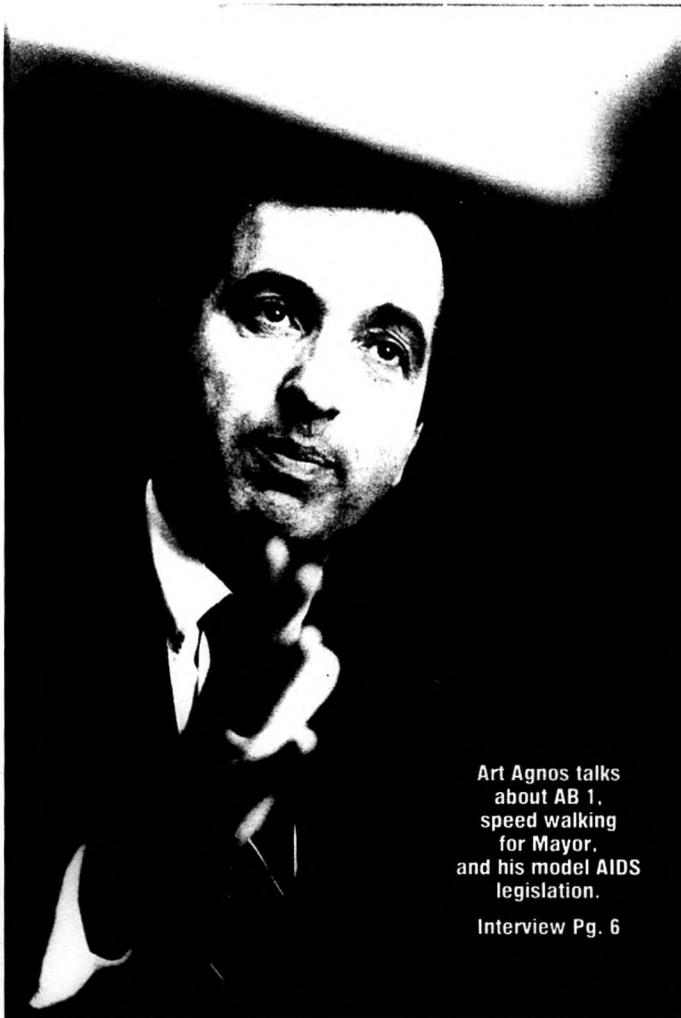


**How to
make
AL721
pg. 13**

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Art Agnos talks about AB 1, speed walking for Mayor, and his model AIDS legislation.

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THOMAS ALLEMAN

Pelosi Crowned, Britt Ignored

by Bob Marshall and David M. Lowe

Representative Sala Burton's endorsement of a successor to her seat in Congress has re-opened some old political wounds in San Francisco's gay community.

In a statement released this week, Burton says that she favors former state Democratic Party chairperson Nancy Pelosi to take over her seat. Burton has been ill with colon cancer since last year, and says that medical tests over the next 6 to 8 weeks will determine whether she retires or serves the final 2 years of her term.

SF Supervisor Harry Britt views the Burton endorsement as a coronation.

"The same old machine in San Francisco is being shoved down the voters' throats," said Dana Van Gorder, aide to Supervisor Harry Britt. "It's a repeat of the Harvey Milk era, with the big Democrats running someone against

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SFPD Reduces Gay Awareness Training

by Bob Marshall

The San Francisco Police Department has changed its minority awareness training for new recruits, and the Golden Gate Business Association says the gay community is among the losers.

In a letter to Chief Frank Jordan, the president and executive director of GGBA challenged a new academy curriculum that reduces instruction time on gay awareness. When the program began six years ago, an entire day was set aside for meetings with leaders of gay groups and the police department's famous tour of bars in the Polk, Castro and Folsom Street areas.

"It's not a cutback, it's a different approach," said Lt. Bob Barry, who is in charge of the academy's curriculum. Barry explained that part of the minority awareness program was moved from the formal academy into the department's field training program when the 19 week academy term was cut by two weeks.

"Hour for hour, I'm not sure it's going to work out," said Barry, adding that the department will re-evaluate the changes and expand the program if necessary.

Others in the police department say the verdict is already in.

"It's very apparent that it's not going to work out," said Lt. Mike Hebel, head of the Community Relations Division. "We need more time, there's no doubt about it."

Leaders of the City's other minority communities have also expressed concerns about the new training program, and Hebel says he has scheduled a meeting to discuss the matter with academy brass on February 5th.

Meanwhile, GGBA officials are upset that they weren't informed about the changes in the six-year-old minority awareness program. Until last fall's academy class, recruits spend an entire day in the classroom with a variety of gay and lesbian groups. The same evening, the police cadets were divided into groups of three or four, teamed with members of the GGBA, and treated to

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BENT

by Martin Sherman

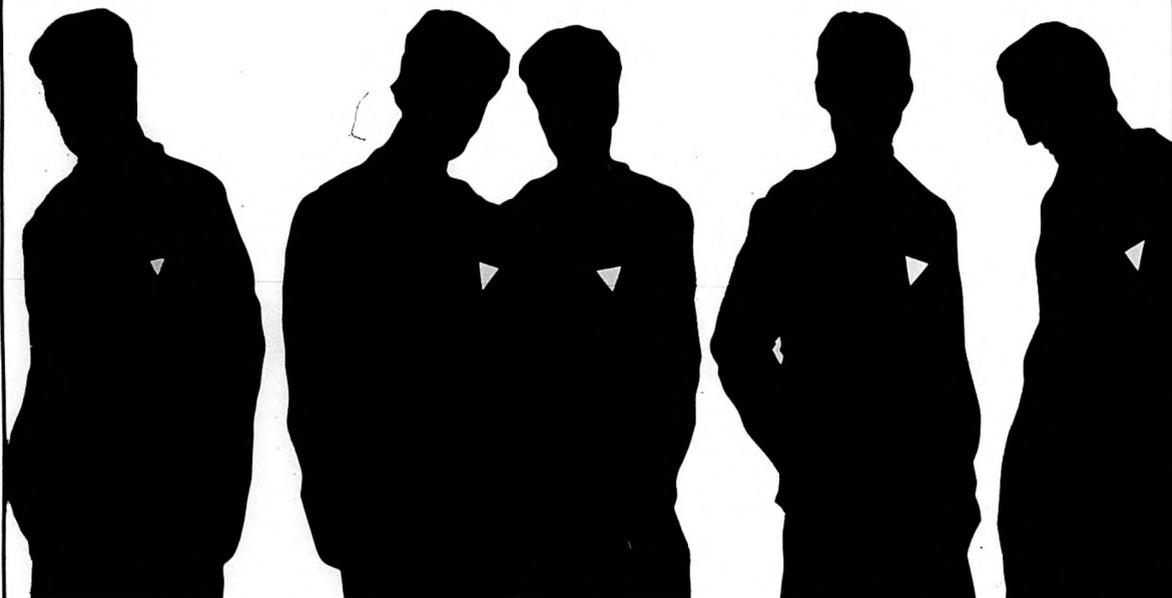
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EDITORIAL

TOM MURRAY

Gay Power Grows Up

More than two dozen gay men and women gathered in a warehouse studio last Saturday for a group photo. *Focus*, the KQED-affiliated magazine, invited us for the session. The final product will appear on the cover of its March, 1987 issue, part of a major article by gay writer Randy Shilts titled, "Gay Power Grows Up."

Wine, cheese and elegant hor d'oeuvres were served as one by one each participant was fluffed up by a makeup artist. There was something very equalizing in watching people from every segment of our community sitting like children and being powdered down. The glare on columnist Wayne Friday's balding head, the redness on my prone-to-blush cheeks were eliminated. I wondered if the result would have been much different if we were being embalmed.

We mingled and chatted, asking discreetly if the article was an olive branch from KQED to lessen its estrangement from the gay community. *Focus* Articles Editor Amy Rennett and Associate Publisher Mark Powelson claimed that KQED is not involved in magazine covers or story lists, and was only informed of the project two weeks ago. They explained that for two years Randy Shilts has been talking with them about an article which would reflect on the changes in clout, shifts in tactics, and emergence of leaders in San Francisco's gay community. The list of 30 leaders evolved through research and discussion. The cover highlights some of them and their presence in every facet of life in the City, including politics, arts, media and philanthropy.

Crowded before the camera for test shots, we chuckled at Jerry Berg's purple paisley tie counterpointing a boring grey business suit. Judge Mary Morgan squeezed in beside Gwen Craig and Jim Hormel. Tom Horn joked with Mary Dunlap while Carole Midgen got shifted from front to rear. Short people climbed onto boxes; the photographer mounted a ladder and maintained a non-stop pep talk: "Hang in there. Stay with me. Only two more takes." She didn't know what to do with Randy ("the man in the yellow shirt"), and constantly reminded us to pose with our "chins up, proud of who you are and what you're doing." Holding up all those chins got to be tedious after an hour or so, especially for those of us with more than one. There was a surprising camaraderie considering our diversity, and a quiet pride that on this rainy day in January despite AIDS, despite political setbacks a strong, talented group of men and women still wanted to publicly acknowledge their presence, their pride in being gay and working for gay rights.

The final list of 30 will be unveiled in Randy's article in March, but here's a sampler: Jose Gomez from La Raza Centro Legal, San Francisco's largest legal Latino Service Group; Susan Griffith, author of *Women in Nature: The Roaring Inside*; Roma Guy and Tracy Gary, founders of La Casa de las Madres, a center for battered women; Roberta Achtenberg from the Lesbian Rights Project and Board Member of United Way.

The article concludes with a fact that we already know, but may come as a shock to many who read *Focus*: Gay clout is everywhere. ■



SF Ms. Leather Shadow Martin

THOMAS ALLEMAN

LETTERS

The Sisters Respond

To the Editor,

In response to Jerry Walker and Tom Youngblood's letters regarding the Sister's protests of the Pope's visit to San Francisco, The Sisters Of Perpetual Indulgence, Inc. would like to emphasize that we do not purport, imply or pretend to speak for the most diverse community on the face of the earth. We couldn't if we wanted to. S.P.I., Inc. is an organization of heterosexual, bisexual and homosexual men and women dedicated to social service and social confrontation. Over the last eight years of our existence we have raised tens of thousands of dollars for needy straight and gay charities.

S.P.I., Inc. appreciates the "behind the scenes" diplomacy of various people on various religious organizations. We believe Concerned Americans For Individual Rights, Dignity and others on the Gay Right serve a productive purpose as well. What confuses us is the knee-jerk impulse by many of these people to make excuses for their churches, even in the face of blatant bigotry.

How can we continue to rely on "trust, dialogue, compassion" to protect our civil liberties and move forward with gay liberation? Have you heard? The Vatican said you're a pile of shit! The congregation For The Doctrine Of The Faith condones violence against you. They say you are "evil." They stop short of telling other Catholics to beat the shit out of you.

The Catholic Church nationwide has opposed gay rights ordinances and now the advertising of condoms. This, at a time when every responsible health official in the world is saying condoms must be used and the public must be educated. Face it, the Vatican is right up there with Anita Bryant, Jerry Falwell and the most reactionary forces in the world today. What they can't enforce without, they enforce within. Witness the silencing of Charles Curran, John McNeill and Archbishop Hummel, the Sakharovs of America.

If the Vatican has it's way it will be a regimental anti-gay juggernaut roll-

ing over your beaten bodies while you offer excuses and platitudes for their "misunderstanding." *THE POPE SHOULD JUST STAY HOME!* Our actions over the next eight months will emphasize this point.

The Sisters Of Perpetual Indulgence, Inc.
Mistress Of Ceremonies
Sister Vicious Power-Hungry
Bitch, S.P.I., Inc.
826-1734

To the Editor:

For your records, enclosed is a copy of our fictitious business statement clearly establishing that the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence are alive and well and in good hands. We are registered as the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence here in California and elsewhere.

We are aware of other "claims" to the use of our name, including threats of litigation published in your newspaper. This is insisterly, but we are understanding and forgiving.

Trusting this ends the confusion. Sincerely,
Sister Chanel 2001, Acting President
Sister Sadie, Sadie, the Rabbi Lady,
Chargé d'Affaires

Concerning the Homeless

To the Editor:

I walked your streets last night and what I saw was frightening.

I saw people standing in phone booths to get out of the cold.

I saw building entrances serving as makeshift beds for folk whose skin appeared as tough as alligator hide.

People had hard and frightened looks on their faces.

Young and old alike they all were out there on one of the coldest nights I ever remember in this city.

Interestingly enough though I noted something both sad and profound... they were all equal; black, white, young and old; they all somehow seemed equal.

The forgotten people that we see and don't see.

I walked your streets last night and what I saw was frightening.

Larry L. Saxxon

Ball Busters

To the Editor:

It is hard to believe the three "ball busters" (self-named) that are suing the Women's Training Center are motivated by a concern of discrimination.

Would you not agree that some of the critical elements of discrimination are equal access and choices?

There are over 25 such workout facilities in the City and surrounding area that offer every aspect of training and exercise. Yet, these men state that "Unless relief (in the sum of \$25,000) is granted, (they) will suffer irreparable injury because they will be denied access to an exercise facility."

For those of you that are unfamiliar with the W.T.C., it is a small, one person operation. It has about 10 nautilus machines, 6 exercise bikes and some free weights with one locker room and one shower facility. One would hardly put it in the same category as the larger, multi-owned and operated gyms.

I am inclined to believe that these three men are more motivated by the economic reward and publicity they will generate by their mean-spirited lawsuit.

Why else would they sue an organization that was set up to provide women with a place to workout in that is comfortable and that we can feel safe in?

For years, men have excluded women on the premise that we are not equals. On the other hand, women exclude men to assure themselves a degree of safety.

Herein lies the difference and the reason that this lawsuit is not a discrimination issue but one of a basic human right — that of wanting to be safe.

Mary Nylan

Gay Life in Nicaragua

To the Editor:

I am writing in response to Timothy Storton's letter, hoping to clarify my impressions of gay life in Nicaragua. He thought, from his experience in Managua, that my opinion piece painted an overly optimistic picture of gay male and les-

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500 HAYES STREET, SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94102

KQED Opens Door to Gays

by Bob Marshall and Stuart Norman

The management of KQED seems to be taking steps to end the gay and lesbian community's boycott of the public television station.

"I certainly think that KQED is trying to end the boycott," said Paul Boneberg of Mobilization Against AIDS. "I think they are sincere in that effort."

KQED General Manager Anthony Tiano called a February 23 meeting with representatives of the boycott committee and San Francisco Supervisors Harry Britt and John Molinari. Ralph Payne, president of the Stonewall Lesbian/Gay Democratic club, called the meeting a briefing for Britt and Molinari to bring up discussion on issues that have been raised over the past year.

The KQED controversy began when the station aired a documentary about Fabian Bridges, a gay prostitute who allegedly continued to have sex with unsuspecting tricks for months after his AIDS diagnosis. Critics of the program said the producers of the story encouraged Bridges to lie about his sexual activities by giving him money and buy-

ing him food.

Mobilization Against AIDS will continue its call for a boycott "until KQED does a story that is as positive on people with AIDS as the Fabian Bridges piece was negative," said Boneberg. "That program did a great amount of damage to our national fundraising abilities, and every time there's a piece of LaRouche-type legislation somewhere in the country, someone's going to bring up the Fabian Bridges story."

While Mobilization Against AIDS is concentrating on AIDS-related issues, other members of the boycott committee have drafted a list of 11 demands that KQED serve the gay and lesbian community.

One of the central issues is Monitor Radio, which airs on KQED-FM. The program is produced by the *Christian Science Monitor*, a national newspaper which discriminates against gay men and lesbians in its hiring practices. San Francisco laws prohibits the City from

doing business with any organization that discriminates in its employment practices, so the City may have cause to withhold hotel tax funds from KQED if Monitor Radio continues to air.

"KQED has had a year to digest the message from our community," said Hank Wilson of Community United Against Violence. "Now our position is strong." Wilson adds that gay programming could be included in KQED programming, and that *San Francisco Focus*, KQED's monthly magazine, could incorporate gay issues.

Although the participants declined to comment on the specific topics discussed in Friday's meeting, most seemed pleased with the results.

Tiano said the station had established "cordial relations" with the representatives of the gay community, which also included members of the Harvey Milk and Alice B. Toklas Democratic Clubs, but said it is "still too early to talk" to the press.

Molinari aide Dennis Collins told the *Sentinel* that there may be as many as two or three more meetings with the KQED management, beginning with KQED's response to the list of demands in two weeks.

"I think there's a spirit of cooperation exhibited at this meeting," said Collins. "Everyone in the room wanted something to come out of the discussion." ■

Navy Agrees to Rehire Employee With AIDS

In one of the first cases of its kind, the Department of the Navy has rescinded the termination of an employee with AIDS.

Ed Horan, a civilian Commissary Management Specialist, GS-1144-11, was employed by the Navy in its Field Support Office in Oakland, and was diagnosed in August, 1986 with pneumocystis carinii pneumonia, one of the opportunistic infections associated with the AIDS virus. As a result of his illness, Mr. Horan was forced to go on unpaid medical leave at the time of his diagnosis. However, after less than five months of leave, the Navy notified him that he was to be terminated due to "excessive absences caused by [his] medical condition." Prior to his termination, Mr. Horan's physician had formally notified the Navy that Mr. Horan would be healthy enough to return to work in February of 1987.

In investigating the case, Horan's attorneys discovered that it was common Navy practice to grant unpaid medical leaves of absence of up to one year, and that at least one person in the Naval Civilian Personnel Department in Oakland felt that Mr. Horan's termination was the result of improper discrimination because it was motivated solely

on the basis of his AIDS diagnosis.

Pursuant to federal civil service regulations and Federal Personnel Manual requirements, Horan challenged his termination on the ground that the Navy's actions violated the Federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973 in that it had refused to afford him any reasonable accommodation for his disability, and that his termination violated federal policies favoring the "utilization of handicapped or disabled employees." Subsequent to Mr. Horan's appeal, the Naval Field Support Office rescinded Mr. Horan's termination and placed him on indefinite medical leave until such time as he is able to return to work.

"You have no idea what it means to me to know that I will be able to return to my job when I am able to work," said Mr. Horan. "It is hard enough to deal with the fact of my illness, but I was devastated when I found out that I had been fired because I have AIDS."

"This case represents a landmark victory for employees of the Department

Continued on page 9

DMV Confirmation Controversy Continues

by Paul Zomchek

A State Senate Rules Committee Wednesday denied confirmation of Adelbert Pierce, director of the Department of Motor Vehicles, at a hearing held to clear up confusion of whether he made alleged violent remarks toward homosexuals and had discriminated against Hispanics.

Pierce was originally to be confirmed on January 21, when William Garcia, a former deputy director of the State Department of Fair Housing and Employment, revealed that during a 1983 meeting held to discuss the impact of the passage of AB-1, Pierce said he could "take care of the problem with a submachine gun."

On Wednesday, Pierce was asked once again if he made the remark; he denied it. Then Pierce called two witnesses in his behalf, Mr. Michael Vaden, who said he was not present at the meeting, and Mr. Michael Kelley, aide to the deputy director of the Department of General Services, who said he did not "recollect" Mr. Pierce making the remark.

Shirley Chilton, a top official of the State Consumer Agency that oversees the Fair Housing and Employment Agency which Garcia worked for, was not present Wednesday to testify. However, Senate President Pro Tem David Roberti held and read a statement from Chilton which said she was present at the December 1983 AB-1 meeting, and "had no personal knowledge of Pierce making the

statement."

The committee also read a statement signed by Betty Reader, a former deputy director of the Department of Fair Employment and Housing, which said she heard Pierce make the statement. Roberti said the committee had been trying to subpoena Reader all week and called her at her home approximately 40 times with no success.

Senator Roberti called Bill Garcia to testify. Garcia said he heard Pierce make the statement, and he and Ms. Reader were agast by it. As Mr. Garcia remembered it, the meeting about the impact of AB-1 was going on when Mr. Pierce entered the room and asked what they were talking about. When Pierce heard it was about the impact of AB-1 he said, "just give me a submachine gun and I will take care of that problem."

In 1983 Garcia was deputy director of the State Consumer Services Agency. At the January 21 meeting he blamed Pierce for his firing from the Fair Employment and Housing Agency and the loss of a private consulting contract he held with the DMV.

Roberti also asked Garcia why he felt

his testimony at the hearings would have an impact on Hispanic political groups such as the Mexican American Political Association (MAPA). Garcia said he believed pressure was coming from the Governor's office and that statements had been made intimating that if Pierce wasn't confirmed as the director of DMV, perhaps MAPA's agendas would not be heard in the future.

Roberti then called forward MAPA president Beatrice Molina and asked if MAPA had been told this by the Governor's office. Molina said no.

However, she said due to past experiences with the Governor's office the group speculated this would happen. Senator William Craven (R) then asked Molina if such a statement had ever actually come from the Governor's office. She answered no.

Craven shortly thereafter questioned Garcia further asking if he had ever heard other statement slurs as Pierce made while serving as a Fair Housing and Employment official. Garcia said yes. Shirley Chilton made jokes about Asian Americans. "The whole atmosphere at the department was such while

I was serving," said Garcia.

Senator Henry J. Mello (R) asked about Betty Reader and why she was not there to testify. Garcia said she was taking care of real estate business for her ill father, thus she was out of town. Mello then mentioned that he believed the signed letter from Reader was lacking clarity about when and where she heard Mr. Pierce make the alleged remarks. "I think as a public official I should be held accountable for the dates and times I was at meetings," said Mello. "Someone is violating the oath

Continued on page 9

NGRA Sues Insurance Dealer

National Gay Rights Advocates (NGRA) has filed a multi-agency complaint against American Founder's Life Insurance Company and a physician in its employ for threatening to assault an insurance applicant.

The physician allegedly shouted, "I ought to punch your face in, you faggot bastard," after applicant Ken Snowden questioned the legality of a company release form which required him to agree that his blood could be tested for HIV antibodies. The physician's threat may place him in violation of California's Ralph Civil Rights Act, which specifically prohibits violence or threats of violence against any person because of sexual orientation or disability. NGRA, the national public interest law firm working for gay rights, is coordinating Snowden's challenges.

"The physician's verbal assault was entirely inexcusable and clearly illegal under California's Ralph Civil Rights Act," noted Benjamin Schatz, Director of NGRA's AIDS Civil Rights Project. "Under this law, threats of violence

because of sexual orientation are punished by a minimum fine of \$10,000. With anti-gay violence increasing in the wake of the AIDS crisis, it is important for gay men and lesbians to stand up for their rights."

"HIV testing by insurers is illegal in California," commented NGRA Executive Director Jean O'Leary. "American Founder's cannot contravene the law by including antibody testing on a laundry list, hoping that applicants will unknowingly authorize such testing."

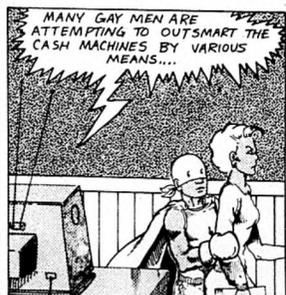
Ken Snowden applied to American Founder's for insurance in August, 1986. After routine questioning by phone, his premium check was cashed in September. In October, a representative of American Founder's asked Snowden to allow a physician to visit

his home to obtain blood and urine samples. Snowden agreed, and on October 28, and American Founder's physician visited his home and presented Snowden with a general release form from the Home Office Reference Laboratory (HORL), that included authorization for HIV antibody testing. When Snowden questioned the legality of HIV testing, the physician allegedly became threatening and accused Snowden of having AIDS. Snowden asked the physician to leave, and allegedly was threatened by him with assault.

NGRA has filed complaints with the California Department of Insurance, the California Department of Fair Employment and Housing, the California Board of Medical Quality Assurance and the California Attorney General. In addition to seeking a minimum of \$10,000 in damages, NGRA seeks revocation of the physician's license and a ban on the HORL release form used by American Founder's and many other insurers in the state.

CAIHARTIC COMICS

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BEYOND THE BAY

Researcher Says Straight AIDS Cases Underreported

MANHASSET, NY — Three out of every four AIDS cases are going unreported, a leading AIDS researcher says, and that most of the unreported cases are among heterosexuals.

Dr. Mark Kaplan, an associate professor of medicine at Cornell University and chief of infectious diseases at North Shore University Hospital here, told the Philadelphia Gay News that more than half of the hospital's 600 beds are being used to treat people with AIDS.

But most of these patients, Kaplan said, do not fit the Centers for Disease Control's strict definition for AIDS. Seventeen of the hospital's 350 AIDS patients are children — none of whom meet the CDC definition. Almost half of the adult cases are women.

"We're seeing so many cases of AIDS — early and advanced — that we can almost trace the progress of the disease in society throughout the cross-section of patients we see here," Kaplan told PGN. "Yet most of these cases remain unreportable."

Kaplan criticized the CDC for not recognizing AIDS cases until a person is in the late stages of the disease. "We are seeing more and more cases of early AIDS (here at the hospital)," Kaplan said, "and primarily in non-gay persons."

New Policy Due on AIDS in the Military

WASHINGTON — The Defense Department has written up a new policy on how to deal with military personnel who either have contracted AIDS or have been exposed to the AIDS virus, but it is not expected to dramatically alter the Pentagon's current response to the growing threat of the disease.

Over the objections of Army officials, Defense Department health experts recommend to Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger that unfortified personnel who either have the disease or test positive for the AIDS virus not be subject en masse to discharge.

