



# The Sentinel

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SAN FRANCISCO'S LARGEST AND MOST WIDELY READ GAY NEWSPAPER

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## Virginia Court To Hear Lesbian Mom Custody Case

For the first time a state high court will hear a case based on a lesbian mother's parental rights.

In *Doe vs. Doe*, the Virginia Supreme Court will decide whether Jane Doe, a pseudonym being used by the mother to protect her eight-year-old child, "Jack," should have been denied parental rights solely because she is a lesbian.

Marsha Lowry, an American Civil Liberties Union lawyer representing Jane Doe, explained that the loss of parental rights means that the parent can't visit, call, or have any contact with the child, and the child can be adopted.

Jack had been living with his mother since his parents separated in 1972. The father seldom saw him until early in 1976 when he arrived at Jane's house with his new wife and asked to take his son to dinner. He never returned.

When Jane tried to get Jack back she was advised that she couldn't win custody because she is a lesbian. In 1978 John Doe's new wife petitioned the Virginia Court to adopt Jack.

Last March a Virginia Circuit Court Judge, D.A. Davis III ignored a report submitted by a social service agency acknowledging that Jane Doe was a fit parent and well-respected within her community. He stripped her of her parental rights and granted adoption to John Doe's new wife.

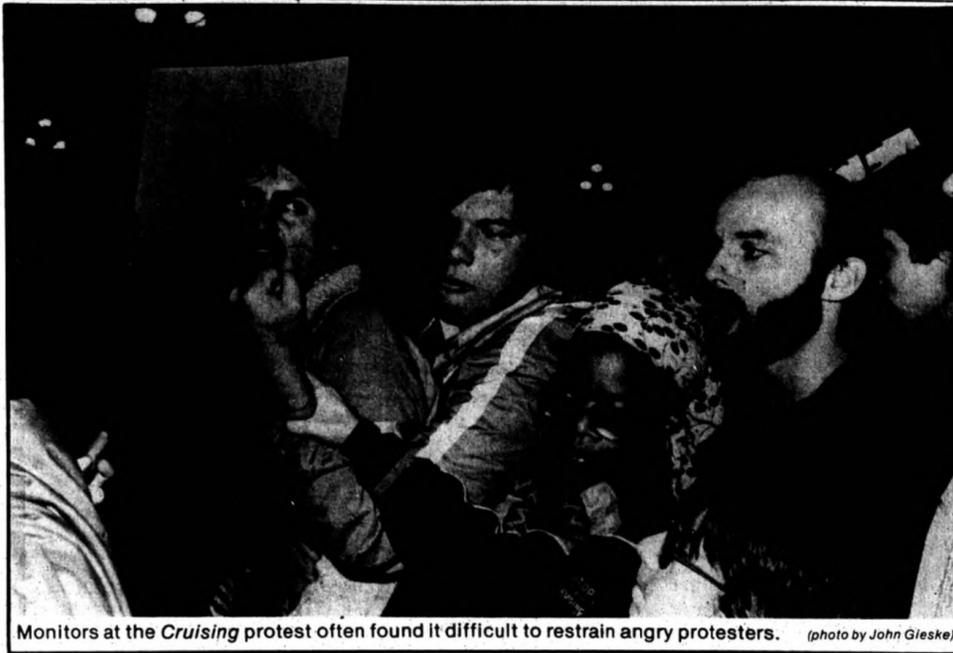
Davis stated that Jane Doe's lesbian relationship "would have a definite detrimental effect on Jack if he is permitted to visit and live with his mother, especially during his formative years, and thus, his being exposed to this relationship would result in serious mental and emotional harm to the child."

The ACLU appeal contends that Judge Davis erred in his ruling. There was clearly no evidence submitted to the court that Jane Doe's refusal to consent to the adoption was not in the best interest of the child, and that her lesbianism was detrimental to the child.

The appeal also states that the Virginia adoption laws are "unconstitutionally vague" and points out that "the individual tastes and sensibilities of the presiding judge can determine whether or not adoption is justifiable."

"Judges have the same prejudices as the general population," stated Marsha Lowry. "Our position is that the Judge's determination was contrary to the best interests of the child."

The ACLU attorneys handling the Doe case are optimistic about their appeal.



Monitors at the *Cruising* protest often found it difficult to restrain angry protesters. (photo by John Gieske)

## The draft! Who knows who goes?

by Sue Zemel

Earlier this month President Carter released a controversial report calling for the revitalization of the Selective Service and the reinstatement of draft registration that includes both men and women.

The Carter Administration's proposal requires 19- and 20-year-olds to register with the Selective Service this year. Beginning in 1981 all those born in 1961 must also register with the Selective Service and henceforth there will be continuous registration of all 18-year-olds.

This plan requires only budgetary approval from Capitol Hill in order to go into effect for men. However, additional legislation to include women would have to be separately written and approved by Congress.

Because conservative members of Congress are strongly opposed to registration of women, and liberal members are opposed to draft registration *per se*, the prospects of such legislation passing appear remote.

Congressman "Sunny" Montgomery, a leading conservative on the

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## Gay Rights Platform Battle Shifts to New Hampshire

"Gay Vote 1980," a nationwide drive to secure a gay rights platform of the Democratic and Republican parties, has shifted its focus from the Iowa caucuses to the New Hampshire primary.

The first state-wide effort that took place in Iowa resulted in the election of a dozen members of local gay organizations to Democratic and Republican county conventions.

In five of the state's six Congressional districts three dozen precinct caucuses adopted lesbian and gay rights resolutions.

"The Iowa caucuses show an unprecedented level of gay political awareness," assert Mary Spottswood Pou and Tom Bastow, co-directors of the National Convention Project.

The Project, a coalition of national lesbian and gay organizations, is coordinating similar drives in three early primary states, New Hampshire, Florida, and Illinois. Field work is also being done in Maine, Minnesota, and Massachusetts.

Presently the Project is circulating papers written about gay issues to people involved in the formation of the Republican and Democratic platforms. President Carter has yet to commit

himself to party platform planks on any issue but Pou believes "the Carter-Mondale campaign is seriously considering a gay rights plank."

Presidential contenders Governor Jerry Brown and Senator Edward Kennedy have both called for the Democratic Party to adopt a gay rights plank. They have actively recruited gay support and have approved openly gay candidates on delegate slates pledged to them.

Republican John Anderson of Illinois has stated that he supports the inclusion of a gay rights plank in the GOP platform and has also approved openly gay candidates on his delegate slates. Other Republican candidates including Ronald Reagan, Howard Baker, and George Bush have confined themselves to more general statements opposing discrimination against homosexuals.

## Bush, Connally Squabble Over Gay Rights Statement

Republican presidential hopeful John Connally has accused supporters of rival George Bush of spreading "a self-serving, scurrilous piece of propaganda" about his stand on homosexual rights.

In a memo written in early February, Dick Guer, Bush's South Carolina campaign manager, alleges that Connally endorsed gay rights during a speech in San Francisco last December.

At that time Connally acknowledged that homosexuals have legal rights "like every citizen." He also stated that gays should not be allowed to teach in elementary or secondary schools nor serve in sensitive national security jobs.

Bush spoke out strongly against gay rights at the January 5th Republican debate in Des Moines, Iowa. "I believe that I do not favor the codification of gay rights in law," Bush said.

In the first test of the 1980 presidential campaign, Bush left Connally, a fellow Texan, far behind when he swept to an unexpected victory over Republican presidential frontrunner Ronald Reagan.

## Peaceful Protest

# Cruising Storm Blows Over

by Ron Baker

To the relief of city officials and gay community leaders, William Friedkin's controversial film *Cruising* opened in San Francisco last Friday night without any violent confrontations.

The largely peaceful demeanor of the majority of the 250 demonstrators gathered outside the St. Francis theater and the presence of trained monitors prevented scattered incidents from erupting into more serious situations.

On two occasions small groups of young punks plowed through the picket lines, pushing protesters and attempting to provoke them into fistfights. One demonstrator tried to kick in the glass display case outside the theater. Monitors later disarmed him of a brick he was carrying inside a plastic bag.

At one point the monitors locked arms to prevent angry protesters from physically accosting people standing in line to buy tickets for the 10 PM feature. The crowd appeared ready to surge into the theater.

As the protest drew to a close, several monitors themselves were removed from their positions by other monitors because their rhetoric had escalated to an emotional fever pitch.

A picket line and protest scheduled for the Empire Theater in West Portal failed to materialize. Intermittent rain throughout the day on Friday may have

accounted for the relatively small number of protesters who turned out for the Market Street rally.

In addition, Supervisor Carol Ruth Silver and *Sentinel* publisher Charles Morris had appealed to gays on KQED radio Friday afternoon not to attend the demonstration outside the St. Francis theater.

Despite the vehemence of their chants, the protesters' intimidating shouts of "Don't Go In" failed to drive away opening night patrons, some of whom were gay.

Gay and non-gay moviegoers interviewed by *The Sentinel* as they left the theater on Friday night voiced unanimously negative responses to *Cruising*.

The adjectives most frequently applied to the film by disappointed patrons were "boring and lousy." Several gay men assessed *Cruising* as "not worth seeing," but all expressed the view that individuals should have the right to see the film if they choose, without being harassed by protesters.

One gay man dismissed *Cruising* as "a very ordinary movie" which would have "died its own death" had certain segments of the gay community not "whipped up a lot of unnecessary hysteria."

## Meetings With Feinstein

Three days before *Cruising's* San Francisco premiere, Transamerica Vice President Jane Hall invited forty gay men and lesbians to a screening of the film. The list of those attending read like a *Who's Who* of gay community leaders.

Members of the Stop the Movie *Cruising* committee, which organized Friday night's protest outside the St. Francis, also saw the film for the first time at that screening.

According to *Sentinel* publisher Morris, everyone present at the Tuesday screening experienced "an overwhelming sense of disgust, anger, dismay, and shock." At Morris' request, representatives of this group met with Mayor Feinstein on Wednesday evening and again on Thursday evening to discuss ways to avoid any violence which might erupt as a consequence of the film's scheduled opening.

Supervisor Harry Britt attended neither meeting because of previous commitments.

The eleven men and women gathered in the mayor's office discussed a number of suggested actions aimed at defusing the potentially explosive situation on Friday night, including the possibility of holding a Castro Street concert/rally featuring singer Joan Baez.

The motivating force behind this suggestion was to draw people away from the demonstration at the St. Francis theater, which Police Commissioner Jo Daly, Morris and most others at the meeting opposed on the grounds it might set the stage for violence.

Konstantin Berlandt of the Stop the Movie *Cruising* committee labeled Morris' position "paranoid." Berlandt assured the mayor no violence would result from the demonstration.

He further insisted that gays should not feel reluctant "to assemble in large groups." In an earlier statement, the committee announced it hoped to draw 35,000 protesters to the Market Street rally.

Mayor Feinstein informed the group that despite her opinion that *Cruising* was "pure trash," she had no authority to close down the film prior to its opening. However, she did telephone United

(Continued on page 5)

## Special Second Section

A guide to meeting people, going places, and doing things in San Francisco



"Drek" is how critic Aaron Walden describes the film "Cruising." Al Pacino (with mouth open above) stars in this "fourth rate film."

## Santa Clara Gays Appeal For Help In Repeal Battle

The following is an open letter to the San Francisco gay community from Constance Carpenter and Mike Nye of the Santa Valley Coalition for Human Rights.

We in Santa Clara County are facing perhaps the most serious threat to civil and human rights of our lives. In June, voters will be asked to determine the fate of the City of San Jose and County of Santa Clara Sexual Preference Ordinances.

These ordinances, which prohibit discrimination in employment, housing

and public services, are a vital link in the national struggle to end discrimination.

Similar ordinances in St. Paul, Wichita, Eugene and Dade County have been defeated by well-organized and well-financed anti-human rights zealots. We must draw the line in Santa Clara County.

The Coalition and its opposition are gearing up for a major battle. The religious fundamentalists and those who would legalize discrimination are

not sitting back doing nothing.

They are actively doing one of the things they do well—raising money, big money. They are preparing for a costly, full scale scare campaign to end human rights progress in Santa Clara County.

We must be very frank with you. The early money which we so desperately need has not yet come in. We have been forced to defer necessary early steps in the campaign, such as

(Continued on page 3)

Agnos Wants Input From Gays

SAN FRANCISCO—Assemblyman Art Agnos (D-San Francisco) and California Human Rights Advocates (CHRA) have called for an open community meeting to be held to discuss the future of gay rights legislation in California.

Police Recruits See Riot Film

SAN FRANCISCO—When an instructor failed to show up for a scheduled class at the Police Academy recently, recruits were shown film clippings of the White Night Riot to fill in the time.

According to the Sentinel sources, an Academy instructor gave a running commentary on the film, which included remarks such as "Gain should have acted sooner in this situation," and "anyone at the scene of this riot other than police officers deserved to get his head cracked."

Many of the recruits reportedly clapped and cheered the scenes of gays being beaten. Recruits allegedly booed and hissed during the sequence in which Supervisor Harry Brito called on the police to leave the Castro area.

Chip Carter Visits Stonewall

LOS ANGELES—President Jimmy Carter's son Chip Carter recently attended a gathering of the Stonewall Club of Los Angeles. Meeting at the Hollywood home of Stonewall co-founder Morris Knight, club members asked the president's son a number of pointed questions.

The group primarily sought explanations for some anti-gay remarks made by his grandmother and questioned him about his father's failure to keep a 1976 campaign promise to sign an executive order banning discrimination against gays in federal employment.

Club members also warned Carter that gay men and lesbians would no longer tolerate being ignored. Carter responded that Lillian Carter does not speak for the White House, that he himself can be used as a conduit to reach his father, and that a statement from the President on gay rights is "in the drafting stage."

Adult Book Store Owners Charged By FBI

SAN FRANCISCO—Roland Boudreault and Larry Nelson, owners of an adult bookstore at 1118 Polk Street, were charged last week with interstate transportation of obscene material.

The FBI raided the Harrison Street warehouse of Le Salon bookstore on Polk Street, and according to agent James Ahearn found "tons of pornographic material."

Attorney Richard Chesney said he was outraged that his clients were being lumped with organized crime figures.

NEWS BRIEFS

Abby Consoles Parents of Lesbian

EVERYWHERE, USA—A heartick parent wrote Abigail Van Buren this week to ask her advice about his/her daughter's blossoming affair with an 18-year-old boy.

"We are ashamed and heartick," the distressed parent writes. "We think our daughter is sick or twisted, and wonder where we went wrong, where we failed."

Family Conference Sabotaged By Anti-Gay Group

In Washington, D.C. a coalition of anti-gay Catholics and Moslems took over the first of the city's eight scheduled mini-conferences on the family.

The mini-conferences are part of the District government's attempt to ensure local participation in the National White House Conference on the Family. Father Joaquin Bazan, who has repeatedly charged that homosexuality is unnatural, organized enough support from participants to elect him as a formal delegate to the regional conference.

Half a dozen lesbians and gay men attended the mini-conference and many of them participated in the conference's planning process. However, two workshops which dealt in part with specific gay issues were disrupted by Father Bazan and his group of anti-gay supporters.

Gay activists anticipate that further anti-gay outbreaks will take place at the remaining family mini-conferences. They are mobilizing lesbians and gay men to register at these meetings to secure the election of at least one gay delegate to the District wide conference.

Jury Selection Begins in Gacy Murder Trial

ROCKFORD, IL.—Lawyers last week began the long and tedious process of selecting jurors for the trial of John Wayne Gacy, accused of murdering thirty-three young men and hiding their bodies on his property.

According to Chicago's Gay Life, four female jurors have been selected thus far. Each has been asked her opinion of the death penalty and her opinion of homosexuality.

The jurors' attitude towards Gacy's sexual preference appears to be of great significance to both the defense and the prosecution. Defense lawyers were able to have the trial moved from Chicago to Rockford by pointing out that the major newspapers' sensational accounts of the grisly murders made it impossible for Gacy to receive a fair trial in Chicago.

Gay Freedom Day Committee

The Gay Freedom Day Committee will select the theme for the 1980 parade at the committee's next meeting on March 2. All interested members of the gay community are urged to attend and offer suggestions.

Recently elected committee co-chairs Amy Fournier and Bruce Goranson expect 250,000 participants in this year's celebration. They hope to organize a full weekend of activities under the auspices of the committee. Volunteers are needed to help realize these goals.

The San Francisco parade is by far the largest gay event in the world. "We want to make a huge statement for the world to see, and set a standard for the years to come," Fournier said. The committee will meet at 5:00 PM, March 2 at the Metropolitan Community Church, 150 Eureka. For further information, call 641-0100.

