Gay Choir Wins Cash Settlement from Archdiocese

San Francisco — The Archdiocese of San Francisco has agreed to pay Dick Kramer, leader of the Gay Men’s Chorale $2.250 to stop a lawsuit from going to trial where Archbishop John Quinn could be forced to testify.

The cash settlement is to compensate the Chorale for an incident that occurred when Archbishop Quinn signed a contract for Kramer’s Spring 1983 performance at St. Boniface Church. The lawsuit was filed last year by National Gay Rights Advocates and Paul F. Wotman of the San Francisco law firm, Wotman & Hall.

Leonard Graff, NGRA Legal Director, said, “There was an express written agreement for the use of the space at St. Boniface.

The Archbishop had no legal basis to cancel unilaterally that contract.”

The Chorale suffered a severe financial loss because it had to settle for a performance hall with a smaller capacity as a last minute replacement. Jean O’Leary, NGRA Executive Director, said, “We’re not going to allow our local cultural group to be treated this way. The church should be aware that we intend to fight homophobic actions such as this.”

O’Leary noted the Chorale successfully sued the church a few years ago when they failed to keep a similar commitment.

GIVE ME A BREAK!

... says Quentin Chip in a new line of pay greeting cards from Male America in New York. See story on Page 10.

NGTF completes survey on AIDS Social Security benefits

New York — The National Gay Task Force (NGTF) has completed a survey of AIDS service organizations and their social service advocates which indicates that, overall, it is now easier to obtain Social Security benefits for AIDS-related complex (ARC) to gain expeditious access to the benefits the Social Security Administration provides to disabled persons than was the case in the spring of 1986.

However, NGTF’s AIDS Program Coordinator, John Borick, commented that “although many of the problems and inordinate delays have been alleviated, in some parts of the country persons with AIDS are still experiencing unacceptably long waiting periods and in most areas those who suffer from AIDS-related complex that is severe enough to be disabling are not consistently being allowed benefits.”

The recent improvements that have taken place in the performance of the Social Security system can be attributed to the hard work of AIDS service organizations (ASOs) at the grass level and to partial fulfillment of three measures that NGTF and several ASOs asked the Social Security Administration (SSA) to take in an April 1984 meeting with the Commissioner of that agency:

(1) the designation of SSA personnel to act as AIDS coordinators and community liaisons in those localities with a significant incidence of AIDS;
(2) a greater sensitivity on the part of claims personnel to the need for expeditious processing of AIDS claims including the use of special claims taking procedures; and
(3) issuance of guidelines to remind medical personnel that claims involving persons suffering from ARC should be given careful consideration.


In three localities, respondents were working in association with but not directly for the following organizations: The New Haven AIDS Project, The San Diego AIDS Project, and the Boston AIDS Action Committee.

AIDS was included as representatives of 3 health departments who were acting as advocates: Ohio Department of Health, Cincinnati Dept. of Health, and New Jersey Dept. of Health. Some highlights from the survey:

- 11 respondents reported that problems in gaining access to benefits had diminished since May of 1984; this compared with 4 respondents who reported that significant problems remained and 2 respondents who reported that problems had diminished prior to that date.
- 13 respondents indicated that SSA’s AIDS coordinators had added a constructive role in mitigating problems and delays; 4 others reported that their contact with the designated representatives had either been minimal or not quite so rewarding.
- Problems when they occurred usually involved inordinately long waiting periods for SSI (Supplemental Security Income) benefits. While 10 respondents reported average waiting periods of 2 months or less for the first check to arrive, several other respondents reported typical waiting periods in excess of 2 months and as long as 6 months.
- The most frequently reported reasons for long waiting periods were: processing delays for an ARC claimant before a serious delay had developed; failure on part of hospital or physician to send records in a timely manner coupled with a failure on part of SSA to assist the claimant or financial advisor in obtaining the missing information. Of those delays could have been avoided had the presumptive disability option, which permits SSA to provide benefits to claimants with clearcut AIDS diagnoses before all the medical documentation has been reviewed, been utilized more consistently.
- Special claims servicing procedures — such as the filling and servicing of claims by telephone, home visits by SSA personnel, referral to Medicaid when appropriate — were available and useful in some but not all localities responding to the survey. Nearly all respondents reported that SSA has shown itself willing to work cooperatively with social service advocates.
- In some localities, persons determining from AIDS-related complex (ARC) that is severe and disabling appear to be gaining access to benefits more easily than was the case last spring. But, of others, 11 respondents with experience in providing assistance to claimants suffering from disabling ARC, only 3 reported that such claimants were consistently being allowed benefits.
- The impact of long delays and outright claims rejections upon persons suffering from disabling ARC was frequently serious: the loss of housing, the foregoing of proper nutrition and health insurance premiums, as well as considerable psychological distress. In those states where Medicaid is linked to receipt of SSI, ARC claimants sometimes experience difficulty in obtaining medical care.
- NGTF concludes that the Social Security Administration can improve upon current performance by:

