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I guess it was about the third day after the earthquake, after the more immediate feelings had sunk in, that it occurred to me to worry about the Lavender Reader. Where were all the just-printed copies of the fall issue? Then, when those copies turned up safely, there was the future to think about. Would our subscribers be too hard-hit to subscribe, and our advertisers under too much of a strain to advertise any more? Would it matter to people? Doggedly, I began to plot 16 or 20 page issues.

A few days later, Robin White—who did the artwork for the fall cover—dropped by with a revised, "earthquake issue" version. It seemed like a good sign; our ability to feel humor in questionable taste was returning. It is reproduced below, with a grateful acknowledgment to Wesley and Gerald for letting us taking such liberties with their house.

The story began: "A few days later, there was more bad news: the folks at the Santa Cruz Greens, producing a fact sheet from the several thousand copies of the fall issue. In the "SCAP Report," Brenda Warren reminds us that the AIDS Project if we're not careful.

To reunite with her mother. Glen Fitch offers poetry in the Creek epic style. (He called at the last minute, worried that readers would take as microscopic license.) The photos from of Gay Fitch takes as his description soil made him think that readers would take as an endorsement his description of some male traits he does not admire. I told him I thought readers understood poetic license.) The photograph of Gypsy Ray complements Glen's poetry, and Penny Bell's artwork enhances the two. Finally, we welcome Richard Miranda and Ruth Thomas, who have written to describe their path-breaking AIDS work in the Central Coast. Two members of our community who have recently died are remembered in the "Obituary" section. Sadly, it seems that the need for such a section is ongoing, and we will print as many of these submissions as we can.

What else? Allison Claire's "Making Waves" column is on a short vacation and will return next issue. In this "First Person" section, Robin Roberts traces the slow steps to reunion with her mother. Glen Fitch offers poetry in the Creek epic style. (He called at the last minute, worried that readers would take as microscopic license.) The photographs of Gypsy Ray complement Glen's poetry, and Penny Bell's artwork enhances the two.

The last time we had Nineties they were gay. They were also naughty. By the laws of progress gays in the upcoming decade should be gayer and naughtier than ever before.

—Poet James Broughton

"I have 160 hours of prime-time television behind me. People won't typecast me because of this."


"Every day I receive news from another city ready to set up a group. There are three independent groups in Prague now and organizations on the way in Ostrava, Brno, Bratislava, throughout the country."

—Czech organizer/founder of Lambda Prague, Jan Lamy discussing the new status of gay groups in Czechoslovakia, following the changes in Eastern Europe
Open Letter to the Blue Lagoon,
On Monday, December 18th between 11 and 12 pm, a woman friend and I walked to the Blue Lagoon to dance and generally be in lesbian and gay space. After about half an hour of dancing without harassment, a group of approximately seven young men and women came in and proceeded to dance. Within a matter of two minutes, I felt I was in a totally different bar—namely a heterosexual bar. They yelled and laughed and spread themselves wide. One man proceeded to dance right into my space and either didn't notice or could have cared less. When I told him to get out of my space, he responded hostilely, as though this behavior to occur without taking any direct action fast, you condone it. And

Write to us! The Lavender Reader prefers letters that are tense, tart, typewritten, double-spaced and signed. Include a phone number where we can contact you. Send letters to Lavender Reader, PO Box 7253, Santa Cruz, CA 95061.

SCAP REPORT

Bouncing Back...Slowly

Like most of you, SCAP is still recovering from the October earthquake. We had no physical damage, but we have certainly felt other effects. Our clients need more services from us as they deal with the stress of the earthquake on top of the stress of daily living with HIV disease. Meanwhile, our income decreased considerably as we had to cancel some major fundraisers.

Our community came through with an outpouring of support, both emotional and financial, and we are grateful to each and every one of you. Your support in this time of financial crisis has made all the difference. And as the work goes on, we continue to rely on your donations and on benefit events to put us back on our feet and keep us going into the future. Two important SCAP fundraisers are coming up soon: Our third annual Chambers Of The Heart concert (see accompanying article) and Holly Near At The Civic. Yes, Holly is coming to Santa Cruz on Saturday, March 24, in a single appearance at the Santa Cruz Civic; with concert revenues going to SCAP. We are very excited about this concert, which will also feature

Continued on Page 41

Rebecca Adams opening the show. We are counting on this concert to help put us back on financially solid ground (pardon the earthquake pun). Tickets to this event will sell quickly, so buy yours early. By the time the Reader hits the streets, tickets will already be on sale, at the SCAP office and through Bass outlets. You can buy "VIP" tickets which include a post-concert reception with Holly at India Joze, or regular tickets for the concert only. Interpretation for the hearing impaired will be provided. See you there!

—Brenda Warren

"Chambers Of The Heart" Returns

"Chambers of the Heart III" is the third annual concert of chamber music to benefit SCAP's education and support services for people with AIDS. The previous concerts have seen the talent of some of the area's best professional musicians pouring in and coalescing, resulting in two of the finest programs of music to be

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YOUR COMMUNITY HEALTH CLINIC

Proyecto Alarma SIDA (Project AIDS Alert)
A Community-Based AIDS Education Project
212 E. Beach
Watsonville, CA 95076
722-2988

George Medicine
Woman's Health
Anonymous and Confidential HIV Testing
Primary Care
and Case Management for the HIV Infected
Family Planning

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LAVENDER READER 7
New Year Bright for Community Center

The Lesbian Gathering and The Men’s Group will be meeting again! Sponsored by the Lesbian and Gay Community Center, Patrick Meyer will be facilitating the Men’s Group and Tuesday evening at 7:30 at the Center.女士们、先生们，欢迎再次参加我们的聚会。受Lesbian and Gay Community Center的赞助，Patrick Meyer将主持男士聚会，周二晚上7:30在中心举行的。

Louden Nelson Center from 4:00 to 5:30 p.m. Call Denise Brown for more information (1-247-0505).

Building Search Update: The Community Center rang in the New Year with a fresh resolve to intensify the search for a “Home of Our Own.” With our Building Fund at over $6,000, we are more than ready to find the right place for our home. We’ve been looking at the complexities of city and county zoning and usage requirements, as we’ve looked into several properties since the first of the year. Several of the places we’ve inquired about have come from suggestions from members of our community. Again, if you have any leads, please call Patrick Meyer at 459-2896, or Mindy Storch at 459-2628.

Daniel Moore from the city’s Office of Citizen Complaints that the Tac Squad be relieved of this responsibility; it’s duty. Since then, the Tac Squad has been relieved of this responsibility.

Still, many of these amendments may be more discouraging than they are legally meaningful, and the amendment excluding religious institutions from the law has already eroded any hope to block the repeal referendum. Many gay activists hope the new law will lead to an increase in the enforcement of similar legislation, particularly among northeastern states.

Lesbian/Gay Civil Rights Law

The amended Massachusetts civil rights law was enacted in 1984, following a long and bitter campaign by gay rights activists, especially in Massachusetts. The law was enacted to protect homosexual workers from discrimination in employment, housing, and credit. It was a major victory for the gay rights movement, but it also faced significant challenges and limitations.

Many of the amendments made to the law in 1985, 1988, and 1990 were designed to block the potential for a referendum that would overturn the law. The amendments included provisions that would allow the law to be overturned by a popular referendum, but also made it more difficult to pass such a referendum. The amendments also included provisions that would prevent the law from being enforced against religious institutions.

AIDS Funding Released

ACT-UP/USF has succeeded in "un-thawing" the state's $300,000 of unfunded AIDS-related work before the city froze all supplemental funds following the October 17 earthquake. The city is calling this partial release of funds "pro-rated," but Brandy Moore of the Black Coalition on AIDS told the 150 demonstrators outside the USF hospital that "we do not have AIDS on a pro-rated basis."
Lesbians of Color Meet
This fall has seen two important Northern California conferences designed by and for lesbians of color. The "Dynamics of Color" conference held November 11 and 12, drew some 650 participants, half of them women of color. The conference was organized by eight San Francisco Bay Area organizations representing lesbians of color and focused on "combating racism, honoring diversity and building stronger lesbian communities." It addressed such issues as institutionalized racism, the land rights of indigenous peoples, and the experiences of lesbians of mixed heritage. In her keynote address Black lesbian author and activist Barbara Smith explained, "I'm not very interested at this point in fighting racism, I'm more interested in consciousness in this society." The conference addressed the issue of race and identity with exhibits, readings, and workshops. At the conference literature in her possession.