The policy draft, while allowing local commanders to deny security clearances and flight status to personnel who admit to homosexual activity, bars the use of such information in discharge proceedings.

The Army insisted that all personnel with AIDS or carrying the AIDS virus antibody be discharged on the grounds that AIDS is transmitted either by drug use or homosexual activity.

Minn. VD Rate Drops 70%

ST. PAUL — Cases of syphilis and gonorrhea in Minnesota plunged by 70 percent since 1983, state health officials reported, a clear indication that people have dramatically altered their sexual practices.

But while syphilis and gonorrhea cases have gone down, hepatitis-B cases have remained the same and thus it is still too early to say whether safe sex will curb the spread of AIDS, the officials said.

Clinging parasites in the transmission of AIDS and hepatitis-B, Dr. Frank Rhame, an epidemiologist at the Minnesota University Hospitals, noted that unlike syphilis and gonorrhea, which are caused by bacteria and have an incubation period of one week to one month, AIDS and hepatitis-B are caused by blood-borne viruses and have incubation periods of six months to five years.

Thus, the dramatic drop in syphilis and gonorrhea cases will not show up in AIDS cases until 1989 at the earliest — and even then, only among gay men, as heterosexuals are only now coming to grips with AIDS, Rhame said.

Fear Censors Gay Paper in S. Africa

JOHANNESBURG — A front-page article on the African National Congress' position on homosexuality was censored out of a South African gay newsmagazine out of fear that its publication would violate the white-minority government's ban on any publication of ANC pronouncements.

The article, which bore the headline, "Gay Is OK, Says ANC," was ordered removed from the front page of the magazine *Exit* by the Northern Transvaal regional editorial subcommittee of GASA (Gay Association of South Africa). *Exit* is a GASA publication.

The subcommittee, acting without consulting *Exit's* editor nor with regional GASA chairman John Hobkirk, deleted the article out of fear

that it would run afoul of the government's emergency regulations, which prohibit publication of any pronouncement of the outlawed anti-apartheid organization, leading to a government crackdown against GASA.

Meanwhile, Simon Nkoli, an openly-gay anti-apartheid activist, remains imprisoned more than two years after he and 21 other blacks were arrested and charged with treason, subversion and conspiracy to murder stemming from riots in the Transvaal that erupted in 1984 in protest of steep rent hikes in black townships there.

Ariz. Gov. Blasts Gays: Hints at Purge

PHOENIX — First Gov. Evan Mecham triggered a firestorm of controversy in the Grand Canyon State by cancelling a state holiday in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Now, the conservative Republican has let it be known that gays have no place in state government.

In a newspaper interview, Mecham declared flatly that "Homosexuality is not a legitimate lifestyle and society must protect itself against moral decay by pornography."

Mecham, a devout Mormon, specifically excluded gays from his policy statement against discrimination,

declaring that "Homosexuals should not be tolerated in society, and they have no place in state government."

His comments raised fears that Mecham will purge gays from state government and vigorously enforce the state's sodomy statute.

AIDS Spitter Gets Probation

FLINT — On December 6, 1985 John C. Richards of Davison, Michigan was charged with attempted murder for allegedly spitting on two Flint police officers investigating a traffic accident.

County Prosecutor Robert Weiss originally charged Richards with attempted murder because he tested HIV antibody positive.

That charge was thrown out after many experts disputed the contention that AIDS could be spread by spitting. Richardson pleaded guilty to resisting arrest and obstructing a police officer last August. On Monday he received two years probation on the reduced charge.

Dutch TV Network Starts News Service for Gays

AMSTERDAM — The New Year saw the launching of a teletext news service for the gay community by the Dutch National Broadcasting Corporation.

The state-run network, NOS, began the service as an acknowledgment that up to 20 percent of its audience is gay. "That's quite a crowd and we felt they deserved a good service," said Joop Marmelstein, president of NOS.

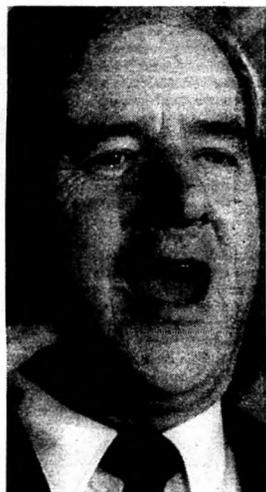
The service is produced and edited by *De Gay Krant*, the nation's largest gay newspaper. Henk Krol, the paper's editor-in-chief, noted that the teletext service has a potential audience of 20 million people.

NOS broadcasts throughout the Netherlands, Belgium and northern West Germany.

Beyond the Bay is compiled and edited by Dion B. Sanders. Items for this week's column are based on reports by the *Philadelphia Gay News*, the *New York Native*, the *Washington Post*,

Campaign Australia (Sydney), *The Body Politic* (Toronto), the *GLC Voice* (Minneapolis), the *Gay Community News* (Boston), and the *Western Express* (Phoenix).

Unsafe sex is more dangerous to us



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The Art of Speed Walking Towards an Agnos Campaign for SF Mayor

Interview by David M. Lowe

Will you be a candidate for Mayor of SF this year?

I expect to be a candidate. I think after ten years of not having a serious, city-wide, comprehensive debate on where the City is going, what the City is doing about the problems it faces and all the things that are so important to the life of SF and the different communities that are a part of it. I think it's very important, more than anything else, that in the terms of electoral politics that we have a thorough, vigorous campaign this year for Mayor.

I think a number of issues have to be raised and I expect to be a candidate raising the issues that I think are important.

I hope there are a lot of candidates raising issues they think are important, so people in this City can have something they've been denied since 1975, which is a vigorous debate by the candidates on where this city is going to go for the next eight years. This is especially critical for the City's future.

Would you like to define what you see as the major issues in the campaign for Mayor of SF?

I think there are several. First and foremost, I think we need a neighborhood renaissance in SF. I think over the last ten years, whether people like it or not, we've completed a downtown renaissance where we've overbuilt it in some areas and not in others. I think it's extremely important that we give the same sort of high priority, number one focus on the neighborhoods of this city. We need a neighborhood renaissance in every sense of the word from parks, libraries, the schools the arts and all the other things that are part of the quality of life in SF.

There is another part of the neighborhoods that is equally important and maybe it should be mentioned as part of a neighborhood renaissance, and that is the preservation of small business and the commercial life in the neighborhoods, which is severely threatened because of the same kinds of problem we've been grappling with over the past 15 years in this city, which is affordable housing. Is there affordable commercial space for the small entrepreneur who has traditionally come to SF with a lot of talent, a lot of energy? That's being cut off because of investigation, which is a term I've coined over the years that is similar to gentrification; the highly capitalized franchises are driving out the small neighborhood businesses because they simply can't compete with the high commercial rents. We have to deal with that or we're going to lose the city as we know it.

What would you propose to prevent investigation?

Well, forgive me, although I expect to become a candidate, I'm not a candidate yet and I'm developing all of those things in what I believe will be a very comprehensive vision of the City as Art Agnos sees it that I will offer the voters when I am a candidate and I really want to wait until all of that is complete.

I'm doing what I've done for the past ten years in politics, and that is consulting with the people of this city to see what they think ought to happen to make sure my ideas are consistent. I've never done anything alone in politics. I've always done it with the com-

munities that are affected. Those communities I've been identified with over the past years as a public official are the same communities I'm consulting with to make sure that my ideas offered to the people include theirs. I have an inclusive approach to politics rather than an exclusive or imperial approach, which issues creeds about what I think ought to happen.

I've always built a consensus around certain issues that I think produces a successful product that I intend to offer to the people as a part of a prospective new leadership in this City.

So, you don't want to talk about the City's problems at this point?

Frankly, I really don't. I'm a State legislator and I don't want to start the campaign because I'm not ready to start the campaign now. I expect to be a candidate and I'll be talking about those issues with a great deal of specificity when I finish the consultation process with a lot of people I'm talking with now.

That's what I've been doing in my speed walk. I've always prepared for major issues by consulting the people that support me and care about the same issues. I'm in the process of developing that so that I can offer the kind of comprehensive consensus that is part of my political identity.

Before we leave questions on the Mayor's race, let me advance a scenario that has Agnos versus Molinari for Mayor and ask you why a gay/lesbian person should vote for you?

They shouldn't at this point. Nobody should be making a choice at this point. I think they should be waiting with eager anticipation for a vigorous discussion about the issues by all the worthy potential candidates like Louise Renne, Roger Boas, Richard Hongisto, Lou Gerardo, and what I hope to be many candidates for Mayor.

The gay community and all communities ought to be looking forward to this year's elections in November with a great deal of enthusiasm that for once, I hope they're going to have the wonderful opportunity to choose between the best of many good friends. Isn't that a delightful change of pace? Instead of voting for the lesser of two evils. So, if it turns out that there are many good friends of the gay community that are running, then I think they will have a very happy dilemma: who is the best qualified person among the good friends of the community?

We will then be making our choices on the next political plane, where we should have been a long time ago, which is not to make a decision about who's going to fight for our fundamental human rights as the best candidate but who's going to improve the quality of life for us? Who's going to involve us in the decisions that affect us at the various levels of government that we ought to participate in?

Finally, I would say we can't have a coronation in this city. Not that we've had one in the past, but we can't afford in 1987, after ten years of no debate to not have a vigorous discussion of the issues.

Hopefully, if we have the kind of candidates that discrimination and brutality issues are not an issue for, then we've got a very happy dilemma to offer the voters and that's exciting. I'm

proud to be part of a field of prospective candidates who would offer that to the voters, because they deserve it.

Let's talk about state issues. The Governor has proposed what amounts to a 2% increase in the AIDS budget. Is that adequate?

It's a woefully inadequate budget. It's a budgetary shell game. A 2% increase is stretching what the administration is actually spending this year. It includes carryover money from last year's budget they never spent, that they should have spent but weren't aggressive enough in their fight of the AIDS epidemic. We have an effort in this state and this nation that is retarded because of political reasons. Everyone knows what the problem is with the leadership of this state and this country. They are retarding their efforts because of who this disease has hit first, even though it has now progressed beyond that. We have not spent the state monies we allocated last year in development of nursing home programs, education and all other areas. There is a lot of carry-over money, so it looks like the administration has increased the AIDS budget. That's a myth.

The defensive kind of myth that the Governor's office is putting out to compensate and explain the fact that he has been isolated on this issue, has not taken the aggressive leadership position that he should have as the Chief Executive of this state.

He claims that California is leading the nation. That's not to his credit, and it is unbecoming of him to suggest that it is. Every single increase offered in the AIDS budget since 1981 has come from the legislature in general and the Assembly in particular. We have been out in front pulling the Administration along in proposing the funding that the state spends on dealing with the AIDS crisis. The Governor has, at best, reluctantly gone along with and even cut money appropriated by the legislature.

Last year he cut one out of every two dollars we proposed and then didn't even spend all of that and then comes back this year with what he calls an increase. I don't believe it's an increase and no one who is subjective, including people inside the administration, think it is and say so privately.

They also told us privately that they are depending on those in the legislature like myself, Assembly leader Willie Brown, Assemblyman John Vasconcellos, Senator Gary Hart and Senator Dan Roberti to be in the forefront in both houses to insure that enough money is appropriated to fight the epidemic, and educate this Governor.

In addition to AB 1, you have proposed another piece of very important legislation known as AB 87. Why is AB 87 so important and what will it accomplish?

AB 87 is going to be the product of the Surgeon General's of the United States report and a report by the National Academy of Sciences on AIDS that turns their recommendations into legislation. Both the Surgeon General and the Academy have served as my legislative consultants on this bill for the last four months.

I'm a little embarrassed to say that I never expected the National Academy of Sciences or the Surgeon General to come through in this area, with two of the most important and comprehensive reports on AIDS.

I commend them for standing up so courageously because it hasn't been easy for them.

Anyway, because those two scientific and medical reports fit together so well we began working with them to help us convert their recommendations into legislative language. We would eliminate the politics of AIDS into a model program for dealing with the AIDS crisis in California.

That's very important, because we don't have much time left to prevent a human holocaust.

The question in 1987 is, "Will we prevent and avert by taking legislative action necessary to prevent and avert an AIDS holocaust, which is defined in the



THOMAS ALLEMAN

Nobody should be making a choice at this point. I think they should be waiting with eager anticipation for a vigorous discussion about the issues by all the worthy potential candidates.

millions of lives and the billions of dollars over the next four or five years?" This disease is going to be with us for several generations and we're not going to have a magic bullet cure for at least the next five years. Now there are wondrous drugs that will arrest, in certain cases, the disease so the only hope we have to avert this human holocaust is to immediately put in place the kind of comprehensive program offered by AB 87.

We expect, after passage in California, to take this bill around the country and offer it as a model for dealing with the AIDS crisis.

We need to develop concrete policies on such issues as AIDS in the workplace, AIDS policy in school districts, instruction for public safety employees about AIDS, discrimination against AIDS patients which we should deal with as a public health issue and not a civil rights issue.

We need to educate people on a wider scale like they're doing in places like England. We're going to send the Surgeon General's report to over 4 million households in the state including targeting other communities at risk in an effort to make them aware of the latest available information about AIDS.

I think AB 87 will be a model, state of the art piece of legislation put together with the help of some of the finest medical and scientific minds in America. The second part of this is that the Surgeon General has verbally agreed to come speak before a special joint session of the legislature about AIDS in America and in California in particular. It will be the first time he has ever spoken on the subject before any legislature in the country and I think it's a very important breakthrough to make a statement to the state and the nation that this is now a full blown catastrophe.

The National Academy of Sciences

may also be sending one of its top people with the Surgeon General.

What's new about AB 1 this year?

Had AB 1 been in place when it should have been a long time ago, it could have helped in the AIDS crisis because one of the fundamental fears AIDS sufferers have is the fear of discrimination. The fundamental issue of AB 1 has not gone away. For the people of SF, especially non-gay politicians, to suggest that AB 1 is now somehow passe or a trivial issue is not to recognize all the pain and suffering that is going on around the state where there is no protection, including an increase of AIDS discrimination recently reported by the SF Human Rights Commission. Gay bashing is still going on in SF and around the Bay Area. Recently 32 legislators signed a letter against the teaching of homosexuality or the gay lifestyle in schools. So AB 1 is still very necessary because tragically, discrimination is still very alive and very well in the Bay Area and in California.

AB 1 is just as important now as it has always been and I am just as committed now as I have always been to continuing that struggle.

I've been at an impasse because this governor has vetoed AB 1 and has said point blank that he won't sign it. This year we have changed our strategy, from amending the Fair Employment and Housing Act to include sexual orientation, to using the privacy provision of the labor code under the Department of Industrial Relations to take 1011 and 1102 discrimination complaints and issue rulings.

In addition to people who have always been a part of the AB 1 team, this time we are starting to get support from employers' groups who are helping us in drafting the legislation. Employer support for the bill could be critical. At this point we are cautiously optimistic that the Governor will sign this version of AB 1.

Lesbians, AIDS, and Safer Sex

by Corrine Lightweaver

On a recent Oprah Winfrey television talk show, a lesbian guest erroneously remarked that lesbians do not get sexually transmitted diseases. Similarly, many lesbians have mistakenly felt themselves to be safely immune to the AIDS virus.

In the wake of scapegoating of gay men and homosexuals generally, some lesbians have jokingly pointed to their low rate of V.D. and AIDS as evidence of their supposed special status, but the jokes sometimes carry an air of smugness. People, regardless of their sexual preference, are susceptible to the same fear and bigotry as anyone else in the population. "If AIDS is God's punishment to gays and promiscuous heterosexuals as some people say, then lesbians must be the chosen people!"

Unfortunately for lesbians, the AIDS virus does not discriminate.

Lesbians are not getting AIDS. The usual modes of transmission are occasional male sex partners, S/M activities causing bleeding, or IV drug use. Nationally, there are more than 100 cases of lesbian IV drug users with AIDS.

No cases have been reported to date of transmission without these risk factors. But the possibility exists.

Lesbians have the lowest incidence of sexually transmitted diseases and AIDS, but they are certainly still at risk. That's why it's important for every lesbian to examine her risk factors and make the choices for herself about whether to follow safer sex practices.

Although there has been considerable discussion of a case of woman-to-woman sexual transmission of the AIDS virus, which was reported in the *Annals of Internal Medicine* last month, officials from both the AIDS Project of the East Bay and the San Francisco AIDS Foundation said that the article proved nothing new.

In the case, the first woman was an I.V. drug user who displayed AIDS symptoms in 1981 and was diagnosed with Kaposi's Sarcoma in 1984. The second woman developed swollen lymph nodes 4-6 weeks after their first sexual contact and subsequently tested positive for HIV. Since 1977, she has had three sexual partners: a woman who was not an IV drug user and two men. Both men identified as heterosexual; one

man was HIV seronegative and the other declined to be tested.

The report also notes that the women had sexual contact during the first woman's menses and that both women had vaginal bleeding "as a result of traumatic sexual activities."

Officials from the AIDS Project of the East Bay questioned the accuracy of the report and the way in which it was written up.

"It looks like they're being very precise about what activities were going on, and yet the report doesn't really say anything," says Carol da Silva, Health Educator for the AIDS Project of the East Bay. "The study discusses two lesbians, each of whom has had sex with men at some point in time. And one of the men refused to take the HIV antibody test, so there are definitely some other risk factors here that haven't been eliminated. I'm wondering why this one case out of 30,000 cases is pointing towards female-to-female sexual transmission."

Education and awareness is still the key to prevention, APEB officials emphasize.

"Everybody needs to do risk assessment, regardless of their sexual preference, and practice safe sex accordingly," says da Silva.

The particular risk factors since 1977 for lesbians are: multiple sex partners, IV drug use, S/M activities causing bleeding, sex with gay men or heterosexual men at risk, donor insemination, and sexual partners with any of these factors.

"You have to decide what your odds are between the two of you or the six of you and whatever kind of sexual activity you're involved in and decide accordingly whether you can go for it," says John David Dupree, an APEB Health Educator.

Women who have eroded cervixes or who have fissures or cysts on the vaginal wall that can rupture from friction are at increased risk. The main message is

to avoid the exchange of bodily fluids, including blood, vaginal secretions, breast milk, urine, and feces. Dupree says it's important to note that menstrual blood may be present in the vagina before a woman realizes her menses have begun.

"The majority of times there will be no visible blood anyway," says Dupree. "The virus can enter the body through microscopic tears in the mucosa. People who have contracted AIDS through anal sex or vaginal sex were not walking around bleeding. All it takes is a tiny tear or fissure."

Health educators also note that drug use can severely jeopardize safety and judgement when rough sex such as vaginal or anal fisting is involved.

Deciding whether to take the HIV antibody test is a difficult decision for anybody. However, lesbians who may have been exposed to AIDS and are considering becoming pregnant should definitely take the HIV antibody test.

Lesbians have been personally affected by the AIDS crisis through the death of friends, societal homophobia, and AIDS-related work in the community. Yet the most personal experience with AIDS, a personal struggle with the virus itself, has just begun to surface for lesbians.

"It's clear that lesbians at risk need to know about safe sex practices," says Audrey Martin, MFCC, Client Advocate at APEB and a therapist in private practice. "As a group, I think we harbored an unrealistic feeling of safety."

Martin is currently leading a grief group through her private practice for lesbians who have lost someone to AIDS.

"The AIDS crisis has touched many lesbians who have seen their friends and brothers die," says Martin. "In the future we may be grieving the loss of lovers and lesbian friends as well."

Where to Get Safer Sex Supplies

Finger cots, condoms, and latex gloves can be obtained at drug stores and medical supply firms. Rubber dams

Personal Assessments for Lesbians at Risk

The particular risk factors since 1977 for lesbians are: multiple sex partners, IV drug use, S/M activities causing bleeding, sex with gay men or heterosexual men at risk, donor insemination, and sexual partners with any of these factors. While the incidence of AIDS among lesbians is not high at this time, lesbians are not immune to AIDS.

Giving up certain behaviors which an individual deems to be risky may be difficult, but AIDS challenges the sexual creativity of all people at risk to find new ways of relating pleasurablely.

The following information is presented so that lesbians can assess their own risk factors, educate themselves about what is known about AIDS transmission, and make their own conclusions about what personal risks they are or are not willing to take.

Kissing — Although HIV has been found in the saliva in some infected persons, it is not believed to exist in enough concentration to transmit the virus. If either partner has cuts or sores in the mouth, the risk is increased.

Masturbation — Blood or vaginal secretions on *unbroken skin* pose no risk for infection. If cuts are present, latex gloves or finger cots can be used for protection. Do not use another person's saliva as a lubricant because it can enter tiny cuts or fissures in the genital membrane.

Tribadism — Rubbing genitals on a partner's *unbroken skin* poses no risk for infection. Genital to genital contact can be risky because vaginal fluids may be exchanged and can enter tiny cuts and abrasions.

Cunnilingus — Oral-genital contact may pose some risk since both saliva and vaginal secretions can contain the AIDS virus. Placing a latex sheet (rubber dam) between the tongue and vulva may reduce risk of transmission. Rubber dams are available in pharmacies and in medical/dental supply stores.

Vaginal & Anal Penetration — Uncut nails can tear rectal and vaginal tissue and fingers carry infections, so be sure fingernails are clipped and hands washed before and after sex. For added protection, place a condom or finger cot on the finger(s), or wear surgical gloves. Fisting in the anus or the vagina can damage and tear delicate tissue. The insertive partner's hand is exposed to blood, bloody feces, and vaginal secretions which may enter through breaks in the skin. Risk can be reduced by using latex gloves and lubricant.

Oral/Anal Contact — The AIDS virus may be transmitted by blood contaminated feces and if open sores are present in the mouth, the risk is increased. Risk may be reduced by using a latex sheet (rubber dam).

Urine Contact — Contact with broken skin and body openings (mouth, eyes, ears, nose, rectum, or vagina) should be avoided, since urine can contain blood. If urine contacts only unbroken skin, the risk may be low.

Vibrators, Dildoes, and other Toys — Toys and paraphernalia (belts, whips, chains, cuffs, dildoes, tit-clamps, etc.) should be used in such a way that blood is never drawn. Sharing dildoes or vibrators can spread infections, so use your own sex toys and wash them thoroughly between uses with a disinfectant normally used for human skin. Put a condom on dildoes to keep them clean. Make sure dildoes have no wires or ridges which can tear delicate tissue and use plenty of water-based lubricant.

can be purchased in some pharmacies and through dental supply companies listed in the Yellow Pages under "Dental Equipment and Supplies." Locally, Healthco Wynman Brown Dental Supply at Market and Van Ness sells a minimum of 32 sheets (plain or mint-flavored) for \$8.50. In the East Bay, In-

terdental USA in downtown Oakland sells 52 plain sheets for \$5.50.

Lesbians and AIDS: What's the Connection?, a brochure written by the Women's AIDS Network, is available from the San Francisco AIDS Foundation or the AIDS Project of the East Bay in Oakland. ■

Britt Continued from page 1

the gay community."

Van Gorder says that Britt will still run for the Congressional seat "in 1988, or earlier if the seat opens."

"We're quite clear that he can win," said Van Gorder. "If the gay and progressive community that has always supported Harry stays undivided behind him, I'm sure that he has an excellent chance."

"Pelosi is a person with no proven leadership, no experience in government," said Van Gorder. "She has no reliable constituency. All she can do is throw zillions of dollars at [a campaign for office]."

SF Supervisor Bill Maher reacted to the Pelosi endorsement by saying, "Nancy has not spent any time in the district and basically has been involved only in party politics. Frankly, I think this race is between me and Harry."

SF Supervisor John Molinari's comments on Burton's selection of Pelosi stopped just short of endorsing Britt in the congressional race, while discounting the Burton selection. "A congressional seat is not something that is passed on like a British title."

Molinari spokesman Dennis Collins said, "As a gay man, naturally I support Harry Britt. At a time when federal funding for AIDS is our top priority I think it's important we have a gay voice in Congress. I know our community

will rally around Harry in his effort to represent all of us in Washington."

Ralph Payne, vice president of the Stonewall Democratic Club, says that he is "very sorry that Sala Burton is ill. However, I don't think that she's been an effective representative for the gay and lesbian community." Payne added that he will support whoever is elected to Burton's seat, but feels that it is too early to comment on any specific candidate.

At a Tuesday night meeting of the Harvey Milk Lesbian and Gay Democratic Club, Assemblyman Art Agnos criticized the "lot of piranhas" who are already lining up for the ailing Burton's seat. Rick Pacur, president of the club, went a step further, questioning the authenticity of the Burton statement.

"All I've heard is a statement by her brother-in-law (former Representative John Burton). From what I understand, she's in no condition to make any endorsements," said Pacur. "There's no race yet, and I think it is crass and crude to make any comments about a person who is facing a life-threatening illness."

A spokesperson at Sala Burton's SF office assured *Sentinel* that the remarks in the press release were, indeed, the words of the Congresswoman, adding that she has been in good spirits and currently intends to serve out the remainder of her term. ■

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Gay Spiritual Conference Raises Many Questions

by Van R. Ault

"Bringing Forth The Hidden Tradition" was the theme of the second annual Conference on Gay Spirituality, held the weekend of January 24-25 at Berkeley's Shared Visions Center. Sponsored by the Tayu Center, with representatives from many spiritual disciplines in both the roster of speakers and the approximately fifty participants, the particulars of gay spirituality were scrutinized with diversity, humor, and honesty. Many questions were raised, perhaps far more than were answered.

