

San Francisco Sentinel

500 Hayes Street, San Francisco, CA 94102

• 415-861-8100

• Vol. 15, No. 25

• June 19, 1987

*Alice Walker Arrested
at Weapons Station*

ARMS PROTEST

by Corinne Lightweaver

Novelist Alice Walker was one of more than 250 people arrested at an on-going non-violent civil disobedience protest against arms shipments at the Concord Naval Weapons Station last weekend. Citizens for Medical Justice and Lesbians and Gays Against Intervention in Latin America participated with a demonstration for "health care, not warfare." More than 1000 protesters came from San Mateo, Sonoma, Mendocino, Sacramento, Napa, Alameda, Contra Costa and San Francisco counties, as well as from around

THOMAS ALLEN



Lesbian/gay protesters donned isolation suits to dramatize their intent to "quarantine the war machine" during weekend protests at the Concord Naval weapons station.

the U.S., for the largest protest on Saturday, in which over 200 people were arrested.

Wearing isolation suits with "Quarantine the War Machine" written on them, members of

Citizens for Medical Justice carried two coffins painted black in a procession through the crowd. One coffin was labeled "Killed by Contra

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San Diego On Parade

Mayor Maureen O'Connor Marches in Gay Day Parade

by Dave Ford

San Diego's the perfect vacation spot for the purist tourist courting terminal beach-bum brainrot. Nestled into moundy California hillocks, just a taco's toss from the Mexico border, it's a West Coast time warp where Baskin-Robbins parlors vie for endless mall space with neon-drenched frozen yogurt shops, where the woman on the San

Diego Transit information line says you "take the number 30 till you get to the Thrifty's," where 7-11s dot every other block, and where every third person on the sidewalk is a stone looker.

Like its flatland neighbor to the north, San Diego's car country: "just around the corner" means a twenty-minute drive. And it's water

country, too. Weekend leisure hardcores water-ski and wind-surf around snaky lagoons, and the Navy has a monstrous base there. Above all, there are the beaches: seen from an airplane, the thin fingernail of coastal sand seems to extend north and south almost indefinitely, and any day, in almost any weather, at least a few diehards lounge intently, Bullfrog at the ready, surfboard by their sides, waiting to shoot That One Perfect Curl.

It's also conservative country. Of San Diego County's twenty major cities, sixteen boast Republican mayors. Like Miami, lots of seniors peregrinate to San Diego to retire; unlike Miami,

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In the Ghetto?

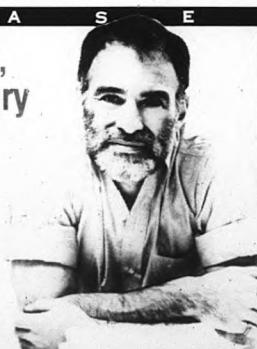
Robert Julian
Looks at New
York's 'Gay'
Theatre



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Larry, Larry, Quite Contrary

Dave Ford
Talks with
New York
Writer/
Activist
Larry Kramer



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Dole/Wilson Omnibus Legislation

Launching the Third Front Against AIDS

by Sean Reynolds

Last week California Senator Pete Wilson secured the Army's agreement to turn over its San Francisco hospital facility at Lake Street and 15th Avenue for a new AIDS patient care and research center. The Army facility in the Richmond District now houses the Defense Language Institute (DLI). Wilson, who toured the facility in April along with Mayor Dianne Feinstein and Public Health Director Dr. David Werdegar, said that he would obtain the authorization from Congress for the \$24 million required to relocate the Defense Language Institute and the approximately \$15 million needed to physically refurbish the building for hospital use.

The FY 88 Defense Authorization bill is currently pending before the Senate. When the Senate acts on the bill, Wilson intends to offer an amendment to guarantee that the funds necessary to relocate the DLI, including its physical plant, are available.

Furthermore, Wilson said he will include \$15 million authorization for the building's refurbishment in the AIDS Omnibus bill.

On Tuesday, Senator Wilson and Republican leader Robert Dole (R-KS) introduced an AIDS Omnibus bill, which would open up a new "third front" in the battle against AIDS. The Dole/Wilson legislation is one part of a "three-pronged" attack mobilizing a full range of government resources to deal with the AIDS epidemic. The other two "fronts" which will be considered separately by committees include funds for research, testing and counseling.

The third front to combat AIDS, the Dole/Wilson bill, would provide \$297 million for FY 88 to establish and

operate a wide range of new government programs and services. Included in the legislation are provisions to:

- Establish an international clearinghouse for information on AIDS at the National Library of Medicine. No single facility is currently collecting all the available material on the disease;
- Establish a virus and serum bank through the National Institutes of Health in order to make readily available quantities of the AIDS virus and serums to qualified professionals for research and testing;
- Require the Secretary of Health and Human Services to provide Congress an annual report detailing where federal funds associated with AIDS have been expended. A compilation of such data is important to ensure federal funds are adequate and not wasted or misdirected;
- Authorize 40 additional employees at the Federal Drug Administration (FDA) to help expedite the drug approval process. This measure would increase the speed at which drugs for AIDS could be made available for testing;
- Declare AIDS a public health emergency, thereby granting the Secretary of Health and Human Services broader authority to cut through bureaucratic red tape and allocate discretionary resources where the need may exist;
- Require the Centers for Disease Control to provide technical assistance to state and local governments as well as public and private nonprofit organizations. Funds would be made available to ensure the Centers for Disease Control has the necessary resources;
- Expand home health care services for AIDS patients. Often, only hospital care, which is very expensive, is available to those suffering from subacute AIDS. Home health care would provide better care in many instances at a much lower cost;
- Grant authority to the Secretary of Health and Human Services to pur-

chase bulk quantities of drugs relating to AIDS to reduce the overall cost to individuals;

- Authorize funding to help educate health care professionals on the care of AIDS victims;
- Authorize specific funding to train professionals in ways to reach out, assist, and treat ethnic and racial minorities;
- Require the Secretary of Health and Human Services to develop and disseminate public service announcements for print and broadcast media. Special emphasis would be placed on media directed toward minorities;
- Establish two nationwide hot lines. One would provide information to the general public on AIDS, and the other, technical information for health care professionals;
- Authorize \$215 million for block grants to states to establish and operate public information programs on AIDS;

Also in the bill is a sense of the Senate resolution urging the Veterans' Ad-

ministration to make available \$47.5 million in existing funds for the medical care of AIDS patients.

"Taken together, these many new initiatives would substantially increase and improve the tools at hand to halt the spread of and treat those suffering from AIDS," Wilson said.

The Committee on Labor and Human Resources is expected to begin drafting an AIDS bill later this week. Wilson said he is hopeful the committee will include the provisions of the Dole/Wilson bill into its final bill.

According to experts, as many as five million Americans will be infected by AIDS by 1991.

Sponsors of the Dole/Wilson bill include Senators Ted Stevens (R-AK), William Cohen (R-ME), Orrin Hatch (R-UT), Dave Durenberger (R-MN), Strom Thurmond (R-SC), Frank Murkowski (R-AK), Alfonse D'Amato (R-NY), and John Chafee (R-RI). ■



The new Regional AIDS Hospital located at Lake Street and 15th Avenue.

Parade's Structure, Finance Problems Continue

Gay Pride Week Begins!

by George Mendenhall

Rainbow flags are flying on Market Street, and there are spectacular plans for Gay Pride Week. The Market Street parade and Civic Center celebration cap a week of activities on Sunday, June 28.

"I was so moved by all those people marching when I came out of the closet in 1980," reveals Autumn Courtney, who co-chaired the 1986 event. "It doesn't matter who is in charge. It happens anyway. The community always responds. This gives us a chance to come together and be ourselves."

Courtney says that in the end "there

are being resolved.

"I am very excited about this year's event," Schulenburg stresses. "There is more variety with three stages at the celebration, so people don't have to stand around waiting for something to happen at one stage that interests them. We have so much talent and energy in our community and at this even we can see how diverse we are."

The annual gay pride celebrations commemorate a New York City police raid on a gay bar, the Stonewall Inn, at 2 am on June 28, 1969. Gay men, including some aggressive drag queens, protested when they were arrested. Demonstrations continued in Greenwich Village for several days — and culminated in the first Christopher Street parade.

The San Francisco event draws participants from nearly everywhere as this city is recognized as the world's "gay capital." While the largest *parade* is

here, the well-financed Los Angeles (West Hollywood) celebration is the largest with its two-day festival. Parades and celebrations are happening over several weeks and include those in Atlanta, Boston, Chicago, Dallas, Denver, Detroit, Houston, New Orleans, New York City, Raleigh, San Diego, and Washington, DC.

San Diego considered dropping its event last year because of the AIDS crisis; there were protests from those who felt that the advent of AIDS made the event more imperative as a continued expression of gay pride. Homophobia has increased during the AIDS crisis with discrimination and fag-bashing on the rise. These events tell the nation that lesbians and gay people are still here in large numbers and that they are still "Proud, Strong and United!" — the theme of this year's event.

Here's some details of what's to transpire locally this week:

- Parade: Over 200,000 are expected to participate. There are over 3 hours of marching groups, floats, bands and politicians in open vehicles and always some surprises. The end of the parade may be the best part of all — an open space for all on the sidelines to join in. The parade begins at 11 am and proceeds from the area of the Ferry Building up Market Street, and into the Civic Center.
- Celebration: The Civic Center celebration — featuring over 130 booths and entertainment on three stages — begins at noon and continues to 6:30 pm. There will be few political speeches. Dancing will be featured with 3 guest DJs at City Hall. Food booths — this year run primarily by gay groups

— will be plentiful. There will also be numerous information and game booths.

• Information: A newspaper that will give a listing of parade units and celebration details called *On Parade* will be distributed at 6 am the day of the parade. The parade office is located at 3412 22nd Street. The telephone number is 647-3733.

• Special Events: The SF Lesbian and Gay Film Festival begins tonight (June 19-28) at the Castro Theatre. A Women's Dance is this Saturday (June

tually draw over 200,000 people.

Comparisons should be made between the Los Angeles production of its annual event and what happens here.

The Los Angeles parade (Christopher Street West) committee has a year-round, three-room office, a full-time paid official in charge — who has 27 committees and a 20-member board advising him. It receives no money from the city, but is able to raise over \$400,000 by the rental of 180 booths at its celebration — which is two days in length — and by charging \$8 for people

**"It doesn't matter who is in charge.
It happens anyway."**

— Autumn Courtney

20) at the Women's Building (647-3733). A Gay Musical Celebration is on Friday, June 26, at the First Congregational Church (861-4877). Theatre Rhino shows *Life of the Party*, June 25-27 (861-5079). Armistead Maupin is at Stacey's on Market Street on Saturday, June 27, 12-3 pm.

Making It a Business

When Rev. Ray Brochairs and Rev. Bob Humphries put together a parade here in 1972, the few people who watched the even were embarrassed by the straggly group that marched. It was a beginning — a historic first here that followed the one begun in New York City. What was not anticipated was the enormity of the financing and logistics of putting on an event that would even

enter. The booths rent from \$100 for non-profit groups to over \$700 for profit-making and professional booths. Last year, the Christopher Street West Committee gave \$70,000 of its profits from the parade to gay service groups and had enough money left over to produce another such event.

The San Francisco committee does not always have an office, and it changes its location and telephone number each year. The co-chairs are paid but not until a few months before the event. There is a board of directors — and until this year — a 30-person steering committee. The parade meets part of its expenses from fundraisers (which are frequently not that successful).

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News Analysis

is always just a nucleus of people that bring it off." This year that nucleus includes Helen Ruvelas, co-chair of the Lesbian and Gay Freedom Day Committee, and Joy Schulenburg, Board of Directors chair. They are sure that this year's parade and celebration will be bigger and better than ever — and that reported tax problems of the committee



Back to Fundamentalists: Doug Fisher and Sean Kenefick bare their roles.

San Diego Parade

Continued from page 1

you actually see the sunsets, thanks in part to a slow-growth movement backed by Republicans and Democrats alike. No one in San Diego much cares for tall buildings or big apartment houses; they prefer the somnolent, friendly ambience of a largely suburban beach city.

I arrived last Thursday, loosely planning to snag a few rays and maybe to totter over to Saturday's "Making History '87" Gay Pride Parade; I figured it'd make a good road column, if nothing else.

But when I hit the phones Friday morning, I quickly realized I'd stumbled onto a Big Story: Maureen O'Connor, San Diego's mayor, had decided to honor a campaign pledge to march in the parade with a group from the San Diego AIDS Project. Not content to leave well enough alone, she had also issued a proclamation calling June 13-14 "Lesbian and Gay Pride Days" in San Diego.

The announcement had engendered county-wide antagonism: one poll reported sentiment running 3-to-2 against her appearance, and a mid-week Channel 39 (NBC) editorial supporting her had detonated an avalanche of negative calls.

Ah, I thought: a frisson of fizz under the palm trees.

O'Connor, 40, arrived in office last July, after previous mayor Robin Hedgecock was indicted for financial wrongdoing and chucked from office. She is married to Robert Peterson, a man nearly twice her age, who was the founder of the Jack-in-the-Box

restaurant chain, and she is good friends with Helen Copley, owner of the *San Diego Union*, the city's morning newspaper — "So you won't hear one whiff of criticism of her in that paper," sniffed one gay community insider.

And some gay leaders claim O'Connor has dodged the AIDS issue altogether. Nicole Ramirez-Murray, a long-time activist (and columnist for the weekly *Scene*, one of three free gay weeklies), told me Friday that O'Connor "has never done anything for AIDS, like Princess Di did when she visited a hospital and shook hands with an AIDS patient."

"There's a discrepancy between what certain parts of the gay community say about the mayor and what the facts are," responded Ben Dillingham, 42, O'Connor's openly gay chief of staff. Dillingham cited the mayor's January visit to a woman whose daughter suffers from AIDS, her letter last year to Liz Taylor to ask the star to appear at a local AIDS benefit (which never happened), and her \$10,000 allocation to the San Diego AIDS Project last year for relocation funds as proof of the mayor's commitment to fighting AIDS.

"We've tried to work with Nicole," Dillingham said, "but he just doesn't have a nice thing to say about the mayor."

That's not so odd: Ramirez-Murray, like other local gay leaders, is a Republican. Mayor O'Connor is a Democrat.

"But she's not a liberal Democrat," said Susan Jester, a large woman partial to pink lipstick and plastic hoop earrings, who is editor at the *Scene*. "She's more like your Dianne Feinstein. She's not one to support human rights."

Beyond that, the local rumor mill persistently whispers about the dark origins of O'Connor's apparent lax-

ness: it says that Maureen O'Connor, despite her marriage, harbors certain sexual/emotional tendencies that explain, to some local gays, why Her Honor might visibly shy from associating herself with apparently gay-related causes and events.

"That is pure b.s.," Dillingham said heatedly, when I broached the possibility. "That's been around a long time, and it's brought up by people who politically want to put her in a corner."

* * *

If O'Connor has trouble with gays, it's not because the community is overtly combative. Of the estimated 225,000 gays in San Diego County, approximately 25,000 are active in the social scene, which revolves around some forty bars, ninety gay-themed organizations, and five bathhouses. The action centers to a large degree in Hillcrest and North Park, neighboring areas in the city's middle quadrant, where gays congregate as in the Castro of yore. (Hillcrest is a condom's throw from sprawling Balboa Park, where the bush-and-bathroom action apparently rivals that of Buena Vista Park circa 1982.)

"San Diego is naturally more laid back politically — in everything," said gay city council hopeful Neil Good. "This isn't really a militant community."

"This is a very laid back, narrow-minded and conservative community," said Tony Zampella, 23, publisher of the weekly *Bravo!* and tenacious gay community organizer. "Change

mentalist pastor at the Bible Missionary Fellowship in Santee, a middle-class neighborhood about fifteen miles ("just around the corner") northeast of downtown San Diego. While he and his flock rail against communism, abortion, humanism and pornography (among other, lesser evils), Owens, who resembles a less debauched Nelson Rockefeller, seems to harbor an especially rigid hard-on for gays: "I use the words queer and fag," he recently told the *Reader*, a weekly, progressive San Diego free paper. "The word homosexual gives 'em too much status... [and] that almost makes 'em look normal."

Owens's minions have haunted the Gay Parade for three years now, their ranks swelling as high as 300. Their presence, in fact, resulted in an incident that made national headlines last year: a San Franciscan man named Brian Barlow, a member of the Gay Freedom Day Marching Band, bit a cop who was trying to subdue him after he "attacked" one of the Fundamentalists (or "Fundies," as local gays call 'em). Barlow claimed he "might have AIDS," which led to a year-long court battle over whether or not he should be tested for antibodies to the AIDS virus. (Barlow's case was finally tossed out of court, but the San Diego Police Department just launched a \$500,000 lawsuit against Lambda Pride for negligence.)

Parade insiders claim the incident directly resulted from a communication gap between organizers and police: the

circle by the headquarter tent, receiving final instructions. Two Buffer Zoners, Sean Kenefick and Doug Fisher, blew into their heads, hopped up and down, and cracked that they were ready for some Fundies in the sun.

Meanwhile, down Balboa Park Street, people scurried about, putting last-minute touches on floats representing organizations like Senior Action in a Gay Environment (SAGE); the ACLU; the 35-member San Diego Marching Band; The Swell Seekers Surfing Club (the first organized gay surfing club in the country); the Gay Youth Alliance; and a host of bars, flag corps and political groups.

Just before noon, zipping up after a trip to the porta-potty at the headquarter tent, I noticed a nearby flurry of media bravado: flailing microphones, tilting TV minicams, hissing still cameras. Never one to pass up a media event, I dashed over — and practically ran smack into Her Honor O'Connor herself, dressed in a black-and-white striped sweater, a black blouse, black corduroy trousers, and shiny, pointy black and white shoes. She's a shrewd, pert-looking woman with a cherubic face and a head full of curly hair shot with gray.

"I'm not here to condemn or condone any lifestyle," she was saying to a reporter. "I am here to fight the deadly disease called AIDS."

Someone asked if she was fulfilling a previous pledge.

"This is absolutely a campaign

One man shouted, "Maureen O'Connor, go home!" The mayor turned to him and shouted back, "This is my home!" — for which she received a resounding round of applause.

threatens people here."

* * *

But change is speeding up the pike: to date, San Diego's gay community has suffered 289 AIDS deaths, and, as elsewhere, the statistics are mounting.

And so AIDS became the focus of this year's parade: Nicole Ramirez-Murray told me Friday he and the parade's organizers, Lambda Pride (of which Zampella is president), had planned a post-parade rally honoring the AIDS dead, to be followed by a march on City Hall.

cops, only twenty strong, apparently didn't understand about the organizers' ingenious "Fundy Buffer Zone" in which gay volunteers line the two blocks where the Fundamentalists are allowed to protest, and shout encouraging messages to the passing parade, to drown out the Fundies' taunts.

No such thing would happen this year, organizers assured me Friday: forty cops would patrol the parade, and organizers had already met with them three times, to insure total cooperation. (The mayor's appearance didn't hurt.) Furthermore, about 40 yellow-shirted

promise," she replied.

Another guy — not surprisingly, from TV — asked if those were walking shoes she was wearing.

"They are absolutely walking shoes," she laughed, showing solidarity with our own mayor — if only in her command of the English language.

As O'Connor walked towards the People With AIDS banner, onlookers burst into a spontaneous round of applause. "I'm glad I voted for you," one man gushed.

"Let's just keep this peaceful," she said. "No matter what they say, we just keep walking."

"There was a little fear, there," a man behind me said.

* * *

Just as the sun crashed through the gloomy gray, I shambled up to the front of the parade, which was lighting out on Quince Street. I walked with the flag boys from San Bernardino's Skylark Bar, and watched the crowd lining both sides of the street. Women and men in shorts and t-shirts leaped on the curb or stood on the sidewalk, smiling and applauding.

Nine or ten blocks up Fifth (approximately a quarter of the way through a 1.5 mile parade loop), we entered the Fundy Zone. About 125 protesters, some wearing surgical face-masks, others wearing black-hooded robes, were spread thin over a two-block area, sealed behind a yellow strip running the length of the sidewalk. In front of the strip was a blank space of about twelve feet, then another yellow strip running parallel to the first; in front of that, thirty volunteers with their backs to the Fundies, wearing Buffer Zone T-shirts and lavender sashes, and clapping hands sheathed in lavender gloves, chanted happily to the passing marchers.

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Mask and Ye Shall Receive: Fundamentalists practice sign language.

The timing was right: this July 3, the city council will vote on whether or not to allot \$150,000 from city resources to local AIDS groups, the first municipal funding of its kind. Two major groups are vying for the bucks: the AIDS Assistance Fund, which provides direct services to AIDS sufferers (and which has so far raised \$300,000 through benefits and events), and the San Diego AIDS Project, which is concerned with education. (Two smaller groups have also submitted proposals to the city council.)

* * *

If the grim specter of AIDS looms like a haunting shadow over the good-time beach town, another, more apparent threat appears every year, mewling and ranting about sin and damnation.

He is Dorman Owens, the funda-

mentalist pastor at the Bible Missionary Fellowship in Santee, a middle-class neighborhood about fifteen miles ("just around the corner") northeast of downtown San Diego. While he and his flock rail against communism, abortion, humanism and pornography (among other, lesser evils), Owens, who resembles a less debauched Nelson Rockefeller, seems to harbor an especially rigid hard-on for gays: "I use the words queer and fag," he recently told the *Reader*, a weekly, progressive San Diego free paper. "The word homosexual gives 'em too much status... [and] that almost makes 'em look normal."

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Later that morning, in Balboa Park, security volunteers huddled in a shivery

The Sentinel urges

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Lesbian Rights Project Changing the System

by Susan R. Skolnick

It has worked to help lesbian mothers win custody of their children. It has made it possible for a gay man to receive unemployment benefits after quitting his job to care for his AIDS-stricken lover. It has helped to create families by making it easier for gay and lesbian couples to adopt children as co-parents. It has provided invaluable legal education and technical assistance to attorneys across the country involved in gay and lesbian discrimination cases.

The San Francisco-based Lesbian Rights Project (LRP) is a unique organization that employs a variety of weapons in its fight to challenge and eradicate sexual orientation discrimination. The effectiveness of these weapons is clear — the project has not only survived the political conservatism of the Reagan years, but has survived in an impressive fashion.

The LRP utilizes three distinct programs in its effort to prevent discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation: Legal Representation and Counseling, Technical Assistance and Legal Education, and Community Education. It is the successful and balanced integration of these programs that strengthens the project's results.

According to Roberta Achtenberg, directing attorney for LRP, the project is unique because it has "always combined litigation with political action, community organizing, legal education, and public relations in a way that is slightly different than the way most public interest law offices usually do their work." For this reason, it is inaccurate and misleading to describe the LRP as just another public interest law firm.

The majority of the work the project does on behalf of lesbians and gay men is in the area of legal representation and counseling. There are two kinds of cases the LRP will accept: individual discrimination cases for low-income and indigent gay men and lesbians and "impact legislation" cases that will set a precedent by challenging and overturning laws that discriminate on the basis of sexual orientation. Karen Strauss, development director, adds that the organization "also makes referrals, because we can't handle every case that comes in. It's just not appropriate." The project refers these cases to attorneys who are sensitive and familiar with such issues.

The LRP represents gay men and lesbians in cases of housing, insurance, and employment discrimination, but its expertise is in the area of family law. The early work of the project focused primarily on providing legal services to lesbian mothers involved in custody battles. It was not uncommon for lesbian mothers to lose custody of their children, when ex-husbands could convince judges that a lesbian was a bad influence or role model for a child.

According to Achtenberg, "people think it is not in the best interest of the child to be raised by a gay or lesbian parent, but that is because most of them have never been exposed to the concept.... One of our goals is to expose decision-makers to the issue, provide them with facts, and hope that it changes their minds." Furthermore, the "best interest of the child" standard used by the courts is vague, arbitrary and can be interpreted in different ways by different judges. Achtenberg believes that gay custody law "is as good as it is now, because of the large volume of cases we did in the late 1970s and early 1980s."

Today, the LRP is recognized as a leading authority and advocate in the field of lesbian mother custody. In addition, it has been influential in getting the courts and legal practitioners to realize that sexual orientation should be

the child financially and otherwise. These are more critical issues in terms of predicting a child's healthy psychological development, not whether the mother or father is lesbian or gay," Achtenberg explains.

Also in the area of family law, the LRP has taken an active role in educating and representing lesbian couples who wish to use donor insemination as a method for having children together. One of the problems the project discovered in researching this practice, was that many women were not adequately informed of the special rules and regulations involving "non-marital parenthood."

Achtenberg remembers that "women were going out and doing things, in their desire to have and raise children, and were not aware of the significant

they didn't have a contract and when the child was born, the donor sued to be declared the father. Now she has to parent a child with a man who's a virtual stranger to her."

As a result of this case, the project began to research and publish information on the legal aspects of donor insemination for lesbian couples. Through the dissemination of its book on the subject and through public speaking, the LRP used its visibility as a public interest law group to inform women of the issues.

Last year, the LRP scored a big victory in the area of joint adoptions for lesbian couples. The project represented two couples, both of whom were allowed to adopt jointly. Prior to these cases, only one partner of an unmarried couple was allowed to adopt with full

tion does not want to see that as a function of the department, so they no longer make positive recommendations in cases involving non-marital partners. That doesn't mean no joint adoptions, because judges have the ultimate discretion about whether to grant or deny an adoption."

In an effort to make joint adoptions easier for gay men and lesbian couples, the LRP took excellent advantage of an opportunity to do a training of the heads of all the adoption agencies, both private and public, in the state. Achtenberg explains that "for the most part, knowledge is the important thing with people. If they have real information, they are nowhere near as prejudiced as if they have no information at all, and are just basing their reactions on a myth that they carry around in their heads." The training consisted of supplying materials, doing exercises, "letting them talk about their fears and misgivings, about what they knew about homosexuals and what they didn't know. We really tried to fulfill an educating function and I think it was extremely successful," Achtenberg adds.

Community education and legal education are integral parts of the LRP's program. Through seminars, workshops, conferences and speaking engagements, the project is able to provide technical assistance to lawyers and other professionals across the country who are involved in similar legal situations with lesbian and gay clients. The LRP staff has researched and written a variety of resource materials including model briefs, non-discrimination clauses, and medical consent forms which are available to lawyers. In addition, the project has published various books on legal issues involving sexual orientation.

The Lesbian Rights Project operates on an annual budget of \$200,000. Although it receives funding from the United Way's Special Need Fund and the Legal Services Client Trust Fund, the bulk of the organization's money comes from individual contributions raised from the sale of publications, donations and events. The annual Wattis Room event at Davies Symphony Hall, is a substantial fundraising moneymaker. In addition, the project receives some funding from progressive

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ANNE HAMERSON



Karen Strauss, Lesbian Rights Project.

a neutral factor in the determination of a child's best interest.

"We want to get the courts to see that gays and lesbians can be as good a parent as straight people. The goal is to not have them be blinded by the sexual orientation, as if that's the critical issue. It's whether you can be affectionate, loving, caring, able to discipline your child, and whether you can provide for

legal implications. We took a case in Sonoma County for a lesbian couple that didn't know California has a statute governing artificial insemination. They also didn't know that if she didn't use a licensed physician to receive the semen from the donor, she didn't effectively cut off her legal rights to the child. They had only an oral agreement, they didn't use a doctor,

legal rights.

Achtenberg recalls that after the State Department of Social Services approved the adoptions, "They basically retracted that policy and promulgated a policy called their unmarried, parent adoption policy. That really means gay, because unmarried, heterosexual couples rarely seek to adopt children together. The Deukmejian administra-

SHOULD YOU TAKE THE AIDS ANTIBODY TEST?

Possible Benefits

- People who get test results usually reduce high risk behavior.
- By taking the test, you find out whether or not you can infect others.
- Regardless of the result, testing often increases a person's commitment to overall good health habits.
- People who test negative feel less anxious after testing.

