LAVENDER Reader
News & Review for Santa Cruz County's Gay and Lesbian Community
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OPENING WORD

This fourth issue of the Lavender Reader brings a variety of articles from nearby and far-flung correspondents. Irene Reti brings us an unintentional lesbian travesty from Hollister. Carter Wilson recalls thinking about Georgia while visiting Los Angeles. We are reprinting a piece by Dennis Altman, now in Australia. In addition, we have Peter Bergd at the metaphorical dinner table, Allison Claire at a nuclear test site, Sally Blumenhal at Emeline Avenue, Scott Brookie in other people's business, and many others.

Continuing our series on alternative healing and AIDS, we present Herb Joiner-Bey's article on naturopathic medicine. The article comes to us from the John Basty School of Naturopathic Medicine in Seattle, and was written especially for this series. In another alternative look at AIDS healing, Rob Visalli reviews a video on the subject featuring Ram Dass and Stephen Levine.

In the centerfold, you will find the program for this year's Gay and Lesbian Pride Celebration in Santa Cruz. These are not the easiest of times to be lesbian or gay but as we have a good time.

We'd also like to take a chance to thank our advertising sponsors. Their support, enthusiastic and -- shall we say, tangible, helps in a big way to make it possible to put out this publication. If you get the chance, tell them you appreciate it.

Many congratulations are in order: to our community on the occasion of its 13th Gay and Lesbian Pride Celebration -- we have been out and proud here for a long time; to the Lesbian and Gay Action Alliance, formerly the FDC who, after five months of internal debate, public hearing and a certain degree of procrastination, have chosen a very up-front new name; and, if we may be so immodest, to the Reader itself - this 48-page issue, our biggest yet, is fully half again as large as the previous one. We hope you enjoy it.

Happy Gay and Lesbian Pride Week, and happy reading.

Michael Perlman
Jo Kenny
Scott Brooke

WASHINGTOII MARCH

Over 100,000 lesbians, gay men, and our supporters are expected to converge on Sunday, October 11th for the March on Washington for Lesbian and Gay Rights.

Taking advantage of this unprecedented gathering, several events and conferences are scheduled for the long "Columbus Day" weekend. There will be a national conference for gays and lesbians of color, a mass wedding, a meeting of gay veterans, a national S/M conference, and a lobby day at the Capitol.

One major event will be the Names Project. 3 X 6 quilts, each with the name of someone who has died of AIDS, will be brought from across the country and sewn together, and will cover the Plaza in Washington, D.C.

On Tuesday, October 13th there will be massive civil disobedience, perhaps at the Supreme Court Building. Thousands are expected to participate in this action.

Transportation from the west coast will happen through two primary venues. Group airfare is being arranged for approximately $225 per person, round trip. Also, a car and bus caravan is scheduled to leave 3 west coast cities (Seattle, San Francisco and Los Angeles) on October 3rd, and take separate routes across country, arriving in D. C. on October 10th.

The next two meetings of the local March organizers will be Tuesday, June 9th, and Tuesday, July 14th, at 7:30p.m., at 112A Cedar Street.

Gary Reynolds

The March demands are:

▼ An end to discrimination against people with AIDS, ARC, HIV positive status, or those perceived to have AIDS. Massive increase in funding for AIDS education, research and patient care. Money for AIDS, not war.

▼ Reproductive freedom, the right to control our own bodies, and end to sexist oppression.

▼ An end to racism in this country and apartheid in South Africa.

▼ An end to discrimination against people with AIDS, ARC, HIV positive status, or those perceived to have AIDS. Massive increase in funding for AIDS education, research and patient care. Money for AIDS, not war.

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Mother's Day Action

I celebrated Mother's Day this year in the Nevada desert, joining almost three thousand others in protesting nuclear weapons testing in the heart of Mother Earth. Women came from all over the U. S. and from Europe, from the peace movement and the feminist movement, from families traditional and revolution ary, to call for a comprehensive nuclear test ban. 750 people were arrested for trespassing in bold, peaceful acts of civil disobedience.

This Mother's Day action was the largest demonstration yet at the Nevada Test Site, where U. S. and British nuclear warheads are tested underground. An expanse of desert larger than the state of Rhode Island, its mesas have been hollowed into mazes of radioactive tunnels. What was once Western Shoshone Indian land is now used by the Department of Energy to further the Pentagon's maniacal nuclear strategy.

Our gathering was in the true tradition of Mother's Day, which was first declared in 1870 by Julia Ward Howe. She envisioned the holiday as a women's day of protest against the wars that claimed their sons, and as an opportunity for women to work for peaceful solutions to global conflicts. The May 10th action was the first demonstration at the Test Site organized by women.

Busload after busload from across the country swelled our numbers: mothers and daughters, lesbian lovers, groups of teenagers and elder women. There were delegations from peace and anti-nuclear organizations in California, Oregon, Colorado, Massachusetts—all regions of the country, as well as England, West Germany, Denmark and Finland. Santa Cruz was among the most strongly represented communities in the nation.

Many of us camped out in the desert Saturday night, across the highway from the Test Site entrance. We slept under the overwhelming defeat of the LaRouche Initiative (Prop. 64), which he supported. Senator Doolittle has introduced 10 new bills in the legislature to help stem the spread of AIDS and is asking for "our support" to get these measures passed.

This year's show featured the first appearance of the AGEM Dancers under the direction of Gilbert Moreno and Tommy Maquez. The choreography of girls and guys (though no one was sure which was which) was well received by applause from the record-breaking crowd. With costumes from Kelly's, College and the San Jose Civic Light Opera, these "girls" showed there's more to them than just good looks. Rebecca Adams, Lisa Pawlic and Tracy Parker added brilliance to the show with their flawless performances. Paul Conen, Larry Folsom and Dan Redlin offered strong performances throughout.

While these measures are likely to be defeated in the legislature, as most of them were last year, we cannot afford to relax and let our legislators do it by themselves. Our representatives need to hear our opposition to these measures and to hear that we support their efforts to defeat them. The Lyndon LaRouches and John Doolittles of the world are using the AIDS crisis to further their own ends. We cannot allow them to play on people's fears, nor to play with our rights, in an effort to legislate the AIDS crisis away. If we relax now, we only give the support Senator Doolittle is asking of us. Can we afford to do that? I think not.

If you need more information regarding Senator Doolittle's bills to make an informed decision, write Senator Henry Mello's office or Assemblyman Sam Farr's office, or give them a call (Mello - 425-0401; Farr - 425-1503). Ask for copies of SB 1000, SB 1001, SB 1002, SB 1003, SB 1004, SB 1005, SB 1006, SB 1007, SB 1008, and SB 1432.

Don't relax! Don't feel secure! Don't give the support Senator Doolittle needs to get his legislation passed! Write Senator Mello and Assemblyman Farr and register your opposition to all of the above bills. Do it now, later just may be too late!
Once you decide to go for HIV testing, to choose to deal with AIDS and related subjects in a conscious way, the word "AIDS" jumps out at you from every source. From the TV, in magazines, newspapers, even while you're waiting to check out at the grocery store, there's that word again.

Why? Because that's what sells papers! Sensationalism. As coordinator for the county testing program for HIV antibody bodies (the program is an ATS - Alternative Test Site; HIV is Human Immunodeficiency Virus: welcome to alphabet soup) this is one issue I warn everyone about.

I've trained the pre-test counselors to warn everyone they see about headlines. And during post-test counseling, when clients receive their result, all the Public Health Nurses know to warn clients again.

Newspaper articles, especially headlines, don't explain studies. They don't address all the variables, all the co-factors involved in studies of people who either have or have not been tested. They just scare people. They (the headlines and conclusions) don't include information like: were the people who are sick now, after testing, sick when they got tested?

Some people come to be tested for confirmation or diagnosis, because they are already sick. Other people get tested because they aren't sick, and want to stay that way. A negative result can help a person reinforce healthy behavior, and hopefully never get sick or test positive.

There's never been a virus that affected every single person it encountered, not polio, not herpes, not nothing! And when they say everyone will die someday, it's true. We are all going to die someday, but not necessarily from HIV.

Headlines treat AIDS as black and white. And when you're dealing with people, and lots of variables, there is no black and white. I know a man whose partner died of AIDS. They had unsafe sex before they realized it was a no-no. The survivor not only is healthy, he is test-negative, and has been for a long time. Hooyah! Now, this is not to say that we should let up on our vigilance about safe sex. We shouldn't, not for a second. But it is to say that headlines don't always tell the whole story. Headlines don't allow for good news. It doesn't sell papers.
THE POLITICAL CLIMATE

Recipe for the Coming Year: Stay Involved, Stay United

By John Laird

Since I wrote a similar column one year ago, over fifteen thousand Americans have been diagnosed with AIDS and over half as many have died. Barring a major breakthrough, thirty thousand more Americans will be diagnosed by this time next year — for a total greater than the number of Americans killed during the Vietnam War.

AIDS has taken its toll on gay political leaders. Peter Vogel, founder of a gay Democratic club in New York and a former assistant to Gov. Mario Cuomo, has died. Bill Kraus, former assistant to Harvey Milk and President of the Milk Club in San Francisco, also passed away. Marc Bliefield, co-chair of the California Democratic Gay and Lesbian Caucus, died last fall.

