

# HAPPY NEW YEAR!

## our paper your paper

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### Winter Showcase Dazzles Gay and Lesbian San Jose

by Ron Schmidt

Chill winds and drenching rains dampened clothing but not the December 2 Winter Showcase sponsored by the Arts Council of Gay and Lesbian San Jose.

From the moment the first guests stepped across the threshold of the Los Gatos Academy of Dance on the stroke of noon, the atmosphere became charged with a warmth and conviviality that swept participants, council members and guests, continuing to mount through the afternoon as the crowd swelled to four hundred.

"The remarkable thing," according to Rick Rudy, who co-emceed the event with Claire Mix, "was that most people didn't just come, look and leave; they came and stayed."

Nine performers and performing groups held captive an audience otherwise intent upon exhibitions by nineteen visual artists — an integration achieved by artists Steve Storz and Raymond Avalos, respectively.

"First rate" and "top quality" leveled out as routine evaluations by guests at the five-hour production.

Liz Burkhouse, president of Billy DeFrank Community Center, regretted not having submitted work of her own, noting with delight, however, that the date for the Spring Showcase has already been set for May 5.

Applause from both the main and small galleries remained enthusiastic throughout the afternoon. Two women recounted how moved they had been by Sal Accardi's dramatic rendering of the monologue from the Nuremberg Trials.

The work of six photographers graced the dance academy's walls: Sharon Clifford, Kellie Cosentino, Mike Ibarra, Daniel La Fleur, Dave Noonan, and Ted Sahl — who, by virtue of his black-and-white chronicling of the Gay and Lesbian community, was voted at a recent Arts Council meeting into the status of Honorary Gay.

Diversity, however, figured as the key factor in this integration of the community's artistic resources: sensitive pen-and-ink drawings by Raymond Avalos and Susanne Swanson; stunning bronze sculpture by Shawn Stuart, terra cotta women by Jeanette Fischetti, and environmental settings by Cevan Forrist; nostalgic chalk and charcoal by Denny McLemore; spectacular canvases of oil nudes by Bob Yanes; animal portraits by Tony Ricks; exquisite renderings of operatic sets by David Hitchcock; abstract lithographs by Frances Perea; mixed media by Birgit Sandoval; fantasy watercolors by Steve Storz; *Lesbian Words*, an anthology of poetry edited by Irene Redi and Sue McCabe; a slide presentation by the Rainbow Ensemble's Gilbert Moreno and Gail Thornton of one-act plays by Randy Clark, David Russ, and Mariah Burton Nelson.

Said photographer Dave Noonan of his Winter Showcase involvement, "One meeting (of the Arts Council) I was there observing. The next thing I knew I was right in the middle of the whole thing. The overall event was kind of a close, moving thing. It took me a couple of days to come

down."

Standing ovation pressed Liedermann Gay Men's Chorus into an encore late in a schedule of performances that enthralled the audience throughout the afternoon.

"This is the finest event that's ever taken place in the Gay community here," observed Juanita Bloch during the Polynesian dances of Amelia King.

Patricia O'Gara, Kathy Tapp and Barbara Sigler had established the standard for performances at 1:00 p.m., blending their brass in a repertoire from classical to jazz.

The intimacy of the small gallery served as reading space for poet Madison Wright to a standing-room-only crowd.

A buffet of holiday desserts, continually replenished by board member Daniel La Fleur, nourished guests as they mingled with artists, perusing and purchasing their work. La Fleur, who had stocked thirteen gallons of cider and had to send Arts Council publicist David DeLong out for more, expressed surprise at the crowd's enthusiasm despite the absence of alcoholic beverages.

San Jose's Womyn's Chorus moved the audience with a medley that included "The Rose." Singer-songwriter Claire Mix delighted the crowd with her own "Lies, Lies, Lies" and "Snowflake in the Sun."

Terisa Kindler sang an original composition with a haunting melody and Len Chandler stirred the mood with his rendition of "Being Gay." Rick Rudy teamed with his lover of ten years, Steve Completo, for a medley of songs from musicals.

Larry Janssen and Tommy Newby capped the entertainment with a dance medley that ended in a kiss and further exclamations of "first class."

"I was especially pleased with the response from the community," said Gay activist Ron Taylor. "I think the Arts Council should pat themselves on the back for putting together such a showcase and I think the success of this first event will encourage even more people to get involved in the Spring Showcase this May."

Paul Curtis, owner of the Los Gatos Academy of Dance, like Shawn Stuart, his lover of eighteen years, functions as director-at-large on the Arts Council.

Heavy rehearsal schedules for his nineteenth season of *Nutcracker*, however, precluded his presence at the Winter Showcase, so he came early to the studio "... so I could at least see what I was going to miss," he later told Stuart. "I unlocked the door and walked in ... and Wow!"

"Paul's eyes filled with tears," Stuart added. "He said, 'The first significant Gay event to take place in this town (Los Gatos), and it's happening in my studio!'"

Plans for the May 5 Spring Showcase are currently underway.

Persons interested in participating may contact Arts Council chair Ron Schmidt at (408) 737-0214 or attend the regularly scheduled meeting on the third Thursday of each month at 7:30 p.m. in the Los Gatos Academy of Dance, 16 Lyndon Avenue in Los Gatos.



Arts Council Board Members Rick Rudy and Claire Mix co-emceed the Winter Showcase.

Photo by Ted Sahl

### Houston gears up for referendum campaign

Houston, Tx — Vote YES for a United Houston is the message. Citizens for a United Houston hopes will carry them to victory Jan 19 in the nation's fourth largest city.

Houston voters will decide if sexual orientation will be added to the classes already protected from job discrimination in City of Houston jobs.

Citizens for a United Houston (United Houston for short) is the umbrella organization that is urging voters to vote YES to prohibit job discrimination against anyone in any city job for which they are qualified.

"The issue on the ballot is job discrimination," explained United Houston Campaign Manager Bill Oliver. "And we strongly believe people should be hired and fired solely on their job performance."

The two ordinances providing protection against job discrimination based on sexual orientation were passed 8-7 and 9-6 by the Houston City Council on June 19. The issue was forced to a vote when about 60,000 signatures were turned in

requesting a citywide referendum.

The Committee for Public Awareness, the group opposing the ordinances, is trying to persuade voters the issue is gay rights. An opposition leader has charged that gays have a "gross" lifestyle. The committee has also distributed literature saying the ordinances include quotas.

In fact, Oliver pointed out, the ordinances: — do not include quotas, — do not specify recruitment for any city job, including the police and fire departments, based on sexual orientation, — do not change the way city contracts are awarded. There is no percentage of contracts that must be awarded on the basis of sexual orientation.

Supporters of United Houston believe the campaign can be won, but not without strong financial support.

"The committee will have no trouble raising the big money for media," Oliver stressed.

Contributions can be sent to: Citizens for a United Houston, One Allen Center, Suite 1000, Houston, Tx. 77002.

## City Council Member at Gay Center

By Ted Sahl

San Jose City Councilmember Susan Hammer was the guest speaker at the Billy De Frank Gay/Lesbian Community Center recently.

Hammer was invited by the Center, located in her downtown District 3, to speak under a new program entitled "Community Forum."

The councilmember arrived early and was quick to make friends, introducing herself to all.

San Jose was on her mind, and she quickly assured everyone that, despite the \$60 million loss recently, the city government has not only recovered, but is healthy financially — and to prove it, she began to describe to her audience the "Master Plan."

Presently, construction has begun on a 162-unit housing project at the corner of 3rd and San Carlos and a 15-story office building at 1st and San Fernando; also a new hotel, the Fairmont — no relation to that "other city" — you know where.

An Egyptian Museum is

planned, not to mention the proposed High Tech Museum.

Obviously very excited about the future growth planned for San Jose, Hammer said the downtown area was most important to her.

*I feel downtown must service those of us who live and work there. The quality of life is essential to the people of San Jose.*

*I am a great believer in being able to go to a store to buy a spool of thread or a loaf of bread. San Jose must be a place where you and I can be happy.*

*My colleagues and I have been working on an "artist loft policy."*

*Artists must have a place to work and live in the same building. A designated area in the city will be chosen in the future.*

*The City of San Jose is planning to purchase art pieces from local artists for public buildings owned by the city.*

Next spring, she continued, is the High Tech Science Center — a goal for the City of San Jose which will include a science center, park and mall — to be presented to the city council.

Calling herself a sports buff, she said a sports arena is very much on the minds of the city council, and councilmembers did visit Dallas, Houston, and Denver checking out sport stadiums.

1988 will be the target date to try to accomplish the city's goals, she said.

However, although everyone listened with interest to the city's proposals for the new approaching skyline, other things were on the minds of the audience.

Like, how can the Billy De Frank Center get the City of San Jose to donate funds to the Center?

Hammer said she didn't see why it couldn't happen, and described the procedure for applying for funds. \$1 million was given to organizations in San Jose. She warned it won't be easy, but agreed it could be accomplished.

Back on the "building track," Hammer discussed the renovation of the Fox Theatre by a private developer for public use at a proposed price tag of \$2 million.

A woman in the audience asked what the city is doing about the San Jose Co-op Store and San Jose Peace Center, both tenants having been ordered to vacate the building located on 520 - 10th Street.

Hammer quickly defended the city, stating that in her opinion, the City of San Jose had nothing

## OUR PAPER YOUR PAPER

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Our Paper Entertainment Editor Ron Schmidt (left) speaks with San Jose City Councilmember Susan Hammer (right) at a recent Community Center forum.  
Photo by Ted Sahl

to do with that situation.

She was also asked about police harassment against a woman and her friend by baton-wielding officers at the last Gay Pride Day rally. Officers allegedly told them to get out of the park.

Hammer apologized for any police misconduct and stated that complaints of that nature should reach her office immediately whenever they happen.

"I do think," said Hammer, "on the whole, Chief McNamara has done a fine job since taking over the department" — reminding them of the killings that took place prior to his leadership.