Structure of the conference was similar to that of last year's, though some participants who were at both noted that this one lacked the intensity of the first conference. There were numerous workshops, several panel discussions, an interfaith spiritual service, a poetry reading and concert, plenty of networking... and lots of hugging.

Almost all of the conference speakers fell outside of mainstream religious thought. There were no representatives from denominational religions with the exception of Rev. Jane Adams Spahr, a Presbyterian Minister and director of the Ministry of Light, who discussed "Resurrecting Christianity for Gay People."

As Fourth Way teacher Hassien pointed out, it was important to hear from those outside of the predominant Judeo-Christian traditions, and for gay people to know there are indeed such things as gay spirituality and gay teachers of spiritual growth.

"We're starting from a place outside of what's accepted," explained Chari Davidson, founder of Santa Rosa's Reunion Now, "and we approach our spirituality the same way." "Being gay by its nature is a spiritual path," noted Don Killehrer of the Treeroots Center in Los Angeles. "We as a people have to discover this for ourselves. I couldn't find it until I explored that with gay men."

Transforming Radically

Davidson's workshop, "Radical Personal Transformation in the New Age," addressed the subject of self-love (which gay men are hearing from every metaphysical quarter these days), and added some new insights. "We're hoping our spirituality will change us into someone that we love," she said quietly, as she discussed people who have "tried everything" on the spiritual smorgasbord and still aren't happy with themselves.

"Tell the truth to yourself," encouraged Davidson. "We're only impressed by what we're refusing to see in ourselves." Spirituality is used by some people to hide from themselves, but we must all be able to face our negativity lovingly like it's our own child who we believe in. If you trace back far enough in your self-hatred, you'll find self-love at the root of it. "You're worried that you're the bullshit. It's all taking care of yourself: self-preservation. You just didn't know what to do [for yourself]," Davidson concluded by saying that all change must come from love, not changing because you hate yourself, but because you love yourself enough to do it.

Inner Insights

Ed Steinbrecher, the director of the DOME Center and author of *The Inner Guide Meditation*, gave a workshop on "Sexual Encounter with the Archetypes." Passing around the 22 keys of the Tarot's major arcana, Steinbrecher outlined a method of meditation for receiving inner guidance. "Each of us has a very specific inner teacher," he explained, and he gave techniques for safely communicating with the guide and allowing the guide to lead the mediator into an encounter with the Tarot archetypes. After having sexual encounters in meditation with these figures, the mediator can expect to know everything he ever wanted to know about sexuality.

"Psychic Sexual Visions" was the subject of Judy Grahn's talk. As she described in parts of her book, *Another Mother Tongue*, Grahn explored the mental imagery partners sometimes see during lovemaking, particularly in the form of colors and shapes. Participants talked about the effect of this psychic and physical intimacy, and there were many rounds of laughter.

Vedanta Master Jim Gilman held a workshop on "Spiritual Response to AIDS." "We need to look at spiritual healing in a larger context," he said. "Physical longevity is not the goal." "We're all going to die and a cure is not the goal of the spiritual path," he suggested, noting that all of the people that Jesus raised from the dead later died again. Gilman differentiated his approach to healing from the mental science approach which he criticized as "good thoughts versus bad thoughts" thinking. "We are healed by what we turn to, not what we turn from." He encouraged people to get active in



THOMAS ALLEMAN

Participants at Gay Spiritual Conference discuss enlightenment.

addressing the epidemic: "Don't have ostrich consciousness."

Earth Spirit

Earth oriented spirituality was represented by Dr. Paula Gunn Allen, author and founder of Rainbow Path, a Fourth Way Tribal Spiritual School. "Everything alive is intelligent, aware and conscious... except about two-thirds of the American population," she quipped. There is no emphasis in native spirituality on nirvana, heaven, or getting off the wheel of life. "This is it," asserted Allen, explaining that the earth is seen as our grandmother in which every life form is connected and is equally important.

Discussing the Native American attitudes towards gay people, Allen pointed out that the tribes have often found a way to incorporate the special consciousness we represent into their way of life. She spoke of the "winkles" of the Lakota tribe—gay men who had special powers and gave names of inner, protective power to newborn children. "Intelligent spirituality can incorporate the knowledge and experience of the native people."

Other workshops included hatha yoga master Shri Raman's "The Path of Active Celibacy," Hassien's "Leaving the Spiritual Ghetto," Killehrer's "Gay Liberation and Dreams," Zen master Tundra Wind's "Breaking Through the Wall of Words," and Julian Spalding's "Unconditional Love and True Intimacy."

Enlightenment Questions

All of the speakers and guests came together at the conference's conclusion for the Grand Panel discussion: "Is Enlightenment Real?" The answers varied. "You are permeated by enlightenment. The big paradox is, why don't you see that?" stated Tundra Wind. "The problem is that it is so obvious. Enlightenment is the transcendent obvious."

Julian Spalding, publisher of *Erosipiri*, said, simply, "Enlightenment is the state of being who I am. It's the state of loving, perhaps loving the self." "One is only as enlightened as one needs to be," suggested Hassien. "If one wants to awaken, one needs to create a situation in which one needs to awaken. One must be prepared to risk one's current contentment or peace of mind."

"The term enlightenment," added

Chari Davidson, "is human made. My experience is that there are many levels; for me, it's the experience of being God. I don't follow after enlightenment, but rather the things that lead me to it: love, creativity, writing poetry, petting my animals, making love."

Ed Steinbrecher offered that enlightenment is "just what it says it is: a process of emitting more light. The interaction with spirit is what does the enlightening." He discussed the over-emphasis on the spiritual white light, noting that the black light is the other polarity of energy of the spirit that must also be dealt with. "Go with the crazy wisdom of the heart and you'll not fail to notice it when it visits you."

Feedback was invited from the crowd at the end of the panel discussion, for the conference in general. "Not enough experiential stuff—too much talk" was one suggestion, and others complained that the scheduling of workshops simultaneously prevented them from experiencing all the things they wanted to. Several people expressed the need to keep going the kind of energy and closeness that the conference generated, through networking and other events throughout the year. And, Will Nofke, of Shared Visions, suggested an ongoing series of events on gay spirituality throughout the year at the space.

Perhaps more questions were raised at the Conference on Gay Spirituality than were fully answered. What the event seemed to attempt most likely accomplished, and that was bringing out of the shadows the diversity and possibilities of gay spiritual expression. Walt Whitman's words, which were quoted by the organizers of the event, seem to summarize it best:

Song of Myself

*For I confront peace, security
 and all the settled laws
 to unsettle them,
 I am more resolute because all
 have denied me than
 I could ever have had all
 accepted me,
 I heed not and have never
 heeded either experience,
 cautions, majorities, nor
 ridicule,
 And the threat of what is call'd
 hell is
 little or nothing to me,
 And the lure of what is call'd
 heaven is
 little or nothing to me.*

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BART Adopts Policy Barring Sexual Orientation Discrimination

The Board of Directors of the Bay Area Rapid Transit (BART) District has adopted a policy prohibiting sexual orientation discrimination by persons doing business with BART.

The policy, introduced by San Francisco Director Arlo Hale Smith, was adopted by a 7-2 vote after heated debate. The policy states:

The District shall include sexual orientation as one of the prohibited

grounds of discrimination in all Equal Employment Opportunity clauses in appropriate District contracts.

Smith, and Directors John Kirkwood, Wilfred Usery, Barclay Simpson, Art Shartsis, and Nello Bianco, and Board President Margaret Pryor voted in favor of the policy. Directors Robert Allen and John Glenn were opposed.

DMV

Continued from page 4

they took here. There are contradictory statements," he said.

Mark Guerra, director of the Department of Fair Employment and Housing, was called to testify about what he had heard at the meeting. Guerra said he heard a comment about a submachine gun, but was not positive in what context because he was too busy running a slide projector. "My staff (Garcia and Reader) was upset when we left the meeting," said Guerra. Roberti asked Guerra if he later realized the remarks were directed at homosexuals. Guerra did not remember.

Senator Nicholas Petris (D-Oakland) then asked Guerra specifically what words he did hear. "I can take care of that problem with a submachine gun," said Guerra. Guerra said then he saw Kelley and Pierce laughing, but he wasn't sure what context the remark was made in.

After Guerra's testimony there was a short recess. Then, Mr. Kelley was called to be questioned again. Kelley once more said he did not recollect the statement.

During the recess Mr. Garcia and others talked about a homophobic joke Kelley himself made at a meeting. Kelley, filling his mouth full of shredded computer paper, spit it out, saying he was imitating a homosexual who had just had oral sex with a chicken.

At the end of testimony Pierce made a short rebuttal about his good record as a public employee, and his own role in affirmative action for Hispanics. Roberti mentioned a letter he received from a Theresa McInnes refuting Pierce's good record in both sex and ethnic discrimination.

Senator John Doolittle (R) suggested that a vote be taken for confirmation. Only he and Craven voted, the other three men—Senator Mello, Senator Roberti, and Senator Petris—abstained.

"Too often statements such as these are made in jest. I myself have trouble with this [confirming Pierce], since it hasn't been cleared up..." said Senator Mello.

Senator Craven, who voted to confirm Pierce, stated, "I don't think glib remarks are good, but they are made. I think all of us here have said things that are wrong. If it was said, it was wrong. But is it sufficient to ruin a laudatory career... I think we should look at this with common sense and compassion in thought that it could happen to us."

Senator Roberti finally remarked to Craven, "I am uneasy about a statement like this made at a regular meeting of department personnel... I would feel that had the alleged remark been made, an official statement or apology should be made and the statement would be forgiven."

Senator Petris remarked that he felt that unfortunately there was a trend being seen toward violence against minorities. Petris said he had seen a study linking the attitude of government officials toward such groups to the increase. Using Ronald Reagan as an example, Petris said Mr. Reagan compliments minority war heroes and in the same breath shelves affirmative action programs. "I hesitate to confirm. Maybe if we defer, we can come to a conclusion [about Pierce's alleged statement]," said Petris. The Senate Rules Committee has until February 18 to make a decision.

LaRouche '88

CONCORD—Lyndon LaRouche announced on Monday that he will seek the 1988 Democratic Presidential nomination. A four time presidential candidate and native of Rochester, N.H., LaRouche now lives in a fortified estate in Leesburg, VA.

Until adequate security is supplied by the Secret Service, LaRouche will not campaign in person in New Hampshire, according to his supporters.

Recruits

Continued from page 1

dinner at a GGBA or Tavern Guild member restaurant. The field trips ended with a tour of gay and lesbian bars.

"Nothing has been presented to those of us who have been involved in the program from the beginning," complained GGBA Executive Director Steven Rascher. "No one informed us that we were no longer being involved in the program."

Elimination of the GGBA tours has resulted in a substantial cutback of the gay awareness training, says Sergeant Paul Seidler, who led many of the recruits on their field trips. The latest group of academy grads received just an hour and a half of classroom instruction on gay issues, then spent an hour watching a presentation by Community United Against Violence (CUAV).

"CUAV focused on anti-gay violence," said Seidler. "There's a lot more going on in the gay community. We cannot change the opinions of our police officers [about gay men and lesbians], but we can change their attitude and behavior."

Seidler stresses the fact that "a police officer's uniform is a stigma," and that many gay people who have moved to San Francisco from other parts of the country have had bad experiences with police officers. He also tries to help recruits feel comfortable around gay people.

"We don't want officers going into

gay bars to take crime reports and being afraid or anxious to get out," he said.

Apparently, Seidler's efforts have been successful. Thumbing through evaluations by graduates of the last academy class, he found a number of positive remarks from the recruits he had taught.

"Your class really changed my mind about gay people," wrote one student.

"If they can say that about one gay person, maybe they can see that in other gay people," said Seidler. "If I can make that kind of change in a person's attitudes in just an hour and twenty minutes, imagine what I can do if they give me five hours again."

Navy AIDS

Continued from page 4

of Defense, and for all employees of the federal government," said Katherine Franke, Horan's attorney. "Once they realized that they had a clear violation of the Rehabilitation Act on their hands, and that Horan was going to fight his termination, the Navy backed off immediately. This case sends out a strong signal that, when pushed, the Navy will treat AIDS as a physical handicap protected by federal law and executive branch personnel policies."

Mr. Horan was represented in this action by San Francisco attorneys Katherine M. Franke of the AIDS and Employment Project and Matthew L. Aronica of Thierman, Simpson & Cook.

SENSITIVE LEGAL SERVICES

Barry Schneider

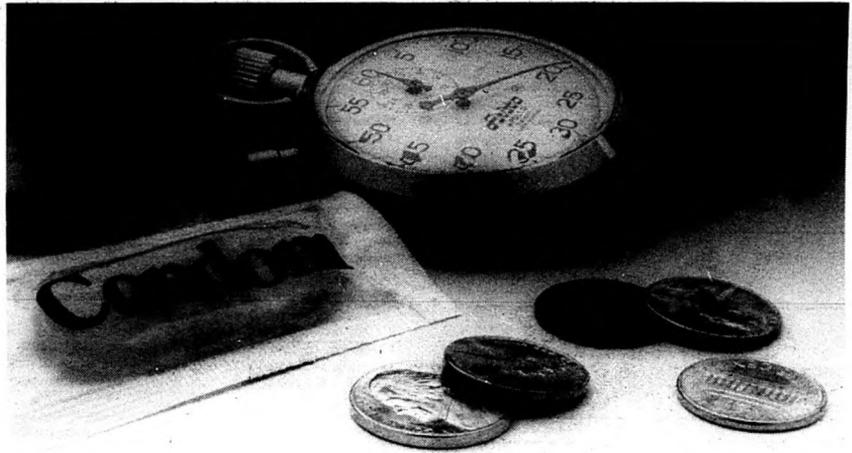
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to save a life.

Condoms are inexpensive. Every drugstore sells them. Headlines sell them for as little as nine cents each. It takes maybe 20 seconds to put one on. You can easily learn to use condoms. Ask someone who has.

Isn't a life—your own, or someone else's, or the life of our community—worth an investment of nine cents of your money

and twenty seconds of your time?
Condoms can stop the spread of AIDS.
Use them.



Call 863-AIDS

San Francisco AIDS Foundation
333 Valencia Street, 4th Floor
San Francisco, CA 94103
Toll-Free Northern California
Hotline 800-FOR-AIDS
TDD 415-864-6606

Major funding for the educational programs of the San Francisco AIDS Foundation is provided by the San Francisco Department of Public Health.

AT THE COURTHOUSE

KEN CADY

The Eternal Appeal

Timothy Berry heard the words "Die, motherfucker," as the blade pierced his neck. Next to him two co-workers lay bleeding from the stabbings inflicted on them. Medics rushed the trio to the emergency room where Berry nearly died.

The three were victims of a robbery in the basement of a Polk Street cafe on December 6, 1978. Eight years later they were back in court, testifying against a former co-worker they had identified as the knife-wielding robber. Their testimony had convicted this man in his first trial in 1979. As the victims learned this year, justice often is slow to conclude.

The defendant, Johnny Milton, appealed his 1979 conviction to the California Court of Appeals. He won a partial victory when the court sent his case back for resentencing. A 23 year state prison commitment was reduced to 16 years. Milton appealed

the resentencing and again won, getting another two years knocked off his sentence.

Perhaps his optimism in this regard stemmed from an earlier ruling of the California Supreme Court. In 1968, Milton had been sentenced to the death penalty after a first-degree murder conviction only to have that sentence reduced to life imprisonment when the death penalty was ruled unconstitutional. He was paroled a few months before the Polk Street incident.

Yet Milton lost in the court of Appeals in attempting to obtain a reversal of his 1979 conviction. The State

Supreme Court also declined to reverse. Most appellants would give up at this point. Instead, Milton turned to the federal courts seeking a writ of habeas corpus on the theory that he was being wrongfully held in prison.

After reviewing his case, the federal district court in San Francisco denied his petition. Milton responded with yet another appeal, this time to the Ninth Circuit of the U.S. Court of Appeals. The old adage, "If at first you don't succeed, try, try again," worked for Milton as a three judge panel disagreed with the trial court, the state appellate

As the victims learned this year, justice often is slow to conclude.

courts and the federal district court. Milton was to receive a new trial.

In January, 1986, Milton appeared again in San Francisco Superior Court to receive a new trial date. He then

moved for a dismissal of his case on four different grounds. After a hearing on the first issue went against him, Milton appealed to the state Court of Appeals which stayed his trial pending its review of the issue. When they finally denied his petition, he asked the State Superior Court to hear him, but was denied further review.

The trial court then heard the three remaining issues for a dismissal and ruled against Milton on all three. Before trial, he again sought a review by the appellate courts and was again unsuccessful.

Thus it was that in July, 1986, almost eight years later, the three victims were summoned to court to resurrect the trauma they had tried to put behind them years ago. Milton was again convicted by a jury of all

charges. His appeal is pending. As before, the taxpayers are paying for it.

The Los Angeles Daily Journal, a

lawyers' newspaper, occasionally profiles San Francisco judges. Their recent piece on Municipal Court Judge William Mallen may interest you. The article cites Mallen's 1980 campaign for election to the Superior Court against then Municipal Court Judge Richard Figone: "Mallen described himself as a 'straight law-and-order type' and maintained that his background in sports and family life — he and his wife have nine children — made him better suited for the job than Figone, a polite, shy bachelor."

Only 37 percent of San Francisco voters chose Mallen over Figone, yet Jerry Brown appointed him to the Municipal Court bench in 1982.

Among the reviews of this straight family man: "a lackluster jurist, somewhat slow in grasping legal issues," and "a little slow when it comes to the intellectual aspects of being a judge."

After stating that "He couldn't get a job with the city attorney's office and instead joined the district attorney's office," the author of the profile warns: "Mallen acknowledges he does have some ambitions and has considered trying to move up to the Superior Court."

LETTERS

Continued from page 2

bian reality. I did fail to include examples of gay oppression that I encountered. Like Timothy, I, too, met a gay man who was tossed out of the military. People fear disclosure on the job and in their families. There was no discernable official repression, as far as I could see. Queer bashing was an alien concept to my Nicaraguan friends. I wasn't on an official tour, like offered by the Spanish school that Timothy attended. I spoke with no high Sandinista officials. My two months there were dedicated to hanging out with gays and feminists, interviewing them and soliciting contributions to my book.

I agree with Timothy that... "It's up to gay people to push for a gay rights agenda." My piece stated that lesbians and gay men are starting to organize against "social and religious prejudice and social invisibility." They have an organization in Managua. It has a lending library and is conducting workshops on internalized homophobia. Our Bay Area group, Lesbians And Gays Against Intervention (LAGAI), will be working with them to send some of their lesbian members to the first Latin American

Lesbian Conference this fall in Mexico. I invite Timothy and others to work with LAGAI in supporting their movement.

Although the government passed no anti-gay legislation it is still, like all governments, heterosexually dominated. Women have advanced so rapidly there only because they are organized. Gay people are the only ones who can effectively raise our issues since we are the ones who live it.

My main reason for writing the piece in the first place was to convey the desperate needs for U.S. gays and feminists to fight our government's genocidal policies against the people of Nicaragua. As long as they must live in a state of panic, any social progress will be impeded. If readers wish more information on Nicaraguan lesbians and gay men, I invite you to my next public talk, sponsored by LAGAI. It will be on Sunday, February 8, at 7PM at La Pena in Berkeley. For more information about LAGAI, call 346-0647 or 821-9087.

Tede Matthews

Craving Schmalz Mit Greeven

To the Editor:
In reference to your article of

January 16, 1987 entitled "A Guide to Jewish Eating in Manhattan": I found the article most interesting. Your writers show a genuine sense of savvy when it comes to New York Jewish eating establishments. I am ashamed at them for neglecting to check the Lower East Side for such notable establishments as Ratners, etc.

Regardless of whether or not I agree or disagree with their analysis of the establishments they reviewed, my sense of good will towards their writers ended abruptly with their closing statement: "You are happy, knowing you have eaten something that cannot be had on the West Coast for any price." Perhaps these two writers have an impaired sense of smell for, not more than 100 yards from your esteemed rag, is the most haimishe authentic Jewish deli to be found anywhere: Moishe's Pippic.

If your writers so urgently crave schmalz mit greeven, they have only to come across the street and order our chopped liver which is prepared according to traditional recipes. We will gladly include extra schmalz and greeven for the cholesterol impaired.

Don't be dismayed by the fact that we bill ourselves as an authentic Chicago style deli. Anyone who has experienced the differences between a Chicago and a New York

style Jewish deli can attest to the fact that Chicago style is purely and simply superior, and no doubt what your writers have been looking for.

Russell I. Kassman
R. Kassman Companies

Food Bank Support

Dear Friends:

Thank you for donating so generously to the San Francisco AIDS Foundation's Food Bank during the holidays. Because of your support, we were able to give turkeys, hams and other holiday goodies to the men and women with AIDS and ARC who came to our offices for assistance. This year, we were able to offer food for their pets, as well.

We have a tough year ahead of us. The Food Bank is still totally community-sponsored (we receive no government funds) and we've been distributing over \$10,000 worth of food per month. Not only do we need to keep up that momentum, but we need to be prepared for an increase in the number of people that need our help. We hope that you will think of us often and donate a can of food - or a bag of food - whenever you can. Believe me, all of your donations make a difference, no matter how small.

Encourage your co-workers, friends and family to do food drives throughout the year. We can all raise food for people with AIDS/ARC and have fun at the same time! And, finally, if you have a car and would like to commit yourself to a weekend day of collecting food for us, give me a call at 864-4376.

Thanks again for being such a generous and creative community.

Cary Norsworthy
Food Bank Coordinator

An Open Letter To Congresswoman Boxer

Congresswoman Boxer: Mobilization Against AIDS was dismayed to read your comments in the *Sentinel* indicating that you have already decided to compromise on necessary AIDS funding. Specifically, you stated that \$700 million dollars was a "reasonable" amount for the Federal Government to spend on AIDS in the next fiscal year, and that you would urge the House Budget to adopt this figure.

Congresswoman Boxer, your constituents desperately need you to fight for a maximum effort by the Federal

Government to defeat AIDS. You know from the National Academy of Sciences Report, the Surgeon General's Report, the S.F. Dept. of Health's report, that such an effort cannot be waged for \$700 million dollars. It simply cannot be done. For you to publicly propose such a figure is to begin the battle for increasing AIDS funding with a compromise that makes obtaining a "moon-shot effort" to defeat AIDS from the Federal Government impossible.

Congresswoman, consider this analogy. An earthquake strikes San Francisco, killing thousands, wounding tens of thousands, and threatening to destroy the health apparatus of the city without massive federal assistance. The medical leadership of the nation strongly recommends specific immediate actions but the Administration is willing to only recommend minimal funding. Would you not go to the House Budget Committee and to the House Floor to fight for whatever funding was necessary to save the lives of your constituents? Would you not fight for the funds which were needed no matter how difficult the political battle to obtain them might be? That is the kind of leadership we need now in the face of the AIDS catastrophe which has struck our city, not compromise with a President who is obviously telling us to "drop dead."

Mobilization Against AIDS urges you to push for a federal appropriation on AIDS of over two billion dollars in the next fiscal year. Like the National Academy of Sciences we urge one billion for AIDS education and at least one billion for research. The one billion dollars for education should be used to wage a campaign similar to that under way in Great Britain, i.e. direct mail pieces to every household, business and school, prime time television and radio advertisement, and print advertisements as well. In addition, many thousands of small group educational efforts such as San Francisco's Stop AIDS Project need to be begun around the nation. In terms of AIDS research the government should simply fund every AIDS research project which is approved by the National Institutes of Health as scientifically valid. This would exceed one billion dollars. Of course two billion dollars seem like an impossibly large amount of money. But when Mobilization began fighting for 500 million dollars in AIDS funding last year we were told that it was unobtainable, but in the end we came far closer than anyone thought possible.

Congresswoman Boxer, we recog-
Continued on next page

"How can strangers be the closest friends after four hours?"

That's what it can be like at a Stop AIDS meeting... a place to share your hopes and fears, or just listen. And that's why you'll find me along with 200 other volunteers asking you to attend a meeting. Look for us on Castro and Polk, and in other parts of the city."

— Bill Chastain



The Stop AIDS Project is funded in part by the San Francisco Dept. of Public Health and the California Dept. of Health Services.

Design: Ken Henderson

STOP AIDS PROJECT

It's about change. And isn't it about time?

SPACE AVAILABLE

PWA Evictions

The Residential Rent Stabilization and Arbitration Board has called for public hearings in the Castro District to take testimony about growing reports of evictions of People with AIDS. Eviction of a tenant for AIDS or any illness would be a violation of the law and would be subject to criminal prosecution.

The hearings will be designed to permit individuals or organizations to testify on eviction matters or any other issues affecting tenants and landlords with respect to their rights and responsibilities under the SF Rent Ordinance.

All members of the public are invited to speak at the Swedish-American Hall, 2174 Market Street near Sanchez at 5:30 pm on Tuesday, February 3. For further information call 621-RENT. ■

Lover Material

Partners Institute is holding a free workshop for men who are serious about finding a long term relationship. It will feature exercises designed to help you look at how you go about meeting others and provide you with an opportunity to meet someone interesting.

The workshop will be led by John Armstrong MFCC, who co-authored *Becoming a Couple: A Guide for Gay Men*; and David Klein, who has an MA in counseling and has led a series of weekend workshops called "Finding a Lover." Both men are in long term relationships.

