

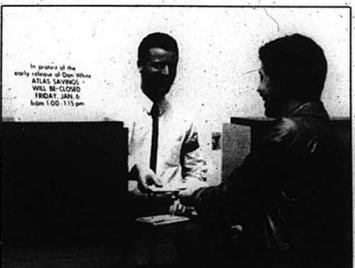
Newsbites

BRITT SEEKS STRONGER GAY RIGHTS ORDINANCE
 San Francisco, CA — Supervisor Harry Britt has announced that he will soon introduce amendments to tighten city's ordinance prohibiting discrimination against gay men and lesbians. Many of these amendments represent technical changes and clarifications of ambiguous requirements. Among these will be a more significant statement concerning prohibitions against discrimination in employment and services by the City and County of San Francisco itself.
 Other amendments Britt proposes would broaden the scope and enforcement of the law, according to a press release from the supervisor's office. "These include prohibiting businesses from discriminating in extending credit based on sexual orientation, increasing the award of general damages by the Courts to \$500 from a maximum of \$100 and allowing the award of punitive damages, and prohibiting educational institutions from denying admission or access to facilities based on sexual orientation."

UNCLE MILTIE WINS EARLY ENDORSEMENT
 San Francisco, CA — Concerned Republicans for Individual Rights, the oldest predominantly gay Republican club in the country, voted unanimously last month to endorse the re-election of State Senator Milton Marks. "The early endorsement of Marks was unprecedented and reflected the club's strong support for the Senator for his many years of support for the rights of the gay community," according to a CRR press release. Marks is expected to have a tough race this year against expected challenger, Lia Belli, a Democratic Party activist.

NGRA DEMANDS DEFENSE DEPARTMENT AUDIT
 San Francisco, CA — National Gay Rights Advocates, the San Francisco based public-interest law firm, has called for an investigation of what it costs the government to exclude homosexuals from the military. The armed forces annually discharges about 1,800 lesbians and gay men because of their sexual orientation. A recent Rand Corporation study indicates that the military spends about \$100,000 per soldier through basic training. "Simple arithmetic shows that millions of dollars are being spent each year to bar gays from serving their country. We've submitted a number of questions for a Government Accounting Office audit which will reveal just how much the public has to pay for this discrimination," said NGRA executive director Jean O'Leary.

NEW GROUP FOR GAY WORKERS
 San Francisco, CA — The Campaign for Family Partner Benefits has formed in order to encourage and assist litigation and legislation in the area of equal employment benefits for lesbian and gay workers. "We want to make a statement about the fact that lesbians and gay men go to work alongside their married co-workers, work just as hard and just as long, and yet are actually paid less," according to a group press release. Those interested in knowing more about the organization are invited to attend a meeting this Saturday at 1 P.M. at the MCC, 1500 Eureka St., or by calling Larry Brinkin at 648-6535.



ATLAS SAVINGS & LOAN, San Francisco's gay and lesbian financial institution, will join other gay and non-gay businesses in observing a day of protest this Friday over the release of convicted killer Dan White. All employees will wear black armbands that day, and the savings and loan will close both locations from 1 to 1:15 P.M. as part of a citywide work stoppage.

MOST 'UNSYMPATHETIC' TO GAY COMMUNITY
 Los Angeles, CA — While 52 percent of those polled support anti-discrimination laws for homosexuals, the same respondents said they were "unsympathetic" by a large margin to the homosexual community. The findings were included in a *Los Angeles Times* poll published last Sunday. While the gay community has been organizing under a prominent political force in recent years, the poll showed there is strong resentment of this increased activism in some parts of the country. Those polled said they were unsympathetic by a 2-to-1 margin, and 46 percent said they were "very unsympathetic." Anti-homosexual feelings were strongest in the South and the West, and among fundamentalist religion members. (San Francisco Examiner, 1/2/84)

IMMIGRATION HEARINGS PLANNED
 Washington, D.C. — Congressional hearings on immigration reform are to be held early this year, according to a press release from Gay Rights National Lobby. The group has been working closely with Rep. Barney Frank (D-MA) to insure that the hearings will take place. Just before Congress recessed its 1983 session, Frank helped to set the agenda for this year's hearings by introducing H.R. 4509, which completely rewrites the law dealing with standards for exclusion and deportation of foreigners. "This (new) language is intended, among other things, to repeal the prohibition on admitting foreign homosexuals," Frank said. A lively debate on the effort to repeal the anti-gay exclusion is generally expected. The outcome may hinge in large part on the attitude of House Judiciary Chair Peter Rodino (D-N.J.), who so far has been silent on the issue.

KILLER WHITE GOES FREE



Clady revelers welcomed in 1984 at SO MANY MEN, the New Year's Eve party extraordinaire presented by John Yukas and Dr. Sanford Alan Kellman.

by Gary Schweikhart
 That day has finally arrived. That day which lovers of justice, regardless of their sexual orientation, have dreaded and denounced and tried diligently to postpone. That day when convicted killer Dan White, the slayer of not only two men but a dream, will again go free.

White, the former San Francisco supervisor who coldbloodedly murdered both Mayor George Moscone and Supervisor Harvey Milk in 1978, goes free at midnight. From where he will be released and to where he will attempt to slink in obscurity is unknown. For now, but the secret is sure to be a secret for only a short amount of time. "Dan could go anywhere to hide, but remember, we are everywhere. And we'll find him, we'll pin him out, and we'll shadow him for the rest of his life. He may no longer be a prisoner behind bars, but he'll be a prisoner until the day he dies."

Meanwhile, San Francisco's lesbian/gay community has planned a series of protests to mark White's release day:

- NOON: A rally at the Civic Center.
- 1 to 1:15 P.M.: Work Stoppage.
- 7 to 10 P.M.: A major rally at 18th and Castro streets.

The Castro Street rally is being coordinated by the ad hoc Committee to Protest the Injustice. Donald Montwill, one of the committee organizers, has been quoted as saying he expected thousands of people to show up and "send a message to the criminal justice system and to let them know that we're vigilant and that we're determined that the Dan White matter will never happen again."

While some of the straight press seems to be pushing for some sort of violent reaction to happen on Friday evening, Diana Christensen, executive director of Community United Against Violence, doesn't think it will take place. "CUAV will be there doing monitoring — not monitoring the gay community, please note, just trying to keep the tensions low," she said.

Christensen told *The Sentinel* that CUAV will follow the pattern of recent Halloween weekends in the Castro. "If any outside instigators show up, we'll surround and follow them so that they can't get things too riled up. But I think things have changed a lot in the last few years, and with the lineup of speakers including both comedians and a band, I don't expect there to be any trouble."

As for White himself, the most recent glimpse of him came in a recent issue of the *San Francisco Chronicle* (11/4/84) which reprinted a couple of letters in which the killer has sent to friends.

"Things have been somewhat hectic for me lately. Attempts by certain people to keep me in prison, and also have me prosecuted again have failed. . . An attempt has been made to do my own year parole without any problems, but that precautions must be taken in my case. The plan I've agreed to is one that will minimize any unnecessary hassles from the media or anyone else. I'm confident it will enable me to do my own year parole without any problems. White wrote to a friend in a letter dated Dec. 20, 1983. . . In all, White will have served just a little over five years behind bars for the brutal double slaying of Moscone and Milk.

Gay Congressman to Visit Bay Area

Congressman Gerry Studds (D-MA) will be the featured speaker at a cocktail party for the Human Rights Campaign Fund at Albion Hall, the home of Dr. Tom Waddell, 141 Albion Place. It will take place on Saturday, Jan. 21, from 5:30 to 7:30 P.M.

The congressman, who came out publicly after being named in the Congressional page boy scandal last year, will greet guests and speak at the party. The cost to attend is \$25. Major donors, contributors of \$250 or more to the HRCF, are invited to join Studds for dinner following the reception. Studds has represented the 10th Congressional District of Massachusetts (Cape Cod, Nantucket Sound) for 12 years, and he is the only openly gay member of Congress. He serves on the House Foreign Affairs Committee and the House Merchant Marine and Fisheries Committee. He is particularly known for his interest in issues surrounding U.S. involvement in Central America.



Rep. Gerry Studds Fund is a non-partisan national Political Action Committee, which focuses on supporting and electing members of the House and Senate who are committed to justice and equality for lesbians and gay men. Funds are distributed to members of Congress who have supported human rights and to challengers of anti-human rights incumbents, regardless of party affiliation. In HRCF's first full year of operation, the 1982 election, over \$142,000 was distributed to 119 candidates in 36 states. Of the recipients, 16 percent were Republicans and 84 percent were Democrats; 81 percent won their races. The HRCF ranked 17th in total funds raised among PACs not affiliated with a candidate or organization.

A measure of the success of the Fund is that none of the 67 co-sponsors of the Gay Civil Rights Bill was defeated in 1982, and the number of co-sponsors in the House has increased from 50 in the last Congress to 73 as of mid-October 1983," said Kerry Woodward, co-chair of the HRCF board of directors.

Interestingly, one of the "sponsors" of the Jan. 21 event is Mayor Dianne Feinstein, who was "disinvited" from speaking at an HRCF fundraiser in Houston in late 1982 following her veto of the domestic partners benefits proposal.

For more information about the event, call coordinator Law Wilson at 861-4242.

Gay Community to Face Many New Challenges in 1984

by Supervisor Harry Britt
 Harvey Milk used to say that lesbians and gay men have one foot in the White House and one foot in the concentration camp. He had no illusions about whether or not mainstream America had come to terms with our experience. Harvey saw in this understanding a source of great power for gay people — the ability to make great changes in the way all people treat one another. He felt that no young boy or girl growing up gay in this society would be assured even the most basic protections until we had done the political work of creating a visible, effective gay presence in every place where decisions are made that effect our lives.

Before his death, Harvey emphasized to me that there is not unlimited time for gay people to establish themselves politically. He estimated that America would give up "five or six years" of its attention, and perhaps no more. That was in 1978, the most hopeful and most terrible year in the political history of lesbians and gay men in San Francisco. In 1984, we have to take stock of our influence on the political scene. Important political forces in San Francisco were very threatened by the power Harvey Milk planned to unleash. A large part of San Francisco that looks back with fondness to the days of an all-white city were particularly horrified with homosexuality. Equally

important, the downtown business community equated gay power with controls on their hiring practices as well as on growth, rents and many areas of public policy. Their backlash took two forms — the vicious act of Dan White, which has to be understood as an act of political response, and the repeal of District Elections in 1980. The gay community was able to survive the backlash politically owing to the relationships formed in the fights against Proposition 13 and Proposition 6, and the determination of many extraordinary people who believed the vision of Harvey Milk and George Moscone must die. Not only

Continued on page 2

Newsbites



WILLIAM E. BEARDEMPHL, GEORGE BANDA and LIA BELLI at THE SENTINEL's recent holiday party. Nearly 100 writers, politicians and community leaders attended the gala function at the Club Dori to celebrate the newspaper entering its 11th year of publication.

