Experience The Book Café

Kings Plaza • 41st & Capitola Road
462-4415

Open Sunday-Thursday 10 a.m.-11 p.m., Friday & Saturday 10 a.m.-Midnight

Features:
16 First Person: The Balancing Act by Mardi Richmond
24 Cover Story: Many Ways to the Mountain Top by Ray Martinez
29 Fiction: Individually Wrapped by Emily Levy
33 Dear Condom Lady by Scott Brookie

Departments:
5 Verbatim
6 Letters
8 News Notes by Sarah-Hope Parmeter
12 Community Clips
19 Organizing: Para Nuestra Comunidad: A National Voice
21 Alliance Work: What I Did On My Summer Vacation by Anza Stein
27 The AIDS File: Memories to Keep by Adam Berger
30 Film: The Prime Cuts by Wendy Chapkis
35 Bookshelf: Studying Male Couples: Two Approaches by Lou Waters
37 Gay Men's Health: Mental Health Amidst the Chaos by Gerald Landers
42 Community Calendar by Will Russell
46 Community Resource Directory

Columns:
4 Opening Word by Jo Kenny and Scott Brookie
7 SCAP Report: Encore for the Latex Follies by David Beckstein
9 The Center: Getting Closer All the Time by Mindy Storch
11 The Political Climate: Top County Bureaucrats Try to Freeze Out Domestic Partners by John Laird
13 Making Waves: Fags, Dykes, and Abortion by Allison Claire
OPENING WORD

If there's one thing we don't want to be accused of at the Reader, it's being stagnant. In this issue, to keep everybody on their toes (including us) we are introducing a new features cartoonist, a new department, and the work of a talented local cartoonist.

The "First Person" feature is just what it sounds like: stories from our community, told in our own voices. You might call them oral histories in print. Our first offering in this category comes from Mardi Richmond, who reflects on a day of her work at a construction site. As always, submissions from all segments of our diverse community are welcome.

Although the Reader focuses primarily on Santa Cruz County, it occurred to us that there could be national and international events of importance to the gay/lesbian/bisexual community that our readers hadn't gotten a chance to hear about. Beginning with this issue, Sarah-Hope Parmeter peruses the print media to distill "News Notes" for you. Lisa Johnson is our new artist/cartoonist-in-residence. Her first installment of "It Takes All Kinds" provides insight into a collective ailment most worthy of our attention. We are thrilled that Lisa has joined the Reader staff.

While on the subject of staff, we also want to welcome Val Leffler as our new advertising coordinator. Val is replacing Gayelynn Galusha, who occupied this critical position in the staff box for a year-and-a-half. We send big kisses to Gayelynn at her new home in Hawaii. Thanks, Gayelynn, we will miss you—and welcome, Val!

If there's one thing we don't want to be accused of at the Reader, it's of being stagnant. In this issue, to keep everybody on their toes (including us) we are introducing a new features cartoonist, a new department, and the work of a talented local cartoonist.

VERBATIM

"If people have bargained that oral sex is what they're going to do and stay uninfected, we now have direct evidence that it [infection] can happen."

—Dr. George Rutherford, director of the AIDS Office of the San Francisco Health Department, commenting on a new study of the riskiness of oral sex to climax. The study determined that two men had become infected with HIV by sucking their partners to climax.

"Li Peng is a fascist!"

—title of a letter condemning the Chinese government for the massacre in Tiananmen Square in June. The letter appeared on an international computer bulletin board of Chinese affairs which was a central information exchange during the Chinese uprising. Another writer immediately responded, stressing the need for political coalitions including gay men and lesbians, and telling the first writer, "You'd better grow up fast."

“If you take the gay sensibility out of the arts, what you’re left with is ‘Let’s Make a Deal’.”

—film historian and critic Vito Russo, speaking in Santa Cruz last winter
Dear A. G. E. M.:

I was in attendance at the 5th annual "A Gay Evening in May" on May 6, 1989. It was an entertaining show which performed at this year's Gay Evening in May is written and directed by Dennis Walsh and sponsored by the Peer Education Program of the Santa Cruz AIDS Project.

In October, the show will also be new guests including Rosane Rosanna-Danna and always perky sexologist, Dr. Ruth.

In addition to being fun of a very high order, "Latex Follies" addresses many concerns about preventing the transmission of HIV. The importance of condom use, clean needles, and non-risky sexual play will all be explored in hilarious detail. Humor is used without any intention of minimizing the importance of these serious health issues. Satire and comedy can capture the audience's imagination and stimulate their awareness often times in more powerful ways than straightforward AIDS presentations. Educators are recognizing that sexual behavior change is not fostered by fear but instead by informing people of their options and the nature of their risks.

The zany comedy show, "Latex Follies", is returning. This safer sex entertainment which was performed at this year's Gay Evening in May is written and directed by Dennis Walsh and sponsored by the Peer Education Program of the Santa Cruz AIDS Project. In October, the show will be extended to a full hour and presented both at an AIDS theatre festival in San Francisco in conjunction with a major AIDS conference, as well as special showings locally including one at the UCSC performing arts theatre.

If you saw the show, you probably haven't forgotten Banana White's colorful character. She will be back with a sensitive solo about her own line of designer prophylactics. The very popular singing condoms, the Extremes will be back in full camp and voice. Joining the show will also be new guests including Rosane Rosanna-Danna and always perky sexologist, Dr. Ruth.

编者按：该文是一封信，作者向A.G.E.M.表达了一些对"A Gay Evening in May"的观感。作者认为，该活动在5月6日举行，虽然有"Energy"和"Puerto Rico"等令人难忘的时刻，但总体上，"A Gay Evening in May"的第二部分（Act II）的"Puerto Rico"部分，以及"Battering and it was totally inappropriate to make light of it or make a joke about a subject (battering) which is a problem in our community. It was in poor taste and, for the most part, I felt the audience's reaction to it reflected the uncomfortable feelings people had with the song and act and the inappropriateness of it."

My reason for writing AGEM is to let down for me."

I thoroughly enjoyed the "Latex Follies" among a number of other pieces as well (Gretchen Koch, Rebecca Adams, etc.). Nonetheless, there were two acts I found in extremely poor taste—both were in Act II. One was "Puerto Rico." I found it insulting to have three white men singing a song, etc. which was about, for, and was "Puerto Rico." I found it insulting—both were in Act II. One were two acts I found in extremely poor taste and, for the most part, I felt the audience's reaction to it reflected the uncomfortable feelings people had with the song and act and the inappropriateness of it."

My reason for writing AGEM is several-fold. For four years I have seen the attendance at this event grow quite a bit. A significant result of this increased attendance is that the amount of money raised for the various AIDS organizations has obviously increased as well. So here's the problem I have with that—why not call the show "A Gay (Man's or Men's) Evening in May"? I am frus-

Continued on Page 18

Halloween extravaganza !!!!

Tuesday October 31, 1989

A Costume Contest with $200 in Prizes
$100 first place
$75 second place
$25 third place
Judging at Midnight

The Blue Lagoon has dancing nightly

BLUE LAGOON
A DANCE VIDEO NEW MUSIC GAY CITY BAR
923 PACIFIC AVE., SANTA CRUZ 423-7117

David Beckstein

Hands Unlimited
GARDEN ARCHITECTURE
LANDSCAPE DESIGN AND INSTALLATION

LISA COSTELLO
408-728-4002
132 COLLEGE DR., WATSONVILLE, CA 95076

MUIN DALY C.A.
Chinese Acupuncture
Moxibustion
Herbal and
Dietary Medicine
423-0302 OR 425-4691

Encore for the Latex Follies

The zany comedy show, "Latex Follies", is returning. This safer sex entertainment which was performed at this year's Gay Evening in May is written and directed by Dennis Walsh and sponsored by the Peer Education Program of the Santa Cruz AIDS Project. In October, the show will be extended to a full hour and presented both at an AIDS theatre festival in San Francisco in conjunction with a major AIDS conference, as well as special showings locally including one at the UCSC performing arts theatre.

If you saw the show, you probably haven't forgotten Banana White's colorful character. She will be back with a sensitive solo about her own line of designer prophylactics. The very popular singing condoms, the Extremes will be back in full camp and voice. Joining the show will also be new guests including Rosane Rosanna-Danna and always perky sexologist, Dr. Ruth.

In addition to being fun of a very high order, "Latex Follies" addresses many concerns about preventing the transmission of HIV. The importance of condom use, clean needles, and non-risky sexual play will all be explored in hilarious detail. Humor is used without any intention of minimizing the importance of these serious health issues. Satire and comedy can capture the audience's imagination and stimulate their awareness often times in more powerful ways than straightforward AIDS presentations. Educators are recognizing that sexual behavior change is not fostered by fear but instead by informing people of their options and the nature of their risks.

Continued on Page 18

Encore for the Latex Follies

David Beckstein

Hands Unlimited
GARDEN ARCHITECTURE
LANDSCAPE DESIGN AND INSTALLATION

LISA COSTELLO
408-728-4002
132 COLLEGE DR., WATSONVILLE, CA 95076

MUIN DALY C.A.
Chinese Acupuncture
Moxibustion
Herbal and
Dietary Medicine
423-0302 OR 425-4691

Encore for the Latex Follies

The zany comedy show, "Latex Follies", is returning. This safer sex entertainment which was performed at this year's Gay Evening in May is written and directed by Dennis Walsh and sponsored by the Peer Education Program of the Santa Cruz AIDS Project. In October, the show will be extended to a full hour and presented both at an AIDS theatre festival in San Francisco in conjunction with a major AIDS conference, as well as special showings locally including one at the UCSC performing arts theatre.

If you saw the show, you probably haven't forgotten Banana White's colorful character. She will be back with a sensitive solo about her own line of designer prophylactics. The very popular singing condoms, the Extremes will be back in full camp and voice. Joining the show will also be new guests including Rosane Rosanna-Danna and always perky sexologist, Dr. Ruth.

In addition to being fun of a very high order, "Latex Follies" addresses many concerns about preventing the transmission of HIV. The importance of condom use, clean needles, and non-risky sexual play will all be explored in hilarious detail. Humor is used without any intention of minimizing the importance of these serious health issues. Satire and comedy can capture the audience's imagination and stimulate their awareness often times in more powerful ways than straightforward AIDS presentations. Educators are recognizing that sexual behavior change is not fostered by fear but instead by informing people of their options and the nature of their risks.
Ode to the Briggs Initiative

Robert Stipicevich, two-term Fremont School Board member and current Board Chair, is facing a recall campaign spearheaded by a newly formed Fremont Family Alliance (FFA) as a result of his decision to come out in a May 18 interview. Because of Stipicevich's popularity, the FFA has had to resort to misleading and alarmist tactics in its campaign. Typical of these are comparisons between gay people and rapists, and a "fact sheet" topped by a copy of explicit safe sex materials published by the San Francisco AIDS Foundation for gay men that goes on to identify these materials as part of the classroom AIDS curriculum supported by Stipicevich. The FFA also claims that a gay man who violated conflict-of-interest standards when he voted to approve district AIDS curriculum (which they brand as "homosexual propaganda"), that Stipicevich defrauded voters because he wasn't openly gay when he ran for office, and (that he is advocating being gay both by his announcement and his stated desire to let gay children know it's ok to be gay.

Part of the FFA's plans include gathering the required 12,000 signatures quickly enough to force the Fremont Unified School District to pay an estimated $80,000 for a special election that would come just months before already-scheduled School Board elections. The FFA hopes that Stipicevich will resign rather than face a financial burden on the district.

Nonetheless, Stipicevich, having decided to come out, is determined to fight the recall campaign. He has a broad base of community support that includes all four of his fellow Board members, local lesbian and gay political organizations, local clergy, and a range of people who use the campaign as "an assault on someone's civil rights."