Resignations Follow Restroom Arrests

Three influential men resigned their posts this week, after being arrested in connection with "activity of a homosexual nature."

The arrests resulted from a two week surveillance of a public restroom in Olympia, Washington. Misdemeanor lewd conduct charges have been filed against State Representative Eric Rohrbach, Olympia Brewing Co. President Leopold Schmidt and Joseph Gregorius, a member of the State Department of Social and Health Services. The men are free on \$265 personal recognizance bail.

Police Chief John Warner ordered the surveillance after receiving complaints about "suspicious activities" in the public restroom. According to Warner, about two dozen men frequented the restroom more than they should have.

"A number of individuals were making a brief, emotional resignation speech before his colleagues in the Washington House of Representatives: 'I am not a homosexual, I stand before you innocent of these charges.' But the circumstances of his arrest, he added, made it 'difficult if not impossible to serve my constituents effectively.'"

Funds From Cable Car Awards and Show

SAN FRANCISCO—The Board of Directors of the 1980 Cable Car Awards and Show voted unanimously last week to distribute profits realized from the gala affair.

Rohrbach made a brief, emotional resignation speech before his colleagues in the Washington House of Representatives: "I am not a homosexual, I stand before you innocent of these charges." But the circumstances of his arrest, he added, made it "difficult if not impossible to serve my constituents effectively."

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Lesbian Rights Project Battles Many Legal Fronts

by Sue Zemel

Two lesbian mothers decide that they want to work out a legal agreement that assures guardianship rights to the non-biological mother.

A woman responds "yes" to the question, "Have you ever had a relationship with a member of your same sex?" As a result she does not get a position for which she is perfectly qualified.

A lesbian is left with the children of a friend who decides not to return from Europe, and the children's school and various social service agencies attempt to take the children away from her.

The Lesbian Rights Project, a non-profit public interest law firm, exists to assist women like these in a variety of areas where their rights are threatened because of their sexual preference.

"The Project evolved out of my own desire to do lesbian rights work as a lawyer," explains lesbian attorney Donna Hitchens. She spoke articulately about the Project as she sat in her Turk Street office, which she shares with Equal Rights Advocates. An orange women's symbol is painted on the wall behind the reception area.

Hitchens works a sixty hour week at the Project, which is also staffed by two lesbian law students and a psychologist. They could use the services of another full-time attorney if they had the money to hire her.

One of the criteria for the cases the Lesbian Rights Project takes on is that the women can't afford private counsel. "We don't charge our clients attorney's fees," says Hitchens. "My salary and our operating costs come from private donations and foundation funding."

This year the Project received a substantial grant from the Rosenberg Foundation to do more work in lesbian mother custody cases. Part of the grant provides for legal representation and the other part provides for the services of a staff psychologist. She works with lesbian mothers and their families undergoing the kind of stress that



Donna Hitchens (photo by John Gleske) comes from the constant fear of losing custody.

What distinguishes the Lesbian Rights Project from other gay rights law firms is that they are more service oriented. Impact litigation firms like Gay Rights Advocates focus mainly on cases that will challenge or change the law.

"Many issues that affect women tend to be in relationships and family-oriented areas," explains Donna. "It's very difficult to do impact litigation on lesbian mother cases because family law is so much a case by case thing."

The Project works within the legal community to break down the kinds of stereotypes lesbians encounter when they hire a lawyer or go to court. They provide material to sympathetic lawyers so that they'll have the legal background to do cases properly. Hitchens has written articles for the Law Review on lesbian custody cases and has offered to do a seminar for the California Judges Association on the subject.

Another focus of the Project is to do education within the lesbian community. "We are available as a resource for lesbian groups and work within the community to help lesbians assert their rights and demystify the legal system," says Hitchens.

The Project is writing a lesbian rights

handbook that will be published this year. It includes a whole range of topics like employment discrimination, relationship agreements between lesbian couples, and a myriad of lesbian mother issues such as custody, foster parenting, and artificial insemination.

Information is provided about the rights of older lesbians, younger lesbians, and disabled lesbians. "The problem with getting this handbook out," Donna explains, "is that every time we think we've finished we think of a new chapter we should add to it."

Often the Lesbian Rights Project is required to use innovative methods to achieve their ends. "We constantly try to use legal processes in new ways," says Donna. For example, when she draws up a will for a lesbian who's trying to leave custody to her lover, the terms are drawn up carefully using language that is different than a will for a straight couple. "No judge would challenge a woman's right to leave the guardianship of her children to a man she'd lived with for ten years, but he might question a lesbian in that situation."

In many of the lesbian cases Hitchens finds that a woman has to be a perfect client. "For example, a lesbian mother trying to win custody can't be a mediocre mother, she has to be superb," Donna says.

Likewise in employment discrimination cases, the employer may deny that a woman was fired or not hired because she is a lesbian. They might claim that there was a personality conflict or that she was difficult to work with or that there was a personality conflict. "None of us are perfect people," says Hitchens. "So most of the cases are very difficult."

But not impossible. As the Lesbian Rights Project begins its third year of operation it continues to work for legal rights and protection for lesbians. "In the past we have been so alienated and afraid of losing more of our rights that generally speaking we've conceded rather than fought," concludes Donna. "But I admire the courage of women who are increasingly willing to confront the system that is discriminating against them."

Draft (Continued from front page)

Armed Services Committee, said it was doubtful that a proposal to register women would make it out of committee.

As legislators continue to debate the issue of including women in draft registration, anti-war groups and women's organizations are mobilizing across the country.

The National Women's Political Caucus, the National Council of Negro Women, the Women's Rights Project of the ACLU, Rural Women, and N.O.W. have taken the position that neither women nor men should be registered for the draft.

Iris Mitgang of the National Women's Political Caucus said, "We haven't been included in any of the dialogue which led to this decision. We are not going to become cheerleaders for war."

Former New York Congressman and ardent feminist Bella Abzug stated, "Women will never be their responsibility to this country, but I think it is hypocritical and cynical after working all these years for economic equality and inclusion in decision-making, to ask women to demonstrate our equality by sacrificing instead."

Michael Klare of the Washington-based Institute for Policy Studies suggested that Carter's proposal to register women "makes him look like he's committed to women's rights when he's not."

The White House policy statement maintains that the decision is "a recognition of the reality that both men and women are working members of our society. It confirms what is already obvious, that women are providing all types of skills in every profession. The military should be no exception."

Susan Wood of the American Friends Service Committee warned, "There is a danger in linking the movement for women's equality and E.R.A. to military service. The hierarchical structure of the military and its degrading treatment of women are antithetical to the women's movement."

According to Beverly Crawford of Plexus, a feminist newspaper, only 11% of all enlisted women who presently constitute 8% of the Armed Forces have been able to train for non-traditional occupations. "Even when women have been trained in technical fields, Army Commanders often 'use' them as clerical workers and 'medical helpers,'" Crawford writes. A recent survey has also revealed that sexual harassment is rampant within the military.

While advocates of draft registration for both sexes argue that women should share equal responsibility for the nation's security, they do not believe that women should be engaged in combat duty. The White House statement

supports this position. The National Organization of Women Against Registration, a newly formed coalition of Bay Area women's groups, counters the conservative view that women are not fit to fight either emotionally or physically.

"We can and will fight. We will do so, however, not to support U.S. intervention abroad, but in this country against the male-dominated system which compels women to serve its interests, whether this be through wifehood and motherhood."

Anti-war groups such as the War Resisters League and the American Friends Service Committee are launching a campaign of public opposition to the draft. They are requesting that people write letters, telephone, and send telegrams to their legislators, voicing their protest to Carter's proposal.

On February 23 there will be an informational workshop sponsored by the War Resisters League and the American Friends Service Committee, from 10 AM to 5 PM at 2160 Lake St. Feminist Susan Wood feels that basic training and military experience encourage sexist attitudes and behavior. She concludes, "The purpose of the workshop is to form a core of women to examine these issues in greater depth, and to do outreach and organizing in schools and the women's community."

Police Sweep Park in Foster City

FOSTER CITY—The Foster City Police Department acknowledged last week it has begun a crackdown on gay men in Leo Ryan Memorial Park.

Over a dozen men have been arrested in the park during the past few weeks on charges ranging from lewd acts in public to possession of illicit drugs and traffic ticket violations.

Lieutenant Greg Cowart announced that police are now making hourly checks of the rest rooms and plainclothes officers have been assigned to discourage cruising.

Carol Silver Roasts First Lady On Waiters

Supervisor Carol Ruth Silver whipped off a letter to Rosalynn Carter complaining about the treatment of the waiters at the First Lady's recent breakfast here. The waiters were asked to leave when Ms. Carter entered the room. "In a crowd of 1400 unscreened persons," Silver wrote, "it seemed excessive."

Man Strips For Women's Benefit

National male beauty contest winner Mark Taylor, MASTER USA, made the first San Francisco appearance of his 1980 reign at a benefit for the Women's Building on Wednesday night at the Marina Theater.

Reversing traditional sex roles, Taylor performed the sensational exotic dance that secured him his MASTER USA title.

First went the tie, then the shoes, which he tossed to the assembled crowd with a seductive wink. Finally off came the pants, leaving Taylor clad only in tiny leopard print briefs. "Take it all off!" yelled a few turned-on members of the audience.

The National Women's Political Caucus crowned Taylor MASTER USA last August and since then he has promoted the Sisterhood while touring with the comedy troupe, the Screaming Memes. In observance of his duties as MASTER USA, Taylor helps raise funds for feminist organizations.

Taylor performs with the Screaming Memes, an outrageous comedy phenomenon from the Monterey Bay Area. The versatile troupe of four lampoons media-crazed America through a unique blend of comedy, music and improvisation.

If you missed the Wednesday night Women's Benefit, you can still catch Mark and the Memes at the Marina Theater at 8 PM, Sunday, February 24.

Santa Clara (Continued from front page)

survey work and preparation of educational materials. Soon it will be too late. This is the first human rights battle of the 80's. Our campaign will be watched closely by the entire nation. WE MUST NOT LOSE!

Please dig deeply and send your contribution today. Your pledge will ensure a steady income during the critical months ahead.

We must work together to protect the civil rights of gay men and lesbians and continue to fight for human rights for all. Send contributions to: Santa Clara Valley Coalition for Human Rights, P.O. Box 2066, San Jose, California 95109.

If you wish to work as a volunteer to help the Coalition, telephone (408) 280-7460. —Ed.

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Applications Open February 29th! You Don't Have To Be Straight To Be A Good Cop. Police work isn't easy. What counts is your ability to do the job, not your sexual orientation. Since October, 1978 the Gay Outreach Program, a volunteer community group, has been working to insure that Lesbians and gay men will have equal opportunity in San Francisco police hiring. Gay Outreach conducts recruitment in the Lesbian and gay communities and gives regular workshops on hiring procedures. The SFPD has no quota system, and no special treatment, for gay applicants. Since Gay Outreach is privately funded by community contributions, we have no need for public funds. Our mailing list is completely confidential. For more information about the Gay Outreach Program, call the Co-ordinator, Les Morgan, at 775-1000. Maybe you'd make a good cop.

Events

SPECIAL EVENTS

with Randy Alfred CUT-RATE RYOT: The million-dollar estimate of damage to public and private property caused by the May 21 Twinkie Riot has never been substantiated.

The seven, all members of the Harvey Milk Gay Democratic Club, are Taylor, his sister Linda, Randy Stallings, Bud Sydenstricker, Daryl Ryan, Ron Huberman, and Amy Fournier.

AND SOUTH OF MARKET: KQED's "S/M: One Foot Out of the Closet" was solid, balanced, and unsensational.

TACKY: Skater Peggy Fleming's public-service spot promoting the Uniform Donor Card for the Kidney Foundation uses the Mozart Piano Concerto No. 21 for background.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 25. Repeat of "The Gay Life" on KSAW, 1 A.M.

CRABBY: The article on "Decorator Crabs" in the February Scientific American is about shore crustaceans that camouflage their shells, not Pacific Heights queens who buy their Kwell from Halston.

SNAPPY: Will gay rights advances remove homosexuality as a disqualification in the new draft? "Yes," quips lawyer Jeff Kazoff, "but are they ready for 518 G.I. haircuts?"

DISHY: New group set to standards on Castro Street body language: Stop the Cruisy Moving...

AND WEST: Randy Taylor reports that seven of the 18 elected members of the District One Mental Health Community Advisory Board are up front lesbians and gay men.

TOPSY: Turvy. Leap year is traditionally a time of sexual role reversal, when women were allowed to ask men out or even propose marriage.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 28. A COBA sponsored seminar on Women in Business will take place at the First Unitarian Church, 1187 Franklin Street.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 29. Presbyterian conference for gay concerns thru March 2. San Francisco Theological Seminary.

SUNDAY, MARCH 2. Dr. Wardell Pomeroy will be the guest speaker at G 40 Plus meeting, 2:00 PM at 1668 Bush St.

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TUESDAY, MARCH 4. The Sutro Bath House will turn its entire facility over to the San Francisco Gay Marching Band and the Gay Mens Chorus, from 8:00 PM. The public is invited after midnight.

FRIDAY, MARCH 6. The Brahma Kumaris Raja Yoga Center is starting a four-part free lecture series from 7:00 to 9:00 PM at the YMCA, 220 Golden Gate Ave., Room 200.

FRIDAYS. Gays under 21 rap group, 7:30 PM, 330 Grove, SF.

SATURDAYS. Young men's gay support group, gays under 21, Pacific Center, 2712 Telegraph, Berkeley.

SUNDAYS. The Unitarian-Universalist Gay Caucus sponsors a series of lectures, discussions, and talks by various speakers at its Sunday Series.

MONDAYS. General gay men's drop-in rap group, 7:30 PM, Pacific Center, 841-6224.

TUESDAYS. San Francisco Gay Freedom Day Marching Band rehearsals at the Eureka Valley Recreational Center, Coltingwood between 18th and 19th Sts. 7 PM, 864-0326.

WEDNESDAYS. Writer's workshop, directed by Ron Silliman. 7 PM, Hospitality House, 146 Leavenworth, SF. Open to all.

THURSDAYS. Drop-in gay rap, 7:30-9 PM, Gay Community Center, 330 Grove.

FRIDAYS. Drop-in gay rap, 7:30-9 PM, Gay Community Center, 330 Grove.

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ON CALL



Alcohol Abuse in the Gay Community PART I—The Effects of Alcohol Abuse Tom Smith, M.D. and Scott Whitney

This three part mini series begins with Part I, the "deleterious effects of alcohol abuse." Part II deals with "Recovery" and Part III with "CoAlcoholism" (effects of alcoholism on those in relationships with the alcoholic).

Alcoholism sometimes takes many years to develop. During the first few years of the "fun" phase, the alcoholic usually denies increased drinking, increased headaches and decreased energy.

Whereas moderate alcohol use has beneficial health and social attributes, alcohol abuse insidiously becomes a chronic disabling disease permeating every bodily system and intrapsychic, social and existential level of functioning.

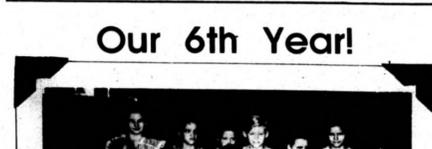
The organ most significantly attacked is the brain with resultant problems of thinking (negative thinking, paranoia, denial, blackouts, memory difficulties, excessive guilt, resentments), problems of feeling (irritability, depression, anxiety) and problems in relating to others (irresponsibility, cessation of caring, poor communication, social withdrawal).

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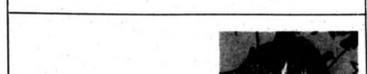
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Question

What is your favorite romantic spot in the city?



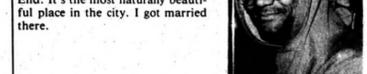
Paul, cookie entrepreneur: My house is the most romantic place in the city, especially my backyard in the summertime. Every where I go there are too many tourists.



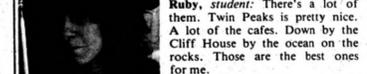
Betsy, housecleaner: The most romantic spot in the city is my bedroom.



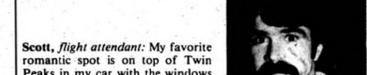
Phillip, construction worker: Lands End. It's the most naturally beautiful place in the city. I got married there.



Ruby, student: There's a lot of them. Twin Peaks is pretty nice. A lot of the cafes. Down by the Cliff House by the ocean on the rocks. Those are the best ones for me.