The workshop will be held on Saturday, Feb. 7 from 8 to 10 pm at the Metropolitan Community Church building at 150 Eureka, near 18th. Admission is free. For more information call 343-0839 or 552-2974. Reservations not needed. ■

Coming Home Hospice Benefit

A benefit for Coming Home Hospice will be held Wednesday, February 11 at 8 pm, Club 9 at 399 Ninth Street at

Harrison.

The benefit, Heart to Art, will feature Voice Farm, The Flips, Beatnik Beach, Suzy Berger and Tom Ammann plus 1950's government training films.

Mr. International Leather, Patrick Toner will host the evening co-sponsored by Bay Area Lawyers for Individual Freedom.

Tickets are \$10, available at Headlines outlets and at the door. ■

Lesbian/Gay Discrimination

Have you been fired or experienced any discrimination because of your sexual orientation?

If so the SF Human Rights Commission, Lesbian/Gay Liaison Unit wants you to know there are local laws to protect you.

To find out more, or to file a complaint call Eileen Gillis at 558-4901. ■

GLOE Valentine's Party

Gay and Lesbian Outreach to Elders presents its annual Men's Valentine's Day Party for those 60 plus.

Make your own Valentine and give it to the one you love. Highlighting the festivities will be San Francisco's gay comedian Danny Williams and returning by popular demand, the Western Star Dancers. There will be door prizes galore and refreshments.

Donation is \$3 which will go primarily towards the GLOE Senior Activity Center Fund. The party is at Francis of Assisi Community Center, 145 Guerrero Street from 12-3 pm. For information, call 626-7000. ■

Nominations for 1987 Cable Car Awards

The Board of Directors of the 1987 Cable Car Awards and Show has released the list of nominees for awards at the event, to be held Saturday, February 28 at the Giftcenter Pavilion.

The Cable Car Awards, established 13 years ago, is one of the largest community service recognition events in the world, honoring outstanding achievements of and contributions to the San Francisco Bay Area lesbian and gay community.

Nominated for Entertainer of the Year are The Blazing Redheads, City Swing featuring Gail Wilson, Romanovsky and Phillips, Jae Ross, Teresa Trull and Danny Williams. Nominations for this category were submitted by a committee comprised of critics, writers and industry professionals. The winner will be determined by a public vote on the evening of the event.

Another award to be decided by public ballot that night is for Outstanding Columnist. Nominees are Steve Abbott (Sentinel), Dave Ford (Sentinel), Wayne Friday (B.A.R.), Mike Hippler (B.A.R.), and Rick Mills (The Gay Times).

Nominees for Outstanding Contribu-

tion to Community Well-Being are: Community United Against Violence (CUAV), the SF AIDS Emergency Fund, SF CAN-Stop LaRouche, and the Shanti Project.

In addition to the announced categories and nominees will be a number of special Board of Directors' Awards to be presented that night. A complete listing of categories and nominees will be made available later this week.

Tickets for the event will go on sale February 1 at all Headlines stores, and are priced from \$15 to \$50. Reservations for tables of ten are now being taken. For further information, please call 826-2999. Tickets can also be ordered by mail by writing The Cable Car Awards and Show, P.O. Box 1171, San Francisco, CA 94101. ■

Pat Norman Fundraiser

Supporters and friends of the Pat Norman for Supervisor Campaign encourage romance, slow dancing and meeting that special someone at the Cappuccino Bar on Feb. 13 at a Valentine's Eve Celebration at The Women's Building. The evening begins at 9 pm and those attending are encouraged to celebrate the holiday by wearing something red.

Top Bay Area DJ Denise Dunne has promised to play "hold 'em close" romantic favorites. A slow dance contest will be held and non-alcoholic beverages will be served. This event is the first of a number of upcoming special events slated to assist 1986 supervisory candidate Pat Norman in retiring her campaign debt.

Admission is on a sliding scale ranging from \$5 to \$25. The Women's Building is located at 3543 18th Street at Valencia in San Francisco.

For further information on the

Valentine's Eve Dance at the San Francisco Women's Building to assist the Pat Norman for Supervisor Campaign in retiring the debt, please call (415) 285-4725. ■

San Mateo Safe Sex

The San Mateo County AIDS Project has scheduled a Safe Sex Workshop for February 5 from 7 pm to 10 pm. This Workshop will provide participants the opportunity to express their feelings about making changes in their sexual behavior. Through the use of role playing and experimental exercise, participants will have the chance to learn how to negotiate safer sex with a new or pre-existing partner. This Workshop is guaranteed to add stimulation to your sex life, whether you are single, dating, or in a long term relationship.

The Workshop will be presented by Buzz Bense and Scott Eaton. Buzz is a safe sex activist, a graphic designer and performance artist. Scott is a therapist in private practice and a Director of the San Francisco Center for Growth and Counseling. He has conducted numerous classes and workshops in the areas of mental health and human potential.

The Workshop will be held at the Foster City Recreation Center, Shell Boulevard in Foster City. Donations will be accepted at the door. For more information, please call the San Mateo AIDS Project at (415) 573-2589. ■

SPACE AVAILABLE is offered as a community service to local, state and national organizations wishing to provide information of importance to Sentinel readers.

Please feel free to send your group or organization's announcements to:

SPACE AVAILABLE, SF Sentinel, 500 Hayes Street, San Francisco, CA 94102. Deadline for submission is the Monday prior to publication.

Parade Meetings for February

| | | |
|-------------|-------------------------|------------------------------|
| February 1 | Board of Directors | 1350 Waller—6:30 pm |
| February 2 | Health Committee | 234 Collingwood |
| February 4 | Safety Committee | 329 Church |
| February 4 | Booths/Beverages | 3412 22nd St., Parade Office |
| February 5 | Celebration Committee | 3412 22nd St., Parade Office |
| February 8 | General Membership | 1350 Waller—5 pm |
| February 9 | Merchandising Committee | 3412 22nd St., Parade Office |
| February 11 | Parade Committee | 3412 22nd St., Parade Office |
| February 18 | Media Committee | 3412 22nd St., Parade Office |
| February 26 | Division Meeting | 3412 22nd St., Parade Office |

This is the first meeting for these committees. How the committee will function as well as selection of Committee Chair(s), if any, will occur at these meetings.

All meetings will begin at 7 pm, although Safety Committee meetings are open to all at 6:30 to enjoy a half hour of socializing before the meeting.

LETTERS

Continued from previous page

nize you as one of the leading champions of increased AIDS funding, particularly in your role as a member of the House Budget Committee. Your recent "Dear Colleague" letter on AIDS is just one example of your excellent work. But your proposal for 700 million dollars is hopelessly inadequate. We realize that the staff time you are able to devote to AIDS, despite the high quality of your staff, is limited. Perhaps this is why your first proposal for AIDS funding was so shockingly low. We urge you to immediately meet with the AIDS activists in your district to redefine your AIDS agenda for next year. For our part we will submit to you a detailed plan of proposed Federal action on AIDS for 1987. Further, we will conduct a campaign to have your constituents let you know of their support for massive increases in federal funding.

Thank you for your consideration. Paul Boneberg
Coordinator
Mobilization Against AIDS

Barbara Boxer Responds

To Mobilization:

Please do not be dismayed! I have publicly stated that I support the National Academy of Sciences \$2 billion budget for AIDS by 1990 (1 billion research—1 billion education).

The \$750 million I mentioned is my best guess of the best we can do this year. Believe me. I will push, push, push for more.

My best,
Barbara

All letters must be typed and legibly signed originals. Please include your complete address and telephone number. Deadline is the Friday prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit or reject any letter submitted. Brevity is a virtue.



TO LISTEN WITH LOVING CARE

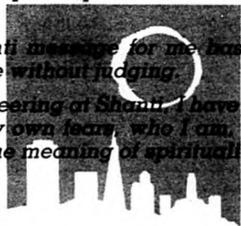
Alan Pugh
Shanti Volunteer

As a Shanti Volunteer I've received a lot from working with people with AIDS.

I've met some beautiful people that have allowed me the possibility to experience a whole new level of understanding.

The Shanti message for me has been to listen with loving care without judging.

By volunteering at Shanti I have gotten in touch with a lot of my own fears, who I am, what life is all about, and a true meaning of spirituality in action.



SHANTI PROJECT

558-9644

Volunteers needed. Call today for more information.

Affection not Rejection.

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I combine Shiatsu and Swedish techniques to give a thoroughly relaxing and therapeutic massage. You will not be painfully abraded, but gradually led to a more relaxed state, where you can easily let go of a great deal of tension.
A CARING TOUCH THAT IS BOTH FIRM & GENTLE. Present clients are very pleased with my work.
One 90 minute session is \$35.
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JOE IMMERMAN
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My aim — reduce stress and bring about self awareness
A powerful, yet sensitive touch will help alleviate the tensions and discomforts of every day stress allowing for better energy flow and a clear mind and body. Session — \$30/90 min.

Joe Immerman — 552-0645
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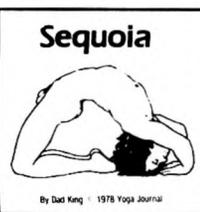
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Traditional Japanese Bodywork
For over 1,400 years Japanese have refined amma/Massage. Using their techniques, Rodger, instructor at the amma Institute, sensitively applies pressure to over 140 acupuncture points — to stimulate energy flow, to strengthen internal organs and to reduce body-mind fatigue. Stretching and release work included. Comfortable, convenient Buena Vista location. \$30/1 1/2 Hr.
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Reduce stress and tension. Unblock your energy channels and increase productivity. AMMA has a history of over one thousand years based on the scientific principals of Acupuncture. AMMA uses no messy oils. To maximize the effect of the massage the depth of pressure is altered to suit the individual client.
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STRONG, YET SENSITIVE
Integrate body and mind with a professional massage by an experienced masseur in a clean, comfortable environment conducive to complete relaxation. You will enjoy a wonderful combination of Shiatsu and Swedish techniques applying pressure sensitive to your needs while shedding negative energies. Certified: National Holistic Institute. In only \$40.00.
552-9231. Tom Stollhans.



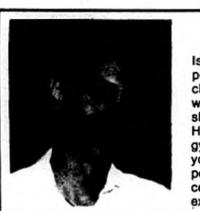
Sequoia
YOGA FOR GAY MEN
Learn true relaxation, to manage stress and restore harmony to your whole being. Small, friendly beginning and experienced classes provide a supportive atmosphere to learn precise stretches with breathing awareness and guided meditation. Now on WEDNESDAY evenings in a quiet space near Fillmore & Haight. \$30/4-week series, beginning monthly. For reservations/info, call Sequoia at 841-6511.

By Dad King - 1978 Yoga Journal



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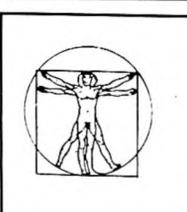
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Witches Lead National AIDS Healing Ritual

A nationally coordinated grand ritual of healing will be undertaken on behalf of the AIDS epidemic by Witches and magicians all over the United States on Sunday, February 1. That night is a high sabbat for Witches known as Brigid/Ibmole/Candlemas, and is traditionally devoted to the Irish Goddess Brigid, patron of healing, smithcraft and poetry. The network of practitioners holding the big event is called Moon Web, and includes covens, orders, and solitary practitioners of many pagan traditions.

This year's Moon Web is a follow up to a similar operation that took place at this same time in 1986. Substantial psychic power was raised to remove blockages to healing progress and to help nurture and support those diagnosed with the disease. A large ritual was held in the City with five gay priests of Wicca officiating, and some fifty other practitioners, many straight, supporting and adding energy to the work. Much progress has been made since then, and it is hoped that this year's Moon Web will catalyze further breakthroughs. Though these magical workings are not widely publicized, the pagan and magical communities have a long history of socio-political magical work, and in recent times have used their gifts to support anti-nuclear work, among others.

The Crystal Blue Star Coven on the east coast has offered a proposed ritual outline for covens and solitaires who wish to link up with the Moon Web. The ritual includes the lighting of black candles to represent the barriers to success, which are extinguished. Power is then raised around a blazing cauldron, and after it peaks, all fall to the floor, breaking the black candles, and destroying the obstacles they represent.

Bay Area Moon Web participants are encouraged to begin exactly at 7 pm to attune to the five minute meditation held every night at that hour for healing AIDS. Those who are inclined to join the work through ritual, meditation, visualization or other techniques are invited to do so. For further info on the Moon Web, call 864-1362.

Massage Play On Sundays

Randall Seamons will host *Massage Play*, a time for gay men to give and receive the nurturing feelings of touch. The event will take place every Sunday afternoon from 1 until 3 o'clock. Randall Seamons is a massage practitioner, who incorporates a number of techniques learned over the past twelve years of hands on experience.

On Thursday night, Seamons will hold a Gay Men's Support Group, at 8 pm. Issues explored will include "Your Immune System" and "Are You Anhedonic?", a fun adventure in self-discovery. There is no fee for either *Massage Play* or the Support Group, although contributions will be accepted. For information, call 626-1766.

Fundraiser for AIDS Homeless

Olive Oils will present a fundraiser for homeless people with AIDS and ARC, with dancing to the music of the Blazing Redheads, on Sunday, February 8, from 8 pm until 2 am at 295 China Basin Way, Pier 50, SF. The Redheads will perform their fusion of jazz and latin. The cost is sliding scale \$6-\$25, all proceeds going to the Homeless AIDS/ARC Trust Account, under the supervision of the Tavern Guild Foundation.

For information, call Bernice Straub at 863-9974.

ON GUARD

JOHN S JAMES

How to Make AL 721

Five weeks ago this column published a report that Americans could receive treatment in Israel with AL 721, an experimental AIDS/ARC medicine developed in that country at the Weizmann Institute of Science. Since that time the research project which accepted Americans has been shut down, as a result of pressure from within the U.S., so the treatment is no longer available.

What is the politics behind this shut-down of AIDS research and treatment? Not only have individuals lost a treatment option, but also the highly esteemed immunologists working at Weizmann have lost learning opportunities. The political answers are unclear, but the following sketch, which we have not been able to confirm, seems to reflect the understanding of those close to the situation:

□ The patent licensee which owns the rights to AL 721 in the U.S. and many other countries is Praxis Pharmaceuticals, Inc., of Beverly Hills, CA. Tiny, by drug-industry standards, this public company has only six employees, according to its "10-K" disclosure form. This company strongly objected to the use of AL 721 in Israel to treat American patients.

How can a U.S. company shut down some of the AIDS research at the world-famous Weizmann Institute? Why can't the public policy of the United States find a way to make an exception to business as usual during the

and it may have suffered as a result.

□ It is believed that there is no chance whatever for FDA approval until well into 1988—over a year from now—even though the medicine is known to be completely safe and there is nothing to lose by trying it.

If the above reports are true, then all the communities concerned with AIDS have a decision to make. Should we put this issue on the public agenda to try to change national policy, to demand that saving lives be given a higher priority, or keep quiet to avoid risking further damage to AIDS treatment research and development?

AL 721 Quick Background

AL 721 was first developed at Weizmann as a medicine for other diseases, long before its possible relevance to AIDS was known. The U.S. patent (number 4,474,773, Oct. 2, 1984) does not mention AIDS. AL 721 may be the first of a new class of medicines using what has been called "membrane

and Dr. Prem Sarin of the U.S. National Cancer Institute. The letter reported that AL 721 could prevent the infection of human T-cells by the AIDS virus in the laboratory. (For more background and references, see my technical article published April 1986 by the Documentation of AIDS Issues and Research Foundation, San Francisco; to obtain a copy, send a self-addressed stamped envelope to this writer at the address below.)

Theory suggests that in addition to AIDS, AL 721 might also help against other lipid-coated viruses, such as herpes, CMV, and Epstein-Barr. It was found to be effective against herpes in one animal test, reported October 1986 at a symposium in New Orleans.

Since AL 721 had been known to be safe and had previously been tested in humans in Israel, it would seem that the encouraging laboratory results with the AIDS virus would quickly be followed by clinical tests. But in the 14 months since the laboratory report was published, we only know of eight people who have received AL 721 in clinical trials, all mildly ill lymphadenopathy patients at St. Luke's/Roosevelt Hospital Center in New York. The results were encouraging, with large reductions in viral activity (about 80 percent) in five of the seven patients for whom measurements were available. Tests with AIDS patients are now about to begin. (We had heard that this study was full, but now it is rumored that it may be expanded. We don't know whether or not a placebo will be used.)

One person who was near death from AIDS a year ago and is now in good health after AL 721 treatment wrote about his experience (*Sentinel*, January 2, 1987). The treatment works slowly; it took two weeks to feel any effect, and months before T-cell counts rose significantly. Probably the treatment must be continued indefinitely.

The picture emerging is that AL 721 can be effective as an antiviral for many people, but that therapy might be improved by also using an immune treatment, such as a thymus hormone, after the virus infection had been slowed or inactivated.

AL 721 is not a cure, not a magic bullet, although it probably can save lives and restore many people to health. Since there are no dangers or drawbacks to AL 721, there is no justification for stopping people who want to use it.

AL 721 Formulas

There are three approaches to making AL 721: a new laboratory formula, a substitute which can be made at home, and new methods likely to be available soon.

AL 721 is easy to make in a laboratory, but companies cannot do so openly because they could be sued for patent infringement. Also, no useful instructions for making the substance have previously been published. The U.S. patent, and also a published scientific paper (Lyte and Shinitzky—cited below), give two different procedures for making AL 721. Neither of them is

useful in practice. So, this writer obtained professional assistance in expanding the sketchy instructions disclosed in the patent into a laboratory formula. The patent applies in many but not all nations, so it would be legal to make AL 721 in some countries, and legal to advertise openly that Americans or others could go there for treatment. No one has yet set up such an operation as of this writing. The formula for laboratory use can be obtained from this writer at the address below. Include a self-addressed stamped envelope.

The home formula published here was developed by a chemist in the New York City area in January 1987, and distributed at AIDS support meetings there. It is made by mixing butter or cooking oil with a concentrated lecithin formula widely available in health-food stores and in some drugstores. The proportions of the three ingredients of AL 721—phosphatidyl choline, phosphatidyl ethanolamine, and neutral lipids—are not exact but are well within the range of at least one set of specifications for the official product. However, there are slight chemical differences between ingredients derived from eggs (used in AL 721) and those from the other sources used here. There is no known reason why this home substitute could not work like AL 721. Every expert I have spoken to suspects that it probably will work, at least to some extent; but nobody has proven that it will.

The third approach is based on special food products not yet entirely available. Just before press time, this author learned of a suitable egg lecithin now being sold in the United States at a reasonable price ("Phosphatidyl choline 60 percent from egg yolk," from Sigma Chemical Co., St. Louis, MO); but unfortunately this company does not allow use of its products for human consumption.

Neutral lipids would need to be added; butter or cooking oil could be used as in the home formula. But it would be better to obtain neutral lipids from egg yolks as described in a scientific article on AL 721 (Lyte and Shinitzky, "A special lipid mixture for membrane fluidization," *Biochimica et Biophysica Acta* 812, 1985, 133-138). When food companies can supply both the egg lecithin and the egg neutral lipids, which would be entirely legal to do and technically easy, then it will be possible to make a product virtually identical to AL 721 in anyone's kitchen.

Experts say that AL 721 will be most useful to those with infections, and least useful to those with KS or other cancers. There are no known problems in combining this food with any other AIDS drug or therapy.

AL 721 should be stored frozen, and moved to the refrigerator a few hours before use. It should not be allowed to stand at room temperature, as the components may separate. For best absorption they should remain well mixed when the product is used. AL 721 should be taken on an empty stomach, preferably in the morning and/or evening, with little or no fats eaten for at least two hours afterwards. Each dose is

10 grams of the lipids.

Patients should discuss any treatments they are using with their physicians. At this time few physicians are familiar with AL 721. For a review of scientific and medical studies concerning this treatment, send a self-addressed stamped envelope to John S. James, P.O. Box 411256, San Francisco, CA 94141.

AL 721 Substitute Home Formula

The following instructions have been distributed at PWA meetings in New York. The text has been slightly changed here. More information is available by calling the phone number below.

PC-55 (tm) is a high-strength lecithin concentrate made by Twin Laboratories, Inc., Ronkonkoma, NY. It contains two of the three ingredients of AL 721: they are in a 5:2 ratio, close to the 2:1 used in AL 721. Neutral lipids can be added to PC-55 making it a membrane fluidizer comparable to AL 721. This material is a food nutrient, it is not a drug. It is safe.

Combine five tablespoons of PC-55 and 12 tablespoons of water in a bowl, and whip with an electric mixer. Slowly add 6 tablespoons plus one teaspoon of butter which has been melted (measure the butter before melting). Whip thoroughly three to five minutes. This mixture divided into ten even doses gives slightly over 10 grams of the lipids per dose. Each dose should weigh about 30.4 grams or 1.06 ounces.

The individual doses can be placed into plastic sandwich bags for freezing. If you don't have a scale, you can measure out two tablespoons to each bag, then add a much smaller amount to divide the remainder. One person separated the doses in an ice-cube tray. Move each dose from the freezer to the refrigerator a few hours before use.

This material spoils very rapidly at room temperature. It must be frozen unless it is used immediately.

(An earlier version of this formula used cooking oil instead of butter. The proportions are 5 tablespoons PC-55, 5 tablespoons + 1 teaspoon oil, and 10 tablespoons water.)

The material is best eaten in the morning, spread on fat-free bread or mixed with fruit juice. The user should eat a fat-free breakfast which might consist of fat-free cereals, skim milk, fruits, or vegetables. There are no restrictions on lunch or dinner. An additional dose might be taken before going to bed. Patients treated in Israel are given two doses a day for about four weeks, then single doses for most of one year. Some people with AIDS might experience diarrhea with this membrane fluidizer, especially with the additional dose. Eat brown rice and other solid foods.

You can help others and yourself by keeping a record of your experience—doses, dates, and any resulting effects.

For information call Steve Gavin, (201) 677-2795.

Since there are no dangers to AL 721, there is no justification for stopping people who want to use it.

AIDS emergency?

□ Praxis is seeking approval from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to market AL 721 for AIDS and other diseases. But this small company faces an uphill fight because much larger and more influential corporations have their own AIDS treatments on the federal agenda. Possibly, there are important federal officials who want AL 721 to never be approved, because they are committed to other treatment approaches instead. The owners of Praxis are apparently very concerned that any protest or publicity, such as could be generated by Americans traveling to Israel to receive treatment there when it is unavailable here, could deprive them of the allies they do have in the FDA, and kill the AL 721 treatment regardless of medical or scientific merit.

Praxis has been outspoken in telling Congress about certain problems in the federal management of AIDS research,

"engineering"—modifying cell membranes to achieve treatment goals. AL 721, which consists entirely of a mixture of three lipids (fats) found in ordinary food, increases the "micro fluidity" of cell membranes, by increasing the ratio of phospholipids to cholesterol. Increased membrane fluidity makes it harder for viruses to attach to receptor sites and enter the cell.

The meticulously careful and thoroughly documented scientific work which developed the theory behind AL 721 is illustrated by the 2-volume book *Physiology of Membrane Fluidity*, edited by Dr. Meir Shinitzky, a cancer researcher at the Weizmann Institute and the principal developer of AL 721. The book is published by CRC Press, Boca Raton, Florida.

The first reference to AL 721 and AIDS was in a letter to the *New England Journal of Medicine*, November 14, 1985, by several researchers including Robert Gallo, MD

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WEEK AT A GLANCE

30 JANUARY FRIDAY

Visionplay Circle holds an evening of deep trance visualization designed to open the heart and mind to richer possibilities and personal transformation. Led by Van Ault, certified hypnotherapist, every Friday night at 8 pm. This week at 513 Valencia Street, Room 2, SF. \$10-15, sliding scale. Info: 864-1362.

Trocadero Transfer hosts "A Cats Theme Review Dance Party", from 10 pm until dawn. 520 Fourth Street, SF. Info: 495-0185.

Jazz history in the making can be experienced as **Carmen McRae** and **Betty Carter** collaborate on a live concert recording, tonight through February 1, at the Great American Music Hall, SF. Info: 386-3315.

The Kronos Quartet performs pieces by four modern composers as part of its 86/87 concert series, *First Impressions*, at the Herbst Theatre, in SF, at 8 pm. Info: 762-2277.

The Cocktail Twins offer "Not Just Another Lounge Act" and rock-jazz fusion at Club 181, 181 Eddy Street, SF, from 10 pm until dawn. \$4-5. Info: 771-2393.

Electric City program on cable 6 television interviews Scott O'Hara at the Campus Theatre, and John Wetzel talks to the cast of "13 Down." An intimate profile of a lesbian grandmother, Dr. Farkle says seven dirty words...almost. Screenings at Maud's & the Village bars in SF, at 10 pm.

Galleria de la Raza opens its 1987 season with a memorial exhibit for Steven Moses, a young artist who was killed by an unknown assailant in a street near the Galleria. On display through February 21st, with a reception tonight with music from 7-9 pm. 2851-24th Street, SF. Info: 826-8009.

The Lab presents **Call Me**, an interactive performance by Elizabeth Austin, in which our relationship to the technology we've created is addressed. Through January 31st, 8 pm, 1805 Divisadero Street, SF. Info: 346-4063.

Follies, starring Harvey Evans, Terri Ralston and others, plays the San Jose Center for the Performing Arts, a presentation by San Jose Civic Light Opera, opens tonight at 8 pm. \$10-25. Info: (408) 971-1212.