—Coming Up

Gross Profits at Wellcome

San Francisco, London and New York demonstrators recently protested grossly profitable Wellcome products on the drug AZT. Profit margins are estimated to range as high as 70-80% for the drug, and company profits doubled during the three years ending August 27, 1988. While Wellcome cites research and up sets as reasons for the drug's high price ($8,000 annually for a single user), their claims are receiving growing criticism not just from AIDS activists, but from the U. S. government as well, which has spent $320 million dollars purchasing AZT under Medicaid. Many view Wellcome's AZT profits as nothing short of a "windfall," as the company, which bought rights to the compound many years ago, did not develop the compound, was the first to discover its effectiveness against AIDS, and did not conduct the human tests involving AZT. Most of the work in this area was funded with federal money through the National Institutes of Health. In fact, Wellcome's $100 million in AZT profits (drawn from sales of $220 million in sales) from their most recent fiscal year would more than cover all expenses incurred by the company when it began production of the compound.

Welcome profits are expected to rise further as a result of a recent study showing that AZT also helps people infected with the HIV virus who are not yet showing any signs of sickness. Wellcome stocks jumped 32% in London following the announcement of this study and estimates that it could increase company sales by as much as 1.2 billion dollars in 1992.

AIDS activists who the Wall Street Journal characterizes as "highly organized and politically adroit, unlike most antigovernment organizers") have been raising and ruptured trading at the New York Stock Exchange for Wellcome, and have begun plastering Wellcome products on store shelves with stickers reading, "AIDS Profiteer."

Meanwhile, the federal government has begun to consider taking action, perhaps under a wartime statute allowing patent infringement if government procurement of an item is threatened by the willfulness of a single supplier.

—The Wall Street Journal

[Editor's Note: Shortly after this article was completed, Burroughs-Wellcome announced that it would reduce the price of AZT by 20%.

Ann Blows It

10,000 readers responded to a recent suggestion by Ann Landers that many gay people, given the choice, would prefer to be straight in order to escape "the oppression they face. A Milwaukee reader asked her whether under the same logic she believed that "all Jews wished they were Gentiles, that all blacks wish they were white and that all other people prefer to be white," a Vancouver reader let loose, telling her, "It's high time heterosexuals got off their high horse and realized that they are not the end all and be all of human sexuality."

A third reader, from New... from Page 10

NEWS NOTES

COMMUNITY CENTER

Getting Closer All the Time

While the Community Center's first birthday was officially in April, the organization's members elected the second Board of Directors at their September business meeting. The new officers and directors are: President/Co-Chair Patrick Meyer, Co-Chair Mardi Brooks, Treasurer Shari Bandes, and Directors Gerald Conrad and Amy Greene. Committee Representatives nominated at press time were: Programs & Services - Jon Whitman, Fundraising-Christopher Spillers, and Communications-Leen Roden. It will be this Board and the many volunteers working with the Center who will be responsible for locating and creating the first lesbian and gay community center in Santa Cruz. There are several sites being explored as possibilities for the new Center, and LCC has over $5,000 designated specifically for securing the initial lease and making any improvements improvements. If you have an idea for a place, or are willing to help out, please call Jon Whitman at 423-2581.

Another priority for this Board / Business Group will be to strengthen LCCC's contact with other lavender organizations in the community. We are recruiting to work with the many groups representing the wide variety of interests of gays and lesbians in Santa Cruz while creating a center for all of us. This past year has been wonderfully successful, with much support and enthusiasm shown for the Center throughout the gay and lesbian community. Events have been well-attended; requests for donations have been well-received; the first membership drive is going quite successfully (have you joined yet?). The coming year looks bright for the Center.

End-of-'89 special events include a mid-September coffeehouse and a picnic at the end of the month. There will be a GIANTIC clothing and costume sale the first of October, and, of course, the now-traditional Halloween Dance and Costume Contest on October 28. In November, there will be a beer-tasting (date TBA), a Dyke Drag Show (the 18th), and our 2nd annual Thanksgiving Dinner on the 23rd. We'll be hosting a "Comedy Coffeehouse" on December 9, and a Holiday Get-together on the 16th. And, of course, if we find our "Home of Our Own" by the end of the year looks bright for the Center.

Mindy Storch

Mind Storch

Getting Closer All the Time

While the Community Center's first birthday was officially in April, the organization's members elected the second Board of Directors at their September business meeting. The new officers and directors are: President/Co-Chair Patrick Meyer, Co-Chair Mardi Brooks, Treasurer Shari Bandes, and Directors Gerald Conrad and Amy Greene. Committee Representatives nominated at press time were: Programs & Services - Jon Whitman, Fundraising-Christopher Spillers, and Communications-Leen Roden. It will be this Board and the many volunteers working with the Center who will be responsible for locating and creating the first lesbian and gay community center in Santa Cruz. There are several sites being explored as possibilities for the new Center, and LCC has over $5,000 designated specifically for securing the initial lease and making any improvements improvements. If you have an idea for a place, or are willing to help out, please call Jon Whitman at 423-2581.

Another priority for this Board / Business Group will be to strengthen LCCC's contact with other lavender organizations in the community. We are recruiting to work with the many groups representing the wide variety of interests of gays and lesbians in Santa Cruz while creating a center for all of us. This past year has been wonderfully successful, with much support and enthusiasm shown for the Center throughout the gay and lesbian community. Events have been well-attended; requests for donations have been well-received; the first membership drive is going quite successfully (have you joined yet?). The coming year looks bright for the Center.

End-of-'89 special events include a mid-September coffeehouse and a picnic at the end of the month. There will be a GIANTIC clothing and costume sale the first of October, and, of course, the now-traditional Halloween Dance and Costume Contest on October 28. In November, there will be a beer-tasting (date TBA), a Dyke Drag Show (the 18th), and our 2nd annual Thanksgiving Dinner on the 23rd. We'll be hosting a "Comedy Coffeehouse" on December 9, and a Holiday Get-together on the 16th. And, of course, if we find our "Home of Our Own" by the end of the year looks bright for the Center.

Mindy Storch

Getting Closer All the Time

While the Community Center's first birthday was officially in April, the organization's members elected the second Board of Directors at their September business meeting. The new officers and directors are: President/Co-Chair Patrick Meyer, Co-Chair Mardi Brooks, Treasurer Shari Bandes, and Directors Gerald Conrad and Amy Greene. Committee Representatives nominated at press time were: Programs & Services - Jon Whitman, Fundraising-Christopher Spillers, and Communications-Leen Roden. It will be this Board and the many volunteers working with the Center who will be responsible for locating and creating the first lesbian and gay community center in Santa Cruz. There are several sites being explored as possibilities for the new Center, and LCC has over $5,000 designated specifically for securing the initial lease and making any improvements improvements. If you have an idea for a place, or are willing to help out, please call Jon Whitman at 423-2581.

Another priority for this Board / Business Group will be to strengthen LCCC's contact with other lavender organizations in the community. We are recruiting to work with the many groups representing the wide variety of interests of gays and lesbians in Santa Cruz while creating a center for all of us. This past year has been wonderfully successful, with much support and enthusiasm shown for the Center throughout the gay and lesbian community. Events have been well-attended; requests for donations have been well-received; the first membership drive is going quite successfully (have you joined yet?). The coming year looks bright for the Center.

End-of-'89 special events include a mid-September coffeehouse and a picnic at the end of the month. There will be a GIANTIC clothing and costume sale the first of October, and, of course, the now-traditional Halloween Dance and Costume Contest on October 28. In November, there will be a beer-tasting (date TBA), a Dyke Drag Show (the 18th), and our 2nd annual Thanksgiving Dinner on the 23rd. We'll be hosting a "Comedy Coffeehouse" on December 9, and a Holiday Get-together on the 16th. And, of course, if we find our "Home of Our Own" by the end of the year looks bright for the Center.

Mindy Storch

Getting Closer All the Time

While the Community Center's first birthday was officially in April, the organization's members elected the second Board of Directors at their September business meeting. The new officers and directors are: President/Co-Chair Patrick Meyer, Co-Chair Mardi Brooks, Treasurer Shari Bandes, and Directors Gerald Conrad and Amy Greene. Committee Representatives nominated at press time were: Programs & Services - Jon Whitman, Fundraising-Christopher Spillers, and Communications-Leen Roden. It will be this Board and the many volunteers working with the Center who will be responsible for locating and creating the first lesbian and gay community center in Santa Cruz. There are several sites being explored as possibilities for the new Center, and LCC has over $5,000 designated specifically for securing the initial lease and making any improvements improvements. If you have an idea for a place, or are willing to help out, please call Jon Whitman at 423-2581.

Another priority for this Board / Business Group will be to strengthen LCCC's contact with other lavender organizations in the community. We are recruiting to work with the many groups representing the wide variety of interests of gays and lesbians in Santa Cruz while creating a center for all of us. This past year has been wonderfully successful, with much support and enthusiasm shown for the Center throughout the gay and lesbian community. Events have been well-attended; requests for donations have been well-received; the first membership drive is going quite successfully (have you joined yet?)...
York, put it succinctly, "We don't want to change, Ann, we want SECURITY to exist as we are."

During the week of Gay Pride in June the marquee at the Food Bin/Herb Room natural foods stores carried a supportive message. In a chilling act of anti-gay violence, unknown vandals smashed the sign with a rock. The result was this dramatic visual display of the tension between lesbian/gay pride and homophobia. Nearby businesses—Emily's Bakery and A Flower for All Reasons—took up a collection to repair the sign. As the Reader went to press, the display was whole again, with a message reading "Fixing the hole that let the hate in."

—Gay Community News

During her May 29 commencement address, Audre Lorde called upon Oberlin College graduates to take action by testifying with their lives not because of altruism, but because "it is a question of self-preservation." Further, drawing connections between U.S. health and Third World poverty, she told them, "Your privilege is not a reason for guilt, it is part of your power, to be used in support of those things you believe in."

—Gay Community News

"Employees with gay or straight unmarried spouses are compensated less than employees who are provided funds for the medical costs of legally-recognized spouses. This is not an issue of anything but fairness and equal compensation."

—Gay Community News

New York's Senior Action in a Gay Environment recently announced the opening of a New York City chapter. The program will respond to the particular medical concerns of older PWAs, many of whom are already receiving medical treatment for conditions such as arthritis, high blood pressure, and diabetes. The program will include buddy support services, bereavement groups, and training about AIDS education for older people.

—Gay Community News

Lesbian's Will Upheld

A Vermont lesion was awarded custody of her deceased lover's son at a June 30 hearing, despite a challenge by the child's grandparents. Susan Hamilton, who was killed in a car accident which her partner Susan Bellemare and her son survived, had named Bel­lemare as executrix of her estate and guardian and trustee of her child. Hamilton's parents claimed Bellemare had exerted "undue influence" over Hamilton when she wrote the will.

—Gay Community News

All the News That's Fit to Print?

One hundred and fifty ACT UP/NY activists were met by 400 police officers during a July 26 demonstration that launched ACT UP/NY's new offensive against the New York Times. Activists were responding to the New York Times lack of coverage relating to the AIDS crisis and lesbian and gay concerns and its hostility toward people who are HIV positive. Despite the massive police presence, none of New York's major daily papers or television stations covered the demonstration.

—Gay Community News

POLITICAL CLIMATE

Top County Bureaucrats Try to Freeze Out Domestic Partners

The county responded by allowing domestic partners (though they were called by another name) to be enrolled in benefits programs. However, as this was the first such location in the nation to implement such a program, adequate safeguards were not developed. One employee enrolled different partners in one year for medical benefits. Rather than fix the safeguard problem, the county threw the baby out with the bathwater. New enrollments in the program were ended, although those who had enrolled domestic partners were allowed "to grandfather" in that partner and continue them with county benefits.

“Employees with gay or straight unmarried spouses are compensated less than employees who are provided funds for the medical costs of legally-recognized spouses. This is not an issue of anything but fairness and equal compensation.”

John Laird

Santa Cruz, Calif. 95062

408-479-1077

LAVENDER READER

Continued on Page 8

Continued on Page 15

Continued on Page 32

John Laird
Men's Chorus Has Open Arms

The Santa Cruz Men's Chorus is beginning its second season this fall and is welcoming new singers now. We are also in need of an accompanist. Call Brett at 427-7227 or Terry at 425-5491.

New Women's Play Underway

Night Owls, an original play with music, is a story of fate, choices, life and death. The characters, five women spanning three generations, are all drawn one night to an apartment in the city for an experience that will change their lives.

The inspiration for Night Owls is rooted in the desire to dignify women's rites of passage and to utilize the richness of women.

