

San Francisco
Sentinel

Special Lesbian & Gay Freedom Day Issue



Art Agnos is Proud of the Enemies He's Made...

Lyndon Larouche lists Art Agnos as first in his list of "the most prominent and active members of this [AIDS] lobby...", which he describes as "a powerful coalition of politicians, including congressmen long associated with pro-homosexual and pro-drug positions..." and "calls on citizens...to retire them from political life."

Congressman **William Dannemyer** calls Art Agnos the "spokesman for the male homosexuals of the state" because Art Agnos passed the nation's foremost AIDS antibody test law banning mandatory testing and employment and insurance discrimination.

State Senator **John Doolittle** told reporters after Art Agnos brought U.S. Surgeon General Dr. C. Everett Koop to the State Capitol, "We have the president's chief health official being paraded around by the chief political spokesman for the homosexual community — I don't think Ronald Reagan would be pleased."

State Senator **H.L. Richardson** said this about Art Agnos' bill to protect against antigay bias: "Assemblyman Agnos' AB-1 is a bill that would prohibit an employer from firing a homosexual employee because of his sexual kinkiness or prohibit an employer from discriminating against faggots because they prefer to grope with the fellas rather than gals."



...Because He's Proud to be a Friend of the Lesbian/Gay Community

Alice B. Toklas Democratic Club Plaque, 1978
California Human Rights Annual Award, 1980
Community United Against Violence, Outstanding Work in Behalf of Victims of Violent Crimes, 1981
Cable Car 1982 Dorothy Langston Human Rights Award
Harvey Milk Lesbian and Gay Democratic Club Plaque, 1984
Bay Area Lawyers for Individual Freedom, Legal Achievement Award, 1984
Golden Gate Business Association Plaque, 1985
California AIDS Community "Architect" Award, 1986
Bay Area Physicians for Human Rights, Humanitarian of the Year Award, 1986

Harvey Milk Lesbian and Gay Democratic Club
Hon. Tom Nolan
Hon. Steve Schulte
Hon. James Foster
Roberta Achtenberg
Fran Miller
Pat Norman
Roma Guy
Connie O'Connor
Dennis McShane, M.D.
Mary Dunlap
Matt Coles
Sally Gearhart

Tom Waddell, M.D.
Zohn Artman
Maurice Belote
George Raya
Sharon Johnson
Maggie Rubenstein
Rick Stokes
Paul Volberding, M.D.
Rob Eichberg
Richard Gordon
Simeon White
Cleve Jones
Robert Barnes
Tanyan Corman

Marga Gomez
Phillip DeAndrade
Paul Melbostad
Catherine Cusic
Tish Pearlman
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Steve Morin, Ph.D.
Jerry DeJong
Robert Nakatani
Bruce Decker
David Mixner

Richard Allman
Robert Beatty
Robert Casetta
Larry Bush
Mike Housh
Lester Olmstead-Rose
Arthur Lazere
Russ Fields
Margot Hageman
Alan French
Don Knutson
Ann Jennings
Ken Yager
Alvin Baum

John Bickel
Scott Shafer
Robert Dockendorff
Fred Dunnett
Zach Nethercot
Frank Eppich
Larry Francis
Ron Braithwaite
Ran Hobbs
Rob Hines
Michael Frank
Mark Hetts
Brazdy Moore
Partial List

You Can't Stand Up with Lesbians and Gay Men Without Making Some Enemies...Can You?

LESBIANS AND GAYS FOR ART AGNOS FOR MAYOR COMMITTEE

Paid for by Art Agnos for Mayor Committee

Supreme Court Shafts Gay Olympics

by Bob Marshall and David M. Lowe

Reaction to Thursday's US Supreme Court ruling against the founders of the Gay Olympics was swift and angry.

