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AMERICA'S LEADING GAY NEWSPAPER

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Over 250,000 people participated in San Francisco's 1981 Lesbian/Gay Freedom Day Parade, the largest ever, according to parade organizers. This week's *Letters to the Editor* reveal some strong feelings about this year's event. See page 9.

Supreme Court Nominee O'Connor Looks Good to Gays

Larry Bush

President Reagan's coalition of conservatives and self-styled "Pro-family" groups threatened to split, at least temporarily, over the nomination of Arizona Judge Sandra O'Connor to the U.S. Supreme Court this week.

The split, if carried to the floor of the U.S. Senate during confirmation hearings, is considered to be the first major confrontation between the two groups which formed the winning alliance in last fall's Presidential and Congressional elections. Conservatives, led by Arizona Republican Senator Barry Goldwater, a friend of O'Connor's and the 1964 Republican Presidential candidate who was trounced on a conservative platform, now appear the unlikely allies of moderate and even some liberal Democrats in supporting Reagan's nominee, who is expected to win confirmation handily.

"Pro-family" groups, who have centered their political appeal on the issues of abortion, the ERA and in some cases anti-gay sentiment, meanwhile announced they will vigorously oppose the nomination, and threatened to withdraw their active support from Reagan's economic program. "Pro-family" groups such as the Right to Life Party have sent telegrams to all 100 Senators saying they will consider a vote for O'Connor as a vote for abortion and rate Senators accordingly in "report cards" issued to voters before the next election. Joining in the early protest was national Moral Majority President Jerry Falwell.

Those announcements drew immediate fire from conservatives who, for the first time, became publicly critical of their "Pro-family" allies and said that issues such as abortion and the ERA were not conservative issues and should not be used as a test for political purity.

"I am probably one of the most conservative members of Congress" said Senator Barry Goldwater, "and I don't like to get kicked around by people who call themselves conservatives on a non-conservative issue."

"I think every good Christian ought to kick Falwell right in the ass," Goldwater said in response to Falwell's claim that the nomination should concern good Christians.

The "pro-family" lobbies, considered powerful because of their claim to speak for millions of fundamentalists and their political campaign treasuries, take exception to O'Connor's record as an Arizona legislator, claiming her voting record included support for both the ERA and legalized abor-

tion. President Reagan personally called Jerry Falwell in an effort to win his support for O'Connor, and O'Connor herself announced she will meet privately with North Carolina Senator Jesse Helms, a leader in the "pro-family" forces, to try to overcome his objections.

Despite those efforts, "pro-family" forces were far from satisfied. "With this nomination, President Reagan has effectively said to the 'Pro-family' activists: Good-bye," a pro-family leader said in a press conference Thursday. O'Connor, the first woman nominated to the U.S. Supreme Court now is expected to face hard questioning in Senate hearings likely to take place in late August or September.

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Raines Case Clears Hurdle

(San Francisco) The long-standing gay discrimination suit by Michael J. Raines against the city of San Francisco has cleared a major legal hurdle and appears to be headed finally towards trial.

Raines was fired from his position as managing director of San Francisco's War Memorial Board in January 1980 after being passed over in a search for a managing director of the newly formed Performing Arts Center. He charged at the time that Board Trustee chairman Philip Boone had "manipulated the board into terminating me out of hostilities to gays in positions of responsibility."

Raines's cases has been in a protracted legal battle ever since.

Superior Court Commissioner Richard E. Best ruled last week that California's constitutional right to privacy does not prohibit Raines's attorneys from inquiring into current and past attitudes towards homosexuals on the part of Boone.

Matthew Coles, one of Raines's attorneys in the case, called the decision one of "major significance" both for the progress of Raines's case and in gay discrimination litigation in California in general.

According to Coles, most job discrimination cases are proved through statistical demonstration that a discriminatory pattern of hiring exists for a particular class of individuals. In the case of gays and lesbians, because certain identification can not be made, according to Coles, discrimination suits

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GUESS WHAT'S HIT THE FAN?

Intestinal parasite epidemic on the rise among gay males

Reprinted with special permission from Christopher Street magazine.

Tim Dlugos

Some sobering facts:

• As many as half the children in the world's least-developed countries die before the age of five. Of these children, most die from diseases that stem from contact with food or water which has been contaminated with excrement.

• One of the most debilitating of these diseases is amoebic dysentery or *amebiasis*. The diarrhea and resulting dehydration it causes can provide the *coup de grace* to small children already weakened by malnutrition. But far more youngsters who contract the disease live on. For some of these, *amebiasis* means nothing more than an occasional bout of nausea and diar-

rrhea. For others, it leads to slow death from abscesses of the liver, the lung, or even the brain.

• Through lack of sanitary facilities and clean water, more than two billion people are threatened by *amebiasis* throughout the developing world, and by 1990 that figure will increase by 700 million.

These facts come from UNICEF, which has made substantial progress fighting *amebiasis* in countries like India and Bangladesh by sinking safe, unpolluted wells for rural villages. In the international development community, *amebiasis* fits a familiar model: the tropical malady that spreads in one area due to overcrowding and a rise in population while it's reduced in another region through application of sanitary techniques. It's a race against time—a race complicated by the fact

that it's virtually impossible to cure *amebiasis* in developing countries once it's been contracted.

In New York (arguably the most overdeveloped city on the planet), public health officials used to think of *amebiasis* as an exotic import, the *tourista* that tourists brought back from vacations in the Yucatan or (more recently) from the Gabonese village where Kunta Kinte lived.

They don't think that any more.

For New York public health officials, *amebiasis* is a nightmare that corresponds on a microscopic level with the sci-fi paranoia about killer bees winging northward from Brazil—only in this version of the nightmare, the swarms are already here and the race against time has already been lost.

Amebiasis is rampant in New York. It isn't spread by contaminated water

or poor hygienic conditions. It's spread by sex—gay sex. Its victims are overwhelmingly gay and male. Half the sexually active male homosexual population in New York—as many as 200,000 men—may be afflicted with this tropical disease or a related ailment, whether or not they or their doctors know it. And because of the high mobility of America's gay population, *amebiasis* is unquestionably a growing health problem for gay men in every other American city as well.

Amebiasis is a protozoal disease. Remember those energetic single-celled critters swimming furiously across slides in freshman biology? Imagine them happily nested in the lining of your large intestine, laying millions of eggs (called *cysts*), which can travel out of your body in a tiny bit of feces and then live for days to infect someone else. Propelled by an unwashed hand, contaminated water, or (most likely in New York) a quick roll in the hay, these protozoal capsules cross the space between hospitable environments with remarkable ease, then hatch and colonize in a new colon.

Entamoeba histolytica is the official

(Continued on page 4)

NEWS ANALYSIS

Family Protection Act Threatens Individual Rights

Mary C. Dunlap

Purporting "to foster and protect the viability of American family life . . . and to promote the virtues of the family," Senate Bill 1378 is traveling through Congress. This proposed law, entitled the "Family Protection Act of 1981," claims to "emphasize family responsibilities" by a surrealistic collage of means. These include obliterating federal programs concerning child and spousal abuse and juvenile delinquency, attacking divorce, abortion, gay rights and school desegregation, creating tax incentives for childbirth, adoption and private schooling, encouraging school prayer and religious education at public expense, and imposing mandatory deductions upon the pay of military service personnel for certain dependents. In case you are already wondering what all of this has to do with protecting the family, consider the following scenario:

Mr. and Mrs. Jones are Caucasian, Christian taxpayers, who are married to each other, have two children, and live in the U.S.A. Mr. Jones is in the Army.

This family is selected for application of the so-called "Family Protection Act" to it because these are the intended "beneficiaries" of the proposed law. Let us consider how S.B. 1378 will protect this family.

1. Mr. and Mrs. Jones can rest assured that if they abuse or molest each other or their children, no federal program will "intrude."

2. If one of the minor Joneses becomes delinquent, or seeks contracep-

tives or an abortion, no federal program will assist.

3. Tax benefits will avail the Joneses for childbirth, adoption, paying for private schooling, living with "elderly" dependent relatives, and for utilizing corporate day care facilities.

4. The Joneses also can be content that their children will study texts and materials that reflect male and female roles in "the American way of life as it has been historically understood," in schools that prohibit co-educational sports and other (unspecified) activities, and that these schools can refuse to deal with teachers' unions and can avoid taking attendance in order to receive federal per-pupil monies. (This last provision will put the farmworkers' and coalminers' children back to work, where they belong, without cost to local schools.)

5. The Jones children will pray in school, join in devotional reading and go to religious services during school-time—all in a public school.

6. The Joneses need no longer worry that Legal Services Corporation programs will provide any services to people needing divorces, abortions, gay rights representation or advocacy against racially segregated schools, in that specific prohibitions against each of these areas of public interest work are contained in S.B. 1378.

7. Finally, if Mrs. Jones and the children have to live separately from Mr. Jones while he is in the Army, a percentage of his pay will be automatically deducted for his family.

The definition of "family" in this proposed law is as bizarre as the above-recited means for its "protection." A

non-Christian family, a family of whatever faith that prefers not to worship in the schools, a family whose members favor co-educational sports, a family desiring integrated schools, a family without children, a family that supports sex education, procreative choice and non-discrimination, a family that is not based upon the power of

(Continued on page 6)

News Council Censures Voice Article

(New York) Charges and counter-charges surrounded a decision by the National News Council last month to censure a Pulitzer Prize-winning article in the *Village Voice*. The article, by Teresa Carpenter, reported on the assassination of Allard Lowenstein, a prominent liberal politician and leader of the anti-war movement, and included suggestions that Lowenstein made "passes" at men.

That article sparked sharp criticism from Lowenstein associates and family who brought charges to the National News Council. In a June 11 meeting the National News Council ruled Carpenter's article "reckless and speculative" for including information about Lowenstein's preferences. Leading the argument against Carpenter were Midge Decter and Ernest van den Haag, both non-journalists, both leaders in

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Parade Committee Charges Police Misconduct

The monitors and parade officials' frustration during the day was increased by there being no way to have abusive officers removed from their positions. The parade committee's charges of violent behavior by San Francisco police officers at the June 28 parade have sent the always precarious relations between SFPD and the gay community once again into the skids this week.

The charges were leveled Tuesday at a sidewalk press conference outside the Starlight Room, a bar near the corner of 7th and Market, the site of the parade's most controversial incident. According to the testimony of Parade Committee co-chair Greg Day and various monitors who were at the scene of the incident that occurred at approximately 2:05 near the end of the parade, problems started when a beer can was thrown at a motorcycle officer. The officer got off his motorcycle and approached the crowd, telling a nearby monitor that they hadn't been able to keep the crowd under control so now the police would "kick ass" and do it. He called in reinforcements. Approximately 12 other motorcycle officers arrived and began to push the crowd back roughly with batons drawn.

After describing the incident, Day invited reporters to view a videotape of the incident shot by Hunter Rumber from a scaffold at the southwest corner of 7th and Market.

Though the department will not comment on complaints against individual officers until they have been investigated, the general conviction at SFPD seems to be that officers were performing appropriately in a situation made difficult by an inadequate number of monitors. In addition, according to Deputy Chief James Ryan, who had met with the parade committee and monitors three times prior to the event, the parade needed better planning for various contingencies, particularly for large gaps in the flow of units when crowds tend to spill into the street. "We have had no problems with other big parades," he said, "and

I attribute that to the fact that they're better organized."

Officer Paul Seidler, the department's liaison to the gay community, commented on the parade. "They were driving fast and close to the crowd with sirens going, a crowd control technique that is sometimes though not typically used."

Seidler sent a report to Chief Murphy Wednesday on both the 7th and Market incident and general police/monitor relations at the event. The report was based on what he observed personally from his post on UN Plaza and what he has heard reported both from other officers and members of the gay community.

