudition, I reached out to talk to her. The following is a condensed version of an interview with the Kozmick Lady:

[Coming Up] When did you take on the name, the persona of Kozmick Lady? Who were you before that?

I’ve been doing yours truly for fifteen years now, going to twenty events each week, and I’ve mailed out a couple of hundred thousand mailers, talking in the streets, huge amounts of phone calls. Hardly anyone was there to really help. Many people have heard but few have acted upon it. Thank you for reaching out, having the cosmic insight to ask, Coming Up!

is one of my favorite papers.

I’m coming up to fifty-six on January 10, which may be Joan of Arc’s birthday. When I was thirty-nine in ’69 in L.A. and had no idea of the mystical, magical, intergalactic level at all, I was searching. I’d had my share of Heartbreak Hotel, had paid off suicide and the loan in a few times. When I was getting my Bachelor’s in psychology and Master’s in social work in ’66–’68, I worked in people’s places: The Mental Health Retardation Study Clinic in L.A. and the Democratic National Committee in Washington D.C., etc. In the late ’60s I went to a group called The Movement of Group Spiritual Awareness, and that was a turning point. I began to get all this information and poetry, and wisdom, and art of stone, and junk, and bones, and mirrors and rainbows, and it wasn’t coming from me.

Were you channeling?

Well, I knew my destiny and I was coming to meet. It was two or three years of basic training on it. I began to dress in my unique eccentric style, and people thought I had flipped out.

Had you flipped out?

No, I flipped in. Up until then I had no real mystical awareness, had no idea there were other planets, other galaxies, and that my destiny would have to do with a more Jungian archetypal, prototypal, understanding of mind.

When did it first bit you? What was the form of your revelation?

Poetry with information in it of a universal, spiritual nature. Over the past years I’ve been working on a 78-page big book. Each page is on cardboard, 22" by 20". I got most of it telepathically. It is a book of reality maps, a spiritual driver’s manual. They’re complex. They educate in the greater laws of time and space and a world based on everyone being a majority of one, of life being the Real State, of being aware that we are all gender blended: I call it gay straight binary bi curved kinkiness and/or enhancing, that we’ve been in many bodies, in many galaxies.

Some souls are older than others; some have had more awareness, but there is a time limit on mankind as we know it. We are a galaxy training planet, a galaxy luminous space station raising Atlantis. We are the multi­dimensional that sounds something like faraway distant. We are the cosmic insist to ask.

In the next few months, the next few years, more men and more women will get really conscious. It’s more than consciousness raising, it’s being conscious all the time. More channeling from other dimensions, more people reading books like Shirley Maclaine’s Dancing in the Light, seeing Lily Tomlin’s The Search for Intelligent Life in the Universe, more New Age psychic fairs — learning for us that we are in a vast vast vast of acorn, years, galaxies, but that we’re also a down­home cosmic cosmic cosmic cosmic cosmic bloop. I don’t send any energy to the annihilation of the earth thing, I’m from the new clear vision division, from the communication of the earth thing, to speak in astrological terms. We’re coming to the Age of Leo­Aquarius. The Karthago­Libyan people are at that Leo­Sagittarian peak, I will. And Aquarius is: I know. The two must be balanced out. We are maturing as a race in this New Age, we’re learning more responsibility for our Will, willpower connected with wisdom. The world has to figure out that we’re an endangered planet, and our species is the one that’s doing it. We have to make big changes in that we cannot support the planet with the same thinking that brought us to this point. We are in a new world, a new earth, a new vision.

How do you see 1985 as a point in this consciousness evolution?

For one thing, the guru karma is going down the tubes, you can see it with the Rajneesh thing. All the forces of good and evil are in everybody. We all must tame our inner beasts. We’re too often dragged by the world, thinking this is all there is. We have to work out our individual stuff, in our own houses, and balance the outer with the opposite houses, to speak in astrological terms. We’re coming to the Age of Leo­Aquarius. The Karthago­Libyan people are at that Leo­Sagittarian peak, I will. And Aquarius is: I know. The two must be balanced out. We are maturing as a race in this New Age, we’re learning more responsibility for our Will, willpower connected with wisdom. The world has to figure out that we’re an endangered planet, and our species is the one that’s doing it. We have to make big changes in that we cannot support the planet with the same thinking that brought us to this point. We are in a new world, a new earth, a new vision.

Do you think we can help other people, help them to change, or is it that we can merely change ourselves?

Numerous Uno is where it’s at. We can’t save anybody. But the more free we get, the more free they are to actually realize they also have the choice to change, to let their balls and chains go. And then what happens to them on their levels also changes. We’re interconnected. The next few years will be crucial in the change of consciousness on the planet. Whatever we think, it comes true. It’s the old Rosicrucian statement: “Thoughts have wings.” Forgiveness is one of the Him or Her Himalayan mountain peaks of what has to be done. We have to apply even more wisdom to the way we conduct our earthly affairs. Even though I’m not a prophet-type, or predictor, or judge, or voice, or sales-person, what I do know to be true is that there is evolution in consciousness of our species.

What is the “emotional holocaust”?

The knowledge that we can’t save everyone. To know that a lot of folks have their numbers to meet, with painful deaths.

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Black Solidarity...

"Black gay pride and solidarity." was there also a very good point that was made about the relationship between Black men and Black women who are gay, about how we can come together, not necessarily using our autonomy or our separations to guide us, but using our cross-politization, our energies together as men and women to move forward.

Could you run down some of the resolutions that were taken, the actions projected for after the conference?

[Gerard] The National Coalition of Black Lesbians and Gays — NCBLG. We are endorsing the concept of a march in Washington in support of the national gay lesbian march, with the proviso that NCBLG be central to the organizing. We are supporting the proposal from the National Organization for Women for a march in Washington for passage of the Equal Rights Amendment, reproductive freedom and women's rights in general. We are endorsing the fourth Third World/People of Color Conference. We will be once again having the national NCBLG conference in the spring of 1987 in Atlanta, and have established the Mabel Hampton Life Achievement Award to honor activists who have furthered Black gay pride and solidarity. From the workshops, we expect to have significant activity on the issue of AIDS in the Black community, and we are considering the idea of a national conference on Blacks and AIDS.

[Gerard] We will be launching the Lesbians and Gays in Solidarity with Southern Africa Network. It's important for our community to be strongly there in solidarity, educated about issues that are common to us and again, targeting the Black community as a whole. We also took up the call that came out of the Nairobi conference and will be launching the International Network of Lesbians of African Descent.

Most of our discussion has focused on the relationship of NCBLG's work to the Black community. Could you discuss for a moment its relationship to the lesbian/gay movement?

[Rogers] The larger lesbian/gay movement is suffering from demoralization. We have an opportunity to unify, to provide a certain energy and leadership... we need to take a more assertive stance. For instance, there's no reason why in all of these cities it should be left up to a lot of different organizations to present gay rights bills. We should be working in a position where we start doing some education, making coalitions outside the gay movement. We should not be in the position, when substantive gay issues come up, where we're now good to do hypes and gripes. To let the planet with whom we have stuff to work out, it's good now to do hypes and gripes. To let folks know we love them, but that we're not going to play the old consciousness games.

Science...

AIDS in Europe may avoid the "Catch 22" pattern that has been so prevalent in the United States. Until the number of diagnosed cases soars, communities in this country have been slow to adopt AIDS prevention measures such as changing sexual practices and needle-sharing activities. While European communities may register only a few dozen AIDS cases, several thousand individuals will likely test positive on the antibody test, thus making AIDS prevention and healthy activities more compelling.

An Example from Norway

In this country the federal government continues to balk at funding AIDS education at a level anywhere near adequate, thus leaving the dumb of the work to a few enlightened cities and dozens of community-based AIDS education groups. Yet in Norway, one of the most respected institutions, the Red Cross, has adopted AIDS education as one of its primary efforts.

Earlier this year Red Cross workers in Oslo found that few health department officials or members of high risk groups were taking the AIDS epidemic seriously. The low number of AIDS diagnoses in the country obviously contributed to this, but the Red Cross recognized an impending crisis and moved into the vacuum of leadership. Celia Almedal, director of welfare of the Oslo office, explained that the Red Cross has produced and distributed more than 200,000 AIDS information brochures. In addition, the organization has presented lectures for health workers and has established a nationwide AIDS information hotline.

Almedal, who was attending the African AIDS conference held in Brussels in November at the time of this interview, said another Norwegian underwriting the planning stages, is to directly help African nations coping with the AIDS epidemic. Almedal acknowledged that she might depart with at least initial skepticism by African officials.

Several African physicians at the Brussels conference complained of the tendency by American and European scientists "to drop in, collect blood samples for their studies, and fly off." Often, the Africans said, they never hear the results of the studies.

The Norwegian Red Cross intends to take the opposite approach. "We will ask them in what areas they need help whether it's education, training, or AIDS prevention," explained Almedal. "Then we will try to get personal to work with them on these projects." Although

(continued on page 16)
Science... no decision has been made on which country by AIDS to be likely candidates.