"I have to say to the USOC [United States Olympic Committee]: Gay Olympics, Gay Olympics, Gay Olympics," said attorney Mary Dunlap, who lobbied on behalf of Gay Games founder Dr. Tom Waddell before the high court, at a press conference in front of the San Francisco federal courthouse. "No one has yet to find a law that can prevent me from using words. We can be locked up, we can be stopped, we can be fined, we can be punished, but we are going to use our First Amendment rights."

Waddell has AIDS and was too ill to appear, but he sent a message that was read by a supporter.

"Why are gay people the only people in the world who can't use [the word

olympics]?" asked Waddell, referring to the widespread use of "olympics" to describe athletic contests ranging from the Police Olympics to the Special Olympics for disabled people. "I think

the Supreme Court has permanently sullied the meaning of the First Amendment. It appears that it only protects the powerful."

In a 5-4 decision, the justices ruled that the United States Olympic Committee, by congressional decree, has exclusive commercial rights to use the word "olympic," and that the USOC cannot be sued even if it was enforcing its rights against the Gay Olympics in a discriminatory fashion.

Dunlap told reporters that she has asked newly-elected Congresswoman Nancy Pelosi to introduce legislation to "fix the mess the Supreme Court just made."

Pelosi said she was "deeply dismayed" by the decision, and promised to "assess the possibility of a legislative solution." She also praised

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NGRA Sues Feds Over AIDS Treatments

by David M. Lowe

On Wednesday, National Gay Rights Advocates (NGRA) filed a class action lawsuit against three federal agencies to act immediately to test and make widely available the many new and safe drugs that hold promise for the treatment of AIDS.

In the complaint filed with the US District in Washington DC, NGRA charged the National Institutes of Health (NIH), the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and the US Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) with forcing law-abiding citizens to become criminals in a desperate effort to save their own lives.

NGRA accused the FDA of ignoring or seriously delaying the consideration and testing of several drugs including,

Ampligen, Isoprinsine, AL 721, Ribavirin and others.

The complaint further alleged that NIH has failed to responsibly expend \$47 million appropriated by Congress for the treatment of AIDS patients with experimental drugs.

"We know that HHS, FDA and the NIH are well aware of a number of encouraging drug therapies and treatments," said Jean O'Leary, Executive Director of NGRA. "We also know

that they are not doing enough to make them available to seriously ill and dying people."

The unprecedented class action suit was filed on behalf of the 1.5 million people who have AIDS virus. Of that number, 37,386 have developed AIDS, 21,621 people have died.

Currently only one drug, AZT, has received FDA approval and is widely available to people with AIDS.

NGRA applauded the accelerated testing of AZT on a fast track for approval, but accused the FDA of "arbitrary and capricious behavior" in its inconsistent approval of AIDS drugs.

"We refuse to tolerate one further day of confusion, delays and scientific secrets. It is our intent with this lawsuit to ensure that therapeutic drugs are made available to people with AIDS quickly and safely. We will settle for nothing less because until then, the responsibility for each AIDS death lies with every one of us," said O'Leary.

"Our purpose is not to find villains, but rather to correct a flawed system. We want to save lives. We want to cure the sick. The system for developing AIDS drugs is a sad testimony to our government's inability to handle the nation's number one health crisis." ■

CRIR Picks Molinari

by George Mendenhall

San Francisco Supervisor John L. Molinari picked up his first lesbian/gay political club endorsement Tuesday night with a landslide margin over his four opponents.

Concerned Republicans for Individual Rights (CRIR) endorsed Molinari for mayor with the support of 71% of the membership. City Attorney Louise Renne was a distant second with 11%. Assemblyman Art Agnos and former SF Chief Administrative Officer Roger Boas garnered 6% each. Nightclub owner Cesar Ascarrunz received 2% of the vote with 4% of the 48 members present choosing none of the above.

The gay Republicans' endorsement of Molinari came as no surprise. Molinari was a charter member of the Republican group formed ten years ago and was endorsed by four former club presidents.