The AIDS crisis has also produced many heroes in our community. There are those who volunteer their time and energy in counseling, chore work, and general support for people with AIDS. Many women have been particularly heroic, as they have organized blood drives, provided tremendous volunteer support for AIDS projects, and have taken visible roles in education campaigns.

One result of all this work is the fact that sexuality is now discussed openly, providing one of the best tools against homophobia that we will probably know in our lifetimes.

The fear of AIDS does not seem to have damped gains made by openly gay and lesbian candidates for public office. In Chicago, Rob Sable nearly pulled off an impossible upset in an aldermanic race, and will likely seek and win office in the future.

In San Francisco, Supervisor Harry Britt won the Democratic vote for County Supervisor. But there are more victories to come. Volunteerism with AIDS, the unity in Britt's campaign, and the success of the gay and lesbian political agenda have found strength. Volunteerism with AIDS is pressing neanderthal legislation on the AIDS issue.

In Massachusetts, so-called liberal Democrat Gov. Michael Dukakis has yet to relent on his publicized opposition to gay men and women as foster parents. And in Minnesota, the tragic case continues of the woman who was seriously injured in a traffic accident — with her family not letting her lover of many years visit her in the hospital.

The Gallup Poll on the subject of support for gay rights was encouraging — a 20% drop in support since the question was last asked. A poll of first-year college students indicated for the first time that a majority do not support basic civil rights for lesbians and gay men.

Adversity always caused our community to look inward, and in doing so we have found strength. Volunteerism with AIDS, the unity in Britt's campaign, and other forward movement has been truly impressive.

This year will be marked by the good and the bad — the tragedy of AIDS and the strength of the response.

The recipe for sanity and success is clear. Come out and stay out. Stay involved, Stay united. And we can only move forward.

"This year will be marked by the good and the bad ... the tragedy of AIDS and the strength of the response"
For the Lesbian and Gay Action Alliance, at least, the answer is "C." Our Networking Committee is taking many of the first steps toward forging active relationships with other progressive community groups; seeing this as an integral component of the Alliance's political activity.

Why network? Because coalitions are more effective than scattered, smaller efforts. Because when you put enough "minorities" together you get a majority.

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By Allison Claire

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The memorial is right there in Soquel Village, on the brick wall of the Fire Department:

"The first ballot by a woman in an American presidential election was cast on this site November 3, 1868 by Charlotte (Charley) Parkhurst, who masqueraded as a man for much of her life. She was a stagecoach driver during the Gold Rush days and shot and killed at least one bandit. In Redwood City she was kicked by a horse and lost her left eye. She wore a patch over her eye — she had always doctored herself.

Charlotte (Charley) Parkhurst was an orphan in Massachusetts dressed in boys' clothing. She found work in Ebenzer Batch's livery stables. Was found to be a woman, dressed in her boy's clothing and sleeping in the stables.

She establshed a reputation for daring and lost her left eye. She wore a patch over her eye — she had always doctored herself.

She came to California in 1850 or 1851. In the spring of 1879 — sore throat and rheumatism, no longer able to do heavy work, she moved to the small cabin in Redwood City she was kicked by a horse and lost her left eye. She wore a patch over her eye — she had always doctored herself.

On December 29, Charley died, and the isolation imposed by her mask strikes me as almost inhuman. Surely we have no evidence to the contrary; why, for instance, would a confidante or sweetheart necessarily come forward after Charley's death to announce herself, or himself? Enough of Charley's life is undocumented to allow for this possibility.

Certainly it is high time this story was told — she had been "ruined" by a tragic love affair; surely her friends were ready? Enough of Charley's life is undocumented to allow for this possibility.

On the other hand, in choosing a man's life, she left behind some harsh realities. Before contraceptive devices or even information about natural birth control methods were widely available, before women could legally own property, in a time when women's wages were so low that widows and spinsters could scarcely make it alone, women were dying young, from overwork and too-frequent childbirth.

All in all, her deception would have given her a uniquely androgynous vantage; seen as male and fully exercising male privilege, she yet had firsthand access to woman's mysteries.

By Kore Archer

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By Kore Archer
Mothers Day Action, cont.

the stars and rose with the sun to greet those bussing in from Las Vegas.

At 10 a.m. the crowd gathered for a legal rally adjacent to the Test Site. A circus tent offered some relief from the already blazing sun. Peacekeepers circulated through the crowd with sunblock and water in spray bottles. I was struck by the age range of the demonstrators—there seemed to be as many old as young women. There were kids running around, babies in sunshades stumbling against grownup chests, and teenage activists as well. The many men among us were supportive and respectful of the women’s leading role.

And such a colorful crowd! There were banners and kites and prayer flags, an enormous purple butterfly buffeted by the wind, a papier-mâché and fabric serpent to be carried by a dozen protesters. We bubbled with laughter and loving.

The rally began with the call, “How about lesbian moms?” I hooted.

The women who spoke were not celebrities, but common women leading lives of uncommon dedication. They included an Australian mother elected to her legislature on a disarmament platform, two women from the Greenham Common Women’s Peace Camp in Great Britain, the founder of Grandmothers for Peace in Sacramento, and Shoshone women who offered prayers and blessings and gave their permission for us to gather on their ancestral land. A letter to us all from Elizabeth Linder was read, which for me was among the most moving moments of the day. Linder’s son, Benjamin, was recently killed in Nicaragua by the Contras.

Many speakers linked Mother’s Day and the honor due our mothers and grandmothers with the honor due our Earth. The one criticism I heard (and shared) was that something which matters to so many of us is being left out of the discussions, a little feeling, a sort of remembering.

A letter to us all from Eli­

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The rally began with the call, “How many mothers are here today?” Hands flew up proudly, applause rang out. “How about lesbian moms?” I hooted.

“Are there any co-mothers here?” More applause. Grandmothers as well were recognized and cheered.

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A letter to us all from Eli­

The Anonymous Demonstrator at a San Francisco rally protesting the appearance of Justice Sandra Day O’Connor with the homemade placard which said “Love Your Dress, Hate Your Decision.”

Sharon Mc

Dancing Nightly from 10:00

As the Court of Appeals did, a fundamental right to engage in homosexual sodomy. This we are quite unwilling to do.”

The feeling I’m getting now is first and foremost a sensation of fun. I had known a ruling was due soon. But I am surprised the news is so important. At first, although disappointed and angry, I also feel strangely excited, even flustered that something which matters to me (and issue of “ours” commanding so much of the front page of the nation’s most influential newspaper. And especially since the Times is so homophobic.

Past the news stories and down into the excerpts from the opinions, a sort of realization, begins to make its way through my gut and up into my chest. I am reading Associate Justice White for the majority (and wondering why he isn’t referred to as Byron “Whizzer” White as he was in the days he was the only potentially sexy Justice, before Thurgood Marshall got on the Bench). The “respondent,” White says, meaning Michael Hardwick of Atlanta, “would have us announce, as the Court of Appeals did, a fundamental right to engage in homosexual sodomy. This we are quite unwilling to do.”

The feeling I’m getting now is first and foremost a sensation of hurt and damage. But it also makes me alert, expectant and even, in a way, happy. It is a familiar feeling. “Yes!” I think as I’ve thought before, “when you spread the covers out across the great American bed, there are still those of us who are left out in the cold. Don’t be fooled. Don’t forget that again!”

POSSIBLE FUTURE OF THE GAME: If the recalling of how we took the Hardwick decision turns out to be a fun thing to do, we should repeat the activity (and embellish it) every year. Some people may wish to set their Hardwick thoughts to music and sing them.

By Carter Wilson
The Shortcut Home
By Jo Kenny

My father told me to be home before dark that night. It was a weekend and I was pissed that he wouldn’t let me stay out later. After all — I was fourteen and bigger than my mom: five feet tall and a hundred pounds. Besides, I was a streetwise kid and already in high school. But arguing would only get me grounded, so I said OK.

When the streetlights went on I knew I was asking for trouble with my dad, so I decided to take the shortcut home. My girl­friends walked me to the highway and from there it was only a five minute walk across the back lots and up an alley to home. I was walking up the alley when I heard running feet on the cobblestones behind me. My first thought was that it was my brother. It sounded like his shoes and who else would be trying to catch up with me? I didn’t have time for a second thought. A hand clamped over my mouth and I saw the streetlight shine on a serrated kitchen knife as it went to my throat. I froze. I couldn’t believe what was happening. He was pulling me back towards the empty lots. He kept trying to stop me. I looked around and saw that he was right behind, grabbing out at me. I broke away and started running. About halfway up the alley I saw a serrated knife be? Do something!” The other voice was saying, “We’re almost in the back lots. I’d better think of something.”

I walked onto the street. Turning the corner, the first thing I saw was my father putting out the garbage. I stopped. This was too crazy to believe. I almost got raped and screamed my guts out and my own father didn’t respond. I wondered if maybe he hadn’t heard it. I couldn’t be sure. It seemed a long time had gone by since I first walked up the alley, but by the light still visible in the sky, I knew only a few moments had passed.

