If you are a woman, chances are you are at some risk for getting AIDS. What should be a well-publicized fact in this country is actually one of the best-kept secrets of the epidemic: currently 1700 women have AIDS and many times that number have AIDS Related Complex (ARC) or are carriers of the AIDS virus.

Continued on page 12

**Women & AIDS**

**ALSO:** FDC IN TRANSITION
IN TOUCH
A GAY SOCIAL CLUB
1535 COMMERCIAL WAY
462-1611
Monday $.75 Bud, Wine,
Schnapps
Tuesday Free Pool
Wednesday Dynasty Night
$.25 Champagne & Caviar 8-10
Thursday $1.50 Margaritas
Friday Happy Hour 4-7
Saturday Happy Hour 4-7
Sunday $1 Schnapps 5-12
HAPPY HOUR 2 for 1 Mon-Sat 4-7
LIP SYNC CONTEST 1st Sunday
of Every Month $100 1st Prize 8 pm
FULL LIQUOR BAR
GARDEN PATIO
DANCING

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LAVENDER READER P.O. BOX 7293 SANTA CRUZ, CALIFORNIA 95061 408-684-1542
DA VINCI...YOU RASCAL!

It appears that one of the art world's longest-standing mysteries has finally been solved. According to a Bell Laboratories computer specialist, the identity of the model for Leonardo da Vinci's Mona Lisa is none other than the artist himself.

In an article published in the January issue of Arts and Antiques magazine, a researcher at the highly-regarded laboratories asserts that when the Mona Lisa and the only known self-portrait of the artist are juxtaposed, the subjects were found to be one and the same. "The hairlines matched exactly. So did the eyes, the tips of the noses, the chins. The Mona Lisa's enigmatic smile was da Vinci's upside-down," states Arts and Antiques.

The history of the 'world's most famous painting' has sparked curiosity and theories of its origin for centuries. Painted in Florence around 1503, the portrait remained with the artist until his death. Though it has long been speculated that the sitter was the wife of Francesco del Giocondo (Mona Lisa), a friend of the artist's in Florence, there has never been enough definitive proof to cool the debate. Unlike with most of da Vinci's other work, no preliminary sketches were ever found of the portrait.

Modern historians have long speculated that da Vinci was Gay. According to Wick Allison, publisher of Arts and Antiques, the Bell Lab finding coincides with what is now generally accepted about the artist's sexual identity. Says Allison: "That da Vinci would paint himself as a woman coincides with everything that is known about him...the discovery meets all the external evidence of Leonardo's life."

Furthermore, Arts and Antiques suggests that there exists further evidence as to identity of the sitter. According to the magazine, da Vinci was known to place an 'overt clue' as to the subject's identity in each of his portraits. In the Mona Lisa, according to the article, 'the embroidery running around the neckline of the model's dress is basketry of endlessly knotted cloverleaf. The Italian word for the Oiser branches which is used for basketry is 'vinco' and the verb meaning to knot is 'vincre'-both very similar to 'Vinci.'

-Michael Perlman

COMING UP

AIDS & Acupuncture by Rich Mick...Poetry by Irene Reti...Fiction by Carter Wilson...A Special Condom Digest...More from Scott Brookie

SPRING 1987/Publlication Date: April 3/Editoreal Deadline: March 6/Advertising Deadline: March 20/Calendar Deadline: March 25

COMMUNITY AT LARGE

Santa Cruz AIDS Project: UPDATE

The SANTA CRUZ AIDS PROJECT's new Executive Director has worked this fall to transform the new AIDS office into a working, staffed, resource center for AIDS information. Most days there are volunteers available to answer questions over the telephone and receive interested visitors. This coming winter staffing should improve even further so that there will be consistent coverage on a Monday through Friday schedule. The new office address is 234 Santa Cruz Avenue, Aptos, CA 95003 (behind Manuel's Restaurant). The office telephone number (408) 678-7641.

There are three continuing groups available for support. There is a group for persons with an AIDS/ARC diagnosis (please call 458-4999 for further information about group location and days). Tuesday evenings from 7:30 until 9:00 p.m. there is a group for HIV test positive recipients. This group meets at the SCAP offices. And on Wednesday evenings from 5:30 until 7:00 p.m. there is a group for Families, Friends and Loved Ones. These support groups are excellent forums for individuals to work on their issues and are free of charge.

Freedom Foundation: UPDATE

The organization responsible for Santa Cruz County's Gay Pride Celebration is looking for people interested in planning this year's June event. The Freedom Foundation will begin meeting regularly in March and needs your interest and contribution. If you are interested, contact Tom Cassina at 423-4734, or John Rivierre at 476-2562.