- Making a further effort to implement the measures agreed to at the 4/30/84 meeting at the local district office level, with a special emphasis placed on upgrading performance in those localities experiencing the most serious problems.
- Effectively utilizing the new and long-awaited regulation that permits local district offices to make a presumptive disability decision for AIDS claims.
- In addition, the survey would indicate that, in the interest of expeditious processing, SSA should consider further procedural recommendations to its local and regional offices, including: centralizing all processing of AIDS claims for a particular city or region in one district office; systematic monitoring of all AIDS-related claims by the AIDS coordinators/community liaisons; systematic training/seminizing of claims personnel; and conducting special outreach in order to enhance awareness of SSA programs among potential recipients and social service advocates.

With regards to ARC, physicians from SSA should continue to work with physicians from the American Association of Physicians for Human Rights towards the long term goal of developing a disability definition that encompasses disabling ARC.

In the short term, SSA should...
People of Color / Third World Volunteers Needed

Shanti Project, a community agency of the City of San Francisco which provides support to persons with AIDS and their loved ones through the Practical Support Program or the Practical Support Program. Volunteers at Shanti provide services to persons with AIDS in their own areas either through the Emotional Support Counseling Program or the Practical Support Program. Volunteers occasionally find that the emotional support they are providing has difficulty in honoring requests from clients who have expressed a preference for Black, Hispanic or Asian emotional support or practical support volunteers. Shanti is committed to ensuring that the project be representative of all cultures and recognizing that diversity enriches all, regardless of the needs that the project meets. Volunteers interested in volun...

9th International Conference of Gay and Lesbian Jews

Over 250 participants will attend the Ninth International Conference of Gay and Lesbian Jews, June 4-6 in Washington, D.C. Ezra Taub, editor of the Journal of Gay and Lesbian Anthropology and U.S. Congresswoman Barbara Jacks (D-Mich.) will address the conference.

Workshops include: Lesbian studies, the needs of Gay and Lesbian Jews, Women's rights, Jewish women, Jewish religious and social programs. The Holocaust - children of the survivors.

Hard-nosed traffic cop Hal Hartman, Keith Schiller and Puerto Rican basket case, Barney Frank (D-Mass.) next door to the Shanti office at 1430 7th St. This AIDS awareness month, writer-director Neal Israel and co-director Robert Stujzen take on another Dean Martin comedy in this motion picture about a band of misfits, malcontents and dreamers who meet in traffic school.

Shanti Project is...
Letter from Toyon

Dear Manager,

I am writing you today regarding your establishment. I have been a regular customer of your business for many years and have always been treated with respect and courtesy. However, recently I encountered an incident that has made me feel that my rights as a customer are not being respected.

The incident occurred on the evening of [date], when I was approached by a member of your staff who asked me if I was gay. At first, I was flabbergasted that we were having this conversation in a public place. However, I quickly regained my composure and informed the staff member that it was none of their business and that I would not be compromised in any way.

I was then asked if I had any problem with the fact that I was gay. I informed the staff member that I had no problem with it and that I was proud of who I am. However, I was then asked if I would like to leave the restaurant without being served. I informed the staff member that I was not going to leave without being served and that I intended to stay and enjoy my meal.

Despite my polite and respectful behavior, I was then asked if I was going to be able to stay and eat my meal without incident. I informed the staff member that I was going to stay and eat my meal and that I was not going to be intimidated by anyone.

As a result of this incident, I am no longer going to be a regular customer of your establishment. I feel that my rights as a customer are not being respected and that I am being treated unfairly. I urge you to take the necessary steps to ensure that similar incidents do not occur again.

Sincerely,

[Your Name]

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Always in better taste...
Goosetown Gazette

Gillian's Island

By Rick Rudy

Michael L. Tzu-Gillian's Island opened on April 25th (1984 opened on Apr 23rd 1985) and greeted the San Jose Rep. staff (and the society) with a play about the living going on in the business end of the world. The play is centered around three characters: Gillian, a professional woman; Devin, her husband; and Keira, her daughter. The plot revolves around the challenges that Gillian and Devin face in their relationship as Gillian struggles to balance her career and family life.

Selling your house

You've heard the Joneses do it. You've seen it on TV. You've read about it in the newspaper. You've even heard about it from friends. But have you really thought about what it means to sell your own house? Here are some tips to help you:

1. Be prepared: Make sure you have all the necessary documents and information available before you start looking for buyers. This includes a clear title to the property, proof of ownership, and any necessary permits or licenses.

2. Set a realistic price: Make sure your asking price is competitive with similar homes in your area. You can use online tools or consult with a real estate agent to get an idea of what your home is worth.