Though Seidler would not divulge what was in his report, he told the *Sentinel* yesterday that he feels a number of conditions created the antagonistic atmosphere on June 28. The crowd was larger than expected and there was minimal mutual confidence between police and the gay community and its representatives, the monitors. Seidler speculated that the lower level of confidence this year may have stemmed from the recent reports of police brutality and, on the other side, many officers' perception that the primary impetus for civilian investigation of complaints against police came from the gay community. Given the less than congenial atmosphere, the 200 or so monitors (about half the number the

parade committee had hoped for) were just not able to control the crowd in the necessary fashion, Seidler said.

In spite of what appears to Seidler to be a momentarily deteriorating relationship between the police and gay community, there seem already to be some attempts to heal the breach and improve police/gay monitor cooperation in future events. Day has repeatedly emphasized in his public statements that many officers, especially foot officers, performed professionally throughout the parade. He told the *Sentinel* yesterday that "Deputy Chief Ryan and the people at the top were very cooperative and congenial. It was when it got down to the officer on the street that it was very uneven," he said.

To prevent such unevenness in the future, Day proposes to meet again with department officials to work out a system to assure better cooperation, including attendance of monitors at the officers' briefing the day of the event, something that was denied parade monitors in 1979 and 1980.

Seidler told the *Sentinel* he would like to see meetings that would be required of monitors in which police would provide training on crowd control and first aid. "If the community doesn't want a high visibility of police, it will have to do a lot more self-policing and be a lot more effective," he said.

Pacific Center Braces for 40% Cut

(Berkeley) With nearly 40% of its budget for the coming year threatened, staff and supporters of the Pacific Center in Berkeley have begun a massive lobbying and testifying campaign to protect its services. Both the Alameda County Board of Supervisors and the Berkeley City Council, which together provide the Center with nearly \$60,000 of its annual budget, will consider within the next few weeks cutting their entire allocations to the only mental health, referral, and educational center for lesbians and gay men in Alameda County.

The fate of the Center before the County Board will be known July 28 when the five supervisors debate how they will divide \$50,000 of state funds set aside for community mental health programs. The chair of the board, Joseph Bort, has proposed that the Pacific Center's \$30,000 allocation be completely eliminated from this year's grants and instead be divided between the Ann Martin Children's Center and Mental Health Advocates. When the

four supervisors present came to a tie vote at their June 30 meeting, they decided to postpone action till July when the fifth member of the Board, Fred Cooper, will be present to break the tie. In the meantime, the Center was granted \$2,500 for the month of July.

According to Andrea Cavanaugh, the Alameda County funds comprise approximately 20% of the Center's budget. Their loss could result in cutting supportive services, the switchboard, and perhaps one of the Center's two mental health coordinators. To prevent such cuts, the staff has marshaled forces for extensive lobbying efforts both in a hastily assembled presentation at the June 24 meeting and ongoing letter and phone campaigns.

The situation facing the Pacific Center seems to be one in which several agencies are forced to compete for shrinking state and federal funds. Board Chair Bort told the *Sentinel*

that "at some point in such a situation you have to cut some programs." Bort says his proposal to cut the Pacific Center funds comes from his perception that the nearly nine-year-old East Bay facility doesn't serve as many poor and indigent clients as its two competitors and that "the gay community is more able to support itself than are retarded children." Bort says that homophobia played a part in his decision. "If we weren't short of funds," he said, "the question would never have come up."

Bill Haskell, San Francisco redevelopment planner and Vice President of the Pacific Center's Board of Directors sees a dangerous trend developing in the Center's struggle for funding. "I intuit that as push comes to shove with funds drying up, the first services to go will be gay services just because people don't understand the need." In the current effort to retain the Pacific Center's funds, he went on, "it all rests with Cooper, the fifth member of the board."

Cooper told the *Sentinel* Wednesday that he has sent letters to the other supervisors proposing a 20% cut in the proposed allocations to each of the three competing agencies. He said he was not sure how he will vote if his compromise is rejected and it came to a question of cutting all the Center's allocation.

Early in August the Center will face additional loss of funds, this time from the city of Berkeley, which provides approximately another 20% of the annual budget. "If this Berkeley thing goes through," Cavanaugh reflected on Monday, "we're facing decimation. We're talking about a social service agency that serves 29,000 persons a year directly or indirectly for around \$50,000. That's damn near impossible."

Cavanaugh urged supporters of the Center to write letters to the Alameda County supervisors and attend the board meeting at 9:30 a.m. on July 28 at 1221 Oak St., Oakland.

Donations to Gay Service Agencies Fall Short of Goal

(San Francisco) The effort to collect money from gays to support lesbian and gay social services at the Gay Freedom Day Parade turned out to be a bitter-sweet experience for its planners, the *Sentinel* has learned, and has raised the question of who are the more generous, lesbians or gay men.

The sweet part, according to Mark Hetz, executive director of Jobpower and coordinator of the volunteer collectors, was the proceeds of having the collection for services taken at the huge annual event and hearing gay social services being talked about from the stage as an important part of gay community life. The Lesbian and Gay Freedom Day Parade Com-

mittee agreed for the first time to divide the proceeds of the collection, with 40% going to the Committee and 60% to be divided among four social service agencies serving lesbians and gay men in San Francisco. The four were Operation Concern, Jobpower, Lesbian Rights Project and Eighteenth Street Services/Acceptance House.

Approximately 100 collectors in white headbands netted \$4,667.40 for the four agencies, a sum the Operation Concern director Carole Migden said left her "disappointed but not devastated." Citing some organizational problems in getting volunteers on short notice and a crowd that had begun to thin by 4:00 p.m. when the second of the two collections was taken, Migden

called the experiment a "solid first time effort that could easily be improved."

One of the more curious aspects of the collection was the number of reports coming in that lesbians were more generous and friendly to the collectors than were gay men. Donna Hitchens, directing attorney of the Lesbian Rights Project who worked the grounds with collectors, said, "my impression was that by far more women gave. When men gave, however, they gave more." Hitchens noted a fair amount of hostility from some gay men and turning away from collectors when they approached. "I feel that gays in San Francisco take their freedom for granted," she told the

Sentinel Tuesday. "When you think that there was only \$4,000 collected from 250,000 people, you suspect there's a real kind of self-centeredness and selfishness in the community. It's not everywhere, but it's there enough to be disturbing."

Migden was a little less severe, explaining women's greater openness to the effort as a product of the tradition of taking up collections for community projects in coffeehouses after poetry readings or concerts. She explained the day's relatively small take a bit differently also. "I just don't think gay people yet have been accustomed to the idea of self-supporting services in the community," she said.

Hearings Begin on SFPD Review Board

(San Francisco) For the first time since the controversy over the Police Department's Internal Affairs Bureau surfaced in late May, the public got a chance to testify before one of the city's policy making bodies on the issue.

The Wednesday hearing before the Police Commission, the first of four public hearings to be held in July, brought together individuals of various ideological, ethnic, and professional stripes.

Testimony led off with Joanne Garvey, president of the San Francisco Bar Association, presenting a revised version of the plan for a civilian investigatory board that the Bar had originally introduced in 1976. That plan, supported by Mayor George Moscone and the Police Commission, was defeated by the Board of Supervisors in 1978. Supervisor Harry Britt has proposed that the current Board adopt the Bar Association's plan and replace the Internal Affairs Bureau.

Several gay speakers from various spots on the political spectrum spoke, ranging from Stonewall Gay Demo-

cratic Club president Ben Gardiner to Chris Brown, interim secretary of the Coalition for Human Rights and member of the conservative Concerned Republicans for Individual Rights. Bowman told the five commissioners that the Republican group had voted 29-7 in favor of civilian investigators and that there was probably greater consensus among more liberal gay and lesbian leaders.

The primary opposition to such a plan came from Police Officer Association President Bob Barry, who said he was against any civilian involvement whatever in investigating officer conduct.

Supervisor Britt, who watched the proceedings from the audience, told the *Sentinel* yesterday that he was pleased by the meeting and especially "happy that commissioners Toler and Sanchez seemed to be taking the proposal very seriously. We've come a long way from June when the Mayor and Police Chief wouldn't admit there's a problem," he added. "Everyone admits now that there is a

problem."

A June 19 report prepared by civilians on Chief Murphy's staff does in fact admit there is a problem. The report found "disturbing" elements in the way the Internal Affairs Bureau handled some complaints. The chief has concurred with the report's findings and has appointed an ad hoc, all-police task force to draft a policy statement for the IAB. In addition, officer Ron Kell has been assigned to take complaints in the Mayor's Citizen Assistance Center in City Hall, the office in which Catherine Barron worked. Barron is the staff aide who prepared a controversial report for the Mayor charging the IAB with incomplete and unprofessional investigation.

Supervisor Britt, preparing for the second of the public hearings, this one before the Board of Supervisors' Committee on Crime and Violence, Wednesday, July 15 at 2:00 p.m., insists that such cosmetic changes as have been instituted thus far are inadequate and are aimed at "easing the political pressure." The supervisor seems increasingly confident that he has enough

support to succeed in changing the current system's citizen complaint investigation to something very close to what the Bar Association has proposed. An *Examiner* survey reported yesterday that Britt's proposal had the support of a majority of supervisors, including that of Board president John Molinari. Britt told the *Sentinel* that additionally he's getting "broad support from virtually every serious politician in San Francisco." He pointed as well to increasing help from former supervisor Bob Gonzales, Roberto Hernandez, and other Hispanic leaders in putting together a Latino presence for the July 15 meeting.

Though Britt declares that a civilian investigatory board is not a "gay issue, it's an issue of accountability of the police," he insisted also that "it's extremely important for us to have large numbers of people at the July 15 hearing. The only way we can lose now," he said, "is for the Mayor to be able to persuade people that it's not an important issue for the people of this city."

Hearings Set on Equal Wages

(San Francisco) San Francisco Supervisor Harry Britt last week called for hearings on the hot political potato of pay comparability, the issue that is the basis for San Jose's current city employees strike.

"I think this is historically important," said Britt. "It's the first time we've gotten a comprehensive overview" of the relative worth of jobs that have been held traditionally by members of one sex or another.

The issue of job and pay comparability is being touted as a new area of feminist challenge to sex discrimination. The issue is not whether men or women get paid the same amount for doing the same job, but whether traditionally male jobs are paid with a higher wage than traditionally female jobs.

For instance, using the San Jose model for determining the relative

value of jobs, the positions of plumber and legal stenographer are rated to have the same degree of difficulty and necessary qualifications. But a plumber in San Francisco is paid \$28,392 a year while his usually female counterpart in the legal stenographer's pool is paid \$17,100.

The result, proponents of job comparability argue, is a subtle form of sex discrimination that maintains women's secondary economic position.

In calling for hearings on the issue in San Francisco, which he expects to take place in August, Britt said that gay men would benefit as well as women from a change.

"A lot of gay men are doing traditionally women's work," Britt told the *Sentinel*. "If you're doing a traditionally women's job [current pay rates] discriminates against gay men as well."

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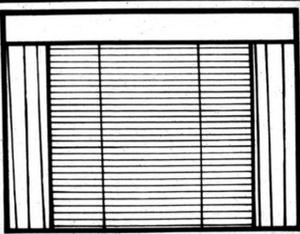
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Guess What's Hit the Fan

(continued from front page)

name of the parasite that causes amebiasis. It's found in every country in the world, though its effects are most severe in warmer climes. Nevertheless, *E. histolytica* has had many famous outbreaks in the northern hemisphere, from the Soviet Arctic Circle to the Chicago water supply in the mid Thirties.

somiasis—worms which can cause cirrhosis of the liver, irritation of the lungs, and severe pain in the bladder and intestines—is making the rounds. Cases of salmonella and typhoid have been reported too. Traditionally, parasites have been transmitted when cysts found their way into a pond or a vegetable garden. In

"Amebic cysts are a major reason why Employees Must Wash Hands at your favorite restaurant."