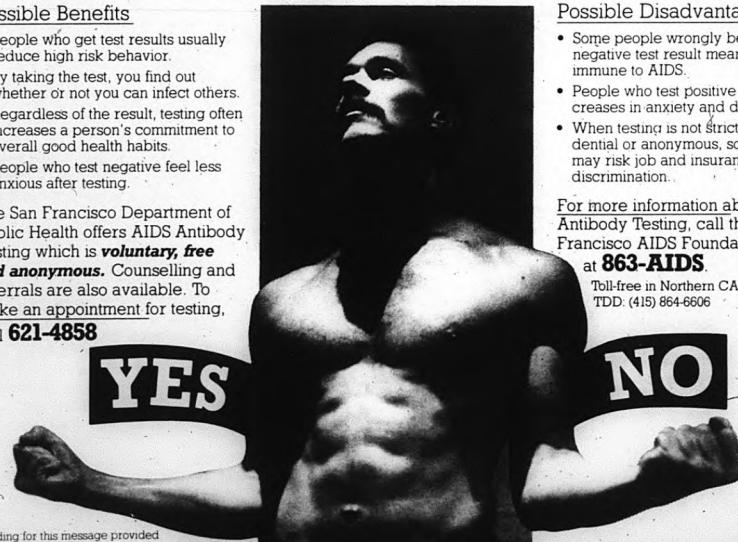
The San Francisco Department of Public Health offers AIDS Antibody Testing which is **voluntary, free and anonymous**. Counselling and referrals are also available. To make an appointment for testing, call **621-4858**

Possible Disadvantages

- Some people wrongly believe that a negative test result means they are immune to AIDS.
- People who test positive show increases in anxiety and depression.
- When testing is not strictly confidential or anonymous, some people may risk job and insurance discrimination.

For more information about AIDS Antibody Testing, call the San Francisco AIDS Foundation Hotline at **863-AIDS**.

Toll-free in Northern CA: (800) FOR-AIDS
TDD: (415) 864-6606



Funding for this message provided by the S.F. Department of Public Health.

GET THE FACTS.

CONSIDER YOUR FEELINGS.

THEN DECIDE.

S.F.
AIDS
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EDITORIAL

Examining Our Tactics

Last week's episode of the popular television drama, *Cagney and Lacey*, included a touching, humorous subplot: the tough-yet-vulnerable policewoman falls for a hunky new neighbor, who turns out to be gay. The event was treated as an ordinary dilemma facing single women: "The nice guys are either married or gay." As we prepare once again for the flurry of Gay Pride Week festivities, it is heartening to watch the continuing evolution of our "image" as the media presents us to the public. We are faring well on television, stage and film; less well in newspaper coverage — although even the most homophobic papers must continually confront us and our concerns. We're taking up lots of space in the public's eye.

Recently, the *Sentinel*'s sister publication, the *Bay Area Reporter*, included an editorial by Ray O'Loughlin discussing tactics that have been used to bring about social change. He focused on demonstrations, and questioned their effectiveness today:

"Rather than stand outside the White House and scold Ronald Reagan or stand outside the state Capitol and scold George Deukmejian, I'd rather take the time and make the effort to cultivate some contacts inside. That is now

There are plenty of gay people to write letters, march, demonstrate, and generally oppose hateful, misinformed legislation and legislators.

within our grasp... that means making deals and allowing compromises, and losing some purity perhaps in some advantageous trade-offs. Getting down in the trenches these days may mean going to swank cocktail parties with some people you can't otherwise stand."

Indeed, gay people have utilized a variety of tactics to bring about social change. Since the riot at Stonewall in 1969, we have organized massive demonstrations across the country. We have marched in small towns and major cities, paraded with pride in the sunlight, and carried our message with candles in the night. In San Francisco we expressed our outrage over the Dan White verdict in a riot this city will never forget.

We have battled the legislative system with victory and defeat. This month marks the first anniversary of the Supreme Court ruling in *Bowers vs. Hardwick*, a misguided ruling which denied a gay man the right to express his love in

the privacy of his home. We have fought locally — without success — for domestic partnership legislation, which is now in effect in Berkeley. We have defeated Proposition 6 and 64, drowning John Briggs and Lyndon LaRouche in their own bigoted hypocrisy.

Now in Washington we face Jesse Helms, who wants to quarantine people who test positive for the AIDS virus: "I think somewhere along the line we're going to have to quarantine if we are really going to contain this disease. We did it back with syphilis, did it with other diseases, and nobody ever raised a question about it." In Sacramento we face John Doolittle, who has introduced eight AIDS-related bills, some of which have already been passed: "My point of view will prevail because it's what the people want." Doolittle's point of view stinks, and he must be stopped.

Examining our tactics is necessary. Questioning the effectiveness of one strategy over another is helpful. Yet the nagging underlying question remains, Why are so few people carrying the load, fighting the battle? There are plenty of gay people to write letters, march, demonstrate, and generally oppose hateful, misinformed legislation and legislators. In a multiple choice exam on tactics for effecting social change, the appropriate answer should be "All of the Above." And if only one tactic can be chosen, it must still be Coming Out.

There are still too many gay people who watch the parade then retreat to the safety of a closet, a double life. Honesty is our best tool, our most effective weapon for achieving justice. Closets separate the gay rights movement from the black civil rights movement or the feminist movement. Confronting society with who-we-are and how-many-of-us-there-are may not end prejudice or legislative battles, but it would counterpoint outmoded stereotypes.

Gay men and women are already inside the White House, inside the Capitol. The visible few marching represent the invisible millions. Fewer closets would force more cooperation from our foes.

After the smitten policewoman on *Cagney and Lacey* let go of her romantic agenda she accepted her gay neighbor's offer of friendship. Perhaps Ronnie, Jesse and John would act differently if they let go of their personal fears and saw us as human beings, maybe even friends.

Tom Murray

TOM MURRAY

LETTERS

Be a Monitor!

To the Editor:

As the day of the San Francisco Lesbian/Gay Freedom Day Parade and Celebration draws near, it is appropriate to consider how participants and celebrants can have a safe and enjoyable day. Members of the gay and lesbian community can contribute to this goal by volunteering to be safety or health monitors on parade day, June 28.

Monitors provide valuable services that day. Health monitors administer first aid to those who are ill or injured and arrange for more intensive medical treatment if necessary. Safety monitors are effective in preventing situations in which accidents or injuries may occur. These monitors contribute greatly to a safe environment at the parade and celebration.

I encourage you to volunteer as a monitor for the parade. It is a way you can contribute to the community and have fun doing it. To volunteer, all you have to do is attend one of the training sessions that will be offered. The schedule for these events will be in the gay press, or by calling (415) 647-3733.

I offer my thanks to those who monitor the parade, and I encourage those who participate in other ways to cooperate with the monitors so that everyone can have a safe and enjoyable day.

Frank M. Jordan
Chief of Police

False Messiahs

To the Editor:

Van R. Ault's interview with Julian Baird, published in the 6/12/87 issue of the *Sentinel*, brought up feelings of some anger and frustration for me.

This new "spiritualism" endorsed by so many gays in the shadow of AIDS is as attractive and well-intentioned as it is patently (and proudly) mindless. All right, we're in the middle of a nightmare and it is valuable to consider positive ways to deal with disease and dying, but this sort of delirium — "loving" AIDS as opposed to "fighting" it, to use Baird's words — deserves to be questioned reasonably before it is accepted.

Baird appropriately notes that death is a part of living, but accepting death with no reservations, intellectual or otherwise, isn't necessarily a good idea. In social terms, acceptance of death may be desirable, but for an individual — a thinking person even possessed by rage — death may not be the holy, natural resolution conjured up by Baird and his colleagues. As for the disease itself, "loving AIDS as an all-encompassing process" — whatever that means — smacks of clever psychologizing. My God, this horror is horrific! Loss is authentic and the pain is real and it is not a question of whether such loss or pain is right or wrong or spiritually evolved or even desirable.

Baird's messianic posturing, and his advocacy for such dubious notions as channeling, are certainly worth a look, but when he says things like "... as spiritual masters, we don't need condoms," the dangers of his position are clear.

One other thing.... I recently attended a Stop AIDS Project meeting where someone suggested that AIDS has now made the gay community somehow complete — we are experiencing "death" together. But gays have been experiencing death together for as long as gays have been around,



Going up against the big boys: Arms protest at the Concord Naval weapons station.

I presume. Any joy or happiness derived from this bizarre insight may border on madness, if madness can be identified with artificial (not "natural") attachment to sentimental ideologies, theologies, mysticism, etc., not unlike the philosophizing of Julian Baird.

A friend of mine recently died of AIDS with an unyielding sense of anger, rage, profound disgust. I don't know if I agree or disagree or if the narrow contentment he may have achieved — by withstanding the temptation to romanticize his own departure — is "valid," but it's certainly no less valid, creative, or meaningful than the response suggested by Baird and company. Dylan Thomas said it plainly:

Do not go gentle into that good night.

Rage, rage against the dying of the light
John J. Powers

Correcting the Chron

To the Editor:

I am writing this open letter to everyone in the gay community who read the Curt McDowell obituary in the June 4 *Chronicle*. I was embarrassed and saddened by that obit, and angry that a quote of mine had been distorted and used in such an offensive way.

The obit said that I had described Curt in 1984 as "the San Francisco-based, polysexually perverse brat." In fact, that quote was taken from a review I had written of Curt's film, *Sparkle's Tavern*, in which I called

him "the San Francisco-based, polysexually perverse brat of low-budget cinema."

I wrote that line to describe Curt's style and persona as a film director, wanted to capture the audacity, feistiness and raunchiness that Curt brought to his films. Curt never accomplished things in a conventional or "polite" way, a fact which I always admired, even if a particular film didn't work for me.

I did not write that line to describe Curt as a person. The fact that the obit writer made it appear that way is extremely troubling to me. Curt was not a "brat." Had I been asked to describe Curt, I would have written that he was a very sweet, gentle and unpretentious man, a creative artist who endured a lot of hardships and

Continued on page 12

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FROM THE DESK

DAVID M LOWE

Standing On the Corner

That hotbed of political activity, the corner of 18th & Castro, was the scene of an interesting exchange over the weekend. There stood a towering Chris Bowman of Concerned Republicans for Individual Rights bellowing his belief that the current district elections proposal is unfair to minorities, lesbians/gays, Republicans, divides neighborhoods and gerrymanders the city.

Working in his shadow was a young Milk club volunteer urging people to sign a petition placing the district elections question on the ballot in November. After putting up with Bowman's continued urging, "Don't sign the district elections petition," for over

an hour David finally struck out at Goliath with the remark, "Get the Republicans off the street."

"Fascist," reported Bowman in defense of his right to promote any point of view he so desired from his post at the gay crossroads of America.

I guess the point of the story is that you can expect the corner's political activity to pick up considerably as we move ever closer to the mayoral elections. Both the Molinari and Agnos camps will be vying for the best of all possible locations on the corner where space is at a premium.

Unless both sides come up with a workable agreement you could see supporters getting up at the crack of dawn or even sleeping overnight to obtain the space usually occupied by the March on Washington and activist Ken McPherson.

From a reporter's point of view, the constant competition for the choicest location would make for many interesting stories about who did what to win the spot for that particular day.

However, a previously arranged system of rotation, agreed upon by all parties involved, would be a more acceptable solution.

The executive committees of the Milk and Toklas clubs have already met to discuss the ethics of the campaign that will be waged from SF's most famous

corner between now and election day. Good luck.

Mayoral Debate

All five candidates for mayor have agreed to attend a candidates forum for the lesbian/gay community on the Monday following the Parade.

The event being put together by Richmond Young of the Toklas club is still looking for other community groups to co-sponsor this first debate in our community.

The forum hosted by political analyst Bruce Pettit will be held on Monday, June 29, at 8 pm at the First Unitarian Church, 1187 Franklin Street.

Celebration Speakers

On Parade Day, Sunday, June 28, both Assemblyman Art Agnos and Supervisor John L. Molinari will give speeches at the Civic Center celebration.

The back-to-back presentations will begin at 3:30 pm and supposedly will not include any political rhetoric about the mayor's race. We'll see.

Beastie Boys Hate Faggots

In an interview with the magazine, *New Music Exchange*, Beastie Boys

singer Adam Horowitz was quoted as saying, "I hate faggots." He went on to characterize homosexuals as child molesters and as psychologically sick.

Well, those comments have resulted in a \$2000 donation by the rock group's record company, CBS Records, to the New York City Gay and Lesbian Anti-Violence Project.

The donation was made after the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation (GLAAD) publicized the comments during their radio broadcast, *Naming Names*, designed to publicize violently homophobic comments.

The cover letter accompanying the CBS donation made no reference to the Beastie Boys incident. The CBS donation is the first project has received from a corporation.

For those of you not familiar with the Beastie Boys, they are an all-white rap group that does a fair imitation of a number of popular black rap groups. A fair imitation.

To break it down, they're white boys trying to cash in on the popularity of DNC. Maybe their twisted minds also believe that there are some people who would only accept black rap sung by white boys.

Unfortunately, there probably are. ■

AT THE COURTHOUSE

KEN CADY

Denies Undermining Gay Rights Ordinance Renne Disputes Critics in Raines Case

City Attorney Louise Renne, clearly annoyed by charges that she has asked a court to rule that the city's gay rights ordinance is invalid, hotly disputed the allegations as an attempt to "try the case in the newspapers." Renne told the *Sentinel* that the complex legal arguments presented in the case of Michael v. City and County of San Francisco have been twisted by Raines's attorneys. "When an ordinance is adopted by the Board of Supervisors, my function is to uphold the constitutionality of the law," she asserts. "In fact, I voted for the amendments to the ordinance when they came before the board in 1981."

Police Code ordinance Article 33, passed by the board in 1978, before Renne replaced Dianne Feinstein as a board member, prohibits discrimination based upon sexual orientation. On December 15, 1980, Michael Raines sued the city and several other named defendants alleging that he was denied appointment as Managing Director of the Performing Arts Center in San Francisco because of his gay sexual orientation. Among other legal issues, he relied upon the city ordinance. Two juries were unable to reach verdicts in Raines's case, and a third trial is set for Monday.

In the second trial, a defendant other than the city asked the court to rule that the ordinance was not available to Raines since state law precluded local

government from enacting such anti-discrimination ordinances. The trial judge, William Mullins, agreed, and the jury was not informed of the ordinance. In the present action, the only defendant left is the City of San Francisco. In pretrial motions, the city argued that the ruling of the court from the previous trial should remain and not be re-ligated. Mullins is now retired, and Superior Court Judge Lucy Kelly McCabe denied the city's request. The city then appealed and filed, through private counsel hired by the city attorney, the controversial brief that Raines's attorneys have complained about to the press.

"There are many rulings that were made at the second trial which the city is not asking to have brought forward to

the retrial," attorney Matt Coles states on Raines's behalf. "They have only asked the court to uphold two of the rulings from the last trial." These rulings, on the gay rights ordinance and another legal issue involving the right of privacy, were made by Mullins on application of parties who are no longer involved in the lawsuit. "These kinds of rulings are never carried forward from one trial to another," Coles told the *Sentinel*.

That point is disputed by Renne. She maintains that the brief filed by her office is an attempt to forestall a needless retrial or at least to save the time and

As the flags of gay pride go up on Market Street, Renne's supporters are upset to see her taking the position that Judge Mullins's ruling on the city's gay rights ordinance should be left to stand without further challenge.

money necessary to relitigate the issues already decided by Mullins. Rather than arguing that the city ordinance is invalid, her office maintains that a judge has already ruled on that issue and that his ruling applies to the retrial.

The net effect is that the court's ruling that the ordinance is preempted by state law would stand.

The brief further argues that Raines's claim that he was denied the appointment because of his sexual orientation "must be balanced against Defendant's interest in efficient and economical administration of its public functions . . . any allegation of illegal discrimination, in order to permit judicial intervention, must be reflected in a factual pattern which is so specific as to permit the Court to rule as a matter of law that improper discrimination exists."

This second argument is not easily digested but essentially tries to convert Raines's claim from a question of fact — was he discriminated against according to the available testimony — to a question of law — has the city systematically engaged in discrimination of persons based upon their sexual orientation. Juries decide questions of fact and judges decide questions of law.

If the Raines's issue is limited to a question of law, he isn't entitled to another jury trial. The city argues that not only must he demonstrate discrimination against him, he must prove the

city has a policy of such discrimination. This higher burden is required, the city attorney maintains, to allow the city to make preferential appointments allowing various minority groups into higher level government positions.

Attorney Coles argues that the U.S. Supreme Court ruling in *Bakke v. Regents of the University of California* who seek our votes. ■

CATHARTIC COMICS

Featuring THE BROWN BOMBER and DIVA TOUCHE FLAMBE by I.B. Gittendowne



POINT OF VIEW

JOY SCHULENBURG

**Capturing the Spirit
of Father's Day**

The Importance of Remembrance

For as long as I can remember, I've heard people complain that Father's Day is nothing but a commercial gimmick, a plot by greeting card companies and aftershave manufacturers to sell more of their wares. For that matter, people say the same thing about almost every holiday imaginable. In a sense, I suppose they're right. No doubt the card and cologne companies make out better than most of the fathers I know who already have drawers full of ugly neckties and awful stinkum to attest to their children's devotion. Maybe Father's Day is just an attempt to capitalize on the commercial success of Mother's Day. Or maybe it was some early liberationist's attempt at fostering gender parity. On the other hand, maybe Father's Day is just a nice idea that's gotten a bad rep with the cynics among us.

In the lesbian and gay community, Father's Day is probably the least celebrated secular holiday I can think of. Particularly here in San Francisco where native Californians are as rare as banana plantations in the Arctic. The majority of us live hundreds, even thousands of miles away from our biological families. Now it's hard to forget the Christmas/Hanukkah/New Year's holidays. Even without snow, you'd have to live in a total vacuum to ignore the hype, the holly and those cute little stickers that charities send you with your name and address misspelled inside a wreath. But the less obvious occasions slip by us unnoticed. There is probably no other city in the world that does as much business in belated birthday cards as San Francisco.

Fathers seem to bear the lion's share of this temporary amnesia. A quick

survey of a half dozen friends to see when they'd last sent their father a card or a note turned up three "I don't remember" s, one "it's been years" and a couple of blank stares. All of them, when reminded that Father's Day is impending, gasped and ran for the nearest drugstore. I'm planning on asking Hallmark for a commission.

Conversely, those same six people had all remembered Mother's Day. Maybe it's that mothers are still viewed as being the more sentimental parent and days set aside specifically to honor and commemorate a familial relationship are certainly sentimental. We tend to have different images of fathers. Despite our efforts to overcome sexism and gender stereotyping, most gay men and lesbians are still profoundly affected by our conditioning. You know — Mom will be hurt if you forget her

THOMAS ALLEN



Veronica and Joy Schulenburg.

day, but Dad will just shrug his shoulders and stoically go back to fixing the Chevy. It's a shame really, because some of the most sentimental people in the world are fathers.

I may be more acutely aware of Father's Day than most people because of my own family situation. Not my relationship with my own father particularly. To tell the truth, we haven't communicated in years; not out of hostility, but from sheer disinterest. But I have a six-year-old daughter and she has not one, but two fathers. She is also a holiday junkie and for weeks has been doing a countdown to the big event. Father's Day has been marked on our calendar for nearly a month now. Fortunately for Geof and Bert, my two co-parents, she is still too young to independently purchase paisley ties and bottles of Brut.

Best estimates place the number of gay parents in this country at around four million, at least half of them gay fathers. Not all of them have custody of their children. In fact, my own research

shows that the custodial fathers are a distinct minority. This is reflective of both the tendency of the courts to award custody of children to their mothers and the homophobia of society in general. Despite the current trend of more involved parenting on the part of men, women are still widely perceived as being the more nurturing "natural" parent. Fathers as primary parents are viewed with suspicion. Gay fathers not only have to contend with that suspicion, but with the prejudices and misconceptions of the world in general. The negative myths range from the notion that gay men are too narcissistic to be responsible parents to the nasty old standby that gays are child molesters.

Within our community we are all aware of the falsity of such myths, but custody hearings do not take place in a gay supportive environment. Yet every day, gay fathers courageously face ignorance and hostility in order to maintain a close, nurturing relationship with their children. One way that we, as a community, can observe Father's Day is by recognizing and honoring those men who have fought in this particular front line of the struggle for our civil rights.

Not all gay fathers have come by this role through marriage and subsequent divorce. These are certainly the major-

you want to spend the next eighteen years raising a child. It's a big responsibility and not one to be taken lightly. Further, in the midst of the AIDS epidemic, biological parenting raises new questions. The possibility of an HTLV-III positive father transmitting the virus to the mother and, thus in utero, to the unborn child, is a serious one. The effects of conception through artificial insemination are still unknown, though several studies are currently underway.

In addition to the transmission question, AIDS has posed a painful challenge to the security of many gay-parented families. The stress of being among the "worried well" is compounded when there are children to be considered. And, sadly, being a father is neither preventative nor cure. Some of the bravest families I know of are presently coping with terminal illness. Fortunately, they are few, but it is to them and their children that I dedicate this Father's Day tribute. In the midst of pain and sorrow, they are finding the strength to nurture and grow and they deserve all the respect and support we can offer.

The gay father in the Bay Area is fortunate to have several support groups to help him through his personal, social and legal challenges. Bay Area Gay Fathers is an organization of long

One way that we, as a community, can observe Father's Day is by recognizing and honoring those men who have fought in this particular front line of the struggle for our civil rights.

AIDS WALK San Francisco

A ten kilometer fundraising walkathon

Sunday, July 19, 1987

Starting at the bandshell in
Golden Gate Park

Walkathon Chairperson
Mayor Dianne Feinstein

Sign-in 9:00 a.m. / Opening ceremony 9:30 a.m.
Walk begins 10:00 a.m.

For further information please call
(415) 558-0405

Created and produced by Craig Miller, Richard Zeichik and Associates.
Proceeds benefit AIDS service and education providers.

ity; however, a growing number are choosing, as my two co-parents have, alternative routes to becoming fathers. They are consciously co-parenting with lesbians or with straight women friends or they are facing the courts and social institutions in another way by adopting children. These are men who are out, who are openly gay and embrace the role of father as a part of their overall identity. For them, custody is not so much the issue as finding or creating a positive situation in which the dream of fatherhood is made possible.

Adoption, particularly of infants, is not easy for anyone. For gay men success often hinges on connecting with the right individual within the social service agencies and/or hoping that the question of sexual orientation does not arise during the adoption process. Further, it is an expensive process involving lawyers and, very often, agency fees. Generally, it takes a great deal of perseverance and resources to become an adoptive gay father.

Co-parenting, consciously taking on parenthood with one or more partners, also poses its own set of challenges. The biggest is finding someone with whom

standing. They have been highly visible and done considerable outreach and education in both the gay and straight communities. The Lesbian/Gay Parenting Group is a co-sexual organization open to those considering parenthood as well as those who already have children. They offer both social and educational opportunities and include a significant number of co-parents and adoptive fathers. Both groups also provide the chance for children of gay parents to get to know peers with similar family circumstances.

* * *

Father's Day can certainly be viewed as a commercial holiday. We can send a card, buy that tacky tie or forget it all together. But we also have the choice to make something more of it. Our attitudes and the means of observance we use are what really matters. We can accept the hype at face value or take action to make the day meaningful by embracing the positive spirit of the thing. Take Gay Pride Day as an example. On that day, we commemorate the Stonewall Rebellion. When you get right

Continued on page 12

BEYOND THE BAY

CORINNE LIGHTWEAVER

Florida Quarantines HIV-Positive Teenager

PENSACOLA, FL — A 14-year-old boy who has been exposed to the AIDS virus has been confined to a psychiatric hospital after a Department of Health and Rehabilitative Services counselor told Escambia Circuit Judge William Frye that the boy was sexually active and presented a public health risk.

According to Joyner Sims, administrator of the state AIDS program in Tallahassee, the action is probably the first AIDS-related quarantine order in Florida. The judge issued his order on an emergency basis without a hearing. He will review the decision this week.

According to the health department, the boy is sexually active and stays away from his home two to three nights every week. The boy said he has been under the supervision of the department since age 6 for a variety of problems.

Attempted Burglary of Boston AIDS Project

BOSTON — An attempted robbery was thwarted at the offices of the AIDS Action Committee on the night of the "From All Walks of Life" fundraiser for AIDS research and education. Fortunately for the project, the AAC Walk Team had put the \$486,000 collected into a night deposit that day.

An unidentified burglar entered the office through an unlocked window after workers left the office at 11:30 pm. The safe was jimmied open, but nothing else in the office was touched.

"There were boxes of calculators used during the day that were easily takeable," said Larry Killian, AAC Director of Development. "It was obviously someone who knew the event had taken place, and knew the layout of the office."

The AAC has filed a report on the break-in with the police.

West Germany Secures Borders Against Foreigners with AIDS

WEST GERMANY — Foreigners suspected of having AIDS will be turned away at the border, said Interior of the Ministry. West Germany has already introduced stringent anti-AIDS measures in Bavaria.

A spokesperson for the ministry said

border guards have already been ordered to refuse entry to non-European community nationals believed to be suffering from or carrying AIDS, according to the *Boston Globe*.

Japan Will Not Imprison PWAs

TOKYO — The Japanese government has abandoned plans to imprison people with AIDS if they refuse to cooperate with government health officials, according to *Toronto's Rites*. Meanwhile, Japan continues its AIDS education programs and plans to pursue increased HIV antibody testing.

Amnesty Intl. Survey of Imprisoned Gays and Lesbians

Amnesty International is conducting a worldwide project on imprisonment of homosexuals. The organization will use its findings for an internal policy discussion to determine whether it should adopt persons imprisoned solely because of their sexuality as "prisoners of conscience," in addition to persons imprisoned for advocating gay equality.

Reports of the study will be published in October at the next international meeting of Amnesty in Brazil.

The organization is also seeking assistance in gathering news articles in any language on cases of imprisoned gays and lesbians. Amnesty International guarantees confidentiality both for those who have been imprisoned and for individuals reporting cases. If you have information, please write: Amnesty International USA, Northeast Regional Office, 1675 Massachusetts Avenue, Cambridge, MA 02138, or call (617) 547-9295.

See Jane Follow Liz . . .

SACRAMENTO — Actress Jane Fonda has agreed to become a "Sacramento Celebrity" for the Sacramento AIDS Foundation and other AIDS fundraising activities.

National Lesbian Health Study

BOSTON — Fenway Community Health Center has been awarded a \$10,000 grant from the Chicago Resource Center to fund a national lesbian health study. Concerned staff and board members of the health center developed the project to fill the need created by a lack of accurate information.

on lesbian health status and health care. The void of information has caused difficulties in providing health care services and education.

Five thousand questionnaires, which are in the final stages of preparation, will be distributed this fall to lesbians across the country. The questionnaire covers health practices and history, stress in personal and work lives, sexual practices, and family history.

Persons interested in participating in the study or in distributing questionnaires can contact the Boston Lesbian Health Project, Fenway Community Health Center, 16 Haviland Street, Boston, MA 02115, or call (617) 267-0900.

Massachusetts Gay Rights Legislation

Hard work is paying off for gay rights advocates in Massachusetts. On June 2, Massachusetts Attorney General James M. Shannon signed an executive order banning discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and the diagnosis or perception of having AIDS.

"At a time when President Reagan seems more interested in testing people for AIDS than in combatting the disease with money for research, education and treatment, it is important to make a clear statement that there is no room for discrimination on the basis of a diagnosis of AIDS, or a perception that someone might have AIDS," said Shannon.

Although the order only applies to the 371 employees of the attorney general's office, Shannon also urged Senate passage of the state gay rights bill.

The gay rights bill, H3445 has already been passed by the Massachusetts House of Representatives, despite opposition from critics such as Representative William Flynn who charged that "young people could misconstrue that we put a stamp of approval on this lifestyle."

H3445 passed in the House by a 77-65 margin, but still must be approved by the Senate and Governor Michael Dukakis. Although the Senate has passed a bill requiring mandatory antibody testing for couples seeking marriage licenses, Senate leader Bill Bulger is considered "fair-minded" by many political observers who hope he will back the bill. Dukakis, a recently announced candidate for president of the United States who has angered many gay activists by his opposition to gay and lesbian foster parents, is lobbying legislators diligently to pass the gay rights legislation.

THANK YOU, SAN FRANCISCO

for responding so intelligently and humanely to the AIDS epidemic, for making safe sex a way of life in our city, and for showing the rest of the world that we can stop the spread of AIDS.



Photo: Rob Eichberg

STOP AIDS PROJECT

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

A lesbian and gay rights bill was defeated by the Connecticut House of Representatives by a narrow margin.

Bunch Calls for Integrationist Politics

NEW YORK — Feminist theorist and lesbian activist Charlotte Bunch offered a historical view of lesbian activism and thoughts on her integrationist philosophy at the *Lesbian Identity and Empowerment* conference organized by the National Organization for Women/New York City last month.

"It's been in vogue lately to be discouraged in the feminist movement," observed Bunch, the founder of the feminist journal *The Furies* and the theoretical journal *Quest*. She urged women to draw new energy from the experiences and struggles of the '70s.