Democrat Molinari was pensive and relaxed as he addressed many of the members that he knew personally from his Republican days. He said he was

proud of his relationship with the GOP club over 10 years and, "It is not so much what party you belong to but what you stand for. I believe you know what that is. You represent a segment of the community that needs to be heard, and I think that in part I have represented that voice. In a Molinari administration there will be a place for gay and non-gay Republicans. I have not changed that much."

Agnos sent activist Pat Norman to speak for him. Louise Renne, Cesar Ascarrunz, Roger Boas and Molinari were there in person to seek support.

When asked about gay bathhouses, Boas said he had urged their closure and Renne said, "It was handled as it should have been — as a medical problem." The others said they thought they could have been kept open, and Molinari added, "The gay community

is smart enough to know what multiple sex contacts mean and they were closed due to lack of activity."

The domestic partners issue surfaced. This was a plan whereby city employees could name their "significant other" as a health beneficiary and involved registering non-marital partners at City Hall. All appeared to support the idea if acceptable legislation was introduced.

Agnos was not expected to pick up the endorsement and did not lobby the club in advance. Norman reminded CRIR that Agnos had consistently supported gay rights during a decade of service in Sacramento. She said this included supporting gay people in areas of job discrimination and AIDS-related legislation, working against the Briggs initiative, and helping fund CUAV and gay minority youth programs "before it was fashionable."

Chris Bowman, former aide to Senator Milton Marks, asked Norman why Agnos has not attended lesbian and gay functions in the city as Marks has done. She replied, "I have told Art I was not thrilled with his lack of visibility. He has explained that, for the most part, he has made Sacramento his home. It is difficult for him to get down here as his focus has been on getting his legislation and programs passed — rather than on attending social events."

Boas criticized the Golden Gate

Continued on page 13



Assemblyman Art Agnos (D-SF) speaks out against homeporting the battleship Missouri in SF Bay at a press conference on Wednesday.

Issue: Missouri Homeporting

by Bob Marshall

A group of San Francisco artists are concerned that the US Navy's battleship Missouri may blow them clear out of Hunters Point into Oakland, Emeryville and the South Bay. Assemblyman and mayoral candidate Art Agnos has joined their efforts to oppose a Memorandum of Understanding between the city and the Navy, and to preserve the artist's compound.

Agnos joined the artists Wednesday afternoon at a press conference outside City Hall before a joint hearing of the Board of Supervisors' Land Use and Finance committees. If approved, the

Memorandum of Understanding would spell out the city's intention to dredge the bay to make room for the battleship, and to provide transportation,

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Macy's, Emporium Boycott Threatened

by George Mendenhall

Macy's and the Emporium, two of the city's major department stores, are attempting to drop from their union contract a clause that bars discrimination against lesbians and gay men. In their current negotiations, the stores are demanding that Department Store Employees Union #1100 allow them to drop the clause with the argument that job rights are already guaranteed under city, state and federal law.

Actually, there are no legal job protections in current state or federal law, and the city gay rights ordinance is being tested in court here. The union has its own demands — expanding the contract to include bereavement pay and health benefits for same-sex partners.

Howard Wallace, Lesbian and Gay Labor Alliance official, said he is informing management personnel that there is a boycott pending. He urged, "If that clause goes out of the contract there should be a boycott because it would be an insult to all minorities. There is a clause in the local gay rights ordinance, but there's no protection on the state and federal level. The union grievance procedure is the most direct and expedient route for us. We do not want to give that up." Wallace organized

unions against the LaRouche (Prop. 64) initiative and currently heads the local

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About the Cover

The Sentinel's cover for this special Gay Pride '87 issue was specially commissioned from Oakland artist Lawrence Pinkney. Numerous details from Pinkney's neo-constructivist, air-brushed drawing are repeated in the design for "Power, Language and Gay Love," an essay by Mark Schoof included on pages 19-22. Both the cover and design for Schoof's essay were produced under the art direction of Rupert Kinnard.