The planning process for AGEM productions (408) 459-0556.

Pride on Tape

It's fun. It's interesting. It's information. It's strange. It's a video of the first Gay Pride celebration in Santa Cruz in 1979, in black and white tape is available to see the first gay potluck. See hot male couples in which one or both partners are dealing with seropositive issues.

The group will meet Thursday evenings from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. and will meet for eight weeks. There is no fee and persons interested should call Jill at 423-5146 or Terri at 426-3546.

COMMUNITY CLIPS

Gay Pride Photos Needed

Anyone having photos of group pictures taken after Gay Pride walks in the County building or San Lorenzo Park for several years please call Dan Dickmeyer at 425-8159. These pictures taken by Mark Patterson would be borrowed for use in the gay history slide show presentation.

Pride's Put On a Show!

The volunteers for next year's "Gay Evening in May," Santa Cruz' largest lesbian and gay fundraiser, are looking for new faces and fresh ideas. The planning process for AGEM changes every year depending on who shows up at the first meetings. Some of the decisions discussed every year involve where the show should be held and where the proceeds should go. Once this basic plan has been made by the group the show takes on a life of its own.

If you want to help and can't make it to our organizing meeting, October 26th, 7:30p at Louden Nelson Center, giveMardi Brown a call at 479-3606 and we'll keep you informed.

New Group for Gay Male Couples: Dealing with HIV Issues

A support group is forming for gay male couples in which one or both of the partners have seropositivity or HIV disease. Sponsored by the Santa Cruz AIDS Project, the group is facilitated by Terri Thames, Ph. D., and Jill Steinberg, Ph. D. Both are licensed psychologists and have extensive experience with counseling couples as well as facilitating groups.

The group will be both supportive and educational. Communication skills (e.g. active empathetic listening, conflict-resolution, problem solving) will be taught. Couples will use these skills to discuss issues such as stress, sexuality, commitment and other concerns relevant to their relationship.

The group will meet Thursday evenings from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. and will meet for eight weeks. There is no fee and persons interested should call Jill at 423-5146 or Terri at 426-3546.

This typical coastal lesbian was among the nearly 1,000 participants in the 15th annual Santa Cruz lesbians/party pride parade in June.

Fags, Dykes and Abortion

I was in San Francisco, undisputed queer capital of the world, when this summer's Supreme Court decision limiting abortion rights was announced. Hundreds of pro-choice women and men of all persuasions, many with kids in tow, gathered that evening to protest at Federal and State Buildings. Our dual rallies and the connecting march bristled and sparked with fury and the determination to claim our bodies—in defiance of government repression. The visibility of lesbians and gay men was inspiring. Abortion isn't just a straight women's problem any more than AIDS is just a gay men's problem. Lesbian and gay activism is crucial to the success of the reproductive rights movement, and our stakes in that movement are high.

The fundamental issue of the abortion debate is reproductive self-determination: who decides whether and when and under what circumstances a woman will bear a child? Who decides whether an unintended pregnancy is discontinued or brought to term? Is it the woman involved or the state? The way that question is answered will also answer questions of sexual and reproductive choice that specifically impact the lesbian and gay community. If we sit back and allow the government to usurp decision making power over abortion, we will have lost any and all foundation of our struggles for sexual freedom, lesbian and gay parenting, and recognition of alternative family structures.

Scratch an anti-abortionist and you will usually find a homophobe just underneath—for good reason. Both homophobia and abortion challenge the absolute fusion of sex and reproduction that has caged women in kitchens and bedrooms for centuries. Try talking to one of the "pro-life" demonstrators that terrorize local family planning clinics—listen to the insults hurled at pro-choice activists, clinic clients and their escorts. Women choosing abortion are called not only "murderers" but "whores". They dare to be sexual without paying the price of pregnancy and motherhood. (Isn't that the same argument that the religious Right spews but "whores"? They dare to be sexual and motherhood is crumbling. Which Panic over female reproductive autonomy and revolution at lesbian and gay sexuality is similarly rooted in hatred of the body—and in fear that an entire social order based on compulsory motherhood is crumbling. Which hopeful, it will. Right-wing paranoiacs are correct that gay rights, reproductive rights and women's equality require each other for completion. Mainstream feminist groups have been left back awash in the ashes from such conclusions ("Oh my, no, the ERA won't legalize co-ed bathrooms or homosexual marriage; of course abortion won't threaten the glorious nuclear family"). But that brand of cautious conservative-ness has not worked, has in fact backfired, and we lesbians and gay men are in an excellent position to provide the radical and visionary leadership (by which I mean creative initiative-taking) that the reproductive rights movement needs to meet the current crisis head-on.

Lesbians have always been active, though often invisible, in abortion struggles. (Many that deny the existence of the heterosexual parallels complete with birth control hassles, missed-period panic, and

Allison Claire

Continued on Page 14

Balance For Health

Your source for all brands of vitamins and health care supplements, at the very lowest prices available.

Hand delivery and Certified Massage available in the Monterey and San Francisco bay areas.

Get personal service from the comfort of your home.

Make an informed choice, write for our catalog.
P.O. Box 395 Soquel, Ca. 95073 (408) 425-4996
Continued from Page 11

pregnancies joyous or traumatic, abortions legal or illegal. Some of us still sleep with men sometimes (dare I mention it?) and unwanted pregnancy is not just a dim memory from a pre-lesbian past. Bisexual women have always struggled with both the homophobia and the reproductive issues that straight women share—the frequent rejection of bisexual women from the lesbian community has reinforced the false notion that coming out is a foolproof birth control and that issues like abortion have nothing to do with us.

Other dykes, however, including those who have never been with men and never will, recognize in the abortion backlash a comprehensive attack on the female body and the female body politic. All women are targets. I have worried about getting pregnant since I was 16, and the big issue is how to have a child if I choose to, but my body is under siege. I react viscerally to every headline.

Several years ago, a lesbian friend of mine had an abortion. None of us knew. She had had a brief affair with a man after her lover split, had gotten pregnant, had gone through the ordeal entirely alone. She was afraid that her lesbian sisters would judge her, recoil from her “deviance” from political correctness. Her straight friends had recoiled when she came out. I probably would have lived up (or down) to her fears at the time. Today it pains and enrages me that this woman I love, or any woman, should have to go through such a trajectory. Abortion is not translated into lesbian and gay communities. One participant commented that such programs “look ridiculous” and “dramatizes the severity of the challenge we face. The current situation is a crisis of life-threatening proportions. Like the AIDS crisis, it has already mobilized thousands of people, many of them previously apolitical, who have been moved by the extent of the emergency and the direct threat to themselves and those they love. Yet both movements depend for success on more than numbers—we must build ever-stronger alliances with others whose interests are affected. We must also resist the lure of single-issue politics: abortion without broader reproductive freedoms is meaningless. AIDS funding without guaranteed health care is but a bandaid. Neither will be genuinely resolved without a comprehensive political agenda addressing basic human needs like housing and health care, and the importance of freely chosen sexual and reproductive lives.

Crises activate communities and rechannel social movements. Old organizations are reinvigorated, new formations formed, the fires of activism burn. Yet crisis mode can also produce burn-out and despair. As we continue to confront the anti-abortionists and the epidemic, we must also look beyond crisis mode to celebrate and enshrine the freedoms of body and spirit we do enjoy. Let us continue to nurture and affirm our lesbian and gay identities, our community, our lusher sexualities, our chosen families, our circle of friends, with the same passion and focus that we are fighting for.

The Supreme Court’s Webster decision, vastly expanding states’ rights to regulate abortion, may be a ominous sign of the seventy of the challenge we face. The current situation is a crisis of life-threatening proportions. Like the AIDS crisis, it has already mobilized thousands of people, many of them previously apolitical, who have been moved by the extent of the emergency and the direct threat to themselves and those they love. Yet both movements depend for success on more than numbers—we must build ever-stronger alliances with others whose interests are affected. We must also resist the lure of single-issue politics: abortion without broader reproductive freedoms is meaningless. AIDS funding without guaranteed health care is but a bandaid. Neither will be genuinely resolved without a comprehensive political agenda addressing basic human needs like housing and health care, and the importance of freely chosen sexual and reproductive lives.

Crises activate communities and rechannel social movements. Old organizations are reinvigorated, new formations formed, the fires of activism burn. Yet crisis mode can also produce burn-out and despair. As we continue to confront the anti-abortionists and the epidemic, we must also look beyond crisis mode to celebrate and enshrine the freedoms of body and spirit we do enjoy. Let us continue to nurture and affirm our lesbian and gay identities, our community, our lusher sexualities, our chosen families, our circle of friends, with the same passion and focus that we are fighting for.

Continued from Page 10

believe.” She warned that belief must necessarily be accompanied by action, and even an apparently apolitical crisis—the sexual crisis—increasing the number of U.S. children growing up in poverty. U.S. social protest parties, dismissing a resurgence of homophobia and anti-gay violence—highlighted the urgency of her message. In exhorting Oberlin graduates to take action, she drew a vision of the future, telling them, “It is our day-to-day decisions, the way in which we testify with our lives to those things in which we say we believe, that empowers us.”

Lorde also appeared as the keynote speaker for the State-Directed Couples’ Parent Appreciation Day Ceremony.

Domestic Partners Referendum in San Francisco

With the help of a winning campaign slogan, “Yes on S—Sometimes being fair doesn’t cost you anything,” volunteers have begun working to ensure that San Francisco’s domestic partnership ordinance will be upheld. This ordinance would allow registration of qualified unmarried partners with the city clerk or a private third party. It would also allow city employees with domestic partners bereavement and hospital visitation rights currently granted to married couples.

Volunteers are canvassing door-to-door to ensure good election turn-out and that voters are aware. Volunteers are canvassing door-to-door to ensure good election turn-out. Ongoing concern, a majority of citizens feel that this sicken support the ordinance, polls indicate that those opposing the ordinance are more likely to vote, which could mean trouble in a off-year election.

—Bay Area Reporter

Black & White Men Together Get-together

The National Association of Black and White Men Together held its ninth annual convention this July in Florida. One keynote speaker, Allan Spear, offering gay five nights in Miami from Minneapolis, addressed the need for more elected officials who are lesbians and gay men. “I do not blend in. I will not deny my intrinsic value as a human being with all my diversity.”

A video on a needle exchange program sparked debate about the role such programs may play in encouraging needle use in poor and minority communities. One participant complained that such programs "look good," but do nothing to address underlying community problems. A recurring theme throughout the convention was the importance of Black-Gay political alliances and the challenges of this work.

—Gay Community News
I have heard enough horror stories about gay men and lesbians being intentionally injured on construction sites that when I reflect on this experience, in many ways, I am glad that on this job I was not out as a lesbian. And yet, I feel a sense of betrayal to myself and a deep sadness that I was not open about my lesbianism. My trust in my foreman and co-workers was dulled by homophobia ringing through the air. But my trust in myself was deepened by my silence.

Today, I don't consider myself particularly radical, and yet, every day, I make a radical decision about where and when I will be honest in the world and about where and when I will lie. I must decide if I will tell my co-workers and boss, when asked if I am married, "Yes I am," and risk the next question: "What does your husband do?" "My wife," I may answer, "is a therapist." Or do I say "lover" or "partner" or "spouse" and hope to avoid gender? I must decide if I will walk hand in hand with my lover down the street where we live. I must decide if I will answer my Spanish teacher's question, "Ethnic?" So I must decide if I will answer my Spanish teacher's question, "Ethnic?" Or do I say "I am a dyke" and risk being labelled as a queer and moving through my fear of being the only one. This silence becomes a tight knot in my stomach, slowly rising to my throat. This silence is my face turning red as the heat rises from inside of me. It feels scattered and anxious and confused.

You fear I hear in the voices of teenage girls at the flea market. "Oh, look at the dykes!" A car full of men driving by and yelling, "What you need is a good fuck!" I know your fear when I walk down the street with my friends and a young mother usher her children away from us, hissing "perverts!" I know your fear when I am pitted by my grandmother and loved "in spite of" who I am by my brother. I see your fear on the face of my best friend battered and blooded and bruised by queer bashers. I know your fear by the words "queer," "faggot" and "dyke" on bathroom walls.