According to Bunch, today's feminists are no longer split between lesbian and straight camps, or other differences which splintered the movement. Passion — both political and personal — is an important legacy from those years which continues to shape lesbian politics, said Bunch. "To be a lesbian is to be passionately engaged in the politics of the world."

While lesbians clearly have their own particular issues, Bunch pointed to lesbian AIDS workers and lesbian mothers as examples of her integrationist philosophy.

Items for this week's column are edited from United Press International, Examiner News Services, Bay Windows, New York Native, Frontiers, Gay Community News and Mom... Guess What!

tionist philosophy that lesbian issues are issues of society. Health care and child care are also lesbian issues.

Corporations Oppose AIDS Discrimination

Many of the nation's top corporations do not discriminate against people with AIDS and offer continued medical benefits to PWAs, according to a survey of the Fortune 1000 conducted by National Gay Rights Advocates, a public interest law firm.

The NGRA received 164 "on the record" responses. The survey asked four questions:

Does your company have a policy which forbids employment discrimination against employees with AIDS or related conditions? (Yes 67%, No 31%)

Does your company have a policy which forbids employment discrimination against employees with AIDS or related conditions? (Yes 95.5%, No 0.5%)

Does your company require some or all employees or job applicants to take the AIDS antibody test as a condition for employment? (Yes 0.5%, No 99.5% — The test was a research lab that requires employees working with HIV experiments to be tested periodically.)

Has your company developed a written policy on AIDS? (Yes 18%, No 77%, under development 5%)

SUNDAY BRUNCH

11 am — 2:45 pm

ON THE JOB

ARTHUR LAZERE

Gay and Lesbian Press Association President

Don Volk Revives GLPA

At the time that Don Volk was first elected president of the Gay and Lesbian Press Association (GLPA) in 1986, the five-year-old organization had been written off by many as a lost cause. After its energetic first few years, GLPA was in debt as a result of its failed attempt to create a gay wire service. The wire service, a good idea that proved to be ahead of its time, not only drained funds from GLPA, but also emotionally divided the membership between its staunch supporters and skeptical opponents.

The 1986 GLPA convention in Miami was poorly attended (Miami in July?) and outgoing president Jim Thomas (editor of St. Louis's *Gay News-Telegraph*) turned the meetings into a group soul-searching session on the question of whether GLPA should continue to exist. The response was a clear "yes" and Volk and his executive committee set out to resuscitate the gasping invalid.

Volk, 43, was elected to a second one-year term at GLPA's 1987 meetings in San Diego. In his first year in office, he led the organization from debt to solvency through aggressive fund-raising. During his term, GLPA developed a higher profile in the national lesbian and gay community through a Media Awareness Month. The organization also created a media training program for nonprofit community organizations. Now available on videotape, that program should prove most valuable in teaching community groups how best to project their

message to the general public through both print and electronic media.

While current GLPA membership is at an all-time high, support for the GLPA is now coming largely from smaller newspapers in places like Oklahoma and Alabama, rather than from the better known major metropolitan gay papers. The exception has been *Frontiers*, Los Angeles's healthiest gay paper (a recent issue had 84 pages), for which Volk works as news editor.

"The big city papers are doing well and are highly professional," says Volk, "so it is hard for them to see what they will get out of GLPA. What we must make them understand is that they should be supporting their not-so-well-established colleagues through the GLPA, struggling papers in smaller cities where gay rights are still to be won. The health of the gay and lesbian press in all parts of the country is crucial to the health of our movement."

Volk points out that prior to the cur-



Don Volk.

rent generation there was little in the way of documentation of how gay and lesbian people lived and thought and felt. Recording the history of the movement is essential to holding onto our gains and carrying them forward, he says. He points out that the gay and lesbian press creates self-esteem in the community, reporting on accomplishments which are largely ignored by the mainstream press.

"There would have been many, many more AIDS deaths if the gay and lesbian press had not existed," Volk says. From the San Diego *Scene*, "We were on top of that issue from the beginning. . . . We have been in the forefront of public information about AIDS. We have certainly been in the lead in informing and educating about civil rights issues and how this country is going to deal with a massive health crisis."

Volk arrived at his activist-journalist career by a somewhat circuitous route. He displayed an early interest in ballet and opera, while his construction worker father and older brothers hunted and fished and played ball. The family lived at various times in Utah, Idaho, Wyoming, and Montana.

Volk was editor of his high school

yearbook and worked on the high school newspaper, but his early goal was to be a dancer. He auditioned for the San Francisco Ballet School whose legendary director, Harold Christensen, informed him that while he was the best dancer, he didn't win the scholarship because, at age 23, he was deemed too old.

Volk holds a bachelor's degree in theatre and English literature from the University of Idaho and a master's degree in theatre from the University of Montana. Headed to Los Angeles for the first time, he remembers, "I drove over the hill, through Cahuenga Pass into 108 degree August heat and one of the smoggiest days ever. I saw all the smog and knew that was where I wanted to live!"

For several years he studied acting and dancing and tried to break into show business while holding a variety of jobs to support himself. At various times he worked as a legal secretary, fashion coordinator, public relations writer, and word processor. In his mid-thirties he went back to school and

earned a two-year certificate in magazine journalism.

Freelancing at first, Volk started selling stories to *Blueboy* and other publications. "In 1982 I wrote the first story on AIDS to appear in a national magazine — *Blueboy*," he says with evident pride.

A typical biweekly issue of *Frontiers* runs about eighty tabloid-size pages. Volk not only functions as news editor, but writes several bylined stories for each issue as well. GLPA honored him this year for his work in local news reporting.

"I love gay journalism," he says enthusiastically, "It gives me a great opportunity for activism. I think of myself as an educator. I have learned to see the diversity and the subtleties in the community."

That typical issue of *Frontiers* also has a classified ad section of nearly 30 pages and about twenty pages of advertising for telephone sex services. "The gay press is healthy," Volk points out, "thanks to the 976 phone services. They keep a lot of papers going." ■

Pride Week

Continued from page 3

ful) and from the city (\$40,000). Booths rent from \$25 for non-profits to \$250 for political and corporate groups. Solicitations for volunteer contributions are made the day of the event and are a major source of income. In 1986, \$160,000 was taken in and \$150,000 spent, leaving a \$10,000 balance — not enough to finance this year's event.

LA Runs a Business

Sam Haws, the full-time executive of the Los Angeles event, explains, "We lost money in our early years. There were complaints when we charged 50 cents for people to enter the first celebration, but people know that we have to have funds to put on a proper event. We have a business operation now. There are few complaints about the door charge. We have the largest gay pride celebration in the world." The LA function has 180 booths, a huge outdoor disco, a country dance area, and a large central stage.

LA's emphasis each year is centered on producing a professional, financially successful event. There are no political speeches, although one hour is being allocated this year for speakers on the March on Washington.

San Francisco parade organizers over the years have not made a concentrated effort to raise money or establish the committee as a business. The emphasis has been on selling T-shirts, getting money from the city, and asking for volunteer donations at the event itself. Booth fees are kept low for fear of excluding some who cannot afford to pay. Fundraisers have not been very successful because of the difficulty in finding a talented finance chair willing and able

to work long hours with no compensation.

"We have no dirt under our rugs," Schulenburg states. "We have nothing to hide. Our records are open and we are totally legitimate." She is probably correct; the tax problems faced by the committee are minor. Schulenburg praises Ruvelas "who deserves a medal for what she has done this year." Few involved disagree, and the temporary disappearance of co-chair Larry Burnett didn't help matters. The real crisis is whether those involved are willing to reorganize and set up the committee on a sound fiscal basis for 1988.

Burn-Out and Changes

Changing of the guard at any community organization is a continuing problem as people burn out or move on to new lovers or new causes, such as AIDS service groups. There are always the critics and Ruvelas urges, "They should join us and help us create a better parade."

Autumn Courtney and her former 1986 co-chair, Patrick Toner, resigned from the committee this year. They were joined by some board members and committee chairs. The taking away of the 30-person steering committee, she believes, made a too-limited structure that did not allow for enough input.

Structural changes will evidently be made in the parade committee this summer in a series of general membership meetings — open to the public. Former and current co-chairs hope that no changes will be made that will de-emphasize community participation in planning. Ruvelas said that bringing back the steering committee might help eliminate this year's problem of finding

Continued on page 11

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Novelist/activist Alice Walker at the weekend protest staged at the Concord Naval weapons station.

Weapons Protest

Continued from page 1

Terror," the other "Killed by AIDS". On the sides of the coffins were the slogans "Quarantine weapons, not people," "Healthcare, not warfare," "Fund condoms, not contras," and "Fund AIDS research, not war." Later, they stretched quarantine tape across a gate where weapon-filled railroad cars leave the facility.

"I feel great energy and spirit in the people today," observed Terry Blankenship of the San Francisco ARC/AIDS Vigil, who was helping to carry a banner for Lesbians and Gays Against Intervention in Latin America. "I think people are becoming more aware of the interrelationship between what the government is doing to people in Central America and what it is doing to hurt people in this country."

The spirit among the protesters apparently contributed to peaceful civil disobedience methods and jailhouse solidarity. Blankenship was of those arrested later in the day, along with Frank Richter of Citizens for Medical Justice.

Although most of the protesters were released, five still remained in jail at the beginning of the week on what Richter says are trumped up assault and battery charges.

"They didn't do anything different than we did," says Richter.

Many protesters expressed outrage at the government's use of their tax monies.

Lesbian Rights Project

Continued from page 5

foundations.

The staff of the project is small, consisting of one full-time attorney, a full-time development director, "and

But there's a subtle difference that has taken place in the past few years — permission has been given to the American people to be racist, sexist, classist, and homophobic....

anywhere from one-to-five law clerks, who are almost 100 percent volunteer. On a part-time basis, we share the services of four other positions with Equal Rights Advocates, Inc., which is our fiscal and legal support," Strauss explains. "There are nine people on our Community Advisory Board. Our board doesn't have the fiscal and legal responsibility that one has on a traditional board. Our board members are people from the community who are concerned with the work that we're doing, and whether the needs of the community are being met," Strauss adds.

Strauss explains that although the staff is small, "we have a very precious support system. As wonderful as the

"I came out here following my tax dollars and the trail led me here to this weapons station and I really feel very strongly that this is not where I want my tax money to go," says Alice Walker. "I would rather have it go for food and clothing and shelter for homeless people, so that's why I'm here."

Pledge of Resistance, which organized the action, planned the protest as the kick-off event for a nationwide

being trained against civilian populations."

The continuous protest action, which culminated last Saturday with more than 200 arrests, began several days earlier.

"On Thursday, six people were arrested, the first six to be arrested in this action, and they succeeded in stopping at the main gate a truck labeled explosives for over 20 minutes. And that's

"I came out here following my tax dollars and the trail led me here to this weapons station and I really feel very strongly that this is not where I want my tax money to go."

— Alice Walker

"Summer of Resistance" at military sites fueling the war in Central America.

"We hope primarily to expose that the Concord Naval Weapons Station is here, to remind people that a naval weapons station sends out armaments and in particular we have found out through the Freedom of Information Act that those armaments are going to points in El Salvador," explains Stephanie Troyan, spokesperson for Pledge of Resistance which organized the action.

"We're concerned about that because those bombs and fuse extenders and white phosphorus and bullets are

only the beginning," Dave Raymond, a staff member of Pledge of Resistance, told the protesters on Saturday. "I want to give you some indication of what we may have stopped yesterday and what we're going to stop again today."

"We have documentation that Concord Naval Weapons Station is shipping bombs and ammunition to El Salvador to be used in the most intensive bombing in the history of this hemisphere. You remember napalm from Vietnam... There's something worse than napalm. It's called white phosphorus.... White phosphorus is a burning chemical. When it lands on

LRP staff is itself, it's so much more so because we have all these other wonderful women here who are also working to eradicate sex discrimination.... Since the staff here is racially mixed and our sexual orientations are different, we can understand that we all have a hard time out there sometimes. But it is an absolute privilege to have

munity work have to be careful about letting the outside forces pit us against each other."

The Lesbian Rights Project was established in 1977 with a \$10,000 grant from the Berkeley Law Foundation. Although a decade is not a very long period of time, Achtenberg also notices changes that have taken place in the years since.

"Now you have people who are decent people, looking over their shoulders in a way you didn't really see before, because of the zeal of these right-wing extremists. It has a McCarthy kind of quality to it — something you didn't really see a few years ago," she explains.

Achtenberg is looking forward to the next decade of the Lesbian Rights Project, and hopes that the organization "will be influential in stressing the importance of accepting leadership from lesbians and gay men of color.... I look forward to seeing the struggle that we have been waging — lesbian and gay family issues — become the political priority it should be."

Until that happens, the LRP will continue to fight sexual orientation discrimination on every level. And, as it celebrates its tenth anniversary, perhaps the LRP will look forward to a time when discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation is merely a ghost from the past.

someone's skin it burns through their flesh and burns into their bones."

Raymond held up a paper to the crowd which he said was a copy of a shipping order for \$6 million worth of bombs that left the base on June 10, 1985. Included in the shipping order, according to Raymond, was a request for 2700 white phosphorus rockets and ammunition for a machine gun made by General Electric which shoots 100 bullets a second.

Alameda County Supervisor John George called for Reagan to come and close the gates of the weapons facility, charging that the cost of waging war in Central America drains tax dollars from helping the homeless and hungry. Before stepping down from the platform where a rally was held before the protest, he led the crowd in several rounds of the chant, "The People united can never be defeated."

Father Bill O'Donnell of St Joseph the Workman Catholic Church in Berkeley led the procession from Clyde Park to the gate of the weapons facility. After trying to talk with sheriffs, he and others kneeled in prayer at the gate before symbolically crossing a yellow

property line to be arrested for trespassing.

Protesters sang peace chants and hymns, wrote anti-war messages on the road in colored chalk, and draped the razor-wire barricades with colored streamers.

The protesters were faces by battalions of Contra Costa County sheriffs, Concord policemen, California Highway Patrol officers, and military personnel in full riot gear. Police took photos and films of the protesters.

The protesters represented a wide cross section of people. A number of religious groups were well represented, as were old people and veterans. The oldest person arrested on Friday was 84 and the youngest was seven. Six of the 41 people arrested that day were taken to the hospital after being released, because they allegedly walked across a toxic waste dump of lead arsenic and authorities were concerned about their health.

Supervisor George said he was there to "join with the protesters and I'm here to find ways to do something about ending the war in Central America. This is one way to do it."

Pride Week

Continued from page 10

talented people to work in key positions.

Courtney opts for firmly establishing the annual event as a business. She emphasizes, "There is a need for change and we will fix it but there is room for compassion here — not just raising money." There is considerable emphasis on this viewpoint — that to emphasize raising money or charging for the celebration might detract from the spirit of the San Francisco event.

The talent and parade is the largest event in the SF lesbian and gay community. It receives international attention and reminds the public each year that hundreds of thousands of peo-

ple who are lesbian and gay are willing to stand together and say they are proud. San Francisco is considered the center of the gay community internationally — and with the AIDS crisis, the center of AIDS care and research. Some of the best minds in the world are here in that community.

The talent that gave us the Bike-a-Thon (raising over \$300,000), the talent that gave us the most recent restaurant event for AIDS (raising over \$500,000) and the best minds in our community must come together this summer and begin to make our largest annual event a sound, professional undertaking. This is one instance when San Francisco lesbians and gay men can learn from their Los Angeles counterparts.


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LETTERS

Continued from page 6

received very little remuneration in order to make his films. Curt was one of San Francisco's most unique independent filmmakers, and he deserves to be remembered in a kinder, more appropriate way.

I was in New York when the obit appeared; otherwise, I would have written this letter earlier. For any false impressions left by the insensitivity of that nameless obit writer, I apologize to Curt McDowell's family, friends and fans, and to his lover, Robert Evans.

Edward Guthmann

Attack Stopper

To the Editor:

A very effective answer to the continued "fag-bashing" problem is for people to call 476-5683 (Jackie

Waskom) and register for the class required to receive certification to carry and use mace (tear gas).

The three-hour class includes a lecture, demonstration with canisters of gay, psychology of assault prevention, simple back-up physical defense skills, and a written examination using the guidelines set by the State Department of Justice. Eligibility requirements are that one be over 18 years of age, not a convicted felon, not addicted to drugs, and never convicted of an assault or the misuse of tear gas.

The UCSF Police Department's Personal Safety Program is taught by Worthington-Fein and Associates, from 6 to 9 pm, at 1350 Seventh Avenue, in the Laguna Honda Personnel Conference Room. The class and license fee, payable at the time of registration, is only \$10. A pocket-size canister may be purchased by qualified individuals at the end of the class.

It's become a dangerous world out

there. Believe me, I can attest to the fact that this is a very effective weapon, but it must be carried at all times. Once used the attacker will be bouncing off the walls; he'll think twice before assaulting someone else.

Ronald T. Pannell

People Not Politicians

To the Editor:

Recently, Quentin Kopp went on record as being opposed to district elections by stating that "... district elections will segregate San Francisco residents and create divisiveness among our neighborhoods." To this I say, "Bullshit!"

What Kopp and other political hacks truly fear is the fact that district elections empower the voters, not the politicians. Elections by district will also eliminate the current status quo of political patronage, duplicity and big money and big downtown business' stronghold at City Hall. Having to face the latter is the worst nightmare for local politicians because district elections will bring their "gravy train" to a screeching halt. They will make desperate attempts to

see that district elections are defeated at the ballot box.

Regardless of who's elected as our next mayor, should district elections not be implemented, we can look forward to more of the same diet of astronomical rent increases in housing and in commercial space, the proliferation of "For Lease" signs city-wide, more homelessness, more high-rises, and more traffic gridlock. Not to mention the further erosion of our MUNI system more scandalous problems with out dismal GA welfare program, crime, etc. Is the foregoing what conscientious voters want for our city? I think not.

The bottom line is: District elections are about people's power, not about politicians' power.

Ed Dollak

side the White House.

Meese "lauded" the police, defending their decision to use the gloves as only exercising their rights to do so when dealing with "sexually promiscuous people."

I pondered this for a moment and came up with this question for Mr. Meese: Does this include congressmen, senators, presidential candidates and evangelists-at-large?

Well, Mr. Meese?
Jay Conky

"Blind Date" Great

To the Editor:

Robert Haule's short story "Blind Date" was great. Fun, outrageous and a treat to read. Such a gift for writing Mr. Haule seems to have. And I look forward to future short stories written by him.

Rodger

Querying Ed

To the Editor:

I searched, in vain, for the slightest morsel of intelligent life in Attorney General Edwin Meese's public commentary regarding the DC police department's use of rubber gloves while arresting and processing demonstrators at an AIDS rally out-

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San Diego Parade

Continued from page 4

"We decided to welcome the Fundies," Sandy James, 47, a Buffer Zone organizer, had told me Friday. "That, we figured, would really piss them off. We use humor to diffuse the tension. And we call ourselves the Future Former Fundie Fighters — because we know that someday this madness will end."

Someday — but this day, the coalition of men, women and children, some silent, others hollering, bore signs reading "God Calls Queers Dogs," "G.A.Y.: Got AIDS Yet?", "Moms for Morality," and my favorite: "Out of the Closets and into the Restrooms."

It was a bizarre sight to a jaded San Franciscan: here the battle lines were strictly drawn, and these assholes at first seemed to represent a very real threat to gays' well-being (approximately 40 million people nationwide are Fundamentalists, subscribing to the same beliefs as Dorman Owens's rabid little army). At the same time, they seemed unbelievably funny: one short, squat little toad scuttled crab-like back and forth along the barrier strip, shrieking, "You are communists! You are communists!" Another, sitting on a truck, shouted, "Sick sex! Sick sex! Sick sex!" prompting the lesbian standing next to me to turn to her partner and muse, "I didn't realize they are into sex, too."

Overhead, a private plane buzzed by, trailing a banner which read: "Homos Deserve AIDS Says Owens's Church." Perhaps my consciousness is irrevocably low: I could only giggle uncontrollably at the whole spectacle.

I fell in step with Mayor O'Connor and the SD AIDS Project coalition as it passed through the Fundy zone; when one man shouted, "Maureen O'Connor, go home!" the mayor turned to him and shouted back, "This is my home!" — for which she received a resounding round of applause.

In fact, as we left the Fundy zone, the most striking aspect of the mayor's appearance was the overwhelming grassroots support for her. Men and women shouted, "You've got my vote!" or "Thanks for being here!" or "We love you, Maureen!" People's eyes lit up when they spotted her; one woman trotted up and offered her a single rose, which she accepted; and at the corner of Fifth and Robinson Streets, the mostly gay crowd, three and four deep on each sidewalk, offered deafeningly sustained applause.

Some gay leaders bitched both before and after the parade that the mayor's appearance, if "courageous" (a word

that appeared again and again), was mostly cosmetic. "I'd be more impressed if she'd introduce an AIDS anti-discrimination bill and lobby it through," said one. But the faces of the women and men lining that sun-drenched street told another story: for many of them, O'Connor's appearance was clearly moving, an up-front affirmation that, in the face of monstrous antagonism, the mayor of their city was ready to show her solidarity, no matter how mealy-mouthed, with their community.

After the parade ended, a throng of about three thousand sunned on a

"I'm not here to condemn or condone any lifestyle. I am here to fight the deadly disease called AIDS."

— Mayor Maureen O'Connor

grassy knoll in the park. (Attendance figures, it turned out, dropped this year: only 6000 watched the parade, while a couple thousand participated in it. Gay leaders unanimously attributed the drop to AIDS: it's driving people back into the closet at an alarming rate. For their part, the Fundies' numbers also sank by almost half; gay leaders said that, too, was partly linked to AIDS, since the education surrounding the disease has instructed the non-gay community that, in fact, gays are not raving lunatic sex-freaks bent on Destroying The Children.)

After a short speech, Nicole Ramirez-Murray solemnly read the numbers of AIDS deaths for the years beginning in 1981; as he did, onlookers held aloft styrofoam crosses, Stars of David and hearts decked with funeral wreaths. Ramirez-Murray called on the

Continued from page 8

down to it, Stonewall was a riot. We don't commemorate it by holding another riot or by focusing on our anger. Instead, we hold the biggest damn celebration of the year to rejoice in the spirit of freedom that Stonewall represents. In the same way, we can observe the spirit of Father's Day, whether we are gay fathers, the children of gay fathers or gay children of straight fathers. Even if we're not close to our own parents, we can use this opportunity to honor and acknowledge those men in our lives who have offered warmth and nurturing: fathers, uncles, friends, teachers.

Joy Schulenburg is a lesbian mother co-parenting with two gay men. She is the author of *Gay Parenting — A Complete Guide for Gay Men and Lesbians With Children* (Doubleday, 1985). Through her writing and community activities, she works to further the rights of lesbian and gay parents to raise children in a secure and loving world.

Sunday, "but walking in a parade is once a year. We need help on a daily basis."

"I'm not totally happy," a thoroughly exhausted Tony Zampella said Monday morning. "I was hoping more people would be there. But attendance has been going down the past three years."

"The rally and march were amazing," Nicole Ramirez-Murray exulted Monday morning. "I think this is returning San Diego to its militant days. No one here like demonstrations and marches, but this changed their minds. This is not a time for celebration; this is a time for action. I want to see fasts, sit-ins and vigils. There's a changing of the guard now — young kids were coming up to me and saying, 'How can I get involved?'

"I think it's the best parade we've ever had."

I asked my daughter what Father's Day is and she answered, "It's the day we give something to our Daddies and our Papas" (she has one of each). "Why?" I asked then and she gave me that look that six-year-olds use when adults ask silly questions and replied, "Because we love them." And that, of course, is what it's all about.

HAPPY FATHER'S DAY!

Joy Schulenburg is a lesbian mother co-parenting with two gay men. She is the author of *Gay Parenting — A Complete Guide for Gay Men and Lesbians With Children* (Doubleday, 1985). Through her writing and community activities, she works to further the rights of lesbian and gay parents to raise children in a secure and loving world.

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only be won with the full participation of people of all colors. Join us in celebration of our diversity as we move forward with pride, strength and unity.

Join us for our "Hot Colors!" parties on June 24 at the Endup, 401 6th Street, SF and June 25 at Esta Noche, 3079 16th Street, SF.

For further info: 465-3933 or 861-6472.

robes and slippers to people with AIDS and ARC at seven different hospitals in San Francisco.

Any individuals interested in providing an auctionable item and/or service may contact Tom Rodgers at 861-0516 or Tony Trevizo at 626-1959 or 771-6133.

The San Francisco Bay Area Gay & Lesbian Historical Society

Our June program will feature a presentation and discussion with Harry Hay, well-known gay activist, whose 1950 Mattachine Foundation was the first organized homophile movement in the United States after World War II.

Mr. Hay's presentation will be on Friday, June 26, 7:30 pm at the MCC Church, 150 Eureka Street, San Francisco. General admission is \$5, free to members. Memberships will be available at the door. Sponsored by the San Francisco Bay Area Gay and Lesbian Historical Society.

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To help support people with AIDS through the AIDS Emergency Fund in San Francisco and the Howard Brown Memorial Clinic in Chicago, some of the hottest leathermen in the world will strip the shirts off their backs (autographed, of course) to be auctioned for AIDS.

The baring of backs — and chests and abs and... will take place during the 1987 Mr. Drummer Contest finals to be held June 26 at DVB, 540 Howard Street in San Francisco. The auction will be held during the Leather Dance immediately following the contest.

Among the hot men participating will be Drummer and Zeus mdoels, past Mr. Drummers and International Mr. Leathers, 1987 Mr. Drummer Regional Contest Winners, 1987 International Mr. Leather title holders; and Mr. Drummer 1987.

Be there to see the torsos bared and purchase a souvenir!

Mr. Drummer contest tickets are \$15 at Sandmuto Supply Co., 15 Harriet Street; Mr. S Leathers, 227 Seventh Street, and at the Eagle; All American Boy, 436 Castro Street; and Headlines outlets on Castro, Polk and Market Street.

Tickets will be \$20 at the door (if there are any left). For further information, phone 864-3456.

June Prom

You're invited to a alcohol and drug-free women's dance at the Women's Building, 3543 18th Street, SF, on Saturday, June 20, 9 pm-12 midnight. Admission: \$6-\$10, sliding scale.

June Prom is a benefit for Lyon/Martin Women's Health Services, and the San Francisco Lesbian/Gay Freedom Day Parade & Celebration.

tion Committee.

Music by DJ: Denise D. Free childcare, wheelchair accessible, 24-hour reservations, call: 647-3733. Volunteers needed! Call 647-3733.

Gay Feds Pride Week Exhibit

Lesbian/Gay Pride Week will be observed at the Federal Office Building, 450 Golden Gate Avenue, SF, June 22-26, with a lobby exhibit. The display, co-sponsored by Federal Lesbians and Gays (FLAG) and the San

Francisco Bay Area Gay/lesbian Historical Society, features newspaper clippings portraying the historical treatment of gay/lesbian federal employees by their boss — the US government.

Joe Durban, of the FLAG Board of Directors, negotiated with the building management to accept the display, which is believed to be a first for the building. FLAG has had a previous exhibit at the Health and Human Services Building at 50 United Nations Plaza.

Further information can be obtained at FLAG 695-9174 and the Historical Society at 441-1128.



Writing, Reading & Book Signing

On the evening of Sunday, June 21, you will again be treated to the readings of the Women's Writing Workshop, an outreach program for Operation Concern — Gay and Lesbian Outreach to Elders. The event will be held at 7:30 pm at Modern Times Bookstore, located at 968 Valencia St., San Francisco.

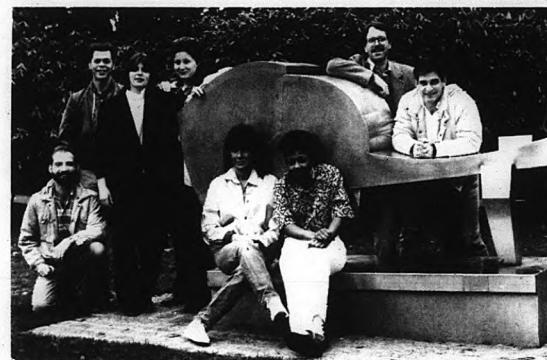
The women will read new writings as well as some of their better-known pieces and skits. The group, also known as "The Dauntless Durable Dykes,"

will provide you with humor, tragedy, love, skits and perhaps a song.

These older lesbians do it all with style and flair — revealing much of their own life experiences in their readings.

This reading will be unique because they will have their newly published anthology available for sale and will autograph copies for those interested. The title of their book is *Durable Dauntless Dykes*, and has been reviewed by Del Martin and Phyllis Lyon who state... "fulfilling powerful words from old dykes!"

