

our paper your paper

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Gay Member of British Parliament To Be West Hollywood Guest Speaker

The Hon. Chris Smith, the first openly gay Member of Parliament in Britain will be the keynote speaker at a conference to be held in West Hollywood on Nov. 22-24.

Smith came out in November 1984 in a speech to a demonstration in Rugby, England. The demonstration was organized to protest anti-gay employment discrimination.

Smith has received support from other Members of Parliament, particularly those who, like him, are members of the Labour Party. Smith represents a district in London.

Since coming out, Smith has

lobbied actively on such issues as police entrapment of gays and immigration regulations relating to gay people.

He is a Director of "Gay's the Word," a bookstore currently on trial for alleged smuggling into Britain of "indecent" American gay literature. Among the supposedly indecent material are works by Gore Vidal, Oscar Wilde and Tennessee Williams. Smith has repeatedly questioned Treasury ministers in Parliament about the action.

Others speakers at the conference will include Ginny Apuzo, former executive director of the National Gay Task Force;

State Representative Karen Clark of Minnesota; Council Member David Scondras of Boston; and Mary Jean Collins, former vice president of the National Organization for Women.

The conference, which is aimed at bringing together openly gay and lesbian public officials and future candidates for office, will include discussions of the political impact of AIDS, campaign management, strategies on economic issues and much more.

The registration fee for the conference is \$50. For information, call 202/547-3104. □

NEW MAYOR ELECTED AT COUNCIL BALL



Jeff Boullard (R) and Joe Maestas (L) are the new Mayor and Vice Mayor, respectively, of Stockton Street. The sounds of ragtime music being played on a piano greeted patrons as they attended the Mayor's Council Ball on Nov. 9. Lots of handsome "Bucks" and "Does" sparkled along with a remodeled BUCK'S done over from floor to ceiling. New Mayor Jeff Boullard told the crowd, "I didn't win, we all won," and promised to do his best. Vice Mayor Joe Maestas is a past president.

NGTF Board Meets in NYC

By Rick Rudy

The National Gay Task Force (NGTF) met in New York City on Nov. 2-3 for its quarterly Board of Directors meeting. Several significant issues were discussed and key decisions taken.

Headquarters To Move

Since the NGTF is the major national lesbian and gay organization whose work is carried out in large part in lobbying with the federal government, NGTF voted to move its headquarters to Washington, DC, in the near future.

Jeff Levi, NGTF Director of Governmental and Political Affairs, has been maintaining a small office in Washington for several years, but it was felt that moving NGTF headquarters to that city would be in line with NGTF's national stature and commitment. A much-reduced New York City office will remain, for administrative and fundraising purposes.

Balanced Budget

In its financial report, the NGTF disclosed that while it is operating monthly within its in-

I.N.S. OK's Gay Cuban

San Francisco — The United States Immigration and Naturalization Service has granted permanent residence status to a gay Cuban refugee.

This signals an apparent reversal of the longstanding policy of the I.N.S. that gay men and women can not lawfully enter the United States, according to National Gay Rights Advocates Legal Director, Leonard Graff.

Santiago Reyes is the first beneficiary of this action. He came to the United States in the Mariel boat lift of 1980.

The I.N.S. stalled Reyes for more than six months until National Gay Rights Advocates entered the case.

"The I.N.S. issued his permanent resident visa just one

week after we notified the I.N.S. that we were representing Mr. Reyes," Graff said. "NGRA has sued the I.N.S. before and won and they know we would not hesitate to sue them again."

In 1982, NGRA won a landmark decision in the case of *Carl Hill v. INS*.

Jean O'Leary, NGRA executive director, commented, "The questions the I.N.S. asked Mr. Reyes were appalling. Their files contain all the explicit details of his sex life. Government action of this type is repugnant to all Americans, and we're not going to tolerate it."

Jeff Appleman, a San Francisco attorney who specializes in immigration law, worked with NGRA on this case. □

come level, a debt of \$90,000 has accumulated over the past several years.

The Board unanimously voted to require the Director of Administration and Finance to hold to a balanced budget until the debt is eliminated. This commitment to fiscal responsibility should give the lesbian and gay community a strong sign of NGTF's long-term dependability.

In order to meet its financial

Continued on Back Page

Buddies film benefit for ARIS

Arthur Bressan, Jr.'s *Buddies*, the first motion picture to feature the tragedy of AIDS, will screen Dec. 2 at Camera One as a benefit for the ARIS Project, an emotional and practical support program in Santa Clara County for persons with AIDS or AIDS-Related Complex. The \$8 admission price includes a champagne reception provided by Jon Snell's Desperados following the film. At the event, representatives of the AIDS Foundation of Santa Clara County will officially turn over assets of the non-profit organization, acknowledging ARIS as its successor. Advance tickets may be purchased through members of the ARIS Project. Call (408) 993-3890 for information or contact Camera One at (408) 998-3022 on the day of the film. Camera One is located at 366 South First Street in downtown San Jose. □



As her last official act, outgoing Mayor Darlene Lutz (L) presented the Billy DeFrank Community Center with a check for \$3,314.36. Center director David Treadwell (R) accepted the check, while Richard Kendall (center), emcee, was kept busy on the microphone. Mark McMillan was the maestro on the piano.

— Ted Sahl

Photos by Ted Sahl

Scondras buries opposition Gay-baiting mars Boston elections



Boston City Councillor
DAVID SCONDRA

Photo by Mitzel

Capturing over 65% of the vote, openly gay Boston City Councillor David Scondras easily won re-election to his second term on Tuesday, Nov. 5.

Scondras pieced together a coalition of gay and lesbian, elderly, black and hispanic, and tenant activist voters to win every neighborhood in his widely diverse district and defeat Republican opponent Judy Porteus.