I was shocked, but at the same time my normal way of dealing with my parents took over; if he didn’t hear or wouldn’t acknowledge the sound of that scream, I didn’t have to tell him that anything had happened. After all, the cops would never catch the guy and the only way my parents could protect me would be to keep me in at night. That was the last thing I wanted.

My decision made, I walked up the block, said hi to my dad and went straight to my room. I was thankful that neither of my sisters were not there because I knew my calmness was a very thin front. I sat and stared. My mind kept going back and forth between, “It’s no big deal. Forget it,” and “Figure it out. What does all this mean?”

About five minutes later I got a phone call. I didn’t want to go downstairs with everyone sitting around. But I went anyway; my mom would know something was wrong if I didn’t want to talk on the phone. Luckily no one was in the kitchen so I at least had a little privacy.

I was surprised when I heard Patty’s voice. She was an eight­year-old who lived across the street. She told me she had just come from her friend Kathleen’s house, which overlooked the alley. They’d both been looking out the window and had seen the whole thing. Patty thought that maybe I was in trouble, but Kathleen said not to say anything, because she didn’t want to get her grandmother upset. I started to get mad. First my father and now Patty. What was going on? My world seemed to be falling apart. I asked Patty if she knew what the word “rape” meant. She didn’t, so I told her to ask her mother and then decide if it would be worth having upset Kathleen’s grandmother.

Somewhere I made it through the rest of that night. I waited for my sisters to fall asleep and then I cried and cried into my pillow. I never went into the back lots after dark again. And for the next five minutes later I knew I was asking for trouble — old women, young women, women of all races, of all sexual preferences: physically challenged women, women who have never studied self-defense, as well as those who have. Some fought back by using their wits and intuition: talking, negotiating, even using humor. Others defended themselves physically: by shouting, kicking, running, or using available objects. This book presents a unique picture of courageous and intelligent response to everything from verbal harassment to attempted murder — the amazing stories of women who got away! Once such account comes from a girl growing up in Brooklyn, who years later got off a Greyhound bus Santa Cruz, and has lived here ever since...

The media is full of horror stories about women who are raped. What about women who resist — successfully? Her Wits About Her: Self­Defense Success Stories is a forthcoming anthology of true stories by women who fought back effectively against verbal and physical attacks. This book was edited by Gail Groves and Denise Caignon, two Santa Cruz residents, and will be published by Harper & Row in July 1987 and available in local bookstores. The interviews and stories in Her Wits About Her come from ordinary people — old women, young women, women of all races, of all sexual preferences: physically challenged women, women who have never studied self-defense, as well as those who have. Some fought back by using their wits and intuition: talking, negotiating, even using humor. Others defended themselves physically: by shouting, kicking, running, or using available objects. This book presents a unique picture of courageous and intelligent response to everything from verbal harassment to attempted murder — the amazing stories of women who got away! Once such account comes from a girl growing up in Brooklyn, who years later got off a Greyhound bus Santa Cruz, and has lived here ever since...

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S

ience was alone. No one had heard me? They must have, but why wasn’t anyone there? I began to think I had made it all up. Maybe I had just stood there and screamed in my brain. Like in a nightmare when I try to scream and nothing comes out. That had to be it. I tried hard to make myself believe this, but my raw throat and shaking body told me that yes, I had screamed, and, yes, people hadn’t responded. I didn’t want to think about anything. I had to get out of there. It was over and I was okay. It was dumb standing there thinking that this was such a big deal. After all I hadn’t been raped or even stabbed so everything was fine. Right?

I walked onto the street. Turning the corner, the first thing I saw was my father putting out the garbage. I stopped. This was too crazy to believe. I almost got raped and screamed my guts out and my own father didn’t respond. I wondered if maybe he hadn’t heard it. I couldn’t be sure. It seemed a long time had gone by since I first walked up the alley, but by the light still visible in the sky, I knew only a few moments had passed.

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IN TOUCH
A GAY SOCIAL CLUB
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POST PARADE
TEA DANCE
& Reception for the
S.F. Gay Marching Band
Patio Barbeque
$1
Hot Dogs Hamburger*Veget-Kabobs
Music/Dancing
A Special Non-Alcoholic Patio Bar
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4pm-9pm
$2-$5 Sliding Scale Donation

FULL LIQUOR BAR
GARDEN PATIO
DANCING

This article was written by Dr. Herb Joiner-Bey, a naturopathic physician who is the Director of the John Bastyr College A.I.D.S. Research Project. Dr. Joiner-Bey also teaches at John Bastyr—which offers Department of Education-recognized programs in naturopathic medicine (N.D.) and nutrition (B.S. and M.S.)—as well as maintaining a private practice in Seattle. His work on A.I.D.S. received the top award at an August, 1985 convention in San Francisco on alternative medicine and viruses. (The paper which he presented—20 pages long and containing over 200 scientific references—can be obtained by sending $10 to JBC Research Department, 144 N.E. 54th, Seattle, WA, 98105.) Several UCSC alumni have completed or are currently studying in the JBC N.D. program, including Dr. Adrienne Borg (Cowell, 78), Bill Wulsin (Cowell, 78) and Christy Lee-Engel (Stevenson, '81). Any readers interested in the program(s) are encouraged to write the College at the address above, or call 206-523-9585.

N OUR frantic rush to devise answers for the A.I.D.S. crisis, it is imperative that we remember certain basic concepts of health and disease. Since the formation of the germ theory of disease, drug-oriented (conventional/allopathic) medicine has focused its efforts on the eradication of those microorganisms associated with infectious diseases. However, according to Harrison’s Principles of Internal Medicine, “while a specific disease will not occur in the absence of the causative organism, the mere presence of the organism in the body does not lead invariably to the clinical illness. In short, focusing merely on the organism leaves out a critical part of the picture: susceptibility.”

In general, naturopathic doctors approach their patients with the understanding that, in any individual, disease results from a combination of this susceptibility to a particular disease process as well as to exposure to an offending agent (microbe, environmental substance, stress, etc.) which can trigger that disease process.

With respect to AIDS, the offending agents are the human immunodeficiency viruses (HIVs) and, probably, other viral organisms including cytomegalovirus (CMV) and Epstein-Barr virus (EBV), all of which tend to be immunosuppressive. As exposure to offending agents is necessary for susceptible people to become diseased, avoidance of exposure—especially to viruses which mutate to different forms as easily as the HIV group of viruses—is paramount. Safe sex is imperative.

Our naturopathic research on and treatment for AIDS is focusing on ways of minimizing susceptibility in persons who have not been exposed, and on restoring and optimizing the health of those who have. We have developed a multifaceted protocol which is aimed at providing a broad array of supports for...
Continued from previous page

the patient. We use a whole person approach in which the patient is actively involved at the many levels on which he believes, takes place when all of these aspects of the human are engaged. The persistence of AIDS suggests that it serves us to do all we can to stimulate the patient’s immune system.

We use a whole person approach to health, believing that all levels of the immune system, including the immune system as a whole, function optimally when all of these factors are taken into account.

The immune system is a complex system that is involved in a wide range of functions, including the protection of the body against infections and the maintenance of normal bodily functions. The immune system is regulated by a variety of factors, including genetic factors, environmental factors, and lifestyle choices.

It is important to understand that the immune system is a highly regulated system, and it is not something that can be easily manipulated or altered. The immune system is a delicate balance between the body’s need to fight off infections and the body’s need to avoid attacking itself.

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SAT ▼ 30
OPENING NIGHT
BENEFIT:

FILM
CHUCK
SOLOMAN:
COMING OF AGE
ALSO:
Not All Parents
Are Straight AND
Together and Apart
Sash Mill Cinema
7:30 pm. Reception to
follow $5. Sliding
scale tickets available at
doors.

LESBIAN
COMMUNITY:
A DAY-LONG
CONFERENCE
Cabrillo College: 8am-
Spm Call 429-6767 for
details.

TUE ▼ 2
DURABLE POWER
OF ATTORNEY
FOR HEALTH
CARE
COMMUNITY FORMA515
Broadway 7th.
Call 423-
4724 for details.

WED ▼ 3
A LESBIAN
AND GAY ACTION
ALIANCE
COMMUNITY FORUM
515 Broadway 7th.
Spm. Sign Language
Interpretation.

SUN ▼ 31
OUTDOORS
GREAT VOLLEYBALL &
PICNIC
Alam Half Marathon
Kiosk
Cabrillo College: 6am-
Spm. Sign Language
Interpretation.

THURS ▼ 4
BENEFIT
CONCERT
ROMANOVSKY
AND PHILLIPS
With Special Guest
LINDA MAES
Maria Hall
Advance Tickets:
CYPRIAN
Records & Blue Rhythm
Records $5.50
At door $6. $10 Slave.
Sign Language Interpretation

SAT ▼ 6
THE PARADE
with our very special guests
THE SAN FRANCISCO
BAND MARCHING
Pacific Garden Mall: 11am
Gather 10am Cedar &
Castro.
Call 456-3033

THE PARTIES
4:10 IN TOUCH
TEA DANCE
8:12 POST PARTY
Y.D.A.: NOON
ALCOHOLIC
9:2 BLUE LAGOON
New Music Dance

THE RALLY
IN THE SUN
San Lorenzo Park Noon
City Proclamations
Food Raffles.