"There are always some officers who can't deal with people different from themselves, especially minorities."

The meeting ended with no further questions.

In this writer's opinion, Councilmember Hammer displayed a great capacity for sensitivity and awareness in her often candid answers to some tough questions.

There was no question but that the Gay men and Lesbian women

present were not so much interested in San Jose's future "pie-in-the-sky dream."

They wanted the problems of

survival, right down to earth, solved first.

What can I say, you should have been there. ■

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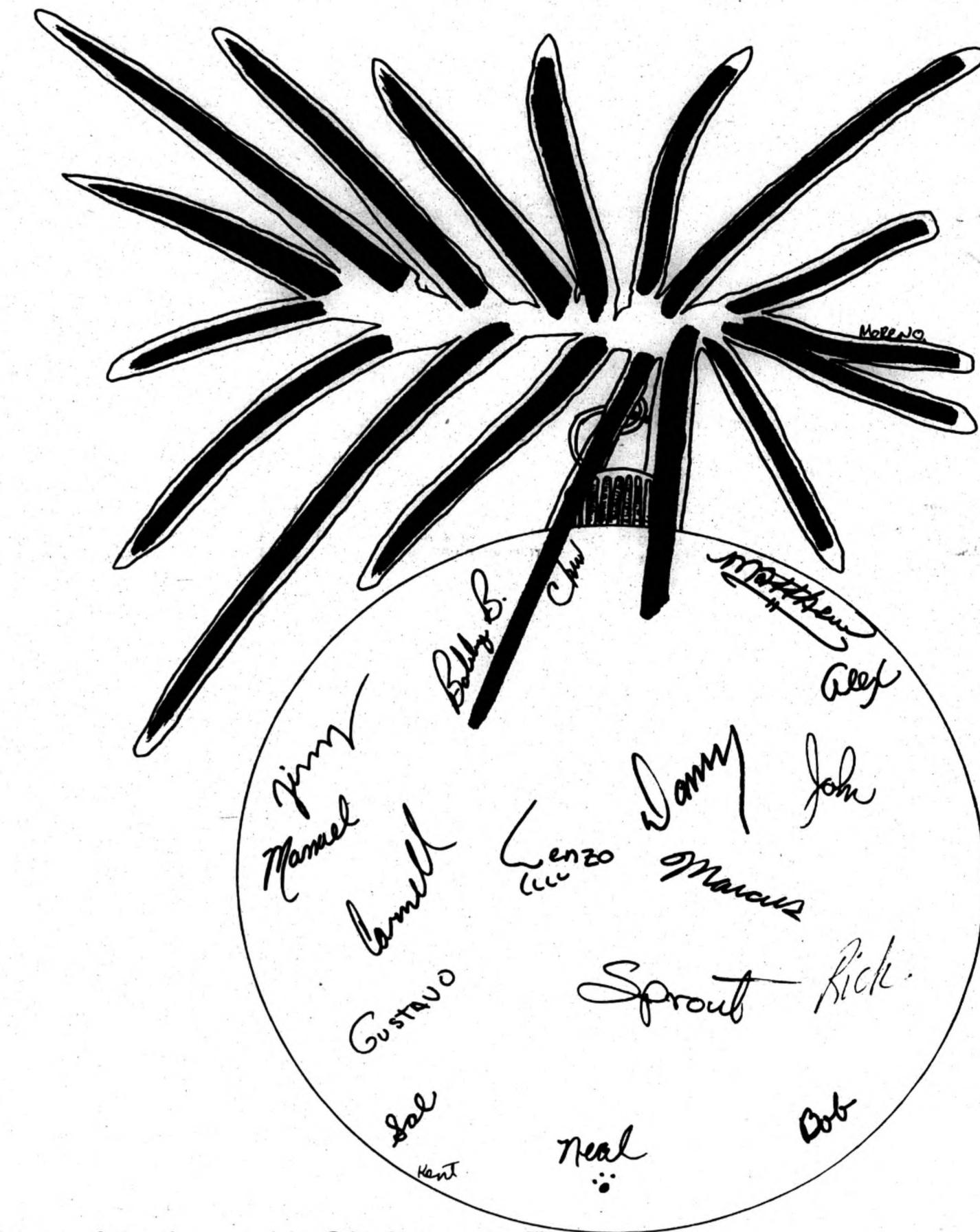
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## Are the Gay Community's Political Leaders in Danger of Becoming Uncle Toms?

Part II (Continued from last issue)

By Joseph Di Sabato

Joseph Di Sabato, president of Rivendell Marketing Company and the founder and first president of the Gay/Lesbian Press Association, has a degree in political science from Fordham University.

### Order in the Court

In front of the cameras, our rights were not an issue, despite Jerry Falwell's attempt in fundraising letters to identify the Democratic Party with gay "perverts."

A federal judge named Robert Bork (cited as a likely Reagan appointment to the Supreme Court) ruled that the military has the right to discriminate against gays because the constitutional right to privacy does not extend to private consensual sexual conduct, yet there was no reaction from Mondale. Nor is there any evidence that our gay political leaders demanded one.

If it is tacitly accepted by our friends that a federal court can rule that our sexual activity is not protected as private conduct under the Constitution, then how can we not expect their tacit acceptance of the inevitable corollary: that states have the right to regulate such "non-private" conduct (even when conducted behind closed doors).

The re-institution of the sodomy statutes in many states is an inevitability if "friends" like Walter Mondale are too shy to speak out publicly in such cases, and our leaders acquiesce in his embarrassment.

One might be justified in asking if the advent of gay influence behind-the-scenes has, in effect, "bought off" our political leaders by giving them position, influence, and a vested interest in the Democratic Party machinery — something Jesse Jackson could never be accused of by his constituency.

When Jackson was dissatisfied with Mondale's perceived lack of

activity on behalf of his primary constituency he threatened to avoid actively campaigning for the ticket.

Mondale then met with him and other black leaders publicly to mend fences and see what positive steps could be taken.

When N.O.W. suggested that there might be a floor fight over the vice-presidency, he nominated a qualified woman.

During the last week of the campaign he even tried to solidify his commitment to Hispanics by promising to appoint an Hispanic cabinet officer.

These groups pressured Mondale into action by threatening to withhold full support unless they met their demands. They knew that he would recognize these demands because he had absolutely no chance of winning otherwise.

Our community not only didn't get any action, we didn't even rate any rhetoric.

Why didn't our leaders call a collective press conference and threaten to soften our support for Mondale unless he made an issue of the Bork decision and give more attention to our cause in public forums and in general campaign literature?

Instead we pledged active support in return for silence.

One prominent, openly gay Democratic Party leader in New York justified this "concession to political reality" by claiming that the New Right didn't make gay rights an open issue in the same way that they made abortion and separation of church and state issues — by public statements in the mass media. Thus no response from Mondale was required.

I could argue that Archbishop John O'Connor's open attacks on gays was not much different from his attacks on Ferraro for her position on abortion, but I would rather ask why we must always accept a *defensive* position when it comes to pushing for our civil rights.

Why must we only hope for TV exposure in response to direct

attacks from the New Right? It's OUR lives that are at stake; why can't WE define the terms of this debate, for a change?

### Some Specifics

Establishing our cause as a legitimate civil rights movement will take ingenuity and creativity.

How do we market and package ourselves in a way to bring our struggle to the attention of the American people in general and our own people specifically?

For starters, we stop being afraid of "embarrassing" our friends.

We must stop putting ourselves on the back every time we quietly get a new co-sponsor of the gay rights bill. Co-sponsoring the bill is a SIGN of support; it is not active support.

If politicians are not vocal in support of our rights, they are not supportive.

Are we so unsure of our friends that we are afraid they will backtrack on their commitments to us if they are put on the spot?

Will they, if forced to, repudiate our struggle?

If so, let's find out now and stop kidding ourselves that a favorable position on gay rights which only appears in party platforms or in campaign literature aimed specifically at gays and lesbians (as opposed to appearing in general campaign literature where it might be noticed) means that we can count on these people to defend us should the Gestapo come knocking on our doors. If they can't publicly stand up for us in a campaign based on issues of justice and fairness such as the one just passed, how can we believe that they will stand up for us as the road gets even rougher?

If our friends value our financial contributions, if they value our manpower contributions, if they want the votes of that small number of us who ARE aware and concerned enough to vote as if our rights were paramount, if they want to enlarge the size of this favorable gay vote the way they seem to want to enlarge the black vote, then we must demand that they help us educate the general public and in so doing educate our own community.

Otherwise the American people will never perceive our struggle as one of justice and fairness. They will only see it as a hedonistic insistence on the right to sexual satisfaction, which they will con-

tinue to regard as an invalid basis for making political decisions.

The fact of BEING gay (sexual "orientation") should not be regarded as sufficient grounds for the abridgement of rights, whether or not ACTING upon that condition (sometimes characterized as sexual "preference," implying choice) is deemed to be sufficient grounds.

Psychological and even biological evidence (the recent hormonal activity study announced by researchers in New York) could be presented to support the claim that homosexuality is a state of being, an inborn condition, not a conscious choice.

With this in mind, perhaps the following approach should be considered as part of our strategy in the upcoming Supreme Court case which will test the constitutionality of the State of Oklahoma's law prohibiting teachers from "advocating homosexuality" — which is to say, speaking publicly or privately, in school or out of school, in favor of gay rights.

We may be treading on dangerous ground if we look, in the Reagan years immediately ahead, for a wider ruling affirming the rights to privacy and free speech as they pertain to homosexuality.

Perhaps we could get a ruling on narrower grounds without compromising our ability, at a later date and in a more favorable political climate, to defend actions as well as state of being.

This case could present an interesting stepping stone to recognition by the Supreme Court that gay rights is legitimately a civil rights issue.

Such recognition would be of significant value in forcing politicians to come out of the closet on our struggle, so that we need never again face what we faced in this last election. The issues raised in this campaign by Mondale will not go away despite Reagan's victory.