GGBA FOUNDATION AWARDS NEW GRANTS
San Francisco, CA — Nine nonprofit community organizations that serve the lesbian/gay community have received a total of \$7,350 from the GGBA Foundation in their year-end grant cycle. These include \$1,000 to the San Francisco Sex Information Center for general support; \$500 to the Ureka Theatre Company to assist in the production of *Execution of Justice*, the story of the Moscone-Milk murders; \$1,000 to the San Francisco AIDS Fund to help conduct an AIDS seminar with Dr. Kubler-Ross; \$1,000 to Partners as general support for their program which provides housing and employment to gay men and lesbians; \$1,000 to Operation Concern's Gay and Lesbian Outreach to Elders; \$750 to Frameline for the publication of their first newsletter; \$1,000 to the Michael/Raines Legal Fund to help test the San Francisco Gay Rights Ordinance; \$500 to Pacific Center for general support; and \$600 to Bay Area Physicians for Human Rights to help sponsor their annual health fair. The next grants will be awarded in March, with application deadline of Feb. 15. For more information, call the GGBA Foundation at 956-8679.



Hollywood musicals will never die, they just go nova (90 — count 'em — 90) in bright, bright, poignant, tuneful splashes of Big-screen Bangs. The seven week run at the CASTRO (where else but?) lifted off Jan. 1 and goes through Feb. 21 with perennial favorites — the ones both you and grandma grow up on. So pick up a schedule (available at all Surf Theatres) and catch as many of these delightful movies as you can.

SALE!

For a very limited time we are offering a central monitored silent burglar alarm installed for less than the price of a good camera, only \$269.00* AND we will monitor your home or business 24 hours a day, every day for less than the price of a pack of cigarettes: 64¢ a day! Due to the low price, no other discounts may be applied to this offer. MEMBER G.G.B.A.

*Base price, one year monitoring plus tax and one time telephone company charge of \$38.00



Britt: '84 to be Filled with Challenges

Continued from page 1

was I able to remain on the Board of Supervisors in 1980, but Dr. Tim Wolfred was elected to the Community College Board, where he has done fine work for us.

We still live very much in the wake of the events of those early years. And my political instincts tell me that 1984 will assume its place as a year of critical testing of the political resolve of lesbians and gay men.

A major effort will be made in 1984 to take away our political effectiveness. The same people who defeated District Elections will try in June to reduce the number of Supervisors to seven and elect them in odd years when the electorate is much more conservative. If they succeed, San Francisco will move very far to the

for re-election in November of this year. Already, my campaign reflects the combined strength of gay people, seniors, tenants, labor, peace, progressive and minority groups who have worked together so long.

A most important job politically this year will be to develop our community's internal strength and focus our resources on the political needs of our own people. Voter registration is still one of the most basic political goals for us, and successfully carried out holds the key to our strength.

Chief among our political objectives must be the fight against AIDS. We can hopefully slow down the spread of this killer by developing intelligent personal strategies. But the discovery of a cure depends on our continued pressure at every

to confront funding sources like the United Way which has traditionally underfunded gay organizations.

We have been able to obtain funding for gay seniors, for Community United Against Violence, the AIDS Foundation and other community service groups. But our community is badly underemployed, under-housed, and entitled to funds proportionate to our tax contributions. I will be working with many people to see that the gay community gets a better share of the money it supplies to the city.

No more pressing issue faces our city than Southern Pacific's unprecedented urban renewal project in Mission Bay and the massive plans to build a second downtown South of Market. The Folsom Street area is directly threatened by these plans, and the gay community must spend the next year making clear that this threat is intolerable.

A major challenge facing us in 1984 will be the Democratic Convention. Lesbians and gay men are very much involved in the planning process already, and many will become delegates. As a supporter of Alan Cranston, I've been impressed by the key role gays have played in states like Wisconsin and Iowa. But other campaigns, too, have reached out to gay people, including Mondale and Jackson. Certainly John Glenn will pay dearly for his overt homophobia.

There are some signs that gay Republicans, too, are having greater influence on the members of their party. This is certainly necessary if the traditional roadblock to our interests thrown in our way by Republican elected officials is to be lifted.

When the Democrats come to town this summer, gay San Francisco will get more exposure that we've ever had before. This will be our best opportunity ever to let America see the true face of our community. And there will be little doubt by summer's end that gay people throughout the country can and will have a profound influence in selecting all future Presidents.

One of the best parts of my job is being able to travel all over the country helping with the politics of the gay community. This year I was able to lend a hand in the successful campaigns of David Scudras in Boston and Brian Coyle in Minneapolis, both of whom ran for city council seats in the great tradition of Harvey Milk. This year we saw gay men elected as Mayors in Santa Cruz and Key West.

And throughout the year, we will have the chance to work to elect more of our numbers to office.

Above all, 1984 is the year that Ronald Reagan will be tested and with any hand destroyed politically. The combined efforts of the gay, women's and peace movements, each of which has developed much greater strength in the past four years, will play a key role in attempting to defeat him. And we must defeat him. He stands in defiant opposition to everything our gay consciousness tells us is right. He would destroy us if it were in his power.

If in 1984 we reflect carefully on the lessons of our earliest days as a political force in San Francisco, and if we take maximum advantage of the attention that will be showered on us, we will emerge as a stronger political force than we have ever been.

Our new future in this city will be determined not by our numbers, but by our ability to form political relationships.



Supervisor Harry Britt

right politically.

I am hopeful this ballot measure can be defeated. Already a strong network of our political allies is organizing a campaign with great hopes of success. Gay men and lesbians, who stand to lose so much if this issue succeeds, will play a key role in that campaign.

I can't stress too much that our future in this city will be determined not by our numbers but by our ability to form political relationships. An important part of the work of my office is to strengthen the gay community's relationships by working closely with other political groups in the city. We have long had a close bond with Chinese San Francisco. Our relationship with the labor movement is solid, and the time we've spent working with Koreans, Filipinos, blacks, Hispanics and others has led to solid friendships.

How well we have succeeded will in part be tested when I stand level of government. Last year I was able to increase city spending on AIDS by \$1.7 million. Many people will be involved in helping me see that the city continues to meet our needs.

Additionally, we will be working this year to gain additional protections for gay people against discrimination. The new Oakland gay rights ordinance is a model piece of legislation, and we will be asking the Board of Supervisors to amend San Francisco's along the same lines.

I've had many opportunities to see what a small share of San Francisco's public funds is made available to our community through the various grants approved by the Board of Supervisors. Many gay activists are beginning to work on this issue. The Stonewall Gay Democratic Club first brought light to the inequitable distribution by the city of the Hotel Tax Fund. Many gay activists are beginning



Best Wishes for A Happy New Year From Supervisor Quentin L. Kopp



Best Wishes for a Healthy and Happy New Year

SAN FRANCISCO SUPERVISOR
John L. Molinari

NOTEBOOK

Jan. 6 (Fri.) — Dan White's Release
Days' protests planned. Rally, 11 AM, Civic Center West Stoopage from 1 to 1:15 PM. Rally of 18th St/Hill at 1:15 PM.

Free V.D. Testing sponsored by the San Francisco City Clinic. The corner of 18th and Castro, 11 AM to 1:30 PM. For details, call 864-8100.

Jan. 7 (Sat.) — Free V.D. Testing sponsored by S.F. City Clinic. The corner of Haight and Ashbury, from 1 to 4 PM. Call 864-8100.

Jan. 8 (Sun.) — Gay Academic Union presents Dr. David Keiser on "Has American Psychiatry Cured Homosexuality?" At 4 PM. Trinity Meeting Hall, 1668 Bush (at Gough) 32 donation.

Lesbian/Gay Freedom Day Parade Committee general meeting and logo selection. At Women's Building, 5 PM. Open to public.

East Bay Lesbian/Gay Democratic Club general meeting. Guest speaker will be Berkeley Police Chief Ronald Nelson. At 7 PM, at the West Branch of the Berkeley Public Library, 1125 University Ave. For info, call Tom Brombaugh at 843-2459.

Jan. 9 (Mon.) — Board of Supervisors meeting 2 PM. City Hall. Supervisor Harry Britt's rent control amendments are up for discussion.

Allice E. Tokias Lesbian/Gay Democratic Club general meeting and election of new officers. Will be **Kat Rossett** vs. **Barney Stollings** for the club presidency. To all Allice members be sure to vote. At 214 Market (at 15th), 7:30 PM.

Jan. 10 (Tues.) — Services Coordinating Committee of District 5 is sponsoring a Sexual Minorities Issues Case Conference. At Richmond Area Multi-Services, room G, 3626 Balboa St. from noon to 1 PM. For details, call Rick Irsen at 668-9565. Bring a book lunch.

KUSF's "Audiovisions" presents S.F. AIDS/KS Foundation's **Ed Power** on "The Economics of AIDS." At 6 PM on KUSF (90.3 FM).

Oakland City Council general meeting. The final vote on the Oakland Gay Rights ordinance. Supporters are urged to attend. For details, call 843-2459.

Jan. 11 (Wed.) — The Network Coffeehouse presents a lecture/discussion on "What is the Biblical Ethical Norm?" At 1329 Seventh Ave. \$2 PM. Sponsored by Presbyterians for Lesbian/Gay Concerns. Donation requested.

Modern Times Bookstore presents a lecture by **Mike Smith**, author of **Black Men/White Men**. At 968 Valencia, 7:30 PM.

Jan. 12 (Thurs.) — BWMF/San Francisco rap session. At All Saints Episcopal Church, 1530 Waker, 8:30 PM.

Jan. 13-15 — Bay Area Physicians for Human Rights four other groups are sponsoring a coping-with-stress workshop for gay and lesbian physicians. At Allommar on the Monterey Peninsula. Fee \$195 per person.

Jan. 14 (Sat.) — Gay and Lesbian Outreach to Elders Openness Concern invites women over 60 who love socializing with other women to a brunch. Please bring a drink or dish to share. At 1853 Market, 11 AM. For information, please call Sheryl Goldberg at 626-7000 w/ly. Wheelchair accessible.

Free V.D. Testing sponsored by S.F. City Clinic. At 18th and Castro, from noon to 3 PM. Call 864-8100.

Jan. 15 (Sun.) — Health Care Workers for Pat Norman for Supervisor are holding an organizing meeting at 2 PM. For info, call Katie Urban at 441-8781.

60+ presents at professor **Osvaldo Chaves** "The 1984 Union Campaign." At First Union Church, 1187 Franklin (at Geary), 2 PM. For more, call 552-1997.