Scott, flight attendant: My favorite romantic spot is on top of Twin Peaks in my car with the windows fogged up, listening to my tape deck, with a favorite person.



by Randy Alfred

Letters

Editor: Upon seeing Cruising I cannot find one redeeming factor in this film. It is nothing more than sensationalism and a cheap exploitation of gay people, just as Straw Dogs was of heterosexual people.

By the way, does my sexual preference matter?

Thomas F. Lundquist

Editor: A Lacconian Comment

The dilloes and dilloettes who pose as our gay political leaders missed a sterling opportunity to turn the showing of the film Cruising to the advantage of the homosexual community. This epic is primarily a vicious indictment of the police. New York's Finest Boys in Blue are shown as incompetent, immoral, sadistic sickle-wielders with weak, perverted identities.

Our fearless gay leaders should have condemned Cruising because it is insulting the Police. Or were they afraid that no one would show up for the demonstration? The San Francisco homosexual community is being exploited by a small self-serving alliance of gays and straights, and it will lead to no good.

Martin F. Stow

Cosmic Lady Speaks

SAN FRANCISCO—The Cosmic Lady telephoned The Sentinel this week with the following message for our readers: "News Flash! We're all the same—straight, gay, bi and curly. The red is due on the planet Earth."

The Sentinel

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TYPESETTER Linda Michel

Cruising (Continued from front page)

Artists president Andy Abeck in New York to explain to him her view that Cruising's scheduled premiere in San Francisco constituted "a threat to the public safety of the City."

Abeck rejected her repeated suggestion that United Artists voluntarily withdraw Cruising "in the interest of public safety." The mayor then told Abeck she felt his company was hiding behind the issue of First Amendment rights when, in fact, their overriding motivation "was to make a buck."

Boycott of Transamerica In an impressive demonstration of her support for gay opposition to Cruising, Feinstein told Abeck she would lend her endorsement to a boycott of all United Artists productions, as well as its parent company, Transamerica Corporation.

Many gay leaders feel that such a boycott would result in a considerable loss of revenue to Transamerica and its subsidiaries. Others have expressed concern that continued focus of attention on the Cruising issue, in any form, will only stimulate further box office sales for the movie.

United Artists executives admit privately that gay protests to the film have resulted in "more publicity than money could buy." According to Variety magazine, United Artists fully expected critics to pan the film.

Rona Barrett also came out for an X-rating in a review of the film on television's Good Morning, America. "It is filled with unmitigated violence that does nothing but degrade human beings."

Miss Barrett and Mr. Whitman are not alone. Variety, a trade paper usually sympathetic to the movie industry, notes in its review of Cruising, "If this is an X, then the only X left is actual hardcore."

The Variety reviewer felt particularly disturbed by a scene in which a man lubricates his hand in preparation to fusticate a bearded youth strapped to a post.

According to studio sources, nearly three minutes of the film were edited out of Cruising before the movie was able to receive its R-rating.

The excised material toned down the violence of the movie's first murder and softened the specifics of the fist-fucking scenes.

Outlook

Last week the majority of the gay community here almost got sucked into what could have been a very ugly incident by a very small band of people who committed themselves to closing down the movie Cruising.

Make no mistake about it, the chances for violence last Friday as that wretched film opened at the St. Francis theater were enormous. Two things worked in favor of stopping such a repulsive action: the weather and the quick, decisive action of more responsible members of the City, Mayor Dianne Feinstein and Police Chief Cornelius Murphy ranking highest among them.

Randy Alfred's "Taking Sides" column in this issue asks some interesting questions about those who vowed to "stop" this movie, questions which the gay community should seriously address if we hope to avoid this kind of near-catastrophe in the future.

The rhetoric of the Stop The Movie Cruising committee aside, some of their members were determined to close this film by any means possible.

The question which we, as gays in this city, must address is just how much longer are we going to allow small bands of people like this to literally dictate what will be seen by many as the actions of the whole gay community?

Within twenty-four hours after forty leading members of the gay community had viewed a hastily arranged advance screening of Cruising, Mayor Feinstein, much to her credit for acting swiftly and decisively in times of grave crisis, met with almost a score of those who were concerned that a combination of factors could lead to violence at the film's opening.

On the Tuesday night after the advance screening, leaders of the Stop The Movie Cruising committee stated they hoped to snare 35,000 demonstrators in front of the St. Francis theater the night the film opened. Mostly that was a pipe dream on their part (only 200 appeared) but even a few thousand protestors would have created an almost uncontrollable crowd.

The concerns expressed in the first meeting with the Mayor after that advance screening (and after many city officials, including Chief Murphy, had also viewed the film) was that several factors were mitigating against a peaceful protest of the film: the inflammatory nature of the movie Cruising itself and its subtle and not-so-subtle message that to kill gays is okay; the possibility of a number of gays seeing the film and emerging from that theater outraged and, worse, enraged; the very real possibility that provocateurs and straight punks might try to incite a crowd standing outside the theater to violence or spark one violent incident which could spread like wildfire; and the chance that some San Francisco police, a few of whom are still outraged over the White Night riots, might seek some sort of revenge.

The Stop The Movie Cruising committee members refused to accept that their verbal assurances that they desired a peaceful protest were hardly insurance against any of those things happening. They fought vigorously to prevent any attempt to stage their protest elsewhere.

As it turned out, the Mayor and Chief Murphy kept the police under tight personal control on Friday night. However, straight punks did try to stage several fights, some people coming out of that movie were absolutely enraged, and one man not only tried to kick in a window but was disarmed of a brick he was carrying.

Had that protest erupted into violence, which at several points during the evening it threatened to do, the entire gay community here would have suffered horribly because of it.

Mayor Feinstein was magnificent through this whole ordeal—even trying again and again to persuade United Artists to delay the film's opening a few days so the City could spend more time in planning. Chief Murphy, facing his first crisis involving the gay community, acted superbly throughout. Supervisor Carol Ruth is to be commended, even though she was scheduled and did speak at the rally, for publicly calling upon people in this city to stay away from the protest that night.

by Thomas M. Edwards

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TAKING SIDES by Thomas M. Edwards

Speech Is Free, But Movies Cost Four Dollars I saw a preview screening of Cruising, and it's a trashy, violent movie. Regardless of politics or sexual orientation, it is not for the weak of stomach. Mine roils again merely recalling the film. Director William Friedkin shows us three bloody knifing murders and another attempt, the clinically displayed body of one victim on the autopsy table, the sprawled, battered and bloody corpse of a fourth victim, and limbs and photographs of still more corpses in various stages of mutilation and decomposition. As a detective film, Cruising simply falls apart at its conclusion. It is confused and confusing, despite closing-moment attempts to establish pseudo-psychological depth. Also distressing is the way in which the film pinpoints the vulnerability, leather or not, of gay men to murder during and after sexual encounters. Cross the gratuitous violence of Straw Dogs and the gross stereotyping of The Boys in the Band with the clumsy editing of El Cid and the ugly message of Looking for Mr. Goodbar, and you've got Cruising. It's a rotten film every which way from Thursday. It deserves a boycott. Save your time and your money. However vile and disgusting the film may be, Friedkin, producer Jerry Weintraub, Lorimar Productions, and distributor United Artists had and have an absolute right to make and exhibit it. There is a free-speech issue at stake here. Attempts by Stop-the-Movie-Cruising organizers to claim otherwise are foolish. They may have a different position on the constitutional rights involved, but that doesn't mean it's "a false issue." In New York, representatives of the National Gay Task Force and other gay activists asked Mayor Edward Koch to revoke Cruising's shooting permit. That was an attempt at censorship. In San Francisco, anti-Cruising organizers (some freshly arrived from New York) continue to call for the movie to be stopped, rather than boycotted, and Mayor Diane Feinstein asked U.A. not to show the film here at this point. It is exceedingly dangerous for gay people to be on the wrong side of a censorship issue, and anything beyond extending our own rights to picket and boycott puts us on the wrong side of this one. Unlike other minorities, we are defined by the Bill of Rights; our gayness is a matter of behavior, communication, association, and privacy. The existence of our community is absolutely dependent on constitutional protections. Nor are we in any place to label what the constitution excludes. Only 20, and in some cases 10 or five, years ago, we were the exceptions for those who believed in "free speech, but..." Without First Amendment protection, there would be no gay movement, no gay press. Even those who argue that free speech is meaningless if Friedkin has \$17 million and they have nothing wouldn't be free to make that argument without the same constitutional guarantees they seek to abridge. Be assured that, in the future, pro-gay films will be subject to similar attempts at censorship by rabid religiousists. We err seriously when we follow the leadership of those who are willing to undermine hard-won, long-term protections in the purported interest of short-term defense. Our surest defense, in Jefferson's words, is that "error of opinion may be tolerated where reason is left free to combat it." I'm not saying we should have ignored Cruising, but the approach so far has been anything but reasonable and organized. "Stopping" Cruising was an impossible goal. The paranoia-mongers who chose it damaged to disappointment and failure both themselves and those who would follow them. Spokespersons for the local committee have been consistently unable, both at their own events and before the media, to present their case clearly and rationally. Instead we have had a disjointed, near-hysterical ramblings representing "the gay community." While decrying violence in one place, committee members elsewhere wrote of "irashing" the film. I am appalled even after organizers had seen Cruising still contained an inaccurate plot summary presumably based on all those carefully leaked scripts. Who led us into this issue in a way that guaranteed a publicity bonanza for U.A.? Who chose the unattainable goal? Who has perilously turned some gay people against the very institutional safeguards upon which the existence of our community depends? Is this the kind of leadership we should trust in the future? Randy Alfred's The Gay Life airs on KSAW, 95 FM, Sat. morning at 5 and late Sun. night at 1 a.m.

# Entertainment and the Arts

## Robin Tyler

**"To be a comic you have to be daring and willing to risk controversy which is kind of scary because we're very sensitive people."**

by Sue Zemel

"They've always said that women didn't have a sense of humor. We've always had a sense of humor, although this time the joke's not on us," explains Robin Tyler.

When she's not standing on platforms in front of thousands of lesbians and gay men, or working on new material in the "belly room" at the Comedy Store in L.A., or as she describes it, "thinking off center," Tyler is very serious about her business of comedy.

"Humor is the razor sharp edge of the truth," says Robin. "To be a comic you have to be daring and willing to risk controversy which is kind of scary because we're very sensitive people."

While offstage Robin is shy and reflective, onstage she is aggressive and incisive. Her timing is precise and her material dazzles as well as disarms her audience. On her comedy album, *Always A Bridesmaid Never A Groom*, produced by Olivia Records, Robin concludes her routine by telling the audience, "If I've offended any of you, you deserved it."

"Part of my job is to thumb my nose at our own rigidity," Robin explains. "Even if the audience gets angry at some of the things I say, if I'm saying them and getting a laugh then there's some truth to it."

In her heterofore male dominated tradition of political satire she attacks oppressive attitudes and myths. From lesbian feminist perspective she uses humor to challenge people's assumptions.



(Photo by John Gleason)

Torie Osborn (left) and Robin Tyler—comedy out of passion

"In the '30s Will Rogers spoke out on Indian rights. In the '40s and '50s Jewish comics spoke about anti-Semitism. In the '60s black comics dealt with racism and in the '70s Harrison and Tyler invented feminist comedy. We made women the subject not the object of humor," Tyler explains.

As *Newsweek* magazine said, "Had Robin Tyler not existed the world would have had to create her."

After working ten years in show business as a singer and dancer and a female impersonator—says Robin, "And why shouldn't I be a female impersonator?" Phyllis Schaffly is, Tyler met Patti Harrison in Miami Beach. They got their big break when "ABC decided to exploit two intelligent women. At a time when feminism was a hot newspaper item they gave us a three-year contract. But they wound up making us look like Marie and Donnie Osmond."

Working together was initially difficult for Harrison and Tyler because they had no one after whom to pattern their act. There had never been a team of women stand-up comics. "In comedy you have to have conflict," Tyler explains. "We didn't know who should be what. Usually one is stupid and the other is smart, or one is crazy and the other is sane. What we finally happened on was that Patti would be the adult and I'd be the kid."

Robin believes that what they did was good, however, since becoming a single act a year and a half ago she has undergone some changes in both how and where she works.

T Tyler is critical of establishment show business and says that "it is a fast food industry like MacDonald's. Most of the comics today are very homogenized. They do their three minutes on Johnny Carson and that's it. I don't know if there are male heterosexuals having anything left to say. Doing my own thing is like swimming upstream; and I don't think that many people are willing to get their feet wet."

Although she does lesbian humor Robin does not call herself a lesbian comic. "I talk about how I came out but my material deals with everything—nuclear energy, the economy, my cats and plants. The minute you tag yourself a heterosexual comic or a lesbian comic people think all of your material is going to be that. I don't want to cut out non-gay audiences, simply because I think they can hear us through humor."

Robin, who does call herself a "cultural worker," has been talking to audiences on college campuses across the country. She has produced and emceed a number of gay and lesbian events including the first National Lesbian and Gay Concert which over 10,000 people attended in Washington, D.C. and the program for the rainy March on Sacramento.

"Culture is the best organizing tool we have," says Tyler. She has recently formed the National Cultural Foundation and plans to produce shows that bring together gay men and lesbians, as well as strengthening the network of women's culture. "We have always been the backbone of the arts. Gay men have set the cabaret and disco cultures and then straight people followed it. Lesbian feminists have started up the only alternative entertainment circuit going these days. And I think the time has come for us to step out front, to support gay and lesbian entertainers."

Culture is also being used to help women. Tyler recently taped a television special with Norm Crosby called *The Comedy Shop*. She also worked on the *First Annual Funny Women's Show*

time to get through the isolation and alienation. Tyler feels that humor often diffuses pain. "I have done a lot of stuff on my mother. When I told her that I was a lesbian she took it very well. In fact on my next birthday she sent me a big check addressed to 'to whom it may concern.'"

The lesbian material Robin does hits close to home for thousands of women who have seen her. Sometimes a little too close because nothing is sacred to Tyler. She is an iconoclast even when it comes to lesbianism. "At her first appearance at the Michigan Women's Music Festival Robin came out dressed in a suit, looking real butch," recalls Torie. "She broke all the rules of behavior. We're not supposed to have rules or roles but of course to say we don't have them is a lie."

Robin says that when she began playing to lesbian audiences women were threatened by her aggressiveness. "I was in the style of the stand-up comic, aggressive, I think you mean too Jewish. So much of women's culture is so laid back and WASP-identified. I'm very Jewish onstage. Also, when I got up in the style of the stand-up comic they were taken aback because comedy had always been used against women."

Part of what Tyler excels in is reversing the rhetoric of patriarchy. Instead of doing "tits and ass jokes" she does what she calls "cock and ball jokes," because, as she puts it, "there are so many myths to be pricked so to speak. When I do sexual jokes about men's attitudes towards women I am attacking their oppressive macho attitudes."

Robin thinks that she has been popular among gay male audiences because she can deliver her routine with a polish and gay campiness they can relate to. "As a matter of fact, I was more used to playing to gay men than I was to lesbians. I had to teach lesbians that camp wasn't setting up a tent and getting wet."

Though Robin talks about divisiveness in the gay community she doesn't see that it is necessarily between men and women. "I've coined the word homocret. These homocrets can be gay men and gay women, I don't call them lesbian women, who are just interested in crotch politics. Their motto is 'out of the closet and into the Beverly Wilshire.' I'm not concerned only about the right to have sex or sexual preference. What about the right to live comfortably in this society? I'm concerned about whether older people and Third World people can afford to eat and live in their apartments, because there are old and Third World gays."

T Tyler, who defines herself as "politically progressive," believes that "the only way we are going to survive is to build coalitions between movements."

"There are 45 million born again Christians out there setting up businesses and supporting each other. They are going to wipe us out if gay people don't understand that we have to fight together and on more than one issue."

Robin Tyler has the rare ability to comprehend complexities and examine contradictions. She is constantly testing boundaries and reaching beyond limits. With an agile mind and a comic's spirit she both informs and transforms her audience. She prods and pushes using comedy as a weapon for social change.

For her 55th birthday a friend of Pat Bond's gave her a quote from the writer Tom Robbins. It reads, "Courage is risking something that might force you to rethink your thoughts and suffer change, and stretch consciousness. Real courage is risking your clichés."

"I hope that's what I do," says Pat as she sits drinking tea in her San Rafael apartment. She describes herself as "a writer turned performer," and she is unmistakably a lesbian feminist full of poetry, passion, and fine ideas. She is a woman with a great deal to say.

"Most of us, especially women, don't think that what we have to say is incredibly worthwhile. You don't know if anyone else is interested in your ruminations. Indeed, why should they? But you've got to try it," she affirms.