In an impassioned election night speech to hundreds of cheering campaign volunteers, Scondras pledged to attack classism as well as racism, sexism, and homophobia in order "to make the city work for all of us."

Two of the four Boston Lesbian and Gay Political Alliance endorsed candidates won all large seats in elections that saw all Council incumbents returned to office as a driving rain held voter turnout to a record low.

Topping the ticket for the four at-large seats up for grabs, however, was Albert "Dapper" O'Neil, a vociferous homophobe who has promised to rid the city of "the SICK'S [sic]."

O'Neil campaigned heavily on an anti-gay platform, consistently blasting opponents who had received the endorsement of "the gays, the lesbians, the socialists, and the radicals."

Earlier in the year O'Neil told a fundraising audience of his disgust at having to sit next to "that fag David Scondras."

O'Neil won the endorsement

of the ultra-right *South Boston Marshal*, a paper that has called for the extermination of all gay men unless "they stop their perverted ways."

Gay-baiting backfired in another district race, though, as the lesbian and gay community rallied behind embattled incumbent Councillor Brian McLaughlin.

Under attack for his outspoken support of gay rights by real estate financed opponent Richard Izzo, McLaughlin received thousands of dollars and dozens of volunteers from the gay and lesbian community in the last weeks of his campaign.

McLaughlin won with a surprisingly strong 56% of the vote.

Gay and lesbian activists, hoping to tilt the Council's current 7-6 conservative majority, are already planning for the 1987 municipal elections when a mayoral race traditionally draws a more progressive electorate.

Endorsed by Building Trades

The Boston Building and Construction Trades Council, representing dozens of local unions, endorsed Scondras in his bid for a second term. Scondras is the first openly gay candidate to win support from the traditionally conservative Building Trade Council.

"Progressives must understand that economic justice is an indispensable and indivisible part

of social justice," said Scondras. "When people are denied basics like housing or food or medical care, it doesn't matter if it is because of their skin color or sexual preference or because they don't make enough money — it's wrong, and those of us working for a more just society must see that things change."

Building a coalition of progressive groups that includes labor has been a long-pursued strategy of Scondras'. His work with Local 65 of the UAW on early contract talks resulted in the union pressing for non-discrimination protections for gay and lesbian people, a move strongly opposed by homophobic management at Boston University where the union represents clerical workers.

Two other unions Scondras has strongly supported (representing hospital workers and hotel and restaurant employees) have contacted his City Hall office offering support for domestic partners legislation.

Additionally, Scondras is meeting with state officials of the AFL-CIO to discuss the New England Coors boycott and the union's lack of support of the Massachusetts state gay rights bill.

To Attend West Hollywood

Scondras will attend the first-ever gathering of openly gay and lesbian elected officials on Nov. 22-24 in West Hollywood. He is a

member of the host committee for the conference, which is expected to attract over 100 participants.

The conference is co-sponsored by the City of West Hollywood, the National Association of Gay/Lesbian Democratic Clubs, and MECLA (Municipal Elections Committee of Los Angeles).

"We are building a national base on the municipal gains gay and lesbian people have made the last decade," Scondras noted.

"For gay and lesbian liberation to advance, education and outreach have got to be backed up with political power, especially during the present AIDS crisis."

Scondras will address a MECLA breakfast at 8 a.m. on Nov. 22 at the Le Bel Age Hotel. □

Gay Arts Council Winter Showcase

The Winter Showcase of the Arts Council of Gay/Lesbian San Jose is scheduled from 12 noon to 5 p.m. Dec. 8 at the Los Gatos Academy of Dance, according to publicist Steve Storz.

The Showcase will feature the artistic works of several Santa Clara Valley Gay and Lesbian visual artists and a performance program as well.

For further information, call 408/996-1633 or write the Arts Council, P.O. Box 5576, San Jose, CA 95150. □

Our paper your paper

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Thursday, November 28, 3 - 6 p.m.