We are right to fear that the Supreme Court might uphold the anti-privacy ruling recently handed down by Robert Bork. The court might even declare that states therefore have the right to make laws governing such activity and perhaps even the advocacy of such activity.

In view of this, perhaps we could assume the positions of two of our enemies to narrow the judgment:

1) The Catholic Church's position is that it is all right to be homosexual and to identify oneself as homosexual as long as one does not commit a homosexual act.

The Supreme Court should, if all else fails, be petitioned to make an analogous ruling — that privacy for sexual activity is not the issue.

## Letters to the Editor

### AIDS Foundation alive

Dear Editor:

The Santa Clara County AIDS Foundation is still alive and well. There have been some changes in the board of directors and the office on North First Street had to be closed due to financial difficulties.

It is very important to us all in this medical crisis that there is a group of gay men and women who working together can bridge the gap between the State and those in need of assistance.

Yes, there were problems in the past, but the ground work has been laid so that we can continue on. The crisis is far from over, we must rally all our resources to do our small part in fighting this disease. I ask that you continue your support of the Foundation.

The main function of the Foundation is to provide information and to be a liaison between the State and the gay community.

I think you can see how important it is that a local gay group be the liaison. Otherwise, all the actions taken to fight AIDS will be handled by the State.

If you have any questions concerning AIDS, call the AIDS Project, Department of Public Health, during the day at 299-5859 and ask for David or call the AIDS Hotline at 800-FOR-AIDS.

During this holiday season, please find the time and concern to donate what you can to the Foundation. Send your check to: Santa Clara County AIDS/KS Foundation, c/o The Billy DeFrank Center, 86 Keyes St., San Jose, 95112. ■

Thank You,  
Richard Calmbacher

### Entrapment

Dear Editor:

The San Jose police are again arresting large numbers of gay people on fabricated misdemeanor sex charges.

The chief areas they are focusing on are the rest rooms in Bernal Park, 7th and Hedding Streets, and those in the Valley Fair Shopping Center.

Gays should be warned that all public rest rooms which have gained the reputation as being "tearooms" are very likely to be infested with undercover cops who will stop at nothing to make arrests.

Gays must realize that these unscrupulous policemen are trained in all the established cruising techniques including foot tapping in rest room cubicles, eye contact, and loitering in suggestive poses. Many undercover cops even pretend to be masturbating.

### Feminist Lesbian Social Group

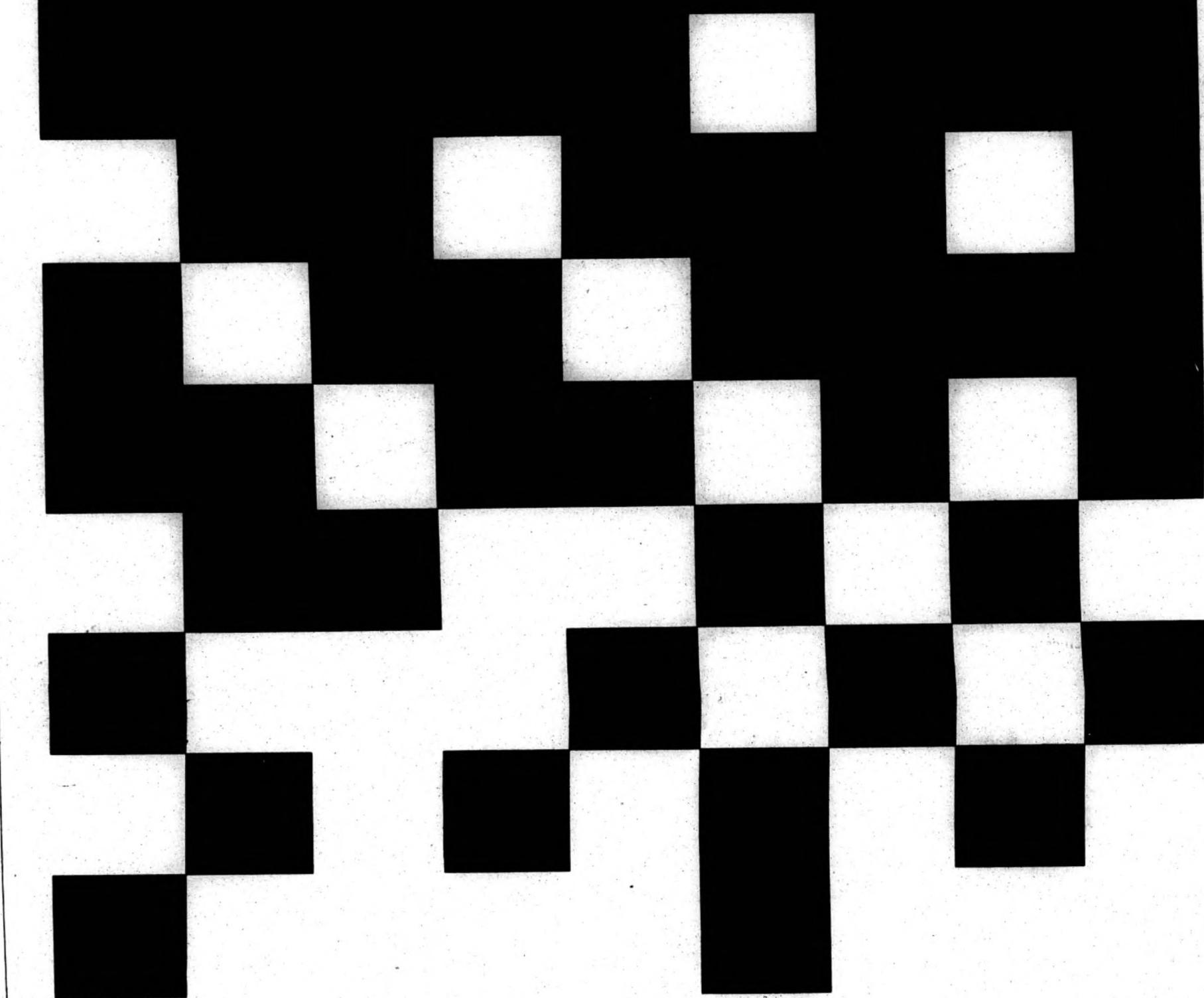
The Feminist Lesbian Social Group meets once monthly in the South Bay for a potluck and is open to all women who want to make new contacts and renew old ones.

January's potluck is set for Friday, January 11, 8 p.m. at Henri's house, 2192 Aza Drive, No. 3, Santa Clara. Call 247-8441 for information.

To receive the FLSG News, which announces the date and location of each potluck as well as other activities of interest to women in the South Bay, send \$9 for a one-year subscription to: FLSG, P.O. Box 70933, Sunnyvale, CA 94087. ■



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## NGRA Files Suit

### Man refused college degree because of "homosexuality"

**San Francisco** — A private Christian college in southern Illinois has refused a man the bachelor's degree he earned, based on unspecified charges of homosexuality.

Greg Johnson, now a resident of Chicago, completed all the academic requirements for graduation in May, 1981. When a fellow student told the Dean that Johnson was gay, the college withheld his diploma.

National Gay Rights Advocates (NGRA), the San Francisco-based public interest law firm, has sued the college to compel it to issue Johnson his degree.

Leonard Graff, NGRA Legal Director, said: "The school has offered no legal rationale for

their action. In fact, they have none. We're suing them for breach of contract and money damages as well as demanding the issuance of Greg's diploma."

Jean O'Leary, NGRA Executive Director, said: "The school's action is homophobic and offends common sense notions of fairness. Greg has met all the requirements for graduation and, of course, he should be granted his degree regardless of his sexual orientation."

O'Leary noted that Johnson's graduate study and career have been stalled because of the college.

NGRA's local cooperating counsel is Jenner & Block, a prestigious Chicago law firm. ■

### Gay lawsuit against Falwell

The following communication was received from Jerry Sloan of Sacramento regarding his lawsuit against the Moral Majority's Rev. Jerry Falwell:

*Her officials within her are like wolves tearing their prey; they shed blood and kill people to make unjust gains. Her prophets whitewash these deeds for them by false visions and lying divinations. They say, "This is what the Lord says" — when the Lord has not spoken.*

— Ezekiel 22:27-28

Today (November 30), I have filed a \$5,000 lawsuit in the Sacramento Municipal Court against my former Baptist Bible College schoolmate, the Rever-

end Jerry Falwell.

The basis of my suit is Rev. Falwell's offer made to me on the 13 July 1984 *Look Who's Talking* program on KCRA-TV.

In a confrontation with Rev. Falwell, I asked him about certain statements he made on an 11 March 1984 *Old Time Gospel Hour* broadcast about the Metropolitan Community Churches.

M.C.C. is a Christian church whose membership is 90% gay and lesbian.

Rev. Falwell said it was a lie and denied having ever made such a statement.

When I told him I had the statement on tape, he said he would give me \$5,000 if I could produce the tape.

I have publicly produced the tape several times for representatives of the press. I have also written him through my attorney, Rosemary Metrailler, asking for the money. Of course, he has refused me.

I have filed this lawsuit not so much for the \$5,000, although it would be nice to have, but for the principle that Jerry Falwell cannot go around calling for the annihilation of an entire denomination and then deny it.

If Minister Farrakhan should be held accountable for his outrageous statements, so should Jerry Falwell.

The truth is, Jerry Falwell has used the gay and lesbian citizens of this country as a scapegoat to further his own political and financial well being.

Over the years, he has issued letter after letter condemning us.

In his very own words he has declared war against homosexuality which in essence means he

courts strike them down as violative of basic constitutionally guaranteed rights would have an enormous psychological impact."

R. James Kellogg, attorney for the suit, said the sodomy law was used as an argument against the New Orleans gay rights ordinance. "The statue is the legal foundation for discrimination against gay people," he said. "Many gays are easily victimized and silenced by the knowledge that their private sex lives are illegal in the state."