1987 Santa Cruz Gay & Lesbian Pride Celebration ▼ Coordination provided by the Freedom Foundation
Toni Cassista ▼ Marie Henley ▼ Vern Isakson ▼ John LaRiviere
Aaron Miller ▼ Michael Perlman ▼ Ron Sampson ▼ Karen Schlin
Sign Language Interpretation ▼ Jan Fried
Melonie Miller was born and raised in Orange County. She writes and performs her own music, portraying life from a realistic and often humorous point of view. Currently, her most serious interests are music, soccer, and non-monogamy.

Both Gretchen Koch and Peg North are closet musicians, coming out for the day to play original works.

Kris Francis has been performing his singing and comedy act for the last ten years, five of which he has contributed his talents for gay and lesbian events and fundraisers. He always leaves us wanting more.

Welcome to the world of Linda Moakes: a world where humor is healing; a world where humor is empowering; a world where stereotypes and stereotypes are a way of life. "Yes, I’ve always been cool. I was cool as a fetus. Hived on my mother’s milk, satiated from my mother’s milk, and grew up to be cool just like my mother."

Jennifer Berezan, praised in these days when people talk about sex, we always hear about a very few items and activities required to keep us alive and healthy. The fact is that we are, by and large, managing to preserve our sense of self, sexuality and sanity while practicing safer sex says much for our resilience and strength. Still, some of us are beginning to wear down. We’ve had condoms out the ears (and in everywhere else), and we don’t give a rubber dam about the next clever barrier idea that might come along. It’s not that we don’t have a good time with these staples of the safer sex diet, not to mention the life-saving considerations, but face it, they’re not much fun to talk about any more. There’s only one thing left to do: get trendy. It’s time that we upgrade our instruments of discipline. Ask yourself: do you really want to spend your life kneeling or Janis Joplin.

John Caravantes is 29 years old, single, a guitarist, biologist, avid motorcycle rider, scuba diver, and radical fairy. He presently works as the promotions director for an alternative publishing house, The Crossing Press. In his spare time, he likes to cook, read and spend time at the beach and in the mountains. He also has a weakness for puns, chocolate, and people who wear big buttons marked PUSH.

Romanovsky and Phillips have attracted thousands of devoted fans nationwide with their entertaining and affirming performances. By singing about their lives as gay men and an outrageous sense of humor, they have carved a unique niche for themselves in themselves as “Professional R & P like to think of that if tomorrow the world suddenly stopped, there would be no tomorrow.”

JERRY SOLOMON, Ph.D.
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429-5306

You might begin with an appetizer like the Castrovile Top-oe-job (playing footies with each other in a bowl of artichoke soup). For a second course, dip your fingers in smoked trout pate or rosemary-sorbet. For a second course, dip your fingers in smoked trout pate or rosemary-sorbet. For a second course, dip your fingers in smoked trout pate or rosemary-sorbet. For a second course, dip your fingers in smoked trout pate or rosemary-sorbet. For a second course, dip your fingers in smoked trout pate or rosemary-sorbet. For a second course, dip your fingers in smoked trout pate or rosemary-sorbet. For a second course, dip your fingers in smoked trout pate or rosemary-sorbet. For a second course, dip your fingers in smoked trout pate or rosemary-sorbet. For a second course, dip your fingers in smoked trout pate or rosemary-sorbet. For a second course, dip your fingers in smoked trout pate or rosemary-sorbet. For a second course, dip your fingers in smoked trout pate or rosemary-sorbet. 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A Note From the Editors:

Who is the Condom Lady, and what is she doing in our Reader? It's been said before, and it's no less true now: publishing a lesbian and gay male journal is coalition work, and coalition work is a struggle. This issue is no exception. We needled a Condom Digest, a subject with ample potential to be dull. Should we take the condom-package-approach? "1. Press the condom against the end of the penis and unfold with the other hand until it covers the entire length of the penis." Something a little more lively was in order, and the Condom Lady suggested herself. But how to explain to gay men why "lady" is a word many women find offensive? How to explain to lesbians that gay male camp is different than - misogyny?

Who is the Condom Lady, and what is her role? Could she call it "Condom Fairy"? How about "Condom Person?" There were heated discussions in parking lots, tense moments in living rooms, long silences over the phone. And with good reason. For centuries, "ladies" have been seen but not heard, have attained value only as trivial appendages to men, have been held to standards of behavior that emphasized appearance over intellect, and acquiescence, and sacrifice. To talk about "ladies" is to suggest two kinds of women: the ladies, who are honorable and need male protection, and all the others, who for reasons of class, race or any number of other things couldn't be ladies, and deserve no protection. For just as long, gay men have mined metaphors, dressed in clothing that was supposed to be for females, and occupied a category separate from Real Men on one side and Ladies on the other. One gay man calling himself another "girl," or perhaps "Miss Thing," is not engaging in misogynistic insult. He is acknowledging a kind of sisterly bond, perhaps gently relieving his cohort (himself) of some privilege. How can there be a patriarchy without any Real Men? In the end, as editors, we have only our instincts and convictions to go on. Our instincts and convictions say that there is important information to be printed, and that the Condom Lady would get a longer hearing than a pamphlet in a condom box. We resist attempts to define her - mother figure,0 principle, concerned person, someone else entirely? - it doesn't really matter. If her information is read and absorbed, our main purpose is fulfilled. If she bridges a gap in understanding between lesbian and gay men, that's even better.

Dear Condom Lady,

Is this a science column?

Meticulous

Dear Meticulous,

A rubber is a rubber is a rubber,

Meticulous

Dear Condom Lady,

Are you kidding? Do I look like a scientist? I put on a record and measure rubbers in the middle of the night with the skinny metal tape measure my mother gave me when I was little. You call that science? I hope not. I'm a compulsive rubber shopper. I'm a nosy person. I ask perfectly nice people how hard their pelvic thrusts are, and how many of them do they like in one piece, and do it duty? I interrupt conversations at birthday parties to say that oil on a condom can make it break like a pin breaks a balloon. That always makes them think. People don't like to think of pins and condoms in the same breath or synapse or whatever. Maybe that's science, I don't know.

Dear Condom Lady,

I want the condom that's just for me.

signed,

Do It My Way

Dear Do It,

Of course you do, my dear, how very American. In this country you can have anything you want. You think I'm kidding, go downtown, to Longs. Six kinds of Trojans, four kinds of LifeStyles, three kinds of Sheiks, two kinds of Fourexx, Fiesta (do you think of plates?), Mentor, Escuo (I don't know who names them, write your Congressperson). The AIDS Project people, they have some more kinds, and theirs are free. But but but, you didn't tell me anything about you. I know some people who put steel rings or leather bands (you thought they were bracelets?) at the base of their penis so that when it's sticking up the ring squeezes it tight and makes it swell up a little more and who knows? Maybe they feel more that way or something. Are you one of them? Do you want a condom that's so tight, especially if you're sort of a big guy, because the ones that are more narrow, they squeeze you like one of those steel rings but not so hard. Some people like that, but you, you look at the chart, find a nice wide one.

Do you like to take every precaution you possibly can? If you do, buy rubbers lubricated with something that has Nonoxyol-9 in it. The package says. Do you like little bumps or ribs? There's those. The Mentor ones, they have adhesive inside, so they stick to you. Do you like them to taper and get skinnier after the head part? There are people waiting to sell them to you. Listen, go on a shopping spree. Take friends, like a picnic. Make lots of noise, go "ooh!" and "aah!" and "sick!" This might as well be fun.

Dear Condom Lady,

I like to go down on my girlfriend, but sometimes I worry.

signed,

Out and Down

Dear Out and Down,

This is your lucky day, dear. The latex people have something for you too. It's square, about five inches on each side. It's not so thin. You can see light through it but you wouldn't want to try to read through it. It's called a rubber dam. Did they invent it for you? What do you think? How many other things did they invent so women can have better sex? Bah! They make them for dentists. Maybe you've had one in your mouth.

But you can put them other places. Okay, think about your head between your girlfriend's legs. Now think about the secretions and think about the menstrual blood. They -- you know, the scientists -- they've found the virus that causes AIDS in those secretions especially in the menstrual blood. Now think about the ads that say they'd like you to put your mouth, except think of one of these latex squares, these rubber dams they use on your mouth and your girlfriend's... the secretions, the menstrual blood, they don't get into your mouth. Yeah, they give you the key to all of the new skills. You get to learn how to hold a piece of latex in place with two hands, maybe. Okay, but not so good for people who maybe can't use their hands. How does it taste? Let me put it this way. You buy a can of peaches. Which tastes better, the peaches of the can? Yes, so they need to come up with something better. But let's be fair, they do come in flavors - chocolate, some fruit flavors, you know. So you buy those things part of what you do, and they keep you healthy, and the nice AIDS Project people give them away.