Join us for an evening of fun!



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BODY WISDOM

ANTHONY MARTIN

Sleep and Recuperation

When I first started my bodybuilding training routine, I concentrated solely on upper body exercises. Within a year, my chest, back and arms increased in size dramatically, and I constantly received compliments on my physique. Needless to say, my lack of work in the lower body was noticeable and became even more apparent the more my upper body increased in size.

I soon began a program designed to increase muscle size in my legs. The gains were noticeable at first, but after a month or so, the gains came to a halt. I consulted a trainer and he asked me the usual questions concerning diet and training. I had no problems in these two areas of my program. He then asked me how much sleep I got.

Since school and work were heavy on my mind, training came third, and sleep was not a priority at all. I was advised to remedy this situation immediately if I wanted to gain any muscle. At this time, I got between 5 and 6 hours of sleep a night. I was advised to get 8 or more.

I realized that even though I made some gains in my upper body with only 6 hours sleep a night, I did not progress in my legs at all; I did not function optimally; and I was constantly dragging myself through the day.

In my years of training, I have met many an athletic individual who has ignored the importance of sleep in a training program. Sleep is as necessary as eating or exercise and is especially important in individuals who expend a great deal of energy.

During sleep the body temperature decreases because less action is taking place. By no means is the body "shut down" during sleep. Only the conscious activities stop, while the circulatory, respiratory systems, and digestion all

fluidity of sleep.

Eight hours is the generally agreed average time one should sleep a night. Many factors can change this number, including an individual's energy output and basic need for rest.

Many "would-be" athletic superstars do all the exercises mentioned, take all the vitamins and eat all the food and think they are going to look like Mr. or Ms. Olympia on 4-5 hours of sleep a night. No way!

There are those who do well on four to five hours of sleep. However, I have never met an athlete who made significant improvements getting this little sleep.

Others may require as many as nine or ten hours to feel rested. Whatever the requirement, everyone needs sleep. Humans deprived of sleep can suffer from muscular pains and depression. In fact, most people can go without food longer than they can go without sleep.

It is now well-documented that there are at least four stages of sleep. The first hour of sleep is reasonably light followed by a three-hour deep sleep. This will be followed by 3-5 hours of lighter sleep un-

Bodybuilders usually require 20% more sleep than the non-athletic individual. One reason for this is that the constant tearing down of muscle demands a tremendous amount of rest so the muscle tissue can repair itself.

continue during sleep.

The regulation of sleep is done by the hypothalamus in the brain. Even though the body is asleep, the hypothalamus is sensitive to many stimuli and can change the mode of sleep. Hunger, thirst, noise and light can all trigger the hypothalamus and change the depths of

til the individual wakes up.

Many individuals who nap during the day find they need far less sleep at night to feel completely rested. However, many athletes, including successful bodybuilders, swear they need at least an hour nap during the day as well as 8-10 hours a night to feel rested and rea-

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results.

As stated earlier, the athlete needs far more sleep than the average person. Bodybuilders usually require 20% more sleep than the non-athletic individual. One reason for this is that the constant tearing down of muscle demands a tremendous amount of rest so the muscle tissue can repair itself.

No amount of exercise or nutrition will result in further gains if the muscle tissue is not allowed the required amount of time for sleep. Sleep, however, is not the only form of recuperation an athletic individual may need. Non-activity and resting the mind are also important for recuperation.

Many music magazines and other exercise periodicals frequently talk about exercise and its execution. Nutrition is also discussed frequently in these publications. Sleep, however, is rarely

mentioned. Many "would-be" athletic superstars do all the exercises mentioned, take all the vitamins and eat all the food and think they are going to look like Mr. or Ms. Olympia on 4-5 hours of sleep a night. No way!

The serious athlete (including bodybuilders and other weight trainers) probably exercises 4-7 days a week, at least one hour a day. Even if the athlete is getting enough sleep, the overall workload may still take its toll on the individual.

Breaks from exercise are advised, and many exercise programs have these breaks built into their fitness regime. For instance, many bodybuilders follow a split workout. A split workout is one in which the entire body is split into parts. For example: Day 1 would be the day chest and arms would be worked; Day 2 would be back and shoulders; and Day 3 would be reserved for legs. The 4th day would be a rest day and the cycle would begin again on Day 1. There are many ways to split up a routine, and depending upon the individual's goals and recovery rate, the body can be split up into 2 days or as many as 5.

With any athletic program, the important thing is to remember to listen to the body. If athletic progress is hampered because of a lack of rest, give the body what it needs. Another day off, a week off, or another hour of sleep at night might be the trick to getting the individual on the right course to athletic success.

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ON GUARD

The Washington AIDS Conference

New Hope on Treatments (Part I)

The "III International Conference on AIDS," June 1-5 in Washington DC, the major scientific conference of the year, may become a watershed event for AIDS treatments.

As expected, no dramatic breakthroughs were announced. AIDS research proceeds with informal discussions among professionals, seldom by sudden surprises. Few if any of the treatments discussed at the Conference were brand new to the scientific community.

But the Conference did mark the growing optimism among scientists and physicians on the possibility of effective treatments. Dr. Samuel Broder of the National Cancer Institute, one of the leading US AIDS researchers, summarized the change of attitude:

"Two years ago you could find 1,000 fine doctors who would say you could never stop the natural progression of this virus. Now you can hardly find anyone." (Quoted in *The Washington Post*, June 6, 1987).

Treatment Listing

Below is an overview of some of the treatment information presented at the Conference.

Note the limitations of this listing. We have omitted most of the treatments for opportunistic infection. Even the list of treatments for HIV cannot be complete. No one could attend every session

D-Penicillamine) refers to Monday's poster number 24.

Treatment Summaries

- **DDC (dideoxycytidine).** This antiviral works on the same theory as AZT, providing a false building block for the virus; it may be more effective. For laboratory studies, see THP 8 and TP 1. Human trials are currently being conducted, and DDC appears less toxic than AZT; the biggest problem seems to be a skin rash which is temporary and usually not severe. At least 20 people are getting DDC in a scientific trial at this time, but it is too early to tell whether the drug will be clinically useful.

DDC has the same kind of institutional push behind it as AZT did, and it will probably move relatively quickly through testing if it continues to look good.

"Two years ago you could find 1,000 fine doctors who would say you could never stop the natural progression of this virus. Now you can hardly find anyone."

— Dr. Samuel Broder

— many were simultaneous — nor absorb everything at the sessions one did attend. Some of the most current information comes from conversations in the aisles, which may not reflect all sides of an issue. This writer has not had time to research the background of all these treatments, or to call the researchers involved. This listing can only be suggestive, not authoritative or comprehensive.

The Conference had over 250 papers presented, plus over 1000 "poster sessions"; 700 others were turned down for lack of time and space. The presentations were recorded, and the public can order audio tapes from the address below. The poster sessions were displayed on long rows of bulletin boards in the exhibit area, each for one day, with the researcher there for part of that time to answer questions. Each paper or poster session had a short abstract, submitted in advance and passed out to all Conference attendees in a bound volume of over 1200 abstracts. Unfortunately, no additional copies of this *Abstracts Volume* are available; the volume has no copyright notice so presumably anyone could reprint copies. Meanwhile this writer will provide copies of those abstracts which are referenced in this article.

The treatment section below refers to the abstracts by the same numbering system used in the *Abstracts Volume*. The first letter or letters give the day of the week: "M," "T," "W," "TH," "F." For poster sessions, a "P" follows the day-of-week abbreviation. For example, "M 5.1" (which is a talk on Peptide T) refers to Monday, session number 5, talk number one in that session. "MP 24" (a poster session on

JOHN S JAMES

A report is being published this month in *The Lancet*.

- **AME (amphotericin methyl ester).** AME was easy to miss at the Conference but is generating considerable interest among researchers who know about it.

AME, a water-soluble derivative of the antifungal medicine amphotericin B, has been effective against HIV in several ways in laboratory tests. In humans, AME was tested in the US about 10 years ago as an antifungal; apparently, it is much less toxic than amphotericin B. But during the testing, some of the doses were too high, and people were hurt seriously enough to sue the manufacturer, which then abandoned the product. The importance of this earlier testing is that dosage and toxicity are now known. We have heard that AME is available today in some countries.

The researchers who presented the poster session (MP 226) are now trying to get clinical trials started for AIDS or ARC. AME might be combined with AZT; the researchers suspect that only a tenth the usual dose of AZT may be required.

- **AZT (Retrovir).** More papers reported research on AZT than on any other treatment — not surprisingly since only AZT is officially approved. Most of the published abstracts do not provide much new information. They confirm the picture we already have — that AZT can help some people, but also that it can have serious side effects.

The most important new development with AZT seems to be the possibility of combining it, usually in low doses, with other drugs, such as DDC or AME.

This writer did not attend the AZT talks or panel, however, and could not obtain the tapes by press time. Those who want more information on AZT could purchase these tapes (see below).

Burroughs-Wellcome also presented a special meeting on AZT for physicians, closed to the press. According to one of the attenders, the data analyzed so far shows a one-year survival rate of 90 percent in the experimental group originally on AZT, much less in the group originally on placebo and switched to AZT later. Other points were that side effects go down in time, and AZT is helping with neurological problems. Burroughs-Wellcome also produced an AZT videotape which it recently mailed to physicians.

Another viewpoint will become available through Project Inform in San Francisco, which has just obtained extensive documentation on the approval of AZT through a Freedom of Information Act request. This documentation is now being analyzed.

Whatever the medical judgment on AZT, this drug has had an important role in overcoming the fatalism about AIDS treatments, thereby opening the door to serious efforts to save lives instead of just preparing people for death. Many professionals cannot take a treatment seriously unless it is approved; others cannot unless it makes money. AZT has made these people aware that treatment for AIDS is possible. AZT may save more lives by this political ef-

fect — opening the door to other research — than by its direct medical use.

- **Alpha Interferon.** A number of papers reported studies of this treatment, often in combination with AZT. No clear picture emerged from the published abstracts.

- **Peptide T.** This possible treatment, which has had a very limited clinical trial, has become the focus of a major

AZT has made these people aware that treatment for AIDS is possible. AZT may save more lives by this political effect — opening the door to other research — than by its direct medical use.

scientific controversy.

- **Peptide T (TH 1.3, M. 5.1).** — also see *Sentinel* January 16, 1987) mimics a part of the AIDS virus which, some scientists believe, makes the initial attachment to the receptor site on the T-helper cell. Some studies have found that peptide T prevents infection of these cells, in the laboratory and in humans. However, most researchers have been unable to reproduce the laboratory results — only one other team has recently done so — and the human trial, in Sweden, involved only four patients.

At this time the scientists are divided on peptide T, and most appear skeptical. But even if this particular drug doesn't work, the line of research which produced it may have great value.

Meanwhile, ICN sued a securities company in a separate dispute.

These conflicts aside, what do we know about whether the drug works?

The major clinical study of ribavirin and HIV gave 800 mg daily, or 600 mg, or placebo, to three groups of patients with lymphadenopathy syndrome (LAS); another wing of the study gave the same dose schedules to patients more seriously ill with ARC. On January 9 of this year, ICN released results of the LAS patients, reporting that none using the 800 mg dose progressed to AIDS, while 10 in the placebo group did (see *Sentinel*, January 16).

But later it became known that a number of patients had been accepted

Continued on next page

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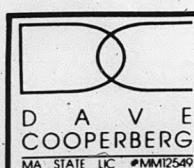
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Continued from previous page

by the study even though they were too ill to qualify under the study's rules. And the great majority of these more seriously ill patients ended up in the placebo group. Many of them progressed to AIDS, distorting the study's results. There is a bitter dispute over whether the ribavirin data showed any effectiveness after this error had been adjusted for (see T 8.5).

Meanwhile, results of the ARC patients were presented last week at the Conference (T 8.6). Ribavirin in the doses tested showed no effectiveness. In fact, more people died in the treatment groups than with the placebo, apparently by random chance.

At the same time, however, some small clinical studies continued to show effectiveness (T 226, WP 224). And many persons continue to be convinced that ribavirin is saving their lives.

The study which failed to show effectiveness of ribavirin used doses only up to 800 mg per day. The ribavirin underground has long said that this dose is marginal or ineffective, but ICN chose to bend over backwards for safety when designing the study.

Some of the leading researchers want to study ribavirin in much higher doses. But meanwhile it is clear that this drug came out of the Conference with considerably less credibility than it had going in.

Other Treatments

Scientists also reported about the following treatments and potential treatments, among others, at the Conference. For space reasons we must cover these in future issues.

- *Aerosol pentamidine* (TP 217)
- *AL 721* (M 5.6, TP 223)
- *Avarol and avarone* (MP 1)
- *Bestatin* (WP 229)
- *Castanospermine* (T 4.3)
- *Diethylcarbamazine* (MP 3)
- *D-Penicillamine* (MP 24, TP 220)
- *DTC* (*Imuthiol, diethyldithiocarbamate*) (MP 227)

• *Foscarnet* (TH 8.1, THP 13, THP 237, THP 238)

• *Glycosaminoglycan inhibitors* (TP 23)

• *Granulocyte-Macrophage Colony Stimulating Factor* (*GM-CSF*) (MP 222)

• *HPA-23* (WP 216, WP 218)

• *Imreg-1* (MP 218, THP 241)

• *Isoprinosine* (MP 132)

• *Milk* from hyperimmune cows (THP 148)

• *Naltrexone* (WP 227)

• *Phosphorothioate analogs* (T 4.4)

• *Rifabutin* (*ansamycin*) (THP 228, THP 233)

• *Tumor Necrosis Factor* (T 4.5)

• *Vaccines* (many papers)

We may also comment on several treatment approaches notably absent from the Conference, although they should have been there. Examples are DNCB, herbal and Oriental therapies, and nutrition.

For More Information

Most of the 250 presentations were taped. Anyone can order the audiotapes from InfoMedix, 12800 Garden Grove Boulevard, Suite F, Garden Grove, CA 92643, (714) 530-3454, or (800) 992-9286 from California, or (800) 367-9286 from other states. Ask for program number T205. Most tapes cost \$7.50 for one session, which often includes several related talks. There are no tapes for the poster sessions. The complete set of tapes can be ordered for about \$400, or you can get a catalog of the tapes to order individually. (For example, tape number T205-T8, "Clinical Trials — AZT and Ribavirin," includes six talks, T 8.1 through T 8.6, and costs \$7.50.)

Since the *Abstracts Volume* (containing about 1250 abstracts for both the presentations and the poster sessions) is not available, this writer will supply a copy of all the abstracts referenced in this article. For these abstracts, send \$2 to cover cost to: John S. James, PO Box 411256, San Francisco, CA 94141.



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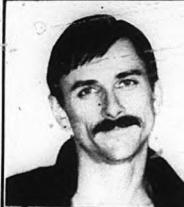
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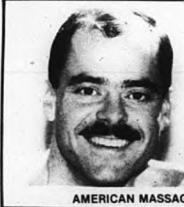


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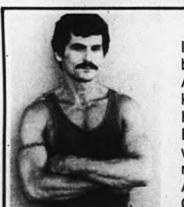


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Larry, Larry, Quite Contrary

New York Writer/Activist Larry Kramer Tries to Do Right on the Left, All Alone

by Dave Ford

Are you for me or against me?" the voice asks plaintively over the long-distance wire.

Playwright, film producer, novelist and AIDS activist Larry Kramer has cause to be paranoid when a prospective interviewer rings him up. After all, this is the man excoriated for his incendiary late '70s novel *Faggots*, a blistering indictment of the New York/Fire Island bars/baths/anonymous sex/body worship gay mainstream. Besides *Faggots*, he's been harshly criticized for his highly abrasive — and almost universally reviled — early stands against AIDS and for his 1985 play, *The Normal Heart* (a thinly disguised account of Kramer's struggle to alert New York's gay population to the alarming disease), a work which some found self-serving and melodramatic.

Born 51 years ago in Bridgeport, Connecticut, Kramer grew up outside of Washington, D.C., graduated from Yale in 1957 majoring in English literature, and spent fifteen years in and around the film industry. (His 1969 screenplay for the movie version of D.H. Lawrence's *Women in Love*, which he also produced, was nominated for an Academy Award.)

With the advent of the AIDS crisis, however, Kramer's activism began to take shape. In January 1982, Kramer helped form the Gay Men's Health Crisis, a group of New York volunteers dedicated to raising the community's consciousness — and dollars — in the fight against a disease that most at that time still called "the gay plague." His dire warnings of mass deaths and of gay men's immediate need to change their sexual habits won him few friends in a community still staggering through the paces of what would

to enjoy. No one liked the message, much less the messenger, and no one like the guy who yanked the lampshade off the life of the party, revealing a grinning death mask underneath.

Furthermore, some thought Kramer the exact archetype of the paranoid, embittered pre-Stonewall queen, the one certain that everyone's "out to get gays," certain there's a not-so-secret agenda in straight society's virulently homophobic attacks in the media, in the churches, and on the streets. And they thought his antagonistic attitude the antithesis of what was required to work within a system they hoped would support their efforts to fund AIDS research, education and treatment. (A system that, in retrospect, clearly didn't give a shit about gays one way or the other.)

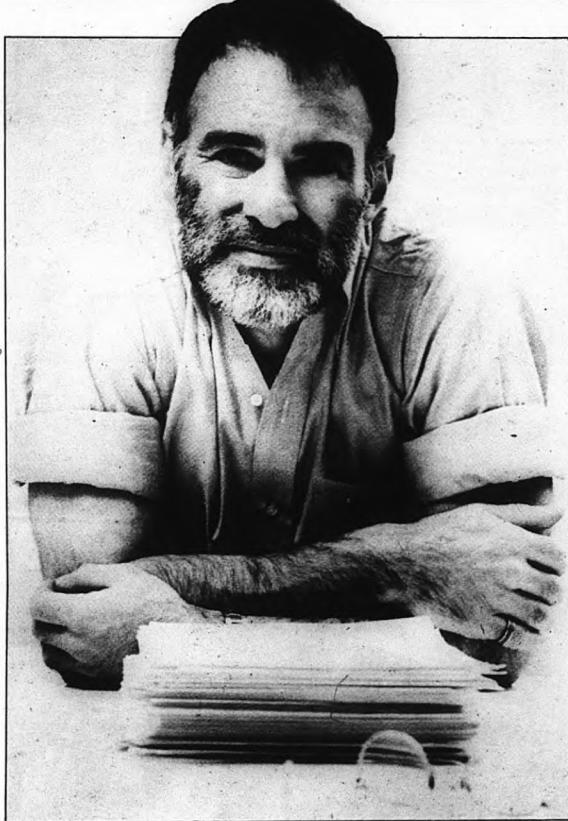
Not much has changed in Kramer's message: after quietly licking his wounds for a couple of years (and overseeing worldwide productions of *Normal Heart*, which has sold out performances in America, England and Australia), he recently helped form AIDS Coalition To Unleash Power (ACT UP), a protest group responsible for recent demonstrations on Wall Street against Burroughs-Wellcome, the drug company which manufactures AZT, and at the New York Post Office April 15 (tax day), calling for increased AIDS funding. In addition, he's currently negotiating with Barbara Streisand for a film version of *Normal Heart* — in which "he" (Ned Weeks) hopes to be played by Dustin Hoffman.

And when we spoke in late April, Kramer was preparing to drive to Washington, D.C., to meet with White House Chief Policy Advisor Gary Bauer, and with representatives of the *Washington Post* about writing a syndicated column called "Journal of the Plague Years." (As it turns out, the column will appear sporadically in New York's *Newsday*. Ed Sikou, *New York Native* media critic, recently called Kramer's May 31 installment "a refreshing blast of radical skepticism, fury, and political activism.") A month later, Kramer took an active part — with ACT UP — in the protests outside the Third International Conference on AIDS in Washington, D.C., during which 64 protesters were arrested by D.C. cops wearing yellow rubber gloves.

In person, Larry Kramer is not exactly

the raver you'd expect. Short and compactly built, he exudes a sort of world-weary openness, as he runs one more time through his by-now familiar litany of genocide, government ineptitude, crimes of the far right, the joys and heartaches of

coming out, and the search for That One True Love. For a guy whose world is fringed in doom, Larry Kramer seems altogether humane, sociable and even optimistic — unless, that is, you read him on paper.



I don't know what the "gay community" is, and I think we get into danger when we use that expression.

I personally am utterly, really and truly convinced that genocide is going on. I really think it's deliberate, that there are people at the top who simply do not want us to live.

soon become an eerie ghost dance. And his fractious leadership of the GMHC, as well as his fire-breathing editorials in the *New York Native* — all chronicled in *The Normal Heart* — finally led to his ouster as the group's president and spokesman.

Problem was, people found Larry Kramer too extreme, too embattled, too belligerent to fully believe he was going to lead them anywhere but down the toilet. Gays at that time were just beginning to reel under the shock of recognition that The Party Was Over, and didn't take kindly to a foaming bulldog of a man haranguing them for indulging in sex acts they'd quite rightly fought long and hard

DF: How do you think, at this point, the government has handled AIDS?

Kramer: I think it's gross. I personally am utterly, really and truly convinced that genocide is going on, even with my best, non-paranoid, sensible feet-on-the-floor. I really think it's deliberate, that it's conscious, that there are people at the top who simply do not want us to live.

DF: You're saying "genocide" meaning the killing of gays by people in the administration?

Kramer: Right. The killing of gays, the killing of blacks and Hispanics, and drug users and their babies — and only now that it's just slightly beginning to go into the straight population will they actually start doing something.

I also think that we in the gay community, by our passivity, have actively contributed to this genocide. I think the gay community's response to saving its own life has, with a few exceptions, been inept, inadequate, tragic, repellent behavior. I don't know how to put it any more strongly in terms that will get people off their asses. I'm fed up with 90% of all gay men. Although I don't think anybody "deserves" to die, I do think that, as I said, by the passivity of most gay men we've actively con-

tributed to our own demise.

DF: Those are strong words — but they also echo *The Normal Heart*, to an extent. How do you think things have changed in the last couple of years?

Kramer: I think things are worse, beyond any human being's comprehension.

DF: In the gay community?

Kramer: In the world.

DF: Who are the heroes and villains in the gay community right now?

Kramer: Look, I don't know what the "gay community" is, and I think we get into danger when we use that expression. There are an awful lot of us, but that doesn't make a community. You don't say "the black community" or "the female community" — I'm guilty of saying "gay community" myself all the time, but we have to step back and say: What is that? I don't know.

The problem is that we don't have any leaders, so we don't have either. Anybody who doesn't get off his ass and fight is, by me, a villain who is helping everybody else to die. The people who have helped to fight are known as people who have worked with the AIDS organizations, and who are involved in

Continued on page 20

In The Ghetto?

The Art — and Philosophy — of New York's 'Gay' Theatre

by Robert Julian



Ain't they cute: Jay Corcoran (top) and John Finch in *Jerker*.



Do vampire lesbians really have more fun? Becky London (left) and David Drake explore the possibilities in Charles Busch's comic hit, *Vampire Lesbians of Sodom*.

Lesbians on Parade

While waiting for the curtain to go up at the Provincetown Playhouse in Greenwich Village, I flip through the *Playbill* and realize I once shared a dressing room with the author. When I was appearing in *The AIDS Show* in the studio at Theatre Rhinoceros, Charles Busch was doing his one-man show upstairs. He was very sweet backstage, but a bit strange. Two-and-a-half years later, the lights go down and I get a better idea of just how strange he can be.

Vampire Lesbians opens with a curtain-

raiser called "Sleeping Beauty or Coma." The action takes place in '60s London when anyone who could belt with an English accent became a hit. An innocent young Twiggy-type, nicely played by Becky London, is discovered by accident and becomes a world-famous model. The designer who makes her famous is played by David Drake, in drag, and his/her boyfriend is played by Wilder Gutterson. At the peak of her success, a villain gives the model an overdose of LSD that sends her into a 20-year coma. She is ultimately

revived by a handsome young Mr. Prince, played by Ed Wintle, and everyone — except the villains — lives happily ever after. If I've left something out here, you can thank me later.

"Sleeping Beauty" is totally stupid. It is saved only by the excellent performances of the cast. They consistently rise above the material and put out an energy that keeps the audience involved. They are nicely assisted by John Glaser's costumes and Kenneth Elliot's direction which tends toward melodrama — the only logical choice of styles under the circumstances.

After the intermission, "Lesbians" begins. Now we're talking major stupidity, but this time it works. Becky London plays The Succubus in this piece, a vampire lesbian monster who lives by sucking the blood of young virgins. David Drake, again in drag, plays the soon-to-be-lesbian victim who, once subjected to the ritual neck-nuzzle goes on to become the arch-rival of The Succubus. The action begins in Sodom and, in three scenes, moves to Hollywood in 1920, and modern-day Las Vegas. At the end of the show, the two lesbian vampires put their differences aside, realize they need each other, and put together a Vegas act entitled . . . Vampire Lesbians of Sodom.

The show contains its share of bitch fights, gay male dancers, and Hollywood starlets, and enough histrionics and general scenery-chewing to make Faye Dunaway's performance in *Mommie Dearest* look restrained. But the net result is pretty hilarious and, strange as this may sound, good clean fun. *Vampire Lesbians* is the kind of silliness you used to see on the old Carol Burnett show, only here it's infused with a gay camp sensibility. The acting is great, the production values are high, and you leave the theatre with a smile on your face.

I'm not sure what this play has to say about homosexuality, or where fits in the spectrum of "gay theatre." But it makes no pretenses to social relevance and it succeeds in entertaining without moralizing. The show's sexuality is transcended by sheer lunacy, and this in itself is no small accomplishment.

It's hard to get people to come to a play that is being presented as a "gay" play. None of "Torch Song's" ads said anything about it being gay. "Deathtrap" was also a gay play really, and it ran for years, but it wasn't advertised as gay. We went out and leafleted the audience of "La Cage Aux Folles" as they came out of the theatre, promoting "Blue Is for Boys." They would come out just happy as a bug and we'd hand them a flyer and they'd say, "I don't want to see anything gay." They didn't seem to realize that they just had.

The fact is, homosexuality is still the one great terrifying subject to Americans. I speak as a playwright in high schools throughout the country, and the one subject that is never brought up is the fact that I'm gay. No kid has ever so much as asked me about it in ten years of speaking, in hundreds of schools. They have asked me about everything else: New York, politics, drugs, but homosexuality is something not even thinkable; it is a subject not to be broached. I think there are a few blocks in a few big cities where there has been a homosexual revolution. Outside of that there has been essentially no change. It is still the most criminal, frightening, disgusting thing to most Americans.

*I simply can't understand why. The first play I plan to see sounds so wholesome. *Vampire Lesbians of Sodom* — it must, I muse, be about nurses running a San Francisco blood bank.*

Foxy Chris

The Wings Theatre Company is a non-profit company currently producing plays at the American Renaissance Theatre, located near the docks south of Greenwich Village. Their goal is to develop and produce new plays and musicals by American playwrights and composers. The company's current production is *The Casting of Kevin Christian* by Stephen Holt.

Kevin (Pete Benson) is a young actor who auditions for a play about male rape. He is the last actor called by the director who puts him through a grueling audition before casting him as the lead. The stage manager, played by Elliahs Smith with lots of Jennifer Holliday attitude, tries to keep the young star and older director from self-destructing before the show opens.

Most of the first act has Pete Benson on stage by himself, talking to the offstage director a la *A Chorus Line*. He is amazing. If this part wasn't written for him, it should have been. His striking resemblance to Michael J. Fox may be a temporary disadvantage in his career as an actor, but he displays real talent in his execution of a very challenging role. All this is made even more remarkable by the lack of support he receives from the two other cast members.

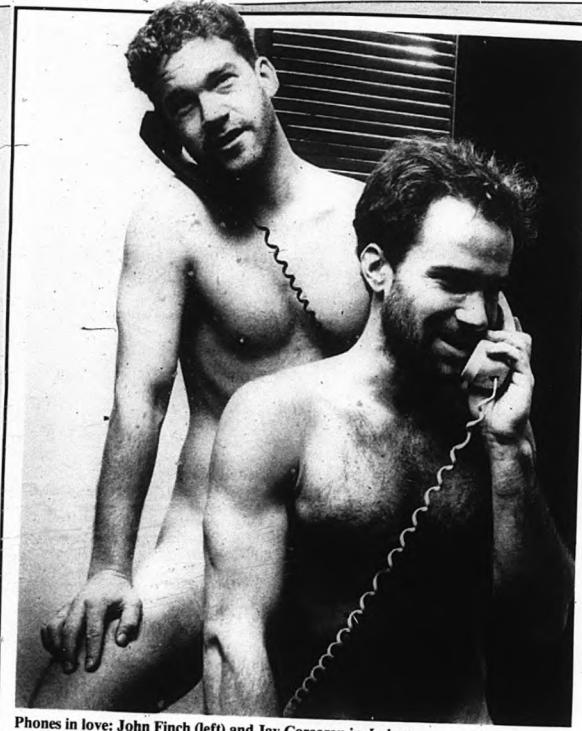
Stephen Holt, the play's author, portrays the director in a forced, strident manner, conveying the intention of the dialogue but coming up short in the area of character development. The same can be said of Ms. Smith. But Benson remains on target, with and without his clothes on, even when the script soars out into the stratosphere.