Kellogg said the law is also used to sweep the French quarter and parks by arresting often under the flimsiest of evidence, gay men who authorities often have no intention of prosecuting.

The suit, allotted to federal Judge Robert Collins, says the

*Continued on page 19*

Page 1571 in the Faith Partner Bible

**Reverend Jerry Falwell's Complete Comments Concerning the Metropolitan Community Churches on 11 March 1984**

*Look at the Metropolitan Community Church today, the Gay church, almost accepted into the World Council of Churches recently, the National Council of Churches, almost, the vote was against them, but they will try again and again until they get in and the tragedy is that they would get one vote because they are spoken of here in Jude as being brute beasts, that is, going to the bawd lust of the flesh to live immorally. And so, Jude describes this as apostasy. Thank God, this vile and Satanic system will one day be utterly annihilated and there will be a celebration in Heaven!*

I intend to pursue this suit and to force Rev. Falwell under the penalty of perjury to admit his statements in a court of law.

Falwell was served with a summons on Friday, 30 November, during a visit to Sacramento, just prior to his visit in San Jose. He was given 30 days to answer or default. If he answers, he must appear in court.

"And ye shall know the truth and the truth will make you free." ■

— John 8:32

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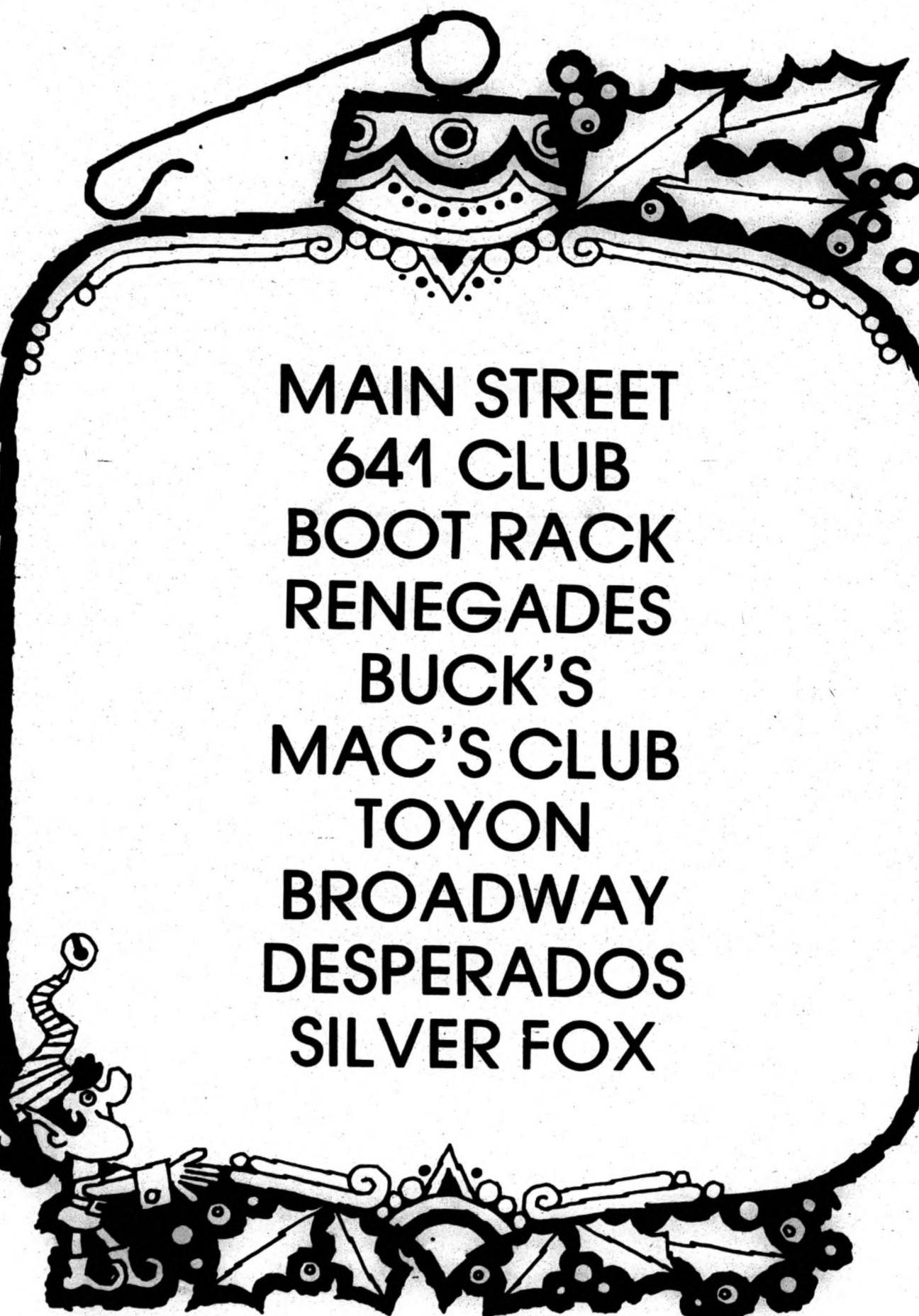
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## Season's Greetings from the San Jose Tavern Guild



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*Gay activist Eladio "Lucky" Guerrero discussed politics with Assemblyman John Vasconcellos at a Lambda Association dinner in 1979.*  
Photo by Ted Sahl

## **Gay Activist Needs Funds for Funeral Expenses**

By Rosalie Nichols

Eladio Guerrero has opened his home to meetings of Gay organizations many, many times.

Now, in a time of need, "Lucky" (as he is known in the Gay community) hopes that Gay people who have enjoyed his hospitality will open their hearts and respond to his call for help.

Lucky's father, Alfonso L. Guerrero, passed away on December 9 at the age of 80, and the family needs to raise money to pay \$3,000 in funeral and other expenses.

Those of us who have been to Lucky's home remember his father fondly, always smiling and ready to put on another pot of coffee for visitors.

"My Dad was very supportive of Gay people and Gay rights," Lucky says, "and he always welcomed my Gay friends. He would

get very mad when Gay people were attacked."

Having worked for various causes most of his life, Lucky was one of the first political activists to bring the Gay rights issue to the attention of elected officials in Santa Clara County.

Active in Lambda Association from its inception, Lucky was instrumental in organizing a Gay Task Force to work with the Santa Clara County Human Relations Commission — long before the first Gay Commissioner was appointed.

Later, he was a founding member of the Susan B. Anthony Gay/Feminist Democratic Club and recruited many members to its ranks during the months when the Club was lobbying for a Gay rights ordinance.

Lucky also served as a vital

link between the Gay community and Chicano activists and organizations.

His assistance was crucial in resettling Gay Cubans in the San Jose area in 1980.

In recent years, Lucky has been semi-retired from the political scene, but his bedroom in the Eastside home which he shared with his father is decorated with photographs of city and county

officials personally autographed to him.

Lucky has packed away his father's personal belongings for the time being — "I can't stand to get rid of anything right now" — but a white cat with one blue eye and one green eye remains as a reminder of his father's presence in the house.

"That cat — Ivory is her name — followed my Dad everywhere

he went, and she would sit at the window and wait for him to come home," Lucky confides. "I think she misses him."

Those of us who knew him will miss Lucky's father, too. And it is only right that we should help to pay his final expenses.

Donations can be sent to: Eladio Guerrero, c/o Our Paper, 515A So. Bascom Avenue, San Jose, CA 95128.

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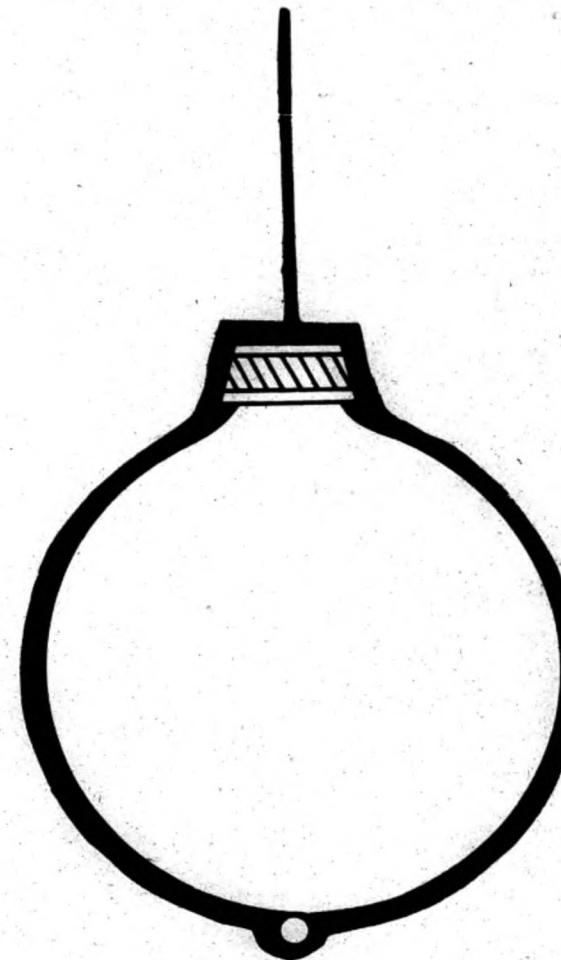
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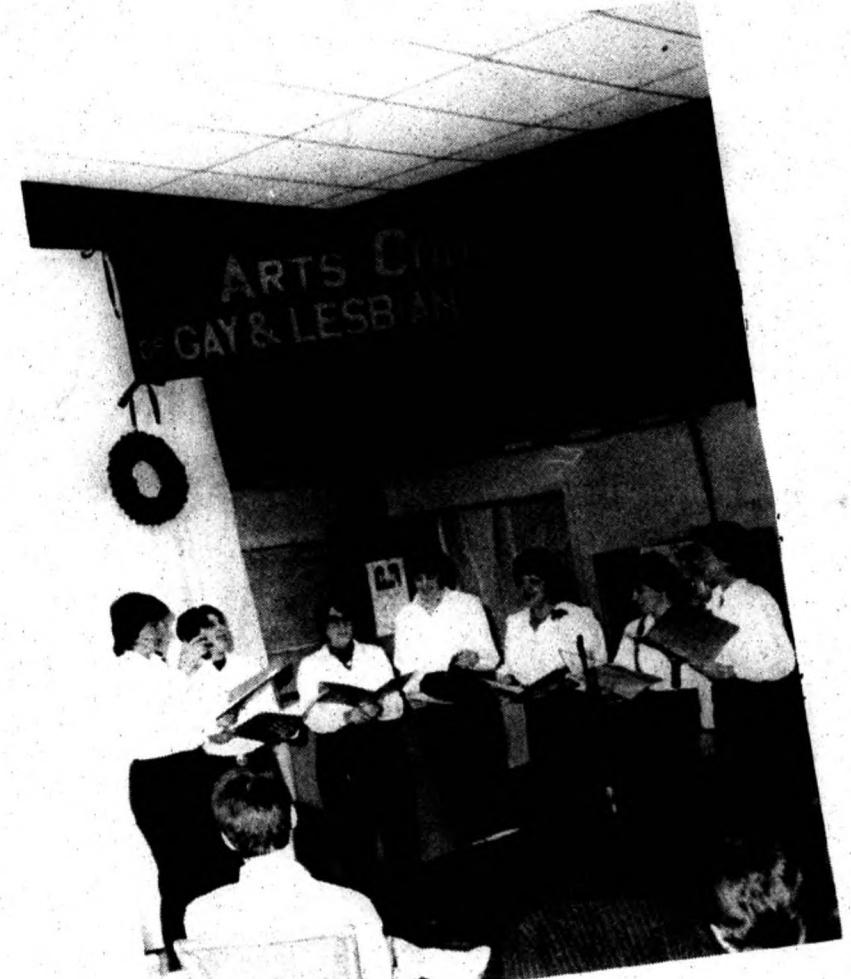
**Season's  
Greetings**