Gay Community News and Bay Times

Lesbian Couple Adopts HIV-Infected Child
A San Francisco lesbian couple has become the first same-sex couple to adopt a child with HIV. Millie Jesse and Susan Pavlik have been raising the two-year-old boy since he was five weeks old. Both women were named as the child's adoptive parents, despite a formal objection by the Alameda County Department of Social Services, based upon its prohibition against adoption by unmarried couples. Because of his poor health, the child was first placed with the couple on an emergency basis, with the assumption that he would not live long enough for long-term placement. Under the women's care, he is now very healthy. The newly formed Asian Pacific Lesbian Network sponsored its first national retreat, "Coming Together, Moving Forward." The conference, held September 1-4, drew women from as far off as Japan and Pakistan to the University of California, Santa Cruz campus to share in ritual, workshops, exhibits, and readings. At the conference's end participants drew up a charter for their national organization. The importance of this organization and the necessity for continued organizing was emphasized by the INS deportation of one would-be conference participant from the Netherlands under the McClaren Act after officials discovered conference literature in her possession.

Gay Community News and Bay Times

Homophobic Judge Censured
After over a year of legal wrangling, a homophobic judge who acknowledged giving a lenient sentence to a murderer because his victims were gay, has been formally censured, and Dallas' lesbian and gay community continues to push for his removal from the bench.

A New Milestone
A new elected official in the public arena. Except for the sensational coverage of Rep. Barney Frank's private life, there is little notice of the pressures and strains put on personal relationships by the rights of public life.

This was illustrated during the Fifth Annual Conference of Gay and Lesbian Public Officials, held recently in Madison, Wisconsin. The public news reflected the four-fold increase in openly gay or lesbian elected officials since the first conference in West Hollywood.

In the elected ranks are the first Black and Latino openly gay elected officials—Keith St. John, a Councilmember-elect in Albany, New York, and Supervisor Ricardo Gonzalez of Madison, Wisconsin. Also attending for the first time were Svend Robinson, who represents Vancouver in the Canadian Parliament and state legislators Susan Farnsworth of Maine and Joe Grabarz from Connecticut.

But to me the real news was not on the public side. Some of the original founders of our group are seriously considering retiring from public life because of their inability to have any real private life. Each conference, there is some sort of workshop about this issue. This time, an openly gay therapist facilitated a workshop with about twenty conference-goers on how we deal with the conflict between public and private lives. The conversation, while confidential, produced some interesting trends. A majority of openly gay or lesbian elected officials have in the past year or two that have broken up because of their role in public office. Those whose relationships survived are primarily in one category. They were in that relationship at least five or six years before their election, and a foundation was built that could weather the demands on time and ego. Additionally, most of these relationships worked after an election because the partner was interested and involved in the political or governmental work and career of the other.

There are a few exceptions—one being a state legislator whose partner has a separate career. They see each other almost only when they both arrive at home, and have a happy and caring relationship. Another elected official found comfort in a long-distance relationship. Women could be spent together in a relaxing manner away from public pressures, and there was not strain placed on the relationship because of the long weekday work hours that include evening hearings and meetings.

One elected official, Mayor Bob Gentry of Laguna Beach, lost his lover of fifteen years to AIDS a year ago. Because the cause of Gary's death was very public, as was their relationship, Bob has weathered a demand by Mayor's term amid personal grief and loss of the kind of personal support that made public service possible. They have to be a consideration when Bob decides whether to seek re-election next November.

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KATER POLLOCK, M.A.
Marriage, Family & Child Counselor

KARTER POLLOCK, M.A.
Marriage, Family & Child Counselor

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POLITICAL CLIMATE

Public Officials, Private Lives

Those of us who are openly gay or lesbian elected officials always make the news for what we do in the public arena. Except for the sensational coverage of Rep. Barney Frank's private life, there is little notice of the pressures and strains put on personal relationships by the rights of public life.

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John Laird

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One of the stresses on personal relationships would be there whether the public official was straight or gay. If an elected person is in a committed relationship, but also to meet the pressures on gay and lesbian relationships—especially those of elected officials—will continue to be great.

Ironically, it is going to take many openly gay or lesbian elected officials to help break down the stereotypes and political barriers that make public relationships difficult to sustain.

I hope I have not discouraged any competent member of the gay and lesbian community from seeking political office. We need people like you to continue to make progress and to help make it easier for those who will come after you. But you really cannot be a success in elected office if you don't enter it with your eyes open.

Now, if you'll excuse me, I've locked out a couple of hours to go grocery shopping.

Supervisor Tammy Baldwin, an open lesbian from Madison, told the Wall Street Journal about this subject: 

"We are all trying to find the answers. Sometimes, though, it seems as if we're working in a laboratory that doesn't have any of the right equipment." 

Given the fact that domestic partners rights for gay men and lesbians in our country are probably decades away, the pressures on gay and lesbian relationships—especially those of elected officials—will continue to be great.

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Now, if you'll excuse me, I've locked out a couple of hours to go grocery shopping.
Jean Hart, president of Metropolitan Community Church Santa Cruz, gives credit for her church's earthquake relief efforts to MCC Modesto. They planted a seed," she says, "that flowered in us." Within two days of the October 17 quake, members of the Metropolitan Community Church, Santa Cruz' lesbian/gay congregation, were distributing food and supplies brought in from Modesto, helping to clean up the mess, and generally reaching out to the gay community and anyone else who needed help. At that point, like so many of us, all Jean could think of when asked what was needed were water and batteries. Fortunately, less quake-shaken heads in Modesto prevailed, and she also received can openers, toothbrushes, fresh fruit, toilet paper, plastic cups (how do you wash your glasses when you have no water?), peanut butter, sanitary napkins, baby food, candy bars. Operation Shock, as MCC Modesto called its efforts, never forgot that there were real people in need here. Jean and her partner, Pat, soon found their two-bedroom home housing six people and four dogs. With one of the few consistently working telephones in the area, they also became a sort of central clearinghouse for information on the welfare of the gay community in Santa Cruz, and their garage was quickly filled with boxes of food, cartons of toothpaste, and mountains of clothes shipped in from MCCs around the state. That caring indeed flowered in Santa Cruz, helping members think beyond bare survival. Boxes of food and supplies were packed in Jean's garage, ready to be driven up into the hills or down to the flats, always with thought for the people for whom they were meant. One of the things that distinguished MCC's efforts from others was that personal concern—that we didn't face the prospect of having to deal with official homophobic or our invisibility, so we simply chose to go through the official channels. We saw, with the media's coverage of the death of Robin Ortiz, that we don't really exist as families to the world at large, and some of us simply didn't have the energy for that. MCC Modesto offered an alternative, a place to represent ourselves to the government or the Red Cross. We have long experience with agencies and their lists, and ways in which we don't fit into these systems, and we didn't believe that a simple earthquake was going to change that. For some of us, losing a home or a job was overwhelming that we couldn't face the prospect of having to deal with official homophobic or our invisibility, so we simply chose to go through the official channels. We saw, with the media's coverage of the death of Robin Ortiz, that we don't really exist as families to the world at large, and some of us simply didn't have the energy for that. MCC Modesto offered an alternative, a place to represent ourselves to the government or the Red Cross. We have long experience with agencies and their lists, and ways in which we don't fit into these systems, and we didn't believe that a simple earthquake was going to change that. For some of us, losing a home or a job was overwhelming that we couldn't face the prospect of having to deal with official homophobic or our invisibility, so we simply chose to go through the official channels. We saw, with the media's coverage of the death of Robin Ortiz, that we don't really exist as families to the world at large, and some of us simply didn't have the energy for that.}

**MCC: A Spirited Response**

Merrie Schaller

It's been many weeks now since I was sitting on my porch, soaking up the last moments of October sun, and felt my eighty year old house begin to shudder beneath me. Somewhere inside, where I could hear glass falling and breaking, was Forrest, my youngest son. I sat paralyzed, screaming for him in those eternal fifteen seconds. He did not respond. When the shaking stopped, Forrest ran outside. I drew down onto my lap, circled my arms around his belly, put my cheek against his little blonde head, and began shaking myself.

The earth, it seems, has now come to see what violent trembling. I have stopped trembling and listen. When the washer reaches the spin cycle and causes this old house to shimmmy. With each after-shock, I suck in my breath, suspending movement and thought. My heart pounds, fear punctures my mouth, and always, I look for Forrest.

The earthhouse moved us, in many ways. For all of us there was loss. Loss of lives for a few. Others, loss of homes. Of jobs. Of chummes. Of favorite tea cups. Of cherished cafes and bookshops and of the rituals in these spaces which gave us a small sense of certainty in the face of the larger chaos of the world.