31 JANUARY SATURDAY

EastBay Frontrunners take a jog through In-



Kronos Quartet — one of the most inventive, appealing foursomes in town — plays contemporary classical on Friday, Jan. 30, at 8 p.m. at Herbst Theatre. Program selections include Philip Glass's "1965 Quartet," Robert Erickson's "Corlu" (1986), and Alban Berg's "Lyric Suite" (1926). Call 864-5414 for tickets and information.

spiration Point at Tilden Park, with a potluck brunch at the end of the three to eight mile run. Info: 526-7592, or 261-3246.

Girl Can't Help It, a party of the '50s and '60s, carries on over at the Baybrick Inn, 8 pm - 4 am, \$5 cover. 1190 Folsom, SF. Info: 431-8334.

The Chicago Symphony Winds and guests perform in a chamber concert at Hellman Hall, 19th Avenue and Ortega Streets. \$4-6, 8 pm. Info: 564-8086.

1 FEBRUARY SUNDAY

Psychotherapist **Tom Moon** lectures on "Men Who Love Too Much: Co-dependency In the Gay Community" at the G40+ meeting. Free.

2-4 pm, First Unitarian Church, 1187 Franklin Street at Geary. Info: 552-1997.

Violinist Leonid Gisin and the Shostakovich String Quartet perform at SF Conservatory of Music, with works by Prokofiev, Shostakovich and Tchaikovsky. 8 pm, Hellman Hall, 19th Avenue at Ortega, SF. \$4-6. Info: 564-8086.

2 FEBRUARY MONDAY

Bay Area Career Women Presents Carolyn Banker, Ph.D. candidate speaking on "Is there life after commitment?" For couples and singles, how to put ecstasy into a relationship. BACW Members: \$8. Non-members: \$16. Includes networking and hors d'oeuvres at 6 pm, speaker at 7:30 pm. Marines Memorial Club,

609 Sutter at Mason, SF. Info: 495-5393. An event for women.

All American music is featured in this performance by the **SF Contemporary Music Players**, including the west coast premiere of Barbara Kolb's *Millefoglie*. 8 pm, SF Museum of Modern Art, \$7-10. Info: 751-5300.

4 FEBRUARY WEDNESDAY

Marcy Adelman, editor of the just published *Long Time Passing: Lives of Older Lesbians*, will discuss aging and the lesbian community. Three other contributors of the anthology will read and answer questions. 7:30 pm, Modern Times Bookstore, 968 Valencia Street, SF. Info: 282-9246.

5 FEBRUARY THURSDAY

Older Gay Men's Friendship Group (60+) meets at 2:45 pm in the Friendship Room, 711 Eddy Street, SF. Sponsored by Operation Concern. Info: 626-7000.

Media presents an exhibition of neo-conceptual constructions by artist **Nayland Blake**, opening tonight, and showing through February 28, at Media, 360 Ninth Street, SF, 7-9 pm. Info: 864-0308.

Stand By Me plays Cole Hall Cinema, Cole Hall Auditorium, 513 Parnassus, SF, at 5:45 pm only. \$2-3. Info: 476-2542.

Dancer's Stage Company, features eight performances including "Broken Prayers", a ballet in commemoration of people who have died and in support of those suffering from AIDS. 60 Brady Street, SF. Info: 558-9355.

Twin Pines Woodwind Quintet offers a program of Vivaldi, Barber, Reicha, and Milhaud. At the Cultured Salad, Three Embarcadero lobby, 6-7 pm. \$5. Info: 626-6596.

Artists for Community Life hold their monthly meeting, to create positive energy through the arts during the AIDS epidemic. Potluck starts at 7 pm. Info: 652-4526.

The *Sentinel* welcomes submissions of community and arts events for our weekly calendar. The deadline is one week or more in advance of Friday publication. Send items to: *Calendar Editor*, San Francisco Sentinel, 500 Hayes Street, SF 94102.

ASTROLOGER

ROBERT COLE

January 30—February 5, 1987

WEEKLY ALMANAC: The New Moon in Aquarius occurs on January 29th at 5:44 a.m. on the West Coast. The Age of Aquarius is at hand! Think of all the big lifetimes we've lived to get this far. Now it's time to make the Big Move — to finally eliminate the threat of war forever. You are encouraged to participate in group circles during the New Moon phase. The channels between this world and the next are wide-open and clear. Together we will envision the frontier.

♈ ARIES, THE SHEEP (Mar 21 - Apr 19): Honesty is a dead cat splattered all over the freeway. See where curiosity gets you. Spotted fantasies of funeral parlors. What horrors lurk in your future? Imagining a dream is like starting at a solid block of granite (the Vietnam Memorial). One dipsy bright spot slithers across your pathway mid-week. An optimistic psychic in smiling make up. Dear, what a sprit! Listen to her read the cards, she will reveal the ultimate answer.

♉ TAURUS, THE OX (Apr 20 - May 20): "Back off bitch" is a bumpersticker you ought to put on your rear fender this week. Female pressures tend to send your pedestal spinning in spirals. Hey you, dumb sucker, how long are you going to put up with this shit? Skip pragmatics. Lay rubber, baby... it's a wide-open highway from here on out. But cats are left fighting at

home; nobody's there to pay the light bill. Nobody cares.

♊ GEMINI, THE WOLF (May 21 - Jun 20): Wanna keep travellin', travellin', travellin' on. Sing that song, walkin' down the windin' roads of your mind. Nowhere to go, and haven't really been anywhere either. But gotta keep movin' on. You've been plannin' this one for a while. Gonna go back and see how those foreigners do it, back to that paradise of endless horizons. Put out a friendly hand to your fellow hitchhiker, it's time you part ways for a while.

♋ CANCER, THE CRAB (Jun 21 - Jul 22): Dark nights with no moonshadows. Hiding in your room listening to the walls creak in the cold. Bundle up, dearie, there's a ghost in your house. Black fantasies of an old lover satisfy with a cold, metaphysical touch. But no one understands what it feels like to be empty inside... making love to yourself over and over again. Only the Cross can make it go away. Shadows of ancient guilt strain the walls still.

♌ LEO, THE SNAKE (Jul 23 - Aug 22): Hey, stupid, I don't mean to distract you from your weird little games, but my very best friend is about ready to shuffle off to Buffalo. You ought to at least stop long

enough to give him or her a decent hug. No, it can't be true that you really don't care. It can't be true, can it? Look out the window of your playroom as the car drives away; look at what you missed. Well, back to the same old games.

♍ VIRGO, THE PIG (Aug 23 - Sep 22): Healing miracles! Sweet, bejezeus, the lord has deigned to make you well. He has laid his hot little hands on your cold feeble body and driven you flat out of your mind!!! You are healed! Say it with me: "I am healed, halleluia!" Dance in the streets! Go crazy in the rapture of love! (But, come on over here on the side for a minute. I have somethin' important to tell you personal. Now that you've been healed, you better get yourself a job.)

♎ LIBRA, THE LEOPARD (Sep 23 - Oct 22): Oh, wow, so cosmic! Are you stoned? Your eyes are dilated; you keep walking into walls. So how can you face life — real life? Keep asking, and sooner or later some sensitive soul will hear your plight. The fear of being alone causes shock, shock looks for sedation, sedation yields loneliness. Traffic groans in the background; a friend leans on the bus; and you've got to sober up. Face it.

♏ SCORPIO, THE SCORPION (Oct 23 - Nov 21): Sit home and watch tv, read a book, bake some cookies, clean-up the garage, wax the floors, but for godsakes stay away from serious work. Let it rot! And let all those workaholics in your life rot too. Take the free money which the state is willing to give. Suckle at the breast of the bureaucracy. Become an official lazy slob. Three cheers for lazy slobs!

♐ SAGITTARIUS, THE HORSE (Nov 22 - Dec 21): Look over your left shoulder at who's watching

your every move. You are being followed, but why? Big money is on your trail; the mob wants to back your ambitions, make you a star. Right now they're testing your honesty. Get it? Remember, scar face, there's no good guys...they're all bastards trying to support their own habits. Spit on anybody who offers you money for nothin'.

♑ CAPRICORN, THE WHALE (Dec 22 - Jan 19): Aw shucks, by golly, darn! El nerdo capricorn emerges from his sleep to stuff his face and leave a big mess in the kitchen. Hey, you, the big dope in the dirty levis...being Huckleberry Stupid doesn't make it any more. You can be cheap, lazy, and ignorant, but pack your own trash damnit! Big hint: you'll go a lot farther in life when you get control of your appetite.

♒ AQUARIUS, THE EAGLE (Jan 20 - Feb 18): It's a New Moon and you're in the temple of doom, alone. It's so dark you can't see your nose, but you are guided by the inner light. Move slowly so the flame is not extinguished. Be careful of the traps which are set for you. Inch your toes forward feeling for the crevice. For quick astrological answers, send two questions, plus your birth date/time/place, plus \$5 to Robert Cole, P.O. Box 884561, San Francisco, CA 94188.

♓ PISCES, THE SHARK (Feb 19 - Mar 20): Dogs howl and drums rumble in the dark. Doubts rise from tombs of fear, memories of what used to be and is no more. Night will surely swallow death and beck forth a new day. But how long can you wait? Bech ready, for your savior's unruly nature. And if you can just wait for another week or two, the answer to all your problems will finally show up. ■

Britten fell back on a typical liberal argument that said that Peter Grimes was the victim of his differentness from the society around him, but without ever specifying the essence of that dichotomy.

THE ENIGMA OF PETER GRIMES

Three summers ago, when London's Royal Opera visited Los Angeles, tenor Jon Vickers expressed his belief that Benjamin Britten wrote *Peter Grimes*, his first great success, out of desire to win sympathy for homosexuals. The recent release by Thorn EMI Video of the 1981 BBC telecast of the Covent Garden production starring Vickers, Heather Harper and Norman Bailey and conducted by Colin Davis, gives us all a chance to look at the opera and ask what Vickers meant by his remark.

Peter Grimes is the sordid tale of a poor fisherman on the east coast of England. The main character is a bachelor, living in a simple hut with a workhouse boy who serves as his apprentice, but he is courted by a widow, the schoolmistress, Mrs. Ellen Orford. But Grimes keeps putting off the marriage until he has earned his fortune. As the

by Bill Huck

opera opens, an inquest is in progress into the death at sea of Peter's apprentice. During the course of the drama, his replacement slips and dies. Sensing blood, the rabble of this small community hounds the remorseful fisherman. In the end, even his closest friends recommend suicide.

Peter, then, is an outcast from the very start. Homosexuals of course are outcasts in society, or certainly were in 1945 when this opera was premiered. So that parallel is clear. Furthermore, Britten wrote the title role of this opera for his lover, the tenor Peter Pears. The question thus arises: Is Peter a homosexual and is that the cause of his problems? More vulgarly put, what is Peter doing with those apprentices?

But Britten and his librettist Montagu Slater wrap Peter's home life in luscious musical interludes that cover everything in the salty mist of the sea. The composer evidently wants to hide any direct testi-

mony to his hero's homosexuality. Furthermore, Peter's musical language contains little warmth, except for the sea. Lacking any real evidence, it is hard to claim that Peter Grimes is a portrait of a homosexual. Certainly he is not a well-adjusted homosexual, happy with his lot in life, such as Benjamin Britten was himself.

The argument could run that Peter is a repressed homosexual and that his problems stem from an uncontrollable anger that is the result of this repression. When Ellen Orford finds a bruise on the second boy's neck, she tells Peter, "your ways are hard and rough beyond his years." She also accuses "this unrelenting work, this grey, unrelenting industry" and the elusive lure of success. Later, when Peter and the boy are alone, the older man cries out in exasperation "I'll tear the collar off your neck"—which makes the bruise look like abuse and would support the repressed homosexual argument. Unable to express his physical affection for other men, so runs this explanation, Peter hates the boy on account of his own attraction.

Clearly this explanation is possible, and it accords with everything we know about Peter, Ellen Orford and the town-folk. But, it seems to me, this program would hardly win sympathy for homosexuals. Rather it would make us feared and shunned since it associates violence and homosexuality. Besides that, the musical argument of *Peter Grimes* does not seem to me to run in that direction. After all, Peter in the opera is softer than his original in George Crabbe's poem, *The Borough*; in fact, in the opera his major musical statements portray him not as a violent misfit but as a dreamer, frustrated by the real world and his lot in it. Such is the argument Britten himself advocated, and the one that Peter Pears adopted in his performances.

The crucial scene that establishes Peter's character is the second of the first act, when a storm forces all of the major characters in the story to seek refuge in the local tavern. The drinkers are carousing lustily, in simple but catchy tunes that reflect their cosy conviviality. Outside the storm and the orchestra rage. When Peter enters, disheveled and wild-looking, the widow Sedley faints. While the others look after her, Peter feels compelled to sing his first visionary outburst, "Now the great Bear and Pleiades." Philip Brett, the finest of the second generation of Britten commentators and the most enlightened on the subject of the

composer's sexuality, has pointed to the ninths and sevenths in Grimes' music, that is, to those crystalline dissonances that sit on either side of the octave. As the essence of Peter's musical vocabulary, these intervals give him a shimmering off-balance that partly explains the lack of warmth in Peter's personality that I mentioned earlier.

"He's mad or drunk," the town responds when Grimes has finished his aria and soon the landlady is calling for a song to quiet their mounting anger. This song is a cross between a jingle and a shanty, lively and fun, but light years away from Grimes and his ethereal vision.

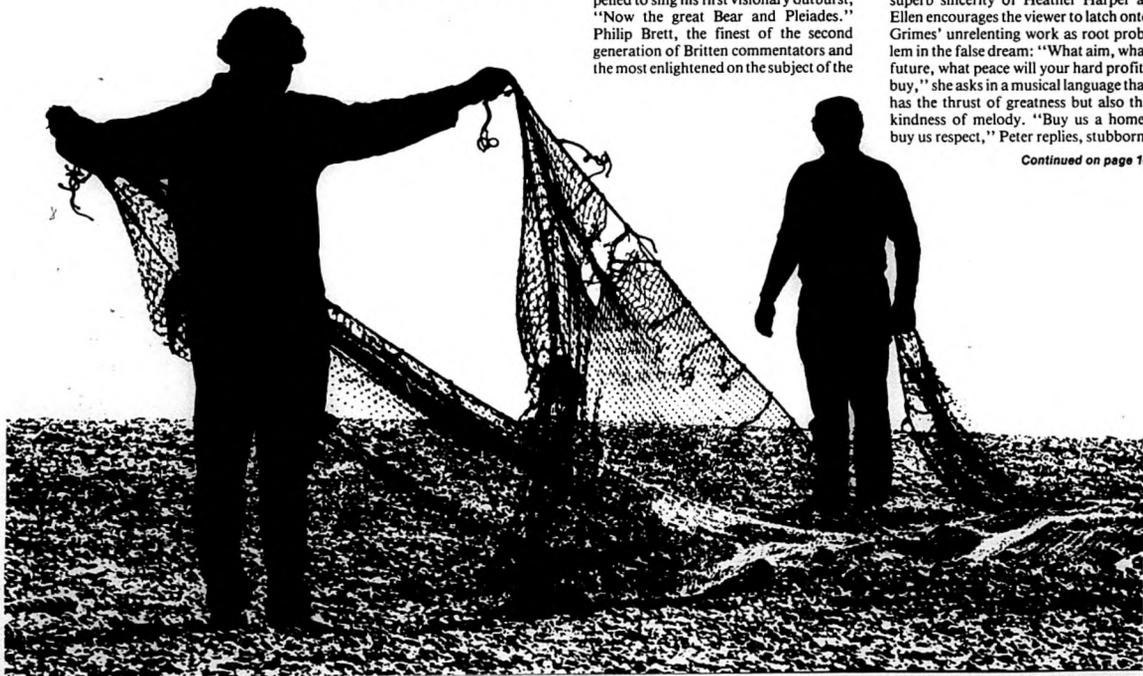
But the traditional portrait of Grimes, created by Pears, is very different from the one put forward by his successor in the role, Jon Vickers. For Vickers, Grimes' visionary outbursts are a little more unhinged. Both interpreters, however, used their insight into the opera's main character to move away rather than towards a sexualized view of the hero. Both Vickers and Pears seem to be locating the problem in the conflict between Peter Grimes with his translucent music and the rest of the community with their open, simple melodies. And I think both interpreters are right in directing a shift away from overt homosexuality.

Benjamin Britten was a rather modest man. When he and Pears returned to England, from which as a pacifist the composer had fled at the beginning of the Second World War, the composer wanted to earn for himself a secure place in the musical establishment. By choosing to return home—unlike W.H. Auden and Christopher Isherwood who remained in America—Britten and Pears were agreeing to tame their own rebellion in order to have the artistic freedom they needed.

The urge to justify their love remained, but Britten was not willing to sacrifice his career for the sake of homosexuals everywhere. So Britten fell back on a typical liberal argument that said that Peter Grimes was the victim of his differentness from the society around him but without ever specifying the essence of that dichotomy. After the vision in the tavern, Peter has only one appearance that is not, strictly speaking, a mad scene. This is his encounter with Ellen after she has found the bruise on the boy's shoulder. For me this is the center of the opera, musically its richest moment and dramatically its most rewarding passage.

In the Vickers video of this scene, the superb sincerity of Heather Harper as Ellen encourages the viewer to latch onto Grimes' unrelenting work as root problem in the false dream: "What aim, what future, what peace will your hard profits buy," she asks in a musical language that has the thrust of greatness but also the kindness of melody. "Buy us a home, buy us respect," Peter replies, stubborn-

Continued on page 18





THOMAS ALLEMAN

Jean Charles Gil

*New Star
on the
Ballet's
Stage*

by Eric Hellman



THOMAS ALLEMAN

SF Ballet artistic director Helgi Tomasson confers with Gil during a studio rehearsal.

In person, he's charming—soft-spoken but urgent in tone, almost flirtatious. He leans forward to gesture or touches my knee for emphasis. At first he seems exactly like what I had imagined: a sexy French prince. But as we talk, I realize there's very little of the haughtiness that often comes with aristocracy—even with the aristocracy of ballet.

Jean Charles Gil, former principal dancer with Ballet de Marseille and one of today's few superstars in the world of

classical dance, talks with an animated, child-like enthusiasm, an inner joy rather than the regal authority I had expected. And when he speaks, he often shifts the topic away from himself and back to San Francisco Ballet, the company he has chosen (for a large part of this year) to call his artistic "home."

"I love this company and Helgi [SF Ballet's new artistic director, Helgi Tomasson]. It has such a very good repertoire, so different, and I find the other dancers

very easy to work with. It is good here. And I want other people to know—because they don't—this company exists and it is very good. I want to bring this company even more praise," says Gil with enthusiasm and a generous sense of personal modesty.

The dancer's decision to join SF Ballet as a regular company member is something of a coup for director Tomasson. After Gil's 1984 appearance in the Metropolitan Opera's 100th Anniversary Gala, he was reportedly asked to join American Ballet Theatre (by artistic director Mikhail Baryshnikov) as a principal dancer. I asked Gil whether this was true and, if so, why he turned Baryshnikov down, choosing a less visible and, seemingly, less prestigious position with San Francisco Ballet.

"Because I didn't feel comfortable," he answers. "I like Misha. But I don't like all the politics. Sure, ABT has a great name and you get lots of publicity for the first two months, but I prefer enjoying what I do. I need people who like me, who love me in my job. And besides, I think San Francisco Ballet is—can be—a great company." (Under Baryshnikov's direction, ABT has experienced much financial and artistic upheaval; most recently, both Cynthia Gregory and Fernando Bujones, two of the company's most gifted dancers, departed to pursue work elsewhere.)

Gil also adds, "It's my choice, you see, it's my life; in my dance I prefer to work with a smaller company, but one that's very good. I never," he laughs, "dance in

the smaller ugly companies, you know?"

Gil, who was born in Spain and began his dance training at age nine, lists an impressive repertoire, including Franz in *Coppelia*, Albrecht in *Giselle*, and James in *La Sylphide*. Following his 1983 U.S. debut with Roland Petit's Ballet de Marseilles, he was named "best dancer of the year" by American critics. In addition to a long association with Petit's company (one which has now, apparently, been replaced by Gil's new home in San Francisco), he has toured extensively, appearing with the National Ballet of Canada, Paris Opera Ballet, American Ballet Theatre and, most recently, in the La Scala Opera Ballet's summer 1986 tour, dancing Siegfried in *Swan Lake* and the dramatic lead in Balanchine's *Prodigal Son*.

Besides an exceptional command of balletic technique—including pristine beats, carefully articulated use of the arms and upper torso, and strong, clean finishes after completing a jump or pirouette—Gil also possesses amazing depth and

dancers, they move very fast. You know? And I think this is good. You have to push yourself more here. In France, the style emphasizes more the arms and the inner feeling. But I think it is good to bring them together. In my heart I am French, but in my feet I have to now dance the American style."

"Also," he adds, again returning to his enthusiasm for our local company, "the dancers here are very good. The women are very strong technically, and elegant."

And the men, I ask?
 "They are good, too," he assures me. "Perhaps they have some things to learn. But then I have to learn, too. And that's something I like about this place, about every place I go, I always enjoy learning."

In an art form where triumphant egos often reign, Jean Charles' tact and personal restraint seem remarkable—and remarkably appealing. He readjusts his position and pushes a hand through his dark, longish mop of hair. And I begin to suspect this Frenchman's charms may be working their intended effects on me.

**Today, the body is more beautiful.
 You have to take care in everything.
 Before you had to whisper it, but
 now it's so hard."**

subtlety as a dramatic performer. His powerful, emotion-draining performance in La Scala's *The Prodigal Son* was one of the most satisfying works of dance drama I have witnessed on the Opera House stage.

During SF Ballet's 1987 season, Gil will dance a wide range of new roles, including the leads in Tomasson's "Intimate Voices" (set to 19th century Danish composer Niels Gade's "Spring Fantasy") and a new work by Val Caniparoli, a narrative piece about the myth of Narcissus, arranged to Debussy Nocturnes. Gil will also dance in Jerome Robbins' "Opus 19/The Dreamer" and the romantic-era, full-length Bournonville/Martins ballet, *La Sylphide*.

In our recent talk, I asked Gil what he thought of American dancers, in general, and SF Ballet's dancers, in particular?

"The American people and American

Gil talks about the importance of a dancer finding a good—a satisfying—partner. "It is so essential, because she helps me, and I help her. Dance is only art if there is a connection, an electricity between me and her."

He mentions how much he enjoys dancing with Evelyn Cisneros, one of the Ballet's leading ballerinas. I ask about their contrast in styles of movement, suggesting Cisneros's movement is more crisp and fiery while Gil often stresses a languid sensuality.

He bristles a bit at this description, this labeling.

"In every ballet I like change. Sometimes you see me and I am sexy and sensual. But sometimes I am other things, too. For my last visit to New York I had this problem. Everyone—the critics—wanted to see me so sexy. But I was dancing a classical ballet. And sexy would not be



Gil partners ballerina Ludmila Lopukhova in the Bournonville/Martins version of *La Sylphide* from the 1986 season.

true. It needed a romantic *sensibilité*, you know. And other things. Sure, I like to stay sexy on the stage. But you don't have to overdose, you know?"

Gil is, however, along with the other great male dancers of the past 25 years (Nureyev, Baryshnikov, Peter Martins, Erik Bruhn, and Antony Dowell come most immediately to mind), responsible for a major shift in the public's perception of ballet as a "suitable"—even heroic—profession for a man. I ask Gil what's different about the male's role in ballet today?

"Nureyev. He's the beginning of the new generation. Today, the body is more beautiful. You have to take care in everything. The face, the technicalities, your sensuality, everything. Before you had to whisper it, but now it's so hard. Sometimes it's too hard, you know?" I nod in feigned agreement, not really knowing, not really being able to feel the difficulty of a dancer's work.

The life of a dancer, I imagine, is very, very demanding work. A job that requires endless physical and mental stamina, and that often leaves the body aching with pain. I ask Gil about the pain, about what drives him—why ballet seems important?

"Of course," he says, "there is a lot of

hurt in it. But you know on the stage you forget it. And for me the audience is so important. I need the relationship of the audience; I need to be able to express myself.

"But I'm not sure how important ballet



Gil and new SF Ballet dancer Pascale Leroy in "L'Arlesienne," included in the 1987 Opening Gala.

is for everyone. I think football is more important and basketball, too, and everything. The difference is that in ballet, it's an art—it's not only a circus, it's not only joy. It's an idea, it's a difference. And I am an artist."

We begin to conclude our talk and I ask Gil about his schedule during the next few months. Besides dancing in San Francisco, he mentions performances with the National Ballet in Tokyo, a taping for French television, a Gala at the Paris Opera, and a short rest at his country home in the south of France. "I need relax time, too," he exclaims with a rakish smile. "So I have my dogs and I like to ride my horse, and I love music and nature, and other things, too!"

We laugh. Further probing, well, it seems unnecessary.