Coming Out To Mothers

A lesbian organization in the midwest is collecting stories about how women came out to their mothers. They are interested in the experiences, thoughts, and feelings that women experienced while coming out, and the reactions they got from their mothers. All too often in works about coming out, Lesbians are grouped with "gays" and mothers are lumped with "parents." They see the need to recognize the power of the daughter-mother relationship in the coming out process.

They hope this anthology will encompass the lives of all women so that they can have a book that provides information and validates their feelings as Lesbians who have already come out or who are in the process of coming out to their mothers.

Poetry, photographs, etc., are welcomed. Please send stories and/or inquiries to: Coming Out To Mothers, P.O. Box 8031, Minneapolis, MN 55406

National March: UPDATE

There has been a national gay and lesbian march scheduled for Sunday, October 10 in Washington, D.C. The march is in response to anti-gay governmental decisions and actions in the past year, and will be coordinated out of Washington, D.C. The first Northern California planning meeting was held on January 6. More details will be forthcoming in the next issue of the READER.

LAVENDER READER
New Women's Group Forming

The purpose of LETS is to make the lesbian community in Santa Cruz County more visible and accessible to newcomers and ourselves, and thereby build a stronger community with more fun, connection and help for all of us. We discussed several great ideas to help meet the needs of those present at the first meeting. Some of the ideas we had to: produce quarterly events structured to encourage interaction; coordinate dates of events; support networking for resources; produce a newsletter; problem-solve and mediate; sponsor book clubs, speakers, plays, and/or sports; start up a lesbian welcome newsletter; problem-solve and mediate.; having all the lesbian events (and events for gay men and lesbians, for people with AIDS, for the state economy, for just about everybody).

Why doesn't it feel like a wonderful, uplifting victory? Part of the reason is that most of the rest of the election results on that day were quite sobering. But the biggest reason, I think, is that Proposition 64 was a skirmish that we never asked to be involved in. A massive plethora on locking up people with AIDS. Sure. Just what we wanted.

Medical Association. We said we were organized, resourceful, formidable opponents. We have new respect from — and clout with — the medical establishment and state politicians. We have sent the drooling vultures of the Right — who would make the most loathsome of politics out of this tragedy — away hungry. Third, we are stronger now. We have new alliances, new fronds, and learned new skills. We have every reason to be proud of each other and ourselves.

So, we made the best of a bad situation, and we won overwhelmingly. But now, let's take our new resources and the things we've learned and get back to our own agenda. Let's return to defining ourselves. Our culture is just emerging, we're largely untold. Furthermore, it is not now — nor will it be for quite a while — a time to relax, knowing that things are happening when others set our agenda for us, when we are forced into the ring. But we were dragged into this sleazy arena, and for our community, for our friends, for ourselves, we had to fight.
Supreme Court Decision Leads to Sodomy Laws Repeal Effort

One of the major issues discussed at this year's conference of gay and lesbian elected officials was the subject of state laws regulating private consensual sexual conduct.

Earlier this year, the U.S. Supreme Court shocked gay rights activists (and, according to polls, a majority of the voting public) by upholding Georgia's sodomy law in the case of Bowers v. Hardwick. The 5-4 Supreme Court decision led then-Chief Justice Warren Burger to point out "millenia of moral teaching" in justifying the action.

In 1960, all fifty states had such laws on the books. California's was repealed by Assemblymember Willie Brown's Consenting Adults Act of 1975. Twenty-five states still have these laws, with seven of those states prohibiting gay sodomy only.

The District of Columbia voted to repeal its sodomy law, but the U.S. Congress, which can overturn D.C. legislation, did not ratify the anti-sodomy bill. In July, the New York-based Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund facilitated a meeting of gay legal rights advocates and agreed upon a five-point strategy to deal with the aftermath of the Supreme Court decision:

* legislative reform of the laws in the twenty-five states that still have these laws regulating private sexual behavior.
* a mass education campaign on the issue
* prevention of "recriminalization" in states that have repealed their laws

Outlook Mixed For AIDS Legislation in Congress

Last March, I joined other openly gay elected officials from around the country in lobbying members of Congress on AIDS issues. At that time, our concerns were increased research and education funding, prevention of Reagan Administration cuts in appropriations, AIDS vaccine legislation, and support for home health services for people with AIDS.

An AIDS teach-in was held in conjunction with the November 20-23 Washington, D.C. conference of openly gay and lesbian government officials. Among those participating in panel discussions was Tim Westmoreland, Rep. Henry Waxman's (D-West Los Angeles) staff assistant for the House health subcommittee assigned to AIDS legislation.