When mortar loosens, when one brick slips from its place, an entire wall of bricks cascades. And so, for many of us, old personal losses, the bricks set long ago, have tumbled from their places and lay in broken heaps about us. We find ourselves inexplicably sad. Unusually angry. Depressed. Scared. Sleeping fitfully; waking with nightmares. Remembering old hurts. Fingering wounds. And because the earthquake jared us so many weeks ago leaving us so much visible debris, it is sometimes difficult to connect our internal/external, as elusive as it is, to the quake itself. And how, in particular, as lesbians and gay men, have the earthquake challenged us? What were our losses? Our lessons?
EARTHQUAKE
Continued from Page 15
helping.
For others of us, families came through. For some, families broke silences and affirmed that they do care, after all, 'in spite of' our being long as he's alive? While for some families this reconnection may be short-lived, for others it may be permanent.
Out of need and desire, many of us have developed another alternative family of lovers and friends. Yet most of us take these families and our community for granted. The earth opened, and we hide behind fallenouses and bleachers, differences become petty and irrelevant. Who gives a damn if your son or daughter is gay, as long as he's alive? While for some families this reconnection may be short-lived, for others it may be permanent.
PRIMES, after all, 'in spite of' our being split and reconnected. They do help. Continued from Page 25
For some, families broke silence. Who gives a damn if your son or daughter is gay, as long as he's alive? While for some families this reconnection may be short-lived, for others it may be permanent.
The earthquake affirmed for me the privacy and necessity of my relationships. While there was no contact from my 'family of origin,' my chosen family came to call. Friends dropped by that first night, checking on me. Lights were fiddled with, tents were pitched in the dark, soup and bread were eaten on the picnic table in the backyard, stories were told all around. The kids played with candle wax and flashlight, made quick and comical forays into the house. Terror and laughter sat side by side. And side by side we sat with our collective skills. While I was lousy with the wrench, it hadn't mattered. Brae knew about wrenches. I knew about tents, tarps, while. While I could make a meal in minutes on the campstove, I needed a friend to help with the roof. I needed to be held in the night. Between us we possessed the resources for survival.
While thousands of people in Santa Cruz County lost homes and jobs, these losses are especially hard with-in the gay community. When you're one of hundreds searching for a new place to rent, what are your chances? By the time the night was over, the sun was warm downtown, the sun was warm on my back, the smell of coffee was in the air, the pavilions were full of books and shoppers. I was full of energy and passion for the day. I felt great pleasure and pride in witness.
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EARTHQUAKE
Continued from Page 14
listed as queer in some government data bank, we chose to go hungry. As Pat Rutherford, host of Closet Free Radio, says, "When you feel like you're an outlaw in society, you're not going to turn to any segment of that society for help." Nor were we here with that help.
"We were proud," Jean adds. "For years we've been telling our selves to be proud and we are. Too problem oriented to care too much. So many of us have a very real stake in being able to take care of ourselves, in not needing the support the world so rarely gives us. We take care of our selves, we take care of others; we are not taken care of. We've got such a lot of effort into being self-reliant, into doing things that are as good as anyone, that we often don't even know how to accept help, let alone ask for it. Our houses may be falling over their foundations, we may not have food or water, our roads may be impassable to all but four-wheel-drive, our jobs may have disappeared, but we're fine, thank you very much. We don't need any help, but what can we do for you?"
Over and over, that's what so many of us said: No, thank you, we're fine. One way that members of MCC dealt with that was by not asking; they just showed up on people's doorsteps with boxes of supplies and the intention of doing whatever needed to be done. Even then, they were often told that they weren't needed.
Pat Rutherford was one of the recipients of such a visitation. Very much accustomed to being cared of herself, Pat tried valiantly to send her would-be helpers away, even though she had only recently recovered from surgery and had exacerbated a hip injury by climbing under her mobile home to fix a broken pipe. "I tried my best to make them go, but they were determined; they weren't leaving," she says. Looking back on it, Pat adds, "I must have been in shock; I tried to turn five beautiful lesbians away from my door.
"They came to help," she explains, "but I had a lot of the things they needed; a bottle of Mop & Glo; they asked me what I needed done. I had cleared a path for them in the living room, and I figured the rest could wait until I could get to it. I told them I didn't need anything." Pat's refrigerator had spilled its contents on the floor, and she had picked up most of that; her tool cabinet had spilled its nails and screws in front of the bathroom door, and she couldn't get that mess up. The supports were all out under one side of her mobile home, and she was worried that the whole thing would collapse, but she figured she'd fix it all when she wasn't so overwhelmed. She was fine, thank you very much.
"I'm not used to needing help like that, or accepting it," she says now, "but just came in and said we were there to clean up, and if I couldn't tell them what needed to be done, I should just sit down and make myself comfortable, because they were going to do whatever they could find that needed doing. I figured they should go find someone with a broken leg or a broken back; but they wouldn't leave. Finally I said that it would be a help if one of them would clean the kitchen floor, so one vacuumed and swept. One vacuumed the glass out of the living room rug, and one picked up all the screws and nails that were on the floor. One brought me a bottle of water. One helped me put tea powder on the cat. When they were all done, I looked around, and it had all become manageable, and the difference in the way I felt was amazing. I was just so grateful, but there was no way I would have let them do this, and I just sat down and made myself comfortable, because they were going to do whatever they could find that needed doing. I figured they should go find someone with a broken leg or a broken back; but they wouldn't leave. Finally I said that it would be a help if one of them would clean the kitchen floor, so one vacuumed and swept. One vacuumed the glass out of the living room rug, and one picked up all the screws and nails that were on the floor. One brought me a bottle of water. One helped me put tea powder on the cat. When they were all done, I looked around, and it had all become manageable, and the difference in the way I felt was amazing. I was just so grateful, but there was no way I would have let them do this, and I just sat down and made myself comfortable, because they were going to do whatever they could find that needed doing. I figured they should go find someone with a broken leg or a broken back; but they wouldn't leave.
"I decided to do some research..."
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"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."

PETE GONZALEZ

LAVENDER READER 17
Council. St. John is now the nation’s Democratic incumbent who had the however, he received a full seventy-five percent of the vote. St. John’s homosexuality did not become an issue during the campaign, although it was publicly recognized.

—Gay Community News

Welcome Does a Little Better

In September the Burroughs Wellcome Company announced a twenty percent cut in the price of AZT. While citing increased demand for the product as the reason for this price change, company spokeswoman Karen Collins acknowledged that continued protests had also influenced the decision. Yearly treatment under the drug will now typically cost $6,500, rather than $8,000, excluding related medical fees. California Representative Henry Waxman, chairman of the House Committee on Energy and Commerce’s Wellcome, said that the price cut was “a pretty strong indication that the public is responding to pressure that was occurring.”

—New York Times

Traditional Family Values Threatened (Again)

A study by San Francisco psychotherapist Paul Gibson, examining tragically high rates of suicide among lesbian and gay young people and which is part of the fifty-paper “Report of the Health and Human Services Secretary’s Task Force on Youth Suicide,” has been under attack by southern California Representative William Dannemeyer, who, as Chairman of the Health and Human Services Secretary Louis Sullivan has responded to Dannemeyer’s criticisms by agreeing with him that the view expressed in Gibson’s paper was contrary to the federal aim of advancing traditional family values and assured him in writing that “Gay Male and Lesbian Youth are not, in any way represent my personal beliefs or the policy of this Department.”

Gibson’s disturbing report cites suicide as the leading cause of death among lesbian and gay young people, who account for thirty percent or more of all youth suicides in the U. S. Gibson’s paper is highly critical of a “society that discriminates against and stigmatizes homosexuals while failing to recognize that a substantial number of its youth has a gay or lesbian orientation.”

—Gay Community News

...But I Wouldn’t Want to Hire One

A Washington Post-Journal survey looking at the personal lives and habits of 351 chief executive officers of the nation’s biggest companies found that some sixty-six percent would hesitate to promote a homosexual to management-committee level, despite their acknowledged that homosexual presence in everyday behavior tends to be similar to that of “the average, middle-class Joe.”

—San Francisco Chronicle

Congregation Supports Lesbian Pastors

San Francisco’s St. Francis Lutheran Church has been like if either of you had been the homecoming queen in our senior year. It wasn’t easy, trying to keep our relationship a secret, but you have often wondered if you and dad recognized that there was something about the way we are going on between us. Sometimes I fantasize what it would have been like if either of you had asked me directly if Jane and I were lovers and I shudder with the thought. There was something very intimate about our secret and I enjoyed that privacy.

The burden of living in the closet was a difficult one for me. I spent countless hours thinking about how to keep my two worlds separate. I remember, around my seventeenth birthday, walking away from that thought to choose my lifestyle or my family. At the time I did not have the words to describe my sexuality as lesbian and a daughter in a family who could not accept her was too great. I lied to you and dad often, telling you I was going out with the gang so Jane, got sober, and I could spend a few hours alone at the beach. I don’t remember what we did now, but I know that that time with her was freedom for me. Even when she would tell me our relationship was a sin, I knew that I was a lesbian and would continue to follow that path wherever it would lead me.

When I finally got the courage to tell you about this secret I was twenty. Dad had died five months earlier, and I hoped that I might be able to have my place in the family back if I broke the silence. It didn’t on one to tell you about. I guess the best I can do is begin, and see what happens. As you know, I came out as a lesbian when I was 14 years old. There I was, a freshman in high school going out with the girl who would become the homecoming queen in our senior year. It wasn’t easy, trying to keep our relationship a secret, but you have often wondered if you and dad recognized that there was something about the way we are going on between us. Sometimes I fantasize what it would have been like if either of you had asked me directly if Jane and I were lovers and I shudder with the thought. There was something very intimate about our secret and I enjoyed that privacy.