In the Name of PWAs During the last few months, special AIDS benefits in American cities have raised a few million dollars to supplement the federal government's callous under-funding of AIDS research and services. Only the government and private foundations can ever provide the amount of money needed for AIDS activities, but benefits serve to focus public attention on the epidemic in our midst. One of the most recent events to commend such notice occurred in November in Paris.

The first major AIDS benefit in France brought nearly $1 million to the nation's AIDS research efforts at the Institut Pasteur and to the AIDS education and support programs of AIDS, the primary group in France dealing with the epidemic. The event attracted a dozen of the most popular performers in France for an evening of dining and entertainment, but the most moving moments of the "international gala" belonged to an American, Elizabeth Taylor.

Invited as the guest of honor, Taylor received an honorary plaque from the mayor of Paris for her work to combat AIDS. Taylor is the chief spokesperson for the American Foundation for Aids Research (AFAR), established just a week before the recent death of her colleague and friend Rock Hudson. The film actress also helped sponsor the very successful AIDS benefit held in Los Angeles in October. Taylor accepted the plaque "in the name of people with AIDS." She told the audience of 600, "There is no other honor that I have ever received that means so much to me. AIDS represents a dark cloud that hangs over all of us. We are faced with an epidemic of fear, fear that destroys reason, fear that tears apart human relationships at a time when relationships are most important."

Taylor also commented on the special role of France in the field of AIDS research. "France has been in the forefront of AIDS research; people around the world look to France with hope," she said.

Taylor concluded her remarks with a call for cooperation that should be heard beyond all national borders. "We must work together to ensure the dignity and self-respect of people with AIDS as well as to ensure funds for research."

Transgenderism... the question very candidly as to what it was like to be a female-to-male transsexual in terms of medical intervention. "They freed the clitoris in my case, because it got larger on testosterone. So I'm a poorly endowed male, but I have full feeling. So I masturbate for me now, post-surgery, with an organ that is no longer held down by the labia minora, is a whole new experience. I had to learn my body."

"I remember going to Tahoe with my surrogate partner to a conference, and she said to me, 'pointing across the room, that woman over there wants to go to bed with you. I said, oh no, she wants to know me because she doesn't have any friends. One day, I said, I'll take her upstairs to the room. I looked like a two-year-old kid. With my partner I knew I was a competent lover, I knew what to do beautifully, we explored everything together. But here I was now, upstairs in the room with this woman. I went over and kissed her as she was looking out the window. She hugs me and I've had a sudden rush of if she could do that to me. She's not usually so cute, but I pulled all three dildoes, threw them on the bed, and she said to her, 'Lady, which one do you want?' "

The panel discussion and the laughtersubs­ ided as a woman from the audience who iden­ tified herself as Kozmick Ladye recapped her own feelings about what she had just heard: "We are all time travelers, homo-celestials, gender-blends. As we enter into the later aspects of 1985, it's becoming more apparent that the realities you folks are dialoguing and liv­ ing are more where it's at. We are getting into more multi-dimensional realities as we enter further into realms of higher consciousness."

Gay/Lesbian Suicide Conference Information on suicide issues in the gay/lesbian community will be addressed at San Francisco Suicide Prevention's second annual national conference on Gay and Lesbian Suicide, Saturday, January 25. Virginia Apuzzo, former director of the National Gay Task Force, will speak. Whether the Gay/Lesbian Suicide and AIDS, the Gay Community, Gay/Lesbian Youth, the Aging and Suicide and Lesbians, plus clinical skills.

San Francisco Medical Examiner Dr. Boyd Lyon-Martin lecture at 12:30 or 2:30. Kelly Tregan at 4 p.m. Ann Coulter will speak at 9 p.m. A Special lecture on Suicide and AIDS, the Gay Community, Gay/Lesbian Youth, the Aging and Suicide and Lesbians, plus clinical skills.

San Francisco Suicide Prevention offers support to those who have been diagnosed with AIDS, their families, or friends. The agency staff people work to help the caller identify alternate options. Most are available to maintain an ultimate respect for the caller's right to self-determination. While SFP, for example, does not condone suicide, the agency does support the basic right to choose for oneself.

Many people ask: "What alternatives can be offered to someone who is going to die?" Agencies stress that it is important for terminal­ ly ill people to maintain a sense of power until death. Doing something new or maintaining an established talent can add greatly to the quality of their lives and may help family and friends work through the grief more easily.

Mary Plumb, A Conference will be held at the SFWomen's Building, 3543-18th Street. Varying fees for conference program at 21. Information: SFP, 752-4860 (business line). The conference is co­ sponsored by the San Francisco AIDS Foundation, Lyon-Martin Clinic, National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, Pacific Center for Human Growth, Parents and Friends of Les­ bian and Gay, and the Parsonage.

European Psychic

by Michael

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San Francisco Suicide Prevention (SFP) reports approximately twelve calls a week from individuals concerning AIDS. "Not all of the calls are from people feeling suicidal," says volunteer Catherine Kroll. "I think people feel comfortable just talking with us about the issue of AIDS with special respect for callers who have been diagnosed with AIDS. I can't imagine having to deal with what they are dealing with. They feel as if they have been handed a death sentence."

According to Jerilyn Hesse, in-take nurse at the Hospice of San Francisco AIDS Home Care and Hospice Program, suicidal thoughts are common with the patients they see. "When the individual is first diagnosed, and is still pretty mobile, the larger fear of the unknown," says Hesse. "He or she can't really imagine going from point A to B; can't imagine what it is going to be like—and that is very frightening."

She also notes that the fear and suicidal feel­ ings seem to dissipate as death becomes more imminent. Suicide is also common in those grieving the loss of someone with AIDS, according to Amy Weiss, the AIDS Hospice Bereave­ ment Program Coordinator. She adds that grief due to the death of someone with AIDS is dif­ ferent from other types of grief. Those grieving an AIDS death often fear concurrent diagnosis and are dealing with alcohol and substance abuse (over 25% of those who com­ mit suicide do so with alcohol or drugs evident in their blood), multiple losses and legal com­ plexities. Additionally, many griever confuse the signs of grief — weight loss, fatigue and depression — with AIDS symptoms.

Most suicidal persons, even those terminal­ ly ill, are ambivalent about committing suicide. When they call a hospice social service agen­ cies, such as the Suicide Crisis Line, staff members try to identify the issues underlying the suicidal feelings. Often those issues are fear of the unknown, a desire to escape family and friends, or specific pain. An additional issue for AIDS patients is isolation. Frequently, adverse reactions of family and friends stem from homophobia or mistaken fears of contagion and result in abandonment of the patient. Once the relevant issues are uncovered, agency staff work to help the caller identify alternate options. Most are available to maintain an ultimate respect for the caller's right to self-determination. While SFP, for example, does not condone suicide, the agency does support the basic right to choose for oneself.

Many people ask: "What alternatives can be offered to someone who is going to die?" Agencies stress that it is important for terminal­ ly ill people to maintain a sense of power until death. Doing something new or maintaining an established talent can add greatly to the quality of their lives and may help family and friends work through the grief more easily.

Mary Plumb
Loving Comrades
When our eyes met across the smokey, crowded barroom, and you came and sat beside me,
When you put your massive hands around me and told me I made you feel so good,
When you rubbed the back of my neck and thighs and told me how much you like the feel of two naked men together,
When you pressed me O' so tightly — then gently released me, and told me I was so different from all the rest,
When you kissed me very deeply and told me how much you'd like to feel yourself inside me,
When your curly beard rubbed against mine and you told me how much you'd like to feel yourself together,
When you looked me straight in the eye and said, "I am happily married, have a wonderful wife and two fine sons,"
O' then I knew for certain I could not put off writing this poem to you another minute.

Joe Lawrence Lembo

The New City of Friends
Dear Walt... once you made a Promise to California, a promise to teach Adamic songs) through the new garden

The West.
I hear you Walt Whitman, whispering your delicious words close to my ear, whispering your prophecy, your faint clues and indirects —
Sharing the secrets of your nights & days Celebrating the need of comrades.
Allons! Fresh come to a New World indeed, As I saunter the streets of San Francisco the frequent and swift flash of eyes offering me love, offering me response to my own,
The shapes arise! I know what I am for! You dream'd in a dream you saw a city invincible to the attacks of the whole of the rest of the earth.
You dream'd it was the New City of Friends full of robust love.
Now it is I, Walt Whitman — compact, visible, full of life, Realizing your poems, seeking you, finding you, in the faces of passing strangers, So happy you've become my comrade.

Joe Lawrence Lembo

SOME/TIME(S)

Sometimes these days I wake in the middle of the night like last night, and the first thing I'm aware of is your body, warm and asleep next to me. Then I'll get up to see if that's what woke me, maybe you will too, or maybe I've woken up to turn over, or you have and one of us will start our favorite half-asleep, test-of-wills conversation. "Roll over," I'll say to you, and you'll answer back, "No, you roll over," and I'll say, "No, you roll over." "No, you..." "No, you..." "No, you..." Until one of us gives in and turns over, the other spooning in to dissolve through body warmth back into sleep.