Under a microscope, *E. histolytica* is less impressive for the way it looks (a blob with spots) than for the rapidity with which it travels, which one English parasitologist compared to a slug moving at express speed. This speedy little fellow can live happily inside the large intestine, the small intestine, or even the appendix. Fully half of all infestations are asymptomatic, meaning that the amoebas never bother to chomp away at human tissue; they're content to lead a nomadic existence in the feces. (Unfortunately, an amebiasis victim with no symptoms is just as contagious as one in excruciating discomfort.) In other cases, *E. histolytica* moves into the intestinal lining, often resulting in diarrhea, nausea, and sharp pains. Usually, these symptoms are occasional, and the period between attacks can be as long as six or eight years. Even during suspension of symptoms, however, countless generations of parasites are still breeding in the body of the unsuspecting host. In extreme cases, *E. histolytica* can swim into the bloodstream (it eats red corpuscles) and cause abscesses of the liver, the lungs, or the brain. Those complications are almost never seen in developed countries, however.

The adult form of *E. histolytica* rarely lives more than a few hours outside the body of its host. (A few hours is more than enough time to pass from one sexual partner to another, of course.) The greatest danger of transmitting the parasite comes from the cysts, which can live for more than a week on a microscopic bit of excrement or in water. Amebic cysts are a major reason why Employees Must Wash Hands at your favorite restaurant.

Amebiasis is not the only parasitic disease afflicting gay New York. An intestinal flagellate named *Giardia lamblia* is another common inhabitant of homosexual intestines. Up close, *G. lamblia* resembles a monstrous anthropomorphic face. "A dead giardia trophozoite [for adult] gives the impression of a wizened monkey face looking up at you," writes parasitologist Asa C. Chandler. "The outline of the body is strikingly like that of a tennis racket without the handle. . . . In life, these grotesque little creatures fasten themselves by their hollow faces to the convex surfaces of epithelial cells in the small intestine, their flagella streaming like the barbets of a catfish." *G. lamblia*, too, lives for more than a week outside the body in cystic form. The number of cysts in a single stool in a case of moderate infection has been estimated at 300,000,000. *Dientamoeba fragilis*, a small amoeba, is a third unwelcome guest in the gay community. This hard-to-locate creature does not seem to spread through cysts; nevertheless, the adult organism can live for more than two days outside the body—again, plenty of time for venereal transmission. *D. fragilis* can cause diarrhea, weight loss, intestinal pains, and extreme fatigue.

As if these three diseases were not enough, there's growing evidence that other, more dangerous parasites are being spread among gay men. Schisto-

China, for instance, where human waste is used to fertilize vegetables, amoebic cysts are served in salads. Only recently has it been known that amebiasis is a gay venereal disease as well. The reason for its high incidence among homosexuals is simple. Gay sex is one of the few varieties of intercourse in which the rectum is regularly used for pleasure. When the mouth, or a penis or finger which comes in contact with the mouth, gets into the lower orifice of an intestine where a parasite has set up housekeeping, cysts are ingested at the same time love is made. "Rimming"—direct oral-rectal contact—is the most surefire way to catch a parasite. It may be a "prime taste treat in sex," as *The Joy of Gay Sex* suggests; it's also hazardous to your

"One quarter of the patients treated don't get cured at all."

health. Rimming's not the only way to contract amebiasis, however. New York physician Dr. Lawrence Downs uses a hypothetical lab experiment to illustrate. You introduce some methylene blue dye—a bright dye—into the rectums of two gay men about to have sex, then check their bodies after they're finished. Usually, the partners will be very blue. If the dye is anywhere near either man's mouth, a parasite could easily have been transmitted. Since parasitic cysts don't die for days, any of the dye left on the sheets, towel, or mattress indicates fecal matter that could give amoebas to the same or different partners the next time the bed is occupied. The bedding becomes what scientists call a "fomite"—an inanimate bearer of disease. (Denizens of Turkish baths please note that every mattress and carpet in every bath in town is a potential fomite—and the Lysol spray that the T-shirted attendants carry is an ineffective way of ridding a bed of cysts between occupants.)

Catching a parasitic disease, then, is just about as easy as falling into bed; a minuscule amount of exposure can do the trick for you or your trick. It's not surprising, therefore, that parasites are widespread in the gay world. How widespread has not yet been accurately determined, but the figures go higher the more accurate the tests become.

Two studies of prevalence of amebiasis and other parasitic diseases have been conducted in New York, one by the Gay Men's Health Project in co-

operation with Morrisania Hospital's Tropical Disease Clinic, and another at Cornell University Medical Center.

In the Morrisania study, stool samples were collected from volunteers at GIMP in the Village, then shipped uptown to the clinic for analysis. Though they are the only way to diagnose amoebas, stool samples are frequently an inaccurate method of testing; even under the best laboratory conditions, in which diarrhetic stools are collected and then examined immediately, there is only an estimated 75% chance of finding a parasite when a parasite is present. In the GIMP/Morrisania test hours elapsed between sample collection and examination, yet it still found that 26% of the gay men tested had one or more parasites in their intestines. The Cornell test, though still not conducted under optimum conditions, found a 39% incidence of parasites among gay men; by extrapolation, some 50,000 New York City male homosexuals have the disease.

Dr. Daniel William, the Manhattan physician who co-founded the Gay Men's Health Project, thinks that the Cornell estimate is far too low. "The incidence of them was terrible, and it will get worse," he says flatly. He ticks off the reasons why. "First, there's a complete lack of symptoms in half the cases. Second, when symptoms of amebiasis do appear, they're exactly the same as the symptoms of the commonest intestinal disease in the United States today—spastic colon, also known as irritable bowel syndrome. Diarrhea, nausea, gas—they're functional disorders. There seems to be nothing seriously wrong."

"The majority of gay men go to doctors who don't know their sexual preference. Since they don't know their patients are homosexual, and since they may still think of parasites as an obscure tropical disease, most doctors will treat a gay man with drugs that are anti-spasmodic. These drugs will clear up the symptoms—but they won't get rid of the amoebas. And every undiagnosed, un-cured patient adds to the reservoir of infectivity."

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(Continued on page 5)

Guess What's Hit the Fan?

(continued from page 4)

harmful side effects. Unfortunately, it is usually administered in concert with one of the other, more potentially dangerous drugs.

In the face of this limited range of treatment choices, a number of amebiasis victims have experimented with folk remedies to cure the disease, sometimes with positive effects. Paul Waterford, a 26-year-old painter who lives on Manhattan's Lower East Side, took Flagyl for a year and a half in an attempt to cure his persistent case of amebiasis. "It was horrible," he remembers. "I was queasy all the time. I was tested over and over, but the little buggers were still in my intestine." Finally, at the behest of a friend who was a partisan of health food, Waterford stopped taking Flagyl and started eating garlic—lots of it—every day. "In three weeks the parasites were gone," he reports.

"Fully half of all infestations are asymptomatic."

Other people swear that help helps. The evidence is strong enough that some Manhattan doctors are now recommending garlic, kelp, or both in the diets of patients afflicted with amoebas. Dan Williams cautions, however, that it is too soon to evaluate the effectiveness of such "therapies." The drugs will clear up the symptoms or not the people who took garlic or kelp were actually cured," he insists. "Their symptoms went away; that's all we know. And if they were cured, there's no way of knowing what it was that cured them. Paul Waterford could have been cured by the year and a half of Flagyl as much as by the three weeks of garlic. Until there's a scientific, controlled way of determining the most effective treatments for amebiasis, we just can't make assertions about new kinds of cures."

In the absence of these data, home treatments proliferate. One of the most interesting of them was related by Colombian writer who says it's the method used by Indians in his country to get rid of amoebas.

"You cut two slices of pineapple at night, and let them sit until morning," he recounts. "Then eat them first thing before you take anything else. Do it for two weeks and the parasites will be gone." Is that all there is to it? "Oh, one other thing—you have to slice the pineapple by the light of the moon." Whatever medical miracles take place in the next few years, Dan Williams believes that banishing amebiasis from gay America will not be among them.

"People have been fighting this disease for centuries," he says, "and the only way it has ever been beaten is by prevention—clean water, keeping where you eat and where you defecate separate, that sort of thing. The probabilities will show you why it is impossible to stop this disease from spreading by depending on a miracle cure—especially in the gay community. . . . Take a group of 100 gay men in New York, all of whom have amebiasis. Of these, fifty will have no symptoms whatsoever. They won't think of going to the doctor because they don't know anything is wrong with them. Of those who have symptoms, some will say, 'I drank too much coffee today' or 'I have a nervous stomach' when they experience the symptoms of amebiasis—and remember, the symptoms come and go. So if you're lucky, possibly forty of the fifty men with symptoms will consult a physician."

"Because the disease is relatively uncommon except in the gay male population, some doctors who don't know their patients are gay won't think of checking for it—they'll just treat for spastic colon. Again, if you're lucky, 75% of the men who see their doctors will be sent for a stool test. We're now down to thirty of the original 100 infected men. The best tests for amoebas are perhaps 75% effective, and then the best available treatment is about as effective as the tests. So assuming the best possible diagnosis, stool tests and treatment, you end up with seventeen men out of the original 100 cured of amebiasis. And of course, their chances of reinfection are fairly high."

Reinfection through sexual contact is a particular risk in a city with as many opportunities for such contact as New York. "One effect of gay liberation is that sex has been institutionalized and franchised," says Williams. Twenty years ago, he points out, there may have been a thousand men on any one night having sex in New York baths and parks. Now, there are ten or twenty thousand—at the baths, the back-room bookstores, the back-room bars, the porno theatres, the Rambles, and a wide range of other places as well. The plethora of opportunities poses a public health problem that's growing

with every new bath in town. Dan Williams don't go so far as to recommend celibacy (though that was my impulse after learning the extent of the amoebic infiltration into gay New York). He does recommend what he calls "responsible" or "defensive" sexual behavior as a way of preventing the spread of amebiasis.

"First of all, there's no way anything is going to make rimming safe," he says. "Secondly, the sequence of having sex can affect the disease. Make sure you're showered and cleansed before each sexual contact. Make sure your partner's taken a shower too. "The disease is spread by anal-oral contact, so the procedure is to do all the oral things you want to do to each other first. As soon as there is any rectal manipulation, close your mouth and keep it closed. Keeping them separate prevents the disease from spreading."

"Fully half of all infestations are asymptomatic."

"The last point is the obvious one: the more contacts you have, the more likely you are to become infected. After all this bad news, a positive note: amebiasis won't kill you. It will make you uncomfortable off and on. Unless you are a severely malnourished adult or child living in the Third World, however, you're not going to die from parasites. The whole point of a parasitic disease is that the guest organism can feed on the host organism without killing it. Nevertheless, amebiasis is a disease. Like love, it's all around. And the conventional ways in which our scientifically advanced culture deals with disease (take a pill) won't stop the spread of this tropical invader. To know where you stand, you could go to a good parasitology lab and have a stool test performed. If you have symptoms of parasites, you should do it for sure. But even if you get tested and cured, all of gay America isn't going to be able to get tested. In New York alone, it would take nearly five years to test every gay man for parasites, using the current limited facilities. And New Yorkers are lucky: many large cities don't even have one such lab.

Amebiasis is a disease of behavior. Stopping it is going to mean a change in behavior. It means cutting the risk involved in having sex. It may even mean less fun in the sack. The alternative is an unparalleled epidemic in the gay community. One interesting result of the parasite attack is that it makes monogamy look very good indeed. Two uninfected men who sleep only with each other can do anything they want in bed without fear of transmitting a protozoal colony. In the new era of the amoeba, separate, that sort of thing. The probabilities will show you why it is impossible to stop this disease from spreading by depending on a miracle cure—especially in the gay community. . . . Take a group of 100 gay men in New York, all of whom have amebiasis. Of these, fifty will have no symptoms whatsoever. They won't think of going to the doctor because they don't know anything is wrong with them. Of those who have symptoms, some will say, 'I drank too much coffee today' or 'I have a nervous stomach' when they experience the symptoms of amebiasis—and remember, the symptoms come and go. So if you're lucky, possibly forty of the fifty men with symptoms will consult a physician."