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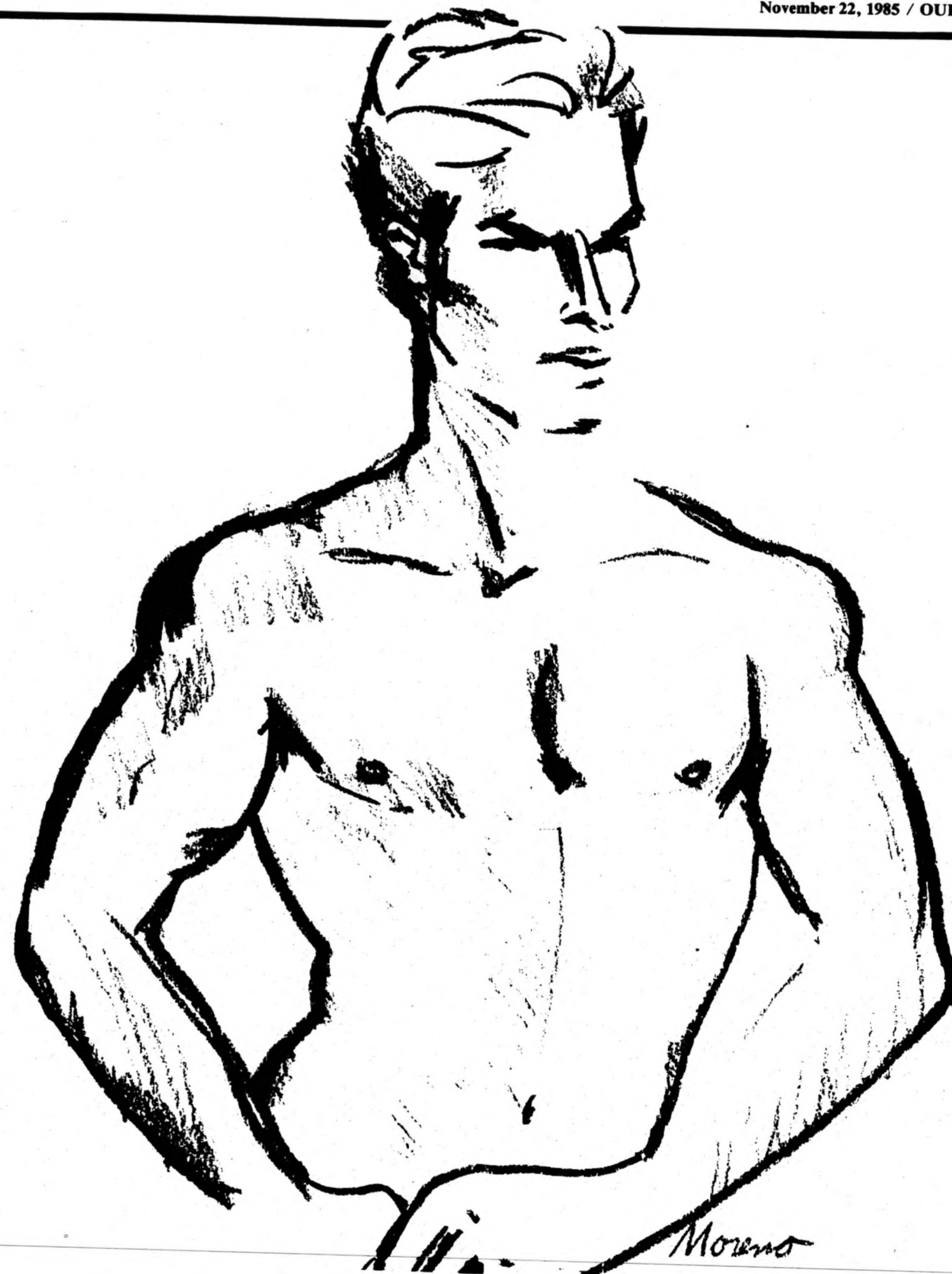
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LETTERS FROM OUR READERS

GETTING RID OF MUD

Upon a friend's recommendation, I read an article in the latest issue of *X-tra X-tra* entitled "X-tra X-tra X-tra X-tra." My reaction to it was one of surprise, shock and disgust.

First of all, if anyone has any questions regarding the financial status of or any questions at all concerning the Imperial AIDS Foundation, I strongly suggest they call the IAF and ask them directly.

After all, their phone number is listed in some of the Gay newspapers. Besides, I've always felt it best to go straight to the source rather than to get the information second-hand.

For we all should be aware that second-hand information is often based on ignorance or rumors or both.

As for the X-tra X-tra staff, I feel they could have been more upfront to the IAF about this matter. If they had any questions about the IAF, they could have contacted them first, instead of sneaking around behind their backs, playing cloak and dagger games, contacting various agencies to find out whether or not the IAF is a legal nonprofit organization.

Then if they did not like IAF's answers, by all means contact various agencies. That's what I mean about being upfront.

To further clear away the mud, I contacted Yolanda, the President of IAF, and talked with her for quite awhile.

First of all, for those of you who are unaware, in order for an organization to have legal nonprofit status, it must apply for and be given a tax-exempt number.

Now, please be aware a tax-exempt number is not something you get overnight; instead, it involves a lot of paperwork and can be quite expensive if you have to employ the services of an attorney, and it takes a lot of time.

However, an organization can share a tax-exempt number of another organization, I am told, thereby giving it legal nonprofit status. This, Yolanda told me, the IAF is currently doing with the Billy DeFrank Center.

Also, there is always accountability in an organization, whether or not it has a tax-exempt number, as long as it keeps books (records) of donations, income, and expenditures.

Again, Yolanda informs me the IAF has done this and further stated that she invited the staff of X-tra X-tra to come to the IAF meetings and examine the books themselves. To this date, they have not done so.

Why? I don't know, unless the truth is too hard to take, and it would appear it is much easier to make "much ado about nothing."

At this time, concerning a tax-exempt number, there are a few Gay organizations that do not have a tax-exempt number, but are working toward getting one; and the IAF, Yolanda informs me, is one of them.

As for support, I wholeheartedly applaud and support the work Yolanda and the IAF are doing. It is very impressive to see a small group of people do so much to raise money to help make life a little more pleasant for the people with AIDS.

For those who talk about having respect for ourselves, I really pray that one day you will come to know what respect is, when you can stop bickering, backstabbing and slinging mud at other people and organizations.

If you want to talk about respect, why not do something respectable, like apologizing to an organization that you have wrongfully bad-mouthed publicly.

And finally, to whoever wrote the article in *X-tra X-tra* entitled "X-tra X-tra X-tra X-tra," I'd appreciate it very much if, in the future, you would have the courage to sign your name to any articles you might write, instead of hiding behind "The Staff" for a signature — as I am not afraid to sign my name to any articles I write even though I like myself, am on the staff of a newspaper.

Regards,
Al Rattee
Editorial Assistant
Our Paper / Your Paper

IAF TAX-EXEMPT

Because of the bureaucratic red tape involved in an organization's application for tax-exempt status (it can take many months), the Community Center is proud to announce that the Imperial AIDS Foundation is now sponsored by the Center. This means all gifts to Imperial AIDS are tax-exempt.

We are convinced that everyone knows the terrible toll this disease has had on our community and that we all should be doing whatever we can to ease the financial burden for people with AIDS. Recognizing the considerable personal sacrifices Imperial AIDS have made we hope they will continue to enjoy the full support of everyone in the Santa Clara Valley. Only when the community comes together in a spirit of cooperation will our goals be achieved.

We are looking forward to a long and productive working relationship.

Sincerely yours,

David K. Treadwell
Director
Billy DeFrank Lesbian/Gay
Community Center
San Jose, CA

OUR PAPER A PLUM?

