S.F. Gays/Lesbians rally to protest AIDS budget cuts

By Ted Sahl


San Francisco Gay activists were outraged by the latest act of California Governor George Deukmejian in slashing $11 million dollars from the proposed California budget for 1986. The amount was designated for funding the fight against AIDS, a disease which has claimed the lives of eleven thousand people nationwide.

Paul Bonenberg of Mobilization Against AIDS told two hundred people who gathered in Harvey Milk Square in San Francisco that the Governor cut 70% of research funding, and 30% of the human health services which were written into the budget.

Anxiety, frustration, and disbelief were common reactions to these figures. The speakers also were very animated in their reactions.

One speaker said, "In the eyes of our elected officials, people with AIDS are expendable, they might as well die — why waste the taxpayers money?"

A sister of an AIDS victim told the crowd, "I am not going to let that little s--- in Sacramento forget about us. There are people working hard for you. I am with you. You are in my thoughts every day. I know my brother died two short months after becoming ill would be proud of you."

Attorney John Wald said, "We know how administration officials feel about us in Washington, they stand for leaving Gay men and Lesbian women and bisexuals here to die."

"We are here to say we are not going to let them leave us here to die. They are going to hear from us today, tomorrow, next week, the rest of the year, next year, the rest of the decade, the rest of the century, and as long as there is a California, as long as there is an America (shaking his fist over his head), as long as there is an America, they are going to hear from us."

Congress holds AIDS hearing

By Ted Sahl

Congressman Ted Weiss (D-New York) and Congresswoman Barbara Boxer (D-Marin) presided over a four-hour hearing on acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS) in San Francisco on July 3.

Hearing room 2007 of the Federal Building was filled to capacity as approximately seventy-five activists and witnesses gave testimony.

Rep. Weiss opened the hearing by reminding those present that the first meeting on the AIDS epidemic was held in 1983. He recalled the words of Roger Lyons, an AIDS patient who had said, "I came here today with the hope that this administration would do everything possible and make every resource available. There is no reason this disease cannot be conquered; we do not intend to be defeated by it. I came here today in the hope that my story might not be read that I died of red tape."

"Roger Lyons died earlier this year," Rep. Weiss said. "He, like thousands of others, fell victim not only to a dreaded affliction, but also to an administrative reticence, to the lack of leadership and commitment needed to garner sufficient federal resources to challenge this human catastrophe."

"When Roger Lyons testified in 1983, Weiss said, "two thousand cases had been reported nationwide. Today the numbers and projections are beyond even their most pessimistic expectations."

"Almost eleven thousand cases have been reported, and over five thousand deaths."

An estimated five hundred thousand to one million individuals have been exposed to the virus, Weiss said. "But despite this magnitude of human suffering," Weiss continued, "we are still trying to convince the current administration that labeling AIDS its number one health priority is not
Execution Event Deemed Successful By Sponsors

by Rick Rudy

It was the social event of the year; 400 lesbians, gay men and their friends filled the Monterey Theatre on Thursday, July 11, for the San Jose Arts Council's "Black and White" party. A gala "Black and White" party followed the show, at Desperados. The event netted the Arts Council of Gay and Lesbian San Jose over $8000. The Arts Council has pledged to donate 10% of the profits to the Bill de Frank Lesbian and Gay Community Center of San Jose.

The "social event" about the trial of Dan White for the murder of SF Mayor Moscone and gay Supervisor Harvey Milk was portrayed in the play "Juno and the Paycock" which had been written by George Bernard Shaw. The play was performed by the Berkeley Repertory Theatre and San Jose Rep. But this special evening was the brainchild of David A. DeLong, who is also publisher for the San Jose Rep, who got the idea of putting on the show and began working immediately after the verdict. Ron Schmidt, retiring Chair of the Arts Council, which sponsors various events showing off the talents of lesbians and gays from San Jose. Ron Schmidt became intrigued by the concept and put up a casual party at Desperados theatre, and agreed to host a party at Desperados for all attendees of the play.

One was Jack Fertig, real-life friend of Harvey Milk, who had come down from San Francisco to join the occasion.

