Pat Norman at San Jose State

homophobia caused the national health crisis to be ignored because it was believed AIDS was occurring only to gay people. Norman began her lecture by describing how in San Francisco health professionals heard about a rare disease breaking out in Los Angeles and New York's homosexual communities, and "because of the large homosexual community in San Francisco, we would also begin to see it here."

"We didn't know what it was," she said, "or who would be most at risk. It was difficult how to react, how to respond."

"As you know, AIDS, Kaposi's Sarcoma and Pneumocystis Pneumonia are so that nobody really got what they needed," Norman stated. "The impact on the community... up to last year was that we were all getting less within our health budget."

"Imagine what would happen suddenly if everyone who was heterosexual told 'you have a heterosexual disease,' Norman said.

"You are causing this disease because of your activity, because you go around kissing each other," she speculated, "You go around having sex with each other, because you are doing other things that are horrendous. Now they say you're going to stop that disease is to become heterosexual and have sex with other heterosexuals to become homosexuals."

"What does that mean?'" Norman asked. "What I am talking about is that the misinformation and misunderstanding of another person's sexual orientation... that people who are lesbian and gay... can change their lifestyle, they can change who they are whenever they get ready."

"Well, that's another myth that needs to be taken care of," she said. "As a matter of fact, it is not a possibility for people to turn around and change their sexual orientation or their sexual identity."

"This what did happen in San Francisco, Norman said, was that money was put into a program to provide information on ways to reduce AIDS risk. "So what we saw was an incredible change in the way people related in San Francisco when we could put out the correct information. When they found out that what they were doing sexually one way was putting them in jeopardy, they changed that particular lifestyle," she said.

"When the National Gay Task Force first spoke out on the blood issue," Norman said, "there was an edict put out by the religious right and conservatives... saying 'don't give blood if you fall into this category.'"

"At the same time, the NGTF was saying that to gay men, it was saying to the American Red Cross and Blood Bank Association... to come up with every human being in the United States from any kind of blood contamination — not only in the United States, but in Europe and Asia and South America to come up with their own inadequacy in dealing with the problem, the said, and started to respond in ways that were not helpful or rational."

"We began to see the media pick it up... and to take information from communicable disease centers which were saying, 'the lifestyle is the cause with this disease' instead of saying the virus is the cause of contracting the disease," Norman continued.

"Instead, the press turned it into a situation where people who were infected were looked at as dirty, ugly, and obscene because of their lifestyle being different became the problem, instead of the virus becoming the problem which is like saying the victim is to blame."

"Norman asked anyone remembered the outbreak of what was called "Legionnaire's Disease" in 1978. When that happened, people were dying and there had to be some kind of cure immediately. The federal government immediately dumped enough money into the research project — "getting a response just like that," Norman alleged, snapping her fingers.

In the case of AIDS, it took two and a half years to get a response — for people to begin to understand that people who were gay or I.V. drug users still deserved a research project, she said.

"In order to get it, she said, other programs had to go without. Instead of finding "clean money," projects like the American Indian project in the Southwest, where people were dying of cancer from strip-mining, were stripped of funds.

"Also, seniors who needed to have other services had money taken out of their programs, Norman asserted.

"We began to see a division, a kind of divide-and-conquer..."

Mike Raijo, LaRouche member attempts to debate Pat Norman at San Jose State University. Photo by Ted Sahl

Pat Norman breaking the myth that only white gay males die of AIDS. Photo by Ted Sahl

The monitors are in place; the San Francisco police move the barriers blocking off Castro Street, and the annual Candlelight March honoring Super­visor Harvey Milk and Mayor George Moscone begins.

The two men were assassinated November 27, 1978, in their City Hall offices by former Supervisor Dan White, who recently com­mitted suicide, bringing his crime full circle.

For the first time, the march focuses on a wider demonstration as marchers carry white signs with the names of seven hundred people who have died of AIDS.