Gentlemen and Gentlewomen:

As a new name for your/our newspaper, why not *The Gay Plum* or *The Gay Plum of Santa Clara Valley*? Perhaps even *The San Jose Gay Plum*. After all, you folks are all Greater San Joseans.

This title reflects the historic past of the Santa Clara Valley's worldwide reputation for the quality of its plums.

The plum, especially if it was grown in the Santa Clara Valley, is famous for its juiciness, its tastiness, and its warmth.

We all know such wonderful qualities describe the peculiar characteristics of all gay men and lesbian women. These are the very qualities that make us different.

Likewise, whether gay or non-gay, we must all be also Bostonians, in the sense that Bostonian or not, we should have an acute sensitivity to the historical traditions of our local communities.

In the public's mind, in the not-too-distant past, the Santa Clara Valley was equated with plums.

Respectfully yours,
James F. Gibbons

THANKS TO STOCKTON STRIP

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone publicly for making the Stockton Street Mayor's race such a financial success for the Community Center.

To the six candidates — Jeff, Joe, Eric, Dee, John and Bear — a special thank-you for your efforts.

The \$3312 raised was the largest fundraiser for the Community Center in our five-year history.

Congratulations to Jeff for winning the title of "Mayor of Stockton Street." I know you will be a credit to that title.

To the Center-sponsored candidate, Joe, I would like to express how much your work on behalf of the Center is appreciated. You represented the Center well, and we are proud of you.

The Center has provided our community a hotline (which serves as a crisis line and referral line), a meeting place for Center groups and community groups, an archives with over 6000 lesbian and gay reference items, and a place for young people to meet.

Only through your continued support can we make the Community Center what it should be.

Sincerely yours,

David K. Treadwell
Director
Billy DeFrank Lesbian/Gay
Community Center
86 Keyes Street
San Jose, CA 95112
(408) 293-4525



WHO LOVES YA — MAC's does!!! And they sure did prove it at their anniversary party Nov. 3. The champagne bottles popped open all night; patrons were treated like Queens . . . and Kings. (That was a joke, son!) It was so crowded I had to corral a bunch out on to the sidewalk to take a picture. Them corks were getting dangerous, whizzing past my ears. Some remembered when Mac's was a show room for new cars — they say you could drive into the show room and drive out onto Second St. Well, it was a great people's party of old friends talking about the good old days! — Ted Sahl

BLOOD DONORS

I would like to introduce you to our organization, Donor Referral Service. To our knowledge, it is the first organization which is designed for you to participate in the prevention of AIDS while protecting your family and loved ones.

As you know, AIDS is no longer classified as a disease which strikes primarily male homosexuals or drug users.

Dr. Ward Cates, U.S. Center for Disease Control, stated in an August 12, '85 Newsweek article, "anyone who has the least ability to look into the future can already see the potential for this disease being much worse than anything mankind has seen before."

Our blood supply, the very substance which sustains life has now placed us all in potential jeopardy. Blood bank workers, hospital per-

sonnel, and emergency care specialists are working to minimize the risk of blood transfusions.

However, as the incidence of AIDS increases in the general population despite the HTLV-III test, the number of AIDS cases due to blood transfusion will substantially increase.

Donor Referral Service arranges for safer blood transfusions through a selective classification of donor members who are at low risk for having AIDS. Our donors are all women, women who care enough to want to protect themselves, their spouses, children and others from AIDS.

At this point I hope you are asking, "How can I help?" You can help by:

1. Informing the members of your organization about our service.
2. Calling Donor Referral Service with your questions (your input enhances the quality of the service we provide).

REMEMBER THE CHILDREN

I would like to take this time to ask a favor of the Gay community.

As a community, not only locally but worldwide, we have faced and fought several battles, for our rights as human beings to our rights to serve our country. In later years, a great deal of attention has aptly been focused on our health crisis in dealing with the terrible AIDS epidemic.

Through it all, we have pulled together and have won many of the battles. Even now we have a steady aim at defeating AIDS and standing victorious through our group efforts.

As we approach the holidays, I would like to ask that we all take a few minutes and look at another faction, children.

The most innocent of all groups, many of these children will grow up to be members of our community, doctors to research for the benefit of all, lawyers to fight for what is right for us all, business men and women to keep our industry strong, etc.

Many of the children in our own local area are in the underprivileged category. We have the opportunity perhaps not to change that category, but to make one day out of their lives, Christmas, a little more than what it will be without our help.

This year, I would like to ask all members of the Gay community to donate to the Toys for Tots drive. Many of our local businesses are already placing toy barrels for collection of new toys, or cash donations which will be used to purchase new

toys, for the single purpose of making a child's Christmas a little brighter.

Who knows? Maybe what goes around really does come around. Can you think of a nicer way to say Merry Christmas?

If you would be interested in joining the drive this year, in making a donation or having a toy barrel placed in your establishment, please feel free to contact me at the number listed below, and I will make the necessary arrangements with you.

Thank you & Happy Holidays,

Gary Reil Williams
General Manager
Interlude Restaurant
(408) 244-2829

Desperados AIDS Benefit

By Ted Sahl

Pom Pom Girls at Desperados? Why not — actually they were the Hayward Raw Raws, an acrobatic dance team who perform all over the Bay area.

James, that hot entertainer that is working in San Jose, headed a star-studded show. Our very own IRS Girls, Desiree, Stephanie, Racine and Vanessa had all the boys fainting, as it were.

Hassan Deeb, a male belly dancer, put on a show right out of the Arabian Nights — one of the most exciting acts I have seen in a very long time.

Next on the list of great stuff, Patsy Kline — that's no drag queen, honey!