The script draws heavily on the trial transcript, supplemented by news articles, historical anecdotes and letters of "Black & White" survivors." whose testimony might have altered the outcome. White was convicted of simple voluntary manslaughter, instead of first degree murder, and received a mere seven-year prison term. White was released in 1980, moved to Desperados for all attendees of the play.

The present Board of the Arts Council includes Paul Curtis, State Assemblyman John Vasconcellos and friend (aide?) were aware of the problem of AIDS. The Association of Gay Health Clubs (IGHC) is proud to offer the first of a kind service to its members. The handbook will be of particular interest to gay men who would like to know something about an affordable gay health club before they join. The handbook includes the printing of AIDS-safe guidelines to assist in making the decision and to keep in mind awareness of the problem of AIDS.

The new 1985 handbook is available for $5.00 by writing: IGHC, P.O. Box 705907, L. L. 95171.
CUSTODY BATTLE

I'm writing to you because your help is urgently needed in a lesbian family.

A member of the lesbian community recently separated from her partner and was awarded temporary custody of their child. The child, aged 6 years, has been living with her in a same-sex household, but now her partner is trying to regain custody, claiming to have a better living environment for the child.

This family has been a vocal advocate for the rights of same-sex couples and has faced numerous challenges in terms of custody and legal recognition of their partnership. They have also been active in local support groups and legal aid organizations for same-sex families.

In response to this situation, I'm reaching out to you to request your assistance. The family has been warned that their legal battle could be costly, and they are seeking help to ensure that their child's best interests are prioritized.

Your support in this matter is crucial. Please consider making a monetary donation to help the family finance their legal battle. Any contribution, no matter how small, will be greatly appreciated.

Thank you for your consideration and support.

[Signature]

ANNOUNCEMENT

The San Francisco AIDS Foundation's AIDS Budget report details the state's commitment to funding AIDS-related initiatives. The budget highlights the importance of research, education, and community-based services for those affected by HIV/AIDS.

In the current fiscal year, the state has allocated $1 billion to the AIDS budget, with $2.9 million specifically dedicated to AIDS research. This funding is crucial for the development of new treatments and the advancement of scientific knowledge in the field.

The report also notes that the AIDS budget has increased significantly over the past few years, reflecting an enhanced commitment to addressing the epidemic. Despite this progress, however, the budget still falls short of meeting the needs of those impacted by AIDS.

The San Francisco AIDS Foundation is committed to ensuring that the needs of those affected by AIDS are met. They encourage all concerned individuals and organizations to take action and support the fight against HIV/AIDS.

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[Contact Information]
**RALLY**

"They are going to help us, they are here to live. We are here to fight and to heal. We are here to right the wrongs of history that has been made against us. We are here to make sure that AIDS is not confined to just one community. It affects all of us." — Mario K. H. Hines, independent political action committee (IPAC) chair, at the voters' rally held in Los Angeles last Sunday. "We are here to come together and to speak out against the so-called "AIDS problems. The Director of Public Health for the Alameda County is talking about a quarantine. I am also a gay man, and I know that the quarantine is not the solution. We need to be able to come together and to speak out against the so-called "AIDS problems."

**CONGRESSIONAL AIDS HEARING**

The US Senate Committee on Appropriations Committee, Subcommittee on Foreign Operations, held a hearing to consider legislation that would provide funding for HIV/AIDS prevention and treatment programs around the world. The hearing was held in the Hart Senate Office Building on Capitol Hill.

**COMMUNITY INFORMATION LINE**

The Community Information Line (CIL) is a national service that provides information and referral services to people affected by HIV/AIDS and other health conditions. CIL offers confidential, free and unbiased information to everyone, regardless of age, race, gender, sexual orientation, or income level.

**National Gay/Lesbian Directory**

The National Gay/Lesbian Directory is a comprehensive guide to organizations and services that serve the needs of the gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender community. It includes information on local and national organizations, as well as resources for finding legal and health care services.

**First Lesbian/Gay community club set up in East Bay**

On July 24, 1983, a group of gay men and women founded the East Bay Lesbian/Gay Democratic Club (EBL/GDC) in Berkeley, California. The club was established to provide a community service that offered support and resources to the Lesbian/Gay community. The club continues to operate today, providing information and resources to the Lesbian/Gay community in the East Bay area.