Westmoreland outlined the AIDS issues that will be confronting the 100th Congress when it convenes next month. They include funding for AIDS research, education, and treatment, as well as a series of repressive measures introduced by Orange County neanderthal Rep. William Dannemeyer.

Obviously, the major issue remains funding. Last March, we dealt with the Reagan Administration attempts to reduce the $245 million 1986 appropriation by $40 million. The final federal allocation for the current 1987 year is $410 million.

A recent report released by Surgeon General Koop indicates that billions a year should be spent on AIDS. Westmoreland indicated that the President's proposed 1988 funding level usually announced with the rest of the budget cuts in appropriations, AIDS funding. Last March, I joined other openly gay elected officials from around the country in lobbying members of Congress on AIDS issues. At that time, our concerns were increased research and education funding, prevention of Reagan Administration cuts in appropriations, AIDS vaccine legislation, and support for home health services for people with AIDS.

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Continued on page 16
Continued From Previous Page

"The idea behind affiliating with the Democratic Party was that in a time of crisis, we would have their clout and their respectability behind us," commented one man thoughtfully. "Well, 64 was a crisis, and they didn't give us much help, and we did fine."

The history of gay men, lesbians and the Democratic Party is a relatively short roller coaster ride. The first gay and lesbian democratic clubs began appearing on the scene around the country in about 1972. They symbolized a movement that was growing and diversifying. They also portended the beginnings of a growing split between radical gay liberationists, and those espousing less confrontational strategies, a division that continues, more or less, to this day.

In Santa Cruz, the first incarnation of such a group was the Charlie Parkhurst Gay Democratic Club, named after a woman who lived around Santa Cruz in the 19th century and drove a streetcar. "Mountain Charlie" passed as a man for most of her life. The Charlie Parkhurst Club was founded in 1979, elected some officers, and held a few meetings. It existed — largely on paper — until the student voter suit is settled. (Well, "all" if you start from "liberal" and work to the left), and created an organization of people who, despite their differences, worked well and productively together. Many were members of FDC, but many were not.

For a lot of people who had worked on the campaign, it was not an experience to set on the shelf after the election and forget about. There was a momentum not to be wasted. "The experience in No on 64 was how powerful we are — lesbians and gay men — when we work together in coalition," commented Allison Claire, a non-FDC member who was active in Stop LaRouche.

Faced with the choice of bringing the post-election momentum into FDC, however, many people balked. "In my experience," noted Claire, "doing regular political work in the electoral process only leads to co-optation. So why do it? Besides, it says right in the FDC's bylaws that you have to belong to the Democratic Party."

At a marathon retreat last month attended both by FDC members and by non-members, major changes were agreed upon, pending ratification by FDC's full membership. First, the organization as a whole would no longer be identified with the Democratic Party, although a committee within the group would continue to do electoral work. Second, the name of the organization would be changed to "Stop LaRouche and other antigay activists who have been out there in the community, but haven't been associated with FDC."

"Also," she continues, "we need to have some genuine coalition-building happening through this organization. I would like to feel that this queer activist gang here has some kind of ongoing relationship with other activist groups in the community, and that we can call on each other for all kinds of practical, logistical things. "Coalition work is perfect for this," concurs Laird. But, he cautions, "the trouble with the coalition is you know what your own needs are and represent them before you turn around and enter into a coalition."

Nonetheless, says Laird, he is pleased with the changes. "The shift is going to include many more people and provide a sort of committed glue to the lesbian organization locally, and I think that's great."

Claire is also optimistic. "People who are activists from within the electoral process, and those who are agitators from outside the process can be more coordinated with each other, and give more active support to each other," she says. "A two-pronged approach to social change is valid, but it never seems to happen. Hopefully this will be a means to start creating that."

The Freedom Democratic Caucus will hold its annual election meeting on Wednesday, February 25, from 6-9:30 p.m. at the Santa Cruz Main Library. This will be the time when new officials are elected, and when the proposal for restructuring — disaffiliation from the Democratic Party and the adoption of a more activist stance — will be discussed and voted upon.

SPECIAL WINTER EVENTS

Saturday-January 31st
Arabian Nights Dance Benefit for The Santa Cruz AIDS Project
9pm-2am $5 cover

Saturday-February 14th
Valentine's Sweetheart Ball
Continued from the cover

The fact that women of all ethnic, social and economic groups can and do get AIDS is terrifying to face. Yet it is imperative that we do so. For as with all people at risk for AIDS, learning how to protect ourselves from exposure can dramatically decrease this risk.