Jan. 17 (Tues.) — KUSF's "Audiovisions" presents **Joan Dunkel** and **Ed Power** on "AIDS and Continuing Health Care." At 6 PM on KUSF (90.3 FM).

Jan. 18 (Wed.) — The Network Coffeehouse presents a lecture/discussion on "De-Mystifying AIDS." At 1329 Seventh Ave., 7:30 PM. Donation requested.

KPFA's "Trill Punch" presents "Sam to be Cheap" with comic singer **Jon Burger**. At 10 PM on KPFA (94 FM).

Lesbian/Gay Young Adults weekly meeting. Every Sunday at 1 PM, at the Lesbian Gay Community Center, 86 Hayes St in San Jose. (408) 293-4525.

Young Gay Men's Support Group has weekly meetings every Saturday from 1 to 4 PM. For gay men under 21. At Pacific Center, 2712 Telegraph Ave. (near Derby) in Berkeley. For info, call 548-8283.

Younger Lesbian Bop/Support Group has weekly meetings every Friday from 4 to 6 PM. For lesbians under 21. At Pacific Center in Berkeley. 548-8283.

Equal Rights Advocates, a nonprofit public interest law center, offers free information, legal advice and referral by telephone. Call 621-0505 for info.

Gay Suicide Study needs to hear from gay men who have attempted suicide within the past six months. All information kept strictly confidential. For info, call Peter Gibbons at 391-0103.

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The Sentinel's FLASH AND TRASH OF 1983

"Governor Brown called me at two minutes to midnight on New Year's Eve. I thought it was interesting that both of us were spending that particular evening at home rather than out partying." (*Gay attorney Herb Donaldson on his appointment as Judge of the San Francisco Municipal Court.*)

"I'm against releasing them... I don't think this is the sort of message the Deukmejian Administration wants to put out." (*Gary Macomber, deputy director of the state's Department of Health and Welfare, on the pro-gay TV commercials filmed under the Brown Administration. Days later, the tapes were obtained and released by The Sentinel.*)

"There were recurrent problems in the district that relate to supervision and training and while I do not hold Captain Taylor directly responsible, I feel that a change in command will be in the best interest of all concerned." (*Police Chief Con Murphy on a command change at Mission Station.*)

"Well... you've got your way now." (*Mayor Dianne Feinstein to her Gay Task Force just moments after being told the White Panthers' petition drive had been successful.*)

"The author of the domestic partners benefits bill doesn't even want people to have to reside in the same household. There are no standards... oh oh, I get in trouble every time I use that word." (*Mayor Dianne Feinstein*)

"It's like the old joke about priests... you can be straight or gay or anything you want, just as long as you don't enjoy it." (*Roman Catholic Church spokesman Fr. Miles Riley on an Archdiocesan report on homosexuality.*)

"We cannot receive, in conscience, a pastoral plan whose very process and product is seriously flawed, both practically and theologically." (*Final statement of the Archdiocese's Commission on Social Justice's Task Force on Gay/Lesbian Issues just before being officially "dissolved."*)

"The reason for this concern is the epidemic proportions of an unknown fatal disease now prevalent in San Francisco... I feel that this unknown disease should not be fostered upon the delegates and their families during the upcoming convention with possible consequences of spreading the disease nationwide." (*San Francisco police officers Ray Driscoll and John Fowlie writing to National Democratic Party officials.*)

"We understand the whole state of California is nutsville. But our life is so dull in South Carolina that we want to come out there and participate." (*Response to officers' letter by Marsha Duffy, Democratic Party state chair of South Carolina.*)

"Lastly but most importantly I want to thank the one person who believed and followed the dream from the very beginning, who never said, 'You're crazy, it can't be done'... my partner and lover, Lawrence Lane." (*Producer John Glines accepting the Tony Award For Best Play of the Year for Torch Song Trilogy.*)



"You thought I was acting?" (*Actor/playwright Harvey Fierstein.*)

"What a time in your lives to be without honor. Taken to tattling. Exiting with a whimper... With respect to this community I have paid my dues - for over 10 years. For most of the names on your list, the only thing you have contributed to this Gay life is your calamity." (*B.A.R. editor Paul Lorch writing to 22 people with AIDS who had objected to the tabloid's hysterical coverage of the disease.*)

"The spread of the disease is not solely the province of the bathhouses. It can happen in the back of a car, in the park or anywhere." (*San Francisco Director of Health Dr. Mervyn F. Silverman.*)

"There are leaders in this community who don't want people to know the truth. Their attitude is that it is bad for business, bad for the gay image. The whole thing borders on the homicidal... Some of those responsible are gay leaders. In my mind they are criminally negligent. They've betrayed their own community." (*Catherine Cusik in the California magazine article, "Whitewash."*)

"AIDS is my Number One priority." (*Margaret Heckler, Secretary of Health and Human Services.*)

"It is clear... that the Administration's marching orders (on AIDS) is unequivocal: Don't ask for money; make us look as good as you can with what you've got." (*Stanley Matek testifying before Congress.*)

"The decision to withhold direct mouth-to-mouth resuscitation from a patient with AIDS when a CPR device is not available is solely that of the individual employee." (*New policy guidelines announced by the University of California-San Francisco.*)

"I am here because I could no longer remain silent in good conscience." (*Rep. Robert Bauman at the American Bar Association convention just before they voted 158-to-134 to reject a resolution condemning anti-gay discrimination.*)

"The allegations which have been directed against me center on a brief relationship which began and ended 10 years ago." (*Rep. Gerry Studds*)

"Sex is a thrill, but so is getting the Voting Rights Act passed." (*Jesse Jackson, at a Human Rights Campaign Fund dinner.*)

"I believe that the attacks on me during the past nine months can largely be attributed to a political vendetta combined with a quest for power and control of our movement." (*Steve Edean resigning as head of Gay Rights National Lobby.*)

"I will not advocate or promote homosexuality." (*Senator John Glenn*)

"Since our examination of this matter forces us to conclude that the evidence is not sufficient to prove guilt beyond a reasonable doubt, we must decline federal prosecution." (*U.S. Justice Department statements clearing the way for the release of Dan White.*)

Your Highs - And Lows of 1983

Asked on Castro Street:



Dan, Travel Agent, Los Angeles: Traveling. That's the high point, not being able to travel is the low point.



Rozz, Plumber, San Jose: The weather. Rain is low, sunshine is high.



Nichorlus, Fashion Designer, Castro: Money. Both high, both low.



Joe, Student at S.F. State: The high point in 1983 was getting over it, the low point of 1983 was starting it.



Stephen, Artist, East Bay: I went all over Europe outside of the communist countries.



Peter, Graphic Artist, New York part of town: Mmmmm, pretty blah year. The exciting thing was coming to San Francisco. I guess, the low point was the blizzard in New York.





1983 Friskie Awards

SHOW BUSINESS: Don't Pry for Me, Argentina award to Werner Promer, that Austrian theatrical producer convicted of hiring two thugs to beat up the star of the German-language version of *Evita*, so his girlfriend, the understudy, could take over the part.

Parental Pressure award to Ron Reagan the younger, for leaving the Joffrey Ballet to pursue unspecified "other interests."

Fire the Sex Dressers award to the producers of two Stephen King flicks. In *Cujo*, filmed in California but ostensibly set in Maine, Coors and Olympia beer cans and boxes made their first visit downtown. In *The Dead Zone*, supposedly set in New Hampshire, a car crashes on U.S. Highway 40, which runs from Atlantic City to San Francisco.

Publicist of the Year award to then-Secretary of the Interior James Watt, for his work on the Beach Boys account. Rest in peace, Dennis.

MEDIA: Victorian Lace award to *Nesbitt*, which reported Fran Lebowitz's argument over smoking in an East Hampton, New York, theater. "She called him a proctological term. All politeness was abandoned at that point."

Flip award to the *S.F. Examiner's* Elizabeth Snider, for suggesting Queen Ellen and Prince Phillip visit Hamburger Mary's and the *Stuck* on Folsom Street and be put up at the Beach Motel in San Francisco and in a six-man tent at Yosemite.

There'll Always Be An England award to the Conservative Party's ad agency that translated a slogan into Japanese: "The country's most important discovery since the advent of circumcised bread."

Man Beats Dog Headline award to the *S.F. Chronicle* for "Man Gets Year in Jail For Beating Dog."

I've Waited Years to Write This Headline award, also to the *Chronicle*, for a story on the nutritional value of earthworms. "Chinese May Face Diet of Worms," printed 15 days after Martin Luther's 500th birthday.

Lincoln Director's Dog Headline Buzzword award to the *Chronicle* for "Kandinsky Widow's Chalet Urges And" and "Millionaire's Mistress Gets Life For Champagne-Bottle Murderer."

Home Stretch Headline award to the *Examiner* for this eight-column gem above four lines of type: "CCSP's schedule imposes rocky road including battle against College of San Mateo's Oakland Invaders influence."

Deck The Halls Headline award,

also to the *Ex*, for those four like-sized heads over a column of like-sized stories: "Warning on student loans," "Warning on child support," "Warning on airline oxygen," and "Warning for dizzy elderly."

To Hell With The Details award to the *Chron* for identifying the White House as the Capitol in a photo caption.

Vnoosh! Vnoosh! award to CBS radio for its blanket coverage of a July 4 aerobatics show. Will mime and photography be next?

Morley's Believe It Or Not award to *60 Minutes'* Mr. Safer for his artfully arranged April hit job on San Francisco politics, which in the continuing tradition of the CBS News approach to the subject, neared the limits of journalistic ethics (from the outside).

Priorities, Boys, Priorities! award to the Cable News Network for curtailing its coverage of a midnight mass at St. Peter's Basilica to present the sports score.

Creative Ad Placement award to SIN, the Spanish-language network, which showed all of Pope John Paul's procession around the basilica, the pontiff placing a statue of the baby Jesus in the creche and kissing its feet, and the recession. SIN then cut without announcement to a commercial for Luv's disposable diapers.

RELIGION: The Pope Does Not Wear Lacoste Shirts award to Jerry Frock, who lost his job as county tourism director after Broward County (Florida) commissioners learned he had been kicked out of Vatican City for wearing an alligator costume.

The Eyes Have It award to Selma, Alabama housewife Anita Bryant, who launched a line of "Silent Witness" Christian sunglasses.

Turn The Other Cheek Non-violence award, a three-way tie: 1) The Stockton, California minister who shot and critically wounded a church deacon who objected loudly to his sermon; 2) Youth for Christ, the teenage program founded by Billy Graham, which uses an electrified "hot seat" as "a great programming tool"; and 3) The Montreal priest who bit the hand of an anti-Ragan demonstrator outside the American Legion convention in Seattle.