The second act starts out with a predictable tryst between the supposedly heterosexual director and his young actor. The actor is subsequently mugged on his way to the theatre, loses touch with reality, and takes up a career as a gun-toting subway vigilante in the style of Bernhard Goetz. The final scene finds the actor alone in the subway delivering some sort of incoherent monologue about the apocalypse, vengeance, and guns as representatives of the American penis of power. What the author is saying here is unclear, and things have been getting in-

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Phones in love: John Finch (left) and Jay Corcoran in *Jerker*.

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Stephen Holt (left) stars as an obsessive director who's "casting" for a new star (Pete Benson) in *The Casting of Kevin Christian*.

Increasingly fuzzy since the end of a promising first act. I'm not sure the show's director, Michael Hillyer, could have done much to improve the situation. Imagine the difficulty he must have had directing Stephen Holt as an actor, while he is also the author of this muddled script. Sets, costumes, and lighting are all adequate but clearly suffer from the lack of funds available to this company. But in spite of this, and the weaknesses of the script, this was an extremely satisfying

evening in the theatre. The ambiance of this place appeals to me. It's a little seedy, the actors work without pay, and the show probably isn't going to draw big houses, but something is happening here. There is clearly a willingness to experiment and an attempt to grow. It is exciting to see a young actor like Benson doing such good work so early in his career. A company like Wings may ultimately discover the kind of plays that will make a difference in gay theatre.

Handy Man

If they give acting awards for feigning masturbation while delivering dialogue, Jay Corcoran has no competition. The sheets of his bed rise and fall with an incessant rhythmic regularity for the first twenty minutes of *Jerker*.

All this occurs in the subdued gray decor of the Stanford Meissner Theatre, in a production nicely directed by Nicholas Deutsch and beautifully designed by John Wright Stevens. Jay Corcoran, as JR, indulges his masturbatory fantasies over the telephone with John Finch, who plays Bert. Both actors turn in solid, believable performances in a play I found crass and tasteless, at best.

Responsibility for the script rests with San Francisco playwright Robert Chesley. The full title of this work is *Jerker or the Helping Hand — A Pornographic Elegy with Redeeming Social Value and a Hymn to the Queen Men of San Francisco in Twenty Telephone Calls, Many of Them Dirty*. Too bad he didn't just call a 976 number. I cannot conceive of a piece of theatre that more classically illustrates the narrow, confining, ghetto mentality that keeps the gay community separate from the rest of the world.

JR is a Vietnam veteran whose legs are paralyzed and Bert is a buddy (who has never met him) he calls regularly for telephone sex. During the course of the evening, from their beds on opposite sides of the stage, the two men talk, mastur-

bate, and form an emotional bond over the telephone. Somewhere around the ninth telephone call, or the eighteenth orgasm, JR and Bert get into the subject of the health crisis. Quite predictably, by the fifteenth call Bert begins to hack like Camille. We soon find Bert's bed empty and JR placing calls to a disconnected number.

It is my observation that the male gay community's obsession with the penis has been recently replaced by a fetish for disease. *Jerker* begins with the former, complete with male frontal nudity, and ends with the latter. In this respect, Chesley seems to be giving his audience what it wants. But what is there here that uplifts the spirit, illuminates the consciousness, generates laughter, or inspires the audience to greater accomplishments in their own lives? Frankly, very little.

After *Jerker*, the audience walks out of the theatre depressed and fearful, full of a sense of impending doom they are powerless to combat. The only humorous moment comes at the curtain call when the actors don bathrobes before taking a bow. It's an amusing Victorian gesture after appearing naked on stage for an entire evening.

Somehow Chesley managed to write *Jerker* without saying the "A" word once. Surely that couldn't have been an accident. It's too bad he didn't exercise similar restraint in other areas.

Three plays later, walking out of the theatre onto Hudson Street, I am reminded of something Robert Patrick said about the importance of theatre that speaks directly to a gay audience:

I feel there must be gay theatre, it's really worth fighting for. Even if it's only in a few big cities, it's a foothold to fight ignorance and fear that's out there. We keep a mailing list but over and over people say, "I'm from out of town." It's quite clear to me that they feel they can't receive "gay" mail. For hundreds and thousands of people out there, the only gay life they get is when they come to New York. They rush to see all the gay plays because they can't see, or be, gay at home.

But what is being offered to this audience? Certainly Harvey Fierstein's *Torch Song Trilogy* moved gay theatre ahead more than any other play. But his most re-

cent effort, *Safe Sex*, closed after only eleven performances on Broadway. No clear direction emerges from the three gay plays I saw, but in Fierstein's last play, as well as others, one topic enjoys limited dramatic or commercial success but resurfaces regularly. It is a topic Robert Patrick has not yet touched upon.

I don't write about AIDS because I haven't had an idea about it, a dramatic idea. I have been lucky with my gay plays because I like theatre that's exciting, fun, romantic, sexy, challenging and fast-moving. I don't know what would happen if I ever wrote a really grim or serious gay play; it's hard enough to sell grim, serious straight plays.

Thank God for small favors. I don't believe theatre must be cheerful

or light in order to be effective or commercially viable, but lately I have noticed a disturbing tendency in gay plays. I helped write *The AIDS Show* back in 1984, and at that time it seemed like a good thing to do. But since then I have watched the gay community indulge itself in the kind of nonproductive self-pity and misery over disease that takes the joy out of life, obscures the greater truths of existence, and stunts the growth of the individual and society at large. Many plays, like *Jerker*, have subsequently emerged that continue to promote a negative, hand-wringing mentality of desperation.

There was a time when the community needed loving support to face a new and unprecedented life-threatening situation. But what was once loving and supportive is rapidly becoming self-defeating. At this point in time, I can't imagine why anyone, especially a gay person, would pay money

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— Robert Patrick

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to watch a play about AIDS. It is time to move on. I ask you, where are the truly great and enduring polo plays?

Until someone writes another *Torch Song* or can produce a gay play with the epic beauty of *Les Misérables* (which I was also fortunate to see), the gay audiences will continue to search off-Broadway for the few offerings that deal directly with the lives of gay people. The failure of gay playwrights to work through the specifics of the homosexual experience in order to portray more universal truths will continue to isolate the gay community from the world at large. By perpetuating this syndrome, everybody loses. The simple fact is that gay people are not different. They are human beings who live and love the same as everyone else. Is anybody listening? ■

Larry, Larry

Continued from page 17

some of the political movement organizations, but they're precious few.

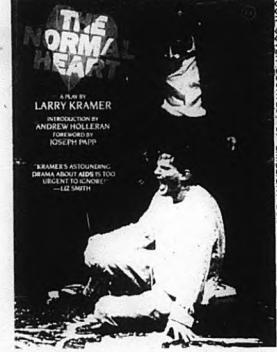
For a group of some 24 million people, we're grotesquely invisible, and we've been unable to raise sufficient money to send lobbyists to Washington to fight for us. Gays across the country have simply not been able to mobilize to defend against an epidemic of this nature.

DF: We have the problem of factionalism, too, internal squabbling . . .

Kramer: Well, we've never been able to surmount that. The Jews learned a great deal after they were almost completely wiped out in the Second World War — a happening, as I said in *The Normal Heart*, that I think they contributed to just like gays are contributing to their demise now. So the Jews learned a lesson: they came out of the war and said, "Okay, we're gonna get together now."

DF: What do you think it will take to get gays to do that?

Kramer: I don't know. I don't think there are going to be many gay people around in ten years.



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If Elizabeth Taylor came down with it, they wouldn't say, "Oh my God, poor woman!" They'd think she slept with a gay man, or that she took drugs or something.

head than anything else, or do you think he exerts real power?

Kramer: Depends which day you talk to me! This man Bauer I'm going to see is pro-family and anti-abortion, and he works with Secretary of Education Bennett, who is also filled with all these same philosophies — so they're the ones who are calling the shots. Whether Reagan agrees with it or whether they present it to him with their "imprimatur" — it's all the same.

You know this whole business that now he wants to form a "panel" of 24 people — everybody here is terrified about who's going to be on the panel, because we've heard these awful names. It suddenly occurred to me today that it doesn't make any difference who's on the panel, because it's going to take a year for a panel to get itself together and make recommendations, and he's only got a year-and-a-half in office, so it's only an excuse to delay everything. And there already have been panels up the ass! We're truly being murdered. Why can't people see that?

DF: You think that's a given, conscious agenda? You think somebody met in a room and said: Let's wait and see what happens to all the faggots if we do nothing?

Kramer: Yeah. I think that is, somewhere in government, certainly the kind of talk that

The other thing is that absolutely *nobody* is in charge of this epidemic, no central location of registry of all the experimentation that's going on anywhere in this country. Doctors in Phoenix or Boise don't know what's going on, don't know how to treat patients. And this is after seven years.

And we die, while all this simple sloppiness goes on.

DF: All right — a less radical viewpoint would hold that it's merely sloppiness and bureaucracy, whereas you're holding that it's genocide. Who's agenda is it if it were genocide — why is it?

Kramer: I think it's genocide on the part of Ronald Reagan and [Sen.] Jesse Helms (R-NC) and Representative [William] Dannemeyer (R-Fullerton) and Governor [George] Deukmejian . . .

I think the agenda of the fundamentalist right and the ecumenicals, and the Phyllis Schlafly's and all that is very much anti-gay, and there's almost an unwritten agreement among them that if they make enough fuss and keep enough things from happening — they know what's happening. If you scream long enough about not having condom ads, and not approving homosexuality, enough homosexuals will die. You have to be pretty blind not to see that.

DF: But that's the extreme right. Do you think it pervades the government as well?

Kramer: The government is run at a top level by the right, by Ronald Reagan and by the people who are in his White House.

DF: Do you agree Reagan's more a figure-

goes on. On the level of Reagan and the people around him. Absolutely.

DF: What is your feeling about this thing with Reagan, Gallo and the French?

Kramer: Oh, I think all of that is gross. The inability of all these scientists to work together is another part of the great tragedy. Gallo, I personally think, is a monster. He shuts off all opposition. He's in a position of power to see where the money goes for research grants, and it only goes to his friends, to his network of old school buddies. It's an axis of people who all have been in bed with each other, so to speak, and anyone who offers opposition or new theories has been shut out from the very beginning. I don't think we know what's going on 100% with AIDS, and all scientists seem to have bought HIV as being the cause of AIDS. It may very well be, but there are people I respect who don't think it is. And you're looked upon like you're crazy when you say something like that.

Chuck Ortleb of the *Native* has had a lot of different theories about what's going on . . . A lot of them may be crazy, a lot may not be, but it doesn't cost much to study any of them. But the whole attitude of the establishment when it came to asking them to study this has been: "Oh, don't bother us. What the fuck do you know?"

Discoveries in science are often made by the crazies, by the people in the attic rooms. The mainstream just can't shut out the tributaries — and I think that's what Gallo's done. I do think he stole the virus from the French; I don't think that's a question of opinion any more. And that's equally as scandalous to me as Irangate, and yet it got, again, no media play.

DF: If you could wave a magic wand, what would you do?

Kramer: Well, somebody's gotta have power. And everybody's always afraid to give anybody power. It's getting so that people are afraid to let Reagan appoint anybody because they're afraid he'll appoint Phyllis Schlafly, and he's afraid that if he gives it to [Surgeon General C. Everett] Koop or Mathilde Krim that they'll err too much the other way. Consequently, nobody has the power.

DF: What about in New York —

Kramer: [Mayor Ed] Koch is a pig. If you had to point a finger at one person for letting this get out of hand in this country, it'd be Ed Koch. Of course, then it goes beyond him to Reagan, but it started here and got out of hand here much faster than anywhere else, and he was simply not available. Because he's a gay man and he was terrified.

He's a true, utter, gross pig. I cannot think of language vile enough to blacken and pollute him with.

DF: AIDS is starting to pervade the straight community, and it certainly has pervaded the press. How do you think that's going to change things?

Kramer: It's too late. Everything is out of control. And I don't think it's happening yet to the straight people that the government is going to respond to. You know, it's not happening to Betsy Bloomingdale and Nancy Reagan . . . If Elizabeth Taylor came down with it, they wouldn't say, "Oh my God, poor woman!" They'd think she slept with a gay man, or that she took drugs or something.

DF: But don't you agree it's pervaded the press much more?

Kramer: Oh, I think the press has been terrific. I think the press has been wonderful for at least a year-and-a-half. It took forever to get them off their tushes — but it didn't transmit itself to action at the top, and that's what's so terrifying.

DF: One of the toughest things about all of this is what's happening to young gay guys.

When I look around at gay kids, who have to grow up under this fucking shadow, it just breaks my heart.

Kramer: I know. We started this organization called "Act Up," which is a protest organization, and it's interesting that most of the energy comes from young guys, kids from NYU and Columbia — 27, 28, 29. They're real hard workers and they're very imaginative. It takes guts at 18 or 19 — a lot more

This is a president who asks the surgeon general to prepare a report on AIDS, and then once it's prepared — nine months later — the president brags that he has not even read it!

guts than older people have.

DF: Well, do you think this is a generational thing, that kids are coming out earlier and earlier and being willing to fight about it?

Kramer: I don't really know about generations and all of that. Things are certainly, in a lot of ways, much better than they were when I was growing up. I think there has been enormous progress. There are still people who have great problems with coming out, with parents who are difficult. But if this had happened in 1950 or 1960, I shudder to think . . .

DF: How is your life at this point? You were quiet for a couple of years — how does it feel to get back into the fray?

Kramer: Well, I have very strong opinions and I believe very strongly in them, and I fight for them — and if you don't agree with it, I can't do anything about that. There's nothing you can do to make people love you.

DF: Do you feel more comfortable with yourself in the midst of all this?

Kramer: I never felt uncomfortable with myself. You're talking with somebody who's had more therapy than Freud ever intended, so I started feeling good about myself easily ten or fifteen years ago. I feel fine — but I don't know that those navel-contemplations are apt for today; we just have so much to do. You have to get beyond yourself. I mean, I've thought how vain we used to be about gyms and weights . . . Now my weight goes up and down, and I don't care.

DF: Are you satisfied and happy with your life?

Kramer: I'm always afraid of being satisfied and happy, because the minute that happens I think people lose a little of their energy. That's my fear: that I'll lose my energy and become self-satisfied.

DF: You can be satisfied *not* being self-satisfied. You can be satisfied fighting.

Kramer: Well, I am happy. I mean, I feel very fulfilled in a way. I feel very useful, and that's a good feeling. I'd be happier if I were in love, sleeping next to somebody besides my dog . . . One goes through life still waiting for the great love, not realizing you've probably had ten of them up to now and didn't know it at the time.

DF: They were each one-tenth of the one great love!

Kramer: Mmmmm. Put them all together, and they spell . . . Mother.

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Two AIDS Shows Take Different Tacts

Community Relations

It goes without saying that AIDS-related events and exhibitions are extremely important and necessary. They help raise money, communicate information, and most importantly, they establish a visible sense of community action and support. While such intent definitely helps, it does not insure the success or usefulness of an exhibition. It still takes a good deal of work to put together a meaningful show, even if its subject covers the most pertinent of themes.

Two current AIDS-related shows demonstrate the importance of commitment to the success of this type of project. Both *Art and Wellness*, and *Tracking the Epidemic* are, in different ways (and with varying degrees of success), very much about a sense of community. *Art and Wellness* brings together artists and people with AIDS with a unifying theme and agenda of activities, while *Tracking the Epidemic* approaches the subject from a less artistic, more informational angle.

Artists for Community Life (ACL) is an organization of volunteers who sponsor art-related programs as a positive response to AIDS. The programs include an art workshop for people with AIDS, performance event, fundraisers, and a yearly exhibition, of which *Art and Wellness* is the second. The work in the show is culled from the art workshop (to which pro-

creative condoms offer similar messages.

The serious subject also breeds some somber work. David Dashell's "Memory," an outspoken conceptual piece, is fashioned from a noose towel rack that was smuggled out of a bathhouse, treated with metal and shaped into a sperm. The piece also features a text, written in blood, supposedly that of a deceased AIDS victim. The piece is sensationalistic and effective. Also of note are Kara Johnson's expressionistic installation and Tim Doud's image/text paintings which are among the most artistically developed in the show.

There is little that constitutes new or breakthrough work in *Art and Wellness*, but the show is endearing in its variety and group spirit. There is a genuine sense of community and caring at work here. The show parlays its lack of pretension into a

Tracking the Epidemic takes the idea of the community to an international level and looks into the media's portrayal of AIDS.

ceeds of this event will go) and submissions from artists that were judged by ACL members. The large project takes over two gallery spaces, Colorbox Gallery and the downstairs portion of New Langton Arts, and will also include a concert by the Society of Gay and Lesbian Composers on June 21 and an all-star reading (Norse, Broughton, Bellamy, Killian, Cherkovski, and Maupin) on June 27.

The quality of the work exhibited varies greatly — in its levels of artistic development and stylistic approaches. The work ranges from the untrained workshop sketches and paintings to slick, commercial-quality photo work. Not all the artists are gay, which helps to widen the sense of community put forth in the show.

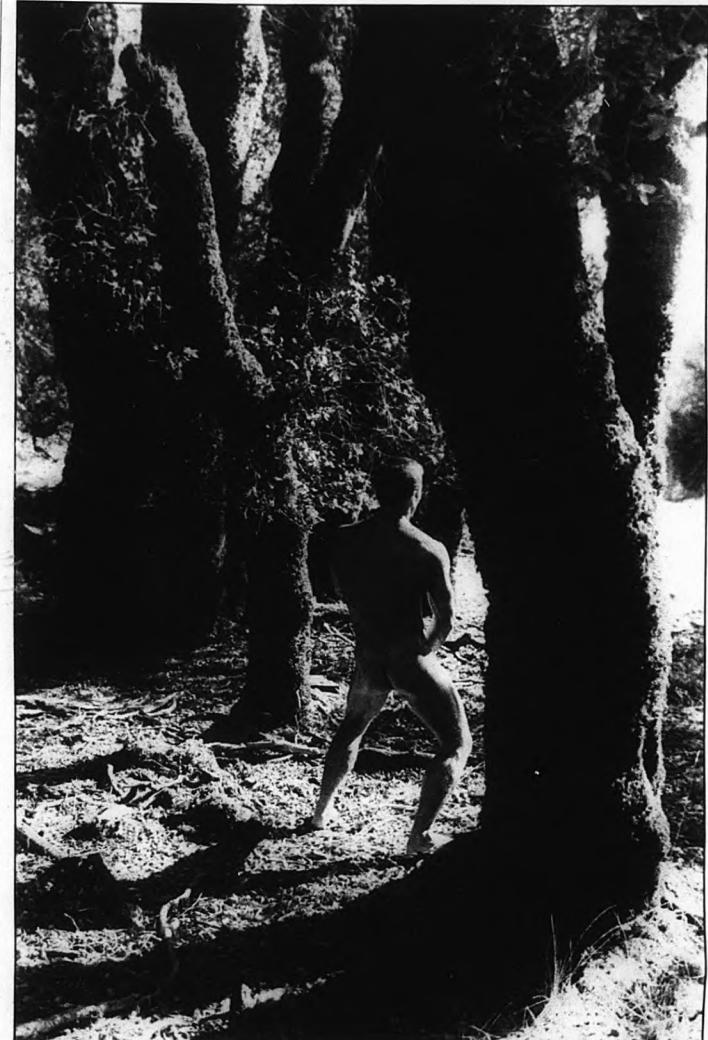
The show's organizers often opt for a positive approach in their curatorial policy, as they realize that one can take only so much of harrowing AIDS imagery. Judith Hutchison's abstract paintings function in this way as their imagery is calming. Jim James's J.O. in nature series of Zoltan on Mt. Tam is humorous as a vision of the safest of sex. Jack Davis's fetishized penises bound into

worthwhile event that helps the organization live up to its name.

Tracking the Epidemic, at the Eye Gallery, is not so blessed by its good intentions. The show is ambitious, attempting to present and compare the types and quality of AIDS informational material in New York City and London over the past five years. The show takes the idea of the community to an international level and looks into the media's portrayal of AIDS. This is a vast and potentially fascinating idea that takes the artistic into the sociological, utilitarian arena.

Unfortunately, the show never lives up to its ambitions. As a static show, *Tracking* lacks direction, visual appeal, and the connective curatorial voice needed to carry it through.

Most of the show is made up of enlargements of pamphlets and posters gathered almost exclusively from material published by Gay Men's Health Crisis (GMHC) in NYC, an organization started in 1982 to help disseminate information about AIDS. The British entries, the most eagerly anticipated aspect of the show, are a noticeably small number of pamphlets that are mounted behind the desk in the gallery,



Jim James's *Zoltan on Mt. Tamalpais, #1, 1987*.

making them difficult to look at. The materials, from London's counterpart to GMHC, the Terence Higgins Trust, include a couple of pamphlets promoting "wanking" and one dismissing the possibility of contracting AIDS from a church chalice. There is too little here to gain a real impression of British media coverage.

It is difficult to compare these information pieces, as we are given little guidance from the materials. As visual elements, the enlargements of pamphlets are merely large bodies of rather factual text that are hardly inviting. In this way, the show transforms the gallery into something like a clinic waiting room, which is undoubtedly from where much of the material has come.

There is nothing to tell us if these are good, bad or accurate pieces of information. The comparative aspect of the show provokes an interest in how San Francisco's informational campaigns hold up, and their absence becomes all too apparent. A show such as this, made up of informational material, requires some sort of sociological insight or critical commentary — something to serve as a reference point. There needs to be a justification for presenting the objects outside of their original context. This question is never really answered in *Tracking*.

The show does have some

bright spots. A series of safe sex comic books (similar in format to religious conversion booklets) is explicitly sexual and very funny. They cover a variety of fantasies, all of which include the use of condoms (as the "plumber's helper" and as the magic sheath in a Sleeping Beau-

ty blow-job scenario). The comics do take on a greater significance as they provide a much-needed visual stimulus and comic relief for the show.

There are also photographic works-in-progress from the gallery's AIDS photo workshop.

Continued on page 28

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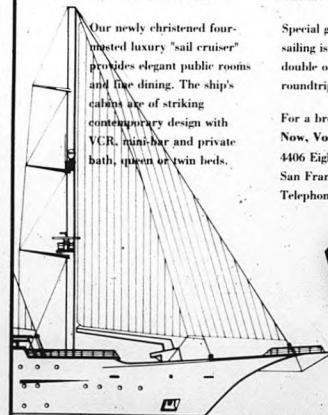
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'Rashomon Variations'

Remembering the Illusion of Things Past

In Akutagawa's short story *In a Grove*, a medieval Japanese warrior and his wife travel through the countryside and meet a thief. The husband emerges dead from the encounter; the wife has fled; the thief is held by the authorities. Gossip and speculation among the local villagers, combined with the conflicting testimony of the three participants — wife, thief, the husband's spirit through a medium — result in a tangled web of contradiction in which there are no certainties, only conflicting possibilities.

Rape? Seduction? Murder? Suicide? Greed? Betrayal? Each version of the incident is clouded by the next, linked only by each confessor's effort to prove himself blameless and victimized. Easily read as pessimistic (i.e., all people lie, we're all hypocrites), the story finally transcends the "true" and "false" — simply by calling every side into question equally. Expecting a single truth to emerge, one gets only the il-

lusory nature of all perception.

The story, and the famous 1951 Kurosawa film *Rashomon* derived from it, deal with universal themes, but couch them in trappings of culture and psychology that are inescapably Japanese. In Deborah Slater's new performance piece, *Rashomon Variations*, only eyeliner and the Eastern impressionism of Beaver Bauer's superb costumes still hint (fuzzily)



Paul Codiga (left) and Nicki Schouela perform in Deborah Slater's *Rashomon Variations*.

at nationalism. Now the aura is of simple exoticism, a "foreign" severity — a half-remembered dream image of Somewhere Else. It's a blurring of perception that perfectly suits Akutagawa's story.

Rashomon Variations has been germinating for a year or more, staged first as a ten-minute fragment, then as a twenty-five minute developmental piece as part of the East Bay Dance Series last fall at Oakland's Laney College. It's picked up collaborators and mixed more medias along the way. The piece presented at Laney was still arguably on the borderline of "pure" dance, a troubling slab of mood with its murmurous, round-like text little more than an addendum to Slater's evocative movement for the three characters. In its current incarnation, *Variations* has gained length (it's now about 50 minutes long), one new major character (the Medium, played by Slater herself), recurrent chorus of morbidly speculating villagers, and a text (by Mary Kessler) that is still meditative and non-linear, but now much closer to conventional "lines" and explanation.

The performance begins, as before, with a whispery confusion of overlapping phrases as the main characters make their entrances. Deborah Slater is a remarkable choreographer, one whose work justifies the label "movement" rather than "dance" (given all the assumptions the latter tends to carry); more like *gesture*, really, since no motion is about technique or pure aesthetics; each carries a sure emotional and dramatic charge.

The Thief (Paul Codiga), Wife (Katherine Lyons) and Husband (Nicki Schouela) stalk about the theatre space. Their movements, ritualistic and precise, are fossilized into a stereotype of personal attitude and conviction. The Medium physically wrestles and commingles with the Husband, until the words of Testimony come out of two mouths at once — a kind of choreographic ouija-board.

The three female performers metamorphose into a bickering cacophony of village idlers, lip-smacking and competitive over who has heard or made up the most luridly digestible "truth," their bodies snaking over each other for prominence. Briefly pre-empting the rich textures of Bob Davis' score, the three achieve a delicious polyrhythm by simply stamping their feet in accompaniment to shared gossip.

The tortured flogging of a dress train, the afterglow (or afterburn) of a sex act, a mimed but vivid disemboweling — each gesture serves to illuminate one version of the truth, and finally all versions. At the end, the characters are whispering, pleading their cases in an endless round one again, frozen in their need to believe whatever serves them best.

Rashomon Variations is the real thing — a performance piece with possibilities for an electric freeflow of ideas and talent. Its current staging at the Intersection for the Arts develops some previous strengths and produces some fresh flaws. The increased length does result in a spot or two of tedium and some unnecessary repetition. While the Laney version's murmurous phrase-chorus carried a certain "Welcome To Post-Modernism" pretension, Mary Kessler's newly literal script (with lines as dead-specific as "You lied to save your skin! That's not the way it happened!") loses some attractive ambiguity, and strains some of the limited acting resources at hand.

Slater and her director, Julie Hebert, clearly have a fine eye

Rashomon Variations is the real thing — a performance piece with possibilities for an electric freeflow of ideas and talent.

for the overall picture. After all, Hebert's own written-and-directed *True Beauties* at the Magic a few months ago was so beautifully staged that I often forgot to pay attention to the lovely things her Bayou characters were saying. And the shorter *Rashomon Variations* staged on Laney College's plush proscenium stage in November managed a visually epic quality with ease, due to the strikingly surreal set design and Slater's powerfully charismatic character movement.

At the Intersection, the effect is one of putting a big, glowingly sexy beast in a cage under a magnifying glass, and it's not particularly flattering or useful. The nature of the story demands that we be taken in equally by each character's viewpoint, but the in-y-a-face "intimacy" of the Intersection space only underlines the artifice. We're kept too aware of the performers as performers.

The warrior drag of Nicki Schouela as the Husband is superbly drawn in rigid, proud movement and Schouela's mus-

cular authority, but the lack of audience distancing calls unfair attention to the male impersonation. Likewise the robust aura of Katherine Lyons as The Wife, already problematic in the Laney version, is even more jarring here — with her firm voice and carriage, Lyons is a long way from the flower-petal vulnerability/treachery of Machiko Kyo in Kurosawa's film, and some needed ambiguity is lost. Slater casts herself as The Medium (she was the Husband in the prior version), and her gleeful comic assurance is fully present, if too sparingly used.