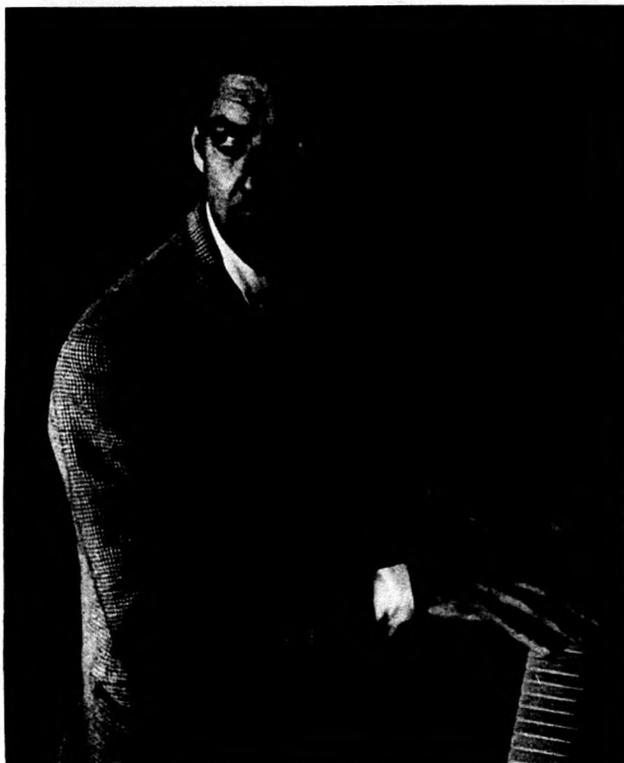
Finally, I ask about his long-range plans. I'm wondering whether he sees his association with San Francisco Ballet continuing indefinitely?

"I want to make a connection with this company," he says. "My home is in France, but I think this can be a second home, yes. My dream is to bring this company to Europe. To show everyone how good this company is. But for now, it's all very comfortable for me. This city is so beautiful. And the food is so good! Really, you know, it's paradise."



Jean Charles Gil and Pascale Leroy in "Intimate Voices," director Tomasson's new fin-de-siècle saga of nostalgic passion.

Britten wrote the title role of this opera for his lover, the tenor Peter Pears. The question thus arises: Is Peter a homosexual and is that the cause of his problems?



British composer Benjamin Britten, c. 1945.

The homosexual can't buy respect with a house because he cannot buy self-respect with it. The scene with Ellen ends with her apparent abandonment of Peter and he turns fatefully, crying out, "So be it!—and God have mercy upon me!" in an ominous Lydian mode, so different from the major key of the background chorus reciting their Christian hymn.

with the composer conducting and Claire Watson singing circles around every other Ellen Orford) made Grimes appealing from the first. It was Vickers' insight to make Grimes more sympathetic as he gradually moves farther and farther away from others.

As the scene in the hut proves, Grimes maintains his belief to the end that if he could have caught enough fish to climb out of his economic morass, he could have found peace. It is Peter Grimes' limited vision, rather his capacity for poetry, that dooms him to failure. So, it is Vickers' second insight to see that Grimes' commonness, and not his specialness, is what makes him heroic. The tenderness Vickers evokes here is surpassingly moving, because he makes clear that it is a dream too many of us all have dreamed.

Grimes' final mad scene is a stunning tour de force for Vickers, who is willing to sacrifice all of his non-artistic shame and all of his worldly respect for a portrait of Peter babbling on the shore. The humanity and the greatness of Vickers' performance here comes not from any dogmatic application of his insight that Britten was trying to win acceptance for homosexuals everywhere. There is no apparent sex in this scene.

Nevertheless, the artist in Vickers drew some of his extraordinary power from the realization that the composer was covertly talking about himself and his sexual identity. The mystery of the creative mind is deeper than any simple explanation of it. Vickers has understood this, but he has also understood that Britten was motivated by his feeling that the world tended to discount him because of his homosexuality.

By being willing to enter Britten's predicament at its most unconscious level, Vickers has universalized the composer's intentions one step further. For this, homosexuals all around the world owe both Britten, who know the problem from the inside, and Vickers, who knows it only from without, heartfelt thanks, because they have been willing to go underneath the surface and understand something of our isolation.

Continued from page 15
ly recalling an earlier tune that shows him locked into his equation of economic success with societal acceptance. Here Vickers shows Grimes trapped by his brusque exterior and his futile belief in buying respect.

Grimes now moves into a world of his own, and here Vickers' own humanity begins to grow as his voice fills out and that hollow center of the upper register that tends to mar his recent work disappears. Peter Pears in his interpretation (recently and gratefully reissued on CD

The Royal Opera's 1981 production of Benjamin Britten's Peter Grimes is available on Thorn EMI Video (TVE 3562). Colin Davis conducts with Jon Vickers, Heather Harper and Norman Bailey in starring roles.

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**Tactile Art
Show Opens
at SFMMA**

"Art For Touching," a tactile sculpture exhibition designed especially for the blind and visually impaired, will be open to the public now through April 26 at the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art. The exhibition consists of seven sculptures from the Museum's collection, and includes works by Beniamino Bufano, William Edmondson, Tony Smith, and Jacques Schnier.

"Art For Touching" offers visitors an unusual opportunity to explore with their hands a variety of sculptures, ranging from figurative pieces of the thirties to abstract contemporary works of the sixties and seventies, in stone, wood, acrylic resin, limestone, marble and stoneware.

Tours, led by specially trained docents, are by appointment only, and begin with an orientation session that includes handling of a study collection. While touring the exhibition, visitors will be encouraged to appreciate through their sense of touch each work's form, texture, and individual identity. Wall labels and hand-outs giving information on each of the sculptures will be available in both Braille and large-print type.

"Art For Touching" was organized by SFMMA docents as part of the Museum's educational outreach program. Admission is free to prescheduled groups and their escorts. For more information, or to schedule a tour, call the SFMMA Education Department, (415) 863-8800, ext. 217.

Barbie's Revenge

I'm trucking down Noe towards Duboce when an acquaintance walks up and, gazing intently into my eyes, says, "I heard a rumor you're wanted for bank robbery. Is that true?"

Oh, my esteemed colleagues. Oh, my *Est*-steamed colleagues! The crimes of this columnist are many and varied but not *that*.

My name sounds unique enough but I'm often haunted by cases of mistaken identity. Lawrence Ferlinghetti leaned over to me at a poetry reading once and whispered "You the Steve Abbott who's into magic?" "Not any more," I replied. "That's another guy in Berkeley." I met him once and he looks nothing like me even though he also writes and has a brother who's a musician, as is mine.

Then there's the time I picked up a *Fag Rag* and saw a poem by Steve Abbott which I didn't write. That one interviewed Gore Vidal, moved from Boston to San Francisco (into my neighborhood yet) and there's still another Steve Abbott in Marin, a lawyer, whom I've never met. When I went to a monastery in Missouri the abbot there was named Abbot Stephen and I hear there's a big rock in Arizona on which someone wrote "Steve Abbott was here." But I never was.

I was meditating on these coincidences while doing laundry recently. If Steve Abbott, gay writer, isn't a unique enough

pon from a *Clue* game. Another's electrocuted in her bath when the Barbies knock a radio into the tub. You get the picture.

"Well you'll have to meet Grant," I now tell Walter. "He's been collecting for three years and has over 200 Barbies, a Barbie encyclopedia (308 pages), Barbie magazines, newsletters, clippings—you name it." Here's a bit of what I learned from him.

Barbie's inspiration came from Lilli, an adult West German doll. The first Barbie, made in 1959, looked harsher with pointed eyebrows and white irises. She was too shapely to be carried in many toy stores and never smiled. Her come-and-get-me eyes looked right, she wore a ponytail and today her plastic's whitened to a zombie-hue.

In 1961 Barbie got a bubble hairdo and in 1963 she became a "Fashion Queen" (able to wear wigs). "Miss Barbie" in 1964 was the only one to close her eyes and the first to bend her knees (Grant has one dressed up like Jackie O.).

Barbie didn't begin to talk

Alysia snatched those Barbies bald, wrapped bits of cloth and paperclips around their limbs till they looked like the streetkids on Haight.

identity, I thought, maybe I could . . .

"Collect Barbie dolls?" It was Walter. We patronize the same laundromat. For Christmas an old friend gave him a whole bunch of Barbie clothes. "It was like opening up a treasure chest," Walter says, his eyes glistening. He used to play with Barbie as a kid till his mom let the dog chew her up. Walter was crushed.

"Do you know Grant?" I ask. Walter says no, so I fill him in. You see, besides being Steve Abbott, gay writer, I'm also Steve Abbott, gay father (the only one I hope), and when my kid was in 8th grade she punked-out all her Barbies. Alysia snatched those Barbies bald, wrapped bits of cloth and paperclips around their limbs till they looked like the streetkids on Haight. I had told my friend Greg about this and that's when he told me about Grant, a big Barbie doll collector.

Greg and Grant had wanted to do a Barbie video so I wrote a screenplay call "Revenge of the Barbies." Grant was to play this innocent who moves into a boarding house full of weirdos. Everytime one of the denizens seduces Grant, his Barbies march out and wreak revenge. One slut's murdered with wea-

until 1968. She said things like "I think mini-skirts are smashing!" and "There's a new rock show on TV." By 1970 her interpersonal skills had improved to where she could ask help in getting ready for the dance. But she soon lapsed back into silence and today the talking Barbies are as silent as Greta Garbo (the best they can to is make a wheezing sound).

"Any leather Barbies?"

"No, but I made a black leather bikini for one of the first I got," Grant says. He puts on a cassette of "Barbie and the Rockers."

Here we stand with a mike in our hand Singing everything that we can.

They sound like the Partridge Family. Last year Barbie and the Rockers were in Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade and Grant saw them live at the Emporium (live models dressed as Barbie and the Rockers, that is. The Emporium also has lifesize Ken and Barbie mannequins one can buy for \$400 each—clothes extra.).

I begin to feel giddy as Grant thrusts more Barbie material into my hands. There's a Yuppie Barbie, Barbie in a McDonald's outfit, Astro Fashion Barbies: "Galaxy a Go-Go," "Welcome



Lesbian Barbies, can it be true?

to Venus," etc. ("We girls can do anything, right Barbie?" goes the current slogan). There's a Ken with an adhesive five o'clock shadow and a "Growing-Up Skipper," Barbie's sister, who sprouts breasts when you twist her arm.

"A mint '59 brunette Barbie can bring up to \$1,500," Grant says.

In 1984 Barbie turned twenty-five. Tiffany's celebrated with a sterling "Silver Barbie" and Andy Warhol painted Barbie's portrait. Dior, Yves St. Laurent, Nina Ricci and Hermes created designer clothes for her (but only Oscar de la Renta's design is available to the public).

"There's a special chapter in the encyclopedia on Barbie items that were advertised or in the catalog that were never made available to the public," Grant says.

By not I'm getting delirious. Mattel makes 25 million Barbies a year. In 1984 Barbie was interviewed by *The Village Voice*. Evelyn Burkhalter opened a Barbie Hall of Fame in Palo Alto (14,000 Ken and Barbies on display). "I think of Barbie as myself" Burkhalter tells one interviewer. But 16 year old Lotti

Pharris won the recent Barbie Lookalike Contest beating out Tippy, a local drag queen who looked more like the first Barbie (the newspaper didn't say Tippy was a drag queen).

Grant's friend Chuck comes in. "What's that black outfit called," Chuck says. "Solo in

Barbie clothes and Barbies who've never left their boxes, a talking Barbie clock, a Barbie game where Barbie buys her dress, catches a boyfriend, and if he asks her to go steady, she can, maybe, become Queen of the Prom.

"The LA gay poet David

In 1984 Barbie turned twenty-five. Tiffany's celebrated with a sterling "Silver Barbie" and Andy Warhol painted Barbie's portrait.

the Spotlight. I love that one." Grant shows me Barbie in this famous gown which is described as follows in the catalog:

Dramatic black glitter-gown with bare shoulders and red corsage on a nylon net flounce. Long black nylon tricot gloves. Pink scarf and bead necklace. Black plastic pumps. Plastic adjustable microphone. The set \$3.00.

"Probably worth \$50 to \$60 today," Grant estimates.

I begin to plot my escape as Grant shows me a hairless Barbie he got at an auction, cases of

Trinidad recently did a story, *Living Doll*, where he imagines he's Barbie and Ken dumps him," I say. "You can probably get it at Small Press Traffic."

"There's a guy in the neighborhood named Willie who's really into Barbie," Grant replies. "You'll have to meet him."

By the time I hit the cold night air I'm wondering if one of those other Steve Abbott's will help me rob a bank. It'll be a cinch. We dress up like Ken and his buddy Allen. I mean, how else can we keep Barbie in such fine clothes? ■

Grace Paley Opens Writers Lecture Series

Author Grace Paley will inaugurate a new five-part lecture series, "Writers on Literature," sponsored by The Threepenny Review in association with City Arts & Lectures and the UC Berkeley English Department, at 8 pm on Thursday, Feb. 5.

Ms. Paley is the author of three short story collections, *The Little Disturbances of Man*, *Enormous Changes at the Last Minute*, and, most recently, *Later the Same Day*. She is also well known for her political activism and her encouragement of younger writers.

The idea behind this series, "Writers on Literature," is to have contemporary working writers discuss authors of the past.

Following Grace Paley in the series will be Elizabeth Hardwick (February 19, also at 8 pm). Ms. Hardwick is the author of three novels (*The Ghostly Lover*, *The Simple Truth*, and *Sleepless Nights*) and three books of criticism (*A View of My Own*, *Seduction and Betrayal*, and *Bartleby in Manhattan*). She is also Advisory Editor to *The New York Review of Books*, editor of a recent edition of the annual *Best American Essays*, and a frequent panelist on literary award committees. Ms. Hardwick will be speaking about

the work of Gertrude Stein.

Other speakers in the series are Robert Hass (March 5) on Anton Chekhov; Harold Brodkey (April 16) on gender and literature (Emily Dickinson, Jane Austen, and Virginia Woolf contrasted to Whitman, James, and D.H. Lawrence); and Diane Johnson (May 7) on "the readable Victorians"—Wilkie Collins, Anthony Trollope, and others.

All of these events will take place in 155 Dwinelle Hall on the UC Berkeley campus. Tickets for this five-event series are available for \$35. Single tickets are \$8 per lecture (or \$5 for students). For ticket information and phone orders, call Cal Performances Box Office at 642-9988. ■

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Take it Out (in the Castro)

Our editor has been on our backs lately, imploring us to think more of our readership. "Remember the column is for the reader," he intones—a notion we have no quarrel with. After all, we could keep our bitching to ourselves. We bitch to inform, admonish, occasionally to educate, always to amuse. A conflict arises because our editor's imagined reader does not—when visiting Manhattan—venture into basement rooms on the Lower East Side to consume grilled *kishke*. He would rather remain in the East Village threatened by nothing more exotic than the suspicion of red pepper puree in his Crab Tortellini. This week we stay close to home.

Home being, that is, the Castro. We don't live there, but the pollsters tell us many of you do—you, that is, Gentle Reader. Most of the neighborhood places in the Castro are just that, neighborhood places paying exorbitant rents and trying to make a go of it. Steve remembers the time he asked about the kitchen in one of the more enduring local establishments and was told, "There's no kitchen—it's all microwave!"

The trend toward an interest in good food made with fresh ingredients has infiltrated the Castro, in the form of new restaurants and delicatessens that are attempting to do more than dish up warmed-over "gourmet" junk. Take-out food is perfect for the double-income lifestyle, or for the single person who wishes to pamper himself. Places like Carlo Middione's Vivande Por-

ta Via in Pacific Heights have enlarged the vocabulary of take-out beyond the white carton of gooey sweet-and-sour ribs. We visited four take-out places in the neighborhood—some old, some new—to check into the state of the art.

Mueller's Deli, fourteen years in the Castro, offers a glimpse of what the neighborhood was before the boys took over. Now Bruce Blackman runs the place—his father Meyer retired recently after fourteen years of offering mouthfuls of his wife Rosie's *chopped chicken liver* to first-timers. "Just try it!" It's still good—not fluffy or creamy or delicate in any way; it tastes like, well, chicken livers. A little more onion and *schmaltz* might make it go down easier.

Need a can of Danish sprats? This is the place to get it, as well as one of our favorite domestic cheeses, tangy *two-year Ver-*

mont cheddar. You can recline on naugahyde love seats while you slurp a cup of slightly underseasoned, but homemade, *split pea soup*. The *picnic potato salad*—smooth, mustardy, with big chunks of egg yolk and a little garlic—brought back memories of Mom's Saturday afternoon lunches.

We wanted very much to like the sandwiches, as Mueller's goes to the trouble of making its own meatloaf and meatballs, and roasting its own turkey and beef. Unfortunately, stale tasteless supermarket breads and colossal amounts of mayonnaise and pepper completely overwhelmed the tasty meats.

Mueller's is a very warm and welcoming place—a better bread selection and a lighter hand with the condiments would bring it into the '80s.

Port Deli obviously fills a niche: the large smoky dining area is always filled with people who seem to know each other, enjoying the man-sized portions and paying low prices. The

turkey, ham and swiss sandwich was truly monumental—a telephone-book-thick stack of house-roasted breast meat, decent ham and cheese, and good mustard, wrapped in dry over-sweet slices of the Port's own *herb bread*. The bakery does better with its immense muffins, like a dense and filling *wheat germ-carrot*, or a chewy *bran muffin* studded with entire walnut halves.

A *cherry cheese pillow* led us to wonder why the kitchen would go to the trouble of working up its own moist, toothsome pastry dough and then stuff it with synthetic-tasting cheese filling and canned cherry goo.

The white potatoes in the *potato salad* had been boiled to the point of falling apart—it looked like it should have been served up with an ice-cream scoop. It wasn't all that bad, if you go for the taste of sweet pickle relish. The popular *Bombay turkey salad* was worse—the kind of recipe you find on the backs of cans, load-

ed with stale curry powder and canned waterchestnuts.

The sandwiches and muffins are the best in the neighborhood, and if the rest of the Port's offerings are artless nobody seems to mind.

It is exhilarating to walk into Ryan's, the airy high-ceilinged room packed with cans and jars of high-end delicacies from all over the world—like *Marquise de Pompadour kiwi fruits in cognac* (\$19.95), *Giadello Club passato di pomodoro* (surely the most expensive jar of tomato puree in the City, \$7.00), and our favorite: "Smoking Granny" *Breton butter cookies* (\$10.25). The dishes prepared for take-out are laid out attractively behind the glass window, the carrots grated into bright orange threads, the snow peas sliced lengthwise into strips, and so on. Everything looks marvelous, which is not surprising given Lenore Ryan's background in catering. Whoever said "they eat with their eyes"

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MARC GELLER

POP

ROBERT JULIAN

Barbara Cook More Than Meets the Eye

Since Barbara Cook won a Tony for playing Marian the librarian in *The Music Man*, her career has faded to the point where she can be considered a bona fide cult figure. Outside of Manhattan, her memory is kept alive in the heart of every tenth homosexual in America from Bangor, Maine to Pismo Beach. Judging from the packed house at Marines Memorial Theatre last Saturday, it must have been a bleak night at the Alta Plaza.

The first and last time I saw Barbara Cook was when my parents dragged me, kicking and screaming, to see *The Music Man* on Broadway. I wanted to see *Bye Bye Birdie* but was singularly unsuccessful in putting my point across with a temper tantrum. My only memory of Ms. Cook was that of a pretty young blonde with a pony tail. This remembrance went out the window about three seconds after her entrance last weekend.

Ms. Cook wore a floor-length gown whose waistline had been

strategically moved south to about thigh level. The ravages of time and pasta have taken their toll; the ingenue is no longer present. Instead, we have the physical appearance of an aging suburban *hausfrau* on her way to a Weight Watchers' meeting. The sparkle from the silver sequins on the front of her gown did not obscure this fact.

Ms. Cook's opening numbers included "Come Rain or Come Shine," "The Man I Love," and "A Foggy Day in London Town," all of which seemed a little forced and not particularly



The indefatigable Barbara Cook.

well suited to her style of singing. Accompanied only by a bass and a piano, this was a no-bluff situation. But when she worked her way into "Sweet Georgia Brown," I got my first glimpse of what keeps her career alive. She began slowly, threw in several key changes, interrupted the lyrics with a little scat sing-

ing, and then changed tempo for a fast, upbeat finish. By the time she completed her incredibly moving rendition of "If Love Were All," I was sold.

The strengths of her soprano voice were well established by her renditions of "Dear Friend" and Leonard Bernstein's jazzy "I Can Cook." But the songs

that really got you were the ballads. Her vocal interpretations were assisted only by two musicians and a couple of spotlights, but nothing else was necessary. She even did one of her encore's, "Why Did I Choose You," without a microphone.

In addition to being a vocalist, Ms. Cook is an actress. She wrings every drop of emotion from a lyric without lapsing into melodrama. When the last notes of "Losing My Mind" were finished, they left in their wake the kind of heartache you can feel in your stomach. Early in the evening I gave up my preconceived notions of what a "chanteuse" should look like, closed my eyes, and just listened to the purity of her sound. I would encourage any skeptics to do the same.

If you missed Ms. Cook's performance this time around, you may have a chance to redeem yourself. Hopefully, the success of this engagement will bring her back this way sometime soon. Her concert was certainly a bright spot in my weekend, and a welcome antidote to my experience with the Blazing Redheads just two nights earlier.

What Redheads?

It was my original intention to devote this entire column to the Blazing Redheads. They recently appeared on the Bay

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'Outrageous Fortune' Taking Arms Against a Sea of Troubles

Outrageous Fortune is a delight. A standard Hollywood formula film with a slight twist—billed as the first female “buddy comedy”—it manages to transcend the formula largely by virtue of shining performances by Bette Midler and George Carlin. Even Shelley Long (still trading on the Diane Chambers role from *Cheers*) graces the picture, thanks to the chemistry between herself and Midler.

Although it can hardly claim to be the first female buddy comedy, especially if you count *I Love Lucy* and *Laverne and Shirley*, it does bring a refreshing change of expected gender roles to the screen. And like the best comedies, much of its humor arises from playing with oppositions in general: man/woman, working class/upper class, good/bad, enemies/friends, Russian/American, urban/rural, reality/make-believe.

The film is about two rival acting students who discover they have been romanced by the same man and chase him down to make him choose. In the process, they become embroiled in a CIA/KGB intrigue and end up dodging bullets from all sides, from New York to Albuquerque. It is very much an actor's fantasy fulfilled—the use of acting skills to get the bad guys.

Essentially, *Fortune* is an action film about acting. It transcends the action formula not only through the performances, but through giving us many simultaneous layers of artifice (Bette Midler playing Sandy Brozinsky playing a cop, Peter Coyote playing Michael the double agent playing a schoolteacher, and so forth). The characters' identities and roles are juggled and switched and played with throughout the film from the start, when Lauren (Shelley Long) presents a sickly-sweet, pretty-please smile into her parents' security video camera begging for money to take more acting lessons.

gender line each presents a charming new persona that exhibits characteristics of both sexes and functions to endear us even more to the character being portrayed. This is good stuff.

Director Arthur Hiller has made other buddy comedies, notably *Silver Streak* with Richard Pryor and Gene Wilder, which I also liked. But I found myself comparing this film not to other buddy films, but to films like *Tootsie*, another formula movie which treated acting and (more pointedly), cross-dressing. Unlike *Tootsie's* message of learning to be a better man by being a woman (and its unpleasant subtext of a man being a more effective woman than a woman), the role reversals in *Outrageous Fortune* contribute to a recognition of the true self and its value beyond career, money or ideology.

This is shown most clearly in



Just buddies: George Carlin, Shelley Long, and Bette Midler in 'Outrageous Fortune.'

Much of the role-switching is gender-bending, which is given positive validation in the film (by the fulfillment of Lauren's fantasy to play Hamlet). Not

the scene where Lauren and Sandy drop their animosity while primping in a hand mirror. Sandy admires Lauren's hair and Lauren confesses she's

The role reversals in Outrageous Fortune contribute to a recognition of the true self and its value beyond career, money or ideology.

that Lauren and Sandy are convincing as pubescent boys, or that Frank (George Carlin) looks like a woman in Sandy's clothes. But in crossing the

not a natural blonde. The off-hand remark carries a weight of intimacy and honesty which solidifies the bond the characters have been developing. The

remainder of the film is an out-and-out paean to friendship. Life and limb are risked, huge quantities of money fly into the air, daring feats of bravery are tossed off, all in the name of friendship.

This is standard fare for the buddy comedy formula. That it reads fresh here is thanks to Hollywood's sexist films which have portrayed women either at each other's throats over some man (or career, in more recent "enlightened" films) or not relating to each other at all. The women trading digs at Michael's sexual performance is particularly gratifying, even if it does beg the question of what they saw in him in the first place.

An important element in the women's growing closeness is the influence each has on the other. Stereotypes (the Ivy League prude, the Lower East Side tramp) are indulged in so that they can be tempered and balanced along the way. Al-

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Haight Ashbury Rep Rich Rewards from Strangers in the Night

The gospel according to *Danny and the Deep Blue Sea* is that there are three kinds of people.

One: Somehow, some people get the idea that life and the world make sense to everyone except themselves. Every incidental contact with anyone else is an act of aggression that they can only meet with self-defense. Their lives become cells of desperate loneliness, and they cover there, trying not to be noticed. They know they can't stay the way they are, but they're also sure they aren't worth saving or changing. Besides, who would help them? No one.

Two: Another sort of person realizes that nothing in the world actually makes sense to anyone. He believes anyone who seems to understand is lying, and this person can't participate in the lie. He does what is expected, but still doesn't "click" with anyone or anything. He retreats, pretending to accept the world as sane, while letting everyone else think he's "mad." At his worst, he believes the label enough to want to test it. He knows he can't stay the way "they" are, but he is also sure their out-of-sync condition can never be corrected. Besides, with whom would he really want to synchronize? No one.

Three: Others.

Imagine a man striking out at a world he can't grasp and a woman shrinking away from a world she doesn't belong in, both at crisis points, meeting in a bar. That is the starting point of John Patrick Shanley's *Danny and the Deep Blue Sea*, the first production in the fifth season of Haight Ashbury Repertory Theatre.