Guest Star — Jayne Edwards, whose smash records and dynamic personality tore the house down with several curtain calls. Ms. Edwards said, "I heard this show is for AIDS" and pass the hat, she did. This gracious lady — and I use that term — royally rewarded donations with a kiss.



Hassan Deeb, belly dancer.

Photo by Ted Sahl

Proceeds from the event went to benefit ARIS Project and the Imperial AIDS Foundation. Three cheers for Desperados! □



Jayne Edwards.

Photo by Ted Sahl



Bernie and Yolanda, officers of the Imperial AIDS Foundation, signed up with the Billy DeFrank Gay/Lesbian Community Center, making their tax-deductible nonprofit status official under the umbrella of the Center's federal 501(c)(3). David Treadwell (left) invited the I.A.F. to join with other organization's that use the Center's tax-exempt status for fundraising activities, following an attack on Yolanda and the IAF in a recent issue of San Jose's gay pictorial magazine, *X-tra X-tra*. The stated purpose of the Imperial AIDS Foundation is to help AIDS people with living expenses, transportation, food, clothing, and other personal needs. Photo by Ted Sahl



Board members of the Imperial AIDS Foundation looked a little grim at a fundraiser at Ryder's on Nov. 3, but we're sure they left the new bar on Monterey Road with smiles after the Ryder's auction raised \$1,303 to benefit AIDS patients. Lots of lanky cowboys looking like they stepped off a billboard kept the bidding going, refreshing themselves and dancing their "hoofs" off. The auctioneer was taking bids for the shirt off his back (for the cause, that is), and he did get a buyer. Western "goodies" such as belt buckles and hats were auctioned off, and Ryder's owners chipped in some bucks too. Ten cents from every schnapps sold went to the IAF, and Ryder's matched that with their own donation. — Ted Sahl Photo by Ted Sahl

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4942 Stevens Creek, San Jose 95129

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1205 The Alameda, San Jose 95126 (Lounge) (408) 286-9432

Mac's Club* (Bar) (408) 998-9535
349 S. First St., San Jose 95112

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393 Stockton Ave., San Jose 95126

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1640 Main Street, Redwood City 94063

Ryder's* (C/W Dance Bar & Rest.) (408) 297-WEST
2121 Monterey Road, San Jose 95112

Savoy* (Women's Bar) (408) 247-7109
3546 Flora Vista Dr., Santa Clara 95051

Silver Fox* (Bar) (408) 725-9662
10095 Saich Way, Cupertino 95014

Whiskey Gulch Saloon* (415) 853-9747
1951 University Ave., Palo Alto 94303

EAST BAY

Bench & Bar* (Bar & Restaurant) (415) 444-2266
120 - 11th St., Oakland

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22615 Mission St., Hayward 94541

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Where It's At!

By Dot James



Jim Stull sez **Jennifer's Kitchen** is now in biz and ready for customers. It's a hofbrau located at 475 Aldo in Santa Clara and open from 7 a.m. 'til 4 p.m. Breakfast specials include eggs, ham, sausage, and — always my favorite — biscuits 'n' country gravy. Jim and sidekick Jimmy Cassara will also be whipping up the usual kinds of hofbrau sandwiches and et cetera at the lunch hour. Easy access from Hwy 101 and the Trimble Road exit and only about ten minutes from the heart of Sunnyvale's high tech industry.

The **Boot Rack** is holding its "End of an Era" party from Friday, Nov. 29, through closing day on Sunday, Dec. 1. Owner Jack Britton, Manager Rich Calmbacher, and all the Boot Rack employees hope everyone will drop by sometime during the three days. An auction of Boot Rack memorabilia, with Rich auctioneering and the proceeds to the **ARIS Project**, will be held on Sunday, Dec. 1. At deadline I didn't have the time, call the Boot Rack for info.

Carmelita, "Empress of all San Jose and Mac's Club," is back from vacation in Hawaii with "husband" Elmer and off to Disneyland soon. "She" sez Hawaii was great except for the many triathlon cyclists wheeling madly through the streets in practice. "Do you realize who you're running into?" Carmelita huffed at one of them. And can't you just imagine that scene!

A note from my "memorable lines" file: Gail Chandler, in conversation with some of the folks who dropped by to toast Mac's 7th anniversary, remarked, "I get more and more proud of myself every year. The first time I walked into Mac's I was scared to death because I didn't think anyone would like me."

Piano Man David Burgess recently enjoyed a stint tickling the ivories for a fashion show and is ready to tackle any event — weddings, bar mitzvahs, cocktail parties, you name it. (*Piano Man* David Burgess? Yep, the same guy we already know as the community liaison for the county Health Department's AIDS Project.)

I enjoyed an evening at a **High Tech Gays** meeting, my first. What a remarkable group! They have some 600 on the mailing list and draw a crowd of over 100 for their meetings. Mostly guys; Elizabeth is heading up the Women's Caucus trying to recruit more high tech women into the organization. Lots of social events for members, from theatre parties to ski weekends. This one's a real winner for those of you high techies looking for relaxing outlets.

And how nice to see ol' friends Jeff, Max, Ken, Doug, Vern, and Wiggys whom I don't run into very often these days.

Another winner for guys with kids is **South Bay Gay Fathers**. You missed the big Chili Cook-Off on Nov. 17th, but this group plans lots of activities all year 'round, so call (408) 251-8766 or (408) 244-3418 for membership info.

Lesbians will want to check out **Slightly Older Lesbians (SOL)** and the **Feminist Lesbian Social Group (FLSG)**, which sponsor raps and potlucks and other activities. Call the **Billy DeFrank Community Center** for info.

Speaking of the community center: I'm pleased to report it bagged \$3,312.36 in donations during the recent **Mayor of Stockton Strip** electioneering, the only time *buying* a vote is not only legal but commendable! Jeff Bullard of the **Boot Rack** is the new Mayor, and he's busy setting up his Council. Call Joe Maestas at (408) 279-0459 if you're interested in participating.