High School Outreach Program Delivers Pride and Education

by Corinne Lightweaver

What's pride all about? Meet Patrick Mulcahey and Sally Canjura, our ambassadors to the next generation of heterosexual voters. Thanks to them and almost three dozen fellow ambassadors, the kids graduating from San Francisco high schools this June hopefully won't be carrying a heavy load of fear and homophobia out into the world along with their diplomas. And a few baby dykes and boy-loving boys will have an easier time because they know they aren't the only ones.

Mulcahey, Canjura, and their compatriots are volunteers for the Lesbian/Gay Speakers Bureau, a program of Community United Against Violence (CUAV). The Speakers Bureau has existed for about 10 years under the auspices of various Bay Area organizations, coming under CUAV's wing in 1984. Its primary focus is to send gay men and lesbians into high school family life education classes to talk about their communities and their individual experiences.

The program supports CUAV's goal of minimizing and eliminating violence against gays and lesbians because it

been volunteers for three years and the two often make classroom presentations together. Mulcahey is a former teacher who now writes soap operas. Canjura is a member of the San Francisco Flag Corps.

Both say their experience in the Speakers Bureau has increased their own pride and self-confidence.

"It's rewarding in the way most volunteer work for a worthy cause is," say Mulcahey, "but more than that, it really challenges the depth of your self-acceptance. You have people asking, 'Wouldn't you rather be straight?' ... You have to be very honest with them

Despite all the anti-gay training children receive, speakers find that the kids are generally responsive and open to learning after the initial wariness wears off. Whatever fear or hostility is present usually melts by 'the sheer normalcy of having two gay people stand up in front of them for 45 minutes.'

targets the group that has been most likely, in the past, to commit anti-gay violence. Previously, a high proportion of violence had been committed by youth 16-24 years old. Now that pattern has shifted to a slightly older group from 18-32 years old.

Both Mulcahey and Canjura have

and with yourself, and really be sure that you like being you."

Canjura agrees.

"You look more into yourself because of the questions they ask you," she says. "I'm more secure now in my feelings and beliefs because of this."

Speakers trainings are held twice a

year in August and February. Each training involves 4-6 workshops on topics such as family issues, coming out, lesbian and gay parenting, health-care, AIDS, and safe sex. In addition to the information and discussions, the second part of each workshop focuses on public speaking skills and presentations.

The Speakers Bureau currently has 35 volunteers and is actively seeking new recruits. Chris Nunez, Project Coordinator of the Speakers Bureau, says lesbians and people of color are especially needed to more fully represent the diversity of the community to students.

In the future, Nunez plans to recruit couples who can go into the classrooms as a team, bringing their photo albums and family stories with them, to convey a sense of the meaning of "gay family."

She has also been working over the last couple months to network with organizations working with grades K-12. She feels this type of education should not just be brought out at the high school level, but introduced in the earlier grades as well.

"We're not just interested in demystifying homosexuality," says Nunez. "We need to show both teachers and students that we're family, too."

Educating younger kids about gay families and alternative living arrangements could make it much easier for the many children of gay and lesbian parents attending San Francisco schools, she suggests.

Despite all the anti-gay training children receive, speakers find that the kids are generally responsive and open to learning after the initial wariness

wears off. Whatever fear or hostility is present usually melts by "the sheer normalcy of having two gay people stand up in front of them for 45 minutes," according to Mulcahey. "We get to be less exotic by the time we leave."

Mulcahey tells students his full name whenever he makes a presentation so that they can look for it in the soap opera credits. Although his full name is listed in the phone book, he says he has never even gotten a crank phone call. Mostly, he feels respect from the kids.

Nunez says because teachers facilitate the classroom presentations and have already prepared their students, aggressive hostility is a rare occurrence. So rare in fact that she can only recall one situation in the past year where overt verbal hostility was expressed by a student, and it was while the teacher was out of the room.

Breaking through the wall of fear and misunderstanding is the best reward for Mulcahey. He finds that the kids remember him long after he has visited their class. He says they often approach him on MUNI when they see him, and eagerly tell him of seeing his name in the soap opera credits last week.