# WINTER SHOWCASE



Hanging the banner for the Winter Showcase.



San Jose Womyn's Chorus.



Jeanette Fischetti, sculptress.



Liedermann Gay Men's Chorus.

All photos copyright Ted Sahl, 1984



Brass Trio: Kathy Tapp, Patricia O'Gara, Barbara Sigler.



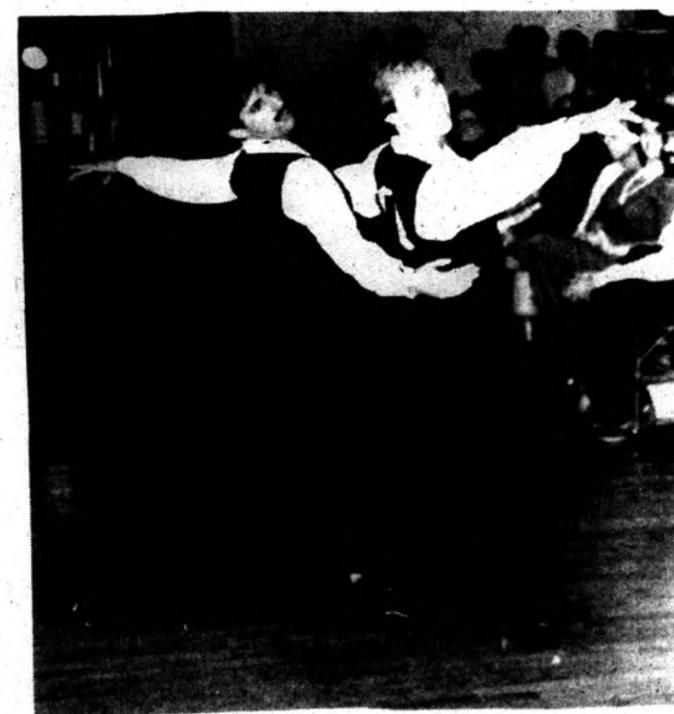
Some innovative sculpture at Winter Showcase.



Polynesian dancer Amelia King.



Shawn Stuart, sculptor (left).



Larry Janssen and Tommy Newby perform a dance medley.

## A Historical Perspective

### **There's No Business Like Gay Show Business!**

By Ted Sahl

It's exciting, new, and it happened in Los Gatos, CA.

The Arts Council of Gay and Lesbian San Jose presented its first Winter Showcase of local talent.

Painters, poets, sculptors, photographers, dancers, musicians — you name it — all performing under the same roof, otherwise known as the Los Gatos Academy of Dance.

Paul Curtis, owner-director, and Shawn Stuart are partners in business as well as life.

Curtis graciously offered the Academy to the Arts Council.

Both men have spent their lives in the arts and have filled the needs of children and adults of all ages in Los Gatos for eighteen years at the Academy of Dance.

Performing is nothing new to Gays and Lesbians, wherever they have lived in time — there are famous nightclubs around the world.

And it's an open secret that many great artists and performers throughout history have been Gay.

You ask, what does all this have to do with the Arts Council of San Jose?

According to a fact sheet available at the door, the credit for the Winter Showcase goes to a few good (happened to be) men who came up with an idea followed by a lot of love — and womyn dedicated to pride, dignity, and a sense of achievement by-for-and-with Gays and Lesbians of San Jose.

The Gay communities are aware of drag shows where Gay men act out female roles and Lesbians perform as male impersonators with Gays and Lesbians of San Jose.

While the drag show will al-

ways be special in the hearts and

history of the Gay/Lesbian

world, a new beginning is clearly here in the Winter Showcase.

That's what a sampling of four to five hundred men, womyn and children said, as they watched, listened and applauded the more than thirty artists who acted, danced, sang or exhibited visual art — with pride.

The energy was super high. I saw many men I hadn't seen in years, lots of womyn I never saw before — but spoke to many, and all said the same, "Isn't this something? Beautiful event!"

I remember someone telling about the days when a certain bar had a red light in the dance area. When police entered, the light came on — the dancers switched from same-sex couples to heterosexual, so that police saw men and womyn innocently dancing with each other.

If they only knew all the work that was put in the day before, never mind the months of hard work by Arts Council chair Ron Schmidt and the board of directors.

It was that the first "un-

drag" show was born in San

Jose, to the delight of many.

I can still hear the applause —

you should have been there! Next show in May 1985!