PRIVATE SECTOR, PUBLIC SECTOR: Them's That Have The Gold Make The Rules award to Ronald Reagan, who said the budget could be balanced sooner "if all of us simply tried to live up to the Ten Commandments and

the Golden Rule."

Trickle Down award to Detroit's Renaissance Center, site of Reagan's triumphant 1980 nomination, which went bankrupt in 1983.

Whose Side Is The Supply On? award to Emanuel Savas, a top aide, suspended by the housing secretary amid charges that Savas used government staffers to type, edit, and proofread his privately published book, *Privatizing the Public Sector - How to Shrink Government*.

Left Hand, Right Hand award to the Army Corps of Engineers for granting an emergency permit to pump off flooded farmlands in Tulare Lake, thereby endangering the San Francisco Bay fishery, when the land's corporate owner was already receiving a subsidy to keep the acreage idle.

Creative Financing Award to the City of Berkeley, which proposed selling its city hall and leasing it back from private investors who could write it off on their taxes. You can't fight city hall, but you can buy it, lease it, and write it off as a tax loss.

feminist subject matter. There Go The Ratings award to attorney F. Lee Bailey, who was unable to obtain convicted Atlanta child-killer Wayne Williams for Bailey's syndicated TV program, *Life Detector*.

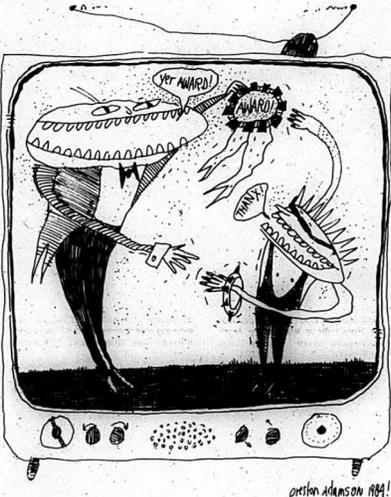
Sharp Eye award to the Boston mermaid who failed to notice that the man who appeared to be sleeping behind the wheel in the car was ticketing for over-parking had actually been shot in the back of the neck.

Seat of Intelligence award to the 200-pound San Jose woman accused of killing her nine-year-old son by sitting on him. She sued a local counseling center, claiming it recommended the technique as discipline.

Last Conquers All award to the two Red Brigade defendants who engaged in a sexual act while an Italian court was in session. Other defendants in the case stood close to the bars of a security cage in the courtroom to hide the couple.

Spotted award to the Alameda County sheriff, who cracked down on the use of sanitary napkins, sheets, toilet paper, and cups for other than their intended use, when imprisoned anti-nuclear demonstrators used the items to stage an impromptu Lesbian/Gay Freedom Day parade at the Santa Rita Jail.

Chutzpah award to the wife of the San Francisco man who injured her and seven others and killed two when she shot up the office at which he worked. Erlindo Contreras' Spotted award to the Alameda County sheriff, who cracked down on the use of sanitary napkins, sheets, toilet paper, and cups for other than their intended use, when imprisoned anti-nuclear demonstrators used the items to stage an impromptu Lesbian/Gay Freedom Day parade at the Santa Rita Jail.



Runner-up for the Chutzpah award is the Nebraska man convicted of molesting a girl who petitioned the court to get the weapon back. He claimed the 12-gauge shotgun was a family heirloom with "a lot of emotional value."

Don't Raise The Bridge, Lower The River award to the Louisiana man who claimed he was former pro-basketball star Bill Russell. Arthur Lee Trotter said he'd had 10 inches of leg bone removed by surgeons so he could fit into his Mercedes Benz.

Exporter of The Year award to the Iowa judge who "punished" a man convicted of showing obscene material to a child by giving the man a one-way bus ticket to Los Angeles.

Naked Truth award to the Israeli judge who ordered a 16-year-old girl to stop walking around her house without any clothes on. Her 80-year-old stepfather had claimed she was trying to cause him to have a heart attack so she could inherit his wealth.

Use The Small Fork For The Twinkies award to the Menlo Park woman who slashed her boyfriend to death in an argument that started because he was "eating like a pig."

Win Some, Lose Some award to Donald Praska, who was busted for possession of marijuana with intent to deliver, on the same day voters elected him to the Jackson Junction, Iowa City Council.

Jerk Of The Year award to the New York state man who hired another man to rob his girlfriend, so he could rescue her and be a hero. The "boyfriend" got there late and failed to prevent not only her robbery but her rape as well.

GOVERNMENT: Diogenes Honest Man award to Gene Broder, who resigned from his \$43,000-a-year job with the federal Merit Systems Protection Board because he "absolutely nothing to do."

Top Secret award to the State Department, which sent surplus file cabinets filled with classified documents to a federal prison in Virginia.

Rain Nor Snow Nor Sleet award to the postmaster of San Francisco, whose brave couriers were still delivering election mail at Thanksgiving and Christmas.

Get Smart award to the five Australian intelligence trainees who conducted a door-smashing, gun-toting commo drill at the Sheraton Melbourne hotel without notifying the management in advance.

Schmutz award to the laundries of the West German Army, which take so long to clean clothes that fewer than one in 10 soldiers uses them. Mothers complained to the Bundestag that they had to launder their sons' uniforms on weekend leaves.

Halls of Montezuma award to Marine Gunnery Sgt. Tom Briggs, who refused to send his men to a

North Hollywood gay bar to pick up Christmas gifts donated by the Toys For Tots campaign. He explained, "We're not only concerned about how we wear our uniform, but where we wear it."

FOOD: Halls of Montezuma's Revenge award to the organizers of the Newport, North Carolina doughnut eating contest. A 25-year-old Marine corporal choked to death while gobbling down nine doughnuts.

Timing Is Everything award to the Michigan Department of Health, which announced on the eve of Passover that gefilte fish contains residue of anasarca. This year, this award went to the Miami nutritionist who announced on the eve of the Jewish New Year that kosher food's high fat content is bad for the heart.

Breath of Life award to Wiley Brooks, co-founder of Marin County's Breathing Institute. Brooks claims he lives off the nutrients in air and hasn't eaten in 19 years. Disgruntled ex-follower claim he sneaks junk food on the sly, sneaking into 7-Elevens when he thinks no one is looking.

Surprise award to Kellogg's, which managed to include marijuana seeds in a box of Frosted Mini-Wheats opened by an Indiana boy; and to Cracker Jacks, which somehow arranged for two preschoolers in California to get a photo-illustrated 21-page miniature booklet called "Erotic Sexual Positions."

MODERN LIFE AWARDS: Johnson and Johnson recalled a shipment of K-V Lubricating Jelly because of grittiness that could cause irritation.

A California man built steel rollbars over, under, and around his bed after redwoods fell within five feet of his roof during a storm.

More than 1200 men celebrated the birthday of the King of Thailand by having vasectomies performed. Fifty doctors and 85 nurses operated at a rate of two a minute in a clinic set up at the national lottery building.

A Mississippi veterinarian performed a sex-change operation on a tomat suffering from a bladder blockage that could have been fatal.

A Connecticut grandmother who was the mother of two Eagle Scouts brought a sex-discrimination complaint against the Boy Scouts for refusing to allow her to become a scoutmaster. Lord Baden-Powell was no lady.

The Washington Action Raiders drubbed the Lubec Hornets, 88-6, in a high-school softball game in Maine. Umpires called the affair after just six innings. The same week, William Paterson College held five homers and ran up 19 runs in a single inning on the way to a 24-1 victory over Scranton University.

The head of the Society of Dirty Old Men resigned to help organize the United States Liars Association, if you can believe him.

The Mexican Society of Geography and Statistics announced that Santa Catalina, San Clemente, and the other Channel Islands lying off of Southern California were never formally ceded to the US and therefore still belong to Mexico.

Brazilian high society was relieved by the death of millionaire prankster Oswaldo Lara Vidigal. He once released a hundred rats at a private club. On another occasion, he was refused entrance to an exclusive Sao Paulo nightclub.

Returned by helicopter to drop several sacks of Alka Seltzer into the packed swimming pool. At one of his own parties, he boozed up his guests at the bottom of his drained swimming pool, then removed the wooden steps and turned on the water.

A New York City businessman paid \$120,000 for a 36-ton granite sculpture - of a Mercedes 240D limousine to serve as a memorial for a brother who died at the age of 15. Three stonemasons worked 17 months on the monument.

A reader wrote to *TV Guide* to ask if the electromagnetic impulses from exploding nuclear weapons would damage his (her?) videotapes. Yes, answered David Lachemburgh, and if you're planning to store them in a lead box, "you'd better crank in and join them."

Five days after *The Day After* supposedly scared the bejebers out of us, American citizens rioted - to get Cabbage Patch dolls.

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BUSINESS: Heart of Gold award to the three West German doctors convicted of removing heart pacemakers from corpses and implanting them into their patients, who were charged for new ones.

Banker's Heart award to Chicago's Continental Bank, which denied a \$2,500 home-repair loan to a woman who had returned \$500,000 to the bank in 1981.

Sound As A Dollar award to U.S. Steel, whose South San Francisco plant lost a bid to provide steel to rebuild an overpass just outside its gates to a Japanese firm that had to ship the steel across the Pacific.

Career Counseling award to Greg Jacobs, the Australian real-estate agent who won the World Monopoly Championship in Palm Beach, Florida.

CRIME, PUNISHMENT, AND THE LAW: Stop The Movie *Cruising* First Amendment award to the Michigan mother-senior minister team and the Ku Klux Klan leader who joined forces to rid their local library of books with gay and

criticized another brothel for inefficient operation. He thought it needed time clocks for the prostitutes and receipts for the customers.

Letter Of The Law award to Virgil Everhart, the Kentucky man who split his house in two with a chainsaw rather than sell it to give his wife half of the proceeds in a divorce settlement.

Music Hath Charms award to the West German man who was granted a divorce on the grounds that his wife played the piano or listened to music morning, noon, and night.

K-Mart Justice award to the East Los Angeles judge removed from the bench by the California Supreme Court because he offered criminal-defense lawyers a bargain day on which he would impose only one-half of his customary sentence or fine when the defendant pleaded guilty.

Things Are Tough All Over award to the mob, which FBI Director William Webster told Congress had to impose a hiring freeze - because business was so bad.

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EDITORIAL

hAppy neW yEar 1984

by W.E. Beardemphl

Orwell gave a bum rap to this year. But aren't goal-mind-set intellectuals always desperate in their pursuit of getting across the compelling personal histories they consider cute. Forget George. His concept of Big Brother has been grossly misstated as far as the homosexual community is concerned. We have been dealing with a real Big Brother ever since I came out, and I don't mean Jane Edgar and his brownies.