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milk-Moscone Memorial March

Photo by Ted Sahl

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Interview:
Claire Mix, singer/songwriter

By St. Juliana Nogales

I saw Claire Mix earlier this year - in this newspaper (Our Paper) with her humorous comic about life in the gay bar. Then I found out through my roommate Chris that Mix is also a songwriter and performer. In late July, I caught her performance at Kwan's Lounge in downtown San Jose - which might even have been a very good show. With her performance at Kwan's Lounge on Nov. 11, I decided to do an interview and find out more about this local talent that's venturing out to the downtown San Jose - which I decided to do in June and find out more about this local talent that's venturing out to the downtown San Jose - which I

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OP: Time for a concert plug -
big finish here.
CM: On Dec. 20, I'll be at Mama Bats in Oakland - it's a bookstore/coffeehouse at 4500 Telegraph Avenue. The show starts at 8:00 p.m.

OP: Tickets?
CM: No tickets, just a donation to the door.

OP: Anything about the origin of women's music you want to mention? CM: The support is there, especially with my family and friends.
OP: Where do you hope to see yourself in about five years from now?
CM: I'd like to have at least one album out by then, keeping my music and become national.

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Interview: Claire Mix, singer/songwriter

Local singer-songwriter Claire Mix made a hit at Kwan's Lounge on Nov. 11. San Jose's homegrown talent will be performing in downtown San Jose on Dec. 20 and in Oakland on Dec. 21.

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A Gay Hannukah

Congregation Ahavath Shalom invites everyone to join in the Community Candlelighting on Saturday, Dec. 7, at 7 p.m. at the San Francisco Junior College to celebrate Hannukah.

Hannukah, also known as the Festival of Lights and the Festival of dedication, is a Jewish holiday that commemorates the rededication of the Holy Temple in Jerusalem that took place in 164 BCE.

A FUND RAISING EVENING

To say San Francisco's First Closet Bar has a history of giving is an understatement. This year's Annual Bar B.A.S.S. formal, “meltdown,” and totally naked event would be well timed for the closing of the bar due to the AIDS crisis.

We, as a community, are young and fast moving. We are working to educate ourselves, our friends, and the public on the nature and scope of the AIDS epidemic. We are trying to make the public aware of our existence and how the AIDS issue has affected us.

It is important that we fully understand the nature of the public's reactions to AIDS.

First, we must recognize that calls for quarantines and similar Draconian measures are aimed at children and not at AIDS victims.

Second, we have to appreciate the fact that the threat of AIDS is a much more insidious threat to our society than the threat of infection by the hepatitis virus.

There are hard days ahead. Public policymakers aren't going to be in a mood to understand or who we are or what we need. For very long. As far as they're concerned, there are two types of issues, those that concern them directly and those that concern us.

But in the midst of all this is the gay community, quietly

The time has come for this community to face some very cold, hard realities. We've done this before, and we can do this again.

And when all's over, we can be better and stronger than ever.
Dennis J. McShane, M.D.
Diplomate, American Board of Internal Medicine

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Roommate Wanted to share large 3 bdrm in San Jose area. $350, 1/2 utilities. Prefer male non-smoker. Call Glen at 408-267-3292.

Female roommate wanted for large 3 bdrm in San Jose area. $400 incl. utilities. No pets or smoking. Call back after 6:00 p.m. 408-287-7071.

GWM to share 3 bdrm in San Jose. Smoking OK. Walk to transportation. 3 blocks from 24-24.


TODAY. Discreet. M-Th, 5-9 p.m. Room for rent. Story and a half bdrm in 25 year-old male home with gay couple.  287-7071.

W/M, 34, 6', 165, br/bl, leather guys or those into gay males 35-50's. Included: transportation. 3 blocks from casa. $450 incl utilities. Smoking OK. Walk to transportation. 408-926-5677.
PAT NORMAN
Continued from Front Page

AIDS," she said. "That information was not being released — that in fact Hepatitis is causing people to die from blood transfusions . . ."