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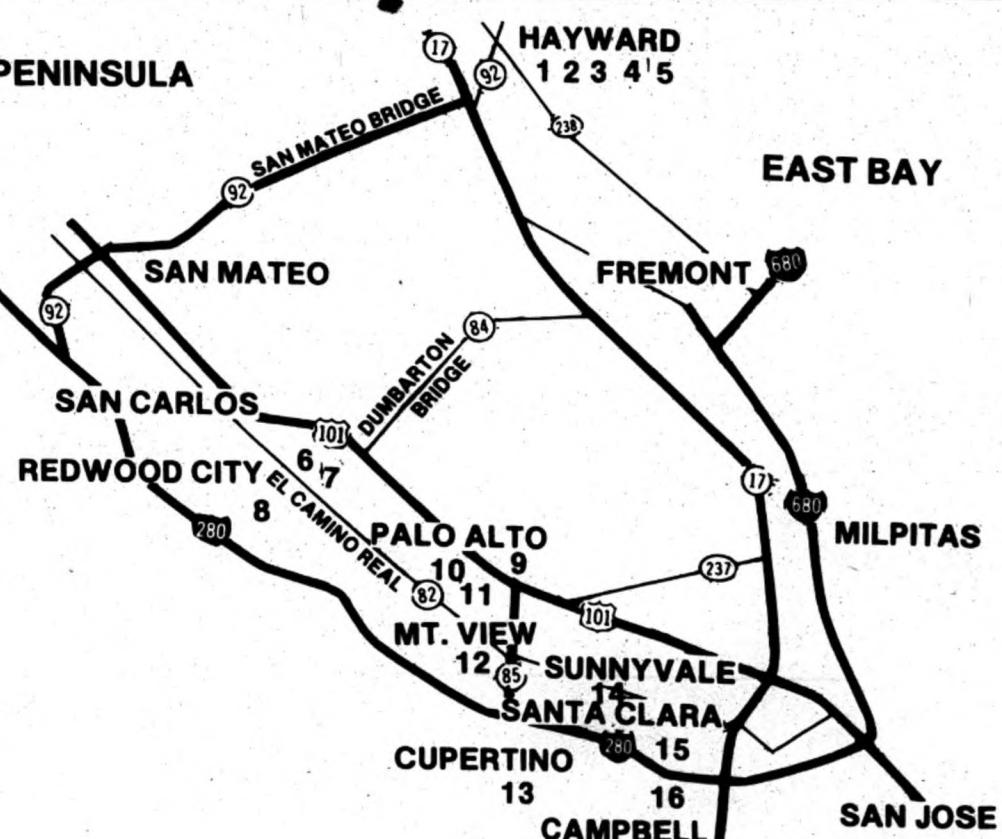
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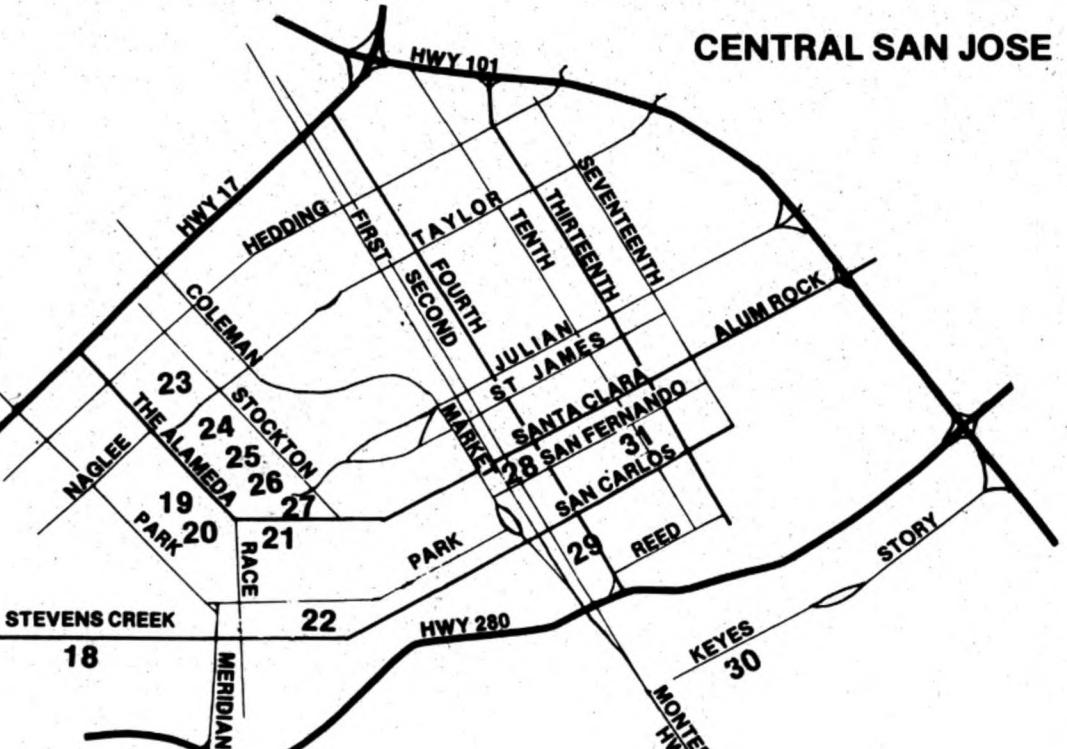
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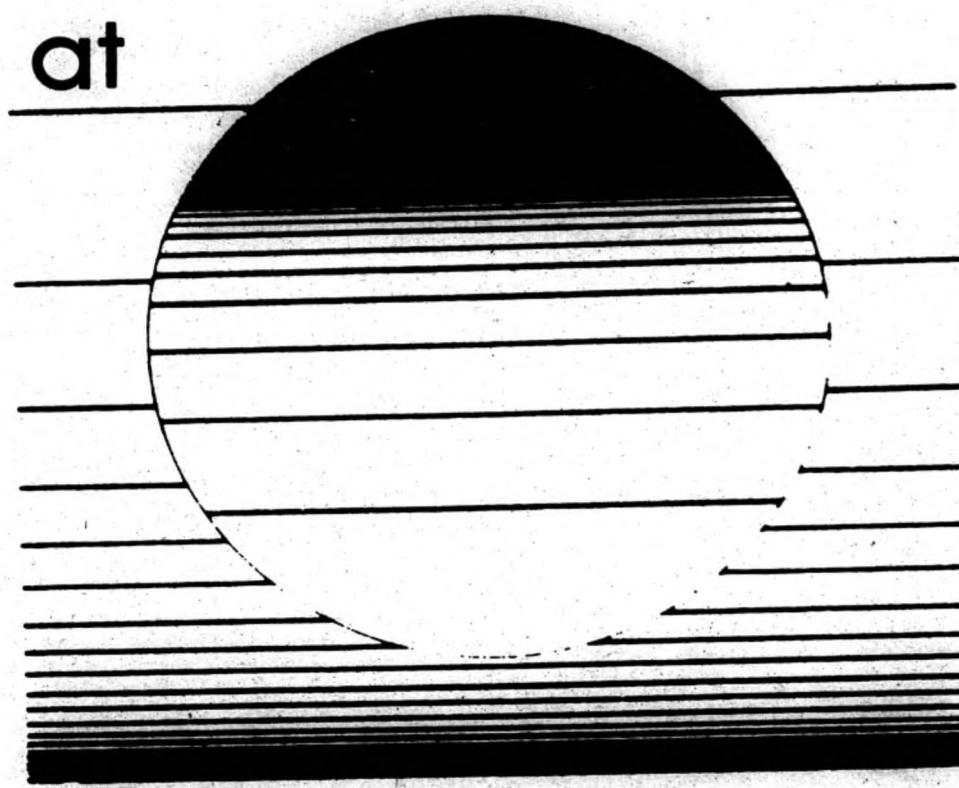
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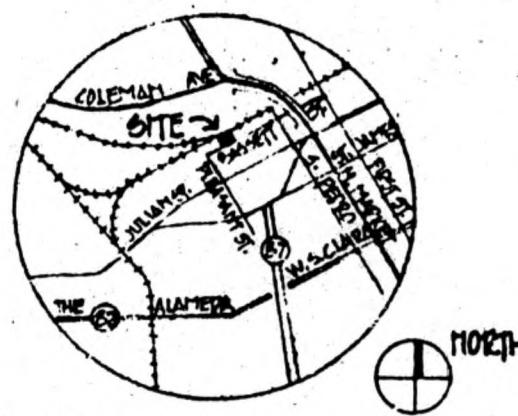
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## *In the Offing . . .*

By Ron Schmidt

Broadway here at Bay's End has responded to three customer needs: Expanded the menu, lowered the prices, and relaxed the atmosphere of the Orchestra Room. (408) 286-9422 will let you say thanks. 1205 The Alameda lets you do it in person . . . and enjoy the changes.

*Artists Involved with Death and Survival . . .* The AIDS Show . . . has reopened in The Studio at Theatre Rhinoceros, 2926 - 16th St. in the City. This powerful, dramatic collage of works by thirteen writers will move and inform you with its no-holds-barred, poignant, funny, intense message. Every show is a sell-out, so, call in advance for your seats: (415) 861-5079 or (415) 552-4100. The Arts Council of Gay and Lesbian San Jose has begun negotiations with Theatre Rhinoceros to bring this important, dramatic statement to San Jose. Details as they break.

Meanwhile, the main stage at Theatre Rhinoceros has Paul August Cacciotti's *Concubine at the Feast* in residence through January 27: "A humorous, painful reunion of middle-aged siblings following their estranged father's funeral, complicated by the revelation that the father's entire estate has been willed to his Gay male nurse." (415) 861-5079 reserves your seat. Treat yourself this holiday season to theatre with a difference that deserves to be seen.

*Opera San Jose* has announced a holiday presentation of musical selections from *Nutcracker*, *Carol Fantasia* and *Messiah* to benefit the *Ethiopian Relief Fund*. Prince of Peace Lutheran Church at 12770 Saratoga Avenue (at Cox) will host the event. December 22 at 5:00 p.m. (408) 253-7167 or 277-2918 for tickets.

*Midnight Mass* on Christmas Eve will be celebrated by *Dignity/San Jose* at the Campus Christian Center, 10th & San Carlos, San Jose. Ron at (408) 226-0645 or Jim at (408) 358-3032 has details.

*Lea Delaria and Jeanine Strobel* play the Cabaret at Valencia Rose December 20-22 and 27-29. *Leopard Set* is there on the 23rd, and the premises are shut 24-26. (415) 863-3863. The New Year's Eve show features Tom Ammiano and Debbie Saunders.

*Happy Hour Four to One* by Santa Cruz playwrights Randy Clark and David Russ opens with another one-act, *Out of Bounds* by Mountain View playwright Mariah Burton Nelson, at the Art Center Theater, 1001 Center St., Santa Cruz for a January 4-20 run. Curtain on Fridays and Sundays at 8:00 p.m., Saturdays at 8:00 and 10:00. See *Rainbow of Coastal Talents Arches Inland* in this issue for details . . . or call (408) 426-5044.

The doors open for refreshments at 7:30 p.m. The speaker begins at 8 p.m. in the Community Room of the Saratoga Library, 13650 Saratoga Avenue, Saratoga. The public is cordially invited and there is no charge.

*Womyn's Coffee House* at Billy De Frank Community Center plans a *Self Esteem* discussion on Friday, January 11. In the after-holiday lag, that's an important item to note. The following week, January 18, entertainer *Suzette Serré* moves into the same space for a program bound to boost flagging spirits. The following Friday, January 25, *Nancy & Wendy Robertson* and *Cathy* provide the entertainment.

*Alcoholics Anonymous* meets Sundays at 10:30 a.m. at the Billy De Frank Center. Be a friend to those of us who can't drink. Don't offer us one. Hug us instead.

*Servant of Two Masters* opens January 5 for a run through the 15th as San Jose Rep's second production this season. Montgomery Theatre at Market and San Carlos. Call (408) 294-7572.

*Arts Council of Gay and Lesbian San Jose* meets on the third Thursday of every month at Los Gatos Academy of Dance, 16 Lyndon Avenue in Los Gatos. Meetings are open. (408) 737-0214. Help gear for the May 3 Spring Showcase.

Touch tenderly . . .

## *The Word Is Art Slated for February*

By Ron Schmidt

Local writers will gather for an evening of readings, sharing their original works in the intimacy of the No View Gallery at 750 No. 9th St. on a still-to-be-determined Sunday in February, according to Madison Lambeth Wright, poetry coordinator for the Arts Council of Gay and Lesbian San Jose.

*The Word Is Art* titles the tone and significance of the event. Initially planned as an evening

### **Announcement**

Jean Bayard will be the speaker at the Humanist Forum, Friday December 21, 1984. Her topic will be "Your Holiday Power." This event is one in a series of Humanist Forums, which are presented in the public interest, on the third Friday of each month. They are intended to be stimulating, challenging and informative, and to provide an opportunity to listen and respond.

The doors open for refreshments at 7:30 p.m. The speaker begins at 8 p.m. in the Community Room of the Saratoga Library, 13650 Saratoga Avenue, Saratoga. The public is cordially invited and there is no charge.

### **Planned Parenthood**

Volunteer training for Planned Parenthood of Santa Clara County will be held January 8 and 10 from 9:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at 1691 The Alameda, San Jose.

Planned Parenthood needs Information Line and Family Planning Counseling volunteers who are able to help during daytime hours. Additional training for the Family Planning Counselor position will be held in February.