Reasons for the lack of awareness among women and AIDS are annoyingly familiar. On the one hand, we are yet again experiencing the low priority placed on women's health concerns in this society, with limited research and relevant programs concerning women's needs. On the other hand, the media portrayal of AIDS as a gay men's disease is also accountable for the dearth of information about women. Not only does this skewed conception provide a breeding ground for homophobia, it also deals a dangerous blow to women in rendering information about women. Not only does this further diminish due to current screening practices. Nonetheless, it is the practice not to screen their donors (see Lesbian Insemination Project article this issue).

The high rate of alcoholism and drug use among lesbians translates into increased susceptibility to AIDS. The use of IV drugs, involving needle sharing accounts for most of the cases of AIDS among lesbians. In addition, the immunosuppressive aspect of alcohol and other drugs, even when not injected, increase one's vulnerability to the virus, should contact occur.

Another concern for lesbians is the possibility of contracting AIDS through donor insemination, particularly since many lesbians have used donors who are at high risk. At present, sperm banks are screening for AIDS, but women who are inseminating privately should find out how to screen their donors (see Lesbian Insemination Project article this issue).

Despite the facts, gross violations of civil rights are occurring, including efforts to require HIV testing of prostitutes, retribution in all or under "house arrest" of women with AIDS who have records of prostitution, in addition to other forms of harassment. Even the most onerous acts of persecution are against the most vulnerable: poor, women, and lesbians.

The relationship between pregnancy and AIDS is of great importance, since most children born to HIV infected mothers become infected with the virus, regardless of whether the mother has ARC AIDS symptoms. There is a 50% chance that a child born to an infected woman will develop a full-blown case of AIDS within the first year of life. "Maternal transmission" (in utero, at birth, or through breastfeeding) accounts for the vast majority of AIDS cases among children under 1 year. Generally, women are unaware, prior to a child's diagnosis, of their own carrier status. Thus a woman is confronted with two extremely difficult conditions at once: a child with AIDS, and her own potential to develop the disease. Furthermore, since pregnancy is in itself an immunosuppressive condition, it can indubitably contribute to AIDS in a previously asymptomatic woman, with this risk increasing with each pregnancy.

Heightened awareness of the relationship between pregnancy and AIDS has the potential for better education and counseling to women who are pregnant or are considering pregnancy. Yet it also creates the potential for abuse of women's rights. Reproductive issues easily become social issues, often at our expense, and AIDS raises a variety of sticky questions. For example, given the likelihood of infant illness, does an HIV positive woman have the right to begin or maintain a pregnancy?

In a climate of erosion of individual rights (workplace drug testing, mandatory HIV tests to qualify for insurance, etc.) forced HIV testing of pregnant women or coerced abortion are not outlandish possibilities.

While AIDS brings financial hardship to most people it afflicts, women are more susceptible to its economic devastation than are men. Women in general earn lower wages, are less likely to have medical insurance, and are more frequently the sole supporters of dependent children.

In addition to economic barriers to adequate care, women with AIDS or women whose children have AIDS are likely to require services that are not in existence, such as childcare, mother assistance, and women-oriented health care and housing for people with AIDS.

As the number of women with AIDS in this country doubles each year, it is essential that research and services be expanded to encompass the needs of women. In Santa Cruz, the Women's AIDS Network in San Francisco brings together women and organizations involved with AIDS services to produce materials and programs, and develop strategies and support systems relevant to women. In the Women's community, the Santa Cruz AIDS Project has committed itself to broadening its work concerning women.

Since prevention is the best weapon we have against AIDS, each of us can help in the process by talking ourselves and to others. While much is still unknown about women and AIDS, one fact is clear: AIDS is a women's issue.
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Despite a relatively low risk for AIDS, lesbians have been hit hard by the same homophobic backlash as gay men since the onset of the AIDS epidemic. This has been expressed not only in anti-gay legislation and rulings, but also in specific attacks on lesbians. For example, fear of AIDS has been a factor in lesbian custody cases.

Female prostitutes have also been under attack throughout the AIDS crisis. Being scapegoated in much the same way as gay men, the "deviants" who are spreading AIDS to the innocent straights. While some prostitutes have AIDS, partially attributable to IV drug use, there is no evidence substantiating the widely held belief that prostitutes are a major source of AIDS transmission. What is true is that women in the sex industry are more likely to contract AIDS from a client than to pass it on, and there is little apparent concern for the health of these women.

Despite the facts, gross violations of civil rights are occurring, including efforts to require HIV testing of prostitutes, reverting laws under "prostitution" of women with AIDS who have records of prostitution, in addition to other forms of harassment. Not surprisingly, the most onerous acts of persecution are against the most vulnerable poor, women of color, and prostitutes.