Dear Condom Lady,

We always stop in time, so we're okay, right?

signed,

Interruptus

Dear Interruptus,

So you're one of these ones: you put it in, or he puts it in, just for a while, you move around, it feels good, then you take it out before it starts spurting, yes? No. Not a good idea. The stuff that leaks out of a penis before it makes its big splash -- the pre-cum -- that has as much concentrated virus in it as the stuff that comes later, the cum. It's like a lot of places where people worship: the head has to be covered before it goes inside.

"Put vegetable oil on your salad. Put Vaseline on your chapped lips. Put baby oil on your baby. Don't put them on your rubber."
"It's like a lot of places where people worship: the head has to be covered before it goes inside."

Dear Condom Lady,

Sometimes I'm overtaken by passion.

signed,

In the Moment

Dear Momentsous,

So I should tell you to take a cold shower? No, I know what happens to you. You like to be spontaneous, don't you? Okay, you be spontaneous, but you plan in advance. Here: sometime soon, when you're feeling all level headed and logical — no passion.

What is it like for a woman to be overtaken by passion? Did you drive your car, or maybe you drove your car and stayed in it so the windows got wet? Okay, now you go put little packages with rubbers in your coat or your car or your backpack or your purse or under your bicycle seat or all these places. If you don't use them after a while, change them, because the heat — yes, even the beat your body makes — will make them weak after a while.

So good, but what about the slippery stuff? You've got a big bottle at home and you've filled it up with a misture carrying it around. Go to the kind of store where you can fill up your little bottle of shampoo or cooking oil for their big bottles, and buy some really little bottles, empty ones. Fill them from the big bottle at home. Put them in the same places.

Then not to worry. When you need these things, they're across the room or in the car, not across the river.

Dear Condom Lady,

I've had three rubbers break on me lately. Don't they make them very well?

signed,

Consumer

Dear Consumer,

You just want to see me get on my soapbox again, don't you? All right, never mind, I will.

If you put stuff that's made from oil on a rubber, it breaks, snap! Put vegetable oil on your salad. Put Vaseline on your chapped lips. Put baby oil on your baby. Don't put them on your rubber. That's probably why they break.

Look around, there's a chart of things you can use to make things slippery around this page somewhere.

What else? Is your pecker good and hard when you put the rubber on it? It should be. And squeeze all the air out after you've put it on. Did you ever see a tire with an air bubble in it? — and you see the driver five miles later changing a flat tire? You're smart, you see what I mean. Do you keep pushing, in and out, after you've come and it's starting to get soft? Don't. That's no good, that can make it break too. Condoms full of semen might leak out the bottom too, you know, especially if you or your friend is still squishing around in it. When you've come, grab the rubber by the bottom and pull the little pecker out of where it's been and think of something else to do now.

Dear Condom Lady,

I'm kinda shy. I get embarrassed asking guys to put one on.

signed,

Modest

Dear Mod,

Get up and go find a mirror and look in it. Say this to the person in the mirror: "Am I worth putting a rubber on for?" Never mind the grammar. If the answer isn't "yes," do what you have to do to change it, this is important.

Now, here's some more things. Remember what we said to In The Moment, about putting little rubber packages right where you might need them? You do this too, maybe put them in plain sight, so they're not such a surprise. And keep a few different ones, so you have a choice between Condom 1 and Condom 2, instead of between Condom and No Condom. Keep some lambkins, he might be allergic to latex. Something else, you be you, and you get someone else to pretend they're this nice man who wants to play with you. Get used to saying the things you need to say. Another thing, you play with yourself, yes? Of course you do. So next time put a condom on yourself, then keep playing, it's not so bad. One more thing, practice putting a rubber on with your mouth, so it's like fun and not like duty. Practice on your fingers, it's not so hard as you might think.

Dear Condom Lady,

I heard that condom manufacturers are really reaching out to the gay market.

signed,

Follows the Trend

Dear Follows,

You poor dear, we'll find a nice ear specialist for you. Look, when AIDS hits, who makes a change in how they have sex, a change in so many people so fast that it makes all the doctors blink? The gay men, that's who. Who does newspaper ads and safe sex Tupperware parties and who turns rubbers into something sexy and exciting? The gay men!

So with all these gay men blazing a new trail, you know, with safe sex, what do condoms look like? Hmm. I've got one with a medieval helmet and a broadaxe on it. It says "Family Planning" in nice letters, like somebody's handwriting. What's a broadaxe got to do with family planning?

I've got another. It's got a man and a woman on it standing on a beach in the shallow water, hugging on their tip toes. The man's barefoot. The woman has four-inch platform shoes on. On the beach! The package says, "For feeling in love . . . ." Eeh! Condoms aren't about love. Condoms are about fucking. Fucking! And sucking. Condoms are about, the person who has the semen keeps the semen. Or everybody keeps their own semen, depending. The ones who maybe have bugs—you know, viruses, bacteria—they keep the bugs. Not just HIV, the one that can make AIDS. Syphilis, gonorrhea, chlamydia, herpes, all these bugs, they stay put. Maybe nobody in the deal has viruses, that's even safer. Maybe the people using the condoms are in love. That can be a nice thing too, of course.

Dear Condom Lady,

It seems like condom manufacturers are sensitive to the AIDS epidemic.

signed,

Touched

Dear Touched,

Sensitive! Listen carefully, my friend. Can you say "capitalism"? Good, I knew you could. There's a company called "Ansell." They sell lots of different kinds of rubbers. Here's what their president says about AIDS, he says, "AIDS is a condom maker's dream." Sensitive, huh? So where do they do their marketing, in gay papers? Bah! Not Trojan or Ansell or Schmid, and they make almost all the rubbers in this country. How come? An Ansell vice president, he says, "Very simply, there are more heterosexuals than homosexuals." Socially responsible, sensitive, eh? In some cities, people buy condoms from Japan or smaller companies, and send the empty wrappers to these big companies with the cold hearts. If you do that, tell them what you think about the four-inch platforms, too.

Dear Condom Lady,

Is there any hope?

signed,

Desparing

Dear Despairing,

Well, my friend, look at it this way. You're with somebody and you're playing around. You stop for a minute and one of you or maybe both of you puts on a condom. It says two things. It says, "I care about you and trust you enough to put this on." It says something else, too, of course.

One more thing, really the other one is, "Now I think we're going to do some sucking and some fucking." That's a nice double message, yes?

You can write to the Condom Lady in care of the Lavender Reader, P.O. Box 7293, Santa Cruz, 95061.

"I've got a package with a medieval helmet and a broadaxe on it. It says 'Family Planning' in nice letters. What's a broadaxe got to do with family planning?"
<table>
<thead>
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<th>Name and Maker</th>
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<tr>
<td>Wrinkle Zero-o</td>
<td>7&quot;</td>
<td>1 3/4&quot;</td>
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<td>green or pink ribbed</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rough Rider</td>
<td>8&quot;</td>
<td>2 3/4&quot;</td>
<td>thick</td>
<td>bumps</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ramses Extra</td>
<td>8&quot;</td>
<td>2 3/4&quot;</td>
<td>medium</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Schmid, New Jersey</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family Planning</td>
<td>7&quot;</td>
<td>1 3/4&quot;</td>
<td>thin</td>
<td>black contoured around head</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fugilax</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mentor</td>
<td>7 7/8&quot;</td>
<td>2 1/4&quot;</td>
<td>thin</td>
<td>adhesive seals to penis high-tech applicator expensive!</td>
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<td>Mentor Health Care Prod., Minnesota</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Man Form Plus</td>
<td>7 3/4&quot;</td>
<td>2 1/4&quot;</td>
<td>medium</td>
<td>contoured around head sold at UCSC vending machines</td>
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<tr>
<td>National Sanitary Labs</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Sheik</td>
<td>7 3/4&quot;</td>
<td>2 1/2&quot;</td>
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<tr>
<td>Schmid</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Kimano</td>
<td>7 3/4&quot;</td>
<td>2 1/4&quot;</td>
<td>fairly thin</td>
<td>contoured around head progressive company: gender-free packaging ads in gay press sensitive brochures</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Dist: Mayer Labs, Oakland</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Trojan Natural Lamb</td>
<td>7 3/4&quot;</td>
<td>2 3/4&quot;</td>
<td>fairly thin</td>
<td>wider than any other, shapeless expensive made from lamb membrane feels a little more natural useful if allergic to latex</td>
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<td>Contracept Plus</td>
<td>7 3/4&quot;</td>
<td>2 1/4&quot;</td>
<td>medium</td>
<td>sold at UCSC vending machines</td>
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<tr>
<td>National Sanitary Labs</td>
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<td></td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Extras Extra</td>
<td>8&quot;</td>
<td>2 1/2&quot;</td>
<td>medium</td>
<td>ribbed marketed toward women: pink packaging, woman pictured in more active role</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Schmid</td>
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**Non Lubricated Condoms**
(better for oral sex, if you get rid of the talk)

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<thead>
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<th>Name and Maker</th>
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<td>Circle Rubber, New Jersey</td>
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<tr>
<td>Trojan Enc</td>
<td>8&quot;</td>
<td>2 1/4&quot;</td>
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<tr>
<td>Carter-Wallace, NY</td>
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<tr>
<td>Prime Non Laced</td>
<td>7 3/4&quot;</td>
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<td>Ramses</td>
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<td>Schmid</td>
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### Exploring the Heart of Healing in AIDS

While driving from Santa Cruz to San Francisco to attend the Stephen Levine/ Ram Dass workshop on healing and AIDS, my friend and I talked of our anxiousness about attending. Will it be a heavy emotional trip? Will we be called on to participate by sharing our fears and grief aloud? Did we really want to spend another sunny afternoon exploring our torn hearts around AIDS? Upon arriving at the filled-to-capacity workshop, a friend of ours showed us to some seats up front that she had saved. This added to the tension because once seated there was no way out without disturbing an entire row of people, including the video crew. And so, as I sat there, just before the introduction, trying to quiet down, I heard someone behind me say, "Which one is Ram Dass and which one is Stephen?" As I felt the tension of others around me, I thought, this is interesting, it's our tension and we're all in this together. Then silence came over the hall and men and women, including persons with AIDS and AIDS-related conditions, caregivers and concerned community.