When Pat Bond tried talking, she found people listened. Her appearance in the gay film *The Word Is Out* exposed her to a large audience who were immediately struck by her sense of humor as well as her feeling of outrage. People who saw the film were moved by her honesty and authenticity, and impressed by the clarity of her observations.

"It was my magic moment," Pat recalls. "I was in the right place at the right time." And though she had been living and working in the Bay Area for almost 30 years, *The Word Is Out* was her professional springboard.

"For years I've had a job but now I have a career," Bond marvels. She has just finished acting in a major motion picture to be released this summer called *The House of God*, and has taped her Gertrude Stein show for public television. She is travelling around the country performing the Stein piece as well as a monologue about her own life called *Conversations*.

Bond is adept at convincing. Words seem to come easily to her though she confesses to occasionally kicking her typewriter and screaming into her tape recorder in the process of creating and putting together her performance material.

Conversations from Pat's own experience. "The show isn't your typical laugh-a-minute routine. It includes my reminiscences of high school and old movies, poetry I've written, observations on loneliness, being gay in the '40s and '50s, my experiences as a WAC, and anecdotes about life in San Francisco gay bars."

When Bond was in college studying writers she remembers that "it killed me that everyone knew about Gertrude and her 'constant companion' Miss Toklas, but it never was discussed."

Bond thinks that a lot of Stein's work is closed down and that the reader would have had to know her personally, perhaps even intimately to know what was going on. "But in some of the rest of her work it's very discernible. Stein has lesbian images everywhere."

Pat pauses, finds her Stein voice and recites the lines, "Come come out Baby had a little cow Cows are nice cows are between legs Cows come out and shout."

She explains, "Stein was talking about an orgasm. I don't know how anyone could have missed it and yet they did for years. They said well maybe Gertrude and Alice never really had sex, and here's all this stuff buried but there. In the show I get to say 'I loved Alice,' and it really turns me on."

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## The Feast of Eros Part One

by Randolph Conner

### Introduction:

Several years ago, after reading Merlin Stone's *When God Was a Woman*, I began to wonder whether God, at some point, might not also have been gay. I began to hunt for parallel texts by gay men but found only two which approached the mythic perspective—Mitch Walker's *Men Loving Men* and Arthur Evans' *Witchcraft and the Gay CounterCulture*. Both are texts of great beauty and power, and both encouraged me to pursue my own studies. The articles in this series represent my first attempt to organize the material I've been gathering.

Topics of forthcoming articles will include: roles relegated to gay men in ancient societies; gay men's connections to Nature; the gay quest and rites of passage along the way; flowers and other articles which have signified gayness over the centuries; and the position of gay men during that long-ago transition from matriarchy to patriarchy, a transition which continues to affect our daily lives.

In the beginning, Aristophanes explains in Plato's *Symposium*, there were not two sexes but three: man, woman, and the androgyne. These beings were double in nature, having two faces, four hands, etc. Realizing their great strength, they decided to rebel against the gods. Zeus, in order to stop them, divided each of them in half. The man became two men; the woman, two women; and the androgyne, a man and a woman. "Men who are a section of that double nature which was once called androgyne are the lovers of women," "the women who are a section of the woman" are lesbians, and "they who are a section of the male, follow the male." Men spend their whole lives searching for their other halves, and when they finally meet, they throw "their arms about one another, entwined in a mutual embrace, longing to grow into one," as they were in the beginning.

The Greeks looked upon the "lover" as a teacher and the "beloved" as a pupil. They believed that wisdom was transmitted from the lover to the beloved not only by way of verbal instruction but also by way of anal intercourse. Each drop of semen contained the essential ingredients of a man's personality, his strength, his grace and his understanding of life. The Ophites, a Gnostic sect, likewise held that Adam would have remained the mindless servant of an evil god had not the Serpent bestowed him with wisdom by penetrating him. The

## Doric Wilson—Plays As He Lays



An Interview (photo by Steve Warren)

by Steve Warren

"A playwright going to Broadway might as well go to the Chicago stockyards in a cow costume!"

Doric Wilson is in no hurry to follow his contemporaries Robert Patrick and Lanford Wilson to Broadway. He's proud of having survived as a playwright (with a little help from a budding income tax lawyer) for 20 years, "without a single commercial Equity production in New York." Not facing a make-or-buy critical situation, every one of his shows has played at least as long as it was scheduled to.

That could change this year when *A Perfect Relationship* opens off Broadway in April or September. "It doesn't open by the spring date, Wilson explains, they'll wait until fall because "every self respecting gay in New York, whether he has money or not, wouldn't be caught dead going to Provincetown, Fire Island, Bucks County or the Hamptons for the summer."

Playing off Broadway, Wilson says, allows time for word of mouth to counteract the influence of "the five or six major New York critics, all of whom are homophobic."

Wilson obviously has a good working relationship with Theatre Rhinoceros, and he's pleased with the way they've handled his current play: "This is the first time I've not been madly unhappy with a production." In earlier New York stagings, he elaborates, the actresses playing Muriel were so strong that the focus shifted from Greg and Ward to her.

While we can all recognize the characters in *A Perfect Relationship*, Wilson says he made them up. "After 40 plays I mean, you figure a playwright's first play is going to be autobiographical; but after 40 of them I just write about specific characters and situations. . . I would never meet 'Greg' because I don't go to the bars he goes to. 'Ward' I might not do

## The New Couple: Women and Gay Men

Book Review by Mark DeRose

In a never-ending search for truth, Justice and the American way, Rebecca Nahas and Myra Turley present for our consideration, *The New Couple*. This book is about gay men and straight women and their relationships.

In discussing the various types of relationships that exist between gay men and straight women, the authors break up their book into three sections that define the types and styles of such relationships. Nearly half of the book deals with "traditional couples." These are women and gay men who have become involved in heterosexual-style marriages or relationships. The authors describe these relationships as "unsuccessful" because they tend not to last and are not based on a foundation of openness and honesty.

"Marginal couples" are gay men who do not have a "primary love commitment" to straight women but who are involved in a friendly and sometimes sexual relationship. The authors seem to feel that most of the gay men who become involved in this style of relationship are in the arts (actors, hairdressers, etc.).

Finally, the authors describe what they call "the new couple." These are people who have developed a primary love commitment to each other that can be sexual or non-sexual. If this relationship in their own way. Though not specifically cited by the authors, *A Different Story*, which some might remember, is a portrait of a "new couple."

The authors' premise is that, as a result of the liberation movements of women and gays, members of these two groups are finally able to see each other in a new light (albeit heterosexual). The woman is knowledgeable and accepting of the man's homosexuality. And, for his part, the gay man is sensitive to the needs of a woman.

The authors begin this study four years ago because of an interest in the

"first time" was often celebrated publicly, as at the temple of Apollo Carneus, where we find the inscription, "Invoking the Delphic Apollo, I Crimon, here copulated with a boy, son of Bathylis." Following a wedding ceremony, the two lived together as a married couple. In some cases the youth left the lover to marry a woman, but in many others, the two swore to love each other eternally. A mystical significance was attached not only to anal intercourse but also to fellatio. The Ophites, for instance, viewed lovers engaged in fellatio as a symbolic representation of the Trooborus, the Serpent who bites its tail. The notion that wisdom may be transmitted by way of fellatio has been carried into our time by poet Allen Ginsberg, who once told me that he has, by way of a chain of lovers, inherited the wisdom of Walt Whitman.

According to an ancient Egyptian mystery known as "the secret of the two partners," the gods Horus (light, order, the heavens) and Set (night, chaos, the underworld) are enemies only on the material plane, whereas in their heavenly abode, beyond the veil of duality, they are the fiercest of lovers. So great is their love for each other that they are often portrayed as a single deity having two heads. (In the Vedic tradition, the warrior-lovers Mitra and Varuna merge to form a single deity, Mitavarunau, "the priest and the king." In Mithraism, a pair of male twins, Cauti and Cautopati, fuse to create Mithras, the lover of Helios, the Sun.) According to one legend, Set swallowed the sperm of Horus and gave birth to a golden disc which surfaced on his brow. The god Thoth, nicknamed "the Shepherd of the Anus," so coveted the disc that he

grabbed it from Set's brow and placed it upon his own. In the *Symposium*, it is the prophetess Diotima who explains to Socrates that gay male couples may indeed become pregnant and bear children. "They are married," she tells him, "by a far nearer tie and have a closer friendship than those who beget mortal children, for" she continues, "the children who are their common offspring are fairer and more immortal. Who, when he thinks of Homer and Hesiod and other great poets, would not rather have their children than ordinary human ones?"

(Unfortunately, the Greeks were not prophetic enough to foresee an age of lesbian mothers and gay fathers; still, the idea of poetic birth has its merit.) "Love will make men dare to die for their beloved—love alone," Phaedrus claims, referring to Achilles, who gave his life to avenge the death of his lover Patroclus. When a Japanese samurai fell in battle, it was the sacred right of his comrade to commit hara-kiri. Among the Battle-Axe people of ancient Denmark, lovers slain in battle were buried in a single grave. Crocus, beloved of Hermes, and Hyacinthus, beloved of Apollo, may not have died accidental deaths but may instead have joyfully accepted sacrificial deaths in honor of their divine loves. Finally, the laments of David for Jonathan and of Gilgamesh for Enkidu are among the most famous in the literature of the ancient world. "When you have gone to the earth," King Gilgamesh sings to his wilderness-lover, "I will let my hair grow long for your sake, I will wander through the wilderness in the skin of a lion."

## HERO AT LARGE. Starring John Ritter At the Coliseum Theatre.

by Linda Michel

In *Hero At Large* John Ritter as Captain Avenger brings to life—sort of—a parody of every kid's favorite superhero. Ritter plays Steve Nichols, a struggling actor who's taken a job dressing up as Captain Avenger and signing publicity photos outside a theatre where a movie about the comic book hero is being shown.

Unlike at least one of the 61 other "Captain Avengers" hired as part of the publicity stunt, this hero-impersonator likes his job and is undaunted by the abusive language and aspersions aimed at him by the media. "I mean, you figure a playwright's first play is going to be autobiographical; but after 40 of them I just write about specific characters and situations. . . I would never meet 'Greg' because I don't go to the bars he goes to. 'Ward' I might not do

When she worked on the PBS production of Stein in Baltimore, Pat says that the staff at first hated Gertrude. "But after everybody worked with her for a couple of weeks they began to love her because there is a real person in front of you. You're not seeing insightful answers. I'm not out to please anybody. I'm not a phonograph record and long ago decided that I wasn't going to please the women's community or the men's community or anybody. There's no way any human being can do that."

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**DON GIOVANNI.**  
Directed by Joseph Losey.  
Starring Ruggero Raimondi,  
Kiri Te Kanawa, and  
Teresa Berganza.  
Playing at the Castro Theatre.

The problems of putting opera on film, of presenting a work that demands at least the illusion of reality, are monumental. Not only must the director work within the piece, bearing all the weight of tradition, but he must see it safely through to the end.



Consider the case of Joseph Losey and *Don Giovanni*. The film began a limited run at the Castro on February 15.

symbolism, to make the obvious more so and in the process of doing that to create a film burdened by a great weight of imposed and jumbled ideas.

One of the most difficult things for a director of *Don Giovanni*, so it seems, is to capture the rapid changes between the comic and the serious as well as finding the serious in the comic and the comic in the serious.

Director, Lorin Maazel has provided a grand, darkly Romantic reading of the score which emphasizes the serious at the expense of the comic elements.

to accept him as the spiritual heir of Don Giovanni. Buy why?

It is in ensemble scenes and scenes with the chorus that his lack of experience with opera becomes painfully apparent.

CHAPTER TWO.  
Directed by Robert Moore.  
Coronet Theatre.

Chapter Two has a more serious problem than comedy; its central character is an asshole.

Two weeks later they're off to the altar, despite the protests of Bologna, whose wife is leaving him because he needs the constant reassurance of other women in his life.

CHAPTER TWO.  
Directed by Robert Moore.  
Coronet Theatre.

Merely being told—at length—to get over himself isn't enough; George pours, by running off to Hollywood to seek out some new jokes (although we still haven't gone three minutes without one).

FATSO.  
Written and directed by Anne Bancroft.  
Starring Dom DeLuise,  
Anne Bancroft, Ron Carey,  
and Candice Azzara.

Fatso is a sentimental domestic comedy about crisis in the lives of a traditional Italian family.

(which he chases with a Hershey bar), Dom has sought to ingest and incorporate happiness through his mood.

Director/choreographer Gideon is editing a film and mounting a new Broadway show simultaneously.

ROY SCHEIDER  
ALL THAT JAZZ

**All That Jazz**  
ALL THAT JAZZ.  
Directed/Choreographed by Bob Fosse.

Two, a serious warning for the squamish. An hour into the film, Gideon goes in for heart surgery while his producers calculate the show's success without Gideon.

Before I say this, the breathtaking film you should rush to see, I have two reservations. One is a breaktaking at the level where Fosse is brilliant.

ROY SCHEIDER  
ALL THAT JAZZ

**THE LAST MARRIED COUPLE IN AMERICA.**  
Directed by Gilbert Cates.  
Script by John Herman Shaner.  
With George Segal, Natalie Wood, Richard Benjamin, Valerie Harper.

The sacred and hallowed institution of marriage is under siege and George Segal and Natalie Wood as Jeff and Mari Thomson feel they are *The Last Married Couple in America*.



Two, a serious warning for the squamish. An hour into the film, Gideon goes in for heart surgery while his producers calculate the show's success without Gideon.

**JUST TELL ME WHAT YOU WANT.**  
Directed by Sidney Lumet.  
Starring Ali McGraw and Alan King.  
Showing at the Vogue Theater.

Manipulation and cynicism can be the stuff of good art and good films (look at *Vanity Fair*, *The Sweet Smell of Success*, *The Marriage of Eva Brown*).

THE CASE AGAINST FERROT.  
Directed by Alain Corneau.  
Starring Yves Montand and Simone Signoret.

Opening with disembodied choral music reminiscent of 2001, *Ferrot* is a police thriller hovering on self-parody.

**CRUISING.**  
Directed by William Friedkin.  
Starring Al Pacino.  
Showing at the St. Francis Theater.

It is a disappointment after all of the turmoil and upset that surrounded the filming and distribution of *Cruising* to find that it is a tediously fourth-rate film.

THE CASE AGAINST FERROT.  
Directed by Alain Corneau.  
Starring Yves Montand and Simone Signoret.

Opening with disembodied choral music reminiscent of 2001, *Ferrot* is a police thriller hovering on self-parody.

**MOZART'S DON GIOVANNI.**  
Directed by Joseph Losey.  
Starring Ruggero Raimondi, Kiri Te Kanawa, and Teresa Berganza.

It is a disappointment after all of the turmoil and upset that surrounded the filming and distribution of *Cruising* to find that it is a tediously fourth-rate film.

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Directed by Alain Corneau.  
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Mother Courage

Directed by Elliot Sroka. Playing at Victoria Theater. by Steve Abbott

It's not, for a moment, the historical importance of Brecht, whose concept of Epic Theater, working dialectically with Aristotelian Theater of Cruelty and Pirandello's Theater of the Absurd, has been so influential on contemporary playwrights. Let's forget also the grand old history of the Victorian Theater built in 1908 and originally run as a vaudeville showcase by the ancestors of our current Governor whose office has been somewhat a Vaudevillian roadshow itself lately.

Creator of the Ridiculous

Interview with Charles Ludlum by Steve Warren

"If you say you're not a gay theatre they say you're saying you're not gay." So says Charles Ludlum, whose Ridiculous Theatre Company has settled in for what he hopes will be a long stay at the On Broadway theatre in North Beach.

Classical Music

"Music for a while/Did our cares beguile..." John Dryden, Song from King Arthur by Anthony Weaver

Acknowledging the considerable role that the presentations of The Committee for Arts and Lectures of U.C. Berkeley play in the cultural life of the Bay Area, it may seem curious to come away with anything less than unalloyed rapture. The range and vitality of the series is astonishing.

Pippin Opens Pocket Lightly

Forgive me if I versify extempore. But Pippin's Pocket Opera the other day Performed Rossini's L'Italiana in Algeri

But poetry alone is fit to celebrate. These many evenings, musical and literary. Which Donald Pippin has been giving us for years. Th' Italian Girl is merely joining her own peers: As the cast bows, the critics rave, the audience cheers.

Ballet

by Renee Renouf SAN FRANCISCO BALLET. Zellerbach Hall.