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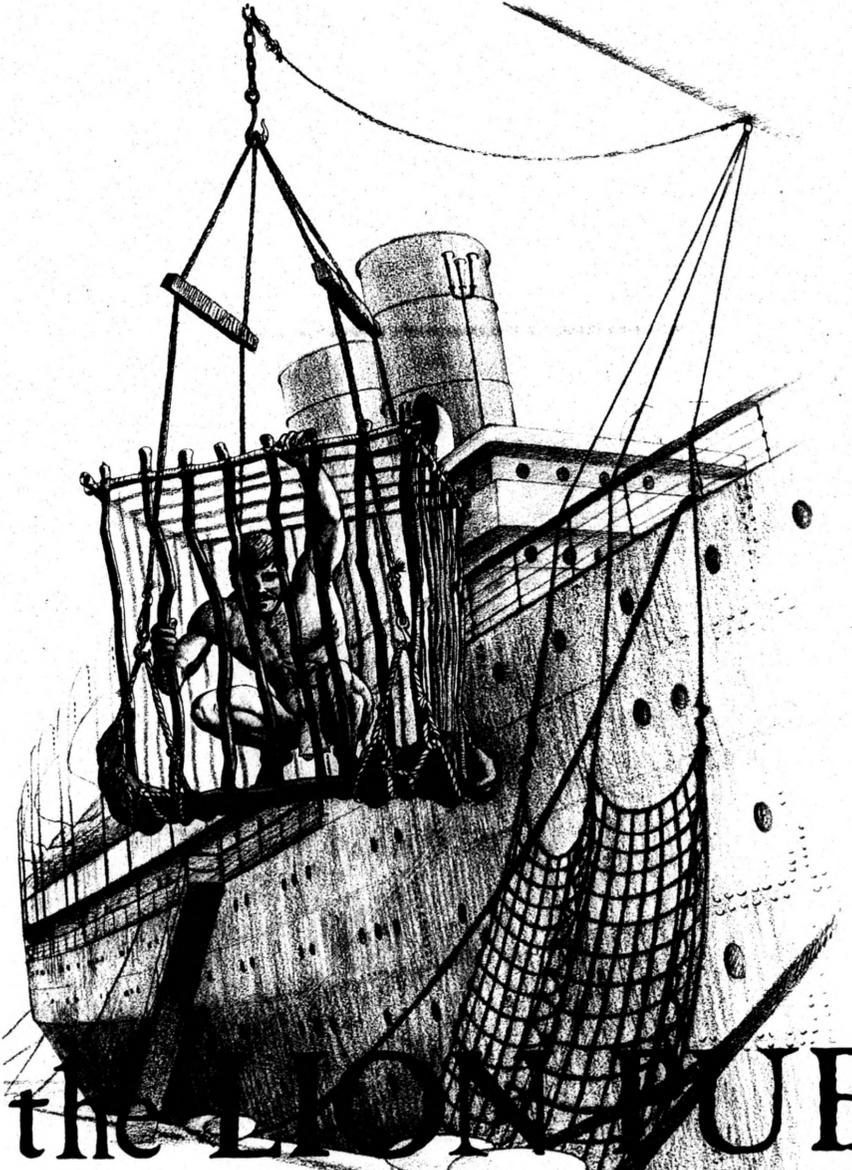
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Family Protection Act (continued from front page)

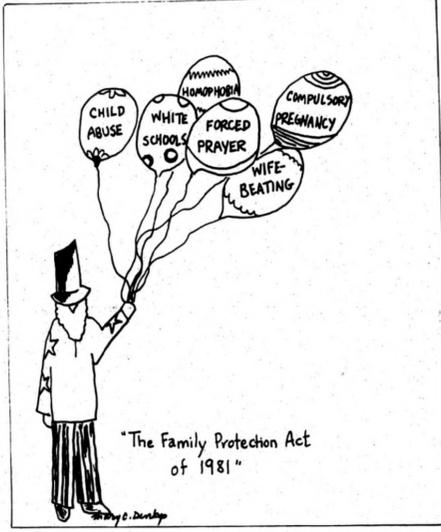
domestic violence, a family whose members support, cherish and care for one another, and arrange their lives, by love, and not by tax credits—all of these families are expressly and specifically disapproved, scorned and punished in this proposed law. Truly, there is no real protection for most families in this bill.

Moreover, there is virtually no guarantee of the U.S. Constitution that is not offended, blatantly or subtly, by some provision of S.B. 1378. A thorough constitutional analysis should perhaps be left to the thousands of lawyers in and near Congress, who should be reviewing and jettisoning S.B. 1378; and if S.B. 1378 passes, a full constitutional analysis will be left to litigation.

But now, before such passage occurs and such litigation ensues, if it must, the massive anti-Constitutionality of this proposed law should be fully observed. In its themes, terms and purposes, S.B. 1378 launches a series of conscious, direct attacks upon the equal protection guarantee, the First Amendment guarantees of religious freedoms of speech, thought and faith, and the fundamental guarantee of individual privacy. This so-called "Family Protection Act," which should more candidly be called the "Patriarchal Re-assertment Act," is not merely unconstitutional in many turns of its language and potential consequences—it is an open and unapologetic assault upon the basic freedoms of the Constitution and Bill of Rights.

For example: To the extent that S.B. 1378 would authorize religious take-over of public education, by its provisions concerning federal money and power to religious institutions, school prayer, devotional reading and state-encouraged religious activities during public school time, S.B. 1378 wholly violates the free exercise and anti-establishment guarantees of the First Amendment. The prescriptions of S.B. 1378 concerning the contents of school texts about sex roles frontally offend First Amendment guarantees against censorship, not to mention mental and intellectual privacy. The panoply of attacks in S.B. 1378 upon women, people of color, gay people, poor people, minors and non-Christians (as well as Christians who do not believe in coerced faith) violate the letter and spirit of the equal protection guarantee. Couched in terms of protecting privacy, the entire bill "protects" the "privacy" of wifebeaters, homophobes, child molesters, religious fanatics, racial bigots and advocates of forced childbirth, to coerce and punish the rest of the world in the name of U.S. law. This proposed law defies the U.S. Constitution from start to finish.

This overwhelming anti-Constitutionality of S.B. 1378 is obvious from a brief perusal of the terms of the bill in relation to constitutional provisions and precedents. It is also broadcast from the mouth of one of the bill's co-sponsors, Senator Jepsen (D-Iowa), whose introduction of the bill in the Senate featured a tirade against busing, female-headed poor families, programs to end discrimination on account of



sex and race, contraception for minors and "secular humanism." And here we learn that the true cause of the proclaimed demise of the American family, the real enemy of the American family—is civil rights.

Does the American family depend for its vitality upon the power of the father to strike the mother, or the parent the child, free of intervention by law? Is the integrity of this family essentially reliant upon millions of children kneeling in classrooms across the country, saluting one particular God along with the flag? Are we to believe that without a mandatory deduction from military pay, service families all go on "welfare"? Shall we conclude that equal employment opportunity and racial desegregation, along with nonsectarian education and procreative choice, are the true causes of divorce?

The bill in question is not simply, grossly contrary to the U.S. Constitution. Its logic is so warped and vacuous as to be irretrievable from the closest reading of this bill. S.B. 1378's championing of opposition to equal enjoyment of rights under law, and to freedoms of speech, thought and faith, all in the name of "Family Protection," constitutes a moral fraud on a phenomenally grand scale—federal legislation. The bill is replete with invidious exemptions, waivers and departures from existing civil and constitutional guarantees to persons. Taken together, the provisions of this bill do not signify and cannot intend the triumph of families over unnecessary intrusions by government. Rather they signify, and if this bill is not defeated

Local Experts Caution Against Herpes "Cure"

(San Francisco) Local herpes experts warned against herpes sufferers being overly optimistic about a reported possible "cure" for the disease reported yesterday in the *New England Journal of Medicine*.

According to the Associated Press, yesterday's study, conducted by doctors at Johns Hopkins Medical School, showed that the drug acyclovir had success in preventing outbreaks of genital herpes under certain conditions. But officials of Project HEP, a herpes organization run by Palo Alto's American Social Health Association, cautioned that the results are far from conclusive or comprehensive.

"We are compiling all the facts that are available," said Michael Edell, an administrative secretary with the Association. "It has not been fully evidenced that it is a cure."

"We are waiting for further documentation," he said.

Dr. Richard Hamilton, a local physician who is the author of *The Herpes Book*, said that "at this time we can not make any statements about the efficacy of this drug for chronic herpes victims. We do not know if this chemical is effective."

Hamilton said that from what he has read in the press, the results are only a small hopeful part of a larger report. "From time to time reports are made," he said, "but the cure is yet to come."

"This is just one more glimmer of hope rather than the answer," he said. Hamilton advised that the most effective known control for the disease is already within the means of most victims. According to Dr. Hamilton, it is important for people to "avoid emotional stress. That is the most powerful tool."

News Council (continued from front page)

the neoconservative movement, and both outspoken opponents of gay rights.

The National News Council based its decision in part on testimony from a half dozen men who said that Lowenstein never made passes at them.

The *Village Voice* responded to the decision by charging that "homophobia" lurked at the edges of the decision and said no controversy would have existed if Carpenter had suppressed the information.

The National News Council earlier ruled against CBS News for a documentary which misrepresented San Francisco gay life.

they portend, a massive effort to govern the U.S.A., and to homogenize its people, by means of theocratic corporations designed to strip women, people of color, lesbians and gay men, children and religious minorities of civil rights under law.

The most crucial test of S.B. 1378 may be in the relationship among its targets, however, to each other, and not in matters of constitutionality and procedure. For in this bill, every group that is and has been the subject of major movement toward equality and justice is the direct target. What sweet irony, what grand boomeranging of the reborn Right, if the *familial* bonds of all of us who are brothers and sisters in oppression, and in our increasing appreciation of our freedom to love and to differ, were reinforced and deepened by this consolidated move to renew discrimination against us. May we live to thank Senators Jepsen and Laxalt and President Reagan for bringing us together, in all of our colors and opinions and diversity, as we live to thank John Briggs and Anita Bryant, George Wallace and Lester Maddox, Phyllis Schlafly and Sam Ervin, and the rest of the enemies of each branch, each root of our complex, original and multifaceted American family.

Mary Dunlap is an attorney, practicing in San Francisco. She successfully sued, on behalf of the Lesbian/Gay Freedom Day Committee, to halt the Immigration and Naturalization Service from banning foreign gays who wish to enter this country for last week's gay parade.

O'Connor (continued from front page)

While O'Connor's record on abortion and ERA are now being debated, Arizona gay representatives said they found her appointment acceptable and predicted she would give gay cases an unprejudiced hearing at the U.S. Supreme Court. O'Connor, they said, had not presided over any major gay cases as an Arizona State Judge nor figured in any Arizona legislative effort.

"Her voting record on human rights has been pretty good," said Roland Atkins, a lobbyist for gay issues in Phoenix. "I think she is an extremely good appointee. She represents more the libertarian philosophy, though she never said that."

That assessment was echoed by Phoenix lawyer and politico Gary Klahr, who has argued non-gay cases before O'Connor.

"I would think she is thoroughly tolerant toward alternative lifestyles," Klahr said. "She wouldn't want to pioneer. She might see the privacy issue. From a Reagan administration, it is an outstanding appointment for gays."

must be won on non-statistical grounds. Coles said, therefore, that the demonstration that there may have been prejudicial attitudes on the part of Boone and others is critical to his case. The city had refused to allow such questions to be asked on the grounds that they would violate California's 1974 constitutional amendment granting citizens the right to privacy. Without the ability to ask those questions, according to Coles, Raines' case would have been seriously damaged. Commissioner Best's ruling, according to another Raines attorney Mary Dunlap, means that Boone "is obliged to answer essentially all of our questions."

After his firing, Raines went to many gay political groups asking for support for his cause. But because his case has been fought so strenuously by the city, it has dragged on and has dropped from sight.

"Certainly we want people to know that it's like case going on and going well," Raines told the *Sentinel* last week.

"Their main tactic is delay; to delay the movement of the case and to incur as much expense as possible," he said. "It should start moving now."