Societally, homosexuals have been placed in a "middle-ground." There are two sides to every coin. But homosexuals are like the copper center of the quarter with its drag silver covers on each side. So, sometimes, we become harbingers of the future and have an insight that does society a great service when they heed us.

In our new year editorial we choose to pursue those patterns of the past as it reveals immediate methods. Possibilities and predictions never come about because they always must remain goals. Let's just sort out some of the fascinating puzzles of brothers and sisters... big and little.

Most fascinating to me was that during 1983 we saw two political clubs and radicals of the homosexual community place themselves in a strange position of being completely inept and ineffectual. This segment of our community became divorced from San Francisco's mainstream gay political community and from serious consideration by voting homosexuals. We expect camp politics from the tongue-in-cheek pontifications made by Sister Boom Boom, but we do not expect camp politics from our self-righteous political operatives. These neoradicals are hardly a crowd contemplating riots at the Democratic convention as has been suggested by the inept; they are more like vultures looking for a new corpse to pounce on. Awe, have they had their fill of George and Harvey, already? Has Dan White been released in time?

Almost unnoticed by most persons during 1983 is the tremendous shift in the political stances and methods of the San Francisco police. This could be partly a reaction to the political climate; i.e. Feinstein's recall and the like. But a more interesting story has been suggested to us through some fascinating rumors, many verifiable.

Remember during the 60's when I told the board and then the members of S.I.R. about the surveillance techniques being used by our local police. This was a national offshoot of the methods being taught by the FBI while diligently "protecting" our constitutional rights. Well, all that crap seems to have been instituted again. While the craft and mechanics have been technically improved, the methods are similar in '83 to the old time '60's methods. Again, or should I say still, the phone tapping, the undercover agent going through files and the like, the attempts at using liaisons within the community, the political distancing of certain 'leaders', etc. The pattern is too ass-hole obvious, like the laying of a smelly fart at a social gathering. Denials are mandatory, but the nose knows and particularly anally-fixed queers realize quality when sniffed. Awe, fellas, give us some credit.

Then, out of left field, so to speak, came a yet to be revealed story of millions of dollars being pumped into our area. A straight newspaper publisher gave me the particulars and an "inside" informant contact verified that federal agents were investigating local laundering of such funds, some through the homosexual community of this area. The San Francisco homosexual community has been rife with rumors that organized crime is moving in. Well, while we have been able in the past to keep our real Big Brother in the east and out of the local picture, it now appears that we may be in for one hell of a rough ride. On one side will be millions dangled before the greedy by educated crooks. On the other side will be the politicized police making hay with scandals involving 'gay leaders.' John Q. Queer will be made to look like the bad guy unless we are aware of the symptoms of corruption. Have you noticed lately anyone who doesn't love you anymore? Have you heard someone's line change from "Sweetie, I love you" to "I can't take it anymore"? Awe, attitude, what revelations are contained in your appearance:



LETTERS

HEAL YOURSELF?

Your front page (12/22/83 issue) describes a survey on discrimination in gay bars, your advertising policy indicates that ads may not discriminate in a number of areas, including sexual orientation, and yet, there in the Jobs Offered listings sits an ad indicating a preference for gay respondents. Not only that, the advertiser has pulled out that old, tired, homophobic anachronism "straight appearing" and even has the gall to request a photo.

It appears to me that *The Sentinel* is itself partly to discrimination by accepting such an ad. Would you also accept an ad which included such phrases as "White preferred" or "Female preferred"? And just what is "straight appearing"? Would that be like Bob Hope? Or perhaps Diana Ross? More than likely, Mark Spitz! I really couldn't believe I was reading that!

It seems *The Sentinel* should stick with the final line of its policy statement and "reject advertising which is objectionable or inconsistent with our policies." And I might add, the law. At least in San Francisco.

To a novel year —
Ross Angeles
San Francisco

at about 11:00 p.m. on Saturday, the 31st of December expecting a wonderful evening of dancing and entertainment. We left the Troc at about 2:30 a.m. New Year's Day disappointed and a little angry. But, we came back at 10:00 the next morning expecting to see some great entertainment. All we saw until about 12:30 p.m. was a bunch of dragged-out people moving around the dance floor.

I resent the fact that management did not have the guts to announce the fact that your major entertainment would not be appearing (until Sunday evening, apparently) and that you had to have the Jones Sisters make the announcement. That is a very shoddy way to run a business. When we left the Troc, we asked the doorman when the Sunday evening entertainment would begin and the reply was "Who knows?" Talk about poor public relations!

Spending \$60 for two people to see three rather good entertainers sing four songs within the space of 14 hours is robbery! I protest. Word of mouth is terrible and I intend to do my best to see that none of my friends ever go to your establishment (?) in the future for any event!

I resent being taken for a fool and feel that you owe an apology to the entire community (gay and straight) for your shoddy handling of the situation. Business is business, but I am of the opinion that you have gone beyond the limit.

The Troc has taken advantage of San Francisco for too long and this rotten way of doing business must come to a halt!

David A. Magill



AIDS War Enters Third Year

In early 1982, when the sudden appearance of a strange new disease was sending the first ripples of concern through the City's gay community, few of us dreamed that AIDS would still be a major problem as we entered 1984. Back then, as we sat in the AIDS Foundation's one room office answering the single telephone, there was an enthusiastic naive which, in retrospect, reminds me of what I've read about the first volunteers in World War I. We were off to do righteous battle with an evil enemy, and I remember assuming that we would have the enemy under control in no time at all. I was sure that a scientist somewhere would come up with a cure any week, and AIDS would go away just as suddenly as it had appeared.

As 1982 ended and 1983 began, the early optimism began to fade as the death toll continued to climb and a cure remained far out of sight. As the scope of the problem grew exponentially, the organizations responding to AIDS were forced to constantly expand their services; and we experienced the inevitable growing pains that occur when a grassroots operation develops into a professional organization. Suddenly, along with the needs of the community, there were also contractual obligations and funding cycles that we had to pay attention to. We were diverted even further from the real tasks at hand when a few people decided to use AIDS as the latest weapon in their longstanding political feuds. Yet somehow, amidst all this chaos and confusion, the fight against AIDS went on, and we scored a number of substantial victories in 1983.

One of the most important of these victories was our success in finally getting the federal government to begin to respond to the major epidemic that was facing the country. AIDS was first reported to the federal Centers for Disease Control in the Spring of 1981, but by the end of that year officials in the Public Health Service realized that they would need additional funds to adequately address the growing problem. Yet as more and more people contracted the disease, the Reagan Administration refused even to request additional funds. While political appointees maintained in public that the government had all the funds it needed to fight the disease, the National Cancer Institute and the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases were only able to fund one third of the research projects that they approved. At the Centers for Disease Control, the investigators working on AIDS were so strapped for funds they couldn't even hire people to analyze the data they were collecting.

By Spring of 1983, the horrifying fact that the government was sitting by idly and letting us die became abundantly clear; and on May 2nd, 10,000 people took to the streets in San Francisco while thousands of others protested across the country. The White House was swamped with calls and letters the following day; and though the administration refused to release figures on how many calls they had received, one White House operator said he had never seen so many calls come in on a single issue in a single day. Later that



is dictated by budget considerations rather than the professional judgments of public health and medical experts." The Congressional report also expressed concern that the Reagan Administration "has developed neither a mechanism for generating plans that delineate specific areas of research, surveillance, treatment and public education nor the process for ensuring that the full range of activities occurs."

When the lack of an adequate federal response first became obvious, our anger was apparent in the actions of tens of thousands of people across the country. But by October and still earlier, concerns about the federal government's failure to protect our lives seemed to have faded as small crowds showed up for the second wave of national demonstrations. Despite all our efforts, AIDS was continuing to spread and to kill our friends; and in our frustration, many of us just wanted to forget about it. Like the residents of El Salvador of Beirut, we wanted terribly to ignore the death around us and get back to "living normal life."

But like the residents of war torn countries, we can't succeed in our attempts to ignore what's going on. Each time someone we know dies, we realize that our government, in its inaction, is in part to blame. And the pain and anger that this realization engenders must be turned to action if we are to maintain our sanity and our self-respect. This November, when we choose our next President, we have an opportunity to radically effect the future of the government's response to AIDS. In October of last year, we sent letters to all of the announced presidential candidates, asking them for their positions on increased funding for AIDS research. Only Senator Cranston has the courtesy to respond. We recently sent them another letter asking for their views on a number of AIDS related issues, and we will be reporting their responses in the near future. We urge you to send the candidates similar letter, letting them know that a commitment to adequate funding of AIDS research will be one of your major considerations when you cast your vote. And it might not hurt to remind the Democrats that we'll be paying close attention to their stand on this issue when they visit our city coming June. You can get the addresses of the Presidential candidates by calling the San Francisco AIDS Foundation at 864-AIDS.

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TROC A CROCK?

I feel as though, I have been the victim of a giant rip-off and something needs to be said about it. Being in the advertising/public relations business I know full well the value (or harm) of word of mouth advertising.

Your advertisements stated that the Weather Girls would be appearing at your 'gala' New Year's party. Well, a friend of mine and I arrived at the Troc at about 11:00 p.m. on Saturday, the 31st of December expecting a wonderful evening of dancing and entertainment. We left the Troc at about 2:30 a.m. New Year's Day disappointed and a little angry. But, we came back at 10:00 the next morning expecting to see some great entertainment. All we saw until about 12:30 p.m. was a bunch of dragged-out people moving around the dance floor.

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Arts & Entertainment

Films

83's Best, Worst & a Few In-Betweens

by Penni Kimmel

Solomon's dilemma of which mother to give the baby to was an easy one to solve... compared to judging the "beautiful baby" contest after they were all parceled out. One year and about 180 films later, the choices are down to the wire and it's time to adopt. It's tempting to go for the pretty, affectionate, see-how-tricky-cute-preocious-I-am movies, but worth deeper consideration as to how they'll grow up. Do they come fully clothed and sheltered, their educations paid for, and will they comfort my film-going old age? Are they deserving orphans in a storm, or just wayward trendy runaways?

After keeping close track all year, setting and resetting standards, in the end the criteria arose out of the films themselves; raw or polished, grim or gladsome, each of the final selections has two qualities that are not actually essential to full enjoyment or appreciation of a film, but which I find I must prize above both the artistry and the entertainment value. The first is a core of passion, something that engages the universal life force in a fresh, imaginative way; the second is a personal voice coming through sometimes in story, sometimes in style, ranging through various points in time and space, that speaks to what is here and now.

They are arranged in chronological order — as I experienced them first (most were seen twice) — and credited as far as space permits (by director and country of origin) with a tag reminder for those which are or will be shortly playing locally.