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Queer Theory, Queer Film

Tongues Untied, Marlon Riggs' highly acclaimed and controversial in-your-face film on being Black and gay in America, will have its Santa Cruz Premiere on February 10 and 11 at the Sash Mill Cinema. Presented as the centerpiece of "Queer Theory: A Program on Lesbian and Gay Sexualities," the film will show with Midi Onodera's Ten Cents a Dance (Parallax) and Su Friedrich's Damned If You Don't.

Best known for his Emmy Award-winning documentary Ethnic Notions, Marlon Riggs has collaborated with a number of nationally renowned Black gay artists to create an exceedingly personal and uncompromising work that blends poetry, personal testimony, rap and drama. "My hope for this film," says Riggs, "is to rip apart the cloak of invisibility that obscures Black gay life in this country. To make people recognize — and have to deal with — us. Because everyone knows we're there. The white gay community knows we're there. The Black straight community knows we're there. Yet we're often ignored by both, shunned by both."

An impassioned and provocative work, Tongues Untied, writes one critic, "slams you in the stomach while the poetry caresses your cheek." It's an important film, and one that should not be missed.

In addition to the "Queer Theory" program, the Sash Mill is featuring three more programs of lesbian/gay interest in early February. The combination of these programs makes what amount to a small, loosely arranged Lesbian/Gay Film Festival, beginning with nightly late shows of Eli Mikesch and Monika Treut's Seduction: The Cruel Woman February 1 through 5 at 10:45.

Inspired by the classic 1869 novel Venus in Furs, the controversial German director of The Virgin Machine tackles the touchy subject of sadomasochism in her

Jim Schwenterley

exploration of the structures of power and submission in sexual relationships. Mechthild Grossmann plays Wanda, a dominatrix whose troupe services customers and stages elaborate S&M performances. Along the way, Wanda leaves her German lesbian lover for an American "trainee," played by filmmaker Sheila McLaughlin, and does more than step on the toes of a male performer who has broken the rules of the master/slave relationship by falling in love. This is one film that's sure to provoke some lively discussions.

Earlier in the evenings of February 3, 4 and 5 there's a double feature of Gus Van Sant's Mala Noche and Sheila McLaughlin's She Must Be Seeing Things. Shown at last year's Santa Cruz Lesbian/Gay Film Festival, Mala Noche (Bad Night) returns as a result of interest stirred up by the success of Van Sant's newest film Drugstore Cowboy. This first feature, winner of the L.A. Film Critics Award for Best Independent Film, tells the moving and humorous story of a young gay man's doomed passion for a desperate Mexican migrant teenager. Currently enjoying revivals in New York, Los Angeles, San Francisco and other cities, Mala Noche is a film that definitely deserves to be re-discovered.

On the same program is Sheila McLaughlin's witty and complex She Must Be Seeing Things. This story of sexual obsession finds the strength of a love affair between two women, a lawyer and a filmmaker, tested when the lawyer disguises herself as a man and jealously "shadows" her lover. McLaughlin, with her first feature film, takes a refreshingly thoughtful approach to the dynamics of sex and sexuality, career and commitment, fidelity and companionship.

On February 8 and 9, two of the most popular, audience-pleasing gay films of recent years will show together: Pedro Almodóvar's Law of Desire and Jaime Humberto's Dona Herlinda and Her Son. The raucous, irreverent Almodóvar film, by now familiar to everyone, stands in sharp contrast to the gentle warmth of Humberto's Dona Herlinda. This disarming Mexican gay love story, about what happens when a mother invites her son's boyfriend to move in with them, was a surprise hit when it played locally a few years ago. If you missed it then, be sure to catch it this time around.
EARTHQUAKE
Continued from Page 17
and skirts and pant suits, which was called for help, saying, "I'm drown out clothes, dividing them into jeans in a sea of polyester; and who harder than it sounded. One man was, driving them to where they were more and more people showed up at Pat and Jean's door, people from all agencies, the church required no filling going to the Catholic church or the People who might not be comfortable many of the people who most need the church spends about $250 each of food were packed by the people food is going where, requirements of who is being fed and how much was, bringing MCC to a place from which to operate, or MCC by calling 479-4242. Volunteers to hags, tents, supplies, can be made to also be welcome. Jean Hart is also asking that community members who think that anyone who appears to be an authority figure. These people are best approached by their peers who understand intuitively how to get the message across. Salud provides its clients with a full spectrum of quality medical services (which includes a medical staff fully trained in the treatment of HIV disease). Salud also provides a comprehensive program of health education activities designed to empower Latinos and other low-income community members with the ability to fully participate in the maintenance of their own health and well-being.

Continued on Page 32
Arrived in Santa Cruz about 12 years ago and majored in women: Women's Studies, women's politics and women's cultural work. The town was full of feminist activity. I eventually got involved with everything from the Women's Prisoner Support Group, to the Women's Radio Collective, to the group organizing women's music events—Women's Works.

During those days, for all of the things I just mentioned, there was a waiting list. I mean you had to know someone, or had to volunteer for a long time before you could become a member. Well, of course, everyone was a volunteer, but you had to hang out and wait for your chance to be a part of those particular groups. It was just a heyday of action. We were action. It was everywhere.

I had a whole scheme of things I wanted to do and Santa Cruz gave me the opportunity. Some of those things I'm still doing in one form or another, like concert production and radio work.

I first started organizing concerts with Women's Works. In the beginning my responsibilities were curling up cords and working the door. I remember they actually paid me five bucks to do the door, plus I got to see the show for free. I felt so lucky: 'you mean I actually get paid to do this great thing?' When I officially joined Women's Works, we tried to pay ourselves something for production, but the bucks split five ways. In the beginning the money didn't seem that important.

We tried so hard to be politically correct about everything. Tickets were sliding scale, $3, $4, and $5. We didn't want people to feel that anymore. We tried to provide childcare all the time, too, but in fact people didn't really use it much. It always ended up costing more money than it really seemed to help anybody.

And of course there were the endless discussions over women-only space, women-only production, women-only performers. The year Women's Works formed was also the year of the first music festival in the mountains. There were a couple of men who didn't quite get it. But all the Women's Works performers were women and, with few exceptions, all were lesbians.

Almost all of us in the collective were lesbians too. That was also a time when events were produced with women-only audio and lighting tech crews like the "Transistors." So at one point it was music by women, lighting by women, audio by women, production by women. Not that we were necessarily all that experienced or professional but one of the things that we would say at Women's Works was "train others while you're doing it." We trained ourselves. There was a lot we would venture into and feel our way through.

Women's Works was a collective, but there was always one member who was sort of the president. The other members of the group were much less involved. When the core member quit, I sort of took her place. Eventually I got frustrated and quit too. So Women's Works finally ended. The need for the production company didn't go away, though.

Pretty soon after Women's Works broke apart, Kuumbwa was doing a show with 'Alive' and I got asked to work the door or something. I noticed that the publicity was pretty inadequate so I asked if they wanted me to produce the event.

I took care of all kinds of stuff, but when 'Alive' arrived nothing was right, and they bitched and yelled at me. I spent half the concert crying up in the sound booth. It was horrible. I couldn't figure out why I had offered to do it in the first place.

And I didn't do it again for a while. Then I got another phone call. Judy Small wanted to come to Santa Cruz and she needed someone to produce the event. I immediately said okay. See I'm a real softy—all somebody has to do is say a couple of nice words to me: "you do such a nice job and we really need this to happen," and I'll go for it. It was a sold out concert; I was happy, she was happy and that was the beginning of Lea Lawson Productions.

This kind of cultural work is a labor of love not profit. For all the concerts I've ever organized, even those that sell out, I only make about $200 a show. So obviously I don't just do it for the money. One year I actually lost $1,600. Since then I've been really reluctant to give any performer a guaranteed payment instead of a percentage. I've just had to say that my expenses have to be paid first. And if I don't make any money that's one thing, but I can't afford to lose it.

I don't do women-only shows anymore because basically I can't afford to depend solely on the women's community. And I'm doing it a way I've never wanted to limit myself. I love it when I get unsuspecting straight people at a concert. There they are, sitting with a bunch of lesbians, and they hear people say 'lesbian' and 'gay' from up on stage. They hear them singing about our lives. They hear these politics and 95 times out of 100 they don't leave. That helps build the bridges we need for coalition politics.

Besides, none of the artists want to be pigeon-holed. Those who actually speak to these issues are committing commercial suicide. kd lang won't speak about it at all, but as far as I'm concerned she is already making a statement by how she is and who she is. For me, that's enough.