**Sen. Dodd gives of Don Edwards**

Sen. Dodd of San Francisco is a strong supporter of the Lesbian/Gay community. He has been a vocal advocate for the rights of Lesbian/Gay people and has worked to ensure that they have equal rights under the law.

**MCC**

The MCC (Mendocino County Community) is a grassroots organization that is dedicated to providing support and resources to the Lesbian/Gay community. The organization is run by volunteers and is focused on providing information, support, and resources to Lesbian/Gay people.

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**Continued on Back Page**
Interview
Robyn Tyler

By Robyn Erlzig

I was fortunate enough to be granted an interview with Les- Tyler, the July 10th

issue of Our Paper. Our dis- cussion was ex- cessively entertaining and informative. Tyler's sharp humor and clever responses will be sure to provide some background information and a bit more perspective into the nature of being a transsexual woman.

Robyn is originally from Win- nipeg Manitoba, Canada, and has attended University of Arkansas. She is an active member of the American Music and Drama Association. She performed as a singer for five years, including a stint as a famous impersonator in New York City. Robyn will be making appearances in Berkeley this July.

She was granted an interview with Les-Tyler, her act (see Robin INTERVIEW), centered mostly on the American Musical and Drama Association. She was fortunate enough to be interviewed at the Savoy in New York City.

Les-Tyler reminisces about the Savoy, a San Francisco landmark. She has played a vast repertoire of music, including a number of jazz and classical pieces. She was given the opportunity to interact with the audience and share her thoughts on various topics.

Robyn is known for her wit and humor, and she did not disappoint in this interview. She shared stories about her experiences in the entertainment industry and discussed her love for music.

Execution of Justice Hits Home

Theatrical Review by Richard Stone

"Dan White showed that you don't have to be a lawyer to follow just who is speaking on the stand. You don't have to be a hairdresser to know which he recorded months before the trial. His flashback scene, where he was in trouble and had to find a way out of it, was chilling. He was a practiced attorney getting ready to go to court. He had come prepared. And he was used to being the focus of the courtroom.

What is chilling, though, is the thought of Harvey being in that courtroom. Harvey didn't smoke, drink, or do drugs. He was not a bully. But his thoughts were with the trigger is pulled. But psychology moved into a whole new realm with the 'Twinkie Defense.' The jury that despised the argument "this term. She described the need to draw on the skills and the strength of the community." She spoke to the audience of the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender rights movement, stressing the need to draw on the skills and the strength of the community.

The Savoy was the perfect setting for this interview, with its elegant atmosphere and warm hospitality. Robyn shared her thoughts on various topics, including her experiences in the entertainment industry and her love for music.

I discussed with Robyn the planning for that special performance of EXECUTION OF JUSTICE. She challenged everyone present to do their best work, and to make it count. She also stressed the need to draw on the skills and the strength of the community.

The Savoy was a great place to be. The atmosphere was warm and welcoming, and the food was delicious. Robyn shared her thoughts on various topics, including her experiences in the entertainment industry and her love for music.
PASSION
FRUIT
No. 5

By Jeff Black

Last time, Cynda was buried among country where a malevolent cult awaited ex-lover Pal's return; and Toby, released from...
just come to the end of the first decade of AIDS; and by the time we started seeing sick people, there were maybe ten cases reported per year to us than we were seeing.

In San Francisco we estimate there are at least 25 times as many people with antibodies to the virus as people who are sick with AIDS. In this small city, there are maybe thirty thousand people in the real epidemic.

"I suspect," said Moss, "that there are several hundred thousand people in the U.S. carrying the AIDS virus, and most of them do not even know it.

"We need some kind of anti-viral to stop those people from spreading to other people before the vaccine won't help those people."

He said, "AIDS in its first decade was a homosexual disease; that's not going to be true in the second decade. Very soon, AIDS gay men is going to spread off because there are only so many Gay men and because sexual behavior has really changed, at least in San Francisco."

"Meanwhile," said Moss, "four to six years from now we will see more heterosexual cases in the United States than homosexual, and we will have learned to see AIDS as a general disease.

"I wish you, when the vaccine comes as AIDS heads into its second heterosexual decade, that success in treating AIDS or pass the virus on unknowingly to their children or family was $750,(X)0, and that success in the development of effective treatments,"

"We must make a firm commitment to stop AIDS. It can be done. But it can't be done without vigorous emergency support for public education, and for the development of effective treatments," said Volberding.