• **TIME STANDS STILL** (Peter Gothar — Hungary). A lost but vital generation — the teenage victims of the long Cold Peace in Budapest from 1956 — are caught in the traps their parents made. The film vibrates through its somber colors with the impact of young minds meeting permeable barriers, feeling their way through sex and companionship, and finding sedition and freedom in a strange place — American pop music.

• **COUP DE TORCHON** (Bertrand Tavernier-France). Technically an '82 entry, this gem didn't arrive in the Bay Area until well into '83 and still holds its own. Philippe Noiret commands the role of a good-natured, small-town cop in a French African colony, 1938, who starts — and finishes — a clandestine battle against those who injure others. It's a private war, and a bloody, witty, sensual, engaging one of "right" against traditional moralities.

• **QUERELLE** (Rainer Werner Fassbinder, W. Germany). An unabashed celebration of Genet's world, a stylized ceremony of man's allure to himself, to other men, to danger, and to dark emotions roiling against a sunset sea. Ponderous words mix with preposterous visions, and complex emotions are freed from their conventional roots to become disturbingly simple. There is a distinctly different "feel" to the English original and dubbed-into-German versions that make it worth experiencing both. (Red Victorian, Feb. 17-18)

• **ABUSE** (Arthur J. Bressan, Jr. U.S.A.). An "independent" that upset so many appeacerts it nearly didn't get out of the can, this scary black-and-white marvel dug up and turned over into the sunlight a section of moulting, poisonous, social muck in a head-on, unclouded, non-clinical examination of child abuse. It thrust statistics and case histories back into accessible truths... making a provocative point on man/boy love into the bargain.

• **FANNY AND ALEXANDER** (Ingmar Bergman-Sweden). A richly-drawn, multi-layered saga of a dramatic (in more ways than one) family at the turn of the century, in transit from Victorian ghosts to a brave new world. Seen through the eyes and fancies of a small boy are the interplay of



Merry Christmas, Mr. Lawrence



Silkwood



Streamers



Querelle



Time Stands Still



Boat People

generations in and extended-family unit of a closed society, and the burdens and terrors and bubbling joys of magic, real and pretended. (Strand 25th; UCT-Feb. 11)

• **MERRY CHRISTMAS, MR. LAWRENCE** (Nagisa Oshima-Japan/New Zealand/G.B.). Two worlds collide in a Japanese prison camp in Java, 1942. The pressures toward violence and mediation vie with one another in explosive, kinetically repressed performances (Ryuichi Sakamoto, David Bowie and Tom Conti) championing their respective cultures and psyches to the death they do not believe in, and the definitions of honor, pride and love they do. (UCT-17th)

• **QUESTION OF SILENCE** (Marleen Gorris-Netherlands). This is an audience challenge, a set-up, a film that lays out the answers like the filled-in squares of a crossword... and leaves out the questions. What is thought to be "important" — the act and meaning of murder, the degree or meaning of sanity, the meting out and meaning of justice — becomes arguably insignificant as three women slip the bonds of male domination and leave a trail of laughter behind them, gaining converts as they go and mightily disturbing the System.

• **TESTAMENT** (Lynne Littman-U.S.A.). A last will and testament is acted out for the human race in one of the only non-Asian films ever to approach philosophy, perhaps the aesthetic, of facing the reality of death. It has a very special beauty and makes contact at an intimate level, instantaneously. Jane Alexander's performance grows wings and claws in response to the plain and daring visions of the Carol Amen story and John Sacret Young screenplay, and it soars beyond its nuclear family and nuclear holocaust theme, far beyond grand or petty arguments.

• **STREAMERS** (Robert Altman-U.S.A.). A peek in at six characters in a cocoon, in Army barracks in 1965, wound around by invisible strands of skin colors and sexual appetites, backgrounds, educations, ages, humors, alcohol and fear. The unique powers of the stage (from David Rabe's play) are enhanced and made immutable on-screen, evoking the kind of tension, pity and, finally, catharsis that comprehends a key point in our recent history. (Lumiere)

• **SILKWOOD** (Mike Nichols-U.S.A.). One of the few films ever to deglamorize the American Dream without attacking it, or even approaching it directly, the film remolds fact and highly sensitized, extrapolated fiction in plain sight and plain language around ordinary people. With Meryl Streep in the title role, and Cher and Kurt Russell close behind, the work-oriented, job-secure individuals discover worms in their slices of the pie, identify the bakers and the vendors and the customers, and set out on a dangerous search for a big enough garbage. Where some choose to go hungry and fight, others will follow.

That's the "top" ten. **BERLIN ALEXANDERPLATZ** is not on it. Fassbinder's enormous piece of cinematic wizardry fell off the shelf and landed at the pinnacle of another (very short) pile — my all-time forever favorite films.

Others were plucked bodily out to settle in their own "specialty" categories: film essays like Godfrey Reggio's **KOYANISQATSII** (Strand, 13th), and Chris Marker's **SUNLESS** (Rossie, 11-14) or Hans Jurgens Syberberg's filmmagic with grand-opera Wagner, **PARSIFAL**. Remakes, in 1983, were their usual shadows of former selves (by and large, a story out of its period is as ineffective and meaningless as a language divorced from its culture); but there was a welcome spate of surprise reissues. These regilded golden odds include the Hitchcock runs — started with **REAR WINDOW**, presently getting on dizzily



Donald McLean's Critic's Corner

HAIR AND FAREWELL, 1983!

As we plunge nervously forth into 1984, *The Sentinel* about to be sold out from under my typewriter even as we speak (oh, well, now I can take that brain surgery course I've always wanted!), let us take one final overall look back at the year that brought me hours of pleasure... and an equal amount of painful evenings in theatres and nightclubs:

THE BEST: *Torch Song Trilogy*, *A Late Snow* at Theatre Rhino, *Dreamgirls*, Amanda McBroom, Liza Minnelli, Johnny Ray, Val Diamond, Mass Appeal, Ann Miller, Ronn Lucas, Marilyn Cooper in *Woman of the Year*, *T. Baomi Bites*, Brighton Beach Memoirs, A.C.T.'s *Mornings At Seven and Arms & The Man*.

THE WORST: *Nuts* at Theatre-on-the-Square, *Flower Drum Song* at Palace of Fine Arts, *La Belle Helene* by The Lamp Lighters, *Premises*, *Premises*, *Pika* at Marines Memorial, *Some Like It Cold*, *Dial M For Murder* at A.C.T., *Peter Donat* in *Dial M*, *Raquel Bitton*, *Female Parts* at West Theatre (and Jane Bernicker, that crappy play), *Bobby Slayton*.

MOST OVERRATED: *Cloud 9* (the script, not the performance) and *Amadeus*.

MY LONE VOICE OR WERE ALL THE OTHER CRITICS DRUNK? *Corridos* at the Marines Memorial; rave reviews from the noogie dairies, which it just happened were already quoted on the marquee opening night. I was bored to tears.

MY FAVORITE INTERVIEW: Bernadette Peters and Ann Miller.

MY LEAST FAVORITE: Mark Hamill and Mikee Rooney.

MOST AMBITIOUS THEATRE: *The Dan White Incident* at People's Theatre.

N FOR NOBLE, V FOR VALIANT AWARD: to Mercedes McAmbridge in *Agnes of God* for putting up with Elizabeth Ashley, who wins the "I'M ONLY HERE FOR THE MONEY" AWARD over Vivian Blaine.

MOST PROMISING NEWCOMERS: Lea Di Laria, Pam Erickson, Charles Busch, Romanovsky & Phillips.

MY FAVORITE TV POP IN COLUMN: last issue, to discover I was reviewing *Bullshit Crummond* instead of *Bullshot*. Everybody wants to be a critic.

MOST OVER-HYPED EVENT OF '83: Michael Jackson's *Thriller* video. Not only am I convinced Michael Jackson is really Diana Ross in drag, but what's the big deal about 12 minutes of monster makeup we've all seen before? And the song sucks! However, I do like his new nose.

ENDURANCE AWARD: to *Dance Between the Lines*, now well into its second year and still going strong... deservedly.

MY FAVORITE INCIDENT: Lee Hartgrave, diminutive critic for KQED, at the intermission of *Dan White Incident* saying he was leaving because his legs couldn't reach the floor and then bringing him a cinder block for Act Two.

AND WELCOME TO 1984!

David Reign, back for Christmas at The Plush Room after spending six months at sea on the cruise ships, was discovered by Neil Sedaka recently, who liked the Reign style mightily, plus there is talk of a second album in the works. Si David starts the New Year with high hopes for good things in '84. His Dec. 19th concert featured an excellently varied repertoire sung in the smooth, liquid-honeyed voice that is his trademark. Best of the lot were two numbers with the ever-fine support of **Doug Trantham** at piano. Fats Waller's "Handful of Keys" that shook up the room and a dynamic rendition of "Bride Over Troubled Water" (why is everybody suddenly rediscovering this song?). A G&S "Modern Major General" was good fun, plus the lovely "Sweeney Todd" medley and his own "Gamma Start Ly-Ly-Ly" were memorable, but I could easily live without an over-long plug for NACL, worthy cause as it is, lending into a gossy "Dr. Doublet" medley that is best forgotten, plus the shameless pandering for his cruise-ship bosses in the room. Just for that, I'm not telling you what line it is he entertains on. At one point, it got so sincere I wanted to jump up and shout, "I believe. Let Tinkerbell live!"

Another local singer who's discovered the joys of cruising (ships, that is; that where the money is, folks) is **Kevin Ross**, who's off to Mexico for the Dysentery Festival in Feb. on Western Cruise Lines. You can still catch him every Wed. in Jan. at **Fanny's**, backed by **Joyce Imbeshi** and her mariachi band, El Cupones-de-Santa-Maria.



A note from **Ann Jillian**, just back from spending Xmas entertaining 20,000 marines in Beirut with Bob Hope doing 2 shows a day for 8 days on 3 Navy aircraft carriers. Her series, *Jennifer Sleep Heris*, is on " hiatus " until March April, when NHC promises it will be back with a better shot.

Continued on page 7.

Continued on page 8

Opera

Opera Roundup of Year Just Spent

By Bill Huck
Ever Since McEwen's appointment as the general director of the San Francisco Opera, the vultures have wondered what aspect of his job he was going to slight because his recording studio background did not prepare him for the realities of live opera.

ingly, the designers made no attempt whatsoever at Rheingold's climatic rainbow bridge.
For the extravaganza bill these Ring productions are presenting to the S.F. Opera we had a right to expect more. It is a little late, but if McEwen wanted a great and gaudy Ring, would he not have been wiser to entrust the sets to Douglas Schmidt, who was responsible for Adler's made-for-television productions of Samson and Aida?

the myriad cancellations he faced last Fall. I have no complaints about a dedicated artist getting sick. We all time our illnesses badly. When singers catch even a slight cold, it is especially debilitating because they play upon their own bodies. The real — and incredibly inventive — success of this past season has been the way the administration filled in the gaps as they arose. In fact, these healthy replacements are the chief hope S.F. opera fans have that our future is in capable hands.

heard the news she herself had dropped Strass' sixth opera from her repertoire.