You want to identify these two altogether lost souls as strangers, people you would never actually know, but they won't keep their distance. Like a cubist painter, playwright Shanley presents you with a dozen half-developed images of the meeting. Soon you see that the images don't need to be any clearer because, in fact, their outlines are already quite familiar.

The only possible way out of the separate and private hells that the characters live in is a mock-dreaded intimacy. If only Danny could touch someone without hurting her, and be touched by someone without feeling threatened, things would be different for him. If only Roberta could touch someone without feeling she defiled him, and be touched by some-



Kathryn Knotts and Paul Antonio Santiago in Haight Ashbury Rep's *Danny and the Deep Blue Sea*.

one without having to dress the moment in fantasies, things would be different for her.

Sex has become an engine of despair, carrying each of the characters further from the possibility of human contact with every encounter. A memory of incest, a revelation of transsexual desire, and a certainty that what they really want is something all "others" already have, twist together like a basketful of snakes. "If only" reigns. Kisses are battles. Imagination has plastered over experience until having had sex is, "we've done... uh... love."

Kathryn Knotts (Roberta) and Paul Antonio Santiago (Danny) seemed uncomfortable, perhaps even clumsy, in their roles during the first of the play's three scenes. It might have been hard for the audience

to stay with them, if not for the compelling power of the script. But, when we came back from intermission, both actors had their characters in control.

Knotts, who says that Roberta is "a real stretch," is able to keep her character

Sex has become an engine of despair, carrying each of the characters further from the possibility of human contact with every encounter.

hovering over an invisible line of her own creation, ready to drop into either a familiar world of fantasy or ghostly hope. Sustaining the tension of this self-imposed jeopardy, without so much as glancing at the reality taking shape around her, is an act of dramatic courage. It is impossible to say how much of this spirit is in Shanley's Roberta, and how much of it comes from Knotts' beautifully developed talents.

Santiago, easily hefting the cumbersome armor of Danny's outrageous machismo, has the almost impossible task of insinuating a different brand of sexual energy into every one of the character's many guises. As "The Beast," he is brutal, taking a cruel joy in slapping Roberta around. Then he has to be an embarrassed child learning about romance, a mature man who wants to love with unaccustomed gentleness, a frightened baby whose idea of love echoes a mother's caresses,

and a spectrum of other transitional types. It helps that the actor is sensual and handsome, but he disregards that and performs his magic with acting.

Danny and the Deep Blue Sea may well be the script that will be looked back on in years to come as the first "important" play of John Patrick Shanley's career. It has the quality of universal applicability that makes a play infinitely revivable, and absolutely unforgettable.

Garrett Dressler, who was assistant director of Haight Ashbury Rep's outstanding 1986 production of *The Indian Wants the Bronx*, marks his debut as a director with this production. It is impossible to know from a single performance of a new drama what skills a new director really has, but the early indications are very good. To assemble a two-character play that works at the psychological depth of *Danny*, and to do it without a trace of overworking the text, is an achievement any director could be proud of.

The original music and sound design (by "Love Club") are usually insignificant, but unfortunately not always innocuous. William R. Simonds' lighting design and the set by Susan Jackson are both good. The tableaux Simonds and Jackson create are very effective. The

overall effects are appropriate, but some of the changes of lighting are a bit jolting, and Jackson's set would surely have benefited from a slightly richer budget.

At present, Haight Ashbury Rep doesn't have a permanent home. This season, the company is "touring" San Francisco, performing at Gumption Theatre, Climate Gallery and the Buriel Clay Memorial Theatre. If *Danny and the Deep Blue Sea* is any indication of the level of the company's 1987 season, the out-of-the-way theaters can be no excuse for missing any of the plays. *Danny* is one of the most affecting evenings of neighborhood theatre I have ever encountered in San Francisco. ■

Danny and the Deep Blue Sea by Haight Ashbury Repertory Theatre, through February 7 at Gumption Theatre, 1563 Page Street at Masonic. Call 626-1755.

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Camper Van Beethoven, Sea Hags, Non-fiction, Box o'Laughs and House of Wheels

Camper Van Beethoven, the Weird Al Yankovich's of the new folk sincerity, are a very busy band. So far in their short career, they've released three full LPs, one EP, and maintained a fairly stringent touring schedule to boot. These are admirable achievements for such a young band. I haven't seen them for almost a year. Back then I was never fully impressed with their folk-gypsy-psychedelica, but that very sound has made them the darlings of college radio, earned them a large following, and elicited high compliments from R.E.M.'s Michael Stipe. He claims that CVB are even weirder than he is. Non-fiction are an energetic local country-rock-swampabilly band of high merit who at one time, attracted the attention of England's Demon Records, an Elvis Costello-owned label. I heard this a long time ago, wonder what happened. I saw Box o'Laughs at a party once and liked them a lot. Post-teenage neurotic rock. I'm unfamiliar with the Sea Hags and House of Wheels but love their names. This show is brimming with a wide variety of local talent and could prove to be very interesting. (The Farm, 1/30, 8 pm, call 431-1326 for details)

John Trubee & The Ugly Janitors of America and Whitefronts

John Trubee is a very weird guy, sending out promo photos that have to be cut below the waist because he's not wearing pants. Expect perverse garage-band rock from this group that garnered the term "bad news" from one reliable source. On the other hand, Whitefronts have amassed some good press for their live shows and their first LP, *Roast Belief*. They're also a hilarious interview (*Braveur Magazine*, Vol. 3 Issue 5). With seven members, Whitefronts play long psychedelic jams reminiscent of the Grateful Dead (they believe Jerry Garcia will eventually hand the lineage over to them) with flourishes of reggae, thrash, jazz, blues, you

name it. One member describes the band as a cross between Husker Du and Chicago. I like their attitude and they open the show, so if John Trubee is bad news, you may leave fulfilled into a night that's still young. (The V.I.S., 1/30, 10:00, \$6)

Spanish Elvis

I saw this band briefly at the last Folsom Street Fair. They offer basic, groovy music and huge, huge hair. The venue is friendly. What more can I say? I like their name... uh, they've got a... um... a good beat... uh... and great hair! Okay, okay, I don't know a fucking thing about Spanish Elvis. Sorry. (Nine, 1/30, 10:30, \$5)

Maxine Howard's Rhythm and Blues Explosion

This is supposedly Maxine's first SF show since a European tour, but later in February the Baybrick is hosting a Bon Voyage concert before she departs for a European tour. Did she like it so much that she's returning immediately? Coming or going, one thing is certain. Maxine can sing the blues. She's a pencil-thin dynamo who's graced a few SF Blues Festivals, played mistress of ceremonies for a much missed Women In The Blues revue some time back, and fronts her own band of ace players with friendly, casual finesse and a voice you can hold on to. She tells stories, too. Once she talked about a friend who said, "Maxine, when you gonna settle down, get a husband, keep house, cook, clean, all those things?" Maxine replied (in song), "I'm a pretty good cook baby, and I'm sitting on my groceries." Brave a slightly different venue and go see her. She packs bags of charm. (Last Day Saloon, 1/31, call 387-6343 for details)

John Cale w/Chris Spedding and American Music Club

This is the second tour together for Cale and Spedding, both outstanding musicians with interesting backgrounds. John Cale, Lou Reed, Sterling Morrison and Maureen Tucker (with the help of Andy Warhol)



John Cale — still at the top of rock's creative edge — plays Monday, 2/2, at the I-Beam.

formed the Velvet Underground in 1963, arguably the most influential band of the last twenty years. Since then, Cale has worked with Patti Smith, Brian Eno, Jonathan Richman, Iggy and more while releasing a series of consistently creative solo records, most recently, *Caribbean Sunset* (ZE Records). Chris Spedding has worked with Lulu, Dusty Springfield, David Essex, and Donovan to name a few. He also writes a music column for *Details Magazine*. With Cale on keyboards and Spedding on guitar, who knows what may happen, besides extreme musical competence and possible brilliance. AMC are a local band with a compelling front man and a strong debut record. When I first saw them, their lyrics caught my attention before anything else. A fine songwriter is at hand. (I-Beam, 2/2, 10:30 pm, \$6/\$7)

The Beastie Boys and Fishbone

By the time you read this I'm sure there won't be a single ticket left at either of the two SF venues hosting this interesting double bill. I should have mentioned it earlier. The Beastie Boys' first LP, *Licensed to Ill* (Def Jam/Columbia), is Columbia's biggest selling debut record ever. *Melody Maker* named it the number one record

of '86, and everyone has probably heard the song, "Fight For Your Rights" on ghetto blasters throughout the City. *Licensed to Ill* is a fun record. Like a white Run DMC, The Beastie Boys are gaining an unbelievably large multi-racial following. Using familiar riffs of heavy metal past, basic shout/rap patterns, and even theme songs from old television shows, The Beasties cover a variety of subjects like fighting for

the right to party, living at home, and other pleasant subjects for the youth of America to embrace. The record has everything it needs to be a mega-hit but my guess is the live show won't measure up. I'm sure they're complete assholes. These boys originally wanted to call their record *Don't Be A Faggot*. Somehow I'm not that sorry about missing my chance to go. Opening will be LA's Fishbone, the meatier end of the bill. After how, they actually know how to sing and play instruments. (Wolfgang's, 2/2, 9 pm, \$15 and The Stone, 2/4 & 5, 9 pm, \$15)

Club Troc

No, this isn't a band, but it's an event that definitely goes under the heading of rock. I-Beam DJ Alan Robinson and Voice Farm's sound man Steve DeGrazia are trying something new at the Trocadero. Robinson, the only DJ in town with the guts (and smarts) to play semi-obscure, current and hip music like The Godfathers, Wire, A Certain Ratio, etc., spins at the celebrated disco palace on Thursdays now. Another extra bonus is the age limit, 18 and up. As far as I know, this is an exclusive feature for a decent dance club in San Francisco. Yet another fine point, DJ Dangelgirl will man the controls on Sunday nights. If this new change doesn't breathe some life into the mirror-balled mausoleum, I don't know what will. (The Trocadero Transfer, Thursdays and Sundays, call 495-0185 for details)

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Big Black Burns It Up

In the Duboce Triangle area of San Francisco, several buildings on Noe and Waller Streets have mysteriously gone up in flames over the last year. In two cases on Waller Street, the houses were inhabited by friends of mine, all escaping unharmed, then shortly after, leaving that section of town completely. For the victims in one case, arson was undoubtedly certain. The culprit(s) lived right next door. This series of fires was reported, very briefly, in the *Chronicle* about a month later, with only a slight suggestion of arson as the cause.

Arson is the subject of one of Big Black's most powerful songs, "Kerosene," from their recent LP, *Atomizer*. The liner notes for the song cite the boredom of small-town living and the loss of interest in easy sex as probable stepping stones to pyromania. San Francisco is one of the only major metropolitan areas provincial enough to be termed a "small town." Long time residents can't go anywhere without seeing someone they know, and when they do, it could quite possibly be an ex-easy sex partner. I walk down Noe Street everyday, and as I pass one burned-out building after another, I can't help but think about "Kerosene."

At The 1-Beam on Martin Luther King Day, Big Black ripped through that song and many more with a deranged ferocity and adamant skill. They shredded sweet dreams, goodness and ear drums with disturbed, decaying slices of realistic American pie and guitars that hit with the impact and string of shotguns loaded with rock salt. Big Black transforms that old trick for keeping the neighbor's hound away from the chicken

coop into a blood-drawing guitar assault that definitely keeps major record labels at bay. Band leader, guitar god, Steve Albini wouldn't have it any other way. He thinks of major labels as a corrupt pack of hounds.

"So glad to be here on King Day," Albini said while strapping his guitar to his waist. "Elvis meant a lot to me."

The band didn't just slip into their first number, "Fists Of Love." Albini introduced the song as "Fists of Really Good Friendship," and Big Black turned on like a precise machine: savagely loud guitars, all three band members screaming into their microphones simultaneously, and a drum machine headed straight for the gut. This beginning was more like walking in midway on a song that's gaining momentum. The lyrics were often drowned out and hard to hear but on this song they're simple: "Feel my hand/Feel my arm/Feel my fist/Fist of love," each line repeated several times to a constant, needling riff.

"How many of you know what The Seven Gates of Hell is?" People cheered. "How



Not just another skinny rock personality: Big Black's Steve Albini.

MARC GELLER

many of you really know? It's a cock ring with a ring for each ball and four more rings going all the way up to the end of your dick," Albini said before their second song. After a tumbling bass intro, the guitars came in and something dangerous happened. The searing, angry, tension-filled explosion of sound made me wonder for a second if listening to Big Black could possibly kill you. I thought that bands like Einsturzende Neu-

idiots. He was right, they were there.

"Jordon, Minnesota," is a big Black song about an actual small town in the Midwest where the majority of adults were involved in sexually abusing their own children and their friends' children on a regular basis. It was a news item for two weeks and then the issue disappeared from the media. Live, the song is a harrowing experience with lines like "This is Jor-

sonating ideas that bring about hatred in this world. He vibrated behind his guitar, as if conducting a strong electrical current. He'd simply turn his head and his eyeglasses would fly six feet. At one point he brought his guitar close to his mouth and screamed onto the strings. It sounded as if a man were trapped inside of his guitar as he alternated it's position between his mouth and the amplifier, creating some extraordinary feedback. The thin man looked mighty, tossing the guitar back and forth like it was weightless, giving way to a powerful juxtaposition of human and non-human sounds.

Other songs included "Daisy," about the said sleeping sickness of 1927. The song's subject went to sleep at sixteen and "woke-up" at sixty. "Kerosene" began with a thunderously funky bass solo, eventually melding with the familiar guitar crunch that compels me to listen to this song over and over at home. The lyrics hit as hard as the guitars: "I was born in this town/Lived here my whole life/Probably learn to die in this town/Lived here my whole life/There's kerosene around/Just something to do/There's kerosene around/Find something to do/There's kerosene around/Set me on fire." Big Black roared with the fury of entire city blocks engulfed by flames and a touch of the perverse sexual gratification one

Continued on next page

Steve Albini admits that their music appeals to idiots.

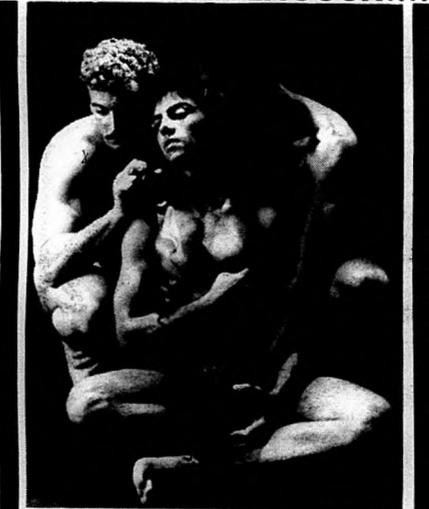
bauten, with their use of power tools and industrial percussion to create a violent and ominous mood, should see Big Black and witness what one guy can do with one guitar. Then they should go hang themselves.

The audience responded to the sudden barrage with an annoying round of college-Joe slam dancing. That's a novice version of the famed ritual in which college dudes who've never heard of Big Black smash into each other, hoping to look and feel virile and tough while trying to touch each other's tiny little naughty parts. It's a lot less fun than it sounds. Most of the time I'm not opposed to this form of dancing but when it seems unfounded and, for many, just a thing to do, it's tiresome. Steve Albini admits that their music appeals to

dan, we do what we like," and "This will stay with you until you die." All instruments would stop, the feedback would fade, and Albini would moan repeatedly like an overweight truck driver bouncing a five-year-old in his lap in a special new way. During another break in the song he whined, "Daddy, my bottom's sore." Recounting this song doesn't do it justice. It was neither positive or negative, it was a graphic evocation of an obsessive and shocking subject. What do you expect from a band that starts a set with a song about fist fucking?

Wearing a T-shirt emblazoned with "That boy needs a good killing," Albini doesn't come off as just another skinny, wiry rock personality. Steve Albini is a wire, pulled taut by grievance upon grievance, re-

IF YOU'RE MAN ENOUGH....



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TWO DOLLARS PLUS TOLL. IF ANY CALLERS MUST BE 18 OR OVER

ROCK

Continued from previous page

suspects of an arsonist. Before their final song, "Passing Complexion," Albini introduced his bandmates, Dave Riley on bass and Santiago Durango, "Playing with five strings and half an immune system." This song and their two encores furthered the tyrannical attack of one of the most fearful, riveting band performances I'd ever seen.

On the way home from the show, I met up with a traffic disturbance on Noe Street between 14th and Duboce. Approximately eight fire trucks and other official vehicles blocked the street while combating the flames of yet another burning building. There's kerosene around.

DINING

Continued from page 20

was probably a professional caterer, or a hotel chef.

Ryan's is certainly the place in the Castro to shop for imported cheeses like chive-dotted *Cotswold* and domestic *Fromage blanc*—a mild fluffy goat cheese from Laura Chenel; Bruce Aidells' gutsy handmade sausages; salt-packed anchovies; Graffeo coffee, and three kinds of crunchy *biscotti* to dunk into it; and Fran Gage's attractive French-style loaves, like *pain aux noix*, a crusty walnut bread that would taste great with *fromage blanc*.

Lenore Ryan performs "a service to the community," as she puts it, by opening her restaurant upstairs to take-out customers who buy their lunch

in the shop. This service is available all day, and is an admirable one.

We wish all of the take-out tasted as good as it looks. The *choucroute garni*—very spicy and winey sauerkraut loaded up with grilled pork chops and those wonderful sausages—was fantastic. The *red potato salad*, pretty as a post-modernist picture with slashes of red bell pepper, etc., was so drastically undersalted, undergarlicked, undervinegared, and undertasty it should never have left the kitchen.

We were told the customers "won't allow" Ryan's to stop making the *Chinese chicken*

rafters with brightly-colored packaged food, most of it from Italy: semolina pasta from DeCecco, four kinds of vinegar and four olive oils, pitchers of white muscat grapes packed in *grappa*. The *parmesan reggiano* is two dollars a pound less here than at Ryan's.

Spuntino's gets a lot of its stock from old-style North Beach suppliers—like breads from Cuneo bakery, *hot fennel* and *old fashion* sausages from Jacopi, pastries from Dianda, and day-glo "pizza-bread" *focacce* from Danilo. Perhaps that's why Spuntino's feels so authentic.

There are house-marinated

Take-out food is perfect for the double-income lifestyle, or for the single person who wishes to pamper himself.

salad; as it tasted of little more than sugar and chili oil we wondered why. A handful of garlic and fresh ginger would have done this attractive dish more good than all the food stylists in the world.

Ryan's is clearly trying hard to bring off something extraordinary—which is why we're being so hard on them. It is no good to simply throw expensive ingredients at a dish, or pretty it up. Food's gotta have soul.

Spuntino's is the newcomer of the bunch, the most appealing occupant of a location cursed by a succession of awful junk food joints. We wish it well. Spuntino's is packed to the

green and black olives with plenty of dried herbs—a little more garlic would make them sing arias. Spuntino's version of *red potato salad* boasted flaky just-tender potatoes and crunchy chopped celery in a sour cream dressing that did not obscure the sweetness of the potatoes.

A nice lunch could be made of a half-pint of that potato salad and a *roasted chicken breast*, coated with needles of rosemary and garlic; add a handful of the formidably oily *garlic toasts* and you probably shouldn't return to the office. Thoughtfully, Spuntino's keeps a supply of *Brioschi* on the shelves.

Only the *Greek salad* was

disappointing—not every Greek salad has to include feta cheese, but Spuntino's undersalted version would have been the better for it. Of the three turkey sandwiches we sampled on our take-out tour, only Spuntino's was made with pressed turkey. Fresh bread, judiciously-applied mayo and a pickle slice almost made up for it.

It is a credit to the neighborhood that all of the businesses we visited were staffed by extremely friendly and helpful people, often the owners of those businesses. In a world of automation and corporate franchise it is worth a little inconsistency to receive that kind of personal attention.

Mueller's Delicatessen, 468 Castro Street. Open M-F 7:30 am-10 pm, Sa 'til 8 pm, Su 'til 6 pm. 431-4960.

Port Deli, 3499 16th Street. Open 7 am-11 pm daily. 861-9650.

Ryan's, 4230 18th Street. Open for take-out M-F 11 am-9 pm, Sa-Su 10 am-9 pm. 621-6131.

Spuntino's Delicatessen, 2375 Market Street. Open M-F 11 am-7 pm, Sa-Su 'til 6 pm. 863-2009.

POP

Continued from page 20

Area scene and have been attracting some attention. The Redheads represent themselves as musicians. Unfortunately, this is a fact I cannot personally attest to.

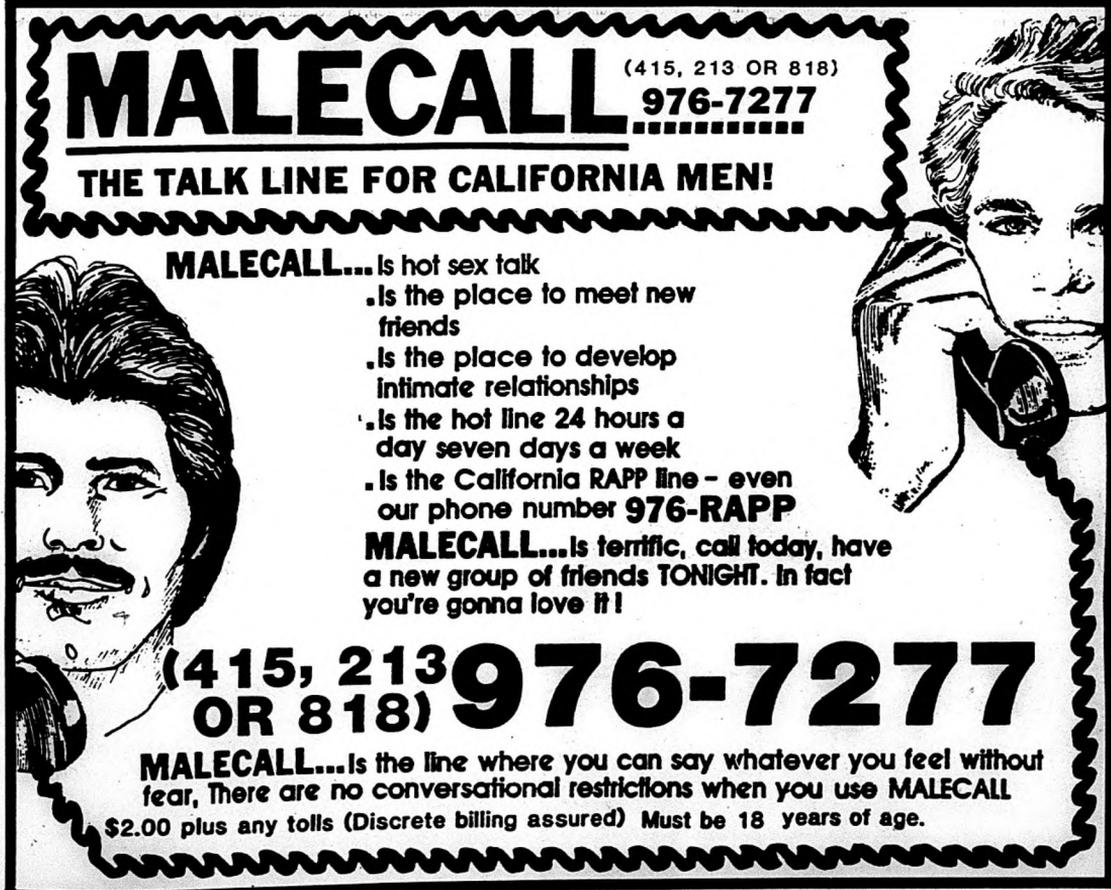
The Redheads engagement last Thursday at the Baybrick was advertised as beginning at 9

pm. I arrived shortly after 8:30, accompanied by an out-of-town guest, and we had to stand in the front portion of the bar until 10 pm. At that point, the back room was finally opened for the Redheads' performance. Upon entering, my female companion and I discovered that, although the front room of the Baybrick had no empty seats, the back room had no seats at all.

After ten more minutes of leaning against a wall, wondering why we were still there, the stage was overtaken by an unannounced, unnamed band. The five members of this entourage began singing in Japanese and playing something very loud that I cannot identify. If I could hum a few bars for you, you'd wish I hadn't. But you achieve a rough approximation of their sound by placing a throw rug in your dishwasher and turning on the sani-wash cycle.

Shortly before 11 pm, after standing for almost two hours and enduring as much as we could tolerate, my friend and I beat a hasty retreat. We walked through pouring rain to our car and ended up, Redheadless, at Max's Diner for lemon meringue pie. As it turned out, the pie, like the Redheads, was advertised but could not be materialized.

The Blazing Redheads is a seven-woman band, currently playing a number of benefits in the Bay Area. That's nice. I wish them luck. But if they want to establish and retain an audience, they would do well to engineer a performance that starts somewhere near the appointed time. It's not only a mark of professionalism, but good common sense.



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Roni and Nanci and Ed Meese, Don Regan/George Shultz and Caspar and Menachem Begin/Oliver North and Poindexter and Sting/These are a few of my fav'rite Miss Things.

Smile and Say Lease

The Stud got its lease! Look for at least 3 1/2 more years of frolic. Details, next column.

Evan Rude

With **Oral Roberts** shrieking "pay or I die," **Jerry Falwell** laying low, and **Roni Reagan et al.** flushed down the Irangate toilet, the Republican right appears in major disrepair.