The casting of Duke Theatre co-founder Paul Codiga as The Thief makes a bit too plain the work's sometimes-uneasy balance between "dance" and "play" — he dances like an actor, while the others speak lines in a sing-song monotone most dancers think is acting — and there's a certain Belushi-type blundering frat humor to his presence that precludes serious menace. (That could just be my inability to dissociate him from the memorably gross Belushi derivation he played in Duke's slash-movie parody *Buckets of Blood*, though.) Still, he's a

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powerfully physical presence, and he handles his vocal character chores with a welcome confidence.

Under the cramped circumstances, the set (by Hellen Chellin and Alessandro Moruzzi) and lighting (by L. Van Der Light) design may not have had much of a chance to be more than adequate. Unaffected by spatial considerations, Bob Davis' score compels but never intrudes in its broad palette range, from ambient soundscapes ominous to a Residents-like sarcasm.

Rashomon Variations may never be a great work. But more often than not it looks like it could be — and that's more than half the battle won already. At the least it bodes very well for the future of Deborah Slater, one local artist who's capable of big thinking, purposeful medium-mixing, and some pretty ripe execution.

Rashomon Variations plays through June 28 at Intersection for the Arts, 766 Valencia. For ticket info, call 626-3311.

Chamber Music West

Music Made Splendid

Chamber Music West is the San Francisco Conservatory of Music's major contribution to the concert life of this city. Organized every June around a unifying theme, this series serves several coordinated functions.

First, it provides the concert-going audience with some of the most intelligently-arranged programs offered any time during the year. Secondly, it invites some of the finest, internationally-ranked American musicians to appear on the local scene. Third, it gives the Conservatory's faculty — and thus several of the San Francisco Symphony's finest musicians — the chance to show off their talents. And most importantly, it adds to this mix of the famous and the faculty, several rising, young Conservatory graduates, who thus get the chance to learn what it is like working in the big time.

The arrangement works predominantly to the music's advantage. In this set-up, each level of these performing musicians is particularly anxious to show off their finely polished skills. The imported stars want to prove that their reputations are more than hype; while the faculty musicians try to establish that their talents are equal to an international career. The recent graduates are primed by their desire to prove that they can

Donald and Vivian Weilerstein, began the proceedings with Maurice Ravel's sensuous Sonata for Violin and Piano. The husband-violinist produced some ravishing tone and some superbly etched melodies in the middle movement, but as his work with the Cleveland Quartet, has shown in the past, Weilerstein does not always maintain perfect pitch. This problem seems to be correctable on recordings, but it has plagued every one of his live performances I have attended.

Things picked up considerably when Gilbert Kalish and Nathan Schwartz presented Debussy's harrowing two-piano piece, *En blanc et noir* (1915). Written during Debussy's experience of the fall of civilization into the First World War, this work is alternately violent and grieving. Schwartz, who is on the Conservatory faculty, and Kalish, who is one of the most renowned pianists alive, melded into a single spirit for a supremely gripping performance. This was Chamber Music West doing exactly what it aims at.

If Gilbert Kalish is around,



Robin Sutherland, piano, and Emil Miland, cello.

on which the black birds sit. It is the thread that binds the notes together. Jan DeGaetani is the mistress of legato, as well as the mistress of pitch and subtle expression. Her performance, for example, of "Little Lamb, who made thee" was charged with an inner radiance that brought peace to all present. Her shading of Vaughan Williams and Blake's powerful contrast between the innocent and experienced version of the Divine Image was shattering.

After intermission, the San Francisco cello-piano duo Emil Miland and Robin Sutherland presented Debussy's Cello

Sonata (1915). A companion to *En blanc et noir*, this sonata nicely balanced the program. Debussy was ill and the war had brought him to despair when he wrote this sonata. Only occasionally does it open up and give us glimpses of the depth of feeling with which it was composed.

Miland and his cello were shown off most brightly when his feeling for the pathos inherent in the work drew from him some particularly exquisite phrasing. But Debussy's excruciating extremes of range, stretched Miland, especially in the upper register, farther than he could master. Sutherland was

everywhere a luscious partner.

This concert ended with a finely balanced reading of Mozart's Quintet for piano and winds (1784). Once again Kalish at the piano was a centralizing force. William Banovetz on the oboe and Michael Webster on the clarinet, especially, blended together as if they were one. The graduate student, Philip Munds, on that trickiest of all instruments, the French horn, did himself proud. All of Mozart's intricate filigree gleamed resplendently in this festive conclusion to the evening. ■

DeGaetani is, without exaggeration, one of the most important performing musicians to have graced this planet in the last 35 years.

make the grade.

Furthermore, since this series of concerts is the visible side of a teaching program, the rehearsals are as important as the concerts. The students are learning how professionals prepare a piece for a concert, how they learn to meet and match each other, melding their strengths into a fluent ensemble.

This quest for a smooth-working mesh of soloists is the essence of chamber music. Some professional groups, like Tashi or the Juilliard Quartet reach this level of ensemble precision by playing together for years, sometimes decades. But chamber music contains so many different combinations that we cannot rely upon the established groups to play all the music we want to hear. Also while there is much gained from this long familiarity it can smother the freshness gained from new acquaintances that is another aspect of chamber music.

This season the unifying theme of Chamber Music West was "French Impressions in Music." The featured composers were thus naturally Debussy, Ravel, Faure, Berlioz, Messiaen and moving a little more afield — Stravinsky, Janáček, Dvorák and Mozart. The opening concert will give you an idea of how this amalgam worked.

A husband-and-wife team,

chances are mezzo-soprano Jan DeGaetani is not far away. Indeed, DeGaetani appeared next with oboist Philip West in Ralph Vaughan Williams's *Ten Blake Songs* (1957). DeGaetani is, without exaggeration, one of the most important performing musicians to have graced this planet in the last 35 years. She is not glamorous. To some she is barely famous, but DeGaetani has both the extraordinary pitch control to her way through the most difficult contemporary scores and still add depth and expression to even the most forbidding of them.

Vaughan Williams, deeply influenced by the French impressionists and once a student of Ravel, created his own very English style nevertheless. His *Blake Songs* are a fine example of those haunting modal melodies that infuse his work with a pell-mell pathos. Blake's *Songs of Innocence and Experience* are a perfect vehicle for Vaughan Williams's style because they achieve in poetry what he achieves in music: a depth of feeling that completely transcends the simple means the artist used.

In this world of pianistic vocalism, one often forgets how essential legato is to the full portrayal of the composer's melodies. Legato, Walter Legge once said, is like the telephone wires you see on a country road,

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GRAPHIC BY NATHAN L. DAVIS

'Edge' of the '80s

All movies are starting to seem like parodies to me these days — *River's Edge* looks like a commercial pastiche of every hipster black comedy made in the '80s. Postmodern anxieties about the nature of meaning and the impossibility of "direct" communication have been seeping into mass culture production at least since the '60s, but our current decade's genre-chewing retromania — you know, that semi-camp obsession with pop culture of all eras — has made the already virulent "ironic" narrative stance ever more popular.

So much for theory. *River's Edge* is probably an important movie for Hollywood to have made, and it offers young and terrific ensemble acting, some moody outdoor photography and, in conventional terms, a low-key, naturalistic script. The problem, as I may have implied, is attitude. This movie is about life — anesthetized and mediated life, to be sure — in the corpse of civilization, but both Tim Hunter's direction and Neal Jimenez's screenplay, at crucial moments, lack the courage and wit the subject demands. The whole point here is that these

fucked-up teenagers are us, that their actions, given their environment, make sense. Kind of a tired premise, but delivered with considerable verve. When convenient, though, the filmmakers still want to adopt the high ground — as if in a '50s juvenile delinquency fable — preaching about twisted contemporary morality.

You might well argue that philosophical consistency is a lot to ask from a commercial feature, but the warped delights of so much of *River's Edge* provoke high expectations. For one thing, Crispin Glover's monster-rav-



The best and the brightest: A gifted group of young actors plays a motley crew of today's teenage youth in Tim Hunter's compelling murder melodrama, *River's Edge*.

ing-loony performance as Layne, peer group leader and self-appointed defender of the murderer, is quite possibly one for the ages. He's simultaneously hysterical and suggestive of a socialized derangement at a depth only Jack Nicholson and Anthony Perkins have plumbed in recent memory. Layne ricochets through the streets in his souped-up VW like an amphetamine-driven bowling ball, pumping out Agent Orange and Slayer on the stereo and howling to his reluctant friends: "I can't believe you! People like you are destroying the moral fiber of this country!" A star is born.

What's gotten him worked up, of course, is that his maladjusted fat friend John has offed his girlfriend just because he felt like it and left her body on a riverbank, without much caring what happens next. John, whose emptiness and fatalism are commendably developed by Daniel Roebuck, experiences in the act of killing his first (and last) moment of mastery over the world. Layne, on the other hand, sees the "crisis" as a way to dramatize his own life, to create a hyperreal sense of purpose that will overwhelm reality's paralytic dullness. "It's all like some fucking movie," he moans ecstatically. "I feel like Chuck Norris or something."

As you've heard *ad nauseam* by now, a real (and much belabored) incident in the South Bay town of Milpitas inspired Jimenez's dramatization, which he set in his hometown of Sacramento. Suburban teenage living is captured in its dreariest pathological extremes — drugs, cars, video games, hypocritical teachers and exploded families — and while it may indeed be

Layne sets himself the task of saving John, to satiate his own taste for adventure. He'll throw the girl in the river himself, he tells John, "but I'll be expecting a sixer for this, dude." He hides John out with the town's obligatory wiggled-out, one-legged old

ment is at once its most exploitative; as Reeves and Leitch have sex (a sleeping bag in the park), a flashback of the murder is rapidly intercut up to the instant, of course, of climax/death.

You could level serious charges of misogyny against

*You could level serious charges of misogyny against *River's Edge*, although besides its anarchic humor and some sharp characterization, it tries hard to avoid being a serious movie at all.*

biker, and of course it's Dennis Hopper reprising the quintessential Dennis Hopper role. What do you mean, is he good? He says stuff like: "I looked at my leg lying there in the road next to a can of beer. I wondered if the can was empty."

While Glover and Hopper get all the hot lines, dark and handsome newcomer Keisha Reeves also stands out as the not-too-bad kid who, inevitably, "narks" on the killer. The screenwriter's deck is shamelessly stacked in Reeves' favor; we meet his harried mom, mean stepdad, dopey little brother (an admirable job by twelve-year-old Joshua Miller) and angelic little sister. No other character gets such a carefully diagrammed background, and the consequence is that each of his actions seems neatly "motivated." Not only does this writing-workshop schematic seem incongruous to the film's strongest themes, most of the family subplot is too hackneyed to mention, even given fine acting.

River's Edge is synthetically constructed to capture both upscale and youth-market audiences — hipster semiotics for everybody.

drawn from life, similarities to recent semi-independent films like Penelope Spheeris' *Suburbia* and even Alex Cox's *Repo Man* are unmistakable. Like both of those, *River's Edge* frames its youth-apocalypse vision in considerable hilarity; Glover's crazed California-boy aphorisms reminded me of nothing more, in fact, than Sean Penn in *Fast Times at Ridgemont High*.

So John, Layne, and all their buddies go out to poke the cadaver and all that gross stuff, and

it's interesting to note, moreover, the relative shallowness of the female characters, in spite of creditable performances by Roxana Zal and the luscious Ione Skye Leitch. They wind up fitting the airhead and nympho categories, respectively; not an unusual fate for teenage actresses in Hollywood, certainly, but troubling in conjunction with the frequent art closeups of the dead girl's naked and gradually discoloring body. The film's most visually exciting mo-

River's Edge, although besides its anarchic humor and some sharp characterization, it tries hard to avoid being a serious movie at all. Its "look" is very distinguished, with the grays and dull greens of its daylight exteriors — the justly famous Frederick Elmes of *Blue Velvet* and *Eraserhead* is the cinematographer. What I sense here, though, is a conscious effort to capitalize on the "new demographic" (that means the Y-word) for films like David Lynch's, or *Stranger Than Paradise*, or *Repo Man*. Not that the derivations stop there — let's see, there are hints of John Hughes' teen comedies, the Roger Corman '50s delinquency movies I mentioned earlier, and all the tongue-in-cheek *noir* homages like *Body Heat* or *Death Simple*.

So *River's Edge* is synthetically constructed to capture both upscale and youth-market audiences — hipster semiotics for everybody. Does that make it a terrible movie? Well, of course not. Anyone who follows movie acting closely shouldn't miss it — it's epochal. Glover ought to be a major star almost immediately, and the other cast members have bright futures as well. Director Hunter gets high marks for his work with the cast, but the script in combination with what I see as the production goals present insuperable problems. You'll enjoy this movie as a yarn and as a contribution to the '80s esthetic of cruelty; but it retreats to conventional conflict resolution strategies rather than facing the nihilism its subject matter might entail. This happens a lot these days — our culture makes mirrors, and then paints over the reflection.

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SF Ethnic Dance Festival Spanning the Globe

What's exciting about San Francisco's one-of-a-kind Ethnic Dance Festival is the way it quick-cuts from one culture to another, like a film that has captured the world in its 35 mm moving frame.

Just when you've figured out the complex rhythms of the Westwind International Folk Ensemble's Bulgarian dances, cut, switch cameras, and on comes Grupo Aztlan de San Francisco with its carefree Spanish and Caribbean-influenced movements from Mexico. Zoom in on the tight formations and innocently flashing bare legs of the Kennedy Irish Dancers, then freeze frame on the haughty poses of Spanish dancer Nemesio Paredes' Flamenco. Do a final dream sequence with San Francisco Taiko Dojo's total-body Japanese drumming and Dimensions Dance Theater's throbbing West African ritual dances, and you've had yourself a miniature tour of the whole globe. But this isn't just some academic anthropological research film. It's also entertainment — thrilling, foot-stomping, and heart-quenching stuff.

With six performing groups featured on each program (of which there were five over the last two weekends), the Festival is less about authenticity than about quality exposure, less about the professionalism of the dancing than about a certain skill in presentation. As to the latter, the responsibility falls mainly on those credited with choreography or "staging." Their job? To effectively present a culture in microcosm, to sum up a tradition or a particular aspect of a tradition in the allotted 15 minutes.

Westwind's staging last Friday night, for instance, was particularly masterful. Their portrait of Bulgaria began with two songs in close, caressing harmony that displayed the purity, focussed intensity, frequent dissonance, and yelped phrase endings that are characteristic of this style of women's a cappella choral singing. But before the second tune was even over, Westwind's decorated egg had broken open to reveal a bustling village scene, a line of female dancers, hand in hand, circling round the singers, men and women entering and embracing one another as though gathering

for a communal festivity.

More circular line dancing ensued, with eight women dressed in kerchiefs and mirrored skirts and four men showing off their twisting, stamping steps with

Paredes stamps out some astonishing bravura dancing, but it seems all posturing and technique. The short format works against him, making the dance feel like one hollow climax after another. Where, I wonder, are the all-important preliminaries?

This may be a reflection of change in the gypsy Flamenco tradition. The sense of suffering and pathos out of which this form was generated seems to have been both codified and exaggerated to such a degree that it has become a caricature of itself, subordinated to the flash of style and technique. While the technical values of the tradition have

tempted seduction embedded in the middle of the dance, and regular refrains of quick, sparkling chattering steps provide contrast, but the performance utilizes the narrowest palette of movement. The look is of a social dance form, substantially untransformed for the stage.

Two other groups — Taiko Dojo for Japan and Dimensions for West Africa — displayed major drumming and dancing traditions in ambitious stagings. The Taiko group started with a musical and choreographic flurry of drum sticks, eight male and female drummers attacking five

tableaux, aimed self-consciously at the audience, broke the magical communal spell in which Dimensions had successfully cradled us.

The young Kennelly group I've saved for last because they are another thing altogether, somehow more about discipline and control than strictly about "culture." They provide a vision of the Isle of Green with two distinct sides to it: the beauties of Irish figure and step dancing conditioned by the rigors of competitive artsport. It's an enthralling, inspiring combination. These teenaged and elementary school-aged dancers are serious to the extreme, even the tiniest of them executing intricate heel-toe patterns (like tap) with deadpan expressions and rigidly held torsos. It's like watching pistons moving in a huge and elegantly designed motor.

The "film" is over, the lights



flashing finishes on one knee. Except for some unsteadiness in the traditional music ensemble — the asymmetrical 2+2+3 rhythm of the final "Ruchenitsa" never quite found its groove — Westwind created the illusion that we're out in the countryside, witnessing the real thing.

Paredes's rendition of the flamenco "Farruca" brought us round to the other side of the continent, to Spain, where we found a marked contrast with the wholesome, heartfelt quality

been strengthened, has the convergence of feeling and form diminished?

Grupo Aztlan, in its perform-

oversized drums. Then came a ferocious display by a lion-dancer, quickly betrayed as a pussycat who curls up and licks his hindquarters, and a contemporary-ethnic dance featuring an assortment of fire-haired female shamans. Wild.

Dimensions began with percussion too, purveyed by a bright procession of four burly men beating drums with their bare palms. The most theatrical event of the evening followed: a dramatization of a young woman being healed through ritual and traditional medicine, complete with throbbing band of lamenting villagers and vigorous call-and-response singing. Only a series of Las Vegas-style final

Dimensions Dance Theater presents the dance of West Africa in the 1987 San Francisco Ethnic Dance Festival.

are up, the audience of happy adults and children of every color and shape and size went their way out to the street. And I begin to wonder what the ethnic pride and diversity represented in the Ethnic Dance Festival will one day come to mean. Here's a possible answer: Out on the sidewalk, I see a little girl, who happens to be black, trying out what looks like an Irish jig. Final question: What is "ethnic" dance going to look like in 50 years? ■

The Festival is less about authenticity than about quality exposure, less about the professionalism of the dancing than about a certain skill in presentation.

of Westwind's performance. No surprise: Bulgaria's communal folk dances are as different from Paredes's solo Flamenco as a warm fuzzy is to stainless steel. One wonders, however, if Paredes didn't overemphasize the split.

A seething performer packed into a slender slip of a body,

ance of a suite of Mexican dances from the state of Tabasco, overflows with feeling but comes up a tad short on form. To the strains of taped marimba music, six women in lush floral-patterned skirts — which they unfurl like great fans — sway and sashay alongside three "cowboys" in clean whites. There's a little at-



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Catching Up on Live Shows

Don Does His Duty

Over the past two months, I've attended various musical events, which for one reason or another, I failed to write about. With this particular column I hope to clean out the closet. Traveling back in time to cover these wrongfully-ignored events is a far cry easier than squeezing good copy out of Chris Isaak or Star Booty. More importantly, it will finally justify jotting down all of those notes when I could have been dancing.

□ A couple of months ago, I raced up to the I-Beam early for a chance to catch local band G.T. Jesus and The Crawling Asylum opening for The Lorries. G.T. and company are a four-piece group with two go-go dancers, a variety of huge animal masks, and a tall, thin vocalist with a spooky, cavernous voice. Liberal amounts of fog and strobe lights were thrown in for good measure as the band spewed out thick and muddy '70s R&B and rock with a ghastly Nick Cave/Birthday Party-ish grind. The guitar tore riffs from my memory bank constantly, starting a game of *Name That Tune* inside my head. Their set was joyously unoriginal, brimming with an unexpected sense of humor and lacking in the gloomy self-seriousness one might expect from a rocker with an all-black wardrobe and very skinny legs. See this band.

□ The Godfathers, an English group whose first LP, *Hit by Hit*, provided a much-needed respite from tired, jangly guitars,

played the I-Beam last month, opening for Red Kross. Oh, how I pity Red Kross for having to follow such an amazing set! The dapper five-piece band took the stage in jackets, slacks, dress shirts, and even some ties, tearing into an instrumental cut that lunged for the throat and shook hard. If that wasn't enough, when the tiny vocalist approached the microphone, a most indignant, trembling, psychotic expression fell over his face. This effectively drove the lyrics home. When he sang, "I Want Everything," I wanted to give it, then run away real fast.

This band's most endearing quality is their gutsy use of guitars. I picked up their record after swimming the ever-growing sea of R.E.M.-imitating jangle-pop bands, and what a pure, uplifting feeling it was to hear a guitarist with balls who may have never even listened to The Byrds. The Godfathers' encore renditions of *The Beastie Boys'* "Fight For Your Right" was snotty, tough, and unforgettable

better than a horse head in each one of those Beastie-fuck's beds.

□ At Nightbreak a few weeks later, I saw Orange County's El Grupo Sexo. Fun was the key word of the evening. Two saxophones, two guitars, a bass, drums, crazy costumes, energetic leaps in unison, and a fine variety of cover tunes had the small club in a near frenzy. Their sound is akin to that of The Red Hot Chili Peppers, only with a horn section and a less-forced funkiness. People really love cover tunes, or so it seemed when the band tore into "Born to Be Wild" and the audience went nuts. Other covers included "I Am the Walrus," "Love Rollercoaster," "Tush," and a very clever song that alternated between Van Morrison's "Moondance" and some fast, thrashy tune. It was great fun.

□ Speaking of fun, The Chatbox hosted Buck Naked and the Bare Bottom Boys last month. They were in finer form than ever. I left the notepad at home that night and danced from one end of the set to the other. I also scored a lovely, pink Buck Naked T-shirt and finally met the fascinating trio. Recently, I heard a rumor that the English record label, Red Rhino, has expressed some interest in Buck and the Boys. Fine by me, I'm counting the days until I can have the songs "I Dig Your Wig" and "Sometimes I Like You for Your Money, Sometimes I Like You for Your Tits," on vinyl. Keep it up, Buck!

□ A curious bill at the I-Beam: Mark Stewart and The Mafia including producer Adrian Sherwood and a trio of musicians best known as the house band at the Sugar Hill label, proved a very remarkable show. First and foremost, their set was loud, loud, loud, pummeling the audience into movement rather than



Godfathers' lead singer Peter Coyne coils up with his mike.

coaxing a foot to tap. The basic bass/drum sound was familiar black funk, but it wasn't matched up with lazy shout-rap, lame rhymes concerning tennis shoes and penile prowess, or regurgitated Led Zeppelin/Def Jam guitar riffs. When the industrial guitar sound leaped out of the groove, you could almost duck down and see it fly over your head, thick with ferocity and impact. It was unlike anything I've ever heard from the Sugar Hill label. This aural deluge made most current rap-metal crossover schlock seem

pale in comparison. Vocals took a back seat to noise and noise meant so much more all of a sudden.

The unique combination soared beyond crossover, traveled well into uncategorized territory, and then, boom, the mother ship landed hard on Einsturzende Neubauten's rehearsal space, destroying everything but never missing a beat. Mark Stewart and The Mafia took no prisoners but their Soldier of Fortune-style funk had a large group of I-Beam patrons ready to enlist. ■

Rock Previews

A D A M B L O C K

Steer Madness

If I owned the real estate that housed the Stud, I would've renamed the place Memphis, decked it out with Elvis votive candles, and reopened 12 hours after the last tenants trashed the place — in a blaze of roadhouse glory. Alexis (the original Stud spot's owner) has her own ideas. She has sandblasted the sturdy hovel and apparently settled on Holy Cow as a new name. Couldn't she have at least opted for Steer? Of course, I wouldn't want to second-guess her still-evolving vision.

Besides, who knows how successfully the Stud's sterling staff will put their mark on the old Club 92? Optimists vow that the Stud sign will hang, and the doors open, on Monday, June 22 — but I'd make some allowance for Gay Standard Time. The aim is to be rolling well before the Gay Pride Parade and related festivities. Memphis Mark has been fraying holes in his Levis over the weekend's promised concerts by Bon Jovi and George Strait. Those who share his reverence for real boys and real men are advised to buy early and make their pre-parade pilgrimages to the suburbs with us. Bobo Baird plans to be on board. He recently — in his best Camille-coming-down-off-crystal voice — sighed, "I'm not sure there's

anything to see before then; except the Young Fresh Fellows." Poor boy just hadn't read this column yet.

Betty Carter

The woman that Carmen McRae calls, "the only real jazz singer," brings her radical scat and cryptic inspiration to this rugged Oakland nightclub. The lady wades in deep. (Yoshi's, 6/19 & 20; 9 & 11 pm, \$12)

B.B. King

If you only know the ringing authority of his guitar lines, you owe yourself a visit to his raunchy and magnificent show. Lately he has only been through for residencies at the Venetian Room, but this Gold Rush bordello of a hall may lure a



K.D. Lang — "a Dale Evans for the '80s" — plays 6/21 at Great American Music Hall.

looser crowd. Count on B.B., the man is the alpha and the omega: The Olivier of the blues. (Great American Music Hall, 6/19, 8:30 & 11 pm, \$20)

Beat Farmers, Screaming Sirens

My favorite white American bar band are worth a trip amongst the horny collegiates to remind you why rock 'n' roll ever made a body howl at the moon. Opening: the trashiest broads in rock. (Berkeley Square, 6/20, 10 pm, \$8)

Sea Hags, Red Devils

The headlining local trio of Aerosmith fans are recently returned from New York, where Def Jam whiz kid Rick Rubin allegedly flew them for an audition. Partisans say "they're getting outrageous." Openers are stokin' buds of theirs from L.A. Where are my quaaludes? (Nightbreak, 6/20, 10 pm, \$3)

K.D. Lang & The Reclines

The wiggly young Canadian country singer cum kinetic performance artist is said to be awesome live: rodeos ahead of her somewhat anxious debut disc, *Angel With a Lariat*. I gotta see this: a Dale Evans for the '80s. (Great American Music Hall, 6/21, 8 pm, \$7.50)

Stan Ridgeway, Young Fresh Fellows

The headliner's wide-screen noir 'n' neon narratives are haunting, but a bit too chill for my blood. As Don Baird suggests, "I bet he's a jerk." The Fellows are a whole different keg of mischief: wry, brash, and wonderful on their new LP, *The Men Who Loved Music* (Frontier); the Seattle quartet are reputedly even better live. Their raging anthem, "I Don't Let The Little Things Get Me Down," makes me grin. Their frat-boy rave-up, "Amy Grant" (with its chanted, "Alone in bed, late at night, she fantasizes — about Barry White,") makes me laugh

out loud. Come early; if the Stud really does reopen you'll have a destination to depart to. (I-Beam, 6/22, 11 pm, \$6 adv.)

Chris Isaak

Bruce Weber's favorite tragically star is having a hard time drawing flies on his national tour, but local loyalists may well pack these dates at the Palazzo Winkie. I'm looking forward to seeing the tiki-model amidst all the mock classical-decay. Tentative openers: Penelope Houston (reportedly hitting her stride again), for Tuesday; and Eddie Ray Porter (SF's answer to Steve Earle) on Wednesday. Check with the club for definitives. (DV8, 6/23 & 24, 10 pm, \$8)

Circle Jerks, Frontrunner

LA's never-say-die, wildly comic, punk originals are still spitting out savaged covers of "You Light Up My Life," and true-blue originals like, "Kill For Jesus." It's an early, curfew show and I'm looking for an audience I've missed since the demise of the Farm as *Thrasher*-central. (Mabuhay, 6/23, 7 pm, \$?)

The Ventures

The daddies of surf-rock inspired the B-52s, The Raybeats, and The Go-Gos. Twenty-seven years after their seminal hit, "Walk Don't Run," they're tooling down from Seattle to twang in the summer. I'd book

Continued on page 28

Sewer Scum

All hands on deck: something's rotten at The Top, and the stench threatens to suffocate the blistered recipients of this sinking Administration's misguided thinking. The legislative cockroaches have crawled free to feed on the rotting corpses dotting this country's communities.

Take the plunger: the bowl's about to overflow.

Jesse Say No

Speaking of tacky, loathsome, cheap and obvious, Senator Jesse "De Fence Spending" Helms (R-NC) was back in the news last week, fresh from slimming his amendment requiring mandatory AIDS testing for immigrants through the Senate on the coattails of a spending bill — which passed 96-0. Helms showed up on the June 14 *Face the Nation* (CBS) quacking and bleating about — hold your applause — quarantining people who test positive for antibodies to the HIV virus. (The June 15 *Examiner* ran the story on pg. 2, the same day's *Chron* on pg. 7.)

Right: Helms used the "Q" word, bringing that noxious possibility back into the realm of "public debate." Tempted to laugh? Think again: when Ronald Reagan put his "compassionate" imprimatur on "routine" testing (and mandatory testing for immigrants, prisoners, and some others) two weeks back, he opened the door for vicious, narrow-minded legislation, the likes of which seemed impossible even three months ago.

And Helms is in the forefront, a sleazy little cracker bandying about anything to quarantine ("There is no sense to have any other view about it") like he was talking about, say, growing tobacco.