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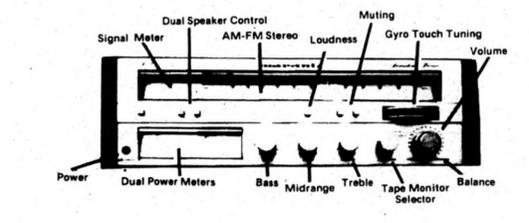
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SIZE QUEENS: This year's Lesbian and Gay Freedom Parade and Celebration was clearly larger than the '79 and '80 turnouts. It was also clearly in the same range as the giant '77 (Year of Bryan) and '78 (Year of Briggs) crowds.

However, I doubt the parade organizers' statements that it was the largest ever, or that 250,000-300,000 people were involved. 120,000-150,000 seems much more accurate to me and is in line with police estimates of 130,000. Like the police, I was using binoculars and "sample areas" to reach a more accurate estimate than mere guessing allows.

I never did believe that the '77 and '78 parades drew 250,000. I think that number reflected, in both years, a double count of the same people first in the parade and then later at the fair. All numbers aside, I liked it. Did you?

MEDIA WASH: Best coverage of this year's parade was in Oakland's *East Bay Today*, including a front-page, aerial shot of a packed Civic Center plaza. If you haven't been picking up on Bob Maynard's innovatively edited *Tribune* and *Today*, try them. They're definitely a journalistic there.

Most off-the-wall coverage was the *San Jose Mercury's* Associated Press wire dispatch rounding up the various gay observations across the nation. This was the fourth paragraph (of 23).

Today marks the 12th anniversary of the "Stonewall Rebellion," in which a small band of New Yorkers fought in Greenwich Village with police who were trying to raid a gay bar. And it was 12 years ago Sunday that Judy Garland died. The actress has been commemorated by homosexuals for years for reasons that remain fuzzy.

Yeah. Just like their sweaters. Garland died on the 22nd, by the way, and her funeral was on the 28th. The item above ran on the 29th, and the Stonewall Rebellion began on the 28th. Moral: get your facts right, and don't report "color" if you don't understand it.

SOUR GRAPES: Did you catch the letter by Tom Edwards (in the *Examiner*) and Bill Trumbo (in the *Chronicle*) protesting the lesbian-feminist input into the parade and rally? Trumbo even called the women "girls."

Maybe these folks would be satisfied if we moved all the dykes to the back of the parade. That would be a prefrontal lobotomy.

FULL MOON: In the horned sign of Capricorn, Thursday, July 16, at 9:39 P.M. That means Wednesday, July 15, the night before the first full moon of summer, is the date of this year's lunar anniversary of Stonewall.

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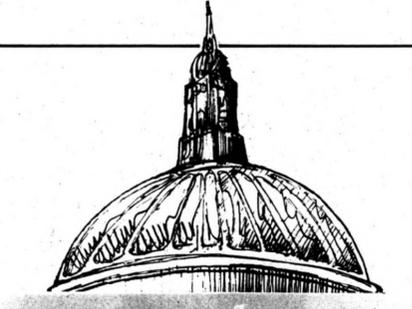
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CITY HALL REPORTS

Supervisor John Molinari

Crime is the most critical issue of the 1980's. A recent Gallup poll states one United States household in five has been hit by crime at least once in the past 12 months, with either property stolen or a member of the household becoming the victim of a physical assault. The Federal Bureau of Investigation concurs by reporting increases in virtually every kind of major crime during 1980. In San Francisco, crime has risen 20% in June of 1981 compared to one year ago. Serious crimes against the person, perpetrated by the youthful offender, have increased by 108% between 1976 and 1980.

Responding to public frustration and concern, and confronted by this complex problem that defies simple answers, the San Francisco Board of Supervisors has created the Select Committee on Crime and Violence. The purpose of the committee is to investigate and seek solutions to a broad range of issues in the criminal justice and crime prevention system. As Chair, I am joined by my colleagues Supervisors Britz, Walker, Kennedy, and Nelder in a series of 13 meetings that will continue through August, during which we will hear testimony from invited professionals in the field, as well as from concerned citizens.

My colleagues and I believe we can have a positive effect on implementing changes in the criminal justice system through our legislative responsibility for setting funding priorities. The experts and the Mayor can give us guidance in programs, but we bear the final decision for funding those programs. With a more complete knowledge of the system we will have the expertise to allocate the monies most effectively. We represent diverse opinions, but together share a common goal, to produce a decrease in crime.

This forum offers an unprecedented opportunity for citizens to participate in a town hall process that will effect long term solutions. Clearly, public testimony is part of all committee hearings, but the Committee on Crime and Violence differs from others in that it is studying a subject at large rather than a specific piece of legislation. We want to hear from the experts and to have public reaction. This input is essential to the Board's decision making process.

Citizen participation already has proven decisive in reducing crime. Putting more Police on the beat is not

HEAD SPACE

Jim Boland, Ph.D. and Alan Sable, Ph.D.

"Head Space" is designed to help gay people with personal issues by providing support, advice, understanding and useful information in response to readers' letters. In addition to maintaining gay-oriented private practices, the authors contribute their services to various gay community mental health organizations. Write "Head Space" to the care of Dr. Jim Boland, 1466 Hopkins, Berkeley 94702 or Dr. Alan Sable, 2232 Lincoln Way, San Francisco 94122.

9 years. In fact, with the recent loss of CETA funding (half of the agency's staffing) it could result in the closure of the agency.

You are hopefully aware of the tremendous amount of services delivered by Pacific Center: the individual and group counseling, crisis switchboard, preventive mental health programs—rap groups, educational programs and outreach mental health professionals. The statistics for all of these programs are impressive, but when analyzed on a cost-per-unit-of-service basis, they are truly astounding! Budget wise, there is no better bargain to the people of Alameda County than Pacific Center. By paying the salaries of a few professionals, the County reaps the benefit of close to 300 volunteers—many of them also professional. The last figure we saw on the cost per client visit was something like 17¢! You must surely know that that unit of service would cost elsewhere in the county mental health system!

But the most important things about Pacific Center don't show up in cost analyses or program statistics. These are the "human" profits that derive from the loving and caring community that has developed because there was Pacific Center as a focus. Please try to project yourself into the hearts of a few of these people before you make your budget recommendations. For just a moment please try to be the woman who has lost her children because of who she loves; try to be the young man who has always hated himself because he is "queer"—be there as he discovers healthy and adjusted people and feels for the first time in his life the rush of self-acceptance; be the innumerable women and men who have been rejected by their families; be the thousands of your constituents who have been told by straight mental health professionals that their "problem" is their sexual orientation and they should attempt to change (which would be like you trying to change your height or eye color). Pacific Center provides the support and counsel necessary for thousands of Alameda County residents to work through society's rejection and develop effective, successful and mentally healthy lives.

Again, we urge you to think about the people and not the dollars and remember that Pacific Center is the only service of its kind in our county. Hopefully, Jim Boland, Ph.D. Alan Sable, Ph.D.

Dear Supervisor: As mental health professionals, we are alarmed to learn that the Board of Supervisors is considering the elimination of funding to Pacific Center for Human Growth. Such action would be devastating to the center's survival. As you must know, it has been difficult over the years for this agency to generate private foundation funding due to the homophobia that pervades our society. At this juncture in our nation's political mood, such funding will be virtually impossible. It is imperative then that Pacific Center continue to rely on county support.

A loss of Alameda County funding would result in a severe cut-back in the quality mental health services that sexual minority residents of Alameda County have depended on for nearly

LETTERS

Two Parades Next Year? Dear Editor,

My joy on Gay Day was dashed at the Civic Center by Robin Tyler and the militant women controlling the stage. How can gay celebration share the same billing with such a violent group of anarchists. The parade should and does represent many differing political views—but why are these radical few allowed to dominate (at 1000+) all other peaceful aspects of the parade. Screaming threats of violence, hatred, and treason, seems a poor way of rallying support for gay causes.

If this radical group cannot be stopped, perhaps 'gay' people should start a new parade without them. Name withheld by request

Loved the Parade
Dear Editor,

Thomas M. Edwards' claim to being an "elder statesman" of the homosexual community is based solely upon age. His narrow, ultra-right wing social and political views are shared, fortunately, by very few lesbians and gay men. His continued blatherings and bleatings are pathetic and an embarrassment to those of us who are active—regardless of our sexual proclivities. He is a gay equivalent of an "Uncle Tom"—an "Aunt Mary." The Jewish equivalent would be the one who was shaking hands with and thanking the storm troopers while being sent off to the camps in Nazi Germany.

I, for one, loved the behavior, political advocacy and feminist militancy at the 1981 Lesbian/Gay Parade and Celebration. On the other hand, I found Mr. Edwards' comments, as published in the July 1, 1981 *Examiner*, to be inexcusable, offensive and counterproductive.

It would be wonderful if Mr. Edwards' words of silence and made it permanent time.

Don Hienforth
Didn't Like the Parade
Dear Editor,

I am going to tell you how ridiculous, what a charade, I feel, our parade has become of its former self. I've now participated in and watched 5 Gay Freedom Day Parades and Celebrations. I found this last to be very unrepresentative of my ideals and beliefs. Little did I see expressed the pride that I feel being a proud, attractive non-third world gay man of a free enterprising mind. I found the parade to be dominated by every leftist political ideology known to San Francisco.

I would like to appeal to that great vast gay silent majority to express its discontent with the parade. I appeal to the same majority of men, those men who didn't feel represented at the parade, to those men who left the city for elsewhere, knowing that the parade committee had been railroaded by a small band of politically extreme ideologists.

I found it a momentous bore to have to watch wave after wave of politically-correct lesbians marching and carrying placards denouncing the gay lifestyle that so many tens of thousands of my brothers cherish, enjoy and strive for. It appears that many women, though not all, have such a bitterness about the system. I had to listen to radical speakers bewailing the evils of our economic system. Every system has its virtues and its vices. It seems a vice of ours is that a number of lesbians appear to be economically under-motivated and seem to express their discontent with the gay male economic prosperity with thinly-veiled anti-male knee-jerk reactionary politics.

Let I appear too strong in my depreciation of this year's parade, let me state that I felt very proud watching the bands, choruses, business association of professionals, and of course, the spectators, those tens of thousands representing that gay silent majority. I reiterate that I felt our parade this year was a dim shadow of its former self, when parade entrants,



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of the same issue questioning the rationale for having a parade at all in the context that the parade has outlived its usefulness. Maybe he should question how much money GRA has spent to get INS to agree to define ourselves back into the closet, while our immigration action took three days and one brilliant lesbian attorney to get a federal judge to define our first amendment right to visibility. No, take a look at the new directions this movement is taking and bury the old bickering of the past. Take a look at the Greg Days and the Barbara Camons, the Claude Wynnes, the Mary Dunlaps, and the Konstantin Berlands, just to name a few. Take a walk on the Front Line of Freedom 'cause we're not gonna stop till we get there. Kirk Essler, W/M, 31, gdlk, hung
More on 8th and Howard
Editor,
Thanks to the *Sentinel* for printing both Dick Hasbany's piece on the Club Baths and the equally thoughtful letters of your readers. You've set a fine example of good gay journalism. The letters you published got to the heart of the matter. The management of the 8th and Howard could never get away with their arrogance if it weren't for the rot of self-hatred eating

OUTLOOK

Not To Worry

Charles Morris

Rumors were circulating last week (again) that the *Sentinel* was folding this paper well before its published date.

It is no secret that Sentinel Communications, Inc., which publishes the *Sentinel*, is currently in Chapter 11 proceedings. A long story made rather short: On October 31, 1979 the then-full time staff and three part time staff members of the *Sentinel* presented to me, as publisher, some totally outrageous demands. Those demands were not accepted and they walked out (and-as some former employees have testified under oath-it was only later that they chose to call it a strike, after a bluff had been called). Contrary to some rather untrue stories published about the whole incident, the employees were paid (after property belonging to this paper was returned) for the days they had worked up until their walkout.