The **Interlude** continues to be such a class act. The whole entrance hall is now repainted and decorated with abstracts, and there're white cloths on the front bar tables. And great *hors d'oeuvres* during Happy Hour; an appetizer last week was a batch of really nice sauteed, teeny, tiny weenies prepared by George the Cook. (No wisecracks here, O Prurient Ones!) Gary, the Interlude manager for the last four or five months, sez he hopes everyone will drop by and introduce themselves to him. Gary's a writer; those of you with a literary bent will especially find something in common to chit-chat about.

Pro wrasslin' at the **641 Club** is a definite go on Nov. 24 starting at 5 p.m. Your \$5 admission fee, donated to the **Imperial AIDS Foundation**, buys you four matches arranged by bartender "Bear" Alvarez — 3 singles and a 6-man tag. There'll also be a strong man act for pumpin' iron aficionados.

Trevor, the barkeep at **TD's**, sez the bar will be open at 3 p.m. on Thanksgiving Day and "if you've got a spare turkey leg, bring it along for the bartender with the big smile!"

And several notes from my "what goes around, comes around" file:

I've got the details on the "Orphans of Stockton Avenue Thanksgiving Dinner" from Jim, bartender at **Renegades**. This is the 4th or 5th year for the annual event, a freebie for folks at loose ends on Nov. 28. Turkey 'n' all the trimmings will be served starting between 5 and 7 p.m. — "whenever it's ready," sez Jim — and ending whenever everyone's belly is full. Dale Searight welcomes volunteers to help with the cooking and, especially, the clean-up. And if you want to donate a turkey or a side dish to share, they'll be welcomed, too.

More and more of "our family" members try to share with those less fortunate at this time of year. For example, the annual canned-food drive is underway at **MCC-San Jose**; call the church's office at (408) 279-2711 for details on how you can donate or otherwise participate. (And I'd really appreciate hearing from other groups who'd like a mention in this column about their holiday assistance drives. There're lots of our folks out there who'll lend a hand if they know what you're doing; call me at 408/978-0992.)

The Interlude's annual "Toys for Tots" drive kicks off on Nov. 29 with a C&W Party and Barbeque from 8 p.m. 'til 2 a.m. Gary is enlisting the aid of others in the gay community to help with the drive this year; Johnnie and Teri of **X-tra X-tra** are the guest hosts for this first event. There'll be dancing and western attire prizes, specials on keg beer and schnapps, 50¢ to "Toys for Tots" on every bar drink, and ribs at \$3.95/plate. And even a show, headlining recording artist Don Te Beaux.

Previewing the kickoff is the Interlude's Thanksgiving Day

Continued on Back Page

Quilters is a Family Show



The cast and musicians of San Jose Rep's production of **QUILTERS** pose before the "legacy quilt." The play continues through Dec. 8 at the Montgomery Theatre in downtown San Jose. For tickets, call (408) 294-7572.

Photo by Charles I. Savadelis

Theatre Review by Rick Rudy

Quilters by Molly Newman and Barbara Damashek is the opening show of the San Jose Rep's season, and as can be told from its billing as "Mervyn's Family Classic" it is a family show.

In fact, it is very much like watching all of the "Little House on the Prairie" or "The Waltons" episodes strung together.

Quilters, which had a short run on Broadway last year, is based on a book "The Quilters: Women and Domestic Art" and is played entirely by women; women even take the few men's

roles. Each section of the play is patterned around a quilt, and there are sixteen such sections. The quilts are really lovely. Too bad the same can't be said of the play.

The hearty, robust prairie women are as entirely predictable as the facile and cliché ridden script. We see the trek across the plains in the covered wagon; the icy winters; the building of log homes; the birthing; the raising of children; the sickness; and especially the making of quilts which was both a ritual and a form of entertainment.

Seven women play all the roles,

and five women make up the bluegrass band which accompanies the show and provides the sound track of creaking logs and dying cattle.

All the women are competent actors (I gather from the program that "actress" is out of vogue) and some accomplished singers.

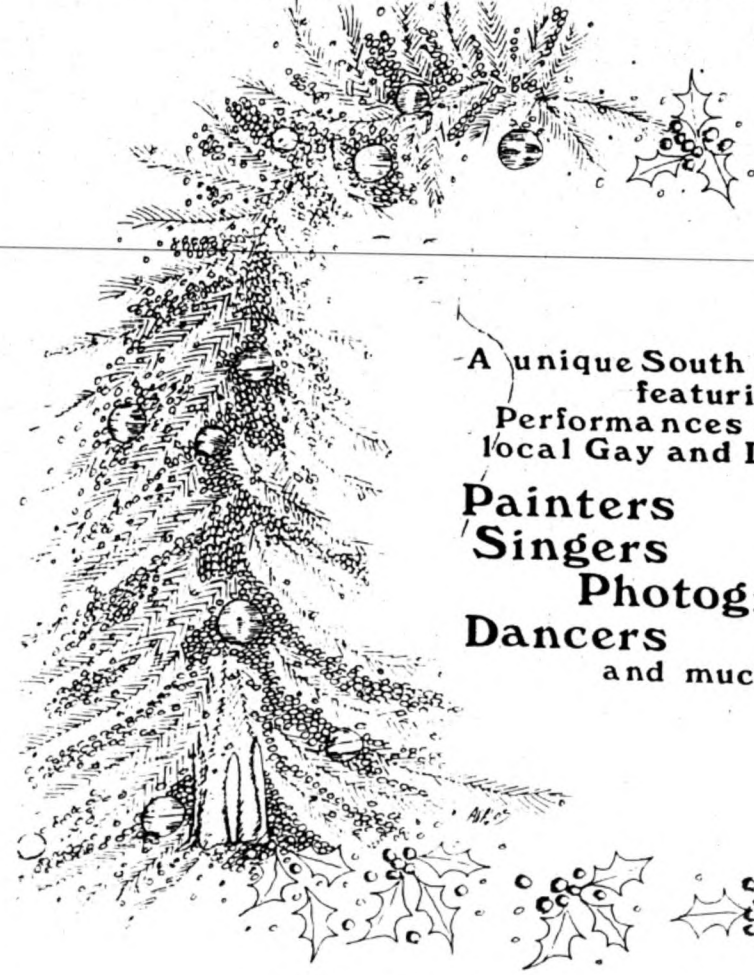
The songs are rarely melodious, and when they are sung by the ensemble, are incomprehensible. But some few are pleasant.