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Heightened awareness of the relationship between pregnancy and AIDS has the potential to bring better education and counseling to women who are pregnant or are considering pregnancy. Yet it also creates the potential for abuse of women's rights. Reproductive issues easily become social issues, often at our expense, and AIDS raises a variety of sticky questions. For example, given the likelihood of infant illness, does an HIV positive woman have the right to begin or maintain a pregnancy?

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In addition to economic barriers to adequate care, women with AIDS or women whose children have AIDS may be less likely to require services that often do not exist, such as childcare, mother assistance services, and women-oriented health care and housing for people with AIDS.

As the number of women with AIDS in this country doubles every year, it is essential that research and services be expanded to encompass the needs of women. We in Santa Cruz are fortunate to have resources close at hand that are in the vanguard of this work. The Women's AIDS Network in San Francisco brings together women organizations involved with AIDS services to produce materials and programs, and develop strategies and support systems relevant to women. In our own community, the Santa Cruz AIDS Project has committed itself to broadening its work concerning women.
SAFE SEX GUIDELINES FOR WOMEN

The AIDS virus is transmitted through direct contact with infected blood (including menstrual blood), semen, vaginal and breast secretions, and possibly urine and feces. Although the AIDS virus has been found in saliva and tears, there is no evidence that it is transmissible through these fluids. Body fluids can be exchanged through needle-sharing, or through unprotected sexual contact with a person who is infected with the AIDS virus. If you believe that you or your sexual partner(s) may be infected, or YOU ARE NOT SURE, avoid any contact with body fluids. USE SAFE SEX.

SAFE SEX IS:

• Massage
• Hugging
• Body-to-body rubbing
• Social (dry) kissing
• Touching your own genitals (masturbation)
• Vaginal or Anal intercourse with a condom
• Oral sex with a condom
• Cunnilingus/oral sex with a woman (waterports)
• Hand/finger-to-genital contact with a latex glove (mutual masturbation)
• S/M that does not involve the exchange of any body fluids
• Use of sex toys covered with a latex barrier (rubber dam)
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UNSAFE SEX IS:

• Unprotected vaginal or rectal intercourse
• Unprotected oral sex
• Unprotected hand/finger-to-vagina or anus contact
• Blood contact of any kind (including menstrual blood)
• Urine or feces in mouth or vagina (waterports)
• Unprotected rimming (anal-oral contact)
• Fisting (hand in rectum/vagina)
• Sharing sex toys that have contact with body fluids
• Sharing needles
• Using drugs or alcohol when having sex (impairs judgement and ability to make safe sex decisions)

BE SAFE! IF YOU ARE UNSURE OF YOUR RISK FACTOR, USE SAFE SEX!

Compiled by Robin K. Roberts

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The AIDS virus is transmitted through direct contact with infected blood (including menstrual blood), semen, vaginal and breast secretions, and possibly urine and feces. Although the AIDS virus has been found in saliva and tears, there is no evidence that it is transmissible through these fluids. Body fluids can be exchanged through needle-sharing, or through unprotected sexual contact with a person who is infected with the AIDS virus. If you believe that you or your sexual partner(s) may be infected, or YOU ARE NOT SURE, avoid any contact with body fluids. USE SAFE SEX.

SAFE SEX IS:

• Massage
• Hugging
• Body-to-body rubbing
• Social (dry) kissing
• Voyeurism, fantasy, sex talk, phone sex
• Touching your own genitals (masturbation)
• Vaginal or Anal intercourse with a condom
• Oral sex with a condom
• Cunnilingus/ oral sex with a woman
• Hand/ finger-to-genital contact with a condom
• S/M that does not involve the exchange of any body fluids
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BE SAFE! IF YOU ARE UNSURE OF YOUR RISK FACTOR, USE SAFE SEX!

Compiled by Robin K. Roberts
Continued from page 8 during the January State of the Union message — would probably propose AIDS funding of between $450 and $550 million.

Even though these figures look promising, they still do not address concerns about the federal government’s ability to handle the growth of the AIDS caseload in the next five years. Westmoreland indicated that no real planning for this caseload growth is being done by the Reagan Administration. He further expressed concern about the limited finances available for all federal medical assistance.

Currently, about $16 million from the federal budget funds the Medicaid program. Those funds are primarily allocated for health services to low-income children, people with AIDS, the developmentally disabled, and the elderly in nursing homes. The total resources for medical care are not likely to increase dramatically. Westmoreland expressed concern that there are not strong organized constituencies for the other groups receiving federal medical assistance and that increased support for people with AIDS could come at their expense.

Westmoreland also indicated that pressure will increase for Congress to respond to social questions concerning AIDS. Public employee labor unions, usually staunch allies of the gay and lesbian movement, are facing pressures from members about workplace issues. Hospital workers have unique concerns. Many prison guards favor mandatory testing of prisoners.