But sometimes these days I wake up with an anxious flash, the fear that this might be over too soon, wanting these nights until we're two old men, each in turn coming to his moment of death, a thought hard enough to accept, even years from now. When I wake up feeling like this, it's as though every night of the past three years has been too brief, as if we're just getting started with each other.
"Please," I almost say out loud to you, or to something, "...don't let it end because of...", almost too afraid to think the thought, superstitious about naming the fear....

Sometimes when I wake like this and can't fall back to sleep easily, I listen to your breathing, or look at the shadows and light that filter through the rice paper curtains. I think about our lives hanging on such tenuous threads. My thoughts drift off to people I used to know — people I touched and held, called on the phone, went dancing with. How strange it's been these last four months to try and understand that Bruce and I won't be able to pick up our friendship where we left off because he's ashes scattered somewhere in New Zealand.

If I start to feel overwhelmed by all this so late at night, I'll try to think about something else. My mother's voice drifts in: "Even if you can't sleep, sometimes it's restful just to lie quietly in the dark. Just think of something nice," she says before fading out. So tonight I think about our week in Yosemite last spring andanford to Tuolumne Meadows that first spring day when the roads were open to traffic, how we took mushrooms and ran around in the Meadows in a snowstorm and then had sex by the creek standing under big firs trees. Later that afternoon, sitting by another river, I cried like I usually do when I'm tripping that high and I realize more keenly than ever that yes, I really will die someday, you too, and we'll be lost to each other forever, as much as I'd like to believe otherwise. I felt the absolute certainty of it, how death will take me from everything — everything that moment being the river, the Sierras, spring, you.

I lie awake in bed tonight while you sleep, the traffic noise outside like the sound of the river that day. What could you have said to me then for comfort, "Don't worry, everything will be OK?" Holding me you said you'd stay with me as long as you could, which is all anyone can do, and then I sat alone by the river and cried for a long time, just because.

What brings me back from that moment is your presence here next to me:

Sometimes, like tonight, I run my hands down your side, stroke your smooth, firm ass, hoping for the best, hoping neither one of us carries a biological timebomb in our bodies. Tonight is just another night of sleeping together, but I have the same feeling as those kinds of nights when I first slept with someone I wanted for a long time, someone who was so hot, the sex so effortless and right. Like the kind of night when I first slept with you, wanting the night not to end, waking up every now and then thinking, "Good, it's not morning yet."

A tenuous edge to live on. To something I don't believe in, against my believing in not believing, I ask something outside myself for more nights with you, more months, years. Who can tell me now if we'll survive this time together?

David Steinberg
**ASTROLOGICAL FORECAST**

**By Jack Fertig**

A daily sun sign column is based on such broad generalizations that, without very clear qualities it is almost inevitably more wrong than right for most people. Here is a daily overview of the general mood of the days this month. Although less personal in its approach, it will describe more accurately than any sun sign column what you will face day by day.

1 Wed: Happy New Year! Unless your morning is devoted to nursing a hangover, it will be well spent luxuriantly lying in, considering your dreams and hopes for the year. New Year’s resolutions, if carefully considered, stand a very good chance of holding up this year.

5 Sun: If it’s the kind of morning you hate to get out of bed, but at 12:42 PM the Sun enters Capricorn and we start thinking more seriously about what needs to be done. After a restless morning, the afternoon will be excellent for getting up the eyelids and getting to work.

9 Mon: A good hardworking day and everybody knows just what needs to be done. You had that there’s so little agreement on the subject. What really needs to be done is for people to check their own agenda and understand that sometimes you get more done simply by cooperating and offering your brilliant ideas as tentative suggestions. Few of us are as brilliant as we think we are today. When the Moon enters Sagittarius (6:47 PM) we’ll be able to laugh at how pompous we were earlier on.

11 Tue: It’s a funny argumentative day, but of course everybody else who’s being funny, right Blanche? Illogical ideas search for logical order, or vice versa. Write poetry, meditate, or sing to yourself, the stay out of arguments. Nobody will win any today.

14 Wed: New ideas that have been bubbling in the back of your brain now become clear as to why you think you will work, but yesterday’s fuzzy communications are no better today. Your innovations are probably good, but give yourself some time to think about refining them before you insist on realizing them. The Moon enters Scorpio at 7:45 tonight, making us want to be serious and practical, but not really making us so.

18 Thu: Vague ambition now takes definite shape, and it’s easy to see how they realize. Nothing will work quite the way you expect, but stay on your toes and you can handle it. This is a serious day trying to have fun or a fun day trying to be serious! No problem is so big to be laughed at, and sometimes the panacea of buffoonery can clear the way for constructive activity.

22 Fri: Now it’s getting seriously silly or ridiculously serious. The truth doesn’t come out too. The rest will simply have to. That will be easier when the Moon enters Aquarius at 9:01 PM. In the meantime, remember that the innovation and humor provide a great source of productivity now.

24 Sat: Today things lighten up just a little. It’s a good day for fun, but ambitious creative pursuits provide the best outlet. Dug up your garden or work on your novel/lyric/mystery/movie.

25 Sun: The morning is restless with odd inspirations and egomaniacal surmise. Get up early to put a fresh twist into yesterday’s projects.

30 Mon: With the Moon in Pisces, a Monday morning, nobody can get up. Muddled, refusing to tell people what they need to hear. Whenever you do so, they shut up and listen for your own higher power to tell you something.

1 Tue: It’s a know-it-all day with real opportunities for bright ideas, but don’t get smug. Look in the mirror and think how lovely you’d look with a few (more) wrinkles.

5 Wed: Obey! Fight! Fight! Ethically conducted arguments or thoughtful debates can help clear the air. Pious and brilliant, this is a good day to set up a constructive argument in order to stay out of the other kind. The Moon goes into Aries this morning at 6:03, so the kid gloves are off. In the afternoon and evening, she squares Neptune, making one more eager to win the fight than to be strictly correct. Remember, principles beyond personality!

16 Thu: More of the same, but this afternoon and evening are especially garish. The ones who come out looking good are the ones who can keep quiet and smile at the combatants.

18 Fri: Everybody’s been here but what are they saying? Conversations get crazier and crazier with a hundred new ideas a minute; some of them are pretty good. Be patient and become instantly involved if the Moon enters Taurus at 7:14 AM.

18 Sat: Wilder and brillianter, the ideas and innovations come fast and may even have practical applications. There are those who listen and integrate the diverse ideas they hear and those who stubbornly insist on their own right. The latter are unwrapping material for the latter to capitalize on.

21 Sun: The climax of the bizarre dialogues building up over the last few days, today will find the practical applications of the ideas and the realization that the ideas are worth so much or is it your ego? The afternoon is still talky, but more earnestly communicative than recent days have been. In the morning especially people act more cooperative than they really are. Eager to make necessary changes, folks are willing to make some that aren’t. If it ain’t broke, don’t fix it.

21 Tue: Quieting down, but just a little, people try to take control over what they feel they’ve earned. Try to relax, recognize credit where credit is due.

22 Wed: Now begins another round of crazy ideas, but these will be more irrational and subversively defined. Some interesting ideas for adapting procedures and bureaucracies come up, but be very careful in examining them. The Moon enters Cancer at 8:47 PM tonight, beginning a domestic mood which becomes very cantankerous later on. Go to bed early.

23 Thu: Everybody’s a know-it-all and can’t even tell a little contradiction. Bend over backward to cooperate. It’s the only way to get through.

24 Fri: The urge to get things done in the best way possible can supersede the task that you’re not if you remember that the job is best done with open minds. Marking important events can enter Aquarius at 4:54 PM, bringing some great ideas, but a tendency to get away of yourself.

25 Sat: With the Moon in Leo today (as of 5:45 AM), everyone wants to shine. Plus, other aspects show a need to prove your intelligence, which will not be accomplished by choosing people down. If you really want to prove your wisdom, do so by coordinating the demands and needs of those around you. The full moon at 4:31 AM this afternoon is emotional and too clever by half, but will make for some brilliant parties.

26 Sun: Like yesterday, but a little less forceful. Let off steam at the beginning of the week, but be careful later. Don’t get caught up in work. Plan something adventurous for the evening.

27 Mon: A peaceful, show-off morning, but that’s OK. With the Moon in Virgo (after 12:51 PM) you’ll be less concerned today about getting to work, making the necessary corrections and apologies.

28 Tue: Hardworking, but pennicky and critical. Even the best work you do on your own. Your ideas will, in the long run, seem more clever if you keep them to yourself for now.

29 Wed: Still another fuzzy day, but it is your ideas that are worth so much or is it your ego? The afternoon is still talky, but more earnestly communicative than recent days have been. In the morning especially people act more cooperative than they really are. Eager to make necessary changes, folks are willing to make some that aren’t. If it ain’t broke, don’t fix it.

30 Thu: It’s a friendly, hearty day. The weekend may start a little soon. If you can keep your mind on work you can get a lot done, especially in cooperative effort.

**POPPERS YOUR HEALTH, & AIDS.**

Why Take The Risk?