Val Leffler
certified massage practitioner
certified Träger practitioner
426-2063

May 1987

### VIDEO

Exploring the Heart of Healing in AIDS

As the talk began and as the afternoon progressed, I noticed how people seemed riveted to each word. With insight, candor and lightness, Ram Dass and Stephen Levine offered their collective understanding and experience which transforms the dying process into an opportunity for loving and for growth. We were, at moments, quiet and serious; we felt our grief and shared our tears and laughter. Together our hearts opened, we felt connected, we felt love. The day went by quickly and at the closing we did a sound together similar to a traditional OM, but more like an AH ... a warm loving energy filled my body. There was a sense of healing happening in the room. Now a video offering has emerged from the event, Exploring the Heart of Healing in AIDS (produced by the ACCESS Group), that captures the experience of the workshop and more. What transpired between Stephen Levine, Ram Dass and those present did not involve many of the specifics we've heard so often about AIDS. What evolved was an exploration of our healing into life within the context of our experience with dying. The video explores the physical, psychosocial, spiritual and symbolic potential in life-threatening illness and AIDS. It divests the incredible melodrama called "dying" of its frightful power, supplanting fear with calm, simple compassionate understanding. We're invited to look directly at life and death with clarity and without judgment. Through viewing the video's teaching, discussion, sharing questions and answers, and in the expressions of others, we recognize ourselves. Whether you are a caregiver, loved one, quiet participant, or approaching your own death, the message of this video is that work on oneself is where the heart of healing lies.

This video Exploring the Heart of Healing in AIDS will be shown at Cabrillo College Student House, 6500 Soquel Dr., Aptos. Friday June 5th at 7:30 p.m. Sign language interpretation provided. Sponsored by the Freedom Foundation, Hanuman Foundation and the Santa Cruz AIDS Project.
When the battery on your motorcycle dies in Hollister, California at 9 p.m. on a Saturday night...
am lucky. None of my lovers and only a few of my friends have died over the past several years.

On the face of it this is a strange statement to make by a middle-aged gay man who was white male in 1986. People like me usually count themselves lucky to have experienced the general population, the syndrome; others live for several years. Only a minority of those who have the virus or have experienced symptoms will proceed to what is sometimes called "fullblown AIDS," but the fear is always there for anyone who knows — or suspects — that he or she is antibody positive.

Perhaps that is why I don't want to be tested for the LAV/HTLV-III antibody. On first sight it seems sensible to take advantage of the test's availability. The problem is that to know one does, indeed, harbor the antibody and has been exposed to the virus does not allow one to do anything to combat the potential disease. Knowing may increase the stress and that, many immunologists believe, could contribute to actually getting sick. I know men who are antibody positive who are totally devastated at the first sign of a sniffle or a swollen gland. The suspicion that they, too, are in the hospital or have died turns out to be correct.

Death from AIDS comes in many ways. Some people die within a few weeks of knowing they have the syndrome; others live for several years. Only a minority of those who have the virus or have experienced symptoms will proceed to what is sometimes called "fullblown AIDS," but the fear is always there for anyone who knows — or suspects — that he or she is antibody positive.

Most gay men have altered their sexual repertoires, following advice on how to minimize the risks of transmitting AIDS. (When it comes to the health of the general population, the syndrome may be spreading rapidly; men who are bisexual or closet gays, who reject any sense of belonging to a gay community, will be at higher risk for themselves and their partners because they have not heard the messages about safe sex.) In fact, gay men have gone far beyond safe sex and virtually abandoned sexual and emotional connections with other people. There are positive arguments for celibacy — there was a period when they were much heard within the Women's Movement — but there are no good arguments for celibacy imposed by fear and emotional withdrawal. "Revirginizing," a friend of mine calls it, and while for some it has meant the creation of a rich life of dating and breathless anticipation for the end of "fast-lane sex."

But the decline of sexual adventure is not the central issue. What is crucial is the loss of possibilities, as sex becomes associated with danger and disease. And as AIDS sweeps through a whole community, our attempts to respond to the crisis through changes of behavior, volunteer agencies, and political mobilization will all too often lead to attacks from the right, more concerned with imposing its morality on the rest of us. The gay casualties of AIDS are frequently contrasted with "innocent victims," as if gays (and drug users) deliberately set out to get sick and infect others.

To fight AIDS requires research, resources, good medical care, and, above all, public information. But there is another requirement for the battle: compassion for all its victims. There are of course exceptions, but the official custodians of morality in the United States — the religious leaders, the politicians, the editorial writers — have too often been silent, when public support would help considerably to fight prejudice and ignorance. I would like to feel that when I grieve for those who have died, I do not need to hide that grief for fear of persecution or ridicule.

Dennis Altman is the author of several books, including "The Homosexualization of America," and most recently "AIDS in the Mind of America." He was a Regents Lecturer at UCSC in 1983, and is presently a professor of politics at La Trobe University in Melbourne, Australia. "The Tragedy of AIDS" was first published in Ms. Magazine. Reprinted with permission from the author.
The Tragedy of AIDS

By Dennis Altman

am lucky. None of my lovers and only a few of my friends have died over the past sev-

eral years. On the face of it this is a strange statement to be made by a middle-aged, affluent white male in 1986. People like me usually associate death with old age, war, pov-

erty — with the worst experiences of the ghetto. AIDS has changed that, and not just for gay men. There are drug users associate death with old age, war, pov-

erty. A1DS has changed that, and not just for gay men. There are drug users and hemophiliacs who, also, could |

experience so little loss.

New York, Los Angeles, San Francisco, are numb, almost autistic, having expe-

rienced the loss of four or five or six lovers and close friends over the past 

decimated, and the majority of people in their twenties and thirties have been 

outside the gay world are largely 

unaware and seemingly uncaring. Too many of the gay men I know in New York, Los Angeles, San Francisco, yes, and Sydney and London as well, are numb, almost autistic, having expe-

rienced the loss of four or five or six lovers and close friends over the past few years. Whole social groups of men in their twenties and thirties have been decimated, and the majority of people outside the gay world are largely unaware and seemingly uncaring.

The most painful loss I have expe-

rienced was that of Dean, an Australian who spent the last 10 years of his life in New York, and with whom I sometimes stayed on various forays into the city. Dean was one of the unlucky ones. His death was slow and his condition obvious, because of the large number of Kaposi's sarcoma lesions that covered his face for the last year of his life. He became too weak to care for himself, but it took quite an effort to persuade him to use the home-care services offered by the Gay Men's Health Crisis. In the last few months of life the virus affected his vision, his hearing, and his coordination, and he finally died after a series of hospitalizations last September.

Other deaths come to mind; a number of the men I met as I traveled the coun-

try in 1984/85 to write my book, AIDS in the Mind of America, are now dead. Too often, when I or my friends have not seen someone around for a while, the suspicion that they, too, are in the hospital or have died turns out to be correct.

Death from AIDS comes in many ways. Some people die within a few weeks of knowing they have the syn-

drome; others live for several years. Only a minority of those who have the virus or have experienced symptoms will proceed to what is sometimes called "fullblown AIDS," but the fear is always there for anyone who knows — or suspects — that he or she is antibody positive.

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ody. On first sight it seems sensible to take advantage of the test's availability. The problem is that to know one does, indeed, harbor the antibody and has been exposed to the virus does not allow one to do anything to combat the poten-

tial disease. Knowing may increase the stress and that, many immunologists believe, could contribute to actually get-

ting sick. I know men who are antibody positive who are totally devastated at the sign of a sniffle or a swollen gland. The knowledge that I was positive would, I suspect, make me like them — far more scared than I now am. So long as I remain apparently healthy, I will go for a test only when some possible benefi-

tial medical intervention is available — and if I could be sure that I would not lose a job, or health insurance, or my right to reenter the States because of a positive result. Those fears are real: according to a recent Justice Depart-

ment ruling AIDS victims are not pro-

tected by civil rights laws if they are
I was about 12 when my mother passed on to me one of her secrets, how she used tweezers to pluck out the hairs on her upper lip. This became a beauty ritual for me all throughout high school, college, and the five years of my marriage. It hurt. Each session took 30-45 minutes. It needed to be done at least once every two weeks. Except for my mother and my sister, I never mentioned this secret to anyone, not the girls in my dorm, not my husband; and I never heard of anyone else having to do this. Imagine how I felt reading Wendy Chapkis' thoughtful description of this secretive plucking in her life, and her observation that the removal of hair, while surreptitious for women, is considered "heroic" when it's a man shaving.