However, a number of employees claimed they had either actually worked two days of the weekend previous to their walkout (though they refused to sign sworn statements to that end) or that they should have been paid for those two days. They then took the issue to the Labor Commission and a hearing was set. Before the hearing I was ordered into the hospital for surgery and doctors refused to let me attend the hearing. Hundreds of pages of documents were submitted to the Labor Commissioner to support our case. However, the disgruntled former employees refused to allow a continuation of the hearing and I was unable to testify. Besides that, judging from the labor Commissioner's award to the former employees (which does not carry the force of court order), it is apparent to anyone who bothers to read the documents that the hearing officer could not have read any of them.

The whole affair was appealed to Municipal Court and a hearing was set for November 5, 1980. I will say now that some of the testimony given in unemployment and Labor Commission hearings was less than truthful. We had no reason to expect that the testimony given in Municipal Court would be any more truthful and finally found out that some of the former employees were so certain of winning in Municipal Court that they intended to ask the court for an immediate execution of a court order, an act which would have bankrupted Sentinel Communications.

On advice from legal counsel, Sentinel Communications filed a Chapter 11 petition with the bankruptcy court on November 4, thereby giving the federal courts jurisdiction not only over the former employees' claims but also over a suit Sentinel Communications has filed against the former employees for conspiracy and interfering in the trade of Sentinel Communications. In the days before the Chapter 11 petition was filed, Sentinel Communications was negotiating to settle the whole affair even though we felt absolutely nothing anywhere near their claims is owed to the disgruntled former employees.

Although an enormous stigma remains attached to the word "bankruptcy" it is a condition in which probably 99.9% of the American public find themselves (and most small businesses, too). Bankruptcy is simply owing more money than one has on hand at any given point. I don't yet know what the hell is so stigmatic about that. The other issue—which has been totally and completely misreported in some stories—is the whole issue of back taxes owing. Quite simply, when I operated the *Sentinel* as a sole proprietor and before Sentinel Communications began publishing the paper, the government owed me one whole of a tax credit because I had hired full time staff and was therefore owed a tax credit under a law passed in the mid-seventies by Congress. The accounting advice I was given was that I could transfer that tax credit to Sentinel Communications. Well, that wasn't the case and thus the tax problems.

Under a Chapter 11, a creditors' committee is formed out of the 10 highest unsecured creditors. Late Thursday afternoon of last week, we were informed that the creditors committee had decided to ask the judge to declare Sentinel Communications bankrupt and that a hearing had been set for Monday.

On Monday, when the attorney for Sentinel Communications showed up for the hearing he was called into judge's chambers with counsel for the creditors committee and told that a trustee was being appointed for the *Sentinel*. So, where it sits now is that the *Sentinel* will continue to operate and Sentinel Communications will submit a plan very shortly.

Once again, I can assure our readers and advertisers that the *Sentinel* will continue. Obviously there is a great deal about this whole affair that cannot now be said publicly. But I can assure you that I have not spent six years of blood, sweat and tears working on the *Sentinel* just to sit and watch it go down the drain. The *Sentinel* is a valuable part of the gay community and I intend to see to it that it remains so.

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QUESTION If you had all the money you wanted and could do anything for two weeks, what would be your fantasy vacation? (Asked on Castro)

Daniel Chase, bartender:
Two weeks in Catalina on the beach would be most satisfactory with few young men, a couple of young ladies, enough drugs to keep me satisfied, and a blank check.

Mark Myers, cook:
Two weeks in Hawaii in a hotel, bodysurfing with my boyfriend.

Rink, photographer:
A space suite to the Holiday Inn on the moon.

Albert London, photographer:
I'd move back to New York and do it over again with my lover for two weeks and then get back to San Francisco real quick.

Russell Tabtab, customs house broker:
I'd go to Australia, where I have friends, riding in a four-wheel drive truck in the open and burning up in the sun.

Scott Woenkraft, bank employee:
It would be to the Polynesian Isles or even further south—Micronesia maybe—far away, sunny, pina colodas at all times with preferably darkly tanned women serving me.

ENTERTAINMENT & THE ARTS



STEVEN MARK NEEDHAM

Bloolips. At the Boarding House

Steve Warren

Each *Blanket Babylon* has returned to the beach this summer while George Lucas and Steven Spielberg are preoccupied with earthly matters, but the stars have not been abandoned—they're playing host to Bloolips, who are *Lust in Space*.

Whoopis? You ask. Bloolips is an English sextet that dresses like a 12-legged garage sale in cosmic Kabuki makeup. Their gender is masculine, their stage appearance leans toward the feminine. Their medium is genderfuck drag, their message: Be yourselves—or as they put it, "Let your yin and yang hang out. . . . Both masculine and fem are within me. To suppress one would be ghastly."

Clones sit in the front row applauding this statement, then go home and make an appointment for a haircut. Is getting their message across more important to Bloolips than entertaining? "Fusion (of politics and art) is the most important thing," Bossy Bette Bourne told the *Sentinel*. "We're not politicians. We have to say our things on the stage."

Bette is co-founder (with Diva Dan) and the sole leader of Bloolips. "We generally end up agreeing on things," he says, "but when we don't, I have the final say. Democracy is important to me—it's full of shit. There are always a few personalities in the room that will sway the rest."

Bloolips began four years ago (Bette: "Hey! We forgot to celebrate our anniversary last week!") after Bette toured Europe for five months with the New York troupe *Hot Peaches*. He joined them in London when another member dropped out. The experience, he says, "gave me the idea that you could do theatre for no money."

Perhaps the exploitation of gay artists would be a good subject for another theatre piece. Talking with various Lips gives you pieces of the story of how difficult their financial situation is, even now that they have a following and an excellent reputation in New York, England and all over Europe. They may be the toast of two continents, but they're burnt toast.

Naughty Nickers says that despite their loyal fans back home in London, the economy is so bad they can't perform there often or for long runs. Gretel Feather adds that Europe is their most lucrative market. They toured there last year in the International Festival of Fools (which included the San Francisco Mime Troupe) and saved the money they earned to buy tickets for their first trip to New York.

Lavinia Co-op (I hope you appreciate how difficult it is to maintain a serious tone when dealing with names like these—and we gay writers are hardly overpaid for our efforts either) reveals that during weeks in New York when they weren't performing, some of them cleaned apartments to survive while others "lived on savings."

Bette sums it up with a familiar sounding line (from a Charles Ludlam show, I think): "This *tour de force* is forced to tour."

Lust in Space would appear to have the potential to be another *Rocky Horror Show*, but Bette doesn't think so: "This show has teeth—it'll never be a cult thing. We're gay and we know we're only going to be accepted to a certain extent."

Les Ballets Trocadero de Monte Carlo have disproved this idea, but Bette has bought into the attitude that gays only achieve mainstream success

by compromising their principles.

On the other hand, Bloolips certainly attracts more than gays to their shows. Nick (Naughty Nickers) says that some come to see it several times, but still this ("I don't want people making an issue of my deafness"), but he didn't want much else that he said quoted either. He's suffering a severe case of press-shyness since Vito Russo printed a number of personal revelations that Dan had thought were off the record.

"Just tell them I'm very happy to be here," Dan says for posterity, "and that I hope they'll all come to see the show."

While I customarily honor such requests for discretion, I feel there's a greater good to be served by recognizing the achievements of the handicapped.

Dan wonders if *Lust in Space* isn't a bit "heavy," but let me assure him—and you—that it isn't. It combines humor that ranges from the lowest of puns to cerebral gags and literary references that soar over most of the viewers' heads, with songs that set new lyrics to classical and pop melodies. The "Hallelujah Chorus" becomes "Paranoia" ("... caught in the loop by the boys in blue . . ."), "Be My Baby" turns up as "Disco Bingo" and "In the Mood" is the background for a rousing tap number. The best songs are Bette's "Androgyny," written by Jimmy Camilla of *Hot Peaches* to the tune of "Bei Mir Bist Du Schoen" and Pearl's "Be a Man" from "Be a Clown."

Loosely woven around these and other songs and set pieces is a plot in which the Queen sends Bloolips from their nuclear laundromat to a cultural moon mission. ("You're used to performing without an audience.") James Pond and Miss Havisham are among the characters wandering through their adventure as they encounter an infernal device on the moon that forces people to conform.

Lust in Space is an evening of methodical madness by six limy lads whose credits include an Obie (off-Broadway) award for costumes and honorable mention for an out-of-state float (Bette: "I think we were the only one . . . a friend from New York loaned us a rocket ship") in the San Francisco Gay Freedom Day Parade. They'll probably please more people with their entertainment than their politics; but the two blend well in a show you can enjoy for its yin, its yang or both.

It plays at the Boarding House through July 12.

to feed back to the stage. He has a severe hearing impairment, although you wouldn't know it from his timing and interaction with the other performers. He asked us not to mention this ("I don't want people making an issue of my deafness"), but he didn't want much else that he said quoted either. He's suffering a severe case of press-shyness since Vito Russo printed a number of personal revelations that Dan had thought were off the record.

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Jeff Bridges in drag in *Thunderbolt and Lightfoot* is just another example of the homophobia Hollywood has peddled over the years, from the "sissy" jokes of the silents to the paranoia and brutality of *Cruising*. In his brilliant new book, **THE CELLULOID CLOSET: Homosexuality in the Movies**, Vito Russo explains how Hollywood has adapted to prevailing attitudes, both in its veiled references to homosexuality (e.g., "buddy films," like *Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid*) and in explicit ones, like *The Boys in the Band* (120 photocopied stills).

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THEATRE

SEDUCED.
Directed by Michelle Perry Swanson.
At the Magic Theatre, Fort Mason. Through August 9.

THE UNSEEN HAND.
Directed by Richard E.T. White.
At the Eureka Theatre. Through August 22.

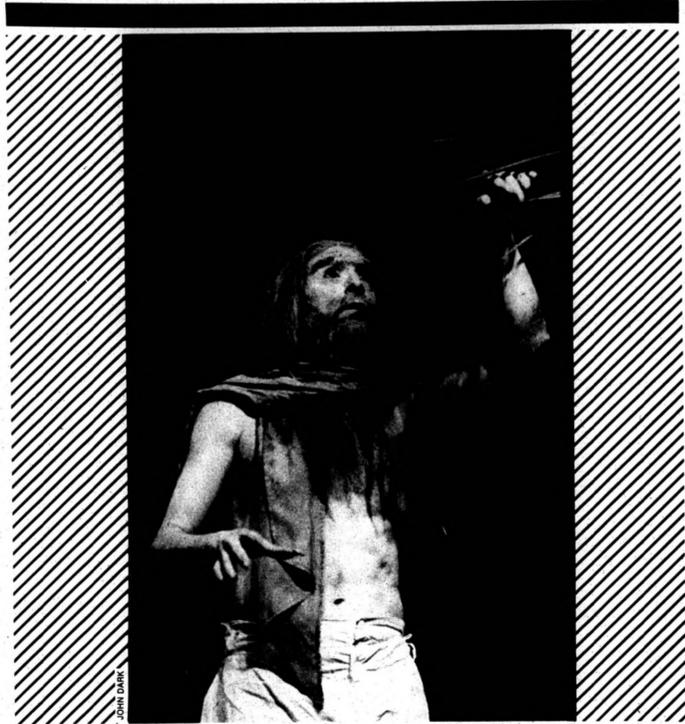
Steve Warren

My first exposure to Sam Shepard —my first dozen or so exposures —came via shoestring productions in semi-converted warehouses or smaller spaces. The plays were from his early —whacko—period and were often entertaining but made no sense at all. Then I moved West and learned that Shepard had started writing plays which were almost comprehensible and could be seen in real theatres with permanent seats. *Buried Child* sacrificed him for a certain amount of negative logic (and a Pulitzer Prize), while *True West* got it all together in the playwright's first work that could be both enjoyed and understood. Now while Shepard's muse fights a bout with constipation, two of his older plays are being recycled.

Seduced makes no attempt to suggest that its central character, Henry Hackamore, might not be Howard Hughes. He lives in paranoid seclusion with his bodyguard Raul somewhere south of the border, insulating himself from the outside world with curtains that keep out the sunlight and tissues that keep his body from making direct contact with such foreign surfaces as the floor and other people.