**Why all the concern about poppers now?**

For years studies have revealed that inhaling poppers often leads to acute and chronic problems like headaches and dizziness. A few deaths have been linked to poppers use. With the outbreak of the AIDS epidemic researchers have studied how proper use relates to the immune system. Preliminary tests indicate that poppers can weaken the body’s immune system. Other AIDS experts think poppers may lead to the development of Kaposi’s sarcoma (KS), one of the diseases linked to AIDS.

In September scientists at the National Jewish Center for Immunology and Respiratory Medicine reported that inhaling poppers caused definite damage to cells that are essential to the immune system.

But use poppers once a week and exchange devices. Inconsistent "hits" of poppers are better than regular, heavy use. Even minimal use may weaken the body’s immune system.

Learn how to refuse poppers. Many people now refuse to use poppers, you’re not alone when you say "No thanks," if your partner insists, take the bottle and then hand it back. Or accept it but don’t snort it with regular partners; agree to get off on each other without poppers. Be ready to make a decision.

Make a personal decision to stop using poppers and communicate it with a few friends and/or sex partners. Get help when you have difficulty following your decision to stop.

For more information call:

To AIDS Hotline (800) 342-AIDS For substance abuse counseling call

18th Street Services (415) 861-1898

AVOID THE TREATMENT OF POPPERS! GET HELP ON YOUR HEALTH!

Prepared by the Network Abuse and AIDS Task Force with the cooperation of the Committee to Modular Poppers.

**FOOTNOTE**

* Funded by the San Francisco AIDS Foundation/DF Department of Public Health

Tested by Michael Helquul

**JACK FERTIG**

ASTROLOGICAL SERVICES

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FOR JANUARY

**1 Wed**
- SF Lesbian Chorus welcomes new members of all ages; women or who are especially encouraged to apply. Rehearsals are on Wed. Even.; Info: 285-0572 or 229-2552.

Black Cinema Series of SF Film Fest accepts entries of 16mm or 35mm films or 16" tape-directed and/or produced by Blacks of having interest relating to the Black experience. Features, documentaries, shorts & experimental works. Deadline 1/15, submitted by: Lena Feesthoven, Reel Directions. 117 Janet St, SF 94114, 221-8126. Or Peter Scarlet 221-9055.

Lesbian Violence. Do your anger get “out of control”? Have you ever hit your lover, punched a wall or thrown things (and) a room? If you have, then you are one of the many lesbians who have problems with violence. Violence isn’t new—it’s been talked about forever. Help (Lesbians Overcoming Violence) Phase I, a short-term therapy group, provides a safe, confidential place to begin to talk about—and end—your violence. Denial can’t change things. Info: Margorie Wider, MA, 558-8357; Brenda Lynn, MA, 864-1186. New Year’s Day Run with SF Frontrunners. 1.5 miles. Begins 10 am. Rainbow Fourth, Justin Herman Plaza, Foot of Market, SF. Info: 398-3055, 821-4590.

SF Hiking Club Day Hike: Laurel Dell on Mt Tamalpais. Manager of Big Saylor sign near Market & Church, 10:45 am. Info: POB 421723, 94124-1723.


**2 Thu**
- It’s Bonnie Hayes giving her all at Baybrick: 7 pm. 1190 Folsom St, SF. Info: 431-8334.
- Michael Meehan & Steve Carey host SF Comedy Zone auditions tonight, 8:30 pm. $2. 353 Jefferson St, SF. Info: 771-3330.

**3 Fri**
- Casserberry-Dupree, dynamic reggae duo, in concert at La Pena Cultural Center, 3150 Shattuck Ave, Berkeley. 8:30 pm. Info: 844-3334.
- “Surprise” Comedy with Karen Rigley at Mama Bears. Women only. 8 pm. $5. 6-636 Telephone Ave, CA 94610. Info: 844-2654.
- Great Jazz Vocals! It’s the dynamic Miss Faye Carol & Her Trio at the Great American, 859 Folsom St, SF. 8 pm. Info: 885-0765.
- Celebrities & Comedians will be at the Omry, 4799 Shattuck Ave. 4th fl Oakland. 9:30 am with Diane & fire entertainment—you know it’s griffen’s, it’s a party place. $6, park in B of A post office lot, or along Telegraph. 9001 required.
- Original blues with Malene Monser at Anaroma. 8 pm. $5-5. 1196 Valencia St, SF. Info: 821-0323.

**4 Sat**
- Vachsels. By the master of suspense, Alfred Hitchcock. 6 pm. $3.50 adults, $1.10. 1021 Sanchez St, SF. Info: 262-2317, 929-0382.
- James Pino: Hear the Jesús Williams Trio in their last Bay Area performance. 8:30 pm, SF. Great American Music Hall, 859 Folsom St, SF. Info: 885-0765.
- It’s “The tuna Grand Up” at 1177 Club tonight. 1177 California St, SF. 8:30 pm. Info: 776-2101.
- Lesbians Strip for Women—at a Little More, 15th at Potrero, SF. 10:30 pm.
- Catherine D’Amato brightens up your evening with great vocalists like Artie Grossfield, $5. 8 pm, $5. Info: 821-0323.

**5 Sun**
- Bible Study with Evangelicals Concerned. Topic: Abiding in Christ. 7 pm. Dolores St. Baptist Church, 208 Dolores St, SF. Info: 821-0232.
- Different Spokes Decided 4' Meike comes in concert at Stanford Shopping Mall (El Camino entrance) at 10 pm.
- East Bay Hot Tub Ride with Different Spokes. SF. Meet 10-10:15 at Rockridge BART station. 3-mile route thru East Bay hills, withgubbing afterwards. Info: Derek 393-2843.
- Japanese Language Study Group meets for the first time today. Interested: Call 759-0841.
- “Personal Reflections on the AIDS Epidemic,” a talk by psychologist Hal Dallal at G. Forty Plus. Discussion of issues affecting people with AIDS and at Shanti. Based on research, you will find something beautiful wrapped for our hands—tissue, bandage, bandage, Rattling, to ruffle off. 2:4 pm, First Unitarian Church. 1187 Finland at Geary, SF. Info: 552-1937.
- Cafe Paradiso Rhythm & Blues at Baybrick with Lady Blanc & Her Trio. $8. 1177 California St, SF. Info: 821-4680.
- And We Call It Survival…” a dramatic exploration of the pain & sorrows of women, opens Mothers’ Tongue Theatre’s year-long celebration of the 100th anniversary of the Suffrage Movement. They’re at La Pena in Berkeley. 6 & 8 pm. Info: 821-9788.
- Great Jazz Vocals! It’s the dynamic Miss Faye Carol & Her Trio at the Great American, 859 Folsom St, SF. Info: 885-0765.
- “New Year’s Eve Party” Snacks at 11pm-2am $5 reserved, $7 at the door.

49er’s Football on foot screen

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Adrienne Rich reads for SBA—
evening benefit for Sisterhood in San Francisco, 11/30 at 7:30 pm. info: 412-8097.

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The Godfathers: Wright Young, Carl Barrie & Catherine Meyer read selections from Mary Webb's new novel. Discussion after on the transformative powers of love, led by Mary Webb. 5:30 pm, free. All welcome. WA. Call about BGN, OC. (Dist. 3) 910, 1000 Valencia St. 287-1515.

The Lesbians Strip for Women at a Little More. 15th at Potrero, 5/30, 9-11 pm.

Lots of Original Songs with Teresa Chandler at Mama Tennessee, 6/16 at Telegraph Ave, SF. 8 pm, $5-7. Women only. Info: 429-9581.

Heer Hunter Davis at the Baybrick tonight—light rock with lots of rich vocals. 7-9 pm, free! 1190 Folsom St, SF, info: 412-9696.


Call for Sponsors to Host the Annual Fundraising Benefit for Sisterhood in Action.

For info: 412-9696.

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1177 California St, SF, 9:30 pm. Info: 771-2010.

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Fast Forward & Yves Muirad in Rotobrade, an intimate, intense combination of dance & music for skateboarders. Tonight at New Performance Hall, 3535 11th St, SF. 8 pm, $4-5, Fri & Sat. Info: 863-9830.

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Heer Hunter Davis at the Baybrick tonight—light rock with lots of rich vocals. 7-9 pm, free! 1190 Folsom St, SF, info: 412-9696.


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**COMING UP / JANUARY, 1986 / Page 21**
Zane, 353 Jefferson St, SF. Two shows: 6:30 & 10:30 pm. $3. Info: 771-3330.
Group Sex, four hermaphrodite blond standards at Breezies. 1190 Polk St, SF. 9 pm. $5. Info: 431-8334.

Luisa Telah celebrates the publication of her new book on spirituality. Jambalaya: The Natural Woman's Book of Rituals, Charms and Practical Rituals. 7:30 pm. Everyone welcome. Old Wives Tales Bookstore, 1009 Valencia St, SF. WA. Call for advance for CC, SIGN. $4...

Women's Book of Personal Charms Everyone welcome. Old Wives Tales Bookstore, 1009 Valencia St, SF. 7:30-9:30 pm, part of the farm belt, plus recent Bay Area incidents. 7:30-9:30 pm, part of the San Francisco Jewish Community Relations Council's Winter Forum on Anti-Semitism series. (See 12/1 & 22/1.)