"We can relate on more than a Homo 101 level," emphasizes Mulcahey. "I like kids and I like their freshness and their reasonableness. Their prejudices are superficial. They're very open to reason and a sense of fairness. Sometimes with adults the prejudice is so entrenched that it's impossible to address."

For Canjura, the reward is facing and meeting the challenge of the unknown.

"I like dealing with the unexpected," she says. "That's how it is when you go into a classroom. You never know what questions they'll ask."

"It's a perfect opportunity to talk about yourself to a captive audience," she jokes.

Canjura finds that the kids are especially responsive to information about injustices on the job and in social situations. "They're amazed by the discrimination gays experience."

And, of course, they always want to know how lesbians and gay men do it.

"What my partner and I try to emphasize is that what we do in bed is no different than heterosexuals," says Canjura. "It's not how we love, it's who we love."

For information about the next volunteer training, call Chris Nunez at CUAV, 864-3112. ■



Patrick Mulcahey and Sally Canjura from the Lesbian/Gay Speakers Bureau.

Berkeley AIDS Outpatient Clinic Opens

In an effort to meet the needs of AIDS patients in the East Bay, Alta Bates and Herrick hospitals have opened an outpatient clinic in Berkeley.

Located at 2640 Telegraph Avenue, midway between the two Berkeley hospitals, the clinic is one of the first private free-standing outpatient facilities in the country. According to Dr. John Swartzberg, the clinic's co-medical director, "The clinic provides a comprehensive range of services including HIV testing and counseling, social, income and placement services; and medical care. We are looking forward to offering research protocols to patients and community physicians."

Dr. Swartzberg added that "the clinic's staff has been doing extensive educational outreach to community groups, and provides care services to the 'worried well.'"

The Alta Bates-Herrick AIDS Outpatient Clinic is part of the hospitals' Oncology Services, which is designed to provide the most up-to-date, complete care for cancer patients. In 1980, the program received certification as a comprehensive community cancer center by the American College of Surgeons. The program includes a 23-bed oncology unit, surgical oncology, chemotherapy, radiation oncology, hospice, adult bone marrow transplantation, and tumor registry. ■