Testing, Testing, Want to Flee

Helms has a friend on the West Coast: Republican State Senator John "Talk Lots But" Doolittle is right now ramrodding a batch of AIDS bills through the state legislature — and they ain't meant to he'p us, y'all.

In Randy Shilts's frightening "New Look to the Landscape of AIDS Politics" (*Chron*, June 15), Doolittle, who couldn't get arrested (or tested) last year, says, "Now the president supports my position. It's interesting to watch the mainstream move over to me." Especially if you're partial to ovens and lampshades.

See, AIDS is gonna be a big election issue — and "the public," freaked by the overload of AIDS horror stories, wants Action Now. "Testing looks like you're doing something," says Bruce Pomer, director of legislative affairs for the Health Officers Association of California (they oppose many testing measures, according to the article). So even moderate Demos, feeling the crunch at home, are voting with Doolittle — who's proposed bills to repeal certain confidentiality sections of AIDS antibody test laws; to require doctors to "offer and recommend" AIDS tests for people applying for marriage licenses; to make it a felony for a person to give

blood, knowing it may be tainted with AIDS; to require AIDS testing for people entering state prisons and for long-term mental patients; to require AIDS testing of prostitutes (the results of which would be reported to a state registry); and to repeal a law banning insurance companies from requiring the antibody tests.

Sound farfetched? SF Assemblyman and mayoral hopeful Art Agnos says that for those interested in shaping AIDS policy on the basis of public health, and not politics (like Doolittle), "The window isn't shut yet, but I'm afraid it soon will be."

Getting an Education

Helms was not alone poisoning the airwaves on *Face the Nation* last week. He was joined by William Bennett, Reagan's half-wit Secretary of Education, who said prisoners with "the AIDS virus" should be kept in custody after serving their sentences if they threatened to spread the disease to the general population in order to take "revenge on society."

Well . . . we're dealing with some industrial-strength paranoia here. Who are the current high-risk groups? Right: homosexuals, bi-sexuals, and intravenous drug users. Bennett displays a curious fear that a reformed prisoner, if he is one or all of these, is going to escape "custody" and seek "revenge on society" — presumably — Freudian nightmare! — by jabbing innocent bystanders with needles, or — Freudian dream! — fucking them up the ass with splotchy, lesion-ridden members.

But let's remember, tangentially, that as the June 11 *New York Times* reported, Bennett is the education shill for an administration that has tried to: abolish the Dept. of Education; legalize organized school prayer; and enact tuition credits for parents of students in parochial and private schools. All these anti-education measures have failed miserably, thanks, in part, to a Congress unafraid to shore up the education budgets that Reagan and his thugs consistently try to gut. (In January, the administration proposed reducing the department's budget for fiscal 1988 to \$14 billion from the current \$19.5 billion; Congress is expected to approve \$20-\$21 billion.)

It'd be nice to sympathize with Bennett, to see him as a misguided, well-meaning soul. But he's not: he's a frustrated, paranoid quack, a man with creases on his head where it cracked on the manhole cover as he tried desperately to slither out of the sewer.

Son of a Mecham

If Bennett's knee-deep in dung, Arizona Governor Evan Mecham is completely unstrung.

You remember Mecham: he refused to allow his state to celebrate Martin Luther King Day. As a result, a raft of entertainers refuses to play the state; some who did perform there recently — like rockers U2 and folksters Peter, Paul and Mary — donated their concert proceeds to a recall-Mecham movement (which needs 216,000 by July 10 to appear on the ballot in an upcoming election).

Mecham, who looks like Joe Friday on psilocibin, told the June 10 *Entertainment Tonight* he doesn't really give a fuck about a bunch of freewheeling rock fans (his idea of today's concert-goer): "Given the choice between these fringe groups and solid, upstanding citizens, I'll take the solid, upstanding citizens every time."

And anyway, Ev said, the leader of the recall movement (whose name I missed; sorry) is "quite frankly a homosexual. Frankly, he's angry I don't approve of his lifestyle. The doctors have said it's a sick lifestyle, and he's just upset because of that."

Mecham and Bennett, sittin' in a tree, f-u-c-k-i-n-g; first come tests, then comes Jesse in a baby carriage!!!

Ron Turns

Ah, but there's a voice of sanity amidst this roiling madness, and an unlikely one at that:

Young Ron Reagan, Jr., who a June 15 Reuters story run in the *Chron* characterized as "the president's son," appears in a new AIDS TV documentary urging viewers to "write your

AFTERIMAGE

by Rikki Ercoli



Bill (1987)

congressman — or someone higher up" if they agree with him that not enough is being done about AIDS. He also dangles a rubber on-camera, saying, "This is a condom." (Best to start 'em off slow.)

Young Ron made his comments in the June 15 *Newsweek* — but since I don't have a copy (sorry), we'll have to trust the Reuters story, which said "the president's son told *Newsweek* that people on the political right welcome acquired immune deficiency syndrome, and see it as a punishment for homosexuality." He also said that "William Bennett's recent call for widespread AIDS testing pandered to that notion."

This article appeared on pg. 7 — but it's a front-pager in my All-Time Final Edition. We've been waiting on this one for years; finally, even the president's (gay?) son is speaking out

against his senile Dad and his senile Dad's flipped-out cronies.

All this — and a dancer's butt. Welcome home, Ronnie.

Closet Taste

Young Ron may have been interested in Larry Liebert's June 4 *Chron* piece entitled "Closet Doors Rattle for Washington's Gay Republicans." Liebert, a tough political reporter, wrote about Barney Frank (D-Mass.), who came out publicly a couple of weeks ago; John T. (Terry) Dolan, founder of the National Conservative Political Action Committee, who died of AIDS last December; and the kerfuffle surrounding Carl R. (Spitz) Channell and the diverted Iran-Contra funds.

Closet doors, so thick and oaken for Washington Republicans, are beginning to creak

Continued on page 28



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Mother Earth bows her head toward Father Sun in the annual ritual of Summer Solstice. Sunday is the longest day of this year with 15 hours of sunlight and only 9 hours of darkness in the northern hemisphere. It's also the commercial American celebration of Father's Day. Drench your Daddy in the sunshine of your love! P.S. On Saturday Mercury begins a retrograde period which will last until July 15.

♈ ARIES, THE SHEEP (Mar 21 - Apr 19): The bright sunshine makes your hair glow and your lips pucker. Strip down to the bare necessities and strut around town like you owned the place. You and your lover are definitely the talk of the neighborhood. Your passionate relationship will surely become the envy of all those lonely beach bunnies. Consider hosting a bar-b-que at your palace of pleasure this weekend and let summer officially begin with an orgy of innuendo.

♉ TAURUS, THE OX (Apr 20 - May 20): Hot summer nights keep you awake with insatiable lust. Your mind dwells on far-out fantasies and you're constantly making plans to sneak up on your housemate with ir-

resistible love. If he/she only knew how much you crave that beautiful body, that subtle smile, those luscious lips. This week make a point of setting a love-trap. Use silence as the bait. When he/she asks what's wrong, capture your prey with a caress. And don't let go until you get what you want, all of it!

♊ GEMINI, THE WOLF (May 21 - Jun 20): This week you will land a summer time job in a cute little boutique that sells bikinis. Well, maybe not bikinis, but your customers will be the most beautiful people in the world and they're ready to flaunt their assets. Pander to their needs and don't be afraid to charge outrageous prices; these show-offs get a kick out of spending their summertime allowance. Scoop up all the profits heartlessly, and if one little shopper wants a kiss with his/her receipt, definitely oblige.

♋ CANCER, THE CRAB (Jun 21 - Jul 22): Your face begins to glow with self-confidence as birthday time nears. This summer you're going to dazzle visiting strangers with your sparkling smile. Apparently you're in the mood for something new, but not quite willing to let go of old securities. There's

a crazy adventure looming in your immediate future, so you better prepare those who depend on you for leadership. This birthday baby needs time off! For your free birth chart, send birthdate/time/place to Robert Cole, P.O. Box 884561, San Francisco, CA 94188.

♌ LEO, THE SNAKE (Jul 23 - Aug 22): WOW! Here comes summer and you have fifteen million options for having the best time of your life! Only two of them will truly satisfy your physical and spiritual needs and both of those are outrageously expensive. Which will it be? Before you rack your brains, settle back and scope out the entire situation. Let summer come at you in all its glory before you make unchangeable plans. The best times will be total surprises!

♍ VIRGO, THE PIG (Aug 23 - Sep 22): Despite the awful predictions of economists, you're going to be in yuppie heaven this summer. Can you handle it? Just imagine sailing to tropical islands, making love to sun-tanned natives, and eating till your heart's content. Refuse to abuse yourself with old worries. Leap over limitation and confusion. If dreaming of self-satisfaction conflicts with job responsibility, then you know you're on the right track. Plan pleasure first!

♎ LIBRA, THE LEOPARD (Sep 23 - Oct 22): VOILA! This is success! This week it's your turn to be famous! Can you handle it? Well, don't just stand there like a

dummy reading this silly astrology column, go out and tell the world how wonderful you really are. Seek the applause of friends and neighbors. Advertise your accomplishments so everybody in town can look up to you as an example of achievement. You're so wonderful when you admit it to yourself.

♏ SCORPIO, THE SCORPION (Oct 23 - Nov 21): Now you've gone and done it; you've made the ultimate promise to the ultimate lover and you'd better be prepared for the consequences. Can you imagine how spectacular this summer will be if you stand by your commitment? Let go of sleazy self-doubt, hitch your wagon to a star, and let nature take its course. You have no control over your fate so stop worrying about it. This relationship has been destined for all time.

♐ SAGITTARIUS, THE HORSE (Nov 22 - Dec 21): Summer's coming on hot and heavy and you're about to lose control. You've been through enough complicated formalities now it's time to surrender totally and completely to anyone who crosses your path. Stretch yourself out on the beach this week in full view of passers-by. Flaunt your innocence with careless passion. If you haven't landed a hot tuna by week's end, it won't be because you've been shy. Gotcha!

♑ CAPRICORN, THE WHALE (Dec 22 - Jan 19): Deep in your heart there's an itch

you've been dying to scratch. This week make an effort to open your heart and reveal that itch to someone who'd just love to scratch it. He/she's been waiting patiently for summer to arrive knowing full well that you're so vulnerable in the heat. Apparently your admirer is no stranger, but someone who's been part of your life for months. Look carefully around you now.

♒ AQUARIUS, THE EAGLE (Jan 20 - Feb 18): This week starts a solid month of body worship for you. Stand naked in front of a mirror and take a good look at yourself. Accept your body as a piece of divine art, promise it only the purest food and the healthiest exercise. Then clothe your body in summertime colors and go about your daily business with a fresh self-image. Psychic healing is a hundred times more powerful than any drugs or diets. Prove it!

♓ PISCES, THE SHARK (Feb 19 - Mar 20): This week you'll be ultra-thankful that you got the housing situation straightened out when you did. Now you're ready for a summer of fun and so are all your friends. Magically a handsome youngster knocks on your door and begs you to come out and play. Are you ready for this rejuvenating adventure? Sure you are, but you'll have to learn the game of love all over again. He/she may be a child, but this isn't child's play!

ART

Continued from page 21

These also offer some visual relief and often some documentary insight into the AIDS crisis. The photographs by Ron Beaugregard, Mariella Poli, and Anne Meredith document people with AIDS and those working with them in a healing capacity. Gary Borgstedt's photomontages are the most political and artistically subjective of the group, offering commentary on national economic policies.

The show's strongest achievement is its correlative events. *Tracking* is augmented by speakers from Britain, a public forum, and videotapes (which are co-sponsored by Frameline) which offer more insight into the show's intentions. "Bright Eyes," a surprisingly intelligent British television production (to

be screened at Video Free America on June 26), explores media images of disease, using the photographic medium as its primary example. Although "Bright Eyes" has typically dry British video production qualities (and horrible acting), it is quite interesting and well worth viewing.

Unfortunately, the tape points out the shortcomings of the static portion of the show. The ideas are treated in a far more comprehensive and interesting manner in the tape itself. I wanted to like and to learn much more from *Tracking the Epidemic* than I possibly could have. More than exploring the coverage of AIDS in the media, the show's clearer point is that good, politically correct intentions don't always insure success. ■

Art and Wellness continues through June 27 at New Langton Arts, 1246 Folsom St., 626-5416, and at Colorbox Gallery, 541 Hayes St., 863-8144, through June 30. *Artists for Community Life info: 652-4526.*

Tracking the Epidemic: Five Years of the AIDS Crisis continues through June 28 at the Eye Gallery, 758 Valencia St., 431-6911.

LESS TALK

Continued from page 27

open; gay Republicans are "people you'd recognize from the newspapers as Reagan appointees," says Larry "Loose Lips" Bush, Art Agnos's aide. "They [are] fairly openly gay in a world [turning] quite conservative."

Mecham and Bennett, sittin' in a tree....

Just Say the Word

Gene Siskel, the scratchy-throated, hemorrhoidal film critic of *Siskel and Ebert at the Movies*, said in a June 13 review of a movie on Mother Teresa that she "used a hands-on approach — and in this world, there are some very special people who need that kind of healing. And I think you know who I mean."

Fundamentalists? Massage clients? Who, Gene, who?

In and Out

• Check out the "Some Like it Hot" Burger King TV ads, especially with the shirtless, oiled hunk in 501s at the beginning. Dinner time!

• Though they've been slow with a TV ad campaign, **Jockey's** print ads are getting thorough: a full-pager in the June 8 *Time* showed a full-on close-up of a blue pair of Jockey's, with an insert pic showing Daddy playing ball with a six-year-old. The ad copy: "No other underwear has all these comforts. That Jockey quality. That Jockey fit. That Jockey style. No other underwear looks better or feels better. Just Jockey." Would that I

were a quarter that poetic, or could wax half that rhapsodic....

• Don't forget: Saturday, June 20 is Gay Day in Concord. • Thanks for the mail; I'll get to it. I promise. And keep it coming (if you get my drift): Dave Ford, c/o Less Talk, the *SF Sentinel*, 500 Hayes St., SF, 94102.

ROCK PREVIEWS

Continued from page 26

'em at the Memphis. (Great American Music Hall, 6/24, 8:30 pm, \$9)

Thomas Dolby and The Little Toy People

Tough times for the little guy. Between labels after his last two tepid projects — the soundtracks to *Howard the Duck* and *Gothic* — he has chosen a hit-and-run club tour to try out new material. Bobo Baird claims that everything he has done since, "She Blinded Me With Science," is nothing but "Jean Michel Jarre on speed." I'll still be intrigued to see what the techno-whiz has come up with. Clever, clever, I'd wager, but at least it ain't Howard Jones. (DV8, 6/25, 9 pm, \$8 adv., \$10 day)

"Boy, are you gonna get it!"



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WEEK AT A GLANCE

EDITED BY PATRICK HOCTEL

20 JUNE SATURDAY

ATA's midnight show promises to be a shocker: Dwain (*How to Undress in Front of Your Husband*) Esper's *Maniac* (1934), a seminal work in the history of American exploitation film, features Poe-inspired body-snatching, eyeball gouging, and pseudo-documentary sequences, following a brief "interpretation" by SF performance artist Chuck Z. 992 Valencia St., SF. \$3.50.

Summer Solstice Hike and Picnic with the Gay/Lesbian Sierrans: enjoy a pleasant hike of Mt. Tam in the afternoon, followed by an evening potluck picnic while enjoying a dramatic sunset. Bring a dish to share, your own beverages, ground cloth, and \$1 to cover the costs of leader-provided cutlery, plates, and ice. Meet at 1 pm sharp to carpool from Church St. Safeway in front of Pay 'N Save. Return to city by 10 pm. Info: 387-8453 or 653-5012.

First Unitarian Church, 1187 Franklin St. (at Geary), SF.

East Bay Lesbian/Gay Day (Berkeley's official Gay Day) takes place from noon till 6 pm at Provo Park/Martin Luther King Park. Live music by Jon Sugar and others. Alston and Grove Sts., Berkeley.

Women's Summer Solstice Ritual at Pt. Reyes National Seashore with Hallie Austin Iglesias, Karen Vogel, and Lisa Thiel. "Join us in a day of ritual as we renew our child hero, awaken our mature power, and call on our ancestral wisdom to celebrate the cycles of the goddess and our own lives. We will invoke the sun goddesses to help us grow in power and love." 10:30 am-5 pm. Women only. Space is limited, so call ahead — (415) 663-8280. \$50.

The Black and Blue Ball 2, a fundraiser to benefit the AIDS Emergency Fund, takes place at the



"The Zuni Man-Woman: A Traditional Gay Role" is the topic of a special slide/lecture presented by Will Roscoe, Monday, June 22 at 7:30 pm, Metropolitan Community Church, 150 Eureka Street, SF. Find out what makes a man a man, or a woman a woman. Zuni wisdom has some surprising answers to these questions and some very different attitudes toward gender definition. Call 563-7277.



Performance artist John O'Keefe presents "Elian Vital" — three short works at Hatley Martin Art Gallery, Friday through Sunday, June 19-21 at 8 pm, 41 Powell Street, SF. This one's not to be missed by all hipsters with a taste for the cutting edge. Call 392-1015.

Award-winning cellist, Eric Gaenslen, a former SF Conservatory Preparatory Dept. student, performs works by Bach, Brahms, Beethoven, and Chopin, accompanied by faculty pianist Timothy Bach. 8 pm, Hellman Hall, 19th Ave., at Ortega St., SF. Free. Info: 564-8086.

San Jose Gay Pride Rally: "Proud-Strong United" is the national theme this year for gay and lesbian pride parades and rallies. This year the San Jose Rally is held at the Santa Clara County Fairgrounds from 1-7 pm. Come experience gay pride in the South Bay! Info: Rally Hotline — (408) 993-3818.

21 JUNE SUNDAY

Father's Day Bee Bust! This traditional SF event, held on the SF Eagle's patio from 3-6 pm, benefits the AIDS Emergency Fund and the Godfather Service Fund. If you have any auctionable items, please call 861-0516, 626-1959, or 771-6133. 398 12th St., SF.

Rebecca Bogert performs works of Mozart, Chopin, Bartok, Bach, Schubert, and Liszt in a benefit for the Music Program of the SF Community One Church of Religious Science, 3 pm.

Starlite Roof high atop the Sir Francis Drake Hotel on Union Square. With a magnificent panoramic view of SF as its backdrop, the Black and Blue Ball features some of the area's best comedy talent plus the services of Belle Nolan, DJ for KBLX-FM, as emcee and guest DJ. Hors d'oeuvres and champagne! Prizes! Formal attire: 7:30 pm-12:30 am. \$25. Tickets/res/info: 931-9768.

The Gay Men's Sketch Classes invites artists, models, and other interested art lovers to an open social meeting. Meet class participants and view an informal display of class artwork. Those interested in joining the classes or modeling for them are encouraged to stop by. 2-6 pm. 1229 Folsom St., SF. Free.

22 JUNE MONDAY

The national television premiere of *Not All Parents Are Straight*: a warm, humorous, and often powerful look at six families in which children are being raised by lesbian and gay parents by Kevin White (director/producer) and Annamarie Faro (co-producer). 10:30 pm, Channel 9, KQED.

The SF Jacks celebrate Father's Day! Bring your father or be your father. Daddy clothing encouraged: boxer shorts, three-piece suits, wingtips, or a large-sized condom. Arrival time is 7:30-8:30 pm. 890 Folsom St. (near 5th), SF. \$6.

23 JUNE TUESDAY

Modern Times Bookstore hosts a book-party/reading for *Armistead Maupin* to celebrate the recent publication of *Significant Others*. 7:30 pm. 968 Valencia St. (near 21st), SF. Free. Info: 282-9246.

The SF New Performance Festival showcases the *Kronos Quartet* in the world premiere of a concert promising to "shatter the bounds of conventional chamber music." Plays through 6/27, 8:30 pm. Palace of Fine Arts Theatre, Lyon and Bay Sts., SF. Tickets/prices/info: 863-1320 or 762-BASS.

24 JUNE WEDNESDAY

A Virus Knows No Morals: Rosa von Praunheim's bitterly irreverent, outrageous satire about AIDS, which has provoked varying reactions in the gay community, screens the Roxie. The director plays a greedy gay sauna owner whose main worry is what the disease is doing to his business in what film reviewer Judy Block termed "a deadly serious and enormously powerful movie." 3117 16th St., (at Valencia), SF. Times/info: 863-1087.

The Silent Way sponsors **Meditation and Spiritual Healing for Persons with AIDS:** an ongoing group for spiritual awakening, healing ourselves and our community. Open to persons with AIDS and other interested people. Meets every Wed. morning from 9:30-11:30 am. 2333 Turk Blvd. (at Masonic), SF. Info: 386-6753.

25 JUNE THURSDAY

EVENT OF THE WEEK Us Girls, which throws some of the hottest dance parties in SF, presents the third annual Gay Pride Dance Party at the Trocadero Transfer. Dance till dawn to a multicultural dance mix including funk, reggae, salsa, oldies, and the live music of Viva Brasil. Tickets are \$10 at the door, \$8 adv. at Headlines on Castro, Artemis Cafe, Mama Bears, and Woman's Place Bookstore in Oakland. Everyone welcome. 9 pm-4 am. 520 4th St., SF.

Electric City shows on Cable Channel 6 at 9 pm. This month's program features Rita Rockett and son, plus Romanovsky and Phillips. Footage of past Gay Day parades and part two of the Tallulah Bankhead show will also air. Screenings are at Maud's, The Village, and Peg's Place.

Theatre Rhinoceros brings back for a limited engagement its award-winning smash hit *Life of the Party*, written by Doug Holsclaw and directed by



An angelic Elvis (played by Phillip R. Ford) descends on Lipps' comedy club for a special, one-night-only evening of laughter, singing and dancing. "Box Office Poison" also features Miss X, Tippi, Phil Mangano, Alexis A-Go-Go and a host of local luminaries. Sunday, June 21 at 8:30 pm, 201 Ninth Street at Howard, SF. Call 626-9548.

The *Sentinel* welcomes submissions of community and arts events for our weekly calendar. The deadline is eight days (Thursday at 4 pm) or more in advance of Friday publication. Send items to: Calendar Editor, San Francisco Sentinel, 500 Hayes Street, San Francisco, CA 94102.

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MICHELLE RETURNS



DANNY WILLIAMS
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DEENA JONES
Miss Closet Ball, 1984



THE GLIDE ENSEMBLE
From Glide Memorial United Methodist Church



Saturday June 20, 1987

Doors Open 8:00 pm — Show 9:00 pm

**Gift Center Pavilion
(Brannan & 8th Streets)**

CLASSIFIEDS

STRICTLY PERSONAL

ABBREVIATIONS

GGM	GAY BLACK MALE
GOM	GAY ORIENTAL MALE
GWM	GAY WHITE MALE
GJM	GAY JEWISH MALE
BIWM	BISEXUAL W/MALE
BB	BODYBUILDER
FdAP	FRENCH(ORAL) ACTIVE/PASSIVE
GrAP	GREEK(ANAL) ACTIVE/PASSIVE
J/O	MASTURBATION
L/L	LEVILEATHER/SCENES
S/M	SADO-MASOCHISM
B/D	BONDAGE
WWS	WATERSPORTS(LURINE SCENES)
FF	FIST FUCKING
VIA	VERBAL ABUSE
C/BT	COCK & BALL TORTURE
VERS	VERSATILE
PJO	PHONE JACK OFF
PWA	PERSON WITH AIDS
BJ	BLOW JOBS

SOMEWHERE OUT THERE

Young, goodlooking, guy 155 lbs, 5'11" dark hair, hazel eyes, clean shaven boyish all American boy, educated, need a strong stalwart guy. I'm funny, intelligent, active, but lacking a big brother, a guy who likes providing a shoulder now and then. I'm independent and real supportive too. Sexually enjoy wild top guys who can get animal, but also appreciate a guy who is tender as well. I work out, read a lot, enjoy the arts, horses, country life and city living. So write me about yourself. Send a picture. Let's see how far we can go together. Please respond to: Occupant, PO Box 42591, SF, CA 94142. (KAP25)

FACESITTERS W/S & PJO WANTED

Gdkg W/M 36 looking for hot men 18-40 to sit on my face. I'm also into watersports. Write me describing yourself and your interests. Possibilities range from regular action to phone jack off. Phone and photo helpful but optional.

Write: Bill S #237

2215-R Market St.

San Francisco, CA 94114.

(KAP25)

JIM TURNER

Please Call Mom & Dad in Marysville. 659-3512. (KAP25)

ON THE COUCH

JOHN ARMSTRONG

He Never Loved Me

Dear John,
In 1978 I lived with a man who professed to be gay. I was 25 and deeply loved "Ted." Ted always said I was a "pretty boy." We were together only a short time when his family started putting pressure on him to "straighten out." Neither of us was emotionally very strong. Even when Ted said we must separate, I would not agree. He began bringing men home, sleeping with them in the living room while I lay in the bedroom crying. One day Ted introduced me to a woman from his school. She became our friend. One evening some months later Ted went to the opera with this woman, and when he came home he said that he had finally "Done it," i.e., slept with a woman.

To make a long sad story short, Ted left me and eventually married this woman. What I mean by dragging up this long ago period is to reflect that when Ted and I were together as a gay couple, we had no laws to protect us and no societal backdrop to support us. I know what it is like to live in a society unprotected by law and victimized. I still love Ted and think

HUNGRY HEART
36 year old doctor seeks mature, masculine, younger brother/lover under 25 for stable, sexually monogamous relationship. I'm 5'8", 150 lbs, blond hair, blue eyes, mustache, smooth, with gymnast's build; looking for someone my height and weight but hairy. I'm intense, intelligent, very physical (leather oriented and a hungry top) and not afraid of tenderness and intimacy. You are hunky, smart, success oriented, basically bottom in bed, and a good communicator with a warm heart and not afraid to show your emotions. My interests include: spiritual growth, politics, weight lifting, animal sex, massage, music, and traveling. Send letter, photo, and phone number to: M. Ward, 356 Waller St., S.F. CA 94117. No response without photo. (KAP28)

SEEKING PALS & MODELS
I have boyish Hawaiian/Latin good looks, beautiful, lean, muscular physique seeking friendship/romance ... and models for my art photography business specializing in sensuous, non-pornographic photo works (some nudity required) of Latins, Asians, Blonds. You must be handsome, lean and/or muscular. Size unimportant. Phone/photo to: 2215-R Market Street, #284, San Francisco 94114. (KAP25)

COMPETITIVE WRESTLING
In-shape, well-built, muscular WM, 5'11", 190 lbs, 47" chest, 32" waist, 18" arms. Clean-cut athlete, seeks serious wrestling with other men in good shape and stamina. Must be masculine and enjoy hard physical man-to-man contact, 175-230 lbs. Safe, serious wrestling only. 648-1860 until 11 pm. (KAP26)

RIVER S/M
We're both positive I'm a creative top good looking outdoor type 36 6'2" runner build, you're a bottom, together, 30's, fit, we're experienced in safer same bondage, S/M play, trust, caring partnership, no substance abuse. Interested write plus picture: Boxholder PO Box 563 Foresthill CA 95436. (KAP25)

TWIN BROTHER FANTASY
Seek my match. Aggressive, ambitious, together, well-off personally. Totally flexible, naturally masculine, very smart, with shameless attitude about ultimate, intimate, kinky sex. Anything goes mutually. Natural body and uncultured like me preferred. Need a man to share deep secrets with. Call me if you can cut it brother. Back to the warm wet place where we met. Chuck. 648-7791. (KAP26)

SEX MAKES ALL MEN ONE
Peace, joy and the brotherhood of man can be brought into the world through Mystical Gnostic Philalistic War, crime, violence, unhappiness, many disorders and diseases are caused by sexual unfulfillment. Send \$2 for Phallo's Gospel Message: 431-8748. (KAP25)

Christopher Santell
and
Anthony Ellison
Please call Ken Cadry at the District Attorney's office. Very important 553-1572. (KAP25)

I'M BORED WITH JACKING OFF
Bi WM 39, thin, friendly, sense of humor, intelligent but passive, low energy, socially and sexually awkward. Seeks similar guy for slow, safe, non-spectacular sexual experimentation. Prefer very young (18 to 30) thin, smooth, white or oriental guy. Not a stud and don't seek one. I'm just seeking someone compatible who, like me, would prefer occasional friendly, low-key, safe sex to being alone and jacking off. Women OK too. PO Box 22201, SF, CA 94122. (KAP25)

I hate your personal section. My boyfriend of over six months answered one of your personals and found someone he likes better. Now I'm all alone again. Enclosed is my ad, hoping I'll get as lucky as he was. E.R.
San Francisco

much of your trouble with Ted was caused by the fact that being a highly influenceable person, he buckled under to social pressure, and went out and found a relationship more acceptable to his family and peers.