When San Francisco Ballet returns to the Opera House March 25 with Program 3 of the 1980 repertory season, it will be dancing Sinfonia, Scherzo, Duettino, Symphony in C. This program underscores the technical excellence of the company.

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More Ballet

known it. The first movement was an exposition of Gina Ness's elegant musicality, sunny, sweet, low-keyed in accents...



Diana Weber in Duettino

NIKOLAIS DANCE THEATRE. Zellerbach Auditorium.

Nikolaï Dance Theatre performed Temple; Aviary: A Ceremony for Bird People and Gallery January 22. The

Nikolaï form of theme and variation is sight and variation. The first, visual formation is expanded, contracted, altered...

In Temple (1974) I got the impression that Nikolaï must have been a deliciously irresistible little boy. He has a child-like reverence which enables him to be wholly irreverent...

We are regaled with the characteristics of bird-like people in a cage, we on the outside looking in. In reality, Aviary mirrors our flock-like characteristics. He underscores the humor with a series of solos, a duet, a pas de trois, a pas de quatre...

Each of Nikolaï's bird people has his special plastic pedestal, his own territory. Each bird person possesses a characteristic posture and style of movement. The costumes are a pinky-beige untailored, special effects at the ankles like feathery tufts...

Gallery also sent them away laughing. If you have ever wanted to take pot shots at humans, Nikolaï's lineup of painted humans behind a shooting gallery wall hits the bulls-eye!

contemplate the audience. When they dismantle the barricade, you have the sudden fantasy they have taken over.

The final sequence of these wonderful effects, here cold sober, but possible with drugs or drink, is like coming out of a trip or off of a drunk.

It's easy to see why the French Ministry of Culture gave Alvin Nikolaï a half million dollars in 1979 to establish a French national modern dance company. He has the polish and the visual invention which would delight most Gaelic predilections for chic and astonishment.

Watching Bill Evans Dance Company it like meeting six humans you can relate to and like immediately.

You can also see that, like most Americans from the West, they're not the kind you mess around with! They mirror the qualities of the space which has conditioned our style, whether it be the rugged profile of the Sierra Nevadas and the Rockies...

Mixing It Up was the dominant of three program works. The Bill Evans Jazz Trio produced music possessing everything improvisational melodic, percussive. It was apt background for the roaming energy expressed by the company in a full range of popular dance movement.

In time the dancers move in front of the barricade and

was just right. Here was show biz, sleek and slightly naughty, a juxtaposition with the incredible vitality of the West's wide spaces.

Reaching the six chairs placed upstage right, the group sat down in various postures while Evans told the audience the work was premiered in Seattle in November and possessed some structured, as well as spontaneous, improvisations.

Each dancer successively improvised a phrase of movement which then was repeated by the other four. Each phrase was tacked on to the previous movement, so that a continuity was built before our eyes.

In the midst of this frantic energy, one man started the still, thoughtful movements of Tai Chi Ch'uan, as lyrical, as sustained a way of movement as any adagio in classical ballet.

Evans, as tall and lean a dancer as I have ever seen, finished it off with tap shoes. He was followed by one of the women providing him with a saucy echo.

Impressions of Willow Bay (1978) is an extended pas de quatre for two couples. It is an intense study, the struggle to reconcile the two extremes of life, human and spiritual.

Tin Tai (1971) is a metrical cycle of 16 beats in North Indian music. Here a recording by Mahaparush Misra provided the inspiration for Evans' response to the insistent percussive energy.

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### Television Documentary on S/M

A KQED-TV documentary cited fashion advertisements, record album covers, and certain contemporary science-fiction novels as evidence of growing societal interest in sado-masochism.

The program featured graphic demonstrations of S/M techniques and candid interviews with men and women actively involved in S/M lifestyles.

In one sequence, a man identified as Don whipped another man, then commented, "It's fulfilling for us both and it harms no one."

Several scenes depicted non-gay S/M sex palaces where 70% of the male patrons were reported as submissive types. A chunky woman in a black dress lashed a bound, naked man. The proprietor of one such S/M establishment registers his slaves as personal property with the tax assessor.

Another segment showed the San Francisco Chief Medical Examiner giving a slide show at the Ramrod, a gay bar catering to an S/M clientele. "Some of the things being done can lead to injuries," explained Dr. Stevens. "My purpose here is to inform people about possible dangers." S/M related injuries are not common, he added, but the potential does exist.

Most participants defined S/M as a consensual exchange of power. "It's real and it's growing," were the narrator's final words. "We just wanted to let you know."

## Marc Stephens Killed In Cycle Accident

Marc Stephens, a popular Bear Hollow Pool Player, was killed in a motorcycle accident on Highway 80 while returning home early Saturday morning. There were no witnesses to the accident, but it was believed that Marc's cycle skidded on the wet pavement and crashed into the railing near the approach of the Ninth Street exit.

Marc was a member of the San Francisco Pool Association and in 1978 was voted that organization's Most Improved Player. According to Bert Gray, "Marc's skill as a pool player improved to the point that in 1979 he was one of the most consistent players in the entire league."

Marc was originally from Central Berlin in New York and moved to the City of San Francisco in 1977. Since that time he was employed as a typesetter at Mercury Typography. His employer, Al Heeg, stated, "Marc was an outstanding employee and a lead person. He is really missed and we are proud to have known him."

The San Francisco Pool Association, in a meeting Tuesday night, voted that hereafter the Most Improved Player Award will, in honor of Marc, be called "The Marc Stephens Most Improved Player Award."

Marc's remains have been returned to New York where informal services have been held with his family and friends there. Formal religious services will be held in the last week of April.

Besides his mother and father, Donald and Jean Stephens, and three brothers and two sisters, all Marc's nieces and nephews and high school teammates from their soccer team were in attendance.

Memorial services will be held this Sunday, October 24, at Metropolitan Community Church at 2:00 p.m., 150 Eureka St., S.F. In lieu of flowers, Marc's family suggest that donations be made to the San Francisco Pool Association, c/o Ron Herzog, 3877 17th St., San Francisco 94114.



### Anti-Gay Group Urges March On Washington

Fundamentalist Christians have mounted a drive to stir up interest and support for an April 29 "morality" march on the nation's capital.

The march may have "very serious implications" for the lesbian/gay movement, says Steve Endean, Executive Director of the Gay Rights National Lobby.

Lobbying members of Congress to preserve "righteousness and morality" is an important part of the rally's agenda. Organizational literature states one goal of the march is to encourage Congress to "frame laws in harmony with God's word."

The same pamphlet terms homosexuality, divorce and fornication as "conduct contrary to the purposes for which this nation was founded." Christian Voice, Washington's first openly anti-gay lobby, has extended wholehearted support to the proposed march.

Endean worries that massive numbers of anti-gay fundamentalists marching on the nation's capital might intimidate Congress. He feels that unless meetings in home districts offset the march, it could create a climate conducive to anti-gay legislation.

## Sports

by Chuck Chateau

And it grows more curious, and more curious, and more curious!! I'm sure Lewis Carroll is sitting up in literary heaven kicking himself in the ass for being born too soon. If ever an organization was meant for him to write about, it has to be the C.S.L.

Their meeting on January 30th, at the 5th Street Bar and Grill, makes "Alice in Wonderland" look like a tragedy.

This Pier Six brawl began shortly after 6:00 PM with the Commissioner, Duke Joyce, running the meeting as though the word "constitution" had never been invented, and ended some few hours later with Everett of the Village announcing that he was going to sue everyone still connected with the league.

Yes, Mr. Carroll, you really would have enjoyed this one.

Let's you think that the meeting was all fun and games, I'm pleased to announce that some constructive things did occur.

I think it is safe to say that the gay-straight issue has been laid to rest for all time. I feel this is true, because with the exception of the fine gay athletes Jerry DeFord has playing for him at the Mint, there aren't many more gays in the city who either want to or are good enough to play in the C.S.L.

They again slapped down Everett's attempt to bring a predominantly "A" team into the league. The vote this time was 10-2 against. Notwithstanding that however, the calibre of the league will probably equal that of a City "B" League. It will be interesting to see how many gays are in the starting lineups once the rosters are submitted.

There are, as of this writing, now 13 teams left in the league. Sutters Mill and the White Swallow having decided to play in the G.S.L.

As of January 30th, the league had \$3,479.04 in net working capital. One of the items up for consideration was \$400 to send the Commissioner, Duke Joyce, to Montreal in April. He would help (theoretically) plan for the Gay World Series to be held later this year in Los Angeles. The Commissioner also announced that if the money wasn't allocated, he wouldn't go.

The question immediately pops to mind as to why in the hell the C.S.L. would want to be represented there anyway. The league is about as welcome in other gay softball circles as a fox in a chicken house.

If they haven't been able to meet the 80-20 rule in the last two years, what makes Mr. Joyce think the league will be accepted this year? Especially since the league will in all probability be 60 to 70% straight.

It seems obvious to this writer that the money can be better spent elsewhere.

with Victor Camara

IT WAS SUPPOSED TO BE an 80/20 league according to the vote of the players. Then, by mandate of the executive board, it was changed to an all-gay softball league. Now it is neither.

The Gay Softball League of San Francisco is in the throes of a very real identity crisis. Since December, the G.S.L. has changed their philosophical position no less than three times.

The latest ruling of the G.S.L. executive board is that the league is open to "gays and known friends of the gay community." So, in their haste to admit Sutter's Mill into their league, the G.S.L. was quick to drop their all-gay stance. So much for principle.

And now the real identity crisis begins! Will all three of Sutter's Mill's straights be considered part of the gay community? Or will just one, or maybe two, be allowed to play? How about Gilmores? Will the straights who played there last year be allowed to be in the league this year? And most important of all, what are the criteria for determining who is a friend of the gay community? And finally, can an executive board made up of players and managers be expected to be a fair and unbiased judge, jury and executioner in every case?

So confusion reigns! With just one month remaining before opening game, doubt and suspicion abound. Those who ask legitimate questions are called trouble makers, and made to feel unwelcome in the league. What was supposed to be a fun league, devoid of politics, has sunk to the depths of Machiavellian principles. So much for fun, Hail to winners!

The Community Softball League will hold their next governing board meeting at Sacramento on April 1st. It is the first time a league meeting has been held in that city, and according to Commissioner Duke Joyce, "We are showing our appreciation to Paul Coke Gonzales and the Hut for being such a loyal supporter of the C.S.L. over the years." A bus will be available to transport the managers and team reps of each team.

Tit for tat. One of the major items on the agenda will be whether Jerry Jason's G.S.L. Deluxe team will be

The league also decided to move their opening day to April 6th (Easter Sunday). The two teams participating in opening day will be The Mint vs. Tenderloin Tigers.

Since I consider it an honor that Victor Camara, our Sports Editor, and The Sentinel have seen fit to let me

admitted into the league. It is possible that Steve Cook will also enter his Bunkhouse team. Well, so much for Sutter's Mill and the White Swallow defecting from the C.S.L. to the G.S.L. All's fair in love, war and RECRUITING, I guess.

What a difference a year makes. Last season at this time I was being very critical of the C.S.L. This year I find, not being a heterophobe, little fault with that league since they have openly become an open league.

Whether or not the gay community will give the C.S.L. the support they deserve remains to be seen. One thing, however, is certain. The best gay ball players, at least those not afraid of competition, will always play in the C.S.L. And every year more straights will come to understand gay people and relate to us as individuals and not stereotypes. And that is the beauty of the Community Softball League. Hopefully, the G.S.L. "inquisition" board will not be a set-back to gay-straight camaraderie and competition.

I would like to close this issue's Touching All Bases column with a few words about Marc Stephens.

I knew Marc for only a short time. I met him while covering the Bear Hollow pool team during the recent S.F.P.A. play-offs. But in this time, since December, I grew to admire and respect Marc both as a sportsman and a gentleman as well as a friend.

Marc was the epitome of a good sport. I watched Marc win and lose. He did both with grace and style. Marc was a good pool player and he was competitive too. But most of all he was a team player.

After his team lost the final game in the championships to White Swallow, Marc came up to me with tears in his eyes. He felt especially bad because one of his teammates was shouldering the responsibility for losing. He asked me not to mention in my article that any particular player had an off night, but to stress that their wins and losses were team efforts, and that they tried their best. That's the kind of man Marc Stephens was.

To Marc's family and to his teammates and friends, I want you to know I share your sorrow and your loss.

Marc may be gone, but he will never be forgotten.

write a column, I made a promise that I would never use this forum for self-serving ends or vendettas. Many readers may not be aware that I am the Manager of the White Swallow Softball Team. Because of our leaving the C.S.L. I am aware that some might think my remarks sound like sour grapes.

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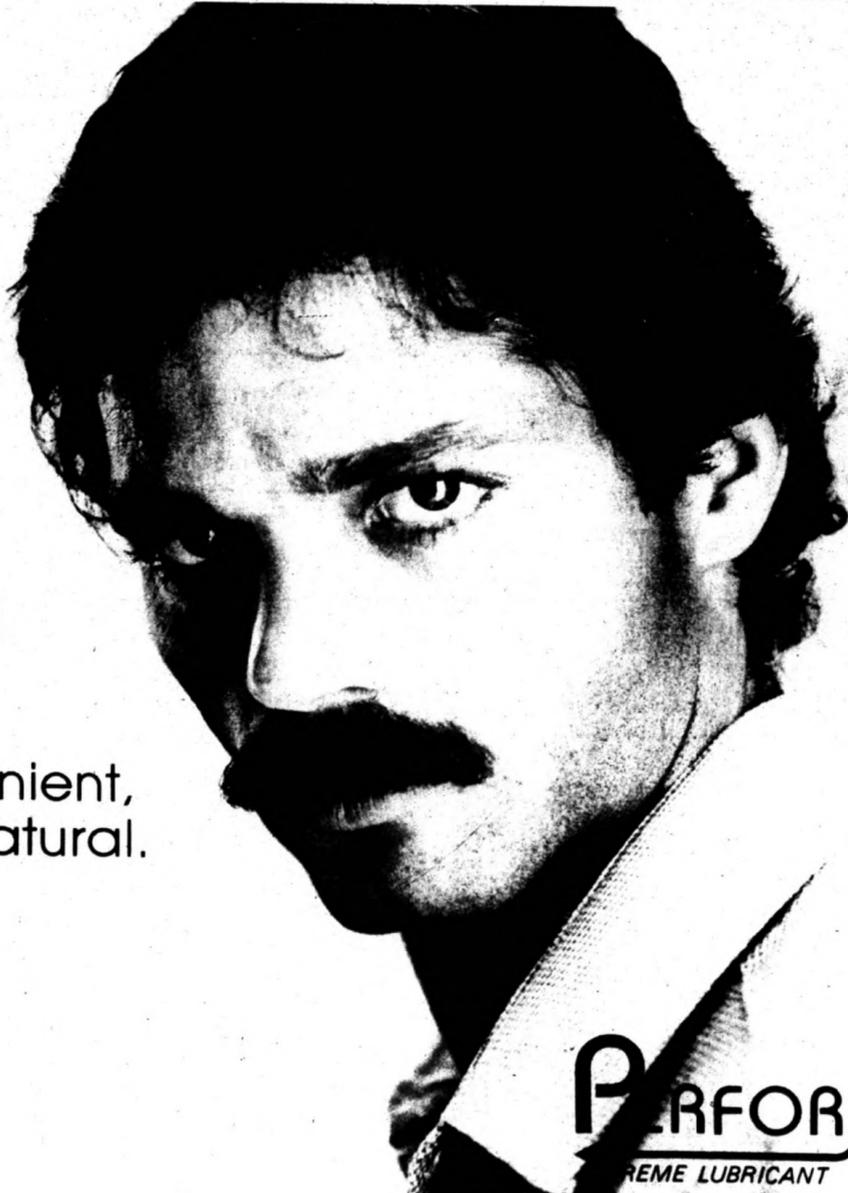
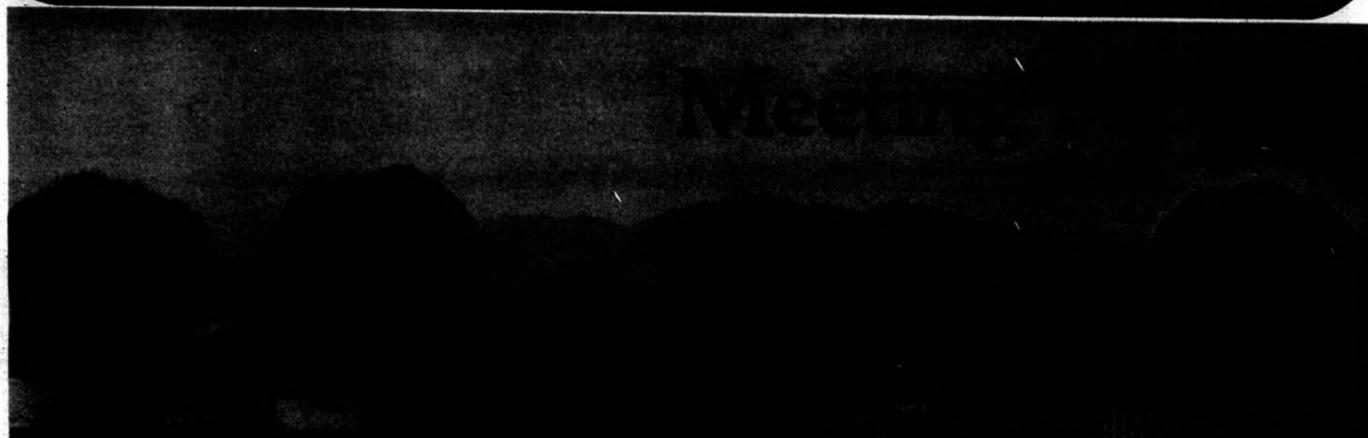


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# The Sentinel



Going Places



Things

San Francisco is generally viewed, and rightly so, as a haven for gay people. Besides offering a spectacularly beautiful climate—most of the year, anyway—which is close to ideal, gays feel at ease here. This lovely city, boast more than 120,000 gay people, is "home."