When I first started with the radio collective they didn't want me to play Bonnie Raitt or Linda Ronstadt because they were commercial mainstream artists. I could never understand that. Those performers were people who influenced my life, who motivated me with their strong women's songs.

Maybe the need for 'women's music' has even lessened somewhat by the commercial success of people like...
INTERVIEW

kd lang and Tracy Chapman. Even Indigo Girls and Phranc. But you the Catalyst has booked kd, and the hate. Probably still do hate; they've just discovered that lesbian money is as green as any other.

Of course places like the Catalyst don't even have to make their money off the music. They have their food and alcohol too. The tickets pay the artists, but the money is made from cover our costs and hopefully to come out a little ahead. But we don't all that money. I guess I really like community values. The year I took a loss, I thought about giving it up. But almost immediately people started of a woman who never comes to my concert. I remember how it just brought this lightness and this fullness in your heart—you felt proud of who you were, you weren't so scared of those words, I remember how it just brought this lightness and this fullness in your heart—you felt proud of who you were, you weren't so scared of what you have done is going to work out until that night; and then, four, once it's over, it's over. You don't really make friends with the audience; that's not their position to be there for you.

I haven't even gotten any girl friends out of it. I've been a single woman for a long time and I don't know how much more out there a person could be! It's like I just threw a party for 400 people plus and, boom, there I am left to clean up.

Those of us who do women's cultural work are kind of an odd breed. The root of women's music, and its concerts is also our form of politics. Doing women's radio or producing women's music is as powerful, has always been people actually singing about our lives. That was something we could never find, we still can't find it off of those words, I remember how it just brought this lightness and this fullness in your heart—you felt proud of who you were, you weren't so scared of what you have done is going to work out until that night; and then, four, once it's over, it's over. You don't really make friends with the audience; that's not their position to be there for you.

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like to point out while there are no formal studies, I know that CFIDS is caused by a dysfunction of the immune system. The Santa Cruz Women's Health Center has a substantial lesbian clientele and it is because of the inquirers I have received from lesion that decided to choose CFIDS as my topic for this article. Lesbians must pressure state and federal officials to fund CFIDS research and to include lesbians in research studies.

CFIDS has formerly been called Chronic Epstein Barr Virus, Yuppie Flu and Chronic Fatigue Syndrome. What defines CFIDS is the belief that it may not be one single illness but a series of symptoms caused by a dysfunction of the immune system.

The connection between HIV and CFIDS is not yet really known. CFIDS activists have noted the dates of the emergence of these two conditions as being similar. This contradicts some medical evidence which may date CFIDS cases as far back as the late 1800's and again in the 1940's. While it is not believed that having CFIDS will solely predispose someone to developing AIDS, some believe that it may be a cofactor in the development of AIDS.

Transmission theories are also contradictory. Some sources declare CFIDS airborne and easily transmissible, while others say that CFIDS is not easily gotten even if one is exposed, as a result of the immune system's ability to protect against it. Research is necessary for CFIDS to develop. The documentation of some cluster outbreaks certainly points to contagiousness, and, as environmental studies continue, it points to a common environmental hazard.

There is no specific test for CFIDS but in the course of differential diagnosis, physicians may run tests to rule out other conditions such as lupus, MS, HIV and cancer. Detailed bloodwork is being done to reveal manifestations of immune system dysfunction consistent in a majority of CFIDS patients. At the present time, the treatment is mainly made primarily symptomatically.

Treatment is purely in the experimental stage and is tragically insufficient. Acyclovir (a herpes simplex virus drug) has been helpful to some but its effectiveness has now been disproved in clinical trials. Lifestyle, dietary changes, herbal medicine, acupuncture and homoeopathy may help to mobilize the immune system and enhance its function. Drugs may be prescribed to treat specific symptoms and symptoms associated with CFIDS. Such medications include: thyroid medication, antidepressants, anti-inflammatories and antihistamines. Presently, all medical science seems to have to offer to combat CFIDS is to the immune system. Chronic fatigue syndrome has many symptoms, and many viruses and if CFIDS is caused by a virus then more information may be needed to prove it. CFIDS activists have noted the dates of the emergence of these two conditions as being similar. This contradicts some medical evidence which may date CFIDS cases as far back as the late 1800's and again in the 1940's. While it is not believed that having CFIDS will solely predispose someone to developing AIDS, some believe that it may be a cofactor in the development of AIDS.

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WASHING PATROKLOS
BY GLEN FITCH

This isn't right. This isn't how it was.

Oh Cousin! Years ago when we
Shared jag and j Evelin, hammock, jerkin, harp
And horse together, we had it all planned.
We knew my fate. We played it endlessly.
For I was to be he who died too young.
But bravely. You were to be he who sang
The dirge before the pyre. What trick of fate
Is this? Now I mourn you. Here on your brow
I see it still, your badge of bravery,
The scar carved by my wooden sword, like that.
I thought you dead. I wanted so to die.
I didn't know how I could live without
You then. I don't know now. I stand alone.
They hate me. I hate them. But they loved you.
No, no one else on earth could tell me what to do.
The finest part of me has died with you.
I care not what they say. I killed a bier
At six. The centurions taught me all I know
Of weapon, courage, skill and manliness.
And I whipped every man who dared to sneer
The name of "Pyrrait." Yes, my mother sought
To hide me with the maidens from my fate.
I stayed. No, not from fear, but joy!
So dressed, what case I knew to woo and win my wife.
And how my mother cried when trumpets blared
To see me strip the veil and grab a sword.
My glory, says of me? Nor care I now
How can I care what he who stole my prize.
My glory too? They thought you me and lied.
But little deaths destroy me endlessly.
For anything save death, save glory, must
Be failure. Mortal death cannot be worse
Than that. When dead, no more will I know pain,
Affront, embarrassment, or jealousy.
No loneliness, remorse, or guilt or grief.
To live is brave. I'd rather die than feel.
Soon I will be with you. Or ashes I'll
Have mixed, then never will we part. By Zeus' Tomorrow I will kill the man who wears
My armor, he who slew you. Hector, Prince of husbandry. He'll die. Then Troy will die
And I will meet my fate. You will not go
Alone to Hades, friend. Two hounds, four steeds.
And mixed will never be with me. Which way to Hades?
I will not go,
To save the ships. But did you think to take
My glory too? They thought you me and died.
Perhaps before Troy's song, you thought so too.
Good soldier, you were you, but better for
My sword and shield. You did it, doing as
I've done. The glory's yours and my respect.

But had I known, you never would have gone.
Now every soldier, slave, and general
Sheds tears of grief for you. I miss you so.
So happy, humble, wise and caring, kind.
The kindest man I knew. A friend to all
And every ounce a man. I envied and
Mistrusted you. How could you leave me so?
If only you could see me now! At dawn
My mother brought this armor to replace
What Hector took from you. You'd love it, he.
Who's lame and scorned by all the gods, yet strong
And skilled, Hephaetus, crafted this last night.
As he works metal, I work battle. Love
And wealth once won seem useless, not, in fade.
Perfection, praise, supremacy (pursuits
So endless and elusive) that's the life
I choose to live. Yes, short but valiant. Yet
What honor is there when dishonored? Strength
Not weakness seems absurd now. Gods must mock
Me too. Die young and foolish, I die twice.
And now to die alone. I could have faced
It all, while I had you. In dying you
Were brave. In living, loving, braver still.
I've only crafted glory, you your soul.
Oh, would that I had imitated you'
You've got your glory now and now you're dead.
Much good! You can't enjoy it nor I you.
Well, you died once and bravely. Cowards live
To die a little, every hour. I know.
I guess I'm glad I'm not immortal. Soon
I'll die. Each act of bravery might be
My best, the last. I don't fear dying, death
I race in battle only to that end.
But little deaths destroy me endlessly.
For anything save death, save glory, must
Be failure. Mortal death cannot be worse
Than that. When dead, no more will I know pain,
Affront, embarrassment, or jealousy.
No loneliness, remorse, or guilt or grief.
To live is brave. I'd rather die than feel.
Soon I will be with you. Or ashes I'll
Have mixed, then never will we part. By Zeus' Tomorrow I will kill the man who wears
My armor, he who slew you. Hector, Prince of husbandry. He'll die. Then Troy will die
And I will meet my fate. You will not go
Alone to Hades, friend. Two hounds, four steeds.
Twelve Trojan, sons of Priam, I will toss upon your pyre. Then glory will be yours.
I swear I will have vengeance, now! I will
Have glory, but of satisfaction, none.
You're gone! Farewell, fine friend. Now everything
That's near enough to touch me I will kill.

POETRY

O ur own Glen Fitch on occasion composes passages from the homeric epics that Homer never sang, or at least that didn't come down to us in the version of the Iliad and the Odyssey we have.