The Sticklers (the Breasts of Innocence) perform dances from the late Renaissance era at Watt's Court, Berkeley. Info: 549-1118.

Over Our Heads at Mamas Bars: 8-11 pm at the Women's Blog, 3943 16th St, SF. Includes producers & community members with the facts to destroy the myths surrounding lesbian/gay suicide. Share skills in dealing with suicidal clients, personal issues. Keynote speaker: Ginny Adrian. Workshops on various topics, including: Suicide & AIDS, AIDS & the Gay Community, Suicide & Lesbians, Gay & Lesbian Youth, the Aging Homosexual. Info: 6536 Telegraph Ave, Oakl. Info: 429-9664.

5th Annual Solidarity Run for the Teacher's Union of El Cerrito. 9 am at the Palo Field, Golden Gate Park, SF. Includes 5K & 10K distances, special $1 for kids under 12. & aged under 90. Pre-registration: Registration fees: $8 for 10K; $10 for under 11, $10 after registration. Fees include original T-shirts & refreshments. Children's 1K, $1.50. Entry & registration details: 9 am at the Polo Field, Golden Gate Park, SF. 495-8390. For more info, call COGS (707) 887-2490 or write: POB 11554, Santa Rosa, CA 95406.

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Baroquian Treasures
A long-lived concert featuring works by Baroquian women composers

ON STAGE
Passion Play by Peter Nichols. A capricious look at modern love produced by the San Jose Repertory Company. Thu 1/19, call for times, $9-$16. Montgomery Theatre, 2788 Church, 208 Dolores St, SF. Info: 408-1279.

Hamlet by Michael Tremblay. Drama about incestuous family relationships. Runs Thu-Sat thru 1/23, 8:30 pm. $45. Milford's, 12 S. Florida St, San Jose. Info: 222-1337.

Babylonia by George Coates. Exposing the absurd presentment of the mind thru music, design & visual effects. Runs Tue-Thurs at 8 pm, Fri & Sat at 8 pm, thru 1/15, 8:30pm. Theater Asylum, 450 Florida St, SF. Info: 222-1797.

Bonjour La Bonjour by Michael Tremblay. Drama about incestuous family relationships. Runs Thu-Sat thru 1/23, 8:30pm. $45. Milford's, 12 S. Florida St, San Jose. Info: 222-1337.

Dreyfus in Rehearsal by Jean-Claude Grumberg. Portrays the historical area of a group of actors trying to stage a play about Alfred Dreyfus. Runs Thu-Sat at 8 pm, thru 1/15, 8:30pm. Theatre Asylum, 450 Florida St, SF. Info: 222-1797.

Gardens by John Guare. The story of 3 veterans and a nurse who try to stage a play about the Civil War. Runs Thu-Sat at 8 pm, thru 1/15, 8:30 pm. Theatre Asylum, 450 Florida St, SF. Info: 222-1797.

We Can't All Be Jews by Geoffrey Holder. Based on the work of the artist. Runs Thu-Sat at 8 pm, thru 1/15, 8:30 pm. Theatre Asylum, 450 Florida St, SF. Info: 222-1797.

BlasheM: A one-man, two-wrist show written & performed by Tom Ammer. Opens 1/17, Fri & Sat at 8 pm, thru 1/15, 8:30 pm. Theatre Asylum, 450 Florida St, SF. Info: 222-1797.

LegoCity by John Doyle. A subrealist fantasy of 4 children who want to stage a play about the Civil War. Runs Thu-Sat at 8 pm, thru 1/15, 8:30 pm. Theatre Asylum, 450 Florida St, SF. Info: 222-1797.

Wit/Wit by by Caryl Churchill. Based on the work of the artist. Runs Thu-Sat at 8 pm, thru 1/15, 8:30 pm. Theatre Asylum, 450 Florida St, SF. Info: 222-1797.

The Art of Dining by Tina Howe. Based on the notion we are what we eat. This play explores a full spectrum of characters entirely through their individual food obsessions. Berkeley Repertory Theatre. Runs Thu-Sat, 1/6-18, 8 pm. $5-$10. Info: 222-1337.


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dykes & Their dogs, photo series by Ann Meredith on exhibit at Alist Savings & Loan, 1967 Market St at Duboce, SF. Opening reception 11/11, 7-9 pm, show runs thru 1/31. Artist as Shaman: exhibit of the works of 41 artists, ranging from painting to sculpture to performance, is almost everything in between. Runs thru 12/28 at Judah L. Magnes Museum, 2911 Russell St, Berk. Info: 558-9977.

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thoughts behaviors around AIDS. Open to men who have one or more partners, interested in learning about AIDS, with a diagnosis of negative. Located: 1633 Market St, SF 94122. Call: 866-7000.


AIDS Health Project has groups for ARC & World Wide individuals. Information includes groups who manage stress, reduce depression. Contact: 861-8230.

For information about AIDS & substance abuse concerns for persons w/AIDS & AIDS-related conditions. Contact: 866-7000. Information includes groups who manage stress, reduce depression. Contact: 861-8230.

Women’s LifeStyle Group (352) is for people involved in the arts of throwing & visual, literary, & performing arts who want to make new contacts. Mailing address: Box 423, Berkeley, CA 94702. Call: (415) 524-5222.

Stop AIDS Project provides an opportunity for people to meet in small groups of 15 to discuss AIDS issues with the goal of ending the spread of HIV. Location: 17th St, SF 94110. Contact: 861-8230.

SF AIDS Foundation provides various educational (support services) as well as social activities such as food bank, hotline & housing volunteers. Contact: 861-8230.

Shanti Project offers emotional, practical support for people with AIDS, their families and friends. Call: 861-8230. To volunteer an emotional or practical support call: 861-8230.

AIDS Interfaith Network offers support & guidance to people with AIDS, their families and friends. Call: 861-8230. To volunteer an emotional or practical support call: 861-8230.


Lyn-Morton Women’s Health Service provides gynecology & referrals. Special attention given to women of color. Contact: 861-8230.

Group Roll in Massage for Men. Group meets every Mon & Wed at 7:30 pm. Contact: 861-8230.

LGBTQ (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual) & Bisexual Men, Sun. 7-10 pm. Contact: 861-8230.

Men’s Sexual Health Clinic. Women may attend. Contact: 861-8230.

Music Theory Class: Beginner class Monday nights at 7. Contact: 547-1730.

Dance Movement Class taught by Patty Mason at Co-Lab Theatre. Meditations taught by Bruce & Michael. Contact: 861-8230.

Lesbian Women’s Jewish Club: an interesting aspect of Japanese women’s spiritual culture, including chanting, grapping & self-defense. Tues 7-9 pm, 6th floor. Contact: 866-7000.

Lesbian & Bisexual Men, Sun. 7-10 pm. Contact: 861-8230.

AIDS in the Workplace/Labor: southern Baptist worship service on 2nd & 4th Saturdays of each month, 10 am. Tai Chi, Thurs 10 am; Hula. Contact: 547-1730.

Women of Color & Allies Meet for 2nd & 4th Saturdays at the Billox Center, 600 10th, SF. Contact: 868-6240.

Women’s S.A.F.E. Network is a network of people involved in visual, literary & performing arts who want to make new contacts. Mailing address: Box 423, Berkeley, CA 94702. Call: (415) 524-5222.

Women of Color in Arts, located at 1633 Market St, SF 94122. Contact: 866-7000. Information includes groups who manage stress, reduce depression. Contact: 861-8230.

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**Joanie Sommers**

Those of you who remember Joanie Sommers as a hot pop singer in the early '60s will be pleased to know that she's riding the comeback trail. And winning new friends at every stage stop.

As the voice of Pepsi, and with a couple of hit singles to her credit, Sommers was a household sound 20 years ago. Now, three children later, she's mature, elegant, open, ad

M. C. Peter David Heth and Betty Porter ("The Living Easel"), as well as pianists Susan Fourcade were again on hand to keep things rolling. Porter, decked out in a red and white candy-striped dress for the holidays, asked if anyone in the audience recognized the dress she had just bought it at Gotxwill. Fourcade, who is a party unto herself, kept things jumping during her introductory piano playing, with her reflecting version of "I Could Have Danced All Night," a concertito Christmas medley, and a pensive "I Feel Pretty."

The showcase included singers Cristina Victoria, Marilyn Olson, Sammi Gray (who appeared in Strike!), Katrina Zorn, tap dancer Damara Reilly, comedian Linda Hill from the National Theatre of the Deranged, and, for a return visit, The Flips once again brought their zany '60s original compositions.

Victoria, who played Billie in Billie's Song, presented a driving "It's Over Now," and an original blues ballad "Best Friends" ("Could we love and best friends?" it asks). This number probably hit home for more than one member of the audience. Olson's rendition of "Somewhere" was flayed by her lilting soft notes.

Gray was joined by Ted Pinkston on the piano for his mesmerizing "God Bless the Child." Gray's bass did justice to "Big Mabel Blues." Zorn's rocky opener, "The World of Love," was flawed by her ill-pitched "I Left My Heart..." (given to her by George Corey, who relates, would have been written by her mother, if there hadn't been a mahjong game that day.) Zorn's specialty song entitled "My Trick," and the self-explanatory "Role-Playing Tango."