Meeting people, discovering places to go, and finding things to do should come easily to San Franciscans. Yet for many it is not really as easy as it seems. Thousands of gay people have so recently arrived they have no idea what alternatives are available to them. Others may have lived here so long that the constant rediscovery of this fabulous city is something which

escapes their more immediate concerns. What we are offering in this section of *The Sentinel* are some brief, but useful, tips for the newly-arrived and more established inhabitants of "The City" might find helpful in exploring new ways to meet people, places to go, and things to do.

We've enjoyed putting this section together for our readers and we hope you find it as interesting reading as we did researching, writing and publishing it.

We are privileged to live here. Our hope is that this quick reference may help our readers enjoy that privilege to the fullest.

*The Sentinel Staff*

# Meeting People

by Martin F. Stow, Homosexologist

As all of us in San Francisco and the surrounding homosexual environs know, our concern for approaching and meeting others stems from our fears of rejection. We can meet the problems of low self-esteem and rejection anxiety in two ways, by making ourselves more attractive and/or binding the anxiety. If we go to the right places, dress the right way, and pump up our peccs, along with our egos, we've solved the first problem. Any particularly good upper, downer or hallucinogenic will solve the second, at least until we reach our mid-twenties. Some manage to extend this into the thirties, but psychologically they're living on borrowed time.

The real problem associated with approaching and meeting someone is that we don't know what we want. When you sexualize that ignorance you've described a lot of the activity that goes on in our social lives. Knowing what we want, what our needs are, is the most difficult psychological process we experience when we relate. Take the classic example of the man who goes to the baths, fucks everything in sight, and returns home unsatisfied. Obviously, he didn't find what he wanted because he didn't know what he wanted.

As often as we experience the fear of rejection we experience the anxiety of unfulfilled expectations. Most of the time we know that we're not going to find what it is that we don't know we want, and so we're more content to stay with our fantasies. One of the Folsom Street rules is: "I'll go home with you, but don't spoil my fantasy." Hence the four-worded date, "Your place or mine?"

When we begin to worry about whether someone is more interested in our tits than our thoughts, or our penis than our personality, the superficial cosmetic hype jobs begin to break down and we're forced to do some self-examination. If we're unsuccessful then we come to realize what our needs are and how we actualize them. The best way to begin this process is to look at what we're doing rather than what we're thinking. Most of our anxiety stems from thought: what we want to be doing or what we should be doing. Begin by looking at what you are doing.

Let's look at some typical behavior. You're going to the bars and you're getting up-tight. Now these are separate conditions. Obviously, you want to go to the bars, but this does not necessarily cause anxiety. The anxiety is created by your expectations of what you think ought to happen at the bar. Suppose you separate the two. You go to the bar without expectations, specifically you decide that you're not going to relate to anyone, just watch the action. You have at that point neutralized the "Bar Game." The "Bar Game" is to find, on any particular night, the one and ultimate lover for a lifetime relationship. Of course, since you're not likely to know what you want, you're not likely to find this paragon, and you settle for sex.

At this point too many men reject the bar, instead of the Game. "Tired of cruising?" "Tired of the bar scene?" These are the saddest of classified ads. The impli-

*Continued on page 3*

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# Approaching and Meeting People Continued from page 2

ation of the ad is that true love is not to be found at the bars, but through the classifieds. If you want to tell a good therapist from a bad one, ask him where you should go to meet the "right" person. If he tells you, get out of his office immediately. Everyone, including an ideal relationship, is everywhere.

Cruising anywhere is wonderful if it's your game and not someone else's. We get a tremendous stimulation from the hunt, and any meeting place is an excellent source of affiliation gratification, which psychologically is more important than sexual gratification.

Affiliation need is the need to be with someone or some others in close proximity, regardless of any other physical or mental gratification. It's the principal reason why, no matter how anxious we are about approaching or meeting someone, we continue to patronize our favorite establishments. The same is true of the baths, although we are more likely to sexualize these affiliations at the tubs.

When we go to the bars, or baths, without relational expectations, we experience the initial affiliation gratification which automatically lowers anxiety and we can get beyond the Sexual Pecking Order, part of the Game. The S.P.O. is related to acceptance and rejection—we're accepted by some and rejected by others. This tells us where we stand in the sexual pecking order of that particular place on that particular night. The problem is that the S.P.O. depends almost exclusively upon how "hot" you look. But, how often have we heard, "God, he was hot, until he opened his mouth!"

If you don't know what you want you've got to at least allow the other guy to show you what he's like, still outside of any expectations on your part. Any sexualization will obscure objective evaluation. In other words, look at his behavior,

not his basket. You'll begin to find yourself responding to certain characteristics in the behavior of others. To be simplistic, if you find yourself constantly responding to what appear to be dominant males, you probably have some pretty strong dependency needs. The question then becomes how you're going to satisfy those needs. After the ten-thousandth fuck by a great big stud it may begin to dawn that there might be some other way to satisfy those dependencies. The more you understand the complexity of your needs the less anxious you'll be.

This sounds illogical, but it's true. The most anxious man in the bar is the one who believes that he must go home with the handsomest man or the man with the biggest cock. If you know that your needs are diverse, then you have a much greater number from which to select.

S&M is often a procedure used to bind anxiety in order to allow the individual to experience affectional gratification. Outwardly it appears to be just the opposite of affection, but often that is its main purpose. One true characteristic of S&M is that it denies the individual sexual gratification until other more important needs are met. Similarly, if you can control the sexual expectation in the social setting you allow more important needs to evolve. One problem is that alcohol is a better sexual lubricant than Albolene.

Try and keep the sexual need and expectation until last. Much of what we think is anxiety is really excitement associated with sexuality. Sexual anxiety is rare but sexual excitement can easily obscure more important needs which can lead to frustration anxiety—that unsatisfied feeling. Let yourself experience as many needs and feelings as possible before you begin to relate. Then, do it!

# Matchmaking

For many gays, coming to San Francisco, the "gay Mecca" of the world, often carries with it hopes of fabulous love affairs, and, in some cases, finding the knight (or Amazon) in shining armor. Many gays arriving here for the first time (whether just for vacation or taking up residence) become overwhelmed by the sheer number of gay men and women in the City of St. Francis. Untold numbers of these newly-arrived immigrants, unaware of the multitude of activities for gays here and the opportunities for meeting people, seem to head immediately for the Polk, the Castro, the Haight or South of Market where gay bars are easy to spot and large numbers of people congregate. Few find that "fabulous love affair" they may so eagerly seek (or wait for so patiently in California "laid back" style).

Some even seem overwhelmed by the tens of thousands of choices of partners which may be available to them. Meeting a stranger in a bar can become, for many people, almost ritualistic and often unfulfilling, sometimes discovering little or nothing from those encounters which offer any clue about whether they observed enough or learned enough about the person they've just met to really know whether or not they really care to see that person again. Do common interests exist? Do personalities mesh? Is there enough of substance,

beyond the physical, to merit spending another night (or nights) with that person again?

An alternative way of meeting people has long been matchmaking, a European tradition going back many hundreds of years which Americans have never really accepted.

One lingering impression of people who use matchmaking services is that the clients must be real "losers," unable to meet people in bars and maybe even unattractive enough to snare sexual partners which might bloom into romance.

Sentinel writer John Schrock takes a look here at the two available matchmaking services for gay men in San Francisco and also interviews a couple who met through one of those services. Unfortunately, such services do not exist here for gay women. Hopefully, they soon will.

Schrock's impression: people using the matchmaking services are far from "losers." Many of them are high achievers who reject most of the ritualistic games played in bars and baths and have summoned up the courage to explore alternative ways of being introduced to others, giving themselves and the persons they meet some idea of who they are, what they enjoy, and what they hope to find before being thrust into each other's company. *(Continued on page 4)*

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(Continued from page 3)

by John Schrock

### David the Matchmaker

Manipulating others for their own good has always been a hobby for David Kulman: "If you know two people and they might be very good together—and they don't know each other—why not get them together? I've been doing that for 25 years. Now I get paid for it."

For six years Kulman has been successfully pairing men with men in the old European Jewish tradition of matchmaking. "After they've been to the bars and the baths, the discos and those other places where you can't even see the bodies, they come to me."

And with good reason. His intuition can be uncanny. "I had two clients—I thought they'd be a perfect match. It turned out they had actually been lovers and had broken up a year before. I talked them into getting back together and they're very happy now."

If psychiatrists feel a patient might benefit from some old-fashioned dating, some send that patient directly to Kulman. Old-fashioned dating is what Kulman encourages: "Where you actually speak to the person before you get into bed—that's very unusual these days."

Grateful clients name poodles after him, and more than 20% of those who entrust him with their social lives are rewarded with an ongoing relationship.

\$200 will enlist you for a year in Kulman's active file. After an hour and a half probe of your private life, his intuition clicks into high gear. He can tell just exactly what his client wants, and he has several reasonable facsimiles thereof in his extensive files.

Continued on page 5



David the Matchmaker (photo by John Gleske)

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### Matchmaker (continued from page 4)

He doesn't show pictures, because he wants the focus to be on the man, not the physique. He's not in the business of fulfilling sexual fantasies. "Unless you're Quasimodo you can always find a trick in San Francisco." His service is strictly relationship oriented, and he wheedles his clients into flexibility. "A person is a commodity I'm trying to sell. I have to talk some of my clients into seeing someone not their 'type'—then they find they're not into types after all. People can change their ideal images."

For the first date Kulman recommends a site with a quiet, personal ambiance, preferably in the home. An overtly gay atmosphere, like a bar or disco, is too distracting and not conducive to open communication.

After the initial encounter, Kulman demands feedback. This is where sometimes he finds out the real dirt: he admits he can be fooled at the first interview, and post-date reactions can help set him straight. "A lot of people claim they're versatile and then feedback tells me that they're not. It's better when people don't lie to me, and if they won't give me feedback, they're wasting their time."

Knowing how both men feel allows him to constructively meddle. "I don't let people dangle. It's better to know someone doesn't want to see you again than to sit around and hope. If it doesn't work out they get somebody else."

If the men are interested in each other he helps out with encouragement and hints. "I get very involved and keep notes on how the relationship is progressing. I can get very aggravated at times if things don't work out the way I think they should."

Kulman has to fight the attitude that only social losers would use an introduction service. "If you need an apartment, you go to a rental agent, you don't just walk up and down the streets looking at buildings. And if you're looking for a lover you shouldn't stand around bars and baths, you should see a professional matchmaker."

### Other Ways

Bob Jerome founded Other Ways because he kept hearing men complain "of the frustration they felt at the superficiality of many of their gay encounters."

He's not a matchmaker—"I introduce people; they match themselves." And he sees friendships form as a result of his introductions more often than relationships. But "lovers should be friends first, anyway," he says.

Jerome's goal is to create an extended social network. Although most of his clients are relationship-oriented, they "generally approach it from the point of view that love takes time." So while they may be looking for a lover, meanwhile they can accumulate an array of intimate friends and casual acquaintances, introduced to them because of goals and interests they have in common.

The general impression is that the more active your social life, the more likely it is that you'll find what you're looking for. And if your social circle is founded on a base of men whose interests and ideals are similar to your own, your chances are even better. To this end potluck dinners and wine-and-cheese fundraisers are held, all under the auspices of Other Ways. "Bring your own friend" is the policy at some of these events in an effort to further extend the social network.

To join Other Ways, the first thing that's needed is \$200. Next, the client undergoes a rigorous interview. Several psychiatrists helped Jerome prepare the questionnaire which takes two hours to complete. It covers such topics as the client's past relationship history, his attitude toward love, his religious beliefs, etc. The client also evaluates himself in categories like self-reliance, possessiveness, and spirituality.

This is no haven for the socially inept. "There are a lot of people out there who aren't casual in their attitude toward other people, and they like to meet others who feel the same way." 42% have degrees from graduate schools, and 75% have undergone at least four years of college. Jerome screens out applicants he feels he can't help, and "sincere, loving and responsible" is how he describes the type of man Other Ways members are looking for.

Jerome is not averse to counseling if he sees a client having trouble relating to the men he meets. "The more open a person is, the more he's going to see in another person. The more defensive someone is, the less he'll see. Some people have

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Bob Jerome (photo by John Gleske)

defenses, others don't. It's a matter of building up trust and confidence. I'm quite skilled in getting people to open up eventually."

Sometimes, with his detailed knowledge of his client's relationship history, he notices patterns in their behavior which he brings to their attention. "The more consciously we live our lives," he says, "the more effectively we live."

Jerome's stated aim is to help "eliminate the barriers that prevent people from loving and being loved." Sometimes a client calls and says the man he met the night before is just so wonderful he's afraid to call him back. Later, the man's date calls and says the same thing. That, says Jerome, is the most rewarding aspect of the business.

### Ken and Jerry—A Matchmated Couple

When Jerry met Ken it wasn't his first blind date set up through Other Ways, but it was the first time the "chemistry clicked."

Now, six months later, Ken says they're "affianced." That means "we haven't taken the plunge, but we're committed to the possibilities."

They're both happy with the way their investment in the introduction service paid off. "It was a real drag going to bars," Jerry asserts. "You can meet 100 people and spend a year at least before you find anyone with interests compatible with your own."

Ken agrees. "The bars were very good to me as far as a support group when I first came out, but the sexual side—tricking—is in everybody's head and it makes a barrier. If I had seen Jerry in a bar," he adds, "I wouldn't have had the guts to approach him."

Neither Ken nor Jerry are dating other guys, but they have no immediate plans to set up housekeeping together. Each says he's learned from previous relationships the danger of jumping too quickly into commitments.

"Before, I was insecure, and I just had to have somebody," Jerry states. "Now I'm much more comfortable with myself. If we continue growing the way we are, living together is definitely an option for the future. But we're in no hurry."

Respect for the other man's privacy and independence is paramount in this relationship. "I used to think two lovers had to share everything; that he had to give up things he liked, and I had to give up things I liked. But that just takes away

Continued on page 6



Ken (left) and Jerry (photo by John Gleske)

# Ken and Jerry (continued from page 5)

what you found attractive about the person in the first place. I wouldn't expect Ken to give up anything that was important to him."

"I've known people," says Ken, "who go in with their joint savings accounts and their joint checking accounts, and have everything so tied up no one knows whose is whose or what's what. You can create ties that make it impossible to break up, when you should be creating conditions that make you want to stay together."

One way to help keep a relationship open and growing, they believe, is to take seriously your partner's point of view. "You can't expect someone else to think exactly the way you do," Jerry has learned. "Assuming your point of view is the only one there is—that's an easy trap to fall into. You've got to give the other person room to think—and keep respect for his opinions."

For Ken, the easiest trap to fall into is that of overemphasizing the sexual aspect of a relationship. "I used to say as long as we've got a good sex life, everything else will be fine. But if you build a relationship around the bedroom, somewhere along the line, something will fail. It's so easy to say 'I love you' when you're getting it on. But if you're standing on a crowded bus, people pressing all around, and you feel like you're going to scream: if you can turn to the person that you love, then, and say 'I love you'—OK, that's real."