Achilles, the great tragic hero of the Iliad, spends most of the Trojan War sulking in his tent because he has had to give over a "prize," a concubine named Briseis, to Agamemnon. With him stays Patrokllos, older Achilles' cousin and dearest companion. In a new book called One Hundred Years of Homosexuality, David M. Halperin points out that Achilles' love for Patrokllos was so intense—stronger, the hero maintained, than a man's love for son or brother or wife—that it "annihilated" even the god Apollo.

Without Achilles, the Greeks can't win the war. When the Trojan leader Hektor nearly succeeds in burning down the Greek's ships, Patrokllos begs to borrow Achilles' armor and joins the fight. Hektor kills him.

In his grief, Achilles orders new armor for himself and moves toward his own inevitable duel with Hektor. In Glen's poem, he speaks a last time to Patrokllos as he readies his friend's familiar body for the funeral pyre.

—Carter Wilson
AIDS FILE

Continued from Page 23

Both of us (Richard and Ruth) have been with the project since its inception. We are extremely proud of Proyecto Alarma SIDA and its progress to date. As a Latino/a Lesbian and Gay man, we have found great dignity and personal fulfillment in this work.

Richard is currently Salud's Health Education Programs Manager and devotes 60 percent of his time to the administration of the project. As PAS' Health Education Coordinator, Ruth is responsible for the implementation of Health Education Programs. As Western Regional Representative for the Project, Barbara has served as the Office as a model Community AIDS Education and Prevention Project for fifty western state legislators visited with us our clearly innovative and community HIV Health Education Project, which is selected by the State Office of AIDS for visitors from six Latin American countries who were interested in establishing HIV Community Education Projects in their respective nations.

Salud's PAS Project was also instrumental in the creation and establishment of the First National Latino/AIDS Teleconference, which included participation from representatives in 38 states and/or major cities, along with representatives from Puerto Rico. This conference enabled Latinos to work together to share HIV health education strategies and concerns.

Salud is also pleased to report that because of our innovative work in the field of HIV disease health education and medical services we were recently awarded a grant in the amount of $25,000 from the Insurance Industry AIDS Initiative in Washington, D.C. These monies will fund Salud's HIV Prevention Services Project, which will serve as a model psychosocial and medical case management treatment program for community clinics throughout the nation. Salud's grant proposal was the only one funded in the Western United States.

Salud Para La Gente, Inc. (Salud) is a nonprofit, community-based organization whose primary goal is to insure the provision of quality care and medical services for the low-income residents of the Pajaro Valley. Founded in 1979 as a free farm-workers' children's clinic, Salud is in its tenth year of serving the community as a State Licensed Community Clinic. Clients are primarily Latino, with the majority being monolingual Spanish speakers.

"If you have any questions about the project or would like to be a PAS volunteer, please call us at 722-2988.

Continued from Page 29

hung up the phone I thought, "Good God, what just went on here?"

The second incident occurred when I went up to UCSC to finalize my application for readmission for winter quarter. I was told to wait in the lobby for the admissions counselor. "Great," I thought. "What kind of rigamarole am I going to go through?" We called me into his office. "It says here in your letter that you left school due to illness. What is this pneumocystis pneumonia?"

"Oh, great," I thought. "It's the pneumonia associated with AIDS," I said.

"Oh! How's your health?"

"Well actually it's great right now," I replied honestly. "It was just crummy this fall: no energy, chronic diarrhea, weight loss, fatigue, no appetite. But then I started this herbal program at Quan Yin Acupuncture Clinic in San Francisco two weeks ago, and my energy is way up, my symptoms are clearing up, I've put on eleven pounds, and my diarrhea is gone!"

"Oh really," he says, taking out a notebook. "Let me write this down. I have a friend in the hospital here with this same symptom, and I talked about pursuing this form of treatment."

So I gave him all the information I had.

"Thank you very much," he said. "I'm just waiting for one more phone call before I can approve your application."

Just then the phone rang; he said, "OK, you're all set."

Continued on Page 38


Recently, I attended a workshop at which a panel of artists spoke about their work. I found myself near tears as they spoke not about the brilliance of their vision or the acclaim they receive in public, but about the day to day living of an artist's life — the isolation, the lack of recognition, the lack of monetary rewards, the devaluing attitudes and opinions of others. The hours of practice to produce one clear note, the thousand clicks of the shutter which may result in one good print, the thousand smeared canvases sitting in someone's cold garage, the pain of having to work other jobs and creating "on the side." This ordinariness of the process of creation and its place in our lives as we try to envision and thus create a world in which we could truly be ourselves is the subject of Bettina Aptheker's new book, Tapestries of Life. Bettina explores in a woman-centered way what it means to be human. This is a book looks at the "common language" which we, our parents, and grandparents created. Bettina documents women's creativity with her own poetic text, and with hundreds of examples from women's works of fiction, poetry, quilts, visual art, and music. This is a book which reveals women's art much as early feminist texts revealed women's history. And from this ground, building a new ground, spreading ourselves, building carefully a different kind of cultural ensemble, moving toward a gathering of women.

Bettina provides a brilliant example of creative fire as she interweaves pieces of her own daily life, shared with her children and her lover Kate, with pieces of women's poems, songs, and stories which express women's experience, personal and political. This is a very personal book, unlike her last one, Woman's Legacy: Essays on Race, Sex, and Class in American History (Amherst, MA: University of Massachusetts Press, 1982), a collection of essays which focused on the history of Afro-American women. Tapestries of Life begins with a criticism of the traditional and "relatively orthodox Marxist theory" on which

Tapestries of Life: Bettina's Vision of Lesbian Existence

Continued on Page 34

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Continued from Page 33

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Continued from Page 13

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BOOKSHELF

Continued from previous page

Woman's Legacy was based. Bettina suggests in her first chapter that "putting women at the center of our thinking," both in terms of process and content. She hopes to create here a book which in her view she has succeeded. Bettina tells us stories, and in the process, gives us faith in the power of our own ordinary lives to transform us and the world. "I see us to a wealth of information about women's culture, and the story of the everyday lives of those of us who call sacred. Thus she presents us with a model of strength and beauty and cultural integrity and beauty and wholeness." In her chapter "The Lesbian Connection" Bettina gives credit to lesbian identity as central to women's survival and liberation. She talks about the bridges which we are, between cultures, between races, between families: "We are the crossroads: at work, at school, in community, which family, in church, with lovers, juggling, arching, arching. To successfully negotiate these crossroads we do not, in fact, see things in oppositions. We shift contexts, relate differences, make adjustments, integrate, synthesize, move with the spirit of a place."

And sometimes we make changes. At least in some ways in our time the existence of lesbians has become an acknowledged fact in our culture. In sorrow over the death of Robin Ortiz and Anne McCorrnick in the Coffee Roasting Company in the October 1989 quake, many found a moment to acknowledge the strength and courage the Nazis during World War II, that lesbians played a crucial role in the Black civil rights movement, and what they imagine to be the reality of written and oral history. On every page, Bettina gives fresh examples of unique creative connective use of language and art. In her chapter "Get Over This Hurdle Because There's Another One Coming," I left my first reading of it empowered to dare writing my own story again, after a long silence.

In her final chapter, "Toward a Gathering of Women," Bettina expresses her own vision of a politics of coalitional and paradox, encompassing all of our distinct experiences and diversity as a valued part of women's scholarship. If you are ready to experience the complexity and beauty of the world through women's eyes, read Tapestries of Life.

"The point is that more than one thing is true for us at the same time... What I have been about... is showing that the dailliness of women's lives structures a different way of knowing and a different way of thinking. The process that comes from this way of knowing has to be at the center of a women's politics, and it has to be at the center of a women's scholarship. That is why I have been drawn to the poetry and to the stories: because they are layered, because more than one truth is represented, because there is ambiguity and paradox. When we work together in coalitions, or on the job, or in academic settings, or in the community, we have to allow for this ambiguity and paradox in order to respect each other, our cultures, our integrity, our dignity."

All the long quotes above are from Tapestries of Life. Gail Graves wrote book reviews for fun. She is the Lesbian Book Editor for the Lavender Reader. Please call her at 427-0176 if you have books to suggest for reviewing, or if you would like to write reviews.

Earthquake

Continued from Page 16

Continued from Page 7

The annual event is an attempt to fight back against the helplessness of this epidemic by raising funds to produce educational and supportive services, and to care for our ever-growing caseload. The two previous concerts have realized $7000. This year there will be two days of concerts and the sponsors hope to double that figure. A concert of this quality is the result of much hard work on the part of Richard Johnson, producer for the past three years, and David Rupert, who joins the team this year. Their frustrations over the loss of more and more friends have been the driving force behind the creation of the program.

The four months of planning, at times, seemed almost too overwhelming to pull off. The staff of "Chambers" feels, though, that if they don't reach for the stars, why should anyone else? The two concerts will be on February 16th and 17th, both starting at 8:00 P.M. at the 1st Congregational Church located at 900 High St. in Santa Cruz. For further information about programming and ticket prices contact the SCAP office at 427-3900.
FAREWELL

Richard Malcolm was born on September 9, 1959 and died of AIDS on December 13, 1989.