"Visually violating these categories can be so threatening to the observer's sense of personal identity and social hierarchy that the response will be abusive. "Hey, moustache!": can't tell the boys from the girls," "get a haircut, faggot": "fat boy, you get fat!" From Chapter 4, "Ugly as Sin" chair and grew up using crutches; Mariette, an Algerian who discusses the terrorize the aged. As an elderly woman young people are not present; and on the other hand, of the increased hazards that shoved, ignored, and was treated rudely by many there is no mention of one of Rock's...
Irene Reti, cont.

you sit down anyway.

Now that your girlfriend has arrived with full motorcycle gear and short hair, it’s obvious what’s going on. The waitress, pretending you aren’t there, keep serving pie. Finally, a distinguished-looking gentleman with a gray polyester vest, tie and impeccably most respectable British manner your won over, despite the leather jacket. His pallor, long vertical creases trailing from water, even though you told him you didn’t want to sit under the 20 foot neon Jerry’s sign. Within five minutes your friend pulls up in an old Toyota, saying, “You stopped for gas and the young man went to the restroom. When he did not return, his friend went after him and found him dead. He had stuffed his nose and mouth with toilet paper and suffocated.”

The Normal Heart

“Right in the middle of the interview, she asks me, ‘Why are you doing this play?’,” remembers Kemper York, who plays Felix Turner in the Grovemont Theater’s production of The Normal Heart. “I thought I have my reasons for being in this play: I like the challenge of the role and I like the play because it’s a good contemporary drama. But as I was about to answer, I remember my first reading of the play. I was sitting in my u-uck outside the theater just before auditions. When I finished I begin to cry. And I don’t cry easily…”

Dr. Geraldine Taplin sits on a chair at the edge of the stage. The members of the cast were spread through the first two rows of seats.

“I’m a doctor of internal medicine and potential danger. It is also about defining AIDS patients in this area. I’ll try to answer your questions.”

There were the usual questions at first. How is the disease transmitted? What is safe sex? What are the initial symptoms? Then someone asked how people respond when they are told they’ve tested positive for the HIV virus. Dr. Taplin told as of a young man who had tested HIV-positive, being driven home by a friend. They stopped for gas and the young man went to the restroom. When he did not return, his friend went after him and found him dead. He had stuffed his nose and mouth with toilet paper and suffocated.

The Normal Heart, written by Larry Kramer, is about a gay man confronting AIDS at a time when there was little or no medical information and no interest from government in dealing with the possible danger. It is also about defining ourselves, whether gay or straight, by something other than our sexuality. As Dr. Elizabeth Kubler-Ross, a noted expert on death and dying, said in a recent interview, the lesson to be learned from AIDS isn’t about sex or sin or homosexuality or promiscuity. Rather, she said, it is about learning to love unconditionally.

“I wanted to do this play because of the people I know who have AIDS and the ones who have already died from it,” explained Sid Cato, who plays Ned Weeks, the central character in the play. "I don’t want them to have died in vain. I want people to see the play and maybe get up and do something to bring us one step closer to solving this. It’s my hope that from this play and this horrible disease will grow a new dignity for our survival as human beings.”

The Normal Heart will open at the GroveMont Theater, Lighthouse and Hoffman Streets in Monterey, on May 30 and will be presented on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays through June 14, at 8 PM. Two benefit performances for the Monterey County AIDS Project will be presented June 13 and 14. For further information, call 649-6852.

The GroveMont Theater and the Poetic Drama Institute present a benefit production for the Monterey County AIDS Project

The Normal Heart

A sensitive and heartwarming drama about AIDS

-by Larry Kramer

Directed by Rosamond Goodrich Zanides

featuring Sid Cato

May 28 thru June 14

Discount previews May 28 & 29 - $5.00

Regular run- Thursdays, Fridays, Saturdays - 8:00 pm
Sunday matinees - 2:00 pm

General Admission

$8.50- Thursday / Sunday, $8.00 Friday / Saturday

Students / Seniors / Military - $7.00 Thursday / Saturday, $6.00 Friday / Saturday

GROVEMONT THEATER ARTS CENTER

320 Hoffman (between Lighthouse & Hoffman) - Monterey, California
RESERVATIONS 649-6852 / 649-5561

AIDS patients in this area. I’ll try to answer your questions.”

There were the usual questions at first. How is the disease transmitted? What is safe sex? What are the initial symptoms? Then someone asked how people respond when they are told they’ve tested positive for the HIV virus. Dr. Taplin told as of a young man who had tested HIV-positive, being driven home by a friend. They stopped for gas and the young man went to the restroom. When he did not return, his friend went after him and found him dead. He had stuff...
true, he had a support sys-
order of AIDS. There is a clear need for research for formal research on these substances and approaches—but we have found it difficult to secure funding due to the unfortunate bias against natural approaches which prevails in conventional medicine. The John Bauty College AIDS Research Project is committed to finding a way to carry out such research. A $30,000 funding request for a pilot project is our current goal. We need to do this formal work to answer our own questions. And even more important, we need this “data” to convince the broader community that natural health care can provide an important piece of the puzzle presented by AIDS.

SCAP, cont.

and because of them we are now able to complete projects previously unattainable.

SCAP continues to offer three ongoing support groups on a weekly basis, from 7:30 PM to 9:00 PM on Fridays at the Santa Cruz AIDS Project office, 234 Santa Cruz Avenue.

Gay Evening In May cont.

out the evening. Rick Hayes and Linda Moakes created some of the funniest moments of the evening. We are a talented community—that we can be a prosperous community and that we are a powerful community. Until next year, thank you from the Gay Evening in May Commit-

Carter Wilson, cont.

Others may wish to host Georgia Sodomy Ktiches or There’a-Justice-In-

My-Booked-World and Retreats (all within the guidelines of safe sex, natch). The game will die a natural death when we get legislation that covers our fundamental rights.

INITIAL CRITICISM OF THE GAME:

Many gays and lesbians don’t need to be reminded that the government they’re paying their taxes to is not taking the same care of them it’s taking of other citizens. (“We believed in the Constitution,” San Francisco lesbian activist Pat Norman said following the Georgia sodomy decision, “Guess what? It doesn’t mean us.”) The game would be most useful for people like me. In every way except for
Prof. Michael Edwards, Artistic Director of Shakespeare/Santa Cruz, prepares for the Festival's most challenging season yet.

Auditions for Shakespeare/Santa Cruz's sixth season hit a record number this year, with over 750 actors interested in the 1987 Festival offerings.

Opening Night Benefit Film Presentation: Chuck Solomon - Coming of Age. Also Not All Parents Are Straight and Together And Apart. Sash Mill Cinema - 7:30p.m. Reception to follow. $6 to $10 sliding scale, tickets available at the door.


Peace Day Mission Plaza Park (Holy Cross Church) Peace Day discovering our common ground is a day for our community to explore the possibility of global peace by experiencing this possibility in our community and personal lives. Multi-cultural celebration of similarities and differences including african drumming and ballet folklórico, Linda Arndt, Charnique Smith, New Games, ethnic foods, children's activities, free workshops, and entertainment. Noon - 9pm. Concert features Debbie Fire. 9pm to 5pm. 425-6767.

LGBQ Beach & BBQ Day. The Park at Hebrew & Almar (by the BBQ pits). Bring your beverage of choice and grillables. Noon.

The Normal Heart Opening Night. A play about gay issues and AIDS. Grovemont Theatre in Monterey. 8pm. 649-6852.


LGBQ: Speaker Series - Lesbian Mothers, UCSC, 7:30pm, Kresge 159.

Sister Spirit Presents Large Screen Videos by Kathy Wolfe, plus a full length feature film about women. $3-$7 sliding scale. Bill DeFranc Center, 1040 Park Av. S.J. 8-3pm. 293-9372. Freedom Film Festival "Quest for Power." "Woza Albert," and "Destination Nicaragua." Tickets $5, $4 for students and seniors. UCSC, Classroom 2 (behind Bay Tree Book Store). Presented by WLUF, ACLU, and Students & Educators for Social Responsibility. Noon. 5pm.


Lesbian Community Association: A Day Long Conference, Cabrillo Lesbians Together (CLT) is the sponsor for this day of speakers, workshops, and a concert. Register at 8am in the Forum Bldg. ($450). Margaret Sloan-Heuer will be one of the speakers. Workshops include Healing Power of Dance, Intimacy & Relationships, and others. Concert features Dottie Fire. 9am to 5pm. 425-6767.

LGBQ-Feminism and Sexual Minorities, UCSC, Kresge 159, 7:30pm.