I am a dyke. I am a dyke who is married to another dyke and who is raising a child with yet another dyke. I am a dyke with a young cat, an old dog, and a little house. I am a dyke who loves to watch sitcoms and read mysteries. I am a dyke who walks on the beach with her dog and I am a dyke who believes in God.

Do my being a dyke make me someone to fear? I do not believe I was born with my fear, nor do I believe that you were born with your fear. We are taught our fears of others as all children are taught to fear what they do not know, what their parents do not understand. I am afraid as I write this. I am afraid of breaking my silences and I am afraid of moving through my fears. And yet, a feeling is growing inside of me, similar to that feeling that day at work on the roof: A feeling of excitement and confidence and, yes, of pride.

I felt pride working on the roof, but my pride was shattered by hatred and fear ringing through the air and striking my fears, reinforcing my silence. Today, I am holding onto that pride. As I write this, my pride and confidence grow. Today, I am committed to breaking my silence.

"I am a dyke with a young cat, an old dog, and a little house."
Continued from Page 1

Barbara Garcia, a long-time Watsonville activist, has become an interim Board Member of the National Latino(a) Lesbian and Gay Organization (LLEGO). "In LLEGO we're working to create a forum for awareness and understanding of lesbian Latinas and gay Latinos' relationships and legal rights and roles en nuestra comunidad," says Garcia. LLEGO includes among its goals the education of both Latino and non-Latino communities on issues related to homophobia, sexism and discrimination.

LLEGO is a relatively new organization, begun during the 1987 March on Washington and more firmly established as a result of a second meeting, El Segundo Encuentro, held in Los Angeles in 1988. There, interim Board Members were chosen to represent the national organization and its three regional affiliates. Plans are now underway for a third national meeting, where new LLEGO Board Members will be elected.

LLEGO's next year should be an exciting one with the start of LLEGO's national organizing drive: "Rediscover, Celebrate, and Empower." Because of their successes in this area, the Western Region LLEGO will be serving as the national model in this drive. LLEGO representatives have been working hard to build the organization's membership and meet its goals. They have appeared on Spanish-language television and have been written about in Spanish-language publications. Garcia served as one activist of the organizers of this year's LLEGO Western Region conference focusing on AIDS/SIDA in the Latino community and organizing gay/lesbian Latino...Continued on Page 20

"We're working to create an understanding of lesbian Latinas and gay Latinos relationships, legal rights and roles"

Current objectives include building and facilitating a network to provide information and resources for and about gay and lesbian Latinos(as) on local, regional, and national levels. LLEGO also has a strong AIDS/SIDA agenda and has been contracted to do national-level AIDS/SIDA work.

LLEGO is relatively new organization, begun during the 1987 March on Washington and more firmly established as a result of a second meeting, El Segundo Encuentro, held in Los Angeles in 1988. There, interim Board Members were chosen to represent the national organization and its three regional affiliates. Plans are now underway for a third national meeting, where new LLEGO Board Members will be elected.

LLEGO's next year should be an exciting one with the start of LLEGO's national organizing drive: "Rediscover, Celebrate, and Empower." Because of their successes in this area, the Western Region LLEGO will be serving as the national model in this drive.

LLEGO representatives have been working hard to build the organization's membership and meet its goals. They have appeared on Spanish-language television and have been written about in Spanish-language publications. Garcia served as one activist of the organizers of this year's LLEGO Western Region conference focusing on AIDS/SIDA in the Latino community and organizing gay/lesbian Latino...Continued on Page 20

EAT IN OR TAKE OUT LOCAL & DISTRICT

PETE GONZALEZ 425-1448 SANTA CRUZ

"I'll prove that having the owner perform ALL estimates and ALL moving jobs personally saves YOU money and provides YOU with a superior moving experience."

ORGANIZING

Para Nuestra Comunidad:
A NATIONAL VOICE

Barbara Garcia, a long-time Watsonville activist, has become an interim Board Member of the National Latino(a) Lesbian and Gay Organization (LLEGO). "In LLEGO we're working to create a forum for awareness and understanding of lesbian Latinas and gay Latinos' relationships and legal rights and roles en nuestra comunidad," says Garcia. LLEGO includes among its goals the education of both Latino and non-Latino communities on issues related to homophobia, sexism and discrimination.

Current objectives include building and facilitating a network to provide information and resources for and about gay and lesbian Latinos(as) on local, regional, and national levels. LLEGO also has a strong AIDS/SIDA agenda and has been contracted to do national-level AIDS/SIDA work.

LLEGO is a relatively new organization, begun during the 1987 March on Washington and more firmly established as a result of a second meeting, El Segundo Encuentro, held in Los Angeles in 1988. There, interim Board Members were chosen to represent the national organization and its three regional affiliates. Plans are now underway for a third national meeting, where new LLEGO Board Members will be elected.

LLEGO's next year should be an exciting one with the start of LLEGO's national organizing drive: "Rediscover, Celebrate, and Empower." Because of their successes in this area, the Western Region LLEGO will be serving as the national model in this drive.

LLEGO representatives have been working hard to build the organization's membership and meet its goals. They have appeared on Spanish-language television and have been written about in Spanish-language publications. Garcia served as one activist of the organizers of this year's LLEGO Western Region conference focusing on AIDS/SIDA in the Latino community and organizing gay/lesbian Latino...Continued on Page 20

"We're working to create an understanding of lesbian Latinas and gay Latinos relationships, legal rights and roles"

Current objectives include building and facilitating a network to provide information and resources for and about gay and lesbian Latinos(as) on...Continued on Page 20

As the Sun's Rays
Are for ALL
So God's Love is for EVERYONE!

Rev. Jean Hart, Pastor
Metropolitan Community Church
Worship: 10:00 am Every Sunday
300 Watson, Santa Cruz
(408) 425-1479 ext. 24
Hon (LLEGO). "In LLEGO we're working to create a forum for awareness and understanding of lesbian Latinas and gay Latinos' relationships and legal rights and roles en nuestra comunidad," says Garcia. LLEGO includes among its goals the education of both Latino and non-Latino communities on issues related to homophobia, sexism and discrimination.

Current objectives include building and facilitating a network to provide information and resources for and about gay and lesbian Latinos(as) on local, regional, and national levels. LLEGO also has a strong AIDS/SIDA agenda and has been contracted to do national-level AIDS/SIDA work.

LLEGO is a relatively new organization, begun during the 1987 March on Washington and more firmly established as a result of a second meeting, El Segundo Encuentro, held in Los Angeles in 1988. There, interim Board Members were chosen to represent the national organization and its three regional affiliates. Plans are now underway for a third national meeting, where new LLEGO Board Members will be elected.

LLEGO's next year should be an exciting one with the start of LLEGO's national organizing drive: "Rediscover, Celebrate, and Empower." Because of their successes in this area, the Western Region LLEGO will be serving as the national model in this drive.

LLEGO representatives have been working hard to build the organization's membership and meet its goals. They have appeared on Spanish-language television and have been written about in Spanish-language publications. Garcia served as one activist of the organizers of this year's LLEGO Western Region conference focusing on AIDS/SIDA in the Latino community and organizing gay/lesbian Latino...Continued on Page 20

"We're working to create an understanding of lesbian Latinas and gay Latinos relationships, legal rights and roles"

Current objectives include building...Continued on Page 20

As the Sun's Rays
Are for ALL
So God's Love is for EVERYONE!

Rev. Jean Hart, Pastor
Metropolitan Community Church
Worship: 10:00 am Every Sunday
300 Watson, Santa Cruz
(408) 425-1479 ext. 24

Five Element Acupuncture
Professional Massage

Donatello's Gelato
ice cream and espresso
Open til Midnight
715 Pacific Ave.
Santa Cruz,
(408) 425-3330

BRET K. JOHNSON, Ph.D.
Clinical Psychologist
PSY10630
Santa Cruz:
1722 Seabright Ave.
Pajaro Valley Psychotherapy Offices
LETUNIA BUILDING
406 Main Street Suites 311-312
Mundareaga, CA 95076
(408) 722-6888
(408) 425-3330

LAVENDER READER
nos(as) for AIDS/SIDA education and prevention.

Garcia has joined fellow Board Members Arturo Olivas from Los Angeles and Marcos Rodriguez from Tucson in preparing for a regional outreach meeting, to be held in Tucson on November 11 and 12.

Garcia encourages all Latino(a) Gay and Lesbians to join in the development of LLEGO as a national and regional organization and to attend the Tucson meeting. Garcia is also eager for substantial Santa Cruz/Watsonville area participation in an October 15 reception LLEGO is sponsoring at the National AIDS Conference.

For more information locally, contact Barbara Garcia by phone at (608) 728-0782 or by mail at 43 Valley View Road, Watsonville, Calif., 95076. You can also contact the national organization by writing to LLEGO, P. O. Box 44483, Washington D.C., 20020.

MEMBERSHIP FORM - FORMULARIO DE MEMBRESIA

Yes, I want to join LLEGO! Please accept my contribution under the following category:

- Individual Member / Socio Individual $15/year
- Organizational Member / Socio Institucional $35/year
- Monthly Sustainer / Pecentador
  - Affiliate / Afiliado ($1/month) $12/year
  - Sponsor / Patrocinador: $25/month ($300/year)
- Founder / Fundador: $300/year

- Indicate whether you would like your name to remain confidential.

Please mail to Favor de enviar a LLEGO, P.O. Box 44483, Washington, DC 20026

NAME/NOMBRE
Address/Direccion
Phone/Telefono

SUPPORT OUR ADVERTISERS

Video City
Gay and Lesbian X-RATED VIDEOS FOR RENT
Also a large non X-Rated inventory.
Videocity TAKE 3 and TAKE 5
Free memberships, movie rentals.
$3.50 New Release and X-Rated • others $2
$2.00, $1.00 Mondays and Thursdays

TAKE 3
2-1505 East Cliff at 15th
Santa Cruz, CA
(in East Cliff Shopping Center)
458-0611
Sun.-Thurs. 11-10 pm Fri.-Sat. 11-11 pm

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

Dr. Charles M. Goodwin
Chiropractor
111 Dakota Ave., Suite 2, Santa Cruz, CA 95060
(408) 429-1188

Sun. Properties
Video City

Sandy Kaplan, G.R.I.
Real Estate Agent
557 Water Street, Santa Cruz, CA 95060
(408) 429-8005
Fax. 475-2132

What I Did On My Summer Vacation

When I go back to teaching sixth grade this fall, my students and I will chat about our summer vacations. I'll describe the White House and D.C. humidity, but unfortunately they won't find out why I really went to Washington D.C.

I went to work as an intern with the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force. The stated goal of the Task Force is "to secure rights so we can live openly, free from violence, bigotry and discrimination."

I have been in existence for 16 years, employs 11 full-time activists, has a yearly budget of nearly 1 million and a membership of more than 15,000.

When I planned this "vacation" last winter, friends wondered why I would willingly forsake my girlfriend and a carefree California summer in order to volunteer for an agency in sweltering D.C. Had lots of reasons. Among them was that as a semi-closeted public school teacher, I relished the thought of working in an environment where my lesbianism would be considered an asset. I had been impressed with Task Force activities for several years; I trusted their politics.

On my first day at the Dupont Circle office, I wasn't sure just which project to get involved in; it was all rather overwhelming. The office itself could have been part of an exhibit at a gay and lesbian museum. Mounted by the door was a Halloween style pig mask with its "I love my husband" slogan next to the non-dairy creamer, and the poster "Homo Sex is not a Crime" above the coffee maker.

What initially impressed me about the Task Force's agenda is how much it encompasses. In addition to lobbying for increased funding for AIDS education, research and care, the Task Force has done everything from organizing congressional testimony by gay veterans, to joining art activists rallying...
against legislative censorship of “ob­
scene” and homoerotic art.

The Task Force also sponsors an anti­
violence project. Director Kevin Berrill
each year compiles and releases an audit
of anti-gay violence and harassment
nationwide. In just one week this sum­
mer, Berrill spoke about gay-bashing
on a TV talk show, presented his re­
search at a National Institute of Mental
Health conference, and wrote a grant
to expand the project.