The training will include information about community resources, human sexuality, contraception, reproductive health, pregnancy, and Planned Parenthood programs and services.

Information Line volunteers give information over the telephone about contraception, pregnancy, sexually transmitted diseases and other medical concerns. Family Planning Counselors provide health education and pre-gnancy counseling in the clinic.

For more information or to register, call Donna Bartelink or Mary Cook at (408) 287-7532 by December 28.

### **Slightly Older Lesbians**

South Bay Slightly Older Lesbians (over 30) meets every Tuesday from 7 to 9 p.m. at the DeFrank Community Center, 86 So. Keyes St., San Jose for a support/discussion group. Everyone is welcome. Call (408) 293-4525 between 6-9 for information.

Topics for January:  
1st — No meeting.  
8th — New Year's Resolutions.  
15th — Buying a Home  
22nd — Model Mugging (demonstration on how to avoid being attacked)  
29th — Open rap.



46 North Saratoga Ave, Santa Clara, CA 95050

## Out of the Shadows . . .

### Steve Storz: Artist with a View from the Floor

By Ron Schmidt

"Ron Wright loves me a great deal, but he doesn't agree with my being Gay. He prays for me incessantly."

The speaker is twenty-four years old but there is a timeless quaver in his telling. Wright counts as the most important influence in his young life, his teacher, his mentor at Pleasant Hill High in Oregon.

Painter and poet, at once moved and moving because of what his watching processes, he has paid his dues as a starving artist. His name is Steve Storz . . . and it's hard not to like him.

"People don't take me seriously because of my age," he laments, "and there are a lot of things about me people consider trippy."

At a distance, in the dark, light-emitting diodes announce his coming: An electric badge blinks from the formal fragment banding his mildly disheveled, dark blond hair; myriad lights flash from the dash of his '67 Volvo, products of his own invention creating the aura of a happening close encounter.

One is well-disposed toward Storz even before he shuts down his vehicle and emerges grinning, lean . . . and needing a shave. His careful eyes grip like his hand; his resonant invitation leads into the chambers of The Citadel, the converted cannery at 750 North 9th where fresh blood is pumped daily into the body of San Jose art.

Shoppers with abutting shelves form syncretic aisles through a conglomeration that is disarray or the uninitiated.

Storz stops and, with an encouraging wave, announces, "The STORZ STUDIOS . . . by the way, that's one word."

From a divider engines rev and embodied voices do chauvinistic things to the female anatomy. Exhaust fouls the chill air, closing the serious features of my host.

I note, suddenly, that he is utterly sincere and, therefore, vulnerable.

He points to panels of sheetrock, explaining that tomorrow the divider will become a wall and that, eventually, his \$165 a month space will house a small gallery and office as well.

Huddled under fluorescent overheads, objects assume their separate identities: Intergalactic masks with spare parts awaiting assembly; a space city in miniature, inspired by Ridley Scott's *Blade Runner*; gizmos for Halloween haunts; calligraphic signs; fantastic pen-and-ink sketches and pastel watercolors that are hallmarks of enchantment.

"I have this immense store of creativity that needs to be expressed," Storz tells me. "It's not a want, it's a need. I have to do it or it affects every aspect of my life."

"I didn't think much about art as a child," he continues. "My mother was very artistic, designing props for her sorority, and writing a good deal . . . including children's stories."

Pausing, Storz grins. "I love to write."

*Pig Story* is a fantasy novel on which he is collaborating with fellow artist and Citadel neighbor Raymond Avalos, but he does serious writing as well.

"A lot of the way I dealt with my closet was through journals. I have binders and binders of them."

He also has a title for their planned publication: *A View*

from the Floor . . . because I haven't owned a bed in four years!"

Clearing a couple of chairs, Steve Storz and I sit down. He is relaxed, legs crossed in Levis, athletic socks a warm ravel above his running shoes.

Unzipped, his navy and gray nylon jacket acts like a shedding cocoon while, underneath, a fabric fashioned by his own hand more intimately layers him against the descending temperatures.

He is a native of Texas, I learn, but his father's position with a chemical firm mandated the family's move to Eugene, Oregon via Seattle when Storz was only seven and his sister nine.

"I have always been fascinated with boys," he affirms. "I was in scouts for eleven years and was very aware that I was attracted to them, to my friends. It was a very playful period."

"A lot of exploring went on. But I was real fascinated by sex of all kinds . . . and I did a lot of



Artist Steve Storz

Photo by Daniel La Fleur

reading. *Boys and Sex* is a real good book for boys to read."

A sexually active adolescent, Storz tempered his expression in the conservative environment of Pleasant Hill High where, ironically, his classmates were the sons of '60s activists Isaac Babbs and Ken Kezey.

His narrow features intent, Storz returns to the subject of his mentor, Ron Wright.

"I studied every aspect of theatre under him. I even produced and directed a science fiction film called *Tren Wordak*."

Pleasant Hill High's production of *The Taming of the Shrew* attributed three credits to Steve Storz: Technical director; assistant director; and actor in the role of Gremio, Bianca's aging suitor.

The day before the opening Storz was attending to details on a ladder . . . when I suddenly found myself crossing the threshold of balance and falling twelve feet.

"Ron Wright was the first to get to me and I managed to say, on residual air, 'I can't breathe!'

"Ron got everyone to tilt me up and I have never tasted such a beautiful breath of air. I played Gremio every night with no trou-

ble."

Continued on page 19

## Shadows

Continued from page 18

lot of really neat friends in coming out and also gotten into the art community.

"I got into a fairly heavy relationship with the fellow who was my roommate. I was the seducer. I thought he loved me. I knew for sure I loved him."

"But he had a lover on the east coast who moved back . . . so I moved out. That was pretty hard to leave the nest permanently."

Faltering briefly, he adds, "I'm confused now. My schedule doesn't allow a relationship."

Studying his watercolor series on the divider, Storz explains that he has developed subtractive watercoloring, a process involving either matboard or pebbleboard as the surface, then applying water with fairly heavy amount of paint.

He doesn't do a lot of wash but uses a higher ratio of color to water. He begins detailing with a wet brush.

After the paint has dried, he wets the brush to subtract color, getting the mat almost back to the white it was to create relief areas.

The Swiss surrealist H.R. Giger significantly influenced Storz' painting.

Leaning toward the table at his side Storz extracts a chocolate Santa from its cellophane wrap and cracks off a chunk. "My friends keep telling me if I'm not careful, I'll get anorexia," he was rumored, doing great painting.

"I walked in and met Nick Nichols. He's well known in San Francisco and Sausalito. He was doing a huge watercolor triptych on his wall.

"He liked what I was doing, too, bought me a lot of paper and said, 'Here, fill them up.' Nick influenced me a great deal. I've adopted his techniques."

Indicating a large phallic watercolor "garnished with pen and ink," Storz grins broadly. "When Nick saw that, he said, 'That is fantastic!'

"I said, 'Well, thank you.' Then he asked, 'Do you mind if I do something to it?'

"The next morning he had done these marvelous clouds and I called in *Tower at the End of a Rain Storm*."

The painting bears both men's signatures . . . and a \$750 price tag.

Six months later, still semi-unsettled, Nick persuaded Storz to set out on an adventure. "What do you think I've been doing since I graduated?" Storz initially retorted.

But Nick shook his head. "Let the winds carry you," he advised . . . and Storz did until his wind broke down in San Francisco two years ago.

"I moved in with a couple of liberal roommates and discovered one of them was Gay. We sort of came out to each other. I've gotten rid of a lot of problems by coming out."

"Being Gay and an artist are crucial ways I need to express myself," he concludes, the aroma of chocolate sweetening the air.

So I leave, hugged and confident that the View from the Floor is all up.

ordained minister and pastor of Metropolitan Community Church, a largely gay congregation. Plaintiff Mary Jones, 33, is a New Orleans mechanic and co-chair of LAG PAC. She was a delegate to the 1984 Democratic convention. Plaintiff Jerry Walker Zachery, 39, is directory of New Orleans Gay Men's Chorus.

Comments John Ognibene, President of Crescent City Coalition, "What a gay person, or anybody else does in private should be none of the state's business."

Martha Kegel, Executive Director of the ACLU of Louisiana, said: "We see the elimination of the law as a major step to achieving full civil rights for gay people and privacy rights for all citizens."

Plaintiff Blanchard Ward is a 64 year old retired television repairman living in Pineville, Louisiana and a member of the Board of Directors of LAG PAC.

Plaintiff Linda Bynum, 38, is an

## New Dance

Reviewed by Jennifer Hewins

The New Dance Company San Jose opened its second season on Friday, November 30, at the Center for the Performing Arts.

Accompanied by the San Jose Symphony Orchestra, conducted by George Cleve, the Company performed two striking pieces, choreographed by Cliff Keuter and executed by the ten Bay Area dancers in the group.

Their simply yet well-defined movement enhanced the accompaniment and brought an otherwise singularly auditory experience to a fully visual, sensual, and spiritual display of dancing, light and sound.

The world premiere of Keuter's new ballet, *Suite Six*, set to excerpts from the Eight Symphonies by William Boyce, was delicately interwoven; each selection did indeed have a beginning and end, yet, from my view, the Dance was not six separate Suites, but rather, a continuous, flowing six-Suites-in-one.

At times, it was fast-moving and breath-taking; elsewhere, witty and humorous, as the dancers "spoke" of emotion, mood, and character, yet needed no words to convey their message.

Continued on page 20

## Announcement

Mayor's Council sponsors "Auld Lang Syne" party

The Mayor's Council has announced plans for their first annual "Auld Lang Syne" party. The party begins at 9 p.m. Friday, December 28th at Main Street, 737 Stockton Ave., San Jose.

The Council encourages you to get into the spirit of things by dressing up for the occasion. Prizes will be given in the following categories: Formal \$50, Leather \$50, and Costume \$50. There also will be a \$50 door prize given away.