And the whole issue of support for public education is hampered by the current policy of the Center for Disease Control (CDC) that no explicit anal genit/rectal references can be made in their educational material. Rather than deal with this explosive political issue, Congress is likely to turn educational funds over to the States and let each State decide guidelines for the educational material those funds will provide.

All those questions are difficult enough without the demagogic legislation introduced by Rep. Dannemeyer, one of two elected officials in California to back Proposition 64 in the recent election campaign.

Dannemeyer has made such legislation proposals as cutting off federal aid to hospitals who employ people with AIDS, cutting off federal revenue sharing and community health funds to local cities and counties in which there are gay bathhouses, making it a felony for HIV positive persons to donate blood, and making it a felony to knowingly transmit the virus.

The growth of AIDS cases will only accentuate each of these issues. During a meeting in which the gay elected officials provided a briefing to Congressional staffers, it became clear that homophobic AIDS legislation receives more support in letters sent to Capitol Hill. Gay men and lesbians, on the other hand, generally do not wish to sign letters to Congresspeople and foreign ambassadors.

Our legislators must hear from us. Senator Alan Cranston has been of assistance in recent budget battles. Senator Pete Wilson finds homophobic assaults from people like Dannemeyer, but probably off on NPG's "fiscal conservative" and needs pressure on AIDS funding issues. Rep. Leon Panetta is sympathetic, but must hear from his constituents to know that there is support for him on these issues. He could take a leading role in the House — given his preeminence on budget issues — but might not do so unless hundreds of his constituents claim that too much is being spent on research.

Additionally, Westmoreland was concerned about the costs for drugs used in treating people with AIDS. The drug AZT, thought to slow spread of the HIV virus, costs $5,000 to $10,000 for one person per year. That cost is presently being paid by the federal government. Yet when the drug is licensed by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), these costs will likely be borne by the individual with AIDS. That could mean that the drug is available only to those who can afford it.

Another problem concerns public hospitals that take "no-pay" patients. The Santa Cruz County Health Services Agency presently has a deficit problem that could reach one million dollars this year for our local health program, Medi-cruz. Westmoreland pointed out that no federal policy is being developed to cope with the problem of private hospitals "dumping" no-pay AIDS cases on public hospitals, making them the AIDS treatment centers.

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All those questions are difficult enough without the demagogic legislation introduced by Rep. Dannemeyer, one of two elected officials in California to back Proposition 64 in the recent election campaign.

Dannemeyer has made such legislation proposals as cutting off federal aid to hospitals who employ people with AIDS, cutting off federal revenue sharing and community health funds to local cities and counties in which there are gay bathhouses, making it a felony for HIV positive persons to donate blood, and making it a felony to knowingly transmit the virus.

The growth of AIDS cases will only accentuate each of these issues. During a meeting in which the gay elected officials provided a briefing to Congressional staffers, it became clear that homophobic AIDS legislation receives more support in letters sent to Capitol Hill. Gay men and lesbians, on the other hand, generally do not wish to sign letters to Congresspeople and foreign ambassadors.

Our legislators must hear from us. Senator Alan Cranston has been of assistance in recent budget battles. Senator Pete Wilson finds homophobic assaults from people like Dannemeyer, but probably off on NPG's "fiscal conservative" and needs pressure on AIDS funding issues. Rep. Leon Panetta is sympathetic, but must hear from his constituents to know that there is support for him on these issues. He could take a leading role in the House — given his preeminence on budget issues — but might not do so unless hundreds of his constituents claim that too much is being spent on research.

Additionally, Westmoreland was concerned about the costs for drugs used in treating people with AIDS. The drug AZT, thought to slow spread of the HIV virus, costs $5,000 to $10,000 for one person per year. That cost is presently being paid by the federal government. Yet when the drug is licensed by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), these costs will likely be borne by the individual with AIDS. That could mean that the drug is available only to those who can afford it.

Another problem concerns public hospitals that take "no-pay" patients. The Santa Cruz County Health Services Agency presently has a deficit problem that could reach one million dollars this year for our local health program, Medi-cruz. Westmoreland pointed out that no federal policy is being developed to cope with the problem of private hospitals "dumping" no-pay AIDS cases on public hospitals, making them the AIDS treatment centers.

"No real planning for AIDS caseload growth is being done by the Reagan Administration."

Westmoreland also indicated that pressure will increase for Congress to respond to social questions concerning AIDS. Public employee labor unions, usually staunch allies of the gay and lesbian movement, are facing pressures from members about workplace issues. Hospital workers have unique concerns. Many prison guards favor mandatory testing of prisoners.