Another program is the Privacy
Project, which is headed by Sue Hyde.
After the Hardwick vs. Bowers Su­
preme Court decision three years ago,
this project was established to seek the
repeal of sodomy laws which still exist
in 25 states as well as the District of
Columbia. More Recently, the Task Force
initiated a Lesbian and Gay Parenting
Project, which will act on the legislative
arm of the San Francisco-based Na­
tional Center for Lesbian Rights (for­
merly The Lesbian Rights Project).

The Task Force also functions as a
clearinghouse and resource center. Each
day, gay men and lesbians all around
the country call and write the Task
Force needing everything from help in
coming out and living their gay life,
answering calls from national press, a third
answering calls to Congress from gay
and lesbian activists across the coun­
try.

When I first arrived in DC, an exhibi­t
of “homoerotic” art by Robert Mapplethorpe,
only funded by the NEA, had just been
cancelled by D.C.’s Corcoran Museum
of Art. Apparently, the museum ship of
seeing a new and different” art was cir­culated in response to Mapple­
horpe’s homoerotic art. The letter
stated, “We realize that the interpreta­tion of art is a subjective evalua­tion but there is a very clear and unambiguous
line that exists between what can be
classified as art and what must be called
morally reprehensible trash.”

On June 26, Helms introduced an amend­
ment in the Senate that would prevent the
NEA from ever again supporting
“obscene or indecent” materials. This
amendment passed on a voice vote
during a poorly attended evening ses­
tion. Currently, the bill awaits House/
Senate conference committee action. Art
activists in coalition with the Task Force
will lobby to remove Helms’ amend­
ment from the final form of the bill.

After being turned down at the Corcoran, Mapplethorpe’s exhibit, “The
Perfect Moment,” showed this sum­
mer to record-breaking crowds at the
Washington Project for the Arts.

The third project I worked on con­
tained to gay and lesbian discrimina­tion
in the military. In conjunction with
NOW, the Women’s Equity Action
League, and the ACLU’s Gay and Les­
bian Rights Project, the Task Force
formed the Gay and Lesbian Military
Freedom Project to focus specifically
on harassment of women in the mili­
tary. Department of Defense policy
explicitly states that homosexuality is
incompatible with military service and
that homosexual acts are crimes under
the Uniform Code of Military Justice.

Since 1984, 10 times more women
men have been discharged from the
Marines, and three times more women
than men have been discharged over­
all. In response to this overt discrimina­
tion, the Military Freedom Project or­
ganized veterans to testify in front of
the Defense Advisory Committee
On Women in the Service. I worked on
the project this summer by editing and
transcribing testimonies by gay and
lesbian veterans across the country.

Reflecting on my summer, I realize
how much I have learned about Wash­
ington politics and gay organizing. I
learned that the gay community is being
reckoned with at the national level.
Even in the Bush years, and despite the
obstacles, cynicism is unwarranted. We
are progressing.
"If the Angel of Death would come—I would gladly take its hand and say, 'I'm ready, let's begin the journey,'" says Wesley Harris, a longtime Santa Cruz resident, therapist and now a vocal and visible AIDS activist. This is not to say that Wesley has given up—he has been fighting this disease since 1983 and has seen many friends die from it. He has been in and out of the hospital numerous times and has been close to death. Now as he reflects on being ill he says, "Death is not something that evokes fear in me, death is something that I have embraced now." He goes further, "Death I see as a comfort—see as a getting away from this illness, this discomfort that I am beginning to experience with the human body.

Death I see as peace."

Wesley told me his story on a warm August morning. We talked on and on in his kitchen; by the time we were finished, I had seven cassette tapes rich with tales. It's been a long and distinctive road from rural Mount Clemens in Michigan, a road filled with hardships and successes, a road encompassing marriage, children, military service, travel, a gay relationship, and now AIDS.

Wesley was born in 1938 on Christmas Eve and recalls with some regret, "Being a Christmas Eve child was not a very pleasant birthdate, your birthday was never honored. Everything was given to you, 'Happy Birthday—Merry Christmas'." That aside, Wesley has fond memories of his childhood. He was fourth in a household of 15 children, and grew up close to his family and neighborhood friends, a closeness that remains to this day.

Wesley characterizes his childhood as a happy one, "I enjoyed my brothers and sisters and I enjoyed the neighborhood that I grew up in. We were not a wealthy family or not even a moderately wealthy family. We were kind of poor, but somehow always managed to have toys and stuff like that—so I was pleased with my childhood." It was during that time that Wesley became aware of his differentness.

"At an early age, I would say around nine, ten years old, somewhere around there, I was becoming aware that somehow I was different. I didn't like to play the regular boys games. I found myself gravitating more to playing with the girls and getting involved in their type of play and avoiding the roughhouse play that boys were doing." It was also at this time that Wesley remembers being called into the school superintendent's office with his best friend and being discouraged from playing with the girls. This was something that conflicted with Wesley's pattern, both at home and at school. "We would be out there playing jump rope and hopscotch and jacks—just girl games. It was real fun." Wesley goes on, "I had two older sisters and a younger sister and we played all these girl games."

It was this awareness of being different and the difficulty of fitting in with the other boys along with the superintendent's talk that became the catalyst for Wesley to become a jock in high school. "I went out for all types of sports so that I could cover what I knew was... I couldn't give it a name, I couldn't say I was gay, I couldn't say I was homosexual, but I knew I wasn't what all the other boys were seeming to be, that I was somehow different." He did this to "prove to others I was okay even though inside I knew that wasn't me, that I really could care less about this. I would have much preferred to have been doing something that had no physical confrontation—painting?" He also learned a very commonly held belief, "It was not okay to show and express openly what I really felt or who I really was. I would have to do it a name, I couldn't say I was gay, I couldn't say I was homosexual, but I knew I wasn't what all the other boys were seeming to be, that I was somehow different." He did this to "prove to others I was okay even though inside I knew that wasn't me, that I really could care less about this. I would have much preferred to have been doing something that had no physical confrontation—painting?"

In addition to going out for sports, Wesley also dated girls throughout high school, hoping that this false interest would mask his true feelings. Behind this facade of heterosexuality, Wesley found himself to be the object of desire. His future wife, whom he had known since grade school, became interested in him and asked him to the prom. In spite of this attention he shied away from much dating and kept a low profile.

Nonetheless, soon after graduating from high school the pressure increased. "My best friend was a girl and she assured me that this particular girl was really interested in me." Wesley remembers, "At that time kids were getting married early, right out of high school. Blacks really weren't going to college. They really weren't accepted into colleges. There was no money for us to go to college and so the thing to do then was after you graduated from high school you got a job and you got married. That was the course for you. I was expected to do it."

It was through his best friend's encouragement that Wesley began dating his future wife—and by age nineteen Wesley was a married man. While on one hand the facade was still in place—with strong religious reinforcement, on the other there was not enough emotional attachment between Wesley and his wife, thus their marriage was doomed.

Wesley does not look at his marriage as a mistake. He loved his wife when they got married, and their relationship deepened with the birth of their children, but Wesley knew something was wrong from the very beginning.

"I went out for all types of sports so that I could cover what I knew was... I would have much preferred to have been doing something that had no physical confrontation—painting?"

"Wesley and his wife shared the drive for upward mobility. For most Blacks in rural Michigan that meant only one thing: Detroit and the auto factories. Wesley didn't want that. He says that he didn't know where his motivation came from, but he credits both his parents as wanting more for their children. His mother especially emphasized education, since she herself had only about a third or fourth grade education. Wesley describes her as self-educated, learning along with her children. It was she who told him, "Be more than just a factory worker. Be more than what you think you can be,'" he says. "My sisters were getting the same message. There was this expectation from her that we would do something with our lives."

After he graduated from high school, Wesley tried unsuccessfully to get a training job in corporate America. "I tried for two
years to do that, first in Detroit, then in Chicago and met with the same brick wall of prejudice. I was told just right out, 'We don't hire Blacks for those positions' or 'We don't do any type of training for Blacks!' If you wanted a job and you were Black in America at that time [the late 1950's], he recalls, "you went to the factories, domestic service or kitchens. We were told, 'that's where you belong and that's what's expected of you.'"

He goes on to say, "It was very clear after two years of trying that I was not going to break into anything. And so I decided to go into the military."" Wesley went into the Air Force and was assigned an administrative job, something which pleased him very much. "I was feeling good I was trained in Intelligence." As soon as he finished his technical training, Wesley was sent to Crete. "In some sense the military gave me travel... which in the direction I wanted to go. I needed to expand my horizon. I needed to know more than just where Michigan was, and Chicago. The military seemed the ideal thing. After all, I had tried two years to break into industry on some upward training level and I couldn't."

Wesley's work put him in a communication center. He collected and processed intelligence information and passed it on to various bases or units which needed it. The center acted as a distribution headquarters. Employment in this type of work required, of course, special clearances. Checks were run on individuals' background and family. Since Wesley was married, the checks created no problems for him.

Wesley didn't divulge much detail about his military work. He did say that since it was required throughout the world and also the United States, it gave him flexibility and mobility. The entire world became accessible to him and reinforced his mother's philosophy: "It opened that feeling of specialness, that I could go anywhere in the world."

Wesley found that in order to compete with white America, he needed an education. The military gave him that opportunity. "I entered the military with a high school education and left with a master's degree." He stayed in the Air Force for twenty years and left as a tech sergeant. He also says, with some resentment, that given his experience and education, he should have left with a higher rank, but that because of racial prejudice, he was denied promotion. Still he acknowledges that he had a future outside the military, especially with his degree.

With a few years to go in the military before his retirement, Wesley ended his marriage of thirteen years to a woman and adopted two children. He felt his marriage was one of the household and five children. They had been married for fifteen years. Wesley was stationed at Fort Mead, Maryland, near Washington, D.C. It was during this period that Wesley came to acknowledge his homosexual urges. "I had reached a point where I knew I didn't want to be in the closet anymore, that I wanted to have an intimate relationship and it was at this time that he met his future lover, Gerald. "I just fell in love with him. He was teaching me how to be gay, he was fun.""

Once Wesley and Gerald began seeing each other romantically on a regular basis, they started taking weekend trips with Wesley's children. "We would go camping. I'm a fisherman and so I love to camp and fish. My children love to camp and fish. Nearly every Sunday we would go fishing." With a glint of laughter in his voice, Wesley describes these excursions: "Gerald was not a camper or a fisherman, so these were new adventures to him, but he really enjoyed them, he enjoyed being part of all that." For Wesley this relationship meant a new beginning: "I was going to start a new life." He and Gerald continued dating for another year before Wesley was transferred to Thailand. Apart but still very much in love, they communicated everyday. "When Wesley returned to the East Coast their romance blossomed. For his last assignment, Wesley, with Gerald's prompting, asked to be stationed somewhere near San Francisco. After a honeymoon drive across the United States, it was then that he decided to pursue a master's degree. He stayed in the Air Force for twenty years and left as a tech sergeant. He also says, with some resentment, that given his experience and education, he should have left with a higher rank, but that because of racial prejudice, he was denied promotion. Still he acknowledges that he had a future outside the military, especially with his degree.

"If you wanted a job and you were Black in America at that time, you went to the factories, domestic service or kitchens."

"If you were against that, you went to the factories, domestic service or kitchens."

"If you were against that, you went to the factories, domestic service or kitchens."

"If you were against that, you went to the factories, domestic service or kitchens."

""If you were against that, you went to the factories, domestic service or kitchens."

Wesley found that in order to compete with white America, he needed an education. The military gave him that opportunity. "I entered the military with a high school education and left with a master's degree." He stayed in the Air Force for twenty years and left as a tech sergeant. He also says, with some resentment, that given his experience and education, he should have left with a higher rank, but that because of racial prejudice, he was denied promotion. Still he acknowledges that he had a future outside the military, especially with his degree.

With a few years to go in the military before his retirement, Wesley ended his marriage of thirteen years to a woman and adopted two children. He felt his marriage was one of the household and five children. They had been married for fifteen years. Wesley was stationed at Fort Mead, Maryland, near Washington, D.C. It was during this period that Wesley came to acknowledge his homosexual urges. "I had reached a point where I knew I didn't want to be in the closet anymore, that I wanted to have an intimate relationship and it was at this time that he met his future lover, Gerald. "I just fell in love with him. He was teaching me how to be gay, he was fun.""