On the other hand, all the laws and social support don't seem to stop straight people from cheating on one another, physically abusing their spouses, and in general treating each other just as shabbily as you describe Ted having treated you. I suspect that your problems with Ted were much more the product of who the two of you were, than the result of social pressure. I have grave doubts that you and Ted could have made a go of it under the best of conditions. Frankly, Ted sounds like a complete schmuck, and you sound like a professional victim. You say you loved Ted, and still love him. For God's sake, why? From beginning to end he treated you with monumental callous disregard. You were his "pretty boy." He had sex with others, and enjoyed it, knowing you were in the next room crying your eyes out. Clearly he had no respect for your feelings or for you. You sign your letter "He never loved me." I strongly suspect you are very right about that. How could someone who loves another treat them the way Ted treated you?

But you say you loved and loved Ted. That I doubt also. Let me ask you this: Did you like Ted? Did you respect him, his values and ideals? My guess is

TRAVELING COMPANION TO JAPAN

Must speak Japanese/English, prefer Japanese or Japanese/American. Slight build essential. In good health. Male only. 35-45 give or take. All travel expenses paid. Month of October, 1987. Letter plus photo to: Sentinel Box 931. All replies answered. I am a WM.

BODY BUILDER

Extremely defined - 9 years of training - 5'7" 145-50 lb A-14v. C44. W 28". To meet other men with rock hard bodies, no flab or fat for body contact - erotic sensual bondage. Massage etc. Safe sex a must. Send Pic with your answer if possible to P.O. Box 5401 Oakland 94605. (KAP26)

SPANKING = SEXUAL PLEASURE

Slap my ass thru my tightest 50's, paddle my bare buns framed in leather chaps, play with my nipples, etc ... Primarily on the receiving end, but may be willing to switch (I like switches too). Attractive GWM with firm ass, 40 59", 145. Please, send note with phone to Sentinel Box 937. (KAP25)

TALL, LIKEABLE GUY

Long and lanky, 6'3" 170 lbs, just turned 39. Caucasian, and ready for a loving friend of any race to share good times together. I'm stable in my computer career and serious about building a playful, safe sex, loving relationship. If you're interested, drop a note (with phone number) to Sentinel Box 924. (KAP25)

COME AND GET IT!

Hot, gym-toned executive daddy, hairy, balding, amorous, hung tight, service from deep throat expert and tight-end receiver. Requirements: 30-45, relationship oriented, masculine, good looking, well-proportioned, non-hirsute, firm, trim or muscular, healthy, dependable, Christian, educated or skilled, non-smoking, self-aware, appreciative, and eager-to-please. 695-7776. (KAP26)

LEATHER SEXLINK

Get off with 100's of Leathermen like you! No phony actors. Private, confidential. No bill to phone but Ingidist. One-on-one, man-to-man connections. Low-cost, 24-hour S&M Hotline. 415/346-8747. (P-00)

WANTED ORIENTAL WHIPMASTER FOR EXQUISITE FLAGELLATION.

Interested in high energy sessions of 5 hrs to 3 days. Prefer martial arts buff. All S/M devotions considered with delight. English not necessary. I am a dedicated Whipmaster myself, noted for remarkable stamina & endurance. Cauc. 6'3", 190 lbs. Age 54. Bushy brown hair. Bad teeth. Large slender frame. Wide muscular butt. Hugh, powerful, sensitive hands. But I need a remarkable master to satiate my hunger. With love, Brian, c/o Richard. 2215-R Market, #449. SF 94115. (KAP25)

SLIM ASIAN WANTED

Sincere WM, 37, 6'2", 170 lbs, slim, blue eyes, relationship oriented, seeks warm hearted slim Asian 20-38. Open to many interests; some of mine: music, massage, movies, meditation, swimming, psychology. I don't smoke and don't particularly enjoy bars. Write: Bob, POB 14794, SF 94114. (KAP25)

KINKY BUDDY — PAUL S.

Paul: Your response to my ad was hot. Unfortunately you didn't enclose a phone number or address. Write me again at Sentinel Box 905, so we can kick back with a beer and a slave and watch that porno. Write me soon! Buddy — hot times ahead! (KAP25)

THICK DAD MEAT

For eager, lean boy ready to deep throat Dadik. You must strip'n sweat in Dad's yard: for goodlookin', obedient, masculine hard working son, only! Describe yourself well! Be ready to show Dad yr tit's n' pits if you're my life sweatson! Call NOW: 24 HRS. 548-0842. — Serious son solely, not size — (KAP25)

Continued on next page

how you mistreated you but you never did one blessed thing to stop it. He asked you to leave him. You didn't. He brought men home. So why were you crying in the bedroom instead of yelling in the living room? You could have driven those other men out of your home if you had wanted to, had you not preferred the martyr role. Are you trying to tell me that you couldn't have left Ted and found someone else? Someone who might have fought for you, stood up to his family and said "This is the man I love. Accept us as a couple, or else." A man who would choose not to play around out of respect for your feelings?

So why are you still mooning around over Ted? Why are you writing me about it 9 years later? I strongly suggest you take a good hard look at your attraction for the victim role. And from here on out make as the primary consideration in choosing a mate, that he be the sort of man who can treat you with love and respect.

John Armstrong is a Marriage, Family and Child Counselor in private practice here in San Francisco. He specializes in individual and couples work with gay men. If you have a question for the column please send it addressed to him to the Sentinel, 500 Hayes St. San Francisco, CA 94102. If the question is not used in the column, he will try to answer you personally if you enclose a SASE. If you wish to see him professionally call 552-2974 to arrange an appointment.

SENTINEL CLASSIFIEDS

Continued from previous page

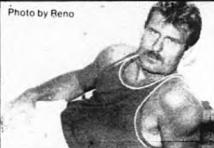
ASIAN COMPANION WANTED
Educated, professional GWM, 5'9", 160 lbs, 36, seeks friendship/relationship with Asians under 30. If you value honesty and loyalty, appreciate mature thinking, are discreet, write: John, PO Box 715, Pacifica, CA 94044. Photo appreciated. All letters answered.

MAIL BOX AD REPLIES

to
**San Francisco
SENTINEL**

Box #
500 Hayes St.
San Francisco, CA
94102

MASSAGE



FULL MASSAGE
RON \$40 In 775-7057

Jack McCallister
Certified Massage
Therapist and Rebirther
(415) 282-3758
By appointment only

MARK
HANDSOME
HEALTHY
CLEAN CUT
558-8585

FULL BODY MASSAGE
Enjoy a relaxing, therapeutic massage from a trained, mature professional. I am certified in several types of massage and use a combination for a fantastic feeling. \$30. Call Roy, 8am to 10pm at 621-1302. (KMA26)

ECSTATIC TRANSPORT
Sensual and relaxing massage will wait you away to greater well-being and liberated pleasure while recharging your erotic energy. The massage is a slow, deep Esalen-style nurturing done by a personable, trained expert in a caring, loving way. It's a sensational experience you'll love!
GARY 821-1005
(MA25)

RENTALS

GAY SHELTER
A shared room, all meals and immediate work is available now at the U.S. Mission.
2 Locations:
788 O'Farrell
86 Golden Gate Avenue
Or call
775-5866 or 775-6446

NOW!

3 Day Special
\$69.95 + Tax
\$99 + Tax Weekly
(2 week minimum)
CALL TODAY

SENTINEL PERSONAL CONTEST

Each Friday afternoon there will be a drawing and the lucky winner will be awarded a personal ad (50 words or less) in two subsequent issues of the SF SENTINEL. Fill out the coupon below and **RUSH** to:

SENTINEL PERSONAL CONTEST
500 HAYES STREET
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94102

You may enter as frequently as you wish, but only one entry per envelope. Please print.

NAME _____ ADDRESS _____
CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____
PHONE NUMBER _____

BORED IN SAN JOSE
I'm GWM, 40, 5'8", 160, average looking, intelligent, funny, affectionate, with varied interests from arts to politics to nature. You're sincere, 25 to 40, with compatible interests? We'll share lively conversation, have safe fun, and work toward a relationship. No drugs. Letter and photo to Sentinel Box 938. (VP25)

HORNY PWAs
and ARC, test positives — to meet others of the "cruising impaired," call 552-2925. (No \$). (CP27)

WM 158 lbs 5'10" all muscle, healthy, hung 10" plus, thick, into JO only with other well hung only. PO Box 4299, 2022 Taraval, SF, CA 94116. (KAP24)

LET OUR ADVERTISERS KNOW
Say you saw it in the *Sentinel*

ALEX, 861-1362
A warm and loving masseur. A slow, deep & sensual massage. In/out. Anytime. You'll love it! (KMA-00)

ORIENTAL FULL-BODY MASSAGE
Oriental fullbody massage given by nude smooth goodlooking Asian, 26. Older man welcome. Downtown area. Free parking or easy transportation. 24 hrs. In/out. Bob. 474-4185. (CMA25)

BEST MASSAGE OF YOUR LIFE!
By professional certified masseur, seven years of experience. Sensitive, caring, very handsome hunk relaxes your body-mind-spirit. Specializes in deep, firm, sensual, hot-oil Swedish. Surprise birthday massages for friends and lovers available. Castro area, 9 am-9 pm, weekdays and weekends. William 626-6210, PWAs welcomed.

OUT TO RELAX?
Want someone professional and friendly? I give a full body massage in the nude. I am a Norwegian man, 28, fit, bodybuilder and swimmer. Handsome and clean cut. Certified \$30 In 24 hrs. (KMA25)

ORIENTAL FULLBODY MASSAGE
Oriental Fullbody Massage given by nude smooth nice body gals. Asian 26. Older men welcome. In/out. 24 hrs. BOB 626-2051

INTRODUCTORY SPECIAL
Relaxing, sensual full body hot-oil massage. Luxurious, non-hurried, nurturing session — \$30. M-F after 6 pm, SA, SU am & pm. Certified massage therapist through Body Electric School of Massage and Rebirthing.

BRUCE 282-6879
IN only, Potrero Hill. (MMA27)

**Not Too Shy Are You?
ASIAN OR LATIN?**
Hi! Handsome, aggressive, blond stud, defined physique, clean & healthy, massages in the nude. EXPERIENCED \$35/in
RON 776-0472

VERY HANDSOME YOUNG MAN
Will give great massage. Likes to play on the side. Well-hung. Mark. 441-6808.

TREAT YOURSELF
30 min. — \$15
60 min. — \$25
80 min. — \$35
Sliding Scale for Persons With AIDS
David E. Held - Certified
864-3857



BE GOOD TO YOURSELF
Enjoy a therapeutic massage by a certified Swedish/Shiatsu bodyworker. My touch is nurturing and healing, both gentle and deep to release tension, ease pain and balance energy. \$35 for 90 minutes. Castro location.

DAVID BLUMBERG
552-0473

Very hot young man offers soothing massage for your aching muscles. Athletes, dancers and other physically occupied men especially welcome.

\$30/hr. Certified RAY 334-0517
(CMA 27)

GAY RESCUE MISSION
Wants to rent house, storefront or artist's studio for social services and food programs. Member: SF Food Bank and Emergency Food Box Program. Tax-deductible donations, food, clothing needed for the hungry. Volunteer with car needed to transport food, and volunteer to operate Emergency Shelter Hotline. G.R.M., PO Box 6141, SF 94101 (KP25)

DEEP THROAT EXPERT
I like to give regular service to guys with huge cocks. Race, cut or uncut not important. No rubbers and no one under 10% (measuring from the top only). No \$\$. Sentinel box 902. Satisfaction guaranteed.

DISH SESSIONS?
Tired old obese auntie seeks same for evenings of vicious gossip. Must be knowledgeable of voluminous scandalous vicious gossip of personalities in the gay community. If not qualified, don't waste my time. Sentinel Box 936. (PP24)

SENSUAL PLUS
Stimulate and revitalize your erotic and pleasure centers with a nude, professional, deep muscle, oil massage, by a certified acupressure and reflexology expert. I'm 29, attractive, nurturing and aim to please. \$30. in, \$40. out. Call John 861-0843. (CMA25)

TRIP TO ECSTASY!
Come to my massage! Full body -buns & legs my specialty! Hot man 6'10" br;br/moust. Call Russ anytime In/out \$40/50 add \$5.00 for VISA/MC. 647-0944 Try me! (VMA27)

SENSUAL MASSAGE
By Hot Man
Out Only
Kyle 824-2312
(CMA25)

<EROTIC MASSAGE>
Hard working - Good looking - Stress reducing - Safe - Perfect for men on the go. 1st class, clean apartment, fireplace, loving hands to revitalize mind, body, spirit, 5'11" - 160 lbs., brown, green, smooth, uncut, Joe; 346-2821 - 95 For Men Only (KMA30)

INTEGRAL HOLISTIC MASSAGE
Massage that calms the spirit by releasing bodily constraints — bringing to you the healing and creative energies arising from a relaxed state of being. 821-2351 Max — When you wish your optimum performance to be habitual. (KMA00)

**SENSITIVE — MASSAGE
— RELAXATION**
Body Electric Student
RICHARD FEY
\$20/hr
(limited times avail.)
221-9205
(KMS26)

**AH, THE UNMARKED
DOOR TO PARADISE**

The hands of an angel in the heart of the Castro. Certified Swedish/Esalen masseur. 18th and Noe. 70 minutes, a mere \$30. Jim 864-2430. (KMA25)

ONE BEDROOM APARTMENT
in quiet building. Spacious, remodeled one-bedroom apartment with large kitchen & patio. Wood stove in front room. Fell near Laguna. \$495. References. Call us: Joe 884-6591

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VILLAGE SQUARE APTS.
\$700 up — 1 Bedroom
\$900 up — 2 Bedroom, 2 Bath
\$1050 up — 3 Bedroom, 2 Bath

New wall to wall carpets, drapes, self-cleaning oven, dishwasher, disposal, underground garage included. Heated pool, sauna, billiards, fireside lounge, exercise rooms, ping-pong. Coin laundry rooms. Keyed entry doors, elevators, easy transportation. Shopping across street. Quiet. Manager on premises 7 days. No pets.

Village Square Apartments
Diamond Heights Area
285-1231
(FR-00)

**HOT HEALTHY TOP
SEEKS BOTTOM**
Italian man 38, good body, tested neg, seeks smooth bottom 20-35 for weekend friendship & Safe Sex with condoms. Must be able to commit to regular basis. Contact once a week for sex, sensuality & friendship & maybe more? NO one night stands. Blonde or light hair or masculine an extra, but not vital. Phone 7-9pm weekdays. Tony 653-4545. (KP25)

THE BEST
**SENTINEL CLASSIFIEDS ARE
UPSIDE DOWN**

FACELESS FANTASY VIDEO
Seek White/Latin men with HUGE cocks for private video. No faces filmed, just crotch shots, J.O. exhibition, & glory hole action. Bring a blank tape if you want a copy of your segment. No pay, just fun. To see if you measure up: when hard, look down at your dick and from the top side measure out to 8 inches and up. NO EXCEPTIONS. Please leave your number. Tom 285-4196. (KP25)



MARTIN
431-6965

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Say you saw it in the *Sentinel*.

★ ★ PHILLIP ★ ★ ★
Good natured model-masseur. Handsome, clean-cut and discreet. 864-5566

MASCULINE BLK MASSAGE
Hot, black model. Quality service full-body massage. 60", 190" inches of packable meat/versatile bottom, lean back and have your chops serviced. Open to serious inquiry only. Will escort to affairs. Open. Call for details. ROB 863-5702

DREAM MASSAGE
Hung 9" bisexual, exceptional handsome, muscular, speedo tan, blonde/blue. Are you a yng. Asian or Latin guy, sensitive & nice? I have a special rate for you. RON 776-0472

DOUBLE THE PLEASURE!
We combine Swedish/Shiatsu techniques in a playful, skilled massage. If you enjoy excellent massage and warm, intimate company — we're twice as good. Singles/doubles available. PETER & JAMES 864-5483
Centrally located in SF.

VICTORIAN
2 BR F/P porch, view. Gay building Oak-Webster. \$750 & Sec. Steve 626-4443. (KR25)

1 BEDROOM FLAT
New paint, carpet & Leveilours & kitchen cabinets. Near Civic Center. \$595. month, no pets please. 558-0469. (CR25)

\$500 Large Sunny Studio & Dinette. View, Hardwood Floors, Cable, Laundry, Transportation, Garage avail, 600 Fell, 626-2041. (BR00)

LIGHT CORNER APARTMENT
Remodeled one bedroom in four unit building. Carpeted throughout. Living room with fireplace. Full dining room. Complete kitchen with stove, refrigerator, disposal & dishwasher. Laundry available. Easy parking. Good neighbors. Scott near Geary. \$725. Call 922-7305. (CR25)

FURNISHED ROOM
Private Home, Phone, Stereo, Color or TV, Use of All Electric Kitchen. \$500/mo & up. 821-3330

UPSCALE, LUXURY LIVING
Beautifully furnished room in private home. All amenities. Must see to believe. Near K & L & M lines. (Gents preferred). ST. FRANCIS CWOOD — WEST PORTAL. Call after 6 pm weekdays, anytime weekends. \$500. up. 731-2830

SAUNA JACUZZI SUNDECK
COLOR TV FRIENDLY STAFF
LOW RATES
HOTEL CASA LOMA
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San Francisco
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Casa Loma
San Francisco

Bunkhouse Apts.
Office: 419 Ivy Street
San Francisco
Mon.-Fri. 1-6 PM
Or By Appointment

Commercial Space Available for Retail

STUDIO	419 Ivy #8	\$500
STUDIO	419 Ivy #16	\$550
STUDIO	419 Ivy #30	\$550
1 B.R. FLAT	458 Ivy	\$600
LG. FLAT	633 Hayes	\$750

Stove, refrigerator, carpets and curtains included. First and last months rent required. No deposits. Must be employed.

863-6262

SENTINEL CLASSIFIEDS

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OF SAN FRANCISCO

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SINCE 1968 WITH
SAN FRANCISCO'S FINEST

MALE MODELS
& COMPANIONS

STANDARD RATES
HOUR DAY OR WEEK
Models & Companions Around Town

• Please Book Early •
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In City Personal Checks
with proper ID are OK
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are Screened for your
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Peace of Mind so
STAY HEALTHY WITH

RICHARD
OF SAN FRANCISCO

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Applicants Needed
Must Be Exceptional

MOVING AND HAULING

DAVID'S HAULING

Fast and efficient at reasonable rates. Evening hours available. One, two, or three men depending on the job. Lent a hand and lower the cost or let us do it all. Call David at 821-2691.

MOVING? NEED DELIVERY?
Will move or deliver anything.
Fast, efficient and careful.
Low rates, personal service.

Call Jason at
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be sure that your move
is right"

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MOVERS
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Specialists in
office & households
Licensed & Insured

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JOB WANTED

HIGH ENERGY G/W/M
Seeks challenging P/T, F/T position.
Self-starter. Great with people. Excellent organizational skills. Accounting and computer knowledge (Lotus 1,2,3 and Wang Word Processor). Willing to travel. Christopher 665-2923. (KJW24)

DIRECTOR/CHOREOGRAPHER
Production-manager, road-manager, stage-manager with experience on Broadway, movies, TV, summer-stock, dinner-theatre, cabaret, community and educational theatre. New to Bay Area seeking employment. I have a wealth of knowledge and experience that could be very beneficial for your next production. Resume submitted upon request. Rodgers 558-9695 (JW25)

PERSONAL AIDE

WILL TRAVEL
Have passport, great personality! Youthful straight appearance. Enjoys new people, places and things. Secretarial experiences include typing 100 wpm, computer knowledge, word processing and accounting. Christopher 665-2923. (KJW27)

S & M EDUCATION

A sure instinct about pleasure and pain doesn't fit into the usual alphabet code of C&B, S&M, B&D, etc. If you're thinking about expanding your sexual horizons, waiting for a man you can trust, this is it! Call Roger at 864-5566, a short, clean-cut BB, intelligent, handsome, and absolutely expert top, no matter how much or how little experience you've had.

ITALIAN DADDY
Hung and Hairy
239-8419

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MANHANDLER--

Wrestling jock will turn you every which way, 30, 5'11", 160, aggressive, clean-cut body builder into sweaty action. Rough but safe give and take. Massage also. Out only.

Matt 824-2312

(CME25)

* SPARTAN RUNNER *

Young, Slender, Smooth

Masculine

AARON

469-7221

MASCULINE BLK MASSAGE

Hot, black model. Quality service full-body massage. 6'0", 190, 8" inches of packable meat/versatile bottom, lean back and have your chops serviced. Open to serious inquiry only. Will escort to affairs. Open. Call for details.

ROB 863-5702
(M E 25)

LOW HANGERS!!

Short, Bearded, Hunk, 8", Safe
\$60/\$75, 24 Hrs.
EARL 626-5982
(CME25)

HUNG STUD

Thick and Big

GUS (415)469-7221

★ ★ YNG. STUD ★ ★

24, 6', 150#
9" x 6 1/2"

Bro, Blu, Moust.

HAIRY CHEST

Smooth Defined Body
24 Hrs. In/Out

★ ★ 'RICK' ★ ★
★ ★ (415) 431-9716 ★ ★

► SEXY BOY ◀

22
Good Looking • Nice Body
Very Well Endowed
► SCOTT ◀
(415) 771-0552

Mr. Fantasy

Mr. Fantastic

Hairy, Handsome & Hung
6'2", brown hair, green eyes
SAN FRANCISCO MODEL

• TOTALLY SAFE •

- Mr. Construction Worker
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- Mr. Policeman (NYPD or CHP)
- Daddy Knows Best
- Mr. Big Black Boots
- Act out your dreams with the

MASTER OF YOUR FANTASY

648-5304

HUNKY SWED

Hairy, masc., hung, big hangers,
6'3", 195 lbs, blin/blu, round the
clock action.

AXEL 863-0252

(C M E 25)



HEAVENLY BODIES

HOT YOUNG STUDS READY

TO PLEASE

MODELS • ESCORTS • MASSAGE

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WE CAN SATISFY ANY PALATE

REASONABLE RATES • 24 HRS

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(KME-27)

\$25 - HOT ATHLETE, HUNG NICE.
BILL 441-1054, MASSAGE, ETC.

COMM. OUTREACH SPECIALIST A

Responsible for developing programs of AIDS education outreach to gay/bi men, including minorities, in Alameda Cty, using Stop AIDS model. Experienced with AIDS education, volunteer supervision, public speaking, ed. material level., gay/bi/minority communities preferred. Non-profit organization. \$22,800-\$26,400 full-time, benefits. Send resume by 6/30 to AIDS Ed. Dir., POB 908, Berkeley, CA 94701. Job description available by calling 420-8181; no other phone inquiry please.

(JO26)

PROGRAM ASSISTANT

Non-profit East Bay organization seeks clerical & misc. support for AIDS education department. AIDS/minority sensitive, good typing, word processing, org. office & verbal skills. \$9.25-11/hr, 20 hrs/wk, prorated benefits. Send resume by 6/30 to AIDS Ed. Dir., POB 908, Berkeley, CA 94701. Job description available by calling 420-8181; no other phone inquiry please.

(JO26)

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LEASE BROKERAGE

With more than 50 fund sources is experiencing rapid growth. We will train you to work your own hours, as a Lease Broker. Chris — (415) 467-8842, between 9 am and 4 pm. Thank you. (MBO28)

HOMOSEXUAL EXPERIENCES

Intelligent, sensitive, goodlooking writer/photographer working on new book to publicize the spiritually positive aspects of selective promiscuous homosexuality: Cash or barter for your ideas, experiences and/or photo session. Main interests: situations or relations which taught you something. Also early experiences, feelings and relations. Call Steve 864-8597.

(JO33)

HEALTH PRODUCTS

New distributors needed for natural herbal products. Not sold in stores. Call for information on a great financial opportunity. See ad under personal growth.

CHRISTINE SIMPSON

(415) 923-0987

Continued on next page

OFFICE OF THE POLICE COMMISSION CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO

HALL OF JUSTICE
850 BRYANT STREET
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA 94103

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

8128 DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF CITIZEN COMPLAINTS

SALARY RANGE: \$44,316 to \$53,844 per year.

DESCRIPTION OF THE AGENCY: The Office of Citizen Complaints investigates all complaints of police misconduct or allegations that a member of the Police Department has not properly performed a duty, except complaints lodged by other members of the Police Department. It recommends disciplinary action to the Chief of Police on those complaints that are sustained. It prepares recommendations to the Police Commission concerning policies or practices of the Police Department which could be changed or amended to avoid unnecessary tension with the public while assuring effective police services.

DESCRIPTION OF THE POSITION: The Director is appointed by, serves at the pleasure of, is under the general direction of and reports directly to the Police Commission, which consists of five citizens appointed by the Mayor. The Director is exempt from Civil Service examination, and is prohibited by the Charter from being a former or current civilian or sworn employee of the San Francisco Police Department.

DUTIES: The Director administers the activities of the Office of Citizen Complaints, which include, but are not limited to, the development of policies, rules, methods and procedures necessary to carry out the mandate of the Office of Citizen Complaints through effective and efficient day-to-day operations; assigns, reviews, and evaluates the work of subordinate investigators and support personnel; supervises investigation of complaints, scheduling of hearings and maintenance of records; supervises and participates in preparation of a variety of reports, including summaries of complaints, disposition data, quarterly statistical reports, and recommendations to the Police Commission; represents the Police Commission at various community meetings and conferences.

QUALIFICATIONS:

At least three (3) years of significant experience conducting investigations, and three (3) years of demonstrated administrative leadership. Examples of qualifying experience include conducting investigations for public defenders, district attorneys, social welfare institutions, and other federal, state, or local agencies which maintain investigation functions within their organizations.

Baccalaureate degree highly desirable, but may be substituted for, on a year-for-year basis, by administrative/managerial level investigative experience.

No felony convictions. Additionally, candidates will be subject to a review of their background history including criminal records.

Valid California driver's license upon employment.

Demonstrated awareness of and sensitivity to the various ethnic, racial, cultural, socio-economic, and lifestyles of a diverse urban community.

APPLICATION PROCESS: Interested individuals must submit a resume detailing their employment history and provide three (3) employer references and three (3) character references not related naturally or by marriage.

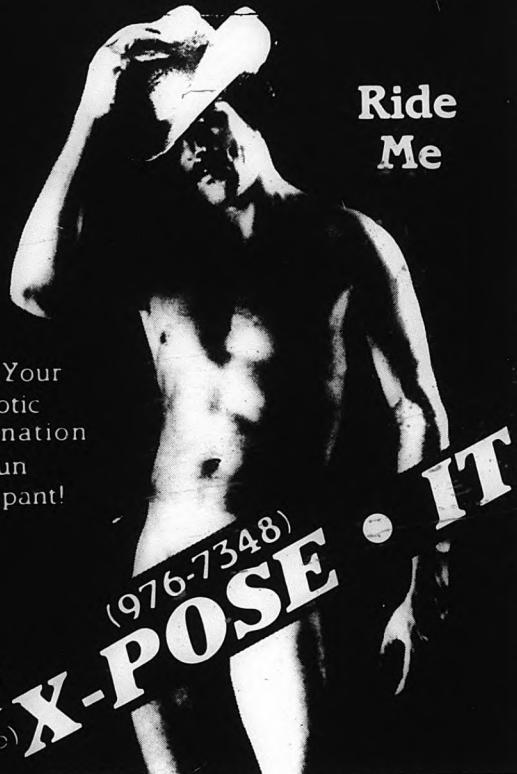
Applicants must submit with their resume a statement explaining their interest in being employed as the Director, Office of Citizen Complaints and describe their perceptions of the problems that may be encountered when a civilian unit investigates the activities of police personnel. The statement shall not exceed one (1) typewritten page.

The resume, references, and statement must be filed by June 19, 1987 with the:

San Francisco Police Commission
Hall of Justice, Room 505
San Francisco, CA 94103

an EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

It is the policy of the City and County of San Francisco to eliminate discrimination based upon race, religion, color, ancestry, age, sex, sexual orientation, disability or place of birth. Persons within these groups are encouraged to apply for this position.



The Hottest Erotic Message In Town!

Adults Only • \$2.00 per call

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ONE ON ONE
PRIVATE CONVERSATION
SHARE YOUR FANTASIES
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MEAT ME.



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The man of your fantasies may be just a call away!

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