And the whole issue of support for public education is hampered by the current policy of the Center for Disease Control (CDC) that no explicit anal/genital references can be made in their educational material. Rather than deal with this explosive political issue, Congress is likely to turn educational funds over to the States and let each State decide guidelines for the educational material those funds will provide.
NON-VIOLENCE: PRACTICING AWARENESS

Thich Nhat Hanh, Vietnamese Buddhist monk and poet, originally presented the following article as a talk sponsored by the Rochester Zen Center and the Buddhist Peace Fellowship in the Spring of 1983.

I have a poem for you. It is called: "Please Call Me By My True Names." This poem is about three of us. The first is a twelve-year-old girl, one of the boatpeople crossing the Gulf of Thailand. She was raped by a sea pirate. She was angry of course. But I could not take sides against the sea pirate. So, it is not easy to take sides. And if I were born in his village and were living his kind of life — economic, educational, and so on — it is very likely that I would now be that sea pirate. So, it is not easy to take sides. And out of suffering I wrote this poem: "Please Call Me By My True Names," because I have several names and when you call me by my names, I must say: Yes.

Do not say that I depart tomorrow because even today I still arrive. I am the child in Uganda, all skin and bones, my legs as thin as bamboo sticks. I am also the merchant of arms, selling deadly weapons to Uganda. I am the 12-year-old girl, refugee on a small boat, who throws herself into the ocean after being raped by a sea pirate.

I have a poem for you, it is called: "Please Call Me By My True Names," because I have several names and when you call me by my names, I must say: Yes. Yes.

I am a member of the polichoro, with plenty of power in my hands. I am also the man who has to pay his "debt" of power to my people, dying slowly in a forced labor camp.

I am a member of the politburo, with plenty of power in my hands. I am also the man who has to pay his "debt" of power to my people, dying slowly in a forced labor camp.

My joy is like Spring, so warm it makes flowers bloom in all walks of life.

My pain is like a river of tears — so full it fills up all the four oceans.

Please call me by my true names so that I can hear at the same time all my cities and my laughs, so that I could see that my job and pain are but one.

Please call me by my true names so that I could become awake, so that the door of my heart is left open, the door of Compassion.

I think the theme of this poem I still have in my mind, very much in my mind. "Where is our enemy?" I asked myself for a long time. Our earth, our poor, beautiful earth, is in danger and all of us know this. We do not face a pirate, but we face the destruction of the earth where our small boats has been — is going to sink if we are not careful enough. We still think that the enemy is the other, and that is why we cannot really see him. Now, everybody needs an enemy in order to survive. The Soviet Union needs an enemy, perhaps the United States. China needs an enemy. Vietnam needs an enemy. Everybody needs an enemy to the extent that without and enemy we cannot survive. In order to rally people behind them, the governments need an enemy and are very ready to approve that. They want us to be afraid in order for us to rally behind them. They want us to hate in order for us to rally behind them. And if they do not have a real enemy, they would invent one in order to motivate us.

There are people in the United States who went to visit Russia and came home reporting that the Russian people are very nice, only the government is bad. And the Soviet people, the Soviet citizens visiting here in this country, when they go back home they will report the same thing. American people are fine; the government is bad.

I heard one American tell me this (he is in the peace movement): "Every time I see Mr. Reagan on the television set I can't bear it. Either I have to turn off the set, or I get mad. I think I understand him because it seems to me that he thinks it is the U.S. government that is entirely responsible for the situation of the world. If only Mr. Reagan changed his policy and we had a freeze, we would have peace with the Soviet Union and so on. I tried to tell him that it is not entirely correct, because Mr. Reagan is in yourself. We always deserve our government. That because of this, the other thing is like that. In Buddhism we used to speak in terms of interdependent origination. That is, because that is. This is not, because that is not. Has our daily life nothing to do with our government? That is the question I would like to invite you to meditate upon.

The other day, I was talking about drinking a cup of tea and using toilet paper properly in order for peace to be possible. We really believe that our daily life has to do with the situation we now find ourselves in. If we do not change our daily life, we cannot change the situation. It is as clear as I want to move this chair to my right, I have to stand up. I cannot move the chair without standing up.

I have said before that our Earth is somehow like a small boat. Yet, compared to other big things in the cosmos, it is a very small boat, and it is in danger of sinking. We need such a person to inspire us with calm confidence to tell us what to do. And who is that person? Who is that person? The Mahayana Buddhist Sutras have the answer. All the Buddhist Sutras tell you one thing, you are that person. If you are yourself, if you are your best, then you are that person. And only with such a person, calm, clear, wise, ready, can we face our situation and our danger be avoided. So please, good luck, be yourself, and be that person. Thank you.