Once Wesley and Gerald began seeing each other romantically on a regular basis, they started taking weekend trips with Wesley's children. "We would go camping. I'm a fisherman and so I love to camp and fish. My children love to camp and fish. Nearly every Sunday we would go fishing." With a glint of laughter in his voice, Wesley describes these excursions: "Gerald was not a camper or a fisherman, so these were new adventures to him, but he really enjoyed them, he enjoyed being part of all that." For Wesley this relationship meant a new beginning: "I was going to start a new life." He and Gerald continued dating for another year before Wesley was transferred to Thailand. Apart but still very much in love, they communicated everyday. "When Wesley returned to the East Coast their romance blossomed. For his last assignment, Wesley, with Gerald's prompting, asked to be stationed somewhere near San Francisco. After a honeymoon drive across the United States, it was then that he decided to pursue a master's degree."
Dear Reader,

I am writing this letter to notify you and your members and readers of the AGEM Committee '89 and do not speak as an individual volunteer on the committee. The committee reviewed all of the requests and based on an open discussion and vote, designated the breakdown of how the monies would be distributed.

I personally was pleased at the outcome of the vote. I work hard in our community to raise money for the community. I have eight years and am currently on the fund-raising committee and the board of directors of the Santa Cruz Lesbian and Gay Community Center. However, as important as I feel some of the other needs in my community are, I believe the need for my brothers who are younger, healthy, don't smoke and who wished to share in the proceeds of the Community Center is important and my being comfortable with my identity and my being able to make a difference. Therefore, I do not want anyone else to have to endure what I did in my office.

Sincerely,

Philip M. Arnold

Future Feature

Dear Reader,

I enjoyed Dinah Phillip's account of the Gay Pride March and Rally in "A Futuristic Fable for Gay Pride Week" (LR, Summer 1989). I am surprised, however, that she omitted any mention of the extensive front page coverage of the event and accompanying two-page photo spread in the "Features" section, in the following day's Sunday edition of the Santa Cruz Sentinel.

Because of my strong sense of identity and my being comfortable with my sexuality, this encounter did not affect me greatly. However, if this were to happen to someone less secure, they could be severely affected emotionally by such an attack. This letter serves to advise you, as a provider of information in the homosexual community, that Dr. Dunn's beliefs do not apply to the condition. Dr. Dunn then proceeded to tell me that I was being safe, but safe sex was not what he was referring to. He proceeded to ask me if I ever tried to be with a female, if I prayed, went to church, et cetera. It was clear that Dr. Dunn's beliefs did not agree with homosexuality. After his speech, Dr. Dunn told me that if I ever needed any help changing my preference, he would be happy to lend a hand.

Best wishes,
Karen Rian

Not So Helpful

Dear Reader,

I am writing this letter to notify you and your members and readers of the AGEM Committee '89 and do not speak as an individual volunteer on the committee. The committee reviewed all of the requests and based on an open discussion and vote, designated the breakdown of how the monies would be distributed.

I personally was pleased at the outcome of the vote. I work hard in our community to raise money for the community. I have eight years and am currently on the fund-raising committee and the board of directors of the Santa Cruz Lesbian and Gay Community Center. However, as important as I feel some of the other needs in my community are, I believe the need for my brothers who are younger, healthy, don't smoke and who wished to share in the proceeds of the Community Center is important and my being comfortable with my identity and my being able to make a difference. Therefore, I do not want anyone else to have to endure what I did in my office.

Sincerely,

Philip M. Arnold

Future Feature

Dear Reader,

I enjoyed Dinah Phillip's account of the Gay Pride March and Rally in "A Futuristic Fable for Gay Pride Week" (LR, Summer 1989). I am surprised, however, that she omitted any mention of the extensive front page coverage of the event and accompanying two-page photo spread in the "Features" section, in the following day's Sunday edition of the Santa Cruz Sentinel. (Or has the Sentinel long since folded and been replaced as Santa Cruz's major daily by the Laven­ser Sun Times below a Hilt?)

Because of my strong sense of identity and my being comfortable with my sexuality, this encounter did not affect me greatly. However, if this were to happen to someone less secure, they could be severely affected emotionally by such an attack. This letter serves to advise you, as a provider of information in the homosexual community, that Dr. Dunn's beliefs do not apply to the condition. Dr. Dunn then proceeded to tell me that I was being safe, but safe sex was not what he was referring to. He proceeded to ask me if I ever tried to be with a female, if I prayed, went to church, et cetera. It was clear that Dr. Dunn's beliefs did not agree with homosexuality. After his speech, Dr. Dunn told me that if I ever needed any help changing my preference, he would be happy to lend a hand.

Best wishes,
Karen Rian

Pampered Pooches
An In-Home Dog Bathing Service

Convenience, Experience & Caring Brought to Your Door!

Andrew Selbel
(408) 335-4271

JERRY SOLOMON, Ph.D.
Clinical Psychologist
PK 7825

1729 North Seabright Ave.
Santa Cruz, California 95062
408 425-8785

343-104

B o d y w o ik  & B te a th w o ik

KELEY RAMAGE, CMP
Bodywork & Breathwork

425-8052

MARC MEL

by Emily Levy

had an incredible dream last night," I tell my ther­apist.

"Oh? Go on." I tell him.

"Well, I was wandering the city at night with my sister and my father, observing this mar­keting re­search survey that was try­ing to estab­lish the con­nection between organized crime," I look up to make sure she's paying good enough attention, and She­rets.

"She­rets?" I say.

"She­rets. Not the cherry ones, either. Those blue-green ones. You know, the mystery flavor." She nods. "And what is the con­nection?"

"We don't find out in the dream. In the dream all we see is the re­searchers giving Sucrets to certain members of organized crime, ex­pect­ing that they'll pass them around to their cohorts." "And do they?"

"Oh yes. The study works exact­ly as planned. I see." She runs her thumb and forefinger separately down her chin until they meet, as if she has a goatee. "Do things often work out exactly as planned in your dreams?"

"No," I answer. "This is the first time.

"What do the criminals do with the Sucrets?" she asks, her eye­brows furrowed. "They meet in narrow alleyways and distribute them. It's easy," I say, "the lozenges are individually wrapped."

"Where are you and your family when all this is going on?"

"We are sauntering around on the streets, watching. No one no­tices us, of course they're too in­volved in what they're doing."

"Of course," she says.

"Then I get one. This guy slips it to me out of a long overcoat sleeve as I walk past, care­ful not to look at him. At the first safe moment, I un­wrap the deal and toss it into my mouth."

"What happens then?"

"My tongue immediately goes to sleep." "Ah, so you are ef­fectively silenced." "Exactly," I say.

There is something about the words "I see" that causes my therap­ist's hand to move automatically to her mouth. "And your father and sis­ter?"

I speak slowly, emphasizing each word. "Neither...one...of...them...ever...gets...a...Sucret."

"Do you tell them about yours?"

"Of course not.

"Mmmmmm."

"I don't think they ever even sus­pect," I say.

"They wouldn't."

"Right."

"Do you see the face of the man who gives you the Sucrets?"

"No. People in my dreams have no faces. Often they have no bodies. You see? I stay one step ahead of them."

"I see." Perhaps she once had a goatee and has rubbed it off entirely. "Mmmmm," I say.

"Do you know who the man is?"

"Yes, but he tells me not to say," I tell her.

"Of course. And so you don't tell your family, but just keep wander­ing the streets with them as if noth­ing has happened."

"Exactly."

"Is there anything else?" she asks, glancing at a clock that faces her from the table beside me.

"One more thing. My father and sister both believe we are all on the side of the marketing research com­pany."

"And you let them continue to be­lieve that?"

I nod slowly and finger the foil wrapper in my pocket.
FILM

THE PRIME CUTS

Best films and videos from The San Francisco and Los Angeles Lesbian & Gay Film Festivals

The best of the 1989 San Francisco and Los Angeles Gay and Lesbian Film Festivals will come to Santa Cruz in October in a benefit for the Santa Cruz AIDS Project. The Film Festival will include mainstream, commercial movies as well as a number of independent films and videos, and will screen two films each evening.

The Festival opens October 14 with videos shown at the Bulkhead Gallery. The videos feature programs from the highly acclaimed British television series on gay and lesbian life, "Out on Tuesday." This series shows television at its best, drawing on the talents of some of the most provocative lesbian and gay producers in the industry. Material from this series will include "Crimes of Passion" - interviews with such lesbian detective writers as Mary Wings and Katherine Forrest; "Playing Gay" - interviews with actors portraying gays such as Patricia Charbonneau (Desert Hearts), and Harvey Fierstein (Torch Song Trilogy); "Out in Africa" is a moving tribute to two gay South Africans, Simon Nkoli and Ivan Toms who have spent lengthy periods in prison in the struggle against apartheid and for lesbian and gay rights; "Looking for Langston" is a stylish and sensual "poetic meditation" on the Black poet Langston Hughes - original footage of The Cotton Club in the 1920s and period blues numbers set the scene. Short art videos will complete this program.

At 11 PM, the festival will screen "Perverted Video," a presentation of recent videos produced by the lesbian and gay S/M community.

A matinee screening of The Outsiders will accompany the gala opening of the festival the following day. The Outsiders is the first film about homosexuality to be licensed by the government of Taiwan. The film embraces light comedy and dark drama in a complex plot dealing with a gay slice of life in Taiwan. In this lively and musical film, Ah-Ching leaves an abusive family to join a group of other gay youths living in the streets. He falls in love with a man who has recently returned to Taiwan under mysterious circumstances ten years after killing his lover. The movie is based on the novel by Kenneth Pai, one of the most respected and best-selling gay authors of Taiwan. A reception will follow the screening.

Fun Down There, a comic coming-of-age drama, will screen the following evening at 7. Fun Down There is about a young man from up-state New York, who, upon his arrival in New York City, falls into love affairs with two men at the same time. Director Stigliano has created a film about sexuality, not simply the facts of sex. But, he has also not shied away from the concrete details - they're hot and explicit.

The Brazilian film Vera will follow at 9 PM. Vera is a young woman recently released from a state-run orphanage. During her years in the institution, Vera stood out as one of the "butchest" butches. Now on her own, faced with the necessity of assimilating into the everyday world where homosexuality is taboo and gender barriers are rigidly guarded, Vera draws on her only source of security: her identity as a man.

On Tuesday evening at 7, the French film Le Jupon Rouge will be shown. In this film, the action takes place in present-day Paris during the coldest season of the year. Three women of widely different ages and social backgrounds become involved in a passionate love story full of outbursts and contradictions. Three voices interweave the themes of desire, sensuality and possessiveness, but also disintegration. Over it all hover the memories of the Nazi camps, whose injuries still torture one of the women.

At 9 PM on Tuesday, the festival will close with Men in Love. The film is not only a realistic portrayal of how someone struggles with the upheaval and grief of a loved one dying from AIDS, it is also a sensual life-affirming love story. After the death of his lover, Stephen embarks on a journey of emotional, spiritual and sexual discovery on Maui, where he goes to spread his lover's ashes. Director Marc Huestis will be present at the screening.

Videos will be presented at the Bulkhead Gallery (129 Bulkhead Street, behind the town clock) on Saturday October 14. Films will be shown at The Movies theater (324 Front Street) on Sunday October 15 (matinee), Monday October 16, and Tuesday October 17. The gala opening reception will be held at Cafe Chameleon Sunday at 3 PM. Proceeds from all festival events will benefit the Santa Cruz AIDS Project; the festival is co-sponsored by SCAP and The Movies. For more information on the films and videos call 459-4777.
Alliance Membership

Join the Lesbian/Gay Action Alliance (formerly the Freedom Democratic Caucus). The Reader is published quarterly as a community project of the Alliance, and mailed to all its members. Besides sponsoring the Reader, the Alliance also presents community forums of interest to lesbians and gay men, helps initiate needed community projects (like the recently launched Campaign for Responsible AIDS Action/No on Prop 69), and networks with other progressive political organizations. Membership in the Alliance is a great way to support the on-going political work that takes place in our community...and you are assured a copy of the Reader in the mail every three months!