"Although I Sometimes Use the Personals for Fun," appears light in its opening verses, it ends with a whiff of melancholy. Her subl 

**Lynn Lavner**

Lynn Lavner, who could be called the Tom Lehrer of the gay community, brought her "common noun approach to cabaret music: people, places and things." She opened at the Baybrick Inn, early December. Although based in New York, Lavner writes songs that are universal in meaning. Her biting satire and powers of observation in her original compositions ("No one else will do them," she concedes), her variety of musical settings, plus her patter which nicely leads into each song, add up to a top-drawer performance. Although most of her compositions are in the comic vein, Lavner also writes songs that are quite affecting. In the former category are the honky-tonk lament "Shelly, You've Gone Nelle on Me," "Please Don't Wear Leather Pants to the Seder" (which, Lavner relates, would have been written by her mother, "if there hadn't been a mahjong game that day.") Lyric and music for "Someday You'll Be Beautiful" ("The hand that rocked the cradle can go out and rock the world"). Lavner's "It Wouldn't Be Politically Correct" is bound to raise a few eyebrows, but forces one to wonder what is going on and see it with a fresh eye.

Lavner confides she could have gone mainstream, but decided to stick to entertaining in cabarets. Her paean, "Oh, How I Love Cabaret," offers this advice: "If nothing else, I'm beautiful." But Lavner is beautiful.

"That Man Has Made" (such as artificial lemonade, the Edsel, segregation and war), and "It's Our Good Old Days" from the show "We're the Good Old Days." Lavner's closing number, the only non-original number in her whole presentation, Pals' "Non, Je Ne Regrette Rien," sums up her choice. Lucky for us, she made the right one.

**Alma Sayles and John Nockels**

Two of the cast members of Tuna the Grand Up ventured down Nob Hill to Buckey's in mid-December. Alma Sayles and John Nockels brought their sophisticates to an evening of show music in that restaurant's newly renovated cabaret/dining area.

This entertaining duo nicely blended their voices in "Soom It's Gonna Rain," "But Alive," and "Hooyah for Love." Besides doing solo segments.

Sayles, who possesses an easy-to-listen-to alto voice, seemed a bit stiff in her opening numbers, but had relaxed by the second part of the show to give her all to "I in the Last Gal in Town" (during which she allowed her
The Color Purple
Reviewed by Kim Corsaro

When local author Alice Walker published her novel The Color Purple, it quickly achieved cult status in the national women's community. It probably would have remained one of those enormously popular, but largely unheralded novels, had not the Pulitzer committee, to the astonishment — and consternation — of many, given it that prestigious award the following year.

The reaction when The Color Purple got the prize should have served as a warning for what was to come. One newspaper described it as the "story of a young bride in the South," and nowhere was there any reference to the true spirit of the novel. The New York Times Review repeatedly alluded to the prize as a Buke and generally designated Walker's literary skills.

Still, there seemed to be reason to hope these last few months as the story of the making of the movie developed. Local performer-made-good Whoopi Goldberg was cast as the brutalized and transformed Celie. Danny Glover and Adolph Caesar took the roles of the wife-beater Mister and his father. And Walker stated that she was extremely pleased with the lesser-known actors selected to portray bluesy singer Shug and Sofia, a character who lands in jail. Walker talked about her joy at being a consultant on the set for much of the filming and the患在 production in lovely Savannah, Georgia. The overall sense emerged that The Color Purple was indeed a labor of love that would capture the spirit of the novel.

The long-anticipated premiere of the movie was a benefit showing at Masonic Auditorium. Alice Walker was there. I had seen the film a week earlier at a press screening, and a sister expectedly wanted to hear what Walker would have to say about the movie. My feelings were validated. Walker said that the The Color Purple she didn't like it. She said that the characters in the movie were not the characters of her novel. She said that she went into mourning for a week.

Walker couldn't have known what she was up against when she agreed to let filmmakers have the rights over to Spielberg. She hadn't seen any of his movies and hadn't even heard of him before he approached her to do the book. This is the man who brought us Jaws, E.T., and Raiders of the Lost Ark. Spielberg's hands, Walker's lyrical paean to the liberation of the human spirit through love between women turns into "Indiana Jones Invades the Black South."

In Spielberg's hands, Walker's novel was transformed. His film is a whitewash. It seems that Walker's characters will only have to live in her book, now that we have a Steven Spielberg production of the story. But perhaps the most astonishing design of the novel is that the poor women in the south will be less poorly cast. No dancer would do this to other dancers. No dancer would be allowed to do this. (I know when to say my peace.) Walker is a scrawny little woman, but even I would have kicked her and her tacky hair-do out into Schubert Alley.

Chorus Line, the Movie
Reviewed by Gene Price

But the stage versions are longest-running — and still running — musical, a grand lady, and she's above petty tickering. It is an ensemble story about dancers who go to cattle call auditions. It's the dancers on the line who tell of their hopes and humiliations, who dance their hearts out, who carry the movie, ultimately, an exciting, fulfilling piece of Broadway backstage show biz.

For You. "(All the choreography, by the way, has been "updated" by Flashdance choreographer, Tony Hordaway. Based closely on Michael Bennett's routines, of course, it's exciting, some of it is considerably less so, including poor Cassie's solo. The choreography is directed with fire and love, her musical is performed to an audience as it is at frequenters of dance clubs [formerly called disco]."

Cassie did not make the Anal cut. Audience line, and when favorites were cut from that line, the movie is, ultimately, a show biz! (All the choreography, by the way, has been "updated" by Flashdance choreographer, Tony Hordaway. Based closely on Michael Bennett's routines, of course, it's exciting, some of it is considerably less so, including poor Cassie's solo. The choreography is directed with fire and love, her musical is performed to an audience as it is at frequenters of dance clubs [formerly called disco]."

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The Art of Dining

But where's the beef?

Ina Howe, whose Painting Churches
was seen recently at A.C.T., is now
represented by a souffle of a farce at
Berkeley Repertory. As a souffle, however,
The Art of Dining doesn't quite rise to the occasion.
Not to say there aren't some marvelous satiric bits.
There are, but, d'oh d'ohs are best,
they are overdone and belabored until the
repressions, the men pause in their sponging to
female with good palates; gourmands Monroe and Morain
are often too lost their wit. Director
might better have understated the sexuality of
the evening. Whether dictated by the script or
the men pause in their sponging to

Women arrive to celebrate a birthday. As
the kitchen at stage rear provides a hand-
the presence of Miss Hannah's
development of her character rather
than attempt to sponger soup from the crotch
of her borrowed dress. As Morain stands there,
inflicted, vigorously protruding their minstrel-
ments, the men pause in their sponging
to speculate on the fabric. Is it a blend of some sort?
Perhaps a polyesters? No, probably a silk.
Lastly, a party of three loud and pretentious
women arrive to celebrate a birthday. As
directed, Esther Scott, Gina Ferrall, and Molly
Mayock seemed totally out of place in such a
chic establishment — especially the younger

The Art of Dining plays through January 19
at the Berkeley Repertory Theatre.

Michelle Morain, as unpublished writer
Elizabeth (admittedly author Howe's food-a-
phatic alter ego), next enters to await her
potential publisher and dinner date. Ms.
Morain is a fine comedienne, and following
some of the most absurd dinner table conver-
sation imaginable, she manages with superb
dexterity to spill a bowl of soup in her lap.
This latter is a funny bit, indeed, as both her
inner date, Brian Thompson, and maitre d'
Grantham attempt to sponge soup from the crotch
of her borrowed dress. As Morain stands there,
inflicted, vigorously protruding their minstrel-
ments, the men pause in their sponging
to speculate on the fabric. Is it a blend of some sort?
Perhaps a polyesters? No, probably a silk.
Lastly, a party of three loud and pretentious
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directed, Esther Scott, Gina Ferrall, and Molly
Mayock seemed totally out of place in such a
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Women's Spirit Bonding
Janet Kelven & Mary J. Buckley, Eds.
The Pilgrim Press, 389 pps., $12.95
Reviewed by Z. Budapest

It has been 15 years since the first women's spirituality covens gathered in California, with the firm desire to shed Christianity like a snake skin. Christianity was seen as responsible for the millions of women, men, and children massacred during the 11th-17th centuries in the name of God. This god had to go. And he did.

But it left behind a sea of emptiness in which Christian women, trained in obedience and submission, felt challenged by feminism and the inner god. She will provide. And she will bond.

Now we have a new dawn. Christian women are gathering in their own rituals, maybe not as bold as the California witches dancing on mountain tops. But their solidarity is the grimmest laws of men is no longer confused with that of their inner god. She will provide. And she will bond.

Out of this transformation, the Women's Spirit Bonding book was born. The place was Ohio. The participants were eclectic, white, Black, Hispanic, jew and Gentile, and even a token pagan. There were 16 women, very small girls and one man for a week-long theorizing session. Who can ask for anything more?