How could the Opera have expected the aging, if sophisticated, Guy Chauvet to make the impact necessary for Samson? Counting on Carlo Cossutta for Verdi's most heroic tenor part did get the lucky few a single night of Placido Domingo, but what about those who had tickets for the second or the fifth performances? Cossutta did manage to record Otello for McEwen, but that was years ago

The sumptuous sets currently in favor at the Opera House are no substitution for real dramatic action. Indeed they seem to work against any character interaction. Almaguerra's palatial mansion in last year's Marriage of Figaro dwarfed the complex, human emotions that Mozart delineated so beautifully. Blowing up Offenbach's Grand Duchess of Gerolstein so that it fit on a stage ten times the size of its original and four times that of Toulouse one for which this production was originally designed showed no understanding of the problem of scale in art. Neither Offenbach's fragile melodies nor his exquisite comedy survived the enlargement.

McEwen does seem to have a handle on one particular kind of operatic fantasy. For want of a better term, I shall call it the Spectacle Opera. The music-drama of Samson and Dalila matches in its conception the Las Vegas treatment it received. The production from last season provided stage magic of the most delightful kind, while the Ariadne auf Naxos this season nicely caught the ironies of that tongue-in-cheek masterpiece. The real clue here is the new opera McEwen found, and as far as to hear, Michael Tippett's Midsummer Marriage is a lovely spectacle, rich in musical invention and weak in dramatic realities. These fantasy operas have tended to work better for McEwen than the more traditional fare, such as Otello or Katya Kabanova. The new style prevailing our opera house favors the make-believe in opera over the melodramatic.

It was this syndrome that led the general director to want "a beautiful Ring." In this quest he was stressing an important side of Wagner's cycle. Furthermore, it would have been most interesting if the designs had succeeded as McEwen promised. But, alas, they did not. What we have seen so far of the San Francisco Ring gives us neither the grand moments spectacularized, nor the human drama intensified. Dry ice is a sorry excuse for the flickering flames of Wotan's magic fire, while Hunding's hut suggested a room built on the scale of Versailles. Most disappoint-



Ornate trionfy erupts in the famous Act III Bacchanal of Saint-Saens's SAMSON ET DALILA.

general director, I think the vultures were circling the wrong spot. Recent seasons have been scatter in dramatic successes that everybody probably wants, and as far as I as concerned the Opera definitely needs to guard against a tendency to exalt the frivolous over the serious. My guess is that the administration is looking for ways to save money and they think it is cheaper to mount operetta than opera. Yet it is also my understanding that the Grand Duchess last fall was as great a financial mistake as it was an artistic one. I fear the Fledermaus promised for this summer will be equally disastrous in both areas. Still the Salome from 1982 and the Manon Lescaut from 1983 do prove that when the administration can gather together the right forces, we can expect grade-A operatic melodrama. If we judge the McEwen era by its best work, and not its run-of-the-mill, the dramatic issue remains hopeful. My feeling is that the area the culture vultures need to watch carefully is slightly different.

The aspect of his job that must have surprised McEwen most is

In not a single instance that I heard — and I missed only two of the announced substitutions, Lorna Haywood for Anja Silja in Katya and Leslie Richards for Marilyn Horne in Samson — did the audience have reason to regret what they heard. It is probably fair to say that the substitutions this season existed on a slightly higher level than the originals. Who would have traded Rosalind Floweright's Ariadne, for example, for the intended one of Leonie Rysaneck?

My problem is with McEwen's originals. I fear that the general director does not realize the difference in raw gut strength needed to survive a run of live operas as against the needed to record the same opera. No one who can hear loves Leonie Rysaneck more than I. Yet at this stage in her career why cast her as Strauss' 18th century prima donna? The particular combination of virtues that made her Ondra such a volcanic success last year simply do not appear in Ariadne's make-up. It was with relief, both in terms of the projected operatic experience and in terms of my belief in Mme. Rysaneck's self-awareness, that I

and in a much smaller room. Cuddling these people through a recording and getting them up there for a full performance before a live audience are two very different tasks.

One final problem needs to be addressed. Last season was painfully short of good tenors. Casting Dennis Bailey in the essentially buffoon role of Bacchus in Ariadne is one thing, but casting him in the romantic lead of Tippett's Midsummer Marriage was inexcusable. New music cannot make the right impression in a bad performance, because the audience does not know whether to blame the music or the performer.

And Bailey was only the worst in a sorry list. Neither Cassilyn nor Cossutta was up to Verdi's greatest tenor part. André Jobin was too clodish, both vocally and dramatically, to win Katya Kabanova's heart, let alone the audience's. Franco Bonifazi strutted about the Gioconda set as though Errol Flynn had eaten too much spaghetti. The lack of adequate tenors is one of the prime reasons that these operas stumbled in their dramatic impact.

Critic's Corner

Continued from page 6.

Meanwhile, Annie is firming up two TV movies, one feature film and hitting the Vegas/Tahoe road with her nightclub act. She never stops. I told her how much I hated that mini-series she did, Malibu, and she pertly replied, "Yes, Don, but it paid for my swimming pool." Ah, L.A. logic; I'm doing a Cherry Festival in Milpitas next week to pay for my inflatable duck.

The award-winning Elnah Jordan, who stole Sweet Dreams with her rendition of "Deep in the Night," is bringing her superb big voice to The Push Room every Monday night in Jan. at 10:30, doing everything from gospel to jazz to blues. If you haven't heard her before, trust me... go!

It strikes me funny — if you've bought the calendar/book, Looking Good — The Men of USC, you'll be thrilled to know all the boys are working their way through college modeling, acting as escorts for Teen Magazine's Great Model Search at Magic Mountain, acting on soap operas and hobnobbing with Olivia and John T. Jigsaw puzzles, stickers and posters are also available. And what do these gorgeous darlings major in at USC? Calvin Klein 101? They even send out newsletters to breathless fans. If you're a Plastic Pretty and not making it, you just went to the wrong school.

Sad note — Bill Kendall, Mr. Peanut of BBB GOES TO THE STARS, spent Xmas in the hospital, after a steady weight loss illness yet to be diagnosed.

Harvey Fierstein, always good for a quote or two, feels there was a gay backlash against TORCH SONG TRILOGY in San Francisco. "Everybody expected every gay in San Francisco to see Torch Song. That didn't happen. It was 80 percent straight... I assume everyone is gay unless I'm told otherwise." I think I'm going to have to go and look for a Jewish fairy to direct the movie of Torch Song, or a woman, which is sillier, the same thing.

Peggy Lee, a lady I would hate to meet in a dark alley if she didn't like me and the terror of press agents everywhere, suffered through the reviews of her new Broadway autobiography PEG (dismissing it as a self-indulgent ego trip) in style — the Lunt-Fontanne Theatre was repainted, and besides the usual retinue of bodyguards, limousines, and limousines, an elevator was installed in her third floor dressing room and the requisite Equity shower was changed to a bathtub, all painted in her favorite shade of peach. Well, if you're going to bomb, it's nice to go down in luxury. J.J. Van Dyck and Jose planning to team up to recreate the long ago

favorites The Two Old Bags from Oakland for Finocchio's? That's the rumor... but hasn't it already been tried?

Personal Plug — a new show scheduled to open Jan. 25th at the 1177 Club on California, titled "... AND LYRICS BY JOHNNY MERCER" featuring 36 Mercer goodies in 60 minutes and directed by a man I consider an absolute genius, a riot at parties and a great by lyes, we've slept together... me!

Corrupt Show Biz — I was shocked to learn those little gold stars on Hollywood Blvd. are bought and paid for by the stars they honor. Joan Collins is the latest addition, for a mere \$3000, though Collins had the good taste to wait until her agent volunteered the money, figuring it looked less tacky than paying for it herself.

Speaking of Tacky — Zsa Zsa Gabor, who is to acting what James Watt is to trees, got crucified in the Dallas Morning News for portraying an older woman having an affair with a young boy in 40 CARATS — "The result is somewhat like watching a buxom pinarina in determined pursuit of a hapless guppy... the Rubensque Hungarian glides through the evening like the Queen Elizabeth II awkwardly docking at Southampton... Now, that's my kind of critic!"

The McLennan Definition of the Difference Between a Drag Queen and a Female Impersonator — a drag queen believes she can give birth, a female impersonator doesn't want to.

And remember my New Year's Resolution? — If you can't say something good about somebody, I want to hear it!!!!

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Dining Out

Cafe Sn. Marcos has Amiable Ambiance

Cafe Sn. Marcos
2367 Market Street
861-3846
Chef: John Redding

The most fabulous thing about Cafe Sn. Marcos is the detailed work that has gone into the place and the casual, relaxed atmosphere that pervades everything. There is a lovely old fountain playing in the middle back part of the street floor room. Three antique, super-looking street lamps stand in front of the outdoors-like mural that is painted on one wall. From the front windows with their hand-carved struts, to the decorative tiles on the walls, to the woodwork on the stairs and around the balcony overlooking the room, to the worn tile floors, the care of selection of materials and the craft of building Cafe Sn. Marcos is fantastic. There is a small, busy little bar way in back of the room with a constant in and out stream of Castro devotees. But even more fantastic than the downstairs cafe is an upstairs

bar that has been added to the premise this last year. They have some large, amazingly gorgeous, clear plastic stools that dominate the room. Large windows give a fabulous view of the Market and Castro corner. This bar has quickly become the most popular place to visit on the way home from work. We noticed the early evening we were there a large crowd of handsome businessmen still wearing their suit-shirt-tie-power drag.

Back downstairs in Sn. Marcos' amiable ambience simulating an Italian sidewalk cafe, John and I had dinner. Much of the business of this cafe is, of course, the multitudes of shoppers and tourists who proliferate the popular upper Market and Castro Street area. Therefore, the main menu is for a cafe with many varied selections of breakfasts, crepe entrees, hamburgers, sandwiches, salads, cafe and specialty beverages, and a large selection of pastries and cakes. There is also a brunch menu for weekends and holidays. Their

dinner menu is limited, as is the style of good cafes, to a beef brochette, a steak, lamb chops, scallops brochette, all from the brailer, and sauteed prawns or scallops.

The house wine was Stone Creek (a Souverain label) at \$3.25 for small carafe and \$5.75 for large carafe. Prices for wine range up to \$15 for Hans Kornell Brut Champagne. We selected, at our waiters suggestion, a 1981 Johannisberg Riesling from Napa Valley, by vintners Shown and Sons at \$9.50. The wine was labeled dry and it did have enough of an acid content to hold up to this description. The wine was good with a definite, distinctive bouquet and flavor with after taste that is typical of this Riesling grape.