They won't speculate on the future, but Ken says, "You have to go into a relationship with an open mind—knowing that it's going to be work. If we can deal with the problems as they come up, keep respect for each other, and behave in a way that generates respect—it's unlikely that we'll grow apart."

# When the Telephone Rings

by Ron Baker

If you think it doesn't pay to advertise your wares, you should talk to Derek, a San Francisco single who claims to have met hundreds of men during the past three years as the result of an ad he runs monthly in the personals pink section of *The Advocate*.

Sipping slowly from a glass of fresh-squeezed grapefruit juice, muscular-masculine Derek emphatically proclaims his \$265 a year investment in self-advertising an overwhelming success.

"It's a great way to meet other men," he says with a sheepish grin. "For one thing, I don't have to waste time looking for them. I'm bored with all that bullshit in the bars. Calls come in while I'm at home doing my own thing."

5'7" Derek, who prefers to keep his full identity and profession out of the interview, resides in a beautifully renovated Victorian in Pacific Heights, just a short walk from the Lion Pub.

We conducted the interview in his imaginatively designed bedroom, where Derek likes to spend most of his time.

Once comfortably settled in this spacious sleeping/living space, with its enormous stone fireplace, dark fir-beamed ceiling and white, rough-hewn stucco walls, one could easily imagine oneself tucked away inside a remote Southern German hunting lodge.

Dimly lit by a chandelier hand-fashioned from deer antlers (or buck antlers) and liberally strewn with large, overstuffed recreational pillows, the room reflects Derek's preference for a casually elegant living environment, albeit with a heavy accent on the rustic-masculine.

Two telephones, one white and one black, stand on a dark-stained oak night table next to Derek's bed. Whenever the black phone rings, Derek answers it with the self-assured air of one who knows that the man on the other end of the line can hardly wait to meet him.

What remains uncertain is whether Derek feels equally anxious to make contact, and if so, whether the flame of passion will ignite once they get together.

Derek estimates his 'hot line' rings on the average of 100 times a week, too frequently for him to answer even every fifth call. "I usually talk to about 15 men a

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week and get together with maybe two or three of them. It varies a lot, depending on what's happening in my life."

If he's too busy or just not in the mood for company, Derek simply unplugs the phone. Due to the quantity and variety of men who respond to his ad, it became essential for Derek to develop some sort of screening procedure.

Once past the inevitable low-pitched, macho "Hello" and "Hi, guy," Derek eases his sometimes reticent caller into talking about himself, gently encouraging him to delineate his physical characteristics.

Often Derek recognizes immediately that he cannot possibly fulfill the adventurous expectations of his would-be companion, at least not without exposing himself to potential hazards.

At other times, if circumstances leave him vulnerable to the provocative sug-

*Continued on page 7*

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# When the Phone Rings (cont. from p. 6)

gestions of strangers (say, during a full moon or after a frustrating night at the tubs), Derek might obligingly indulge a telephone request for instant gratification.

"Some guys want a long-distance jerk-off buddy and if they hit me at the right moment, I let them talk me into playing their game. What the hell, I like to jerk off."

By this time bearded-bodybuilder Derek had polished off his second glass of fresh-squeezed juice and began extolling the virtues of Southern California grapefruits.

When asked what technique he used to weed out men who didn't tell the truth about themselves, Derek said he concentrated on the tone and expressive quality of the voice.

"You can tell if a man is telling the truth about himself from the sound quality of his voice. If I listen well, I never make a mistake. If the guy's voice turns me on, so will his body."

On occasion Derek launches immediately into a sexual line of questioning, slipping in the unpardonable query, "What do you like to do?"

"When a guy says he's into everything, it usually turns out he's not into very much. If he gives me the line that he's never had any complaints, I know right away he's a dog."

After working through the preliminaries, the conversation may heat up to the point where Derek sets up a rendezvous for later the same day (no dates, please!), with the clear understanding that once they experience each other in the flesh, either party can cancel out.

Three years of experience has taught Derek not to expect unqualified success from every encounter. "The image I construct from the voice on the phone doesn't always correspond to the man who walks through the front door."

Undaunted by the all too frequent discrepancy between fantasy and reality, Derek strives to make a go of it in every situation, even when his initial physical impression seems to negate the likelihood of a good toss in the hay.

"We talk, maybe smoke a joint, then move from there. Even when I'm not super turned on, if the man is sincere and wants me, I do the best I can to please him."

Derek insists he's never experienced any difficulties or unpleasantness as a result of his advertisement. "I've had my share of funny encounters, though." One of the first men who answered his ad claimed to be a 6'2" 21-year-old blonde surfer with a 9" cock.

"When I answered the doorbell an hour later, a 4' middle-aged midget with straw-blond hair stood before me. All I could think to say was, 'You're not the way you described yourself so I'm going to ask you to leave.' He looked confused and left without saying anything. I felt depressed."

"Ten minutes later the doorbell rang again. It turned out to be the 6'2" blonde surfer. We had a wonderful time. The next day my neighbor identified the midget as a wandering Jehovah's witness."

Last year Derek received a series of calls from the mother of a 19-year-old youth who inquired about the sexual habits of gay men and the possible dangers her son might face if he pursued a gay lifestyle.

Derek advised her to get a copy of *Song of the Loon*. Occasionally he gets calls from religious zealots, usually Mormons or Bible-thumping fundamentalists, who want to convert him from the sin of homosexuality. He refers calls of this nature to the MCC hotline.

After relating a few off-the-record anecdotes, Derek finished his third glass of grapefruit juice, and began stuffing up one of the overstuffed pillows, a clue that the interview was over.

"I'm going to L.A. in a few hours to visit a guy I originally met through my ad," he offered cheerfully. Derek was ready for some far-out action.

As I walked out the door, I could hear his telephone ringing.

# Political Organizations

Confined in less than fifty square miles, with a population which continues to shrink, San Francisco remains an unusually politically active city. Two elections every year here guarantee that there is never a dearth of active causes nor potential candidates with which to get involved for those who choose to do so. Dozens of political clubs in the City present opportunities to get involved in the politics of San Francisco and offer any number of occasions for meeting new people while striking up new and fulfilling friendships.

Coinciding with the emergence of the gay community as a potent political force in the 1970's came a growing determination to form predominantly gay political clubs to address issues of concern to the City's burgeoning gay population. Three large and powerful clubs, two Democratic and one Republican, grew out of that need in the

70's as well as several lesser known organizations.

San Francisco and the Bay Area have often been called a social laboratory of events, lifestyles and forces which seem to later sweep across the nation. Certainly the City's gay community's political organizing and vaunted clout has served as a model for much of the country to emulate.

What *The Sentinel* provides here is a thumbnail sketch of five of the City's political clubs for readers who may be interested in meeting new people and getting more involved in the affairs of the City. Besides meeting new people who share many similar ideas, membership in these clubs provides a unique opportunity to rub shoulders and frequently talk with the leading elected officials of the City.

## The Alice Toklas Democratic Club

Toklas (affectionately called "Alice" by most of its members) is the largest and oldest of San Francisco's predominantly gay political clubs and, with 400 members, stands out as the largest Democratic club in the state. Its members include almost all of the City's officialdom as well as President Jimmy Carter.

The Toklas group meets on the second Monday of every month at the Metropolitan Community Church, 150 Eureka Street. A 6:30 p.m. potluck dinner precedes the 7:30 meeting.

Since its founding in 1972 Toklas has held public candidates' days to scrutinize office seekers on issues affecting the gay community.

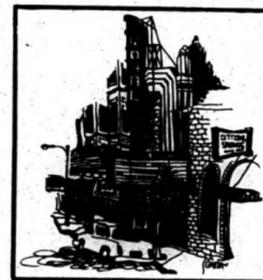
Further information may be obtained by writing Rick Tyden, Treasurer, 285 Downey, San Francisco, Ca. 94117.

## The Harvey Milk Gay Democratic Club

Begun in 1976 as the San Francisco Gay Democratic Club, this group was renamed in December, 1978 following the assassination of openly gay Supervisor Harvey Milk, one of the club's leading figures. The Milk club now boasts 350 members, most of whom are gay men and women.

It meets on the fourth Tuesday of each month at the Womens' Building, 3543

*Continued on page 8*



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## Political Organizations (cont. from p. 7)

18th Street (near Valencia) for socializing at 7:00 p.m. and the regular business meeting at 7:30.  
For more information, write: The Milk Democratic Club, P.O. Box 14368, San Francisco, Ca. 94114.

### Concerned Republicans for Individual Rights

Largely as a response to the anti-gay Proposition 6 of State Senator John Briggs in 1978, gay Republicans and their non-gay supporters formed CRIR in 1978 to get the City's minority Republican Party involved in defeating Prop 6.  
The group now meets regularly on the third Monday of every month at Metropolitan Community Church, 150 Eureka at 7:30 p.m. A beer and wine social hour follows the business meeting for the 130 members. Much of the City's Republican hierarchy (in a heavily Democratic city) has joined CRIR, including State Senator Milton Marks, Board of Supervisors President John Molinari and Supervisor John Bardis.

### San Francisco Feminist Democrats

Implementing the national plan of action adopted at the International Womens' Year conference in Houston in 1978 motivated a number of San Francisco women

to form the San Francisco Feminist Democrats after returning from the IWY conference.

The group now meets on the second Thursday of every month in room 1200 of the State Building on McAllister Street (in Civic Center Plaza). They meet at 6 p.m. The "Fem Dems"—as they have come to be called—are a mixed group of gay and non-gay women who are dedicated to making sure the IWY plan of action gets onto the Democratic Party platform in the 1980 convention.

They have set another goal for themselves of helping women get elected and appointed to public office in San Francisco.

Further information can be obtained by writing to Eileen Adams, 429 Central, San Francisco, Ca. 94117.

### Stonewall Democratic Club

One of the newer gay political clubs, the Stonewall Club draws a strong mix of gay and non-gay persons in its twenty members. District Attorney Arlo Smith was just elected as the organization's parliamentarian and regularly attends the meetings (as he does with the Toklas and Milk club meetings). Meetings are held at 12:30 p.m. on the first Sunday of every month. The location of meetings changes so write club president Garry Parker at 3452 16th Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94114 for further information.

## Health Clubs

During the past three years bodybuilding has become increasingly popular among gay men in San Francisco. The increased demand for facilities has nurtured a mushrooming of health clubs in the City.

These gyms not only help gay men to improve their physiques, but also provide a clean, friendly environment where they can meet other men interested in keeping in good physical condition.

Below is an alphabetical listing of San Francisco gyms which cater to gay men. For more complete details about these facilities, telephone the manager, or better still, drop by and take a look for yourself.

#### The Body Center. 1230 Sutter. 928-3205.

Part of a national chain of health clubs with affiliates in Dallas, Los Angeles and New York; three full lines of nautilus equipment; instructors coach and supervise members' workouts.

\$325 yr. (unlimited membership) or \$225 yr. (cannot use facilities after 4 p.m.); quarterly memberships available.

#### The City Athletic Club. 2500 Market Street. 552-6680.

A complete range of nautilus equipment, supplemented by some free weights; workout room is light and airy; nicely appointed shower and locker room with large whirlpool bath, cold plunge and dry sauna.

\$325 yr. (unlimited membership) or \$250 yr. (cannot use facilities after 4 p.m.).

#### The Diamond Gym. 310 Valencia. 626-8865.

Although owned by two non-gay men, membership is 80% gay; serious body-builders work out here, including Mr. San Francisco.

Nautilus equipment as well as custom-built machines designed by Joe Gold, owner of the world-famous Gold's gym in Los Angeles.

\$275 yr.

#### The Golden Gate Health Club. 48 Golden Gate Avenue. 673-0500.

Offers the widest range and best selection of free weights of all the gyms in the City; wall-to-wall mirrored interior; steam and sauna rooms available, as well as private lockers.

\$185 yr.

(photo by John Gleske) City Athletic Club



#### The San Francisco Gym. 149 Powell. 781-3220.

Members use a variety of weightlifting equipment, primarily Dyna-cam variable resistance weights, free Olympic weights and a few custom-built machines.

Large workout space—no waiting to use equipment.

#### The Pump Room. 2164 Market. 863-3339.

A popular gym, crowded with patrons 5-7 p.m.; all free weights; dry sauna; open 7 days a week.

Out-of-towners like this gym because it offers daily and weekly rates.

\$190 yr., \$160 quarterly, \$25 mo., \$10 week, \$4 day.

#### YMCA. 220 Golden Gate Avenue. 885-0460.

Mostly free weights with some universal machines; small, separate gym available for gymnastics and individual exercising.

Swimming pool, racquetball courts, indoor running track; gymnasium for basketball, badminton and volleyball; popular steam room.

A sensational bargain because of the wide variety of facilities available to members; predominantly non-gay membership, although gays are in the majority in the weightlifting gym.

\$160 yr.

(photo by John Gleske) The Pump Room



## Sports

by Victor Camara

Athletics for gay people is an activity which in the last few years has emerged from its own closet in the gay community. Besides the sheer exhilaration of the exercise which many of these sports provide, and setting aside the obvious healthful benefits from being outside and regularly exercising, engaging in sports often provides a new and exciting way to meet people sharing some common interests.

Sentinel sports editor Victor Camara has prepared a quick guide to many of these activities. We hope our readers find it a useful way to meet new people, venture out to exciting new places and doing new things.

### Bowling

One of the most popular sports in our community and the oldest of the organized sporting leagues are The Tavern Guild Bowling League and The Community Bowling League.

The Tavern Guild League meets every Wednesday night at Park Bowl on Haight Street near Stanyan. You can find the Community Bowling League at the Japantown Bowling Center at Post and Webster on any Monday night.

Whether you're a 210 bowler or just a novice you'll meet new friends from all over the Bay Area at one of these local alleys beginning at about 9:30 p.m. on either Monday or Wednesday night year round.

### Softball

You'd never believe it by the looks of the weather, but Spring must be just around the corner. And, of course, with Spring comes the rigors of getting in shape to play for one of our 30 softball teams.

For the softball stalwart there are two leagues to choose from—the Community Softball League and the Gay Softball League. Or if you're really a softball nut, you might try playing in both leagues.

The G.S.L. begins play March 23 and the C.S.L. begins Easter Sunday, April 8th. So there is plenty of time to look around town and find a team that will suit your needs, whether you're a Babe Ruth type or just out for the fun and games like Lucy or Charlie Brown.

Weather permitting, teams are practicing now and you might inquire at your favorite "pub" to see if they have a team. Or look for posters in the Castro or Polk areas. Nothing Special, Chop's, White Swallow, The Cinch, The Mint, or Gilmore's are just a few places you can get further information. Sweetlips' Saloon on O'Farrell between Larkin and Hyde might be a good place to look.



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### Pool

Another well-organized league in the community is the San Francisco Pool Association. There will be twenty-two or so teams in the S.F.P.A. The league is just now forming for the 1980 season.

For information on how to get on a team look for posters in your favorite bar or contact Luby's pool hall located across from Rainbow Cattle Co. on Valencia near Duboce.

### Soccer

For the soccer player there is the San Francisco Gay Soccer Club. To meet your friends you can call 668-2802 or 863-2590 or drop by the polo fields at Golden Gate Park any Saturday at 10:00 a.m.

### Volleyball

Volleyball players can contact the M.C.C. church to get further information on how to join their net ball team.

### Running

The Front Runners is a member of the Amateur Athletic Union and anyone interested in running can join that organization.

### Miscellaneous

All of the above athletic organizations are open to both women and men. But women also have their own Softball League. To get information on the women's league you might contact Amelia's or Peg's Place.

In the Table Games category there is the monthly Bridge Tournament held at The Mint. For the date of their next match call The Mint.

Just in the formation stage is a Scrabble Club with the goal of eventually sending players to the National Scrabble Championships. For information on this one contact Victor Camara at 821-0361.

Any of the above organizations will offer the sportsman or fan a lot of hours of enjoyment and many new friends can be met. So, don't be shy and contact the organizations of your choice.