Subscribe

If you'd rather not become a member of the Alliance, but would like to get the Reader in the mail, subscribe.

It's only $8 for the year!

Advertise

Lavender Reader is a great place to advertise your business or service. With a print run of 2000 copies and distribution throughout Santa Cruz County (and at a key location in Monterey), the Reader provides an excellent vehicle for reaching gay men and lesbians in the area. Our rates are affordable (as little as $25 per issue for your business card), and you'll receive the Reader directly in the mail every quarter!

Free Distribution

Yes, Lavender Reader can be picked-up free-of-charge at many distribution points throughout the area. But, as more people opt to receive the Reader in the mail, fewer copies will be available at these locations. The best way to be assured a copy is to join the Alliance, subscribe, or advertise!

Dear Condom Lady

What's all this I hear about the incubation period for HIV being longer and that I can't rely on tests anymore?

Signed,
Worried All Over Again,

Dear All Over,

Okay, let's say you take a hundred friends and line them up — you have a hundred friends? that's nice. I'm happy for you. Any way, you line them all up and they all take HIV tests. Then you all have a nice dinner and go home. Six months later, everybody does the same thing again. And both times, everybody tests negative. Well, the numbers say that one-half person might actually have HIV in them even if the tests say they don't. One-half person out of a hundred, that's pretty good, about as good as science gets these days.

But let me ask you, Why do you have this question? I can think of two reasons. One is you are worried. Maybe you have some HIV, you think, and you want to know. So go get tested. You already did? Go do it again. If you have some HIV, the sooner you find out, the sooner you can go after those nasty bugs. If you don't have HIV, then that's that.

The other reason I can think of is, you want someone to tell you it's okay to put your pecker in your partner's mouth where they used to go, without anything in between to protect you and your partner. Sorry, my friend. We're not—how do you call
Dear Curious,

Yes, it's true. You can't buy it yet. It makes me grumble a little: I can't stand the smell of rubbers. No wait, I'm sorry, April fool, signed, Curious.

Dear Curious,

You're a tidy person and you wash your clothes and hang them out to dry, yes? So you take a clothespin and make it go over your nose, so you can't smell. Be careful, don't poke your partner in some tender place, or poke yourself in the eye. Learn to appreciate the clothespin, its shape, the way it feels, you know. No wait, I'm sorry, April fool, whatever, this is not serious advice. Forget the clothespin. Let me try again.

You're right, some condoms, they smell like a box of rubber bands. But maybe you haven't found the ones that don't. A lot of condoms—like some of the Japanese ones—they don't smell like much at all. What's too bad is, they don't smell like your body, or your friend's body. But they don't do the job anyway, and you won't find yourself thinking about office supplies. What's that? Sometimes you like to think about office supplies? No, don't tell me now, write me another letter.

MICHAEL SAWYER

GARDEN CARE

(408) 423-8203

RESIDENTIAL & COMMERCIAL LANDSCAPE MAINTENANCE

SHOWCASE, REALTORS*

829 Highway 9

Carmel Valley, CA 93923

Business (805) 335-3242

Residence (408) 423-9000

Vernon A. Isakson

Real Estate Agent

Ronald L. Sampson

Real Estate Agent

Each Office is Independently Owned and Operated

Heartwood...

A Hot Tub & Sauna Garden

Relaxation,
You'll get a whole new meaning.

31504 Mission Dr, Santa Cruz, CA

(408) 462-2192 (near Dominican)

Heartwood

Spa

BOOKSHELF

Two Studies of Gay Male Couples

by Charles Silverstein, co-author of The Jocks of Gay Sex, is based on his interviews with 95 male couples. The subjects were volunteers from many different regions, both urban and rural. The book focuses on their experiences of trying to live together. It reveals the diversity and complexity of such relationships and calls into question many common assumptions of both psychologists and laymen.

Without attributing causes to parental behavior, the author finds that father-son ambivalence in boyhood often affects a gay man's choice of a lover. In addition to the father-son relationship, men are affected by the experiences of their childhood and adolescence.

The boyhood romantic notions of love derived from fairytales, ads, films, and TV raise impossible expectations that lead to disappointment. Once at school, our status in the schoolyard affects our self-image and, therefore, our first love affair strongly influences our future selection of lovers. Later, the success or failure of other relationships.

One of Silverstein's most interesting observations is that gay men tend to fall into one of two classes, excitement-seekers or home-builders. The raving type want novelty and just sex first, yet value the pursuit almost as much as the conquest. Nesters want a permanent relationship and value intimacy most.

Both kinds, he maintains, will quarrel about monogamy. He accepts the truism that outside sex is the commonest cause of conflict in gay relationships. Practices vary a great deal, but exclusiveness is rare. "Tricking" may be a means of expressing anger, jealousy, envy, or discomfort with intimacy. Other threats to a relationship are the difficulty of balancing dependence and independence and intimacy and freedom. Another menace sometimes is the competitiveness arising from the cult of aggressive masculinity, he says.

The book also deals with age differences, religion, and the status of male couples in a community. Most gay couples Silverstein interviewed were fairly happy. Lasting relationships, he concludes, have to be worked at.

The authors of The Male Couple: How Relationships Develop, David P. McWhirter, M. D., and Andrew M. Mattison, M. S. W., know Silverstein's book and do not dispute his main conclusions. They are psychiatrists and a couple themselves. Although the 150 couples they studied came from the San Diego area, what they have found appears to be typical. They even go so far as to assert that their main thesis probably applies to lesbian and straight couples as well.

The authors found six successive stages in a relationship, determined chiefly by the length of time the relationship had lasted. Yet more than time is involved; the partners may not arrive together at the same stage, and conflict ensues.

Continued on Page 36

"One of Silverstein's most interesting observations is that gay men tend to fall into one of two classes, excitement-seekers or home-builders."

Lou Waters

Betty Havye, M.A.

Individual, Couple and Group Therapy

Lavender Reader 35
The first stage, called blending, may last up to a year. The new partners feel romantic, often even infatuated, and try at any price to avoid conflict. They try to equalize tasks and contributions. But repressed differences are liable to crop out, and the end of the first year is the most common time to split up. Stage two, nesting, generally occupies the second and third year. Some of its signs are homemaking, trying to reconcile differences, and striving for complementarity. Stage three, maintaining, often occurs in the fourth and fifth years. Each partner tends to re-emerge as an individual despite the risks. They both begin to develop methods for handling conflict and to establish reassuring groundwork on experience. The infirmities of aging may make the partners more dependent. Flexibility is essential to keep the relationship vital.

In addition to this theory of stages, there are many statistics or how it can claim virtual universality for its six-stage sequence. Although any member of a male couple will find some characteristics of some stages applicable to his own experience, the scheme of six stages, each with its four traits, is far too neat. Are there really more than two broad stages—inflation, and then, if the affair lasts, a number of attempts to get along with a real person? The tone of The Male Couple, despite perfunctory disclaimers, is far too cocksure. Something can be learned from each book by any man who wants more than fleeting affairs, but Man to Man, modest and warm, is the wiser book.

AIDS is the case with so many of us in Santa Cruz County. In my private life, my lover is a person living with a diagnosis of AIDS for the last 20 months. I am his primary care giver. I have for many years worked as an AIDS advocate and so I have an unrelenting need to pick up and read all things that have AIDS as a subject matter. Needless to say, I often find that the focus of my life is somewhat myopic, directed only at Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV)—the AIDS virus—the killer demon of my community. "AIDS As Apocalypse"—the article I found in the waiting room—is a New Yorkish, intellectual, alternative look at the "real" consequences behind the deep, entrenched actions of the lesbian and gay community in its fight against AIDS.

There are many insights to be gained from The Male Couple. The personal stories are the most interesting part. But it is hard to see why an avowedly unscientific book is crammed with so many statistics or how it can claim virtual universality for its six-stage sequence. Although any member of a male couple will find some characteristics of some stages applicable to his own experience, the scheme of six stages, each with its four traits, is far too neat. Are there really more than two broad stages—inflation, and then, if the affair lasts, a number of attempts to get along with a real person? The tone of The Male Couple, despite perfunctory disclaimers, is far too cocksure. Something can be learned from each book by any man who wants more than fleeting affairs, but Man to Man, modest and warm, is the wiser book.

Continued from Page 35

Continued on Page 38
loved one. We feel that we are in a struggle whose end is not foreseeable. We work passionately as a community, to prepare for more friends to eventually follow in the footsteps of those we have already lost.

Rict, on the other hand, contends that our focus has become so AIDS-centered that we are endangering ourselves politically. "There's an oily sentiment among gay men and lesbians these days," he says, "that—amid the din of aggressive in defense of our lives since fate, with some harsh wisdom, sent us of sacrifice to prove the claim: For most our newly sympathetic heterosexual friends. We've all had heart, in fact, for nothing else." (Christopher Street, Vol. 11 No. 1)

rather than oily, I sense heroism; rather than exhaustion, I sense empowerment. This pandemic has facilitated the growth of a community, and from this community we are creating a model for survival. For those infected and those who care, we need never sell ourselves the fallacious sentiment that we somehow bear responsibility for what has ensued. Rather, we as lesbians and gay men must maintain balance within this struggle. Just as we are more acutely aware of the collective status of our physical health, we must remain sensitive to the collective status of our mental health. By that I mean, we must keep in mind the importance of taking care of each other, of keeping ourselves and each other in our community sane.

How do we measure the mental health of a community? I am not sure that benchmarks exist that will tell us very much about where we are, but I can speak anecdotally. I have not found, for example, the suicidal mentality being expressed in Santa Cruz County that I often hear in large cities like San Francisco, Los Angeles and Washing-
Continued from Page 32

As a final word, the Affirmative Action Office of the City or Supervisor that the Health Plan Cost Containment Committee is the appropriate body to consider whether county employees shall be compensated equally and whether the county’s non-discrimination policy shall be enforced.

This disinformation campaign by top County bureaucrats described on page three of the Santa Cruz Sentinel. As a result of this, the only news coverage of the current county labor negotiations, one would be led to believe that AIDS in the County workforce is a major issue in the negotiations.

This personnel management has had the desired effect on some employees, as some employee inquiries have asked that the union back off its request for domestic partner benefits. It is plainly and simply an outrageous mistreatment designed to divide county employees during labor negotiations. These two top county bureaucrats deserved to have their ears boxed by the Board of Supervisors.

In fact, Supervisor Gary Patton responded to Joe Eugene by letter indicating that he thought Joe’s arguments were “impressive.” Supervisor Fred Keeley responded to Joe Eugene by letter indicating that he would correct this in future publications.

The county personnel team is rumored to be using this as an argument why domestic partners cannot be written into the current contract. However, anyone familiar with labor contracts knows that agreements can be made in a number of ways. For example, the county could recognize the principle of equal benefits for those with domestic partners—and agree to reopen negotiations if this legislation goes into effect. Or the County could establish domestic partners benefits and agree to put them into effect in a way that this law would allow. Or the county could ask the Personnel Director to reallocate his time from disinformation to presentations on programs that might provide benefits. Amazingly, this is not the first time this year that gay concerns have not been represented well by the county Affirmative Action Office. Earlier this year, all county employees received a letter advising them of their protections against discrimination. However, in a major oversight, sexual orientation was not mentioned anywhere in the two-page description of the County’s anti-discrimination program.

In fact, the county protects gay men and lesbians from discrimination—but the state of California does not. This handout only included the State’s version. I wrote the Affirmative Action officer and pointed out this thinking that he would correct this is his future publications. He wrote back and said that he recognized that the county policy has been incorrect since 1987, and that all new county employees have received an orientation that incorrectly included sexual orientation as a protected class. However, he didn’t suggest any solution to this error.

I responded in late March asking that the Affirmative Action officer correct the explanation of the policy, given that it has been incorrectly explained for two years. Almost six months later, he has yet to respond.

By the time you read this, the county domestic partners issue may have been resolved—one way or another. But the whole sordid affair shows us that we can take nothing for granted. It would help if we all took some action. We should all let our county supervisor know how we feel about this issue (425-2201). When there are vacancies on the county Affirmative Action Commission, we should ensure that an openly gay or lesbian person is appointed—and demand that issues of discrimination be directed there, not to the Health Plan Cost Containment Committee.