3. Market your home: Use a variety of methods to reach potential buyers, such as advertising in local newspapers or online real estate websites, holding open houses, and using social media.

4. Be flexible: Be open to negotiating with buyers and making concessions to close the deal.

5. Hire a professional: Consider hiring a real estate agent to help with the process. They can provide valuable advice and help you navigate through the legalities of selling a home.

We hope these tips help you on your journey to selling your own home! Good luck!
Quentin Crisp star of new ‘Male America’ greeting cards

Quentin Crisp, internationally known writer, stage performer, and television personality, has been a star of new medium this season as the star of an exclusive line of Holiday greeting cards from Male America.

The six new cards, each featuring a different color photograph of Crisp, and each with a different message inside, are priced at one dollar each.

The cards, which were adapted for television, are available now at Male America, a gay-owned and operated gift shop in New York, Esquire Magazine, and the San Jose Repertory Company.

The special Thursday evening performance at the Montgomery Theater, San Jose, will be followed by a reception at Male America.

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The new Birthday cards are being sold at Male America, 42 W. 4th St., New York, N.Y. 10014, for ten dollars, which includes first-class postage.

Details.

Supporters will save $10 by purchasing tickets before June 30.

The show, “How to Become a Virgin,” written by Christopher Street, New York, NY 10001 for the San Jose Gay and Lesbian Community, has been active with the Gay Rights Campaign Fund for six years.

The show is likely to save.

We're urging everyone to come to the show and support the Gay Rights Campaign Fund.

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Listen to hot guys who want to meet You now!

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THE TEST CAN BE ALMOST AS DEVASTATING AS THE DISEASE

While there has been much publicity about the threat of HIV, HTLV-I/HTLV-II virus and whether or not it is a threat to gay men to be tested for this anomaly, another test has been made available which may be of more practical use in determining whether or not an individual's immune system is functioning properly. This new test, called Measuring CMI, is a type of skin test which measures the current state of the immune system without the need for expensive blood tests (which can be a measure of helper cells—also called "T-cell" count).

This new test has been made available in this country by Merieux Institute, a French company, which is one of the largest suppliers of biologicals and vaccines that is associated with the Pasteur Institute in Paris where the LAV virus was first discovered.

The test is a disposable plastic applicator used to subcutaneously skin testing. The right test contains Tenax Towed Antigens, Diptheria Towed Antigens, Streptococcus Antigens, Tuberculin Agar Sticks, Trichophyton Antigen and Primary Tuberculin which are glycerine control. These all subcutaneous in which the average adult has been exposed to and in which the average adult generally has normal immune system response.

The test is applied by pressing the device into the skin of the forearm so that the tiny needle punctures the surface of the skin, allowing the antigens to enter the skin and cause a reaction in 48 hours. The reaction takes the form of small raised bumps called "indurations," which are then measured by the doctor.

The size of these indurations is compared to determine the size of the average individual's immune system and whether or not there is a compromised immune system response. In other words, it is a measure of the immune status of the individual.

Most doctors are urging their gay male patients to come in for regular check-ups every four to six months, at which time a blood test can be made. For good health, however, a blood test may be examined.

Now, an expensive skin test checking the status of the cellular immune system can also be administered at this time. Moreover, it is a relatively inexpensive test compared to the usual laboratory tests, record requirements, etc.

The results are read directly by the physician and remain totally confidential between the patient and physician. The test gives some patients experience with skin testing for self-induced immune states in the past and have become convinced that this is an effective way to assess immune function. But, for the most part, we do not yet have a standardized means of application.

Each antigen has been separately compared by hypothesis, and the depth of the reaction along with the amount of induration, which measures the significance of the resulting stabulation.

Another reason for the feasibility of previous skin testing procedures is that the quality and strength of the antigen is very important for the reproducibility of the antigen. These problems have been solved with Merieux. All antigens are of consistent strength and quality and all antigens are introduced into the majority immune status of the individual.

A standardization of antigen is done and standardized antigens, the results of the test are reproducible and reliable, unlike previous skin tests which require further pain must be made. It is important to note that a below average reaction to one application of the skin test does not indicate a compromised immune system or the onset of AIDS.

A higher number of disease conditions can suppress the immune system temporarily. Anything from an outbreak of herpes to the onset of a cold can increase the immune system and result in below average reading.

We have been told by many physicians that anyone with a below average reading repeat the test four to six months later. Then a comparison can be made to determine the immune system's recovery rate. The physician will determine if the patient should be troubled. This new test is relatively inexpensive (whole cost to the doctor or clinic is around $5), can be repeated every few months. This repetition provides the gay male patient with an opportunity to monitor the status of his immune system during these times of concern about AIDS.

A New Test for Immune Deficiency

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Free Admission

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