Sister Spirit Presents Large Screen Videos by Kathy Wolfe, plus a full length feature film about women. $3-$7 sliding scale. Bill DeFranc Center, 1040 Park Av. S.J. 8-3pm. 293-9372. Freedom Film Festival "Quest for Power." "Woza Albert," and "Destination Nicaragua." Tickets $5, $4 for students and seniors. UCSC, Classroom 2 (behind Bay Tree Book Store). Presented by WLUF, ACLU, and Students & Educators for Social Responsibility. Noon. 5pm.


In Touch Tea Dance: 4pm - 8pm at the In Touch, a benefit, sliding scale.

Post Party A Non Alcoholic Event at the YWCA, 8pm - midnight. A benefit, sliding scale.

Blue Lagoon, New Music Dance. 9am - 2am, a benefit, sliding scale.

Sister Spirit Presents Large Screen Videos by Kathy Wolfe, plus a full length feature film about women. $3-$7 sliding scale. Bill DeFranc Center, 1040 Park Av. S.J. 8-3pm. 293-9372. Freedom Film Festival "Quest for Power." "Woza Albert," and "Destination Nicaragua." Tickets $5, $4 for students and seniors. UCSC, Classroom 2 (behind Bay Tree Book Store). Presented by WLUF, ACLU, and Students & Educators for Social Responsibility. Noon. 5pm.


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AFTER DARK
214 Lighthouse Ave. Monterey
373-7828
214 Lighthouse Ave.
Tuesdays; 7pm
A L -A N O N
Monterey
462-1818
Gateway School
A N O N Y M O U S
Group
Lesbian Women’s
Sundays; 7pm
718 Carmel St. SC
Gay Men’s Group
Mondays; 8pm
DMV. 4200 Capitola Rd., Capitola

BLUE LAGOON
923 Pacific Ave. SC
423-7117

CABRILLO LESBIANS TOGETHER
CLT: Mondays; 7:30pm Cabrillo Women’s Center
Fridays 1:30-3:30 drop in.
All Women welcome 479-6249

CABRILLO WOMENS CENTER
427-2722

CLOSET FREE RADIO
KZSC FM 88.1
Mondays; 8:30-10pm
UCSC, 95064
429-2811
For info call
423-4734

CLOSEST FREE RADIO
KZSC FM 88.1
Mondays; 8:30-10pm
UCSC, 95064
429-2811
For info call
423-4734

LESBIAN & GAY ACTION ALLIANCE
(Formerly Freedom Democratic Caucus)
PO Box 7293
95061
Jo Kenny: 423-7287
Wesley Harris: 688-9409

LESBIAN & GAY COMMUNITY PROJECT
95063
Info: 429-2060

LESBIAN COMMUNITY CENTER
Sundays; 6:30
10th & Fernando St.
Info: 279-2711

LESBIAN LOVE/ARTS & LITERATURE GROUP
Alternate Fridays
Location Varies (Lesbians 30 and over)
Info: 662-2669

LESBIAN MOTHERS SUPPORT GROUP
Wednesdays 8:30pm
UCSC Women’s Center
429-2072

LESBIAN & GAY COMMUNITY PROJECT
95063
Info: 429-2060

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LESBIAN & GAY COMMUNITY PROJECT
95063
Info: 429-2060
COMMUNITY RESOURCE DIRECTORY

COMMUNITY AFTER DARK
373-7828
214 Lighthouse Ave.

RESOURCE
Tuesdays 7pm
AL-ANON
Monterey 462-1818
Gateway School

DIRECTIONS SHOP
ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS
95063

AL-ANON
Tuesdays 7pm
Gateway School
462-1818

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS
Lesbian Women's Group
Sundays 7pm
718 Carmel St. SC
Gay Men's Group
Mondays 8pm
DMV, 4200 Capitola Rd., Capitola

(No more AA Dances at Rd., Capitola
Live Oak Grange Hall)

Lesbian & Gay Action Alliance
(Formerly Freedom Democratic Caucus)
PO Box 7923
SC 95061
Jo Kenny: 423-7287
Wesley Harris: 688-9409

Gay Volleyball
Wednesdays 5pm
Santa Cruz Main Beach between wharf and Boardwalk.
Will 429-2060

Great Outdoors
PO Box 2143, SC
95061
Brett 427-2722

Heartwood
Spa
3150-A Mission St.
SC 462-2192

GAY LESBIAN VEGAN
C/o Rick Haze
PO Box 7971, SC
95061
Info: 423-4734

Gay Lesbian & Bisexual Network
UCSC 429-2468

Gay Men's Support Group
Tuesdays 7pm
Calvary Episcopal
523 Center St. SC
Gilbert Moreno 426-5044

Gas and Lesbians Over Forty
Second Friday of each month.
Gene 479-1028

Lesbian & Gay Literature Group
Alternate Fridays
Location Varies
(All Lesbians 30 and over)
Info: 662-2669

Lesbian Elders and Lesbian Elders Support Group
Metroplitan Community Church
Sundays 6:30
10th & Fernando St. SJ
Info: 279-2711

Monterey Bay Women's Alliance
PO Box 7945 SC
95061
Mary Bryant

Monterey County AIDS Project
PO Box 22178
Carmel CA 93922
424-5550

Narcotics Anonymous
662-4664

Overeaters Anonymous
Wednesdays 7:00pm
340 Soquel Ave.
Suite 115
423-2139

Pensinsula Professional Network
PO Box 4714
Carmel CA 93921
659-2446

Matrix Women's Newsmagazine
418-B Cedar St. SC
429-1238

Lesbian Gathering
Thursdays 7:30pm
538 Seabright Ave. SC

Lesbian Mothers Support Group
Wednesdays 6:30pm
UCSC Women's Center
429-2072

Lavender Reader
PO Box 7933 SC
95061
684-1542

Lesbian Elders Over Forty
Second Friday of each month.
Gene 479-1028

Lesbian Elders and Lesbian Elders Support Group
Metroplitan Community Church
Sundays 6:30
10th & Fernando St. SJ
Info: 279-2711

Monterey Bay Women's Alliance
PO Box 7945 SC
95061
Mary Bryant

Monterey County AIDS Project
PO Box 22178
Carmel CA 93922
424-5550

Recovery Group for Lesbians
Mondays 7:00pm
Focusing on staying clean and sober & breaking isolation.
1025 Center St.
(Sliding fee)

Rainbow Ensemble for the Performing Arts
PO Box 7527 SC
95063
Gilbert Moreno 426-5044

Santa Cruz AIDS Project
PO Box 5142 SC
95063
458-4999

Stone Wall Day Men's Alliance
Wednesdays 7:30 pm
UCSC Cowell 219

Santa Cruz Women's Health Center
250 Locust St.
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

SANTA CRUZ AIDS PROJECT
PO Box 5142 SC
95063
458-4999

STONEWALL DAY MEN'S ALLIANCE
Wednesdays 7:30 pm
UCSC Cowell 219

SANTA CRUZ WOMEN'S HEALTH CENTER
250 Locust St.
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

Video City
Gay and Lesbian X-Rated Videos
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Also a large non X-Rated inventory.

VIDEO CITY TAKE 3 and TAKE 5
Free memberships, movie rentals.
$2.00, $1.00 Mondays and Thursdays

TAKE 3
2-1505 East Cliff Drive, 15th
Santa Cruz, CA
(at East Cliff Shopping Center)
475-4717

TAKE 5
845 Almar
and Mission
Santa Cruz, CA
458-0611

Santa Cruz AIDS Project
PO Box 5142 SC
95063
458-4999

Stone Wall Day Men's Alliance
Wednesdays 7:30 pm
UCSC Cowell 219

Santa Cruz Women's Health Center
250 Locust St.
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

Santa Cruz Women's Health Center
250 Locust Street
Santa Cruz, CA 95060
(408) 427-3500

Lesbian Elders and Lesbian Elders Support Group
Metroplitan Community Church
Sundays 6:30
10th & Fernando St. SJ
Info: 279-2711

Monterey Bay Women's Alliance
PO Box 7945 SC
95061
Mary Bryant

Monterey County AIDS Project
PO Box 22178
Carmel CA 93922
424-5550

Narcotics Anonymous
662-4664

Overeaters Anonymous
Wednesdays 7:00pm
340 Soquel Ave.
Suite 115
423-2139

Pensinsula Professional Network
PO Box 4714
Carmel CA 93921
659-2446

Matrix Women's Newsmagazine
418-B Cedar St. SC
429-1238

Lesbian Gathering
Thursdays 7:30pm
538 Seabright Ave. SC

Lesbian Mothers Support Group
Wednesdays 6:30pm
UCSC Women's Center
429-2072

Lavender Reader
PO Box 7933 SC
95061
684-1542

Lesbian Space
Tuesdays 6:30pm
A Drop-in Resource Center at the Matrix Office
429-9007

Matrix Women's Newsmagazine
418-B Cedar St. SC
429-1238

Let's
(Lesbians Empowering Themselves)
Info: 429-6154

Santa Cruz Women's Health Center
250 Locust Street
Santa Cruz, CA 95060
(408) 427-3500

Saturday June 4th Moraga Hall
8PM
A Benefit Concert
Advance Tickets

ROMANOFSKY & PHILLIPS