Or at least it did till last Sunday, when its savior appeared in the guise of used car salesman (and, coincidentally, Arizona Governor) **Evan Mecham**. Ev declared his state a King free zone since he feels **Martin Luther King** "does not rank with Washington and Lincoln for a holiday," according to press secretary **Ron Bellus** (*SF Chronicle*, Jan. 19).

Reporter **Eward W. Lempinen**, an obviously perceptive man, gave readers shrewd insight to the gov's character: "Mecham, 62, is a Mormon, a Pontiac dealer and a champion of conservative moral values whose black toupee is streaked with gray. In the past two decades, he had run for public office and lost four times before [last] fall."

Lempinen declined to say if Mecham lost because he's obviously a lunatic bigot, or

because he simply *refuses* to see a good hair person.

Hole In One

My favorite pair of jeans is falling apart, and I'm in despair. Shredded over the right knee and right cheek (thereby revealing a sliver of my Jockey shorts just below what for many heterosexual men is the "wallet pocket"), the jeans are decomposing even as they've become a second-skin for my lower body.

I was lurkin' on Haight St. the other day, brooding over this disaster, when I noticed walking toward me a **tall man**. Although he and I made eye contact longer than the three seconds allotted in polite (i.e., heterosexual) society, it lacked the frisson of cruise so readily discernible in the willing participant.

A few seconds after he passed, his voice called out behind me: "You have a hole in your knee!"

Without thinking, I shot back: "I've got one in my butt, too!"

I wonder if I could sell that to the Levi Strauss Co. for their next ad campaign.

Strapping Jocks

Maybe, but only after I get through working my Jockey shorts to shreds, unpaid, as the **Campus Theater's** one-man ad

campaign.

Owner **Steve Downard** recently gushed that the new "one to one" shows in the downstairs arena feature big boys "getting it on—within the limits of the law." They make crowd contact, too, before returning to the stagelet "for the dénouement," as Downard put it. "Or should I say 'climax'?" Say cheese. And do as Steve says: "Bring your raincoat and come on down."

I like the Campus; like the **B.A.R.'s Alan White**, I never miss a chance to plug the hole. But don't confuse me with their imported meat, **Dane Ford**. Somehow I can't see myself onstage goopin' lube on my tube—I'm far too tasteless and not that noble.

Bell Stars

Have you noticed, like I did one night, lying in bed with a head-hammering flu and eyes glued to the TV, the new **Taco Bell** "One'll Get You Two" ad? Yes, I agree; the finest assemblage of edible boy since the **McDonald's** rap ad left the airwaves.

I especially enjoy the two-second shot of the players' basketball shoes squeaking up-court, you can almost smell the sweat from their gym socks.

Ad Nauseum

But then, ads have always employed homoerotic subtexts to sell products. (Have you checked out, as I instructed two weeks ago, the **Soloflex** billboards with the bulge in **Scott Madsen's** jeans? I thought so.)

A **Renuzit Air Freshener** spot currently purifying the airwaves features a genial hunk with dazzling blues nattering on about his new "roommate."



The roommate, of course, is **Renuzit**, but the suggestive assertions that "my roommate is hot" and that "this is going to be a long relationship" lends entirely new meaning to the word "innuendo."

Same with **Purina Dog Chow** ad which appeared in *People* a few issues back (I'm sorry I don't know the exact date; I feel

I have failed), showing a man trotting around a track, his dog leaping ahead of him. Behind him, another man sits on the track, in jogging togs, tying his shoes and looking after the runner and his dog. Thing is, the guy sitting down is looking *right at the runner's ass*.

What's next, two **Marlboro** Continued on next page

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The Hottest Erotic Message In Town!

WOMAN TO WOMAN



(213) 976-HERS
(415)

At last, a hot new fantasy line designed for Gay women. Dial 976-4377 and hear erotic tales of hot lesbian action making your wildest dreams come true. Created for women by women.

It's for you.

Just remember 976-HERS

Must be 18 years old to call. \$2.00 + tolls if any.

LESS TALK

Continued from previous page
men complaining about each others' "ashtray breath"?

Short Jockeys

Or skateboarders with visible panty lines—because their panties are visgers?

I don't know how I missed this, but p. 111 of the February *Thrasher*, a locally-based national skate zine, shows two alarming photos of boys executing impossibly acrobatic tricks—dressed in nothing, as the accompanying text so delicately puts it, but "the new skate Jockey look," i.e., their "nut-buggers."

The text, pun-tastically titled "Brief Notes," notes briefly that "we might be looking at a new trend toward a more streamlined look."

Oh, my God, is it going to be a fucking *rad* summer, or what!?!?

Crappy Endings

The movie industry is like my jeans: decadent and decomposing, trashed at the knees (from repeated supplications to its audience) and festering with assholes.

For a really depressing read, try Pat H. Broeske's "Hollywood's Change of Art" (*Rolling Stone*, Feb. 12), in which the *LA Times* critic enumerates the movies which started out with ambiguous—and therefore, life-like—endings, but thanks to preview audiences' jitters were instead hacked to represent a more "upbeat" view of "life." Seems that preview audiences prefer "happy endings." So do movie people; says *Rambo: First Blood* director Ted Kot-

cheff: "It's a good thing we didn't kill [Rambo in the first movie, as originally planned]. Everybody would be a lot poorer."

Except thinking audiences.

Going Bi, Bye

The alternative press is a most important communication organ; here I can write—and you can read—things I'd be unable to print elsewhere.

But it is not in the alt. press that fortunes—or livings—are made. I can do without the first; I can't live without the second.

So after a long and arduous decision process (during which my editor flailed me with cat o'nine tails and my publisher threatened to make public the "bloody hole" photos—never mind, long story), I've concluded that this column must run but every two weeks while I seek "gainful" employment. Less Talk will not appear next issue, but will appear every other issue after that.

Allow me, however, to practice my Cable Car Awards speech: "I just want to thank all those wonderful people who wrote me; it is their voice, not mine, that shapes Less Talk. In the immortal words of Sally Field, 'You like me! You really like me!'"

Con Test

Since you have two weeks with nothing to do, however, I am hereby announcing *The First Less Talk Contest*, a semi-irregular feature which will appear at the whim of the author (or when I have nothing else to write). Pencils ready?

"I have been looking for an occasion to write the word

"clinchpoop" ever since stumbling over it in Joseph T. Shipley's *The Origins of English Words*," wrote Russell Baker in a Jan. 7 column (*SF Chronicle*). He added: "Clinchpoop" is a word that challenges writers to find the perfect setting for it."

And readers. So readers, here's the challenge: Find "the perfect setting" for the word "clinchpoop." On a handy piece of paper write the word and your definition, then use it in a sentence. (Just like those spelling tests in the seventh grade, during which you'd spring four spontaneous boners in an hour.) Entry deadline is somewhere in the middle future; prizes are undecided.

Now go to work.

See you in two weeks. ■

Please send contributions to Dave Ford, *Less Talk*, c/o SF Sentinel, 500 Hayes Street, SF, 94102, or call 861-8100. Thanks.

FILM

Continued from page 21

right. Neither dominates the other, yet their friendship transforms them both.

Bette Midler, need I say, makes the film work. Her characterization of Sandy rings true even walking in the New Mexican dust (a breast-thrusting, spike-heeled variation on the basic Midler walk). On the heels of two solid film performances in about a year, she has come up with Oscar material with this one. Her timing, her rubber face, her ability to alter an environment by her presence (such as in the audition scene) are un-

matched. It was also good to see George Carlin on film again (who quips in the press kit, "I try to do a film about every ten years."). He plays Frank, the burned-out, pseudo-Indian "tracker" who becomes more involved in the adventure than he'd like, with a masterful comedic restraint.

Shelley Long holds up her end pretty well, although her role seems the least thought-out by screenwriter Leslie Dixon (who moved to Los Angeles from San Francisco, sold her first script to Columbia, and then was hired to write this one). Dixon appears to be a writer to keep an eye on. Like the best Hollywood screenwriters, she has produced a multifaceted script which uses the established conventions in order to break them, or to allow new ones to be created. Who knows, perhaps women as human beings may become a hot Hollywood commodity for a few minutes.

Hiller's direction keeps the film rolling along at top speed through use of quick-cut close-ups, waist-level shots, and very few establishing shots. We almost don't know where we are most of the time, which is an effective device to get us inside the women's single-minded pursuit. New York is harried voices, honking taxicabs and asphalt. New Mexico is baggage conveyers, dust, and darkened broths—until the cliffside finale.

The film is about ninety minutes long, but while it seems to zip by in no time, I felt like I'd seen at least two-hours' worth of plot. In fact, *Outrageous Fortune* was so much fun I think I better go see

it again to make sure I really liked it this much. See you there. ■

Outrageous Fortune opens Jan. 30 at the Royal Theatre, California Street at Polk. Call 474-2131.

Pauline Kael Speaks on Friday, Feb. 13

Film critic Pauline Kael will appear as part of City Arts & Lectures' ongoing "On Art & Politics" series in an on-stage conversation with local interviewer, Sedge Thomson, for the benefit of the Women's Foundation on Friday, February 13, 1987 at 8 pm in San Francisco's Herbst Theatre.

As the *New Yorker's* film critic since 1968, Pauline Kael writes articulately about the historical, social, technological, cultural and dramatic aspects of movies. She is the only film writer to receive the National Book Award in Arts & Letters. She is the author of eight books including *Taking It All In*, *I Lost It At The Movies*, and *5001 Nights At The Movies*. Her style is often imitated but she remains a unique writer whose reviews are appreciated for their complexity, clarity and thorough understanding about movies by filmmakers and viewers alike.

Following Pauline Kael in the series are Adrienne Rich (February 26), an evening with Asian American Writers & Filmmakers hosted by Wendy Tokuda and featuring Peter Wang (*The Great Wall*) (March 26), Stephen Jay Gould at the Palace of Fine Arts (April 20), Susan Sontag (April 22), and Hume Cronyn & Jessica Tandy (May 29).

Tickets for these programs are available at \$10 and \$12.50 through City Box Office (at Sherman Clay, 141 Kearny Street), BASS, and all other agencies. For ticket information, call (415) 392-4400. ■



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"SERIOUS RELATIONSHIP"
GMM, 35, 5'10", 190 lbs., attractive, straight appearance, muscular build, chest 48", 31 to 34 W, and a very mellow, very different, very affectionate, honest, serious minded person. I'm looking for GMM, GIM, GLM, or GOM, body builder or muscular built. Attractive, honest, passive, affectionate, loving, caring and sincere male with large round Nipples and Buns and big legs from 18 to 35. No fems, fats, SIM, B/D, drugs or clowns. Write: Dwight L. Blount, 74 Turk St., #4, S.F., CA 94102 or call (415) 885-9756 ask for Dwight Rm. #4. Please send a photo of yourself. (P-04)

UNDER 5'10" OR OVER 6'2"
Tri-coastal professional GWM 183 lbs 33 yrs — brown hair, moustache, furry chest tanned, healthy 6'2", hung, cut, versatile top — seeking attractive GWM bottom 25-45 who is honest, intelligent, humorous, sensitive, affectionate, secure, considerate, sensual, non smoker and intr. kink, art, beaches, travel, sylv. noisy, cooking, movies, bike rider, ballet, picnics, massage, personal growth — a man equally at ease in black tie or jeans. Seeking a friend — companion — lover who is willing to invest time in a friendship and open to the possibility of commitment. Respond openly, photo appreciated and will be returned. Sentinel Box 849. (P-05)

SEEKING ASIAN PLAYMATE
WM, 34, 175#, currently involved in a relationship, looking for some outside fun. Seeking Asian/Latin (preferably in SF, but not necessarily) interested in friendship, fun and sex. Evening, weekend, 3-way possible. Friendly, sincerity are more important than age. Take a chance, it can be fun! Sentinel Box 848. (P-05)

SEXUAL FUN & SATISFACTION
is the cornerstone of good relationships; not leaving to chance at bars or parties. Very handsome, trim, healthy, masculine, professional WM, 38, seeks similar who's mostly dominant, bright, discriminating, very well endowed (cut), adventurous and interested in regular partner to explore endless mutual sensations. Am definitely kinky in private, butt-oriented and can be excellent top for the right guy. Photo/phone appreciated. Reply Sentinel Box 846. (P-05)

MODELS WANTED
Now seeking models for creative nude photography. (No hardcore porno). Experience not necessary. You must be very good looking, 21-40, nice body, well hung (optional). I offer reasonable portfolio rates and the opportunity to get published in a magazine. Call for interview/apPOINTment in San Francisco. GORGEOUS GUYS UNLIMITED 771-5572 (P-05)

CHUBBY CHASER
GWM 28; 6'2", BL, BL, 155 Seeks big man with multi-interests. Jazz, camping, movies and lots of time together! I have fun career w/much free time for you alone. Short, very big, Asians a plus but good person is big plus. No drugs or heavy boozers. Jim 776-2072. (P-04)

WANNA PLAY DOCTOR?
Strong but gentle specialist will do wonderful things to your vertical smile. I have the toys and equipment for a very good time. Boyish, fair, hairless preferred. Asians and Natives welcome. Picture please. E.D., P.O. Box 1226, Menlo Park, CA 94026. (P-04)

A.M. & NOON PHONE JO
I'm 36, 5'8", 145 lbs., Italian-American, Br/Bl, moustache, moderately hairy chest, well turned on to time together. Boyish, fair, hairless preferred. Asians and Natives welcome. Picture please. E.D., P.O. Box 1226, Menlo Park, CA 94026. (P-04)

WANTED: HOT & WILD GUY
By G/W/M, 5'8", 165#, Blond/Blue, hairy. Into rubber, leather, other gear, motorcycles, horses, trucks, 4x4's, biker's, cowboy's. Loves to dance and have a good time. Versatile at play. Many hobbies. Would like to meet guys that are half crazy or a real big tease, yet also know when to be serious. Also, they're domineering/top, but can be versatile at play. If interested, send phone and photo (if possible) to: Garrett, 760 Geary, #505, S.F., CA 94109. (P-03)

COCKSUCKER WANTED
GD/LG WM 38, 6', 160 lbs., 7 1/2"x5" cut dark hair and beard looking for several good looking healthy gays 20-30's for regular blow job service who really like to take there time and suck a Budweiser. Phone and Number to SUSAN, Dick 644. (P-04)

WE NEED HELP!
My lover and I are in a financial bind. I have returned to college and my lover only makes enough money for one of us. I am actively involved in AIDS Research and all I can offer to anyone who helps is my sixteen page research paper on AIDS. Write: Dave, P.O. Box 26, Little Falls, NY 13365. (P-04)

RECENTLY MOVED FROM EUROPE
Very trustworthy, 28, goodlooking masculine guy, trim body, hairy but, Br/Gr seeks a position as a domestic maid for a uniformed man or other strongminded man looking for a servant. Gay or not — must be tall — any race — live out — no \$\$. The fun is to be abused — sex is important but not a must. Pic, is useful but not important. Box 3088, Stanford CA 94305. (P-04)

W/AM & CUDDLE - TEDDYBEAR
I'm 36, secure, blue eyes and trim beard... Enjoys honesty, travel, art, at ease at a 7 course dinner party or roller skating in Golden Gate Park. A quiet evening in front of a fireplace with someone special or front row center at opening night. If interested with similar views contact Box 280455 SF, CA 94128-0455. Photos returned. (P-04)

WANTED
Young, muscular, clean cut guy who likes to be watched and appreciated. Desire to worship all of you especially your muscles and feet. Into fantasy, that's my desire. Confidential letter and picture to: Jason, 2215-R Market St., SF, CA 94114. (P-03)

Personal Best

ROMANCE CAN BE HOT!

Good looking GWM, 24, BR/BL, moustache, gym body, 5'10" 155 lbs., seeking GWM 23-30, hung and can combine fantasy with romance. Tired of bars and looking for relationship. Cum live out your fantasy and experience hot passion. Send photo and phone. Let's start something! Sentinel Box 852.

BLACK MAN WANTED
I'm white, 27, 5'9", neither Adonis nor Quasimodo. Looking for a serious longterm gay relationship. Am employed, seek same. Basically reserved and like simple things but with right person can be urged otherwise. Sexually versatile, not always top, not always bottom; want same. Enjoy touching, hugging and kissing. If you're 21-45, let's get in touch. Picture nice, not necessary - Write: Sentinel Box 845. (P-04)

LIKE TO SHOW OFF?
Are you into J/O or exhibitionism? So am I! I'm 34 years old, 6'1", 180 and good build. I like to watch others J/O and be watched while I show off. Let's get together, strip down and show our stuff. Send photo and letter. Sentinel Box 847. (P-05)

BODYBUILDER MASTER
If you are a man enough, this experienced Master will take you to your limits and expand them. All areas of bondage and discipline available. Master is 39, 190, 6', 44" chest, 14" arms, 33" waist. Prison, military discipline and mind coercion scenes. Novices welcome. 775-6962. (P-04)

HOT MEN 24 HOURS
Thousands of horny men waiting to get it on and get it off with you now! Don't do it alone! Join the original Low Cost Sex-Link. Private, Confidential (415) 346-8747. (P-00)

SFF/DCE/F WATNESS
Attractive, stocky w/m, 31, has hot, virginitic pussyass for YOUR pleasure 8-4 weekdays. You're virile, potent, confident, dominant. Your size, age, build, looks aren't important, skill and staying power ARE. I'm healthy, superclean, discreet, 100% safesex ONLY, require same. Send dirty letter, phone to Rick, P.O. Box 181, Brisbane, 94005. (P-03)

SF VIDEO BUDDY
Young healthy G/W/M clean cut decent looking 6'1", 175 lbs., looking for same to watch gay videos and fool around. Good FR, J/O, Massage, Fuck-talk. Friendship and more possible but no rush. Please send photo and/or honest description for Reply to Sentinel Box 853. (P-05)

WANT TO MAKE BEAUTIFUL MUSIC?
Former Rock Star now Business Person wants to form Combo Group or work with pianist for music sessions. I like 40s/50s standards. Country, 80s Rock. Want to jam couple nites/wk, maybe play some clubs. Jon 621-7790. 7:30-11:00 p.m. (P-05)

NEW EXPERIENCES AHEAD
Handsome GWM 30 years old with Brown hair/eyes, 5'11", 145 lbs, non-smoker. Would like to meet attractive fun loving man with loving body into S&M Safe Sex. Appreciate having fun, travel, motorcycling, movies, closeness and making love, not just sex. Send picture and note about yourself and lets get together. Send to Box 203, 1827 Haight St., SF, CA 94117. (P-05)

SPANKING VIDEOS!
Hot men needed (18+) to perform. No sex, no bondage. Call (415) 553-2564 and ask for Mark Powers. Do it now! (P-05)

FREE AT LAST
Attractive masculine Italian law student, 28 yrs old, into body building and various sports (48 inch chest, 17 inch arms, 31 inch waist), just coming out of a difficult relationship. Seeks sincere friend not into bars and games, but who is serious about working out and would like to make a new buddy. If you're attractive, muscular, stable and sincere, who knows what could happen, go ahead and take a chance. Call 558-8268 after 11:00 pm or write to 584 Castro St., Box 442, SF, CA 94114. (P-04)

BLUE EYES
Handsome, loving PWA, 32, 145, 5'11", dark brown hair, blue eyes, trim beard, solid, stable, warm and affectionate. I want to meet another man, not necessarily a PWA, but who is similar in appearance and in being warm, loving and stable. I also believe in self healing very much and am doing so. This experience is enjoyable, and I'd like to meet a special man to share it with. What have we got to lose? Todd Balderson, 195 Douglas St. SF 94114. Prefer SF, but all replies will be welcome. Thank you very much! (P-03)

PROMETHIUS
Starting non-fee safe/social/support non-sexual group for healthy very masculine in-shape, athletes, bodybuilders, professionals 20s to 40s. New social alternative to stereotyped gay lifestyles. Meet men with traditional values and straight behaviors. Leave message Jon 621-7790 7:00 - 11:00 p.m./weekends. (P-05)

REGULAR PERSON WANTED
Sensitive-but smart-GWM 38 seeks "Regular" relationship including laughter, friendship, loving Safe Sex. I am 5'10", 185#, Br/Br, Top. You are 30-50, honest, healthy, "Regular." Send number and photo to: Lou, P.O. Box 926, Menlo Park, CA 94026. (P-05)

ROMANCE CAN BE HOT
Good looking GWM, 24, BR/BL, moustache, gym body, 5'10", 155 lbs., seeking GWM 23-30, hung and can combine fantasy with romance. Tired of bars and looking for relationship. Cum live out your fantasy and experience hot passion. Send photo and phone. Let's start something. Sentinel Box 852. (P-06)

FRIEND/PARTNER WANTED
GWM, 35, 5'9", 195 lbs., seeks young guy (21-30) for friendship, shared good times & possible relationship. Latin, oceanic or Mediterranean background preferred. Let's get together! Respond to: Ari, P.O. Box 1228, Belmont, CA 94002. (P-04)

YOUNG AT HEART?
Can't get enough of Growing Pains or Silver Spoons? Saw *Stand By Me* twice? Like-minded GWM 32 would like correspondence and/or phone number. Send to: Suite 124, 2040 Polk St., SF., CA 94109. (P-05)

BOY WITH TOYS
36 GWM seeks uncult Asians, Latinos and all others interested in heavy but fun and clean anal play with dildoes. Given and taken. Prefer clean shaven, sensitive non-smoker. Life spanking or shaving - Safety aware. Respond with phone number, P.O. Box 31232, SF., CA 94131. (P-04)

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WM, goodlooking, stocky, bearded and hairy-chested seeks partners into heavy oral activities. Clean and safe only. Am 38, smoker, non-drinker involved in primary relationship. Seek fun but no involvement. Outgoing, fun-loving, cuddly and passionate. Well hung. Send photo and phone to Sentinel Box 851. (P-06)

PWA SEEKS PLAYMATE
I'm 24 years old, 6', 170 lbs., relatively healthy. I enjoy music, movies, romance and affection. I'm seeking someone to share these things with me. I'm not necessarily looking for a relationship, just a buddy to play with. Write to: Bochsner, P.O. Box 14301, SF., CA 94114. (P-05)

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NICE EVERYTHING
A G.W.M. 33, 5'10", 155 lbs., clean shaven, self employed painter, well hung and versatile. Seeks a man over 6 feet, hairy and hunky and hung and who has it together. Possible relationship, Safe Sex a must. Send picture and phone Number to: Robert, Suite 633, P.O. Box 410990, San Francisco, CA 94141-0990. (P-05)

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diagnosed 6 months or longer are needed to participate in a scientific study to learn more about what effect AIDS has on sexual expression, needs and feelings. Participation will include a one-time-only confidential interview. For further information, leave name and number: 863-8834. (P-06)

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Continued on page 30

Continued from page 29

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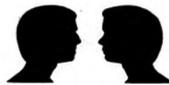
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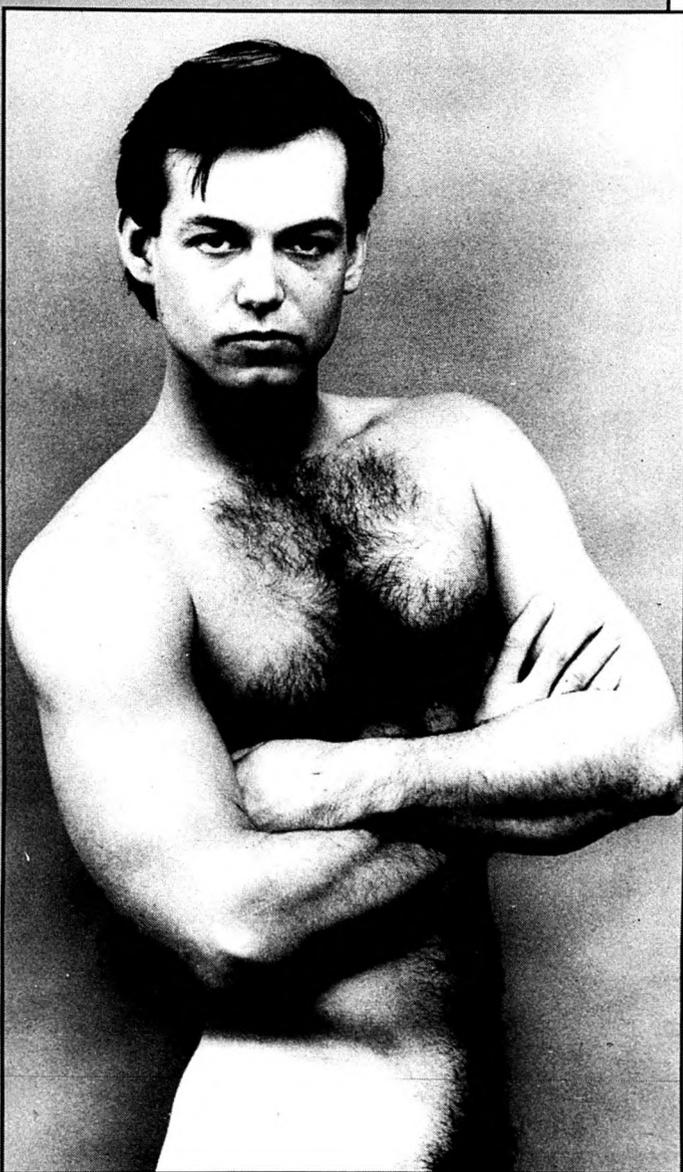
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