One of the many remarkable things about Richard is that at least half the guys I know in Santa Cruz had major crushes on him at one time or another. My memory of Richard will always be him playing his guitar and singing in that beautiful voice of his. He loved Nanci Griffith and Pat Metheney and James Taylor and Lyle Mays and country-and-western music.

A couple weeks after Richard died I woke up with this song, and Rich, in my head. I pulled out the lyrics so I could sing it, but I couldn't get through it because I was crying too hard. I am horrified and grief-stricken that we can lose so many young, vibrant, beautiful members of our community. I'll love and miss and remember you forever Richard. And Sparky and Marti and Paul and Mike and Sean and all your friends will love and miss and remember you forever.

—Gary Reynolds

We were ring-around-the-rosy children
They were circles around the sun
Never give up, never slow down
Never grow old, never die young
And we who couldn't bear to believe they might make it
We had to close our eyes
Cut up our losses into double doses
Ration our tears and our sighs
Hold them up, hold them up
Never let them fall
Prey to the dust and the rust and the ruin
That names us and claims us and shames us all

I guess it had to happen someday soon
Wasn't nothing to hold them down
They would rise from among us like a big balloon
Take the sky, forsake the ground
Yes other hearts were broken
Other dreams ran dry
But our golden ones sail on, sail on
To another land beneath another sky.

—"Never Die Young"
James Taylor

My Angel

Robin was the most alive person I have ever known. Every moment of her life was spent fully for she truly lived each and every hour. For those who never knew her, it will be hard to conceive that she was the most awesome creature to ever walk the face of this earth. She could charm a stranger in about two minutes and make a friend in about five.

When we met in 1985, I knew instantly that this woman was unlike anyone else I had ever met before. There was a sparkle, a glow about her. Robin had magnetism, a face that drew people to her. Robin could make just about anyone laugh, no matter what kind of mood they were in. She always tried to cheer her friends up, she hated to see people in pain.

Even in her last moments of life she was protecting others. She was trying to get them out of the building, to save their lives. Robin ran toward the front of the building to join the others instead of saving her own life and exiting through the back door.

I can't imagine living in this world without knowing and loving Robin. If I had to make the choice to do it all over again, getting the same results, I would choose to do it. For the pain of physically losing Robin is well worth the five beautiful years of memories I have.

—Ruth N. Rabinowitz

There will be an exhibit of photographs of Robin taken by Ruth Rabinowitz, on display at the UCSC Women's Center from April 27 through May 10, 1990, with a reception on Sunday May 6 from 4 to 6 pm.
The Four Ways To Get Lavender Reader

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Join the Lesbian/Gay Action Alliance. 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, and networks with other progressive political organizations. Membership in the Alliance is a great way to support the ongoing political work that takes place in our community... and you are assured a copy of the Reader in the mail every three months.

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AIDS FILE

Continued from Page 32

"Promise me one thing," I said. "Let me know how your friend is doing if he pursues this, and if he responds."

"All right, it's a deal."

I related this story to George Wolfe, the director of student life, and he laughed in amazement. "I spend so much time and energy trying to protect people's confidentiality..." he paused. "I'm not used to someone being so open!"

T he moral of these stories is that there can be enormous payoffs to being honest about having AIDS/ARC. I have spoken to two groups of high school and junior high school students as a PWA, and I am amazed and blown away by the reactions and responses.

The past few weeks I've felt a tremendous outpouring of love towards, and support from, those I am close to. I have been more in touch with my emotions than ever before, I have been reaching out, and I have been getting back tenfold. "If you give a little love, then you get a little back." I'm getting a lot back, so I'm gonna keep on giving as much as I can.

For more information about the Quan Yin herbal HIV treatment, call David at (415) 861-4963. Also call Santa Cruz's Five Branches Acupuncture Clinic at (408) 476-8211. At that same number make an appointment for nutritional counseling with Charles Belyen.

COMMUNITY CLIPS

Continued from Page 13

City Offers Free Self-Defense Classes for Women

The City of Santa Cruz Commission for the Prevention of Violence Against Women is offering free self-defense classes for women at the Lou- den Nelson Center starting in the third week of January. Beginning self defense is offered on Tuesday nights from 7 to 10pm starting January 23rd through March 13th. The beginning class is also offered on Wednesday nights from January 18th to March 14th. Register by showing up 15 minutes early to the first meeting. Intermedi­ ate classes begin Monday January 22 through March 12 and are also taught from 7 to 10pm. Free on-site child care is available on Tuesday nights and can be arranged by calling the Commission's information number, 429-3546.

FIRST PERSON

Continued from Page 19

pants. Well, that's not entirely true, she helps me out a lot and reminds me of what you and dad taught me about being a parent. In fact, it's been because of her influence that I have been willing to try and bridge the gaps with you. She listens to my sto­ ries and gives me her perspective from a mother's viewpoint which is helping me to learn how to be an adult daughter to you, not just the kid who felt misunderstood and shunned.

Mom, I especially want to say that I like the way we have been getting closer over the last two years. I still feel apprehensive and scared some­ times, but more than anything, I no­ tice that I feel like a whole person and am learning not to hide. I'm not cer­ tain what this process has been like for you, but I can tell that you are glad I am back. I want to tell you how important it has been to me that you include Erica and the kids when you send cards or call our house. All of us appreciate it, but I relish it.

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I am not sure where our relation­ ship will go from here because I nev­ er thought it would get this far. I watch myself test the waters when I am with you and I am filled with questions—"does she cringe when I say lesbian? how does she feel when she sees Erica and I kissing? does she think I am a good parent? what does she tell her friends? does she feel like a grandmother?" I want to ask you these things in person, but I am afraid of the intimacy. What do you think, are you ready to talk with me about this? Do you have your own ques­ tions?

I'm glad I sat down to write this. I wanted to get this off before I see you again so we could talk about it some. I am aware that I have avoided talk­ ing about the past with you, or at least my past as a lesbian, and I would like that change. Like I said, I don't really know where to go from here, but I thought this would be a good start.

I have to go now. I am tired. Time to take a shower. I would like you to come and visit us soon—we can go out for a quiet lunch together. Let me know. Take care.

love, Rob
NEWS NOTES
Continued from Page 18
Church has appointed a lesbian couple, Phyllis Zillhart and Ruth Frost, to share a religious controversy as the Evan­
clergy remain sexually abstinent. While the congregation calling the two has threatened to call for a hearing the power to ordain them. Northern
Continued from Page 18
St. Francis, which would serve as the immediate after their installation at:
first step in an expulsion process rer
moving the congregation from the
that “We wanted to expand the minis­
tion, Rev. James DeLange, explained
separate interview he reaffirmed the
church’s commitment to the couple,
painful for our congregation and ELCA,
‘The months ahead will no doubt be

AIDS Activists
Wilt Rose Parade
Fourteen demonstrators from Stop AIDS Now Or Else (SANOE) suc­
ceded in halting the Tournament of Roses Parade briefly on January first. Their action, seen by some one mil­
and 350 million television viewers, was the first successful in­
trruption of the parade by activists
in its 101-year history. Press respons­
es varied: while some television an­
nouncers read signs carried by pro­
testors, other stations quickly cut to commercials. Meanwhile, Marines on horseback, who were part of the pa­
rade, drew swords and broke ranks to help police clear the route. In a lat­
er interview one parade official ac­
knowledged the importance of the demonstrators’ cause, but criticized their methods. ‘From my point of view, demon­
strator Jim Jenson noted that, “There’s nothing sacred about driv­
ing dead flowers down Colorado Boulevard.” The demonstrators were charged with unlawful assembly and resisting arrest.

Pentagon Shaken: Lesbians and Gay Men Not a Risk
A now-year-old report, commis­sioned by the Pentagon and purposed by the Department of Defense to eliminate its ban on lesbians and gay men in the military, has been the source of much recent military consternation. Military officials have highly criticized the re­port, which they claim “overstepped its bounds” in moving beyond the is­sue it was originally to have treated—the security risks that might be posed by lesbians and gay men in the mil­i­itary—to instead discuss the suitability of lesbians and gay men for military service.
The report’s authors, Theodore Sarbin and Kenneth Karols, both of the De­
fense Personnel Security Research and Education Center, found that “having a same-gender or an opposite-gender orientation is unrelated to job perform­ance in the same way as being left or right handed.” They went on to predict that “the military services will soon be asked by the courts or the Congress to reexamine their policies and practices regarding the recruitment and reten­tion of men and women whose sexual interests deviate from the customary.” Sarbin is an emeritus professor from UC Santa Cruz.