Perhaps it's an error in direction or perhaps a sign of schizophrenia, but Hackamore frequently touches Raul directly even though the man is trained to use paper protection when touching him. What seems a more definite flaw is that another character smokes two cigarettes in Hackamore's presence without his noticing. That would set off "the old inner radar" of far less sensitive souls.

One of HH's obsessions is "penetration." He won't let the world penetrate his hideaway but he boasts of the women he has penetrated. Typical macho bullshit. He invites two women from his past to visit for—what? a last fling? a bit of nostalgia? It doesn't matter. As portrayed by Francine Lombi and Kathy Baker they might represent Rita Hayworth and Barbara Nichols, except that I don't recall Hughes being linked with either of them. The actresses should be given contrasting hair colors, and Baker's brassiness needs polishing. Dennis Ludlow plays Raul in a manner consistently akin to Bill Murray's, but I kept wondering if the character isn't supposed to be Hispanic.



Robert Elross as Henry Hackamore in Magic Theater's west coast premiere of *Seduced* by Sam Shepard.

The success the Magic Theatre production generally achieves is due largely to Robert Elross' performance as Hackamore. He is onstage throughout and speaks as much to himself as anyone else. He's basically doing a one-man show while the others—and the women could be figments of his imagination—do what they can around him. His show is an excellent one, periodically persuading us that we, not he, may be crazy.

Richard E.T. White's imaginative direction turns an earlier Shepard play, *The Unseen Hand*, into a phantasmagorical three ring circus. It's performed in the manner—and more importantly the spirit—of a bunch of kids who can't decide whether to play cowboys or *Star Wars*, so they compromise. Though it could take place anywhere, the play is most specifically set in a junkyard in Azusa, near where Shepard grew up. He seems eager to persuade us that Azusa is to small towns what Cleveland is to cities. Willie, a spaceman recently evolved from a baboon, comes to the junkyard to enlist the aid of Blue Morphan,

a former outlaw "going on 120" who lives in the back seat of a '55 Chevy. Evil forces on Willie's planet are controlling the spaceman's brain, but he thinks the Morphan Brothers—the other two died in 1886 and have to be resurrected for the occasion—can defeat the bad guys and free his people, "the prisoners of the diamond cult."

If you're trying to absorb that much I'll probably just confuse you if I mention "The Kid," a male cheerleader who is dumped into the play after having been raped with a Tampax. Powers not of this earth are able to take control of all the characters at will, and it's these powers that determine the resolution of the story. Somehow it all has a certain kind of logic, perhaps even more than the playwright intended. The athletic performance of Stephen LeGrand as Willie in space punk drag is just right for what he represents: an outsider in Azusa might just as well come from another planet as from San Francisco. Julian Lopez-Morillas as Blue has the task of opening the play with a lengthy monologue and—strange as he seems—becoming our surrogate when

the stranger characters appear. He does all this with a sterling grizzled naturalness that grows on you as the evening progresses. David Parr, a fantasy figure in black leather, is less successful, ending the show on a low note after he's metamorphosed into brother Blue's persona (a precursor of *True West*).

Robert Ernst and Gregory Proops fall the most of his show stopping moment when he pulls up his pants and exposes his red neck. The set design (Joel Eis and Lisa Shafte) and lighting design (Kurt Landisman and Rhonda Birbaum) are worthy of award consideration. So to a lesser extent is Stephen Weinstein's original score, which merges with Terry Hunter's electronic sounds to complete the atmosphere. Both of these Shepard revivals (actually San Francisco premieres of older plays) are worth seeing; but if you only catch one, make it *The Unseen Hand*.



Two of the theater's wittiest combatants, Katherina and Patrouch, lock horns again in the current Berkeley Shakespeare Festival production of *The Taming of the Shrew*. Staged outdoors in the John Hinkel Park amphitheatre, the play runs through August 2.

CHILDREN OF A LESSER GOD
ACT's Geary Theater.
Thru August 22nd.

Sue Zemel

"Deafness is not the opposite of sound," Sarah Norman, a 26-year-old woman, born deaf, explains to James Leeds, a new speech teacher at the institution where Sarah has lived since childhood.

In Mark Medoff's Tony award winning play, *Children of a Lesser God*, which runs through August 22nd at ACT's Geary Theater, James, a very likeable ex-activist and Peace Corp worker, is determined to teach his most difficult student how to speak and lipread. But Sarah, a vibrant and opinionated person (who as a child was mislabeled "retarded"), bitterly informs us that she discovered early on that she would never be accepted in the hearing world. She angrily tells James that she doesn't need what he has to give her.

"My language is as good as yours," she insists, refusing to even attempt to learn the skills James suggests are "essential to function in society."

When he presses her to explain why she won't speak, she finally trusts him enough to admit to him her fears of inadequacy. At the same time, Sarah courageously struggles to define herself as a non-hearing person in a world that discriminates against those who are different.

As James and Sarah, two complex and refreshingly honest characters, collide, connect, and undergo changes in this exciting production of *Children of a Lesser God*, the questions raised by playwright Medoff reverberate on many levels. Medoff has given us not only an extraordinarily well written, warm and witty play, but also a work which explores both the importance and the limits of human communication.

Communication in the moving production, superbly directed by Gordon Davidson, occurs on two levels—verbally and non-verbally. We listen to ears, as our eyes take in the visually impactful language of sign. The context in which James and Sarah speak and share their very different experiences

of the world is rich and theatrically compelling. Bridging the gap between the hearing and deaf worlds, however, is no easy task. And Medoff carefully looks at the problems Sarah and James face as their relationship develops.

At the end of the play when Sarah makes the decision to leave James, whom she has married, she tells him, "We would have to meet in some other place, not in silence or in sound." She goes off to find out what she wants for herself, explaining, "For all my life I have been the creation of other people."

By the final scene James has learned that his desire and need to make Sarah over in his own image is disabling not only to her but to himself. This realization opens the possibility for future communication between these vulnerable and loving human beings.

Peter Evans' performance as James Leeds is excellent, although at times his exaggerated signing got in the way of some of the script's subtleties. Evans' comic timing, however, is flawless, and he works wonderfully with Linda Bove, who puts in a brilliant performance as Sarah. Bove is a pleasure to watch—her movements are graceful and fluid as a dancer, her eyes and face are very expressive, and she brings considerable energy and talent to her role as the fiery young woman.

The personal is political in Medoff's play, and without standing on a soapbox, or becoming an overzealous spokesperson for the deaf, he sensitively explores the politics of disability. His characters, Sarah, James, and Orin, Sarah's longtime friend and a deaf activist, examine these issues as they occur in their day to day lives.

A special infrared sound amplification system for the hearing impaired has been installed in the Geary Theater, and four specially signed performances have been scheduled for the deaf. Interestingly, the latter arrangement was made after local deaf activists met with the play's producers.

The only disappointing part of this production, well worth seeing, was David Jenkin's stark set, which consisted of movable benches, and Tharon Musser's lighting design, which seemed flat and rather dim compared to the illuminating action that takes place on the stage.



Julian Lopez-Morillas (left) and Stephen LeGrand in the Eureka Theater Company production of *The Unseen Hand* by Sam Shepard.

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Kurt Russell stars as Snake Plissken in *Escape from New York*.

ESCAPE FROM NEW YORK
Directed by John Carpenter
At area theatres.

Steve Warren

If you can believe that by 1997 there will be a wall around Manhattan and prisoners will be dumped on the island to serve out life sentences, you're ready to accept the rest of the silliness thrown at you in *Escape From New York*. More important than the plot is what this film means to the career of John Carpenter (*Halloween, The Fog*), who is working with a relatively large (\$7 million) budget for the first time. He is in a sense remaking his first two films, combining the electronic gadgetry of *Dark Star* with the terrorist plot of *Assault on Precinct 13*. Carpenter's reach still exceeds his financial grasp. Instead of putting a sign on an empty building and calling it a police station he puts a sign on the New York City of 16 years hence. As I said, those who accept the plot premise will swallow everything else—from the two-lane "Broadway" to people running up and down 50 flights of stairs (The elevator goes the rest of the way) in the World Trade Center—one of them with a wounded leg. The "Mission: Impossible" plot is one of those "Let's kidnap the president and put on a show!" affairs. Terrorists get Pres. Donald Pleasance into Manhattan with the idea of exchanging him for a general amnesty for all prisoners. The hitch is that he's on the way to a peace conference and the fate of the world hangs in the balance if he doesn't show up within 24 hours. Fortunately, a war hero-gone-bad Snake Plissken (Kurt Russell) is on his way into prison and he's persuaded by devious means to go in and rescue the prez in exchange for his own freedom. This lone wolf acting out of pure self interest is all we have to root for. The United States Police Force led by Lee Van Cleef brings to life our worst Reganite police state fantasies and combines the most terrifying elements of the FBI and the CIA. The inmates' lives are never clearly defined. We see a lot of faceless crazies who could be some of George Romero's leftover zombies, and a loosely structured ruling class under Isaac Hayes, "the Duke of New York."

Hayes' character is a bad ethnic joke. He rides around in a big car that looks like a surplus pimpmobile from the blaxploitation movies of a decade ago. *Had Escape from New York* been made five years ago Hayes would probably have been the hero; ten years ago as I said, those who accept the plot premise will swallow everything else—from the two-lane "Broadway" to people running up and down 50 flights of stairs (The elevator goes the rest of the way) in the World Trade Center—one of them with a wounded leg. The "Mission: Impossible" plot is one of those "Let's kidnap the president and put on a show!" affairs. Terrorists get Pres. Donald Pleasance into Manhattan with the idea of exchanging him for a general amnesty for all prisoners. The hitch is that he's on the way to a peace conference and the fate of the world hangs in the balance if he doesn't show up within 24 hours. Fortunately, a war hero-gone-bad Snake Plissken (Kurt Russell) is on his way into prison and he's persuaded by devious means to go in and rescue the prez in exchange for his own freedom. This lone wolf acting out of pure self interest is all we have to root for. The United States Police Force led by Lee Van Cleef brings to life our worst Reganite police state fantasies and combines the most terrifying elements of the FBI and the CIA. The inmates' lives are never clearly defined. We see a lot of faceless crazies who could be some of George Romero's leftover zombies, and a loosely structured ruling class under Isaac Hayes, "the Duke of New York."

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MOVIES

DRAGONSLAYER
Directed by Matthew Robbins.
Produced by Hal Barwood.
Written by Barwood and Robbins.
At the Regency II.

This summer is the best time in memory for moviegoing, with an almost unlimited amount of good entertainment on local screens (and only a few clunkers), spanning a variety of genres. There are several good action-adventure films, but only *Dragonslayer* is magical. Not magical in the sense of "Pick a card, any card," but in the romantic sense of transporting us to an alien world and making us believe in sorcerers and dragons.

From the versatile pens of Hal Barwood and Matthew Robbins (*Sugarland Express, Corvette Summer, MacArthur*) comes this original tale of the latter days of the Dark Ages, when people were starting to pay more attention to priests than sorcerers but there was still one tired old dragon terrorizing a kingdom. Two delegations travel the 100 leagues from Ulrand to the home of Ulrich, an equally tired but still image-conscious conjurer.

Untried young Galen goes in place of Ulrich, and falls in love with Valerian when he learns that she's a woman who has dressed as a male since birth to escape the sacrificial lottery. ("A lottery—barbaric," snorts Ulrich in a line whose contemporary parallels will not go unnoticed by draft age young men. This is followed up with further points about how the wealthy are able to buy their way out of the lottery.) You may be ahead of Valerian in realizing that it's easier to stop being a virgin than to live in drag, but even she hits on it sooner than most of the local maidens. When she "comes out" as a woman her father boasts, "She was twice the man of anyone in the village, now she's twice the woman."

There are incidental characters, identified only in the credits, named Romero and Cronenberg, Carpenter's homage to his fellow directors. Carpenter wrote his own score, all quite electronic and danceable, which sounds like a less complex version of Giorgio Moroder. It won't join the symphonic repertoire but it serves this film well.