Because the gay community on a national level demanded safe blood for everyone, the HTLV-III blood test was developed, Norman asserted. "It would never have happened unless the gay community had pushed for it."

"We now have this whole rift that is being created to target and identify gay people," Norman said. "What are you doing, why is it you are focused again on targeting people, isolating and quarantining people, when you should be putting your time and energy into finding a way to stop the virus?"

"If you're going to spend $15 million, then why wouldn't you spend $15 or $115 or $1000 million to protect all people from getting this disease, instead of trying to use outdated techniques to isolate and quarantine and scapegoat a whole group of people?"

"You must punish these people: that's the underlying message," Norman concluded. "Let's punish those people."

Following Pat Norman's speech, she answered questions from the audience. One individual took over the question-and-answer period and tried to turn it into a private debate with Norman.

This writer recognized him as being a member of Lyndon LaRouche's National Democratic Policy Committee. It was Mike Raijo, the same person who was camped out in front of the Campbell Post Office with "Spread Panic, Not AIDS" material last month.

FORTUNES
By Tycho

ARIES (March 21 - April 20) The lesson to be learned is the limitation of generosity; and rather than reacting negatively, you are able to view what needs to be done as an ingenious way of taking care of yourself, while doing your best for others. Good for you, Ram.

TAURUS (April 21 - May 20) You and your partner definitely need to work things out. The problem is primarily one of who's responsible for what, who gets, who gives, and so on. That's no news for you; the importance of resolving it should be. Unless part is a Leo or a Capricorn, it should be easy.

GEMINI (May 21 - June 21) A bit of the old schoio Gemini rears its double head. You just can't believe your good fortune, can you? You questioning things that you have to invest questions for! No wonder none of the answers sound right. Ask a Sagittarian for some advice.

CANCER (June 22 - July 22) Your wide-eyed approach to life is not without danger. There's scheming or deception, and some may even need to narrow your focus a bit in order to confront or deflect. A man with seemingly good intentions may not be as good as he seems — intentionally.

LEO (July 23 - August 22) Home is where you want to be, and if you aren't there, you should be working on a way to get there. If no relationship in your life there is any kind of separation, now is the time for reconciliation. Someone home is the heart is; mend the broken ones and come together.

VIRGO (August 23 - September 22) Good fortune on the financial front could show up, though some unexpected results in other areas. Maybe you'll broaden your world by having something you never considered before; maybe you'll combine your money with someone new on a ventureous venture. Interesting!

LIBRA (September 23 - October 22) Look who's the leader of the pack! Your executive qualities come to the forefront now, and are recognized by those who need and admire you. Advice and aid can be found in many different areas. You've got the know-how that's needed.

SCORPIO (October 23 - November 21) You are entering into a period of deep understanding — just the kind of understanding you deep Scorpios love. Your life comes into a crystal clear focus that makes you realize the need for some basic changes. You'll know what they are without question.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 - December 21) You'll receive an answer that you've been waiting for. It may come in an unexpected way or from an unlikely source, so keep those bright eyes and keen ears open. Let yourself be surprised, amazed, delighted; this could be the start of something big.

CAPRICORN (December 22 - January 19) Based on what you've recently retrieved or learned about your past, your equipment is now complete for making concrete plans about the future. The world of relationships and decision is no longer a terrifying territory. You'll have a road map to lead you.

AQUARIUS (January 20 - February 18) That new change in your life is making a terrific impact. Your self-image and the way other people are deeply affected by him or her. There's much to be learned and joyed when sharing new ways of seeing. Together, you can do wonders.

PISCES (February 19 - March 20) Someone older or younger than you enters your life demanding your time and knowledge. Your first reaction may be altogether negative. Try to see the value of the interchange, and allow yourself to be persuaded. Be a teacher and a student at the same time.