In fact, the county protects gay men and lesbians from discrimination—but the state of California does not. This handout only included the State’s version. I wrote the Affirmative Action officer and pointed out this thinking that he would correct this is his future publications.

He wrote back and said that he recognized that the county policy has been incorrect since 1987, and that all new county employees have received an orientation that incorrectly included sexual orientation as a protected class. However, he didn’t suggest any solution to this error.

I responded in late March asking that the Affirmative Action officer correct the explanation of the policy, given that it has been incorrectly explained for two years. Almost six months later, he has yet to respond.

By the time you read this, the county domestic partners issue may have been resolved—one way or another. But the whole sordid affair shows us that we can take nothing for granted. It would help if we all took some action. We should all let our county supervisor know how we feel about this issue (425-2201). When there are vacancies on the county Affirmative Action Commission, we should ensure that an openly gay or lesbian person is appointed—and demand that issues of discrimination be directed there, not to the Health Plan Cost Containment Committee.

In fact, the county protects gay men and lesbians from discrimination—but the state of California does not. This handout only included the State’s version. I wrote the Affirmative Action officer and pointed out this thinking that he would correct this is his future publications.

He wrote back and said that he recognized that the county policy has been incorrect since 1987, and that all new county employees have received an orientation that incorrectly included sexual orientation as a protected class. However, he didn’t suggest any solution to this error.

I responded in late March asking that the Affirmative Action officer correct the explanation of the policy, given that it has been incorrectly explained for two years. Almost six months later, he has yet to respond.

By the time you read this, the county domestic partners issue may have been resolved—one way or another. But the whole sordid affair shows us that we can take nothing for granted. It would help if we all took some action. We should all let our county supervisor know how we feel about this issue (425-2201). When there are vacancies on the county Affirmative Action Commission, we should ensure that an openly gay or lesbian person is appointed—and demand that issues of discrimination be directed there, not to the Health Plan Cost Containment Committee.
TUE  OCT 10
Our Lives
Cabrillo women
tell their stories
in an ongoing
series of noon
hour gatherings.
Noon - 1pm
914A Cabrillo
College Center
479-6249

THU  OCT 12-15
Great Outdoors
host the
sixth annual
Gay and Lesbian
International.
Outdoor
conference (IGLOO) here
in Felton at
Call Brett:
427-2722

SAT  OCT 14
Film Festival
co-sponsored by
SCAP and
The Movies 1&2
brings us the
best of the
SP & LA 1989
Gay/Lesbian
Film Festivals.
Matinee on Sunday
with reception
afterward at 3pm
at Cafe Cameleon
459-4777

SAT  OCT 14
A Formal Dance
featuring the
City Swing
Dance Band and
Gall Wilson
170 S. Market
San Jose at the
Fairmont Hotel
hosted by the
DeFrank Center
293-2429

Sunset Live
TUESDAY OCT 10
11am-3pm
Cafe Cameleon
459-4777

SAT  OCT 14
Film Fest: Day 1
Suprisingly
good British TV
series about
Gay & Lesbian Life
4pm and 8pm
at Bulkhead Gallery,
then at 11pm
a special showing of
S&M erotic
videos.
$4 per show

SUN  OCT 15
Film Fest: Day 2
Matinee
"The Outsiders"
A Taiwanese
gay feature film
1pm at the
Movies 1&2.
At 3pm a
catered reception
at Cafe Cameleon
$10 for films
and reception.

MON  OCT 16
"Perspectives on Domestic
Violence"
Terri German
will speak
at the Cabrillo
 Fireside Lounge
7pm, free
459-6249

WED  OCT 25
LGA sponsors an
issues forum around
the Webster
decision.
Louden Nelson
7:30p

THU  OCT 26
The AIDS
Educators
Network begins their
monthly
meetings
Room 1802
Cabrillo
Session House
2:30p

SAT  OCT 28
Girls' Night Out
Halloween Dance
at the Vet's Hall
846 Front St
Santa Cruz,
a benefit for the
LGCC with
costumes, music
and fun!
475-6288

Now Open Every Day!
MON - SAT: 5pm - 2pm
Sun: 2pm - 2am
Free Hot Dogs Wed & Thurs
Free Pool Thrus

MALE BURLESQUE
10pm Every Thursday Night

HALLOWEEN PARTY - SATURDAY OCT 28
Live Entertainment
Cash Prizes for Best Costume
THANKSGIVING PARTY - FRIDAY NOV 17
Free Turkey
BBQ's Steak • Chicken • Burgers
Saturday 5pm - 9pm Sunday 2pm - 9pm

Sunday Country Western
Dance Lessons 7pm-9pm
Monthly Pool Tournaments

1545 COMMERCIAL WAY • SANTA CRUZ, CA • 462-1411
42 FALL 1989

LAVENDER READER 43
CALENDAR

WED NOV 8
UCSC Women’s Center sponsors Personal Decisions and Abortion for Survival two 30 minute documentary videos. 7:30pm At UCSC Women’s Center 459-2072

SAT NOV 4
LGCC Rummage Sale continues the first Saturday of each month. Call Tom at 479-1026 for pick-up, and sale info

MON NOV 13
“Men Ending Violence Against Women” - part of the Cabrillo College Rape Prevention series. Glen Fisch will speak. Fireside Lounge 7pm/fee 479-6249

TUE NOV 14
LGCC Social (potluck) 7:30pm Louden Nelson 475-6268

MON NOV 13
Lesbians in Mid-Life wraps up a 4 session lecture series. 7pm $5 Louden Nelson Call: 458-3053

THU NOV 16
Lucie Blue Tremblay a french-canadian singer and song-writer celebrates the release of her new album in this Lea Lawson production at the Kuumbwa 7pm & 9:30pm $10-$12 458-3053

SAT NOV 18
Dyke Drag! A fun nite for adventurous lesbians! LGCC prizes, costumes and music. Performers and for more info Call: 423-9738

THU NOV 23
AIDS Educators Network meets at Cabrillo Session House 2:30pm

TUE NOV 28
Ethnic Notions: Black People in White Minds a disturbing must-see video exploring common stereotypes and race relations in America. UCSC Women’s Center 7:30pm/fee 459-2072

SAT NOV 18
UCSC Women’s Center hosts the “Brown Bag Center 459-2072

MON NOV 13
“Men Ending Violence Against Women” - part of the Cabrillo College Rape Prevention series. Glen Fisch will speak. Fireside Lounge 7pm/fee 479-6249

TUE NOV 14
LGCC Social (potluck) 7:30pm Louden Nelson 475-6268

MON NOV 13
Lesbians in Mid-Life wraps up a 4 session lecture series. 7pm $5 Louden Nelson Call: 458-3053

THU NOV 16
Lucie Blue Tremblay a french-canadian singer and song-writer celebrates the release of her new album in this Lea Lawson production at the Kuumbwa 7pm & 9:30pm $10-$12 458-3053

SAT NOV 18
Dyke Drag! A fun nite for adventurous lesbians! LGCC prizes, costumes and music. Performers and for more info Call: 423-9738

THU NOV 23
AIDS Educators Network meets at Cabrillo Session House 2:30pm

TUE NOV 28
Ethnic Notions: Black People in White Minds a disturbing must-see video exploring common stereotypes and race relations in America. UCSC Women’s Center 7:30pm/fee 459-2072

SUN DEC 3
LGCC Round Circle Women’s Singing Group continues to meet the first and third Sunday of each month 4 - 5:30pm 247-0505

SAT DEC 9
LGCC Comedy Coffeehouse an evening of fun starting at 7:30pm, show at 8pm 303 Walnut Ave. 462-2610

FRI DEC 15
Romanovsky and Phillips will bring their unique laevendar approach to song writing, singing, and performing 8pm at Kuumbwa $8 - $10 458-3053

SAT DEC 16
LGCC Holiday Get Together 303 Walnut Ave. 3 - 7pm 475-6268

SUN DEC 31
New Year’s Eve Black-Tie (or costume) gourmet sit-down dinner and dance at the Orange Hall in Watsonville 427-3900
COMMUNITY RESOURCE DIRECTORY

BATTERED LESBIAN'S SUPPORT
Wednesdays: 7:30p
Call: 336-2317

BOOKSHOP SANTA CRUZ
1547 Pacific Ave. SC
423-0900

BLUE LAGOON
923 Pacific Ave. SC
423-7117

CLOSED FREE RADIO
KZSC FM 88.1
Mondays: 7:00-8:30p
UCSC, 95064
On Air: 459-2811
Alternate Mondays

FAMILY SERVICE ASSOCIATION
Individual and Family Counseling
1521 1/2 Pacific Ave.
423-9444

GAY & LESBIAN EDUCATORS
Meet monthly
423-2258

GAY & LESBIAN VEGETARIANS
c/o Rick Haze
PO Box 7971, SC
95061
336-3255

GAY, LESBIAN & BISEXUAL NETWORK
UCSC
459-2468

GAYS AND LESBIANS OVER FORTY
Second Friday of each month.
Gerry 427-2571

GREAT OUTDOORS
PO Box 2143, SC
95063
Brett
427-2722

HEALING CIRCLE
Group for lesbian survivors of
childhood sexual abuse.
Sliding fee,
Mondays, 7:30PM
M. Barash MSW
423-6435
M. Bracciale MA
335-2716

HEARTWOOD SPA
3150-A Mission St.
SC
462-2192

LAVENDER READER
PO Box 7293 SC
95061

LESBIAN & GAY ACTION ALLIANCE
PO Box 7293,
SC 95061
Will Russell
459-2060

LESBIAN & GAY COMMUNITY CENTER
PO Box 7293
SC 95061
Meets 2nd Tuesdays
at Louden Nelson
7:30pm
475-6268

LESBIAN/GAY IMPROV THEATER
We have fun.
Join us.
Warm-ups facilitated.
Every other week
7:30PM
Call Val
426-2063

LESBIAN/GAY NEWS
PO Box 2968
Santa Cruz, 95063
Editor:
Tom Cassita
425-8574

LESBIAN NEWS
PO Box 2968
Santa Cruz, 95063
Editor:
Tom Cassita
425-8574

MONTEREY COUNTY AIDS PROJECT
PO Box 221785,
Carmel, CA 93922
424-5550

MONTEREY COUNTY AIDS PROJECT
11849 Coleman Ave.
Felton, 95018
Artistic Director
Kate McDermott:
335-9455

NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS
662-4664

OLDER WISER LESBIANS
A social group
for lesbians over fifty.
Meet each
Friday at 7pm
Pat:
662-8674

PENINSULA PROFESSIONAL NETWORK
2nd Wednesdays
PO Box 4714,
Carmel, CA 93921
659-2446

RAINBOW ENSEMBLE FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS
PO Box 7527,
SC 95063
Gilbert Moreno
426-5044

SANTA CRUZ AIDS PROJECT
PO Box 5142,
SC 95063
427-3900

SANTA CRUZ MEN'S CHORUS
Monday's
7:15-9:45
1st United Methodist Church
427-2722

SANTA CRUZ VENUS CENTER
2101-1/2 Pacific Ave.
SC 95060
425-5528

SANTA CRUZ WOMEN'S HEALTH CENTER
250 Locust St.
SC 95060
427-3500

STONESTRAW ALLIANCE
Tuesdays, 7:30-9
UCSC Merrill Rec Room
459-2468

UCSC WOMEN'S CENTER
Cardiff House
on the UCSC campus.
459-2072

WOMEN ON MOUNTAIN BIKES AND TEA SOCIETY
(LAVENDER CHAPTER)
Outings most
Sundays around
10:30am
425-8574

WOMEN'S CRISIS SUPPORT
24-hour bi-lingual
11949 Coleman Ave.
Felton, 95018

Cover printed on recycled paper.
PLEASE JOIN US.

The Santa Cruz AIDS Project
needs dedicated people.

Please join us.

Become a volunteer.

AIDS Educator or a
Community Health
Outreach Worker

Providing peer education.

Help with fundraising.

Make a donation.

monthly, quarterly or
annually.

Help staff our office.

Donate goods
or services to people
with AIDS.

s.c.a.p.
1600 Soquel Avenue
Santa Cruz, CA 95062

Hope to hear from you!

427-3900