Here is your chance to "ring out the old and bring in the new" early. A free buffet will be prepared and served by the Mayor's Council. A cover of \$3.00 at the door includes a free cocktail and proceeds will go to the council. Music will be played by D.J. Jim Kerkstra.

On November 21st, new officers were elected for the council; Darlene Lutz was elected president; Joe Maestas, vice-president, Richard Calmbacher, secretary and Richard Kendall treasurer.

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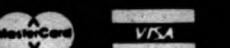
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## Dance

*Continued from page 19*

In *Sea Interludes*, Keuter's magical interpretation from the score of the same name by Benjamin Britten, the lighting and special effects created the mood for an experiential display of Dawn, Sunday Morning, Moonlight, and Storm.

Again, interwoven and flowing, yet this time, each was distinct and powerful in its timing and nature, evoking our own memories of such occasions.

For me, this piece in its entirety had more substance, more to hold on to, more by which to be carried away in its emotional provocation: Dawn, simultaneously misty and mystical; a Sunday Morning stroll of innocence?; nymphs and fairies dancing in the Moonlight; and the final Storm who excluded no one in its fury.

My only opportunity to be a modern dancer was when I was 8 years old, during what seemed to be a year of gracious, if not quite graceful, body-in-motion. The challenge seemed to be an integration of the earthy and well-grounded with the light and flowing, which I felt the New Dance Company successfully achieved in their performance.

New Dance is the only professional dance company in San Jose, formed in 1982 by Keuter, and dancer, teacher, choreographer Carolyn Silberman, with Paul Irving as business manager and Elizabeth Skemp, publicist.

This professional dance troupe performs a combination of ballet and folk dance, the outcome

slightly more free-flowing than ballet (while maintaining its structure and discipline), and evocative of our own American folk rhythms.

The members of the troups are:

k- Stewart, Kristy Logan, Duncan MacFarland, Elina Mooney, Rick Serrano, Carolyn Silberman, Clare Whistler, Wendy Yabroff, and Kirstin Young.

They performed a total group-supported effort, with all, not just one of them, outstanding.



"Sea Interludes" (l. to r.) Elina Mooney, Carolyn Silberman, Kristy Logan, Wendy Yabroff  
Photo copyright 1984, Arne Folkedal, S.F.

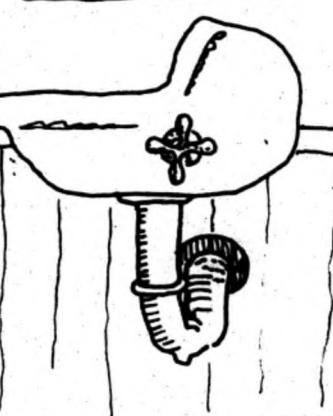
Costume design by Ariel (*Suite Six*), and Juliene Weston (*Sea Interludes*), and lighting design by Barbara DeBois were extremely complementary to the essence of these two pieces.

New Dance adds to its 1984-85 season, scheduled performances at the Independence Performance Center in March, and in May, at the Villa Montalvo Center for the Arts. For tickets and more information, call (408) 996-2040, or write P.O. Box 28881, San Jose, CA 95159.

They performed a total group-supported effort, with all, not just one of them, outstanding.

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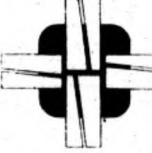


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Wednesday	December 5	7:30 p.m.	Educational Evening with Guest Speaker at home of Dick Allen, 3665 Benton #3, Santa Clara
Saturday	December 8	6:00 p.m.	Liturgy at Campus Christian Center 10th and San Carlos, San Jose
Wednesday	December 12	7:30 p.m.	Communal Penance Service Place to be announced
Saturday	December 15	6:00 p.m.	Liturgy at Campus Christian Center
Wednesday	December 19	7:30 p.m.	Liturgy at home of Jim Clark 105 Oak Rim Ct. #17, Los Gatos
Saturday	December 22	6:00 p.m.	Liturgy at Campus Christian Center
Monday	December 24	Midnight	Christmas Eve Liturgy Campus Christian Center

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## Scorpio (October 23 - November 21)

Someone who is all sweetness and light may run right into your sense of privacy and reserve with a thud. You won't see eye-to-eye, that's for sure. Be aware that you hold the upper hand, but don't threaten the unfortunate with your good fortune.

## Gemini (May 21 - June 21)

Some that old crazy, nervous Gemini energy comes into the picture. You need some relief and, if you think about it, you know where to find it. R-O-L-A-I-D-S may spell relief for some, but a call to one who's a master of passion could prove even more beneficial.

## Cancer (June 22 - July 22)

You're so deep and so strong! Mmm-boy, Tycho's tempted to include his phone number in your message! The kind of depth and strength we're talking about here is usually held in reserve; tap that reserve, and blow them away!

## Leo (July 23 - August 22)

Have yourself a merry little Christmas. Your cleverness and ingenuity shine through; when one's as brilliant as you are now, it doesn't take much to do a lot. Resourcefulness is the key word; joy to all around you is the obvious result.

## Aquarius (January 20 - February 18)

You'll enjoy the holidays, but much that concerns you has nothing to do with festivities and celebration.

You're pushing for advancement in a totally separate part of your life. Look ahead. Do some juggling. Be playful with your seriousness.

## Virgo (August 23 - September 22)

The true meaning of Christmas is emphasized for Virgo this year. The world of the generous spirit and of promise fulfilled is something you'll find you know a lot about. You are able to cut through the endless ephemera and arrive, shining, at the center.

## Pisces (February 19 - March 20)

Your role as provider is your chief concern, and your selflessness serves as an inspiration to others. No one knows better than you the meaning of the saying, "It's better to give than receive." For you, they are virtually the same thing.

## Capricorn (December 22 - January 19)

So much of this season concentrates on children, and this is true for none more than Capricorn. All your relationships with children are emphasized, and your own experience of your childlike qualities is enlivening. Memories embellish and enlarge the joy.

## Scorpio (October 23 - November 21)

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## FORTUNES

By Tycho

## Libra (September 23 - October 22)

You're definitely overdoing it, but far be it from Tycho to suggest that you do anything less than too much. You may end up exhausted at week's end, but you'll sure have fun in the process. A little imbalance can be educational for you Librans!

## Taurus (April 21 - May 20)

The best part of breaking up is making up. A big tiff with your big love could bring you much closer together. Holiday tensions could still turn into a very merry Christmas. Try to see the situation from the other point of view.

## Sagittarius (November 22 - December 21)

21) You've met your match, you've lit the fire. The shared experience is everything. This is the opposite of isolation; it's a union of spirit and flesh in splendid glory. To say that you've been looking good is quite an understatement.

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## Aries (March 21 - April 20)

You did it! You knew that you could, and you did it! Recent dreams become present realities, and from this world of new reality spring all kinds of new ideas. In the cold of winter, your mind's afire, lighting up an already star-filled sky.

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Your role as provider is your chief concern, and your selflessness serves as an inspiration to others. No one knows better than you the meaning of the saying, "It's better to give than receive." For you, they are virtually the same thing.

## Capricorn (December 22 - January 19)

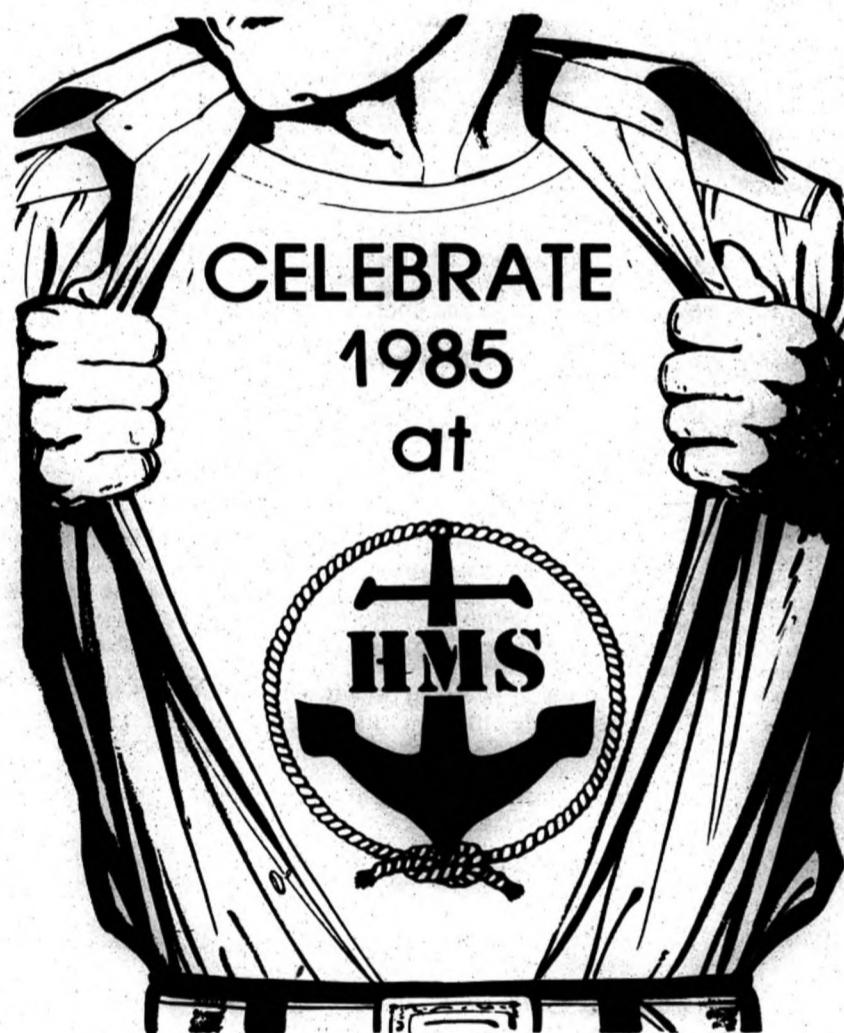
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