There's more fun than content at work here; but *Halloween* proved that Carpenter knows how to engage an audience on a visceral level and the suspense and humor of *Escape from New York* should pay off for him again.

I SENT A LETTER TO MY LOVE
Directed by Moshe Mizrahi.
At the Clay.

Steve Warren

I Sent a Letter to My Love tells a fascinating story in a manner that combines the best aspects of fiction and reality. It's a comedy about (unconsummated) incest, a drama about loneliness and a farce about deception; and it would make a wonderful Broadway musical with Shelley Winters, Donald Sutherland and Julie Harris in the roles created here by Simone Signoret, Jean Rochefort and Delphine Seyrig, respectively. They would just have to add lyrics to Philippe Sarde's original piano score.

But let's stick to the product at hand, which reteams Signoret with her *Madame Rosa* director, Moshe Mizrahi. She plays Louise, a famous spinster who spends all her time caring for her invalid brother Gilles (Rochefort). *Quel pain in the derriere* he is! She fantasizes idly about killing him but is actually desperately afraid he'll die and leave her alone.

Out of that fear she places a classified ad which rears one response—from her brother. She assumes a false name and continues the correspondence (How she disguises her handwriting is never explained, a small but irritating point)—first for his sake but ultimately more for her own.

The other major figure in their life is Yvette (Seyrig), a friend since childhood (although the actresses are too far apart in age for this to be believed) who brings them fresh bread every day; and takes care of Gilles on Thursdays to give Louise a break. Her repression is more severe and with less excuse than the older woman's.

It's beautiful to watch Louise blossom under the first glow of love, even a love she knows to be unreal. Gilles shows it too, and Yvette catches their spirit without being aware of it. Then comes the pain of love as the wall between letters becomes unbearable for both correspondents. You can guess that Louise will eventually have to produce the fantasy figure in the flesh, but the plot turns beyond that are less predictable and entirely believable.

The script by Mizrahi and Gerard Brach is from a book of the same title by Bernice Rubens. (I prefer the French title for the film: *Chère Inconnue*.) It's consistently moving but never moves us to tears—that would be too easy. This is not a film that takes the easy road, except in assuring beautiful scenery by planting Louise and Gilles in a cliff house by the beach.

There's some similarity in plot between *I Sent a Letter*... and *She Loves Me*, another tale of romance by letter between two people with an entirely different face to face relationship. (That's probably what gave me the idea of a musical.) In this case the "I Love Lucy" premise is followed through to its serious consequences. Excellent performances, especially by Signoret, glide us over any parts of the story that might be incredible in lesser hands.

I realize that humans are less in vogue than heroes at the boxoffice this summer, but I suggest you try *I Sent a Letter to My Love* for a change of pace. It strikes some of the same chords as *Atlantic City*, which is still the year's best picture. Maybe there's something about the seashore...

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Sorcerer's apprentice Peter MacNicol examines the lance he will use to battle the mighty dragon Vermithrax in *Dragonslayer*.

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INTERVIEW

A DISCO KING CRUISES MUTANT MUSICS: KID CREOLE TALKS
 Adam Block

These two gents are holed up at the Sheraton Hotel. August Darnell (aka Kid Creole) looks astute and dapper in the drag of a Bayou gangster from the '40s. The tailoring is immaculate. Andy Hernandez (aka Coati Mundi) looks like the loose cannon of the team—his eyes darting under a shaved head, a t-shirt stuffed into his baggy pants. They asked me to come over for a chat about their new LP, *Fresh Fruit From Foreign Places*, as the soundtrack for "the first rap musical." He suspects that gays may appreciate its outrageous juxtapositions—bringing Busby Berkeley and Carmen Miranda to the world of rock; while mixing Latin and disco, funk and reggae, calypso and cha-cha, show tunes and swing. The intoxicating cartoons achieve cultural mutations through musical miscegenation. Darnell is hoping to rediscover some of the audience that lost track of him, while wooing innocents to his charms.

Many gays fell off the Savannah bandwagon with their second album. The 'Kings of Disco' seemed to have willfully abdicated the throne. "It was almost defiant," August recalled. "We wanted to pull out the stops, to transcend disco—which had gotten so bland and tight by '76. You won't believe it," he grinned, "but we really thought we were making a dance record: taping a potpourri of American styles—the mambo, the rumba, even the waltz. But we failed to harness disco and bring it along with us. Those djs wanted to play that record—but, they just couldn't."

Darnell agreed with the critic who wrote that LP "sounded like listening to two radio stations at the same time." That was the sound of "being in two worlds simultaneously—a reflection of the 'Mulatto Creed' of Stony Brown, Darnell's half-brother and leader of the Savannah Band. Darnell would settle for marriages and mutations of musics, rather than total simultaneity. Chafing under Browder's dogma and dictatorship, Darnell began to withdraw to other projects.

He was writing music as well as lyrics now. He produced Gitchy Dan's "Beechwood No. 9," wrote tunes for The Aural Exciters, and for the *Christina* LP, then produced Machine's disco hit, "There But for the Grace of God Go I." He did the 12" disco remix of James White's punk/funk disco hit, "Contort Yourself," overdubbing all the percussion himself. "I loved that eclectic idea," he recalls, "combining James Brown's mid-'60s rhythms with punk-wave jazz. The result was something completely new: James White music."

Darnell was finally ready to launch his unique synthesis. He took the name Kid Creole from Elvis Presley's role *King Creole*—a tribute to both the silver screen and his mulatto heritage—and assembled the Coconuts. He expanded on the '40s cha-cha/rumba fixations of the Savannah Band, adding tougher African and Caribbean rhythms. With this year's *Fresh Fruit* he is ready to usher his first love, theatre, on to center stage.

Fresh Fruit was inspired by Darnell's pursuit of a runaway girlfriend down to Haiti. The trip became Kid Creole's



Rooster
 Framed painting, ink on paper, Jakuchu school (Japan), 18th century. From the permanent collection of the Asian Art Museum in Golden Gate Park.



EARTHA KITT.
 At the Plush Room.
 Gene Arcet

Eartha Kitt swept onto the miniature stage of the York Hotel's Plush Room like a dark shaped cloud. She thundered out at her audience and defiantly challenged them with her opening number, "If You Like Me You'd Better Show It." She then burst into a succession of songs that sounded like an extension of the first. Throwing off her cape, she fixed vixenous stares at ringside spectators. "Wanna Take Me Cruising," she growled.

It was the old Eartha, champagne taste meeting up with beer bottle pockets. The arrangements so fused together that they sounded the same whether she was telling you how "The Gentleman Is a Dope" or that she was "Mad About the Boy." The sinuous laughter underlined the world weary voice.

Suddenly she reached back into the trunk and brought out a number from New Faces of 1952, the show that

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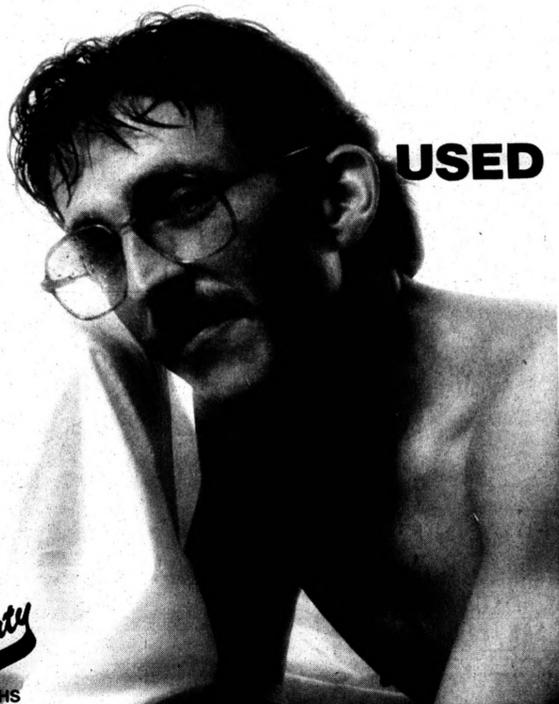
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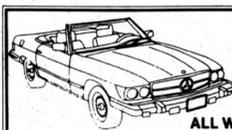
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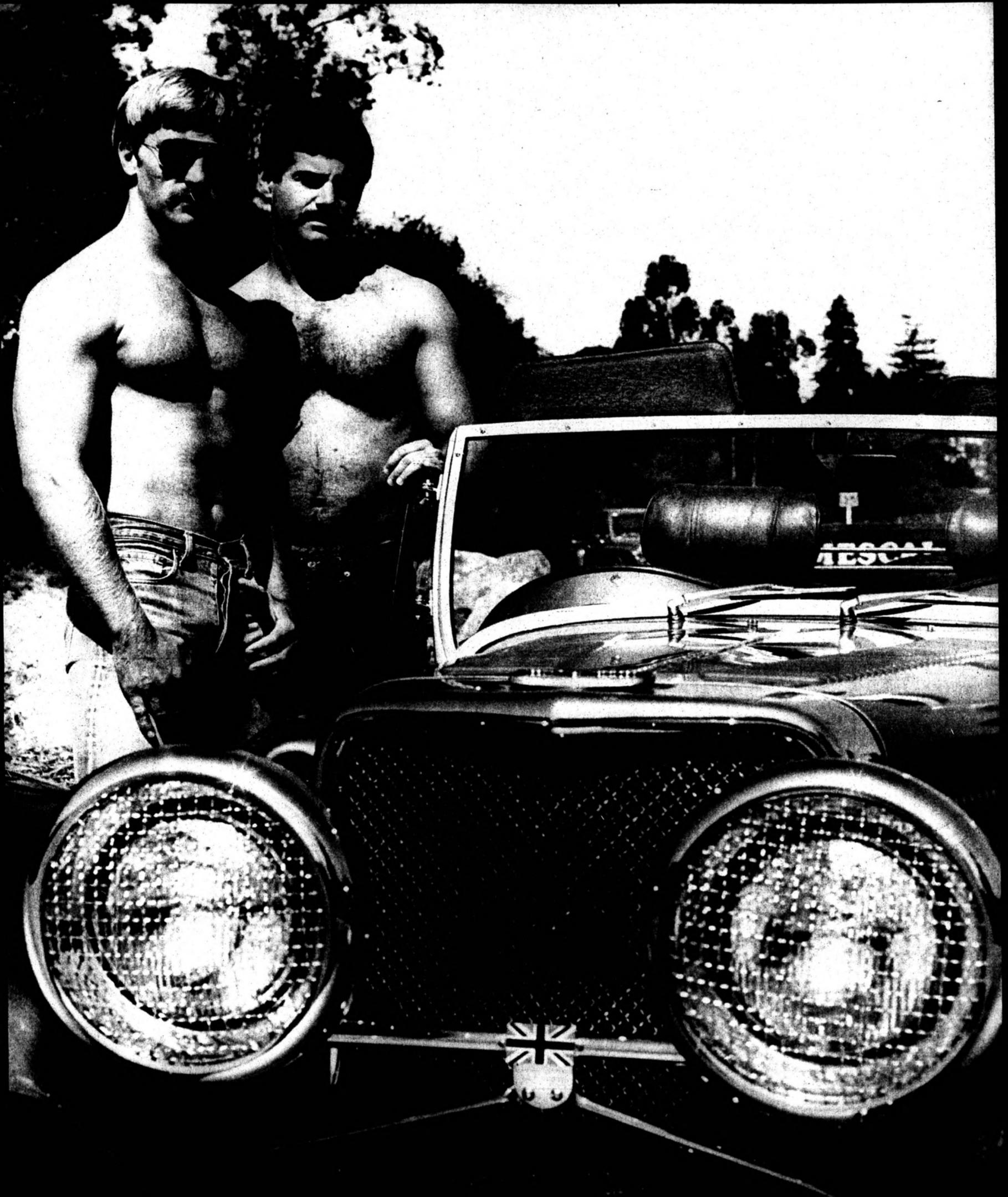
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