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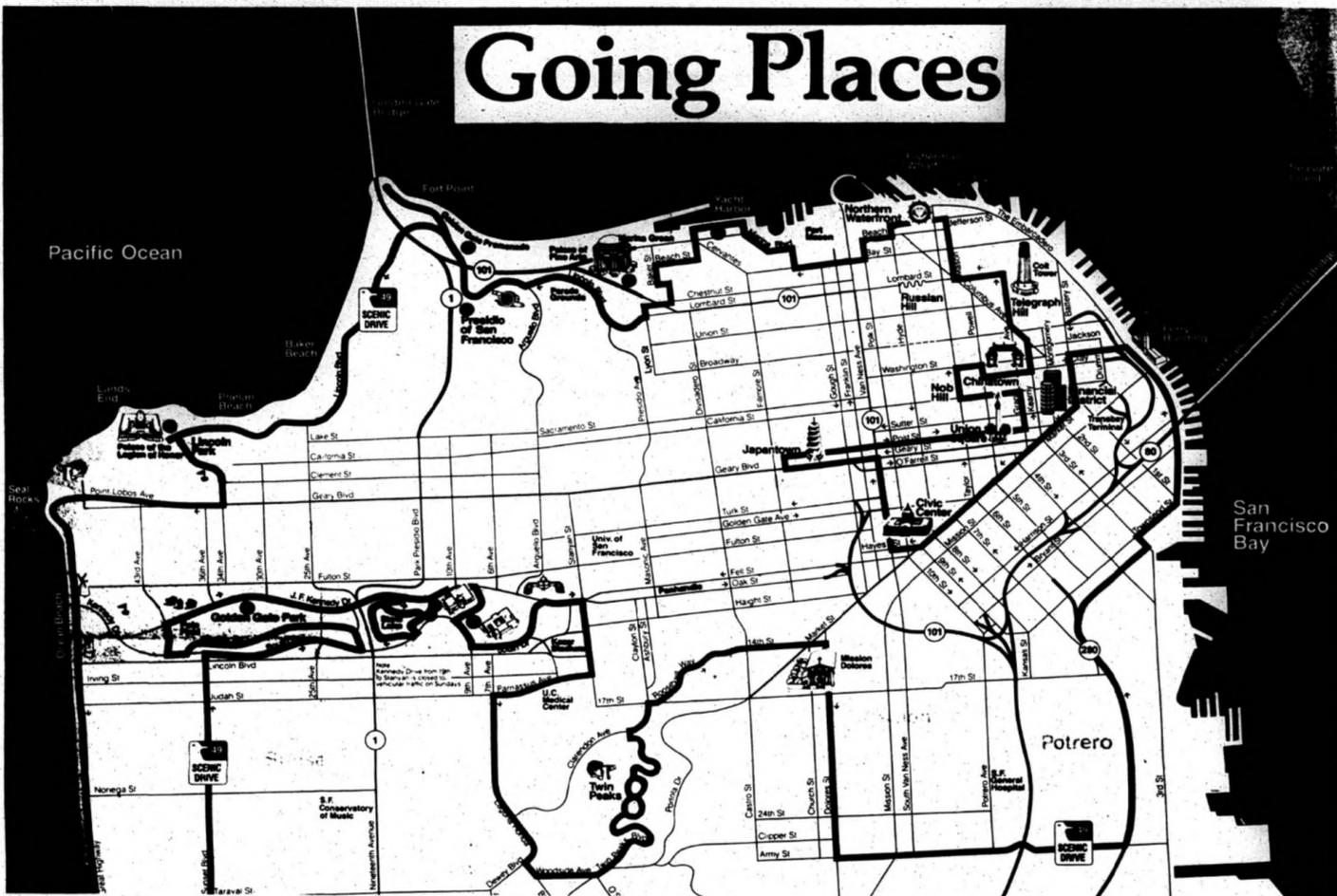
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San Francisco's streets, particularly in the heavily residential areas where many gays live, are packed with automobiles day and night. Add to that the high insurance rates for cars in the City and it is easy to understand why many gay people choose not to buy a car and depend instead on Muni transit.

However, not owning a car creates something of a problem when a desire to "escape from it all" becomes overwhelming.

Any behavioral scientist will agree that those small "escapes" from home are not only needed occasionally but are very helpful emotionally and mentally.

San Francisco boasts several small, intimate hotels where gays are especially welcome as guests. These hotels are ideal for that "get-away-from-it-all" weekend while you can still remain within the City, enjoying it as a tourist might.

A weekend at one of the hotels listed below can boost your spirits, add zest to an on-going lover relationship, or provide that ideal way to begin a new love affair. A little pampering, of yourself and your loved one, never hurt anybody.

Champagne is bubbling in the Victorian tub in front of the fire. Corinthian columns and tall fan windows ornament the walls. The antique brass bed is tucked away in an alcove, and lovely period furniture is everywhere.

Why leave San Francisco for that romantic weekend for two, when it's possible to revel in the grandeur of an old Victorian mansion? Built in 1887 for the sugar-rich Spreckles family, the Spreckles Mansion is the epitome of Victorian elegance skillfully integrated with all the comforts of a modern guesthouse.

The Sugar Baron Suite (\$95), described above, is one of five available rooms. A canopied bed and a claw foot tub grace the Valentines Room, along with a carefully displayed collection of 19th Century Valentines.

Stained glass windows abound here, particularly in the Garden Room, where the most striking is in the niche above the antique bed. The attached sun-room looks out from the garden below to the blue Pacific.

Owners Jonathan Shannon and Jeffrey Ross rescued Spreckles from sure demolition only last April. Six condominiums were slated to replace it, but Shannon and Ross put in a quick bid, closed the deal, and took up residence on the third floor.

The question of what to do with the lower floors was quickly solved when they reflected on their pleasant experiences in European boarding houses.

Breakfast on the tiny balcony in the Sugar Baron Suite, and any afternoon



The Spreckles Mansion

relax in one of the library's velvet chairs and partake of the complimentary wine and hor d'oeuvres. All rates are for "two friendly people." The mansion, one of only six Colonial-revival homes left in San Francisco, is located at 737 Buena Vista West. Reservations a must.

If your mansion simply has to be located in Pacific Heights, the Mansion Hotel, 2220 Sacramento, affords an equally refreshing getaway from the rigors of the 20th century.

Grand staircases, crystal chandeliers, story-telling murals, and marble fireplaces are period features of this elegant spot. Ceilings in some rooms slope to the floor. Victorian memorabilia is scattered everywhere—tapestries, lace shawls, and an entire collection of Victorian gowns on display throughout the hallways.

Nightly, the genteel tones of Bach and Mozart echo from the intimate music parlor. Outside, the Bufano Sculpture Gardens provide a quiet retreat. Rates for two are from \$43.

Other hotels suitable for a quiet weekend in the City might include the York at 940 Sutter. There are two-room suites with bar, for \$52, and a cabaret downstairs with live entertainment every night.

The Brothel at 1500 Sutter offers deluxe suites at \$49, with steam room and workout room available on the premises.

The recently renovated Casa Loma provides double rooms starting from \$22.50. Sauna, sun-deck, and hot tubs are available.

A San Francisco newspaper in 1868 wrote, "Of all the white elephants the city ever owned, they now have the largest in Golden Gate Park, a dreary waste of shifting sandhills where a blade of grass cannot be raised without four posts to keep it from blowing away."

So much for journalistic predictions or descriptions. Golden Gate Park happened in spite of the bad press it received back then and the machinations of municipal government through the decades.

Quite simply, people planted seeds and over the years they grew, with care. Grassy meadows, formal gardens, tree-shaded canyons replaced chapparal, sand, and a few scrub oaks. Architects built residences to house flowers, fish, and Ming Dynasty treasures. Slowly the white elephant greened to become one of San Francisco's greatest assets.

Golden Gate Park is the largest urban park in the world and one of the most magical worlds to visit in the city. No matter how often you journey there (and after sundown it's advisable not to do so), you will see, hear, smell, or do something new.

When the concrete becomes a bit hard to bear and you're in need of a breath of fresh air, you might want to discover and experience a few of the park's 1,017 acres.

What follows are some places to go and things to see and do within the park's borders:

**The Japanese Tea Garden.** Especially in early spring the garden, open daily from 8 a.m. to dusk, is serene and lovely with its cherry blossoms, magnolias, bamboos, and carefully pruned shrubs and pine trees. The entrance gateway to the formally landscaped garden is made from hundreds of hand-carved pieces of wood. A giant bronze buddha meditates outside a model Japanese dwelling and a teahouse. A many-tiered temple is located at the highest spot in the garden. Lanterns, stones and pools line the gently winding pathways, adding to the garden's atmosphere of oriental tranquility.

The garden is located off of Tea Garden Drive, east of the De Young Museum.

**The Hall of Flowers.** Located at the entrance of Strybing Arboretum, this building serves as the Garden center of San Francisco. Throughout the year over 500 scheduled events take place here, ranging from art shows to rummage sales and sports exhibitions. Call the park's general information number, 558-4268, for details.

**The Rose Garden.** A setting out of the Renaissance, the Golden Gate Rose Garden

Continued on page 12



Tea Garden at Golden Gate Park (photo by John Gieske)

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## Golden Gate Park (continued from page 11)

is located between JFK Drive and Fulton St. at the south end of Presidio Parkway. A long bed backed by climbing roses forms the western boundary of the garden, and the balance of the area holds 53 beds, each of which holds one dozen rose bushes.

**M.H. De Young Memorial Museum.** The fine arts museum, located off JFK Drive, is open daily from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Adult admission costs \$1.00. The museum features the Avery Brundage Collection, which spans more than 6,800 years of Oriental history and includes a magnificent collection of jade, Chinese bronzes, sculpture, and ceramics.

**California Academy of Sciences.** The Academy houses the Steinhart Aquarium, the Morrison Planetarium, and the Natural Sciences exhibits. Open daily, admission to the Academy costs \$1.00 for adults. The admission charge doesn't include the Morrison Planetarium shows which take place in a 65 ft. hemispherical dome. For further laserium and sky-show information call 752-8268.

**Fields.** There are a number of playing fields in the park. Bring your own bows, arrows, and targets to the archery field off of Fulton St. and 47th Ave. At Big Recreation Playfield at 7th Ave. and Linch are several Baseball diamonds. On Middle Drive is the Polo Field, with a trotting track, football field, running track, and practice field. Situated off of Ocean Beach and Kennedy Drive at the Beach Chalet, is a field used primarily for soccer.

**Meadows.** Speedway, Lindley, and Mary meadows are the largest meadows in the park and perfect spots for a spread blanket and picnic basket. Tables and barbecue pits are available in these areas.

**Lakes.** Stow Lake is located in the center of the park, west of the Japanese Tea Gardens off of Stow Lake Drive. Rental boats including pedal, electric and rowboats are available from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Both wind and motor powered boats may be launched on Spreckels Lake, near 35th Ave. and Fulton.

### ACTIVITIES IN THE PARK:

**Bicycling.** A 7 1/2 mile paved trail extends from the tip of the Panhandle through the park. John F. Kennedy Drive is closed to auto traffic from Kezar Drive to Transverse Drive during daylight hours on Sundays for bicycling or walking.

**Golf.** Golden Gate Golf Course has 9 par 3 holes located near 47th Ave. and Fulton St. For further information call 751-8987.

**Horseback Riding.** The Golden Gate Park Stables are located in the west end of the park across from Spreckels Lake. Horses may be rented daily from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. for riding in the park. For further information call 386-9663.

**Tennis.** 20 Tennis Courts are available in the Park off of Kennedy Drive and 3rd Ave. Call 478-9500 for reservations and information on private and group lessons.

**Jogging.** There are numerous jogging trails in the park. A brochure that provides a complete running guide is available at McLaren Lodge on Fell and Stanyan.

**Rollerskating.** On Sundays, JFK Blvd. is closed to cars, and you can skate your ball-bearings off. Anyone who has not yet bought a pair may rent his or her skates from portable vans on Fulton or Stanyan Streets, for \$5 a day or \$1.50 an hour.

**Playgrounds.** Mary B. Connolly Children's Playground, located on South Drive off of 3rd Ave., is available to the young and the young at heart. Three smaller playgrounds are located on South Dr. east of 19th Ave., at Fulton and Stanyan, and near 47th Ave. and Lincoln Way.



Conservatory of Flowers (photo by John Gleske)

**The Conservatory of Flowers.** This is the oldest existing building in Golden Gate Park and is one of the most outstanding examples of Victorian architecture in the Bay Area. Each year the Conservatory presents floral displays of some 12,500 major and 1,350 minor plant exhibits in addition to its year-round collection of 1,600 orchids and four rooms of tropical plants, including ferns. Located in the eastern end of the park off Kennedy Drive, the Conservatory is open daily from 8 a.m. to 4:30.

**Strubling Arboretum and Botanical Gardens.** Open daily from 10 a.m. to 4:30, this site covers 55 acres. Over 5,500 species of trees, shrubs, herbs, and bulbs from all over the world are grown and tagged in the various gardens of the Arboretum.

**Music Concourse.** 220 beautiful old trees are planted in the Music Concourse, located between the Academy of Sciences and the De Young Museum. These sycamores and elms are pruned by a process called pollarding, which causes the trees to produce an abnormal number of new branches in the spring, providing dense shade in the summer.

On Sundays at 2 p.m. band concerts are conducted at the bandshell. The 38-piece band is the only year-round municipal park band left in the U.S.

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# Doing Things

In the last few years, San Francisco has become very much a theater-going city. The continuing presence of the *American Conservatory Theater* has provided us with a wide variety of theatrical experiences of truly professional quality. In addition, we have had the traveling companies that usually appeared at the *Curran Theater* bringing us traveling companies of Broadway plays. If the musical theater has not fared as well, the existence of *The Orpheum Theater* and the excellent new/old *Golden Gate Theater* with competing and complimentary seasons of Broadway musicals promise to start a healthy tradition of musical theater in San Francisco.

But the experience of "Theater" in the best sense can best be found in some of the smaller "home-town" productions that are available to us in an astonishing number. These are productions that take risks—financial and artistic—for the sheer love of theater, and they provide us with the opportunity to really participate in the growth of *San Francisco Theater*.

Below is a listing of some of the recent productions that are opening or ongoing. Any of these productions, or the many others not listed here, are an excellent way to spend an evening.

**Eureka Theater.** 16th St. and Market St. 863-7133.

Opening this week, two one-act plays: *Tequilla* by Bennett Cohen and *Out on Hooks* by Scott Wren.

**Illustrated Stage Co.** 1350 Waller St. 922-7635.

The title of their production, *The Revenge of the Space Pandas*, should speak for itself. Heavenly satire?

**Julian Theater.** 953 De Haro St. 647-8098.

Continuing their series of plays by playwrights in residence, they present a play that deals with lesbian life in San Francisco, *Jo* by Sue-Ellen Case.

**Magic Theater.** Fort Mason, Bldg. 314, Laguna St. at Marina Blvd. 885-9928.

The Dutch theater company, *Studio Scarabee* presents their romantic mystery, *Perfidia*. It promises to be a stunning theatrical piece.

**Noe Street Theater.** 151 Noe St.

Contemporary German theater is brought to these shores with a production of Franz Xaver Kroetz's *Michi's Blood*.

**On Broadway Theater.** 435 Broadway. 398-0800.

New York's Ridiculous Theater presents its travesty/serious version of *Camille*, as well as *Bluebeard* and *Stage Blood* in alternating productions. A rare chance to see some crazy and exciting theater.

**One Act Theater Company.** 450 Mason St. 421-6162.

*American Dreams*, a collection of three one-act plays analyze our aspirations and values in both serious and comedic veins. The plays are: *Comanche Cafe* by William Hauptmann, *Minnesota Moon* by John Olive and *Yanks 3, Detroit 0* by Jonathan Reynold.

**Project Artaud.** 450 Florida St. 552-4014.

*The Snake Theater* presents *Ride Hard/Die Fast*, a play about bikers as the inheritors of the spirit of chivalry. Regardless of a dumb script, a theatrical event is achieved.

**Quantum Leap.** Powell and Northpoint Sts. 221-333 x 426.

The revised version of *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof* is being presented. If you have only seen the movie, you need to see the play.

**S.F. Actor's Ensemble.** 2940 16th St. 861-9015.

Featuring the works of local playwright Bart Schneider, they present two one-act plays, *Sunday* and *The Cottage*.

**S.F. Repertory Company.** 4147 19th St. 863-4859.

The British hit play *Knuckle* by David Hare receives its Bay Area premiere.

**Screaming Memes.** Fort Mason, Bldg. B, Laguna St. at Marina Blvd. 776-8999.

An insane group of comedians that will leave you screaming with laughter from their unpredictably improvisational antics.

**Theater Rhinoceros.** 1115 Geary St. 776-1848.

Doric Wilson's *A Perfect Relationship* has been called a perfect comedy about gay relationships. (See interview with Doric Wilson in the Arts and Entertainment section.)

**Victoria Theater.** 2961 16th St. 863-7576.

Bertolt Brecht's *Mother Courage and Her Children* remains an adventurous theatrical piece about war—and indeed—about the war that is life. (See review in the Arts and Entertainment section.)

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