The direction by David Lemos is appropriate, but his choreography is somewhat insipid. One effect, the near-

Continued on Back Page

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Senior Black Lesbian Honored Guest At NCBG Natl Conference



Mabel Hampton

Washington, D.C. — Mabel Hampton, an 83-year-old Black Lesbian activist from New York City will be featured as one of the honored guests at the annual national conference of the National Coalition of Black Gays (NCBG), scheduled this coming Thanksgiving weekend in St. Louis.

Hampton was born in Winston-Salem, North Carolina. She began her New York life in 1908 when her uncle brought her to Greenwich Village, where she

used to sing in the streets for pennies thrown from the windows.

In her teen years, Hampton was a member of an all female dance troupe that toured the city.

She was a dancer at Harlem club, "The Garden of Joy," a member of the Lafayette Theater chorus and a visitor to the gatherings of A'Leila Walker of Harlem Renaissance fame.

In the Thirties, Hampton met Lillian Foster, who was to be her partner for the next thirty-five years until death separated them.

Ms. Hampton has always been part of a thriving Black Lesbian community that worked, played and loved together long before the organized movement.

Since Lillian's death in 1978, Hampton has become active in the gay rights movement, participating both in the work of the Lesbian Herstory Educational Foundation and Senior Action in a Gay Environment (SAGE).

She has marched in every Gay Pride Day, walked the long road in our first national demonstration in Washington, D.C., and appeared in two films, "Silent Pioneers" and "Before Stonewall."

For more information about NCBG or charter bus service call (202) 737-5276 or write to NCBG, 930 F Street, NW Suite 514, Washington, D.C. 20004. □

A Night at the Opera (Comique)

Theatre Review by Rick Rudy

The American Conservatory Theatre's latest show is a zany and delightful romp called *Opera Comique*, written and directed by ACT's Nagle Jackson.

This comedy is styled after the Feydeau French farces, with much running in and out of doors. The doors in this case being the doors to three boxes off the lobby of the Opera Comique in Paris in March 1875, the night of the opening of Bizet's *Carmen*.

The box on the left, number 3, is occupied by the Corniche family, father, mother and demure daughter, attending the opera to cement the marriage of their daughter to Hector Vigneron.

The center box, number 5, contains George Bizet, frantic with the jitters of opening night, attended by his solicitous friend Ernest.

The right-hand box, number 7, holds Hector Vigneron, an adolescent sex fiend, and his father Paul, secret lover to Madame de la Corniche (see Box 3).

On hand also are Charles Gounod, the composer of *Faust*, a street tart, and an usher/door opener who comments on the goings-on.

The madness which ensues includes partner swapping, a naked girl, a lecture on the fate motif from *Carmen*, and a stabbing. All this is done in high style, only tempered by the underlying current of the failure of the opera at its opening and the almost immediate death of Bizet who never knew what a success the opera finally became.

Peter Donat is exquisite as the trapped father Paul Vigneron, in love with both the mother and

daughter Corniche.

Marrian Walters is arch as the mother in search of the perfect match for her daughter (and if it makes her lover the father-in-law, so much the better).

Henry Woronicz is a coiled spring as Georges Bizet, knowingly foretelling disaster as he watches the audience study the architecture instead of the opera.

Joy Carlin is winning as the door opener, speaking as the "common man" throughout the play. William Patterson is a grand humbug Gounod, and Joan Stuart-Morris is a brazen comedienne who lures Gounod into trouble.

Opera Comique continues at the Geary Theatre through December 7 and is not to be missed. □

QUILTERS

Cont. from Page 8

drowning during a baptism, seems lifted from the drowning of Simon Legree in "The King and I."

The real "problem" with the play, and I use quotes because some may not have seen episodes of "Little House" or "The Waltons" and may find this all very charming, the problem lies with the script and the stereotypical women.

As a piece of history, much of the play is effective. But as theatre which challenges the audience, or even entertains them, *Quilters* leaves a lot to be desired.

Quilters continues at the Montgomery Theatre through December 8. Call (408) 294-7572 for ticket information. San Jose Rep's next show will be Peter Nichols' *Passion Play*, opening December 26, "recommended for mature audiences." □

NGTF

Cont. from Front Page

goals, each Board member (there are 22) is required to raise \$2500 annually, and local Board members (one in San Jose, two in San Francisco and one in Berkeley) will be holding fundraisers soon.

The Board also adopted a new budget policy of setting aside moneys for membership development which has been lacking in recent years. The NGTF membership roster has dropped from 8000 to 6500 in the past two years, due primarily to having no aggressive policy on development.

Crisisline

In a move to fund more adequately the NGTF Crisisline, which handles hundreds of calls each week, the NGTF Board voted to transfer the operation of the Crisisline to the NGTF Fund For Human Dignity, the tax-exempt arm of NGTF.

As a 501(c)(3) foundation, The Fund can receive grants for operating the Crisisline which are denied to NGTF as a political organization.