The book is indeed a holistic version of recent women's liberation issues, interfaced with spiritual issues. There will never be a separate the two: liberation is theology. The concept is brilliant. The women taped and edited their process together, their dialogue, their experience, hence, the book.

However, this very same impetus makes the book a bit of a catalog of all the oppressions we face, many times written and rewritten about in other books. Poverty, capitalism, patriarchy, racism, anti-Semitism, war and peace. These issues are important, they are spiritual, and they are everybody's work — not just women's.

Mary Coaden's contribution, "Patriarchy and Death," brings us into radical waters. She points out how male power is rooted in necrophilia, which they can deal since they envy of female life-giving powers, how men glorify death, which they can deal since they were able to conquer women's bodies. These issues are important, they are spiritual, and they are also everybody's work — not just women's.

Ms. Ruether takes us to the heart of the ancient Near East. The best parts of the book are the dialogue, the personal stories, the friendships that resulted in the coming together. It tends to be scholarly, a bit dry at times, but it is a great handbook of primal feminism to be shared by students of theology.

Ms. Ruether moves on to describe what the Good Society would do — be equitable, non-exploitive, and land would not be overworked, etc. Very romantic.

I wonder what this philosophy can do in the age of mega-corporations, space travel and arms buildup. Aren't those folks also all Christian? Didn't they read our pal Leviticus, for heaven's sake? Still no original thought from one so passionate as Ms. Ruether.

Originality, however, is not lacking in the rest of the contributions in Women's Spirit Bonding. "Guidelines for Planners of Rituals," by Dianne Neu and Julia Upton, suggests the use of elements like water and fire to cut through the different symbolism of the many religious traditions and get to the core of human experience. The ideas they offer are sound, and they are based on improvisation.

Under the chapter heading "Lesbianism and Homophobia," the conference members attempt to talk about the sexual nature of women. There is a duel by lesbians who talk about their fear, sadness and anger being lesbians in a heterosexist society. I am moved with fear and sadness. Every time I hear about lesbians, this mixed message of pain comes to us, especially from a Christian experience.

I wish in discussions of lesbians we could include some speculation as to why many women choose to be lesbians, and aren't just "born that way," as is stated again and again. There is an exodus from the other side, obviously not just a fade. There are more lesbians today than when I came out 15 years ago. Women like lesbians; they want the passion and the depth. They also love the sex, or they wouldn't come out yearly in such high numbers. I'd like to hear about all the happy lesbians in the women's community. Spirituality is supposed to raise the quality of one's life, not just discuss "problems."

In "Discussions," we hear about celibacy, nuns and lesbians. There must be a psychic need to reserve the two, nuns and lesbians, as women's cultures. Is that really true? Lesbians have a woman identified and woman-serving culture. Nuns follow men's orders in the long run.

One major omission I found in Women's Spirit Bonding was that there was no chapter or exploration devoted to the general pursuit of happiness as a spiritual path. Isn't that bonding is all about? Isn't the pursuit of happiness the root of all liberation? But I think women are deeply imbedded in pursuit of getting out from under, and the pursuit of happiness doesn't even occur to us. Too bad.

The business of "getting out from under" is very well and ably represented in this work. In the chapter "Report from the Working Group on Racism/Classism/Sexism," we get not only the nature of the problem, but the will to make suggestions, how to stop the lies amongst ourselves. Criticism also emerged about conference shortcomings in these areas.

Whatbonded these women finally in their retreat? "Until we find each other, we are alone." writes Adrienne Rich in the poem, "Hunger." Gentle pagan activities like being close to nature, walking, sunning and swimming seemed to get the ladies closer to each other. Talking and listening was another glue between them. Humor is listed as is sharing common tasks. But the highest were rituals, celebrations, affirmations, to think well of those who shared the experience together.

I am happy with the book in spite of its reflections from the past and its romantic attachment to biblical musings. Women have developed a great deal more independence from the days of banging on the doors of their respective churches to be ordained or appraised as spiritual people. Today those in the Christian traditions are adopting the pagan ways when they seek bonding with each other, and it will change their quality of life for the better.

Women's Spirit Bonding is a great read that should be recommended to all readers.
We were served a very refreshing dish of cucumber salad and our wooden planks were kept filed with pickled ginger and fresh walnuts (the very hot ginger horseradish — the Japanese love). I made a friend of both my date and the sushi chef when I asked for an inside-out California Napoleon. My date knew I had a taste for sushi, and the chef got to show off his skill. It was well worth it as well; the avocado was perfectly ripe, the tobiko (flying fish roe) the toasted sesame seeds crisp and nicely contrasted against the white rice.

We didn't want the number of tiny cups of hot sake that warmed us against the cool night air. This evening we didn't need anything more to make us feel full and satiated. A week later, Jim, my frequent taster and I decided to try the Tempura at Sushi Gen. We couldn't resist a first course of mixed Futomaki on a beautiful lacquer tray. Then the Tempura arrived, and what a delight it was not a bit greasy, the batter crisp and golden, and the prawns large and sweet. The vegetables included onions, carrots, mushrooms, broccoli and yams were perfectly cooked and arranged on the plate.

We had over-ordered and were filled to bursting. We still managed to try their green tea ice cream.

The dinners here feature different combinations which will give you some changes of pace. The top item on the menu is their Ben-Dinner at $14, which gives you a fair sampling of a Japanese menu with soup, salad and a dessert course.

Sushi Gen is owned by Mike Lascio, who is assisted by Boon in the kitchen and three of the sauciest, most fun-loving sushi chefs in town. You'll enjoy Sen, Hiro and Mickey as their knives flash and they gently insatiate their clients or kid each other about their success or lack of it in the dating department.

You will see me back there.

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**DINING OUT**

**BY GARY NOS**

A Reviewer's Frustration
One thing that is a frustration to a restaurant reviewer is the charming place that you like a lot and you've recommended to all your friends and you never get a chance to go there again. You know, there is a deadline next week, and you have heard of three new places you should try, and you never get a chance to revisit some favorite places.

Well, I did revisit two of my favorites recently. Happily both still are on my favorite places list.

Two years ago Helmut Horn opened in a most unlikely spot. The San Francisco Alley just celebrated its second anniversary, and the food is perhaps even better than I remembered when I wrote the first review. Jim, Justin and I returned last weekend, and they are as good as they were two years ago. We were seated at the sushi bar this evening.

Two men who operate one of San Francisco's more elegant and accurate Bistro type restaurants have recently celebrated an anniversary as well. Gerard Lepinette and Rachael Ben-Avram met in Paris and came to San Francisco, where they opened The Willow's Guest House and later Gerard's. You'll remember they were the first to introduce a new kind of cuisine in town that is now known as French-California cuisine.

A treat that I had never had was prepared by our sushi chef. This was a whole Spanish mackerel with a touch of lime and soy sauce. The skin or shell still appeared right from the water.

All the fish was fresh and firm and seemed to be brought in that day. The color was bright and the skin or shell still appeared right from the water.

We concentrated on Nigiri tonight, with perfectly ripe, the crab fresh and the toasted sesame seeds crisp and nicely contrasted against the white rice.

We didn't want the number of tiny cups of hot sake that warmed us against the cool night air. This evening we didn't need anything more to make us feel full and satiated. A week later, Jim, my frequent taster and I decided to try the Tempura at Sushi Gen. We couldn't resist a first course of mixed Futomaki on a beautiful lacquer tray. Then the Tempura arrived, and what a delight it was not a bit greasy, the batter crisp and golden, and the prawns large and sweet. The vegetables included onions, carrots, mushrooms, broccoli and yams were perfectly cooked and arranged on the plate.

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You will see me back there.

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**UNEASY LISTENING**

**By BARRY BYFORD**

In 1985:

**The Worst:**
- New Order: Low Life, LP
- Thomas Dolby: Dolby's Cube, 12''
- Simperming Minds: Once Upon A Time, LP
- Nina Hagen: Elektra, LP
- The Police: Brothers, 12''
- Associates: Take Me to the Girl, 12''
- INXS: Listen Like Thieves, LP
- Madonna: her music
- Paul McCartney: his attitude

**The Best:**
- The Smiths: Meat is Murder, LP
- Shredneck: Oil and Gold, LP
- Princess tinymce: Fairest of them All, 12''
- CTI: Th' Gift of Tongues, 12''
- Flowerpot Men: Walk on Gilded Splinters, 12''
- Skinny Puppy: Skinny Puppy, EP
- Bunny Bites, LP
- Depeche Mode: Fly on the Windscreen, 12''
- Star Ridgway: Salesman, 12''
- Kate Rush: Hounds of Love, LP

To be brief, this month's reviews are a "year" for the following: Cocteau Twins: Tiny Dynamine, EP; Cocteau Twins: Echoes in a

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**SEALED pregnant females!**