Excerpted from the July, 1984, issue of the Catholic Worker.
WINTER

THU 22
FDC/PDC: Joint Meeting. Cabrillo College - 8:00-10:00 pm.

FRI 23
MBWA: Lauren Cruz's Part II "How's it going Philosophical Agenda of Mid Life". UCSC Womens Center - 7:30 pm. Non-Members $2.00.

SAT 24
Rainbow Ensemble for the Performing Arts presents: REPA CAFE CABERET YWCA 8:00 pm to Midnight. Call for info. # 426-5044.

Dancemakers: "Happy Birthday Dance", a two year celebration. Live Oak Grange. 8:30 pm to Midnight.

Great Outdoors: Winchester Mystery House. 10:00 am. Call Dennis for info. # 427-1936

DMS: AFRIKAN BEAT: direct from Paris, a benefit for Media Watch. 8:00 pm, Vets Hall, Santa Cruz

Kuumbwa Concert: AILEEN VANCE, Karen Leigh & Patti Mattison $6.50/7.00

SCAN: Building Grassroots Movements in Santa Cruz County. SC High Cafeteria 10am-2pm Call:458-9425

SAT 31
Great Outdoors: Fall Creek Hike. Call Dean for info. #427-1675.

FEBRUARY
SUN 1
Great Outdoors: Potluck & Meeting. 6:00 pm. Call Brett for info. #427-2722

FDC: Executive Board Meeting. 7:00 pm. For info. call # 426-6077.

TUE 3
Gay Mens Support Group: Potluck Meeting. 7:00 pm. Calvary Esp. Church.

SUN 8
Great Outdoors: San Francisco Zoo and Primate Center. 10:00 am. Call Estalee for info #475-0962.

DANCEMAKERS: A Womens Dance. 8:30 pm to Midnight. Live Oak Grange.

March
SAT 15
Great Outdoors: Uvas Canyon Day Hike. Call Buzz for info. #425-3959.

WED 25
FDC: General Membership Meeting

SAT 28
REPA CAFE CABERET YWCA 8:00 pm to Midnight. Call for more info. #426-5044.

DANCEMAKERS: A Womens Dance. 8:30 pm to Midnight. Live Oak Grange.

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20 LAVENDER READER
Is there a dormant parent lying asleep within you? Have you ever longed to share your hobbies or interests only with a growing child, to be a formative influence as well as a gentle companion? If you live in Santa Cruz County, you are fortunate to be freely able to participate in the Big Brothers or Big Sisters program.

Some readers might think twice about spending time with a child. Because of ridicule and ignorant bigotry of homophobic individuals and organizations, many of us deny our suitability to be parents or friends of youngsters. Some have also been so betrayed and scorned by their own families that they may have made a choice to completely avoid any association with heterosexuality, marriage, or children.

A more subtle form of self-oppression is evident whenever we repress or minimize our unique caring, mothering/fath­ering instinct. As a gay man, I have often felt "outside" of the family experience. Yet despite the barriers that discouraged me, I have often continued to feel an appreciation for the dynamics of family life and personal development.

"And number two, you've made your own decisions about living, loving, and learning to create alternative family patterns, so you can offer a special flexibility and realism about relationships that can be helpful to families now." Some who follow national gay news may remember a lawsuit that Richard Stanley, a gay applicant, brought against the Los Angeles Big Brother organization concerning discrimination. Editor­ials and letters in the L.A. Times chronicled this hotly contested debate. The director of the agency, Richard Kline, took the tenacious position that Big Brothers agencies were responsible to "guide impressionable young boys toward traditional values and lifestyles." He intim­ated that homosexuality was something contagious or so fascinating that Little Brothers would be compelled to "try it."

Paul Hoffman of ACLU reminded the public that the parent serves as the final authority to determine eligibil­ity of an applicant regardless of sexual preference with the agreement that the person's homosexuality will be disclosed to the parent of the matched child so that the parent is given the ultimate approval power.

A one-year commitment to spend 3 to 4 hours a week with your Little Brother or Little Sister is required. You need to be at least 20 years of age and to demonstrate that your current work and living situation is stable and dependable. All applicants are interviewed and letters of references are collected. Same sex matches are, as a rule, the only arrangements that are made. Obviously the caseworker and parent will be evaluating gay applicants' maturity, motives, and personal integrity, as they would for any prospective volunteer.

If you're interested, you may call the author, who serves as an intern case­worker, at 425-0802.
THE SANTA CRUZ AIDS PROJECT

SURAJ ACHARYA
ROBERT AUSTIN MICHAEL BALLIRO PAUL BELLINA
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HERMAN ROBERT HUNT JO KENNY KEN KOENIG
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