Outreach

The NGTF has been perceived as an East coast organization with little contact in the Mid-west or West. The new Board consists of 22 members from fourteen different states, including some from small cities well outside the lesbian/gay meccas; quite a change from previous years.

In addition, the Board agreed to begin holding its quarterly meetings in various cities around the country to boost NGTF recognition regionally and to demonstrate a desire to represent the entire American lesbian and gay community. The February 1986 meeting will be held in Phoenix, Arizona.

In an unprecedented move, the Board unanimously agreed to add "Lesbian" to the name of the organization. Several Board members have for years lobbied for this action, feeling strongly that full support from the lesbian community was impossible without such a change.

Despite concerns for name recognition (NGTF has been around for 14 years) and the possible legal and administrative costs, the Board felt that total community support for NGTF by lesbian women and gay men was of over-riding importance.

Officers Elected

Before adjourning, 3 lesbian women and 2 gay men were elected to the NGTF Executive Committee which guides the organization between Board meetings.

Elected were Frances Hanckle (PA) and Peter Fowler (CA) as Co-Chairs, Jim Holm (WA) as Treasurer, Sara Throne (NY) as Secretary, and Urvashi Vaid (DC) as Membership Chair.

The Board members from the Bay Area are Rick Rudy, San Jose, Peter Fowler and Charlie Wing, San Francisco, and Bernice Soo Hoo Lee, Berkeley. □

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WHERE IT'S AT! Continued from Page 8

buffet from 3 to 6 p.m. on Nov. 28, with \$1 from every 13/plate going to the toy drive.

You'll begin to see toy barrels in some of the other bars which are participating in the drive, too. Cash donations as well as new and good-condition used toys are welcomed; if you contribute at another bar, you'll receive a ticket for entry into the Interlude's Dec. 14 finale, the "Toy Mountain Benefit Performance." (Details next column.)

This drive is, of course, a part of the Marine Corps' effort each year. Last year I put a little notice in my company's newsletter and on the bulletin board stating that I was collecting toys for "a distribution point" for the Corps — how's that for a nice generic, closeted phrase! Only one nibble from the zero-consciousness high techies I was working with at this time last year, but what a nice nibble. A woman in maintenance brought me a whole bag full of new toys she'd purchased especially for "Toys for Tots" even though she had some half-dozen young brothers and sisters to buy for, too. I hope some of you will try the ploy this year in your company; remember that the last workday you can collect is Friday, Dec. 13.

And why am I going on and on about this? And talking — at the top of the column — about some of the community groups you might be interested in affiliating with? Because this can be a miserable season of the year for some of our family, those without relatives nearby, those especially who have no lover. I know cuz I spent the last two holiday seasons mateless. I was fortunate; I got a lot of support and love — and invitations — from friends who guessed how lonely I must be. And I participated in some assistance drives and attended some meetings and activities and kept myself busy. If you're alone this season, try that. And if you're warm and cozy and happy this season but know a friend who isn't, be a little extra specially loving and caring and gentle to him and her.

And don't forget to be gentle to yourself, too, between now and Jan. 2. □

FORTUNES

By Tycho

ARIES (March 21 - April 20) While December will not be without its share of surprises, it's the sure and solid, the deep and abiding that make those surprises so special. Fantasies may be entertaining, but the reality of what you possess and enjoy makes them pale by comparison.

TAURUS (April 21 - May 20) Develop an unaccustomed reserve in those situations that normally find you cheerful and open. Less direct participation and much more careful observation are best for you now. Come Christmas, you can hop right back in to the middle of things.

GEMINI (May 21 - June 21) You take the high road, let others take the low road, and you'll breeze right to where you want to be well before them. Get yourself out of the press of mounting stress and do some travel. Take your best friend along. Don't let an authority figure get you down.

CANCER (June 22 - July 22) The month begins and ends with friction, but of two different kinds. The one that gets the month going is a confrontation of minds that can be resolved by tact and generosity; that leads to the month's close, and less distressing physical friction — of the touching kind.

LEO (July 23 - August 22) Boy, George, you're the zodiac's karma chameleon this month! Your ability to change at will according to the needs of the situation you're in and the people you're with is amazing. Christmas should run from jolly to ecstatic, with you playing Santa, if you want.

VIRGO (August 23 - September 22) You have an innate need to prove that everything has its reason and belongs in its proper place. You'd be far better off right now if you allow your generous heart to overrule your precise mind. Don't reject precious memories; they have their place in the big scheme.

LIBRA (September 23 - October 22) Someone's leaving it all up to you, but you're more than equipped to handle it. Family matters, especially those that concern female members, will require your tact and diplomacy. The peace that you offer to others will also be yours.

SCORPIO (October 23 - November 21) You do like to think big, don't you? But this time, your big thoughts are joined by some plans for big action. You've been laying the groundwork for some important changes; now it's time to watch them happen. Big is also beautiful.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 - December 21) It's the season of memories for all signs of the zodiac, but for none more than the Archer. Basking in reverie is certainly pleasant; but add the warmth of that to the light of your keen intelligence, and you'll germinate seeds of new experience. Glorious growth!

CAPRICORN (December 22 - January 19) Your mind and purpose are in one place, but your heart and dreams are in another. Reconciling those seemingly opposite forces does not have to be a destructive process. Look at it as an interesting challenge; be inventive, and then be decisive.

AQUARIUS (January 20 - February 18) Beauty. You are drawn to it magnetically, and you seem to create it spontaneously. Perhaps some glimpse of its opposite makes you appreciate it so. A part of you feels that you are on the brink of something mysterious and wonderful. Explore.

PISCES (February 19 - March 20) You're going places, but you're not exactly sure you want to be going. In fact, uncertainty is a central problem at this time. While you question and examine everything, answers are slow in coming. Christmas will bring blessings. □

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The Beginning...

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Where to go... What to do... Who to see!