Other Testimony

Steve Morin, PhD, American Psychological Association testified, as did David Werdiger, MD, MPH, Director of Health, San Francisco General Hospital, who spent his time praising Dr. Silverman, the man he replaced.

Randolph Lee, MD, president, San Francisco Health Commission.

Cathleen Steane, Lambda Legal Defense attorney, described how AIDS patients are discriminated against (HTLV-III, ARV, or LAV) with 150 of these children with AIDS stay in the hospital for long periods of time.

"A recent example of the cost for three members of the same family was $750,000, and that only included inpatient costs for physician, nurse, social worker, teacher, and other support services."

Cowan finished his testimony by saying, "In San Francisco we have found that about 10% of drug-abusing mothers and their offspring at San Francisco General Hospital alone have evidence of infection with HTLV-III, ARV, or LAV."

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Children with AIDS

Dr. Morton Cowan, Associate Professor at the Dept. of Pediatrics, University of California Children's Hospital, testified on the more than 100 pediatric cases of AIDS (PAIDS) reported to the CDC, Atlanta.

"The pediatric population at risk for AIDS includes those infected with high-risk mothers, (either drug-abusing women with bisexual partners, or women) or infants and women receiving blood products transfusions comprising of AIDS-related retrovirus (ARV, HTLV-III, or LAV)."

"There are several important differences between adults and children with AIDS. One is the incubation period, which ranges from six months to six years."

This means that the actual magnitude of cases of AIDS which may result from current high-risk exposures will not be realized until 9000," said Cowan.

"Furthermore, another difference is that in San Francisco we are able to define high-risk infants because at least 50% of mothers of children with PAIDS are clinically normal."

Cowan said, "Women who are known carriers of the AIDS retrovirus can have multiple pregnancies, not all of which result in offspring who will get AIDS.

"The fact that a high-risk woman has an unaffected child does not mean subsequent children will be normal, even if the woman her current sexual partner.

Cowan pointed out, "While virtually all adults who have AIDS will be positive for the antibody test, many young children will remain negative, making the detection of PAIDS that more difficult. These children must remain in the hospital for long periods of time.

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"The case was supposed to be heard in Sacramento Municipal Superior Court by Judge McCandless, but was transferred to Superior Court at San Francisco where the Fellowship hopes to buy airtime on local stations to reach all Californians."

"Negotiations are still continuing with both systems that might air the evangelical tool which covers the history of MCC through the church's response to AIDS, including music, excerpts from sermons and commentaries by members and the frequent proclamations that God loves Lesbian women and Gay men.

"Rev. Elder Freda Smith, who presided over MCC in Sacramento, a city that has been considering a Gay Rights ordination, told the congregation that MCC is "the beginning of an understanding of our relationship to the church. Part of that enlightenment and acceptance is our role over to the political process."

At the close of the conference senior member and fellow activist, Roy Perry said the church now owns $35 million in property, but members of the "MCC buildings have been burned out by the antichrist."

"Early in the AIDS epidemic, our treatment focused solely on the infections or cancers that arise because of the damaged immune system."

"Quickly realized, however, that success in treatment would require restoring the immune system. It was at this point, we also realized that we could not undo the damage caused by the virus; present, efforts are now directed at testing drugs to inhibit, if not completely eliminate this virus.

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"For 27 months, I was a personal friend, counselor, and teacher to Paul Castro. He knew that he could call me at any time if he had to be rushed to the hospital."

"His voice began to break." He knew I would be there by his side; we were together for all the time he lived."

"When Paul finally knew his time was near, we talked about his memorial service. Paul had dedicated his time left to speaking to the general public about his condition and to help others."

"Paul asked me to massage him, and Paul asked me to massage him."

"Unfortunately, every time Paul asked me to massage him, I massaged them."

"When we got to 27, I had to stop, they were dying so fast."

"My staff working in the word suffered their own trauma — pleading with me to take it down."

"The blackboard became a constant reminder that we cannot do what we were trained to do."

"At one point, the clinic staff became so distraught they refused to go to work. I finally got them down the blackboard, and put the names in a book."