John tried the Escargot at \$5.50 which was served with a grilled garlic bread heavy with grated cheese. The snails were typical, heavily with garlic, butter, chopped parsley but did have a slight refrigerator taste. I had soup which was a cream of broccoli. It was served hot and had an excellent, tasty base but obviously was in the steamtable quite a while as the broccoli garniture had lost its color and texture.

We had pleasant dinner salads served cold on cold plates that

consisted of romaine, cucumber slices, carrot curls, quartered tomatoes, and rings of sweet red onions with a mild, pleasant blue cheese dressing. We also received an abundance of good french bread and individually wrapped butter chips.

Our entrees were served on metal plates, very hot, that were held by wooden trays. They were presented with flair and looked great. John had the Scallops brochette at \$10.75, scallops wrapped in bacon skewered with green peppers and small onions served with rice. A good dish. I had Lamb Chops at \$12.50 which were superior; double cut and minted, broiled beautifully medium and served with a very baked potato. We both had broccoli cooked a la dente for vegetable.

Needless to say, we were stuffed. Portions are most ample at Cafe Sn. Marcos. I did manage to get part of a Linzer torte tasted that was fair: a heavy abundant short crust with marzipan and apricots. We had their regular coffee which was a good blend. They have many expresso and cappuccino specials for those who wish their coffee favorites.

Cafe Sn. Marcos is a good cafe and has a large following. It deserves to be around for a long, long time.

Theatre

Eye-Dazzling Magic From Taiwan

by Mark Woodworth

Your worst nightmares come to life — being forced to jump, blindfolded, through flaming hoops inset with daggers; blithely stacking bricks on your head for someone to smash with a sledgehammer (the bricks, you hope, not your head); levitating parallel to the floor, with only the nape of your neck touching a swordpoint; balancing a tower of chairs on four wine bottles till your feet nearly touch a 30-foot ceiling, as you do hand-stands, with no safety net. They sound like nightmares, but these feats are all in a night's work for the Chinese Magic Circus of Taiwan, which recently concluded a two-week run at Market Memorial Theatre. We know that the canny Taiwanese make all sorts of wonderful things to delight our consumerist hearts. But we tend to forget that they also turn out artists superbly versed in costume-making, music, dance, acrobatics, Kung-Fu, and mind control (a catchall term) explain what to western eyes seems unexplainable.

Let me state at the outset that it's acutely uncomfortable to be a passive spectator of some of the Magic Circus stunts, because one's puny applause seems so irrelevant to the performance. Of say, a man who has taught himself, no matter how and at whatever cost, to swallow three sharp 16-inch swords simultaneously (we know they're sharp because when dropped onto a board they stick). True, it's a bit much when the swords are in a neon tube, and flashes at the silhouette of his esophagus. A trick? Yes and no. An exercise in tremendous discipline, like that of the fellow who calls up two volunteers



The Chinese Magic Circus of Taiwan.

from the audience, puts serrated knives in their hands from which he suspends circles of newspaper, which in turn hold a bamboo pole; the fellow, concentrating on the heart of the bamboo, takes a stick and with one blow shatters it in midair, without letting gravity tear the newspaper. He has discovered anti-gravity, you think, chilled.

The Taiwanese troupe also does, adorable but not unbelievable things — like graceful fan dancing;

the vivid flag — and ribbon-weaving that is a Chinese specialty (but interlarding it with flying acrobats); backflips off a table through progressively smaller hoops; juggling a large jar with one's legs, then a bulky table (this makes you laugh), then balancing on the legs a long pole from either end of which is suspended a girl, and turning the pole faster and faster till it's like some mad amusement-park ride, human-powered. (You have visions

of the pole-turning bottom girl getting a foot cramp, sending her riders flying off into the theatre.)

Then there's the human pyramid building on a circling bicycle (they get up to seven before they brush the back curtain of the small stage and the pyramid crumbles). And the silly act that makes your vertebrae cringe — two men use a girl's body as a jump rope, complete with jumper. Or, fit punishment for the clumsy: observing a man flip saucers and cups from his toe onto his head, making a neat pile of ten objects, then adding a teaspoon (what, no tea?). Or keeping six saucers spinning at the end of sticks, no matter that you're upside down balanced on someone else's head. Or, asking the man in the front row for his wristwatch, tying it up in a scarf, then having it reappear in the smallest of a series of nested Chinese boxes.

What can one make of all this? The stunts — let's call them that — are repeatable and succeed every time, for they are the product of years of practice, concentration, and apprenticeship (one apparently starts at age four or five, in various schools for the arts in Taipei). In the dancing as in the Kung-Fu, the act is thought beautiful and worthy of study (not to mention a wage). There is something about the sheer discipline and conquest-of-matter that casts a radiance upon every face. It's enough to cause envy in the heart of this Westerner. I know the art and spectacle represented by the Chinese Magic Circus has been depicted over thousands of years, and I hope that people around the world continue to be susceptible to its high beauty and dazzling mysteries.

Films

Continued from page 6

Best & Worst of '83

with VERTIGO (Four Star); the first, biggest and best of the pure entertainment/location films, Mike Todd's production of AROUND THE WORLD IN 80 DAYS featuring a multitude of stars and places we will never see again; and Visconti's THE LEOPARD in its original form, setting Burt Lancaster more firmly in the actor's catbird seat than his American-made films.

The "worst" list, I wouldn't know how to go about — after a while (accidentally on purpose, as they say) you miss the really bad ones, though BY DESIGN slipped through (the lesbian version of last year's PARTNERS). And just a few were legitimately missed through not being able to be in two places at once: HEART LIKE A HAREL and STAR 80, for example. Then there's solid fun, like that barrel goes RETURN OF THE JEDI, NEVER SAY NEVER AGAIN, and WAR GAMES. Nothing special, but they work as

they're meant to (come to think of it — that is special these days). The real disappointments are the ones that have excellence going for them on all grounds and suddenly lose integrity, for no reason: THE RIGHT STUFF did not need to set off its thrilling feats of glory and heroic diagrams with bigoted cartoons. NEVER CRY WOLF, with all the Disney wildlife experience on hand, had no business creating Cinderella mousettes out of an otherwise fascinating, believable situation.

The Runners-Up have been left out to the last, just so I wouldn't be tempted to expound on their sexual merits. Alphabetically, they all, at one time or another, appeared in the top group: THE BIG CHILL (Cinema 21); BOAT PEOPLE (Lumiere); CARMEN (revised next issue, at the Gateway); THE DRAUGHTSMAN'S CONTRACT (Strand-18th); LA BALANCE (Clay); MUDDY RIVER or Doro no Kawa; RUMBLEFISH

(Strand-6th); THE WHITE ROSE; THE WOUNDED MAN; and THE YEAR OF LIVING DANGEROUSLY.

••• Flickerbits •••

Win some; lose some: if you're hot for THE BIG CHILL's Columbia soundtrack, note it's all Motown. The Stones, The Band and the C.C. Revival tunes are subtracted ... For Garland groupies, though, A STAR IS BORN (Castro 6-10) has all the parti-coloured additives — "Lose That Long Face," the Shampoo commercial, some hyperdramatic previously unseen scenes ... San Francisco's favorite homeopathic filmmaker, Curt McDowell is off to Belgium (Antwerp Festival, Feb. 2-12), invited to add his lively presence to a retrospective, "LOADS" of luck ... The TV-movie, THE DAY AFTER, is doing booming business in West German theaters, the film's flaws easily overlooked given their threatening theme is imminent.

Winter's Movie Daze: Sensational Brazil with DONA FLOR & HER 2 HUSBANDS (Roxie, 6-7); magnificent Kabuki with Taisho Mitane in the classic Chushingura (U.C. Theatre, 8); Werner Herzog's scumming views of a nutty world — three odd little ones (STROBEZ, LA SOUFFRIERE, THE GREAT ECSTASY OF THE SCULPTOR STEINER); Roxie, 17-18, one grandiose (RITZ-CARRIBALDO, Red Vic, 108-11, and Les Blank's equally outrageous look at

See you in the lobbies in '84 ... but don't be hurt if I don't know you once the movie starts — first things first!

the madman goes about his business (BURDEN OF DREAMS), Red Vic 17-18 ... Fassbinder on both sides of the camera (Roxie 10th) in Dieter Shidlo's trenchant WIZARD OF BABYLON and directing in A YEAR WITH 13 MOONS ... Minding your R's and X's: Midnighters at U.C. Theatre go Fridays with the hard-core CAFE FLESH, Saturdays with the ever-resuscitated ROCKY HORROR ... The ill-fated Dorothy Stratten in GALAXIA tips into the sexy stratosphere with FLESH GORDON and the BARBARELLA we fe sorta Fonda (U.C. 7th) ... The Strand proves Jack Wranbler has the secret of longevity, folks, he's not just a HOUTHOUSE flower, plus N.Y. MEN (9th) and the old saw still have both: BOYS IN THE BAND, THE GAY DEVIERS, THE RITZ (12th). Any publicity is ... Phone calls to a Bay Area theater New Year's Eve got an extra message at the end of the what's-playing announcement, "Oh, my god, it's 1984, and Reagan is still President"; then there's the blurb on QUELLEUR on another theater's schedule — consider this description carefully "It tells the story of Brad Davis, life as a gay sailor." Whose life is this, anyhow? 1984 ... Here comes 2010!

DINING GUIDE

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Volume 11, Issue 1

January 5, 1984 9

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LESBIAN THIRD WORLD THERAPIST Half time, Operation Concern, Call Stefan 626-7000.

ATTENDANTS NEEDED, The San Francisco independent living project is currently seeking people to work as attendants for disabled persons. The duties may include personal care, home-making services, shopping, errands and transportation. These are part-time positions, paying \$3.70 to \$4.00 per hour. Interviews are held Thursday mornings at 9:45 at 4429 Cabrinetti at 45th Ave - served by #38 (Beach) and #31 Munici Lines. For further information contact: Attendant Service, SF/ILP, at 751-8765.

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FOUND, MURDERED, 9/20/83, Marvin Ray Dagg Robertson, 19 years of age, on Ridgecrest Dr. on Mt. Tamalpais in Marin County. Any information to the person or persons responsible for Ray's death, would be greatly appreciated.

Please report any information to: Detective Sergeant Ronald Spurrell by phoning (415) 498-7265 between the hours of 8 A.M. - 5 P.M. Mon-Fri. Or by phoning (415) 864-4933 at 111 one-eleven anytime. Please ask to speak with Michael. You may remain anonymous. Thank you.

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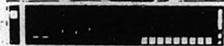
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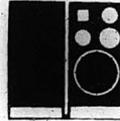


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