Public disclosure of the report came on October 21, after months of Penta­
gon denials of its existence. U. S. Repre­
sentative Gerry Studds (D-Mass.), who is gay and was instrumental in helping to get the report released, called it “a suberb piece of work from an academic and scholarly point of view.”

—Gay Community News and Bay Area Report
CALENDAR

SAT V FEB 3
Over Our Heads a dynamic comedy improv group performs at Sisterspirit in San Jose 293-9372

MON V FEB 5
SC Women's Health Center sponsors a sixteen week health worker internship program which begins today. 250 Locust St. 427-3500

TUE V FEB 6
Cabrillo Women's Center sponsors a free noon lecture series begins with The Rescue Triangle in Lesbian Relationships

TUE V FEB 6
LGCC business meeting, 7:30p Louden Nelson 479-3606

THU V FEB 15
AGEM holds auditions for anyone interested in being in this year's show at the Civic (see community clips). Louden Nelson 7:30p 459-2060

FRI V FEB 16-17
3rd Annual Chambers of the Heart benefit chamber music concert for SCAP. Local and Bay Area musicians perform fine music at the First Congregational Church, High St. 8:00pm 427-3900

SUN V FEB 18
AGEM auditions continued this afternoon Louden Nelson 1pm 459-2060

FRI V FEB 23
SCAP presents a workshop for mental health professionals: The Dynamics of Working with the Deaf 1:00 to 4:00p Fireside Room at Calvary Church

TUE V FEB 20
Cabrillo Women's Center holds noon lecture on Women and Money

FRI V FEB 23
Allx Dobkin at Sisterspirit in San Jose. 293-9372

SAT V FEB 24
Rain and Revolution a play at the Art Center Theatre continues this week through March 11th. Rebecca Adams and others bring you this drama by David Zarko.

SAT V FEB 24
Altazor incredible Latin-based music at the Kuumbwa $9 advance at Statz Ltd. Redwood Artists 8:00p

SUN V FEB 25
Aileen Vance & Marion Wade present women's music at Kuumbwa from 3pm to 5pm. Sponsored by the Cabrillo Women's Center. $5 general fee with Cabrillo Student Card

TUE V FEB 27
LGCC "Fund-Raising" committee meeting 7:30p Louden Nelson 462-2610

TUE V MAR 6
Cabrillo Women's Center's noon lecture series continues with "Alternative Work for Women"

FRI V MAR 6
LGCC "Business" meeting 7:30p Louden Nelson 479-3606

THU V MAR 8
International Women's Day potluck at Cabrillo Women's Center (back dining room)

TUE V MAR 10
Celebrating Jewish Women workshop/social event facilitated by Ethel Herring of Heartwood Spa. 622 Gilroy St. Capitola 479-6249

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LGCC
475-6268

SAT V MAR 17
Lisa Pawlak
Finally in concert again!
At Kuumbwa with Tracy Parker.
8pm, $8.50

TUE V MAR 20
LGCC "Program and Services" committee meeting
7:30p
Louden Nelson
475-6268

MON V MAR 26
Closet Free Radio with Ron Sampson.
Lavender news from around the country.
KZSC 86.1 FM
7 to 8:45p

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Cash Prizes for Best Costume

MALE BURLESQUE
10pm Every Thursday Nite

BBQ's On Our Outdoor Patio
Sundays - Start in March (Call for Details)

NOW OPEN EVERY DAY!
Mon - Sat: 5pm - 2pm
Sun: 2pm - 2am

TUE V MAR 24
SCAP in association with Lea Lawson productions present Holly Near with John Bucinco at the Civic Auditorium. Rebecca Adams opens this exciting show. A portion of the proceeds go to SCAP. Tickets at Bass $12 to $20 8:00pm. For a reception at India Joze with the artists: $40. 998-BASS 429-3444 427-3900

TUE V APR 10
Social & Potluck
for lavender men and women
at Louden Nelson.
7:30p LGCC
475-6268

TUE V APR 17
LGCC "Program and Services" committee meeting
7:30p
Louden Nelson
475-6268

TUE V APR 24
LGCC "Fund-Raising" committee meeting
7:30p
Louden Nelson
462-2610

FRI V MAY 11
"Hearts and Hands" a film about quilting in 19th century America focuses on women's lives.
Cabrillo Forum Room 450
7pm
479-6249

TUE V APR 3
CWC noon lecture series discusses Lesbian Health Issues

SAT V APR 7
Laurie Lewis & the Grant St. Band play country/folk at its best. Kuumbwa 8pm. $9.50 advance at Statz Ltd. 426-7828

TUE V MAY 19
A Gay Evening in May the sixth annual lavender entertainment extravaganza at the Civic in Santa Cruz. 8pm 479-3606

GLOSSARY
CFR Closet Free Radio
CWC Cabrillo Women's Center
GLBN Gay, Lesbian & Bisexual Network
GO Great Outdoors
LGAA Lesbian & Gay Action Alliance
LGCC Lesbian & Gay Community Center
SCAP Santa Cruz AIDS Project
SC Santa Cruz
UCSC University of California at Santa Cruz

KELSEY RAMAGE, CMP
Bodywork & Breathwork
425-8052

LA V E N D E R  R E A D E R  4 6
**COMMUNITY RESOURCE DIRECTORY**

**BATTERED LESBIANS SUPPORT**
Wednesdays: 7:30pm
Call: 396-2317

**BOOKSHOP SANTA CRUZ**
1547 Pacific Ave. SC 423-0900

**BLUE LAGOON**
923 Pacific Ave. SC 423-7117

**CLOSET FREE RADIO**
KZSC FM 88.1
Mondays: 7:00-3:30pm
UCSC, 95064
On Air: 459-2811

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

**FEMINIST LESBIAN SOCIAL GROUP**
Meets monthly in the south bay for potluck.
To receive ENTRE NOUS write:
PO Box 70933
Sunnyvale 94086

**FREEDOM FOUNDATION**
PO Box 2968
Santa Cruz, 95063

**GAY & LESBIAN EDUCATORS**
Meet monthly 423-2258

**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
427-5722

**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 LEADER**
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
Most 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 NEWS**
PO Box 2968
Santa Cruz, 95063
Editor: Toni Cissista
479-4242

**LEISURE THEATRE PROJECT**
11949 Coleman Ave. Felton, 95018
Artistic Director Kate McDermott: 335-9455

**LEISURE THERAPY**
PO Box 5142, SC 95063
427-3900

**MATRIX**
WOMEN'S NEWS MAGAZINE
108 Locust St. #13
SC, CA 95060 429-1238

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

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

**NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS**
662-4664

**THE LIVING ROOM**
A community resource center
for people affected by HIV.
PO Box 3500 SC, 95063 426-1964

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

**ROND CIRCLE WOMEN'S SINGING GROUP**
Alternate Sundays
Denise Brown 247-0505

**METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH**
Services at 10am each Sunday
303 Walnut Ave., SC, PO Box 1764 95061
Rev. Jean Hart (sign language interpreted)
479-4242

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

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

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

**WOMEN'S CRISIS SUPPORT**
24-hour bi-lingual crisis line.
429-1478
726-2295

**INDIVIDUAL AND GROUP COUNSELING**
Lavender Reader 472-2722

**SANTA CRUZ MUSEUMS**
Monday's 7:15-9:45
1st United Methodist Church 247-2722

**SUNSET Round Circle**
Outings most Sundays
1025 Center St.
SC, 95060 425-5525

**TUESDAYS: 7PM**
AL-ANON Garfield Park

**SUNDAYS: 7PM**
Church

**MONDAYS: 8PM**
Discount health. 425-4996
PO Box 395

**SLIGHTLY OLDER LESBIANS**
(lesbians 30+)
Meets most Fridays at UCSC's
Cardiff House
Info: 462-9297

**TUESDAYS AT DEFRANK CENTER**
1040 Park Ave.
San Jose
293-4525

**STONEWALL ALLIANCE**
426-5044

**UCSC WOMEN'S CENTER**
Cardiff House

**WOMEN ON MOUNTAIN BIKES AND TEA SOCIETY (LAVENDER CHAPTER)**
Outings most Sundays 425-6574

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**SATURN CAFE**
1230 MISSION ST 429-4505

**LISA JENSEN, M.A.**

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**AL-ANON**
Tuesdays: 7pm
Gateway School 462-1818

**ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS**
Lesbian Women's Group
Sundays: 7pm
Garfield Park

**GAY Women's Group**
Mondays: 8pm
DMV, 4200 Capitola Rd. Capitola

**Men & Women**
Thursdays: 8pm
532 Center St. (Church School)

**BALANCE FOR HEALTH**
Discount supplements for immune health.
PO Box 395
Soquel, 95073 425-4996
The Santa Cruz AIDS Project is able to exist because the people of Santa Cruz County care about each other.

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 run our office.

Donate goods or services to people with AIDS.

s.c.a.p.

1606 Soquel Avenue
Santa Cruz, CA 95062

427-3900

Hope to hear from you!