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**PLAYING HELL**

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**HOT GAY EVENINGS**

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**SAFE!**
Montclair and Marlena as of this moment bowed out — but, you never can tell. Monte Reddick, our friend, and myself had quite a chat a few weeks ago, and if Bay Area Typesetting, above the Village, isn't the best place for "sex" then I don't know where it is. The Trocadero Transfer's new look is hot! Even though Mr. Marcus forgets to mention it, I will remind everyone that the oldest continuing, the most fun, the most in prize money ($300 bi-weekly given to 1st, 2nd and 3rd) are all at the Rise, now starting to change — somewhat — check the Jock Strap Dance Contest and the End Up at 6th and Harrison. Sorry you'll not be — see you there, won't ya? Thanks to Wayne Friday for his Happy New Year, and to Jay Noonan for his wonderful Christmas poem. It's always nice to be included — read it in the B.A.R. .... Mae West is alive and well and is gonna be in Men Behind Bars III. Jim and Mark are pulling all stops out for this "baby" of theirs — so in February watch it!.... Congratulations to my Imperial "cousins" on their "almost annual" open house. Yep. Von Dickoff and Arthur did it again — and don't forget G.A.L.A.X.Y. (Gay and Lesbian Accommadations for the Experienced in Years) on Jan. 25 at Amelia's. This organization is now a year old and, believe me — there is life after 40! This is their first fundraiser — see you there, won't ya?.... Thanks to Anthony Garrett through January at Sweet Inspiration, 2239 Market — worthy praise. But, a new photographer looms in the horizon. It's called P.J.'s Photos — you want it? They'll do it. Good luck to Pete who takes fine pix.... Ron Ross is getting a new truck — yay Emma!.... On New Year's Eve night, at The Gangway at 7 p.m. for 20 bux you can join the R & R New Year's Eve Express and go to Gilmore's, The A.S.S. (Casa Loma), Watering Hole, The Kokpit and then back to The Gangway for 1986. Tickets available at all of the above bars as well as the Queen Mary and Reha. This is a double decker bus which will have refreshments from the bar and noise makers. Sounds fun!.... Get well wishes to King Father Jim Smith — talk about bad luck — compared to Jim we ain't seen it yet! So long. Renegade — welcome back N' Touch at 1548 Polk. They now have class acts to join their classy crowd — take a look-saw!

Man 2 Man Productions did a nice thing for the SF AIDS Food Bank at the Industrial Dance Company, 2140 Market Street, last month. A who's who was in the show in memory of David Warren Wheeler, and don't Camille look good? Whatta 'bout Big Jimmy aka "Darling Dimples"? He came all the way from the Queen Mary in L.A. and it was like old times seeing Allan Lloyd and Jimmy together again — yet — still. The Tavern Guild's first meeting of 1986 will take place at The El Río, 3158A Mission of Jan. 21 at 1 p.m. Join the T.G. as there will be many more benefits offered you. In June the election of officers will take place. President Russ Glenn, V.P. Jim Houghton and Treasurer Jim Bonko are leaving us to follow. Do you dare? February is a short but mighty month. You have The Coronation; you have the Barba­ rossers M/C Awards, and you have Men Behind Bars III. All giants! All worthy of our support. To Ken and Sissy — quite a year! To the committees of the Cable Car Awards — you had a ruff job to nominate, as

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I'm trying to.” Jamul Gorges, as Morales, seemed more "passive" than "charming" in the context of “Nothing.” Audrey Landers (from TV’s Dallas) stepped center stage to deliver the potential powerhouse “Dance 10, Looks 3” She's an exquisite custom tailoring showstopper "Dance 10, Looks 3" She's..." Jamul Gorges, as Morales, seemed more "passive" than "charming" in the context of “Nothing.” Audrey Landers (from TV’s Dallas) stepped center stage to deliver the potential powerhouse “Dance 10, Looks 3.” She's an exquisite custom tailoring showstopper...

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If you have values like work, physical fitness, love, honesty, straightforwardness, a close relationship, a family, and fun, then read on. I'm a professional woman (27, 5' 7", 110 lbs., brown hair, blue eyes, liberal, open, honest, sincere, easy going, emotional, free, responsible, caring, non-smoker) who is interested in relationships or marriages.

Looking for a mature man (35-45) who is kind, non-smoker, has a strong build (willing to exercise, has a sense of humor, is somewhat athletic) who is interested in relationships or marriages.

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Headline:

Text:

Word Counts: Every word counts! A, ', and ' are not counted. PO Box numbers or street addresses will not be counted. 5 cents per word. Count 4 words for "Reply Coming Up! Box #.", no refund.

$10.00

Mail Coupon To:
Coming Up! Personals
Valencia Street
SF, CA 94110

Next Deadline: January 20

Reply Coming Up! Box

As Yet Successfully Unconfined On AD

Our ad is still in this week's copy, and there's a needle in the haystack... We're still looking, still looking, still looking... We'll find it... We'll find it... We'll find it...

Wannabees: Before you reply, check our ad.

Reply Coming Up! Box

Wanna Be a Love

You may stop by the office at the below address to fill out a coupon.

We cannot take personals by phone, nor can we accept anonymous ads. All information will be kept confidential.

Mail Coupon To:
Coming Up! Personals
Valencia Street
SF, CA 94110

Next Deadline: January 20
ComQuest A Success – Membership Growing
By 300 Per Month In San Francisco!

Instructions
Step 1. Enter Your Mailing Address (for your confidential use).

Step 2. Enter Your Contact Information and a brief description (so new members can contact you).

Step 3. Describe Yourself by circling the word or words beside each descriptive item which is a best description of yourself. You should circle at least one word under each category. Circle more than one, where appropriate.

Step 4. Describe Your Ideal Match by circling the words, or, or, or words beside each and every item, depending on the extent to which you would like that item to be true of your ideal partner.

Circle yes if you would like for that description to be true for your match.

Circle no if you don’t care one way or the other.

Circle no if you would not like for that description to be true for your match.

Circle yes if you want to match with girls for whom that description is true, even if they have other desires. Q To guarantee a list of 10 good matches, use between 10 and 20 words.

Step 5. Rank the Categories. The questionnaire is divided into 16 categories. To ensure that your responses or less important items will not obscure your responses on the more important ones, you must indicate which categories are important to you in the blank to the left of each category heading. There are true or false questions. In each case the matches will be based mostly upon the more important categories, with the less important ones serving as tie breakers. Select one of the following.

Rank each category from 1 to 15 in order of importance to you, with 15 as the most important and 1 as the least, or

Put a check mark beside the five most important categories, leaving the rest blank.

Example: Here is an example of how a hirsute, bearded man looking for a smooth partner might rank the form if he considered the Face/Hair and Hair category to be his fourth most important category.

What is the Final Step?
When you have completed the application, carefully remove it from this publication and mail it to the address below along with a check or money order for $20. Use the address or our toll-free phone number to request additional applications or information.

How Long Will It Take?
You will normally receive your matches within 14 days of the postmark date of your application.

Send completed form with $20 (check or money order) to:

ComQuest
P.O. Box 539, Lake Zurich, IL 60094-539
(800) 333-6969 (toll free, 24 hours)

Cut along dotted line

Cut along dotted line

Cut along dotted line

Cut along dotted line

For Questions:

Office hours are Monday through Friday from 9:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. Eastern Standard Time.

Call the computer operator at 805-6969 or write the following instructions.

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There is growing evidence of a significant connection between AIDS and alcohol and drug abuse. Substance abuse is an issue we can no longer afford to ignore.

Drugs and alcohol don't cause AIDS. AIDS is caused by a virus. But there are at least three ways in which alcohol and drugs can increase your chances of getting AIDS.

First, alcohol and drugs depress the immune system and make you more susceptible to disease. Alcohol, marijuana, speed, cocaine, poppers, and other recreational chemicals lower your resistance to disease. In some research studies, poppers have been implicated in increasing the risk of KS. Drugs and alcohol weaken your health. They increase stress rather than relieve it and help the AIDS virus overcome your body's defenses.

Second, alcohol and drugs reduce your ability to stick to judgments about what's safe and what isn't. A huge majority of gay men in San Francisco have given up Unsafe Sex. For the relatively few who haven't yet, studies demonstrate a strong correlation between alcohol and drug use and Unsafe Sex.

Third, sharing IV drug needles transmits the AIDS virus directly from the bloodstream of one infected person to the bloodstream of another. If you do take the risk of using IV drugs, don't share needles! It's a direct route for the transmission of AIDS. There are thousands of IV drug users in America with AIDS, and probably other thousands who are still incubating the virus and who are contagious. Don't share needles!

According to experts who treat substance abuse among gay men, we have had a major epidemic of substance abuse in our community for years—so much so that most of us have accepted substance abuse as a routine part of gay life. What was once routine, however, is now deadly.

If you want confidential and gay-sensitive information about substance abuse for yourself or for a friend, help is available. Contact Haight-Ashbury Free Medical Clinic (drug-focused) at 621-2014, Operation Concern (alcohol-focused) at 626-7000, or call the AIDS Foundation's AIDS HOTLINE, 863-AIDS, for a referral.

Remember:
- Sharing needles is dangerous. Don't share needles.
- Alcohol and drugs depress the immune system. Protect your health.
- Getting high can lead to Unsafe Sex and exposure (or re-exposure) to the AIDS virus.

Now is the perfect time to take a fresh look at your own use of alcohol and drugs—and to get some help (often free) to find out if you have a drinking or drug problem that may increase your chances of getting AIDS.