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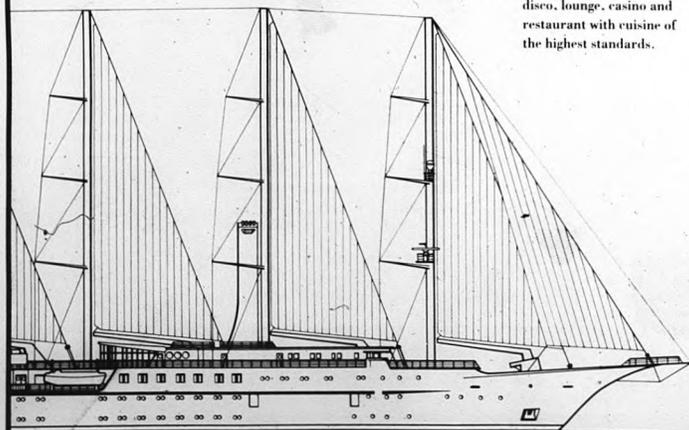
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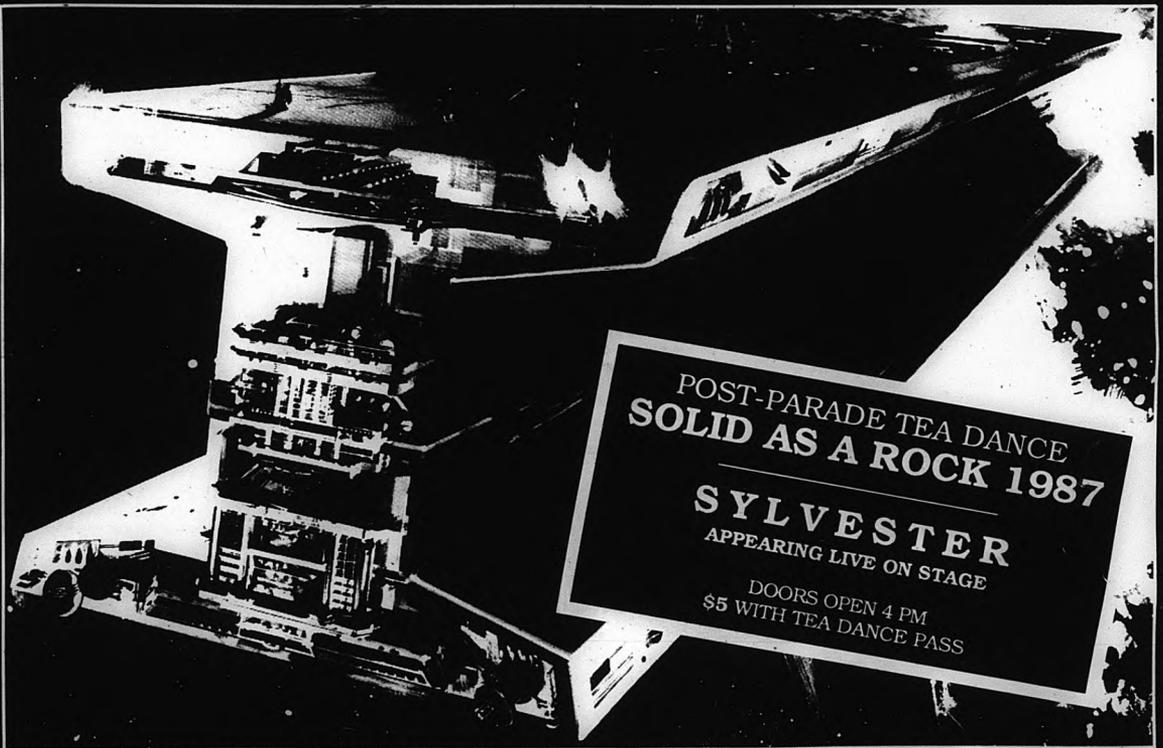


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Supervisor John Molinari with the winners that were and the winners that were to be at last Saturday night's Closet Ball 1987.

Closet Ball 1987

by A.J. Esta

For 15 years the Closet Ball of San Francisco has been one of the most anticipated annual events in the gay community, and for the last eight years Robert Michael Productions had been the official producing company responsible for this lavish and highly original gala. For non-participants and contestants alike, there was something intriguing about watching fantasies fulfilled — men literally stepping out of the closet, being as masculine as any man on the street, and then within the limitation of one hour reappearing as the girl of their dreams.

We're not talking gender-fuck drag here. Beards, mustaches, attitudes are all swept away to be replaced with theatrically elegant gowns and incredible hair-dos. It is obvious that a lot of intelligence and taste went into these transformations and just as obvious that the audience was aware of the loving attention the various metamorphoses required.

Presented this year for the first time in the Giftcenter Pavilion, the Closet Ball was visually a knock-out. The talent lined up was most auspicious — the fabulous Michelle was flown in from New York to co-host along with comedian Danny Williams. Under the direction of Chuck Largent, the entertainment was truly special with such

headliners as the Glide Ensemble (from Glide Memorial Church with Richard Dorsey conducting) and Deena Jones (Miss Closet Ball of 1984). It was noticeable that this year there would be no taped music and no lip-synch performers — everything would be live! Sounds like the perfect one-and-only Closet Ball. However, the machinery opening those fabled closet doors seemed to have malfunctioned and something went sadly amiss when the Closet Ball winners were announced.

As a judge for this year's event, I know I was personally alarmed at the outcome of the voting. There seemed to be as much bewilderment on the part of my fellow panelists — Leticia, Charles West, Express

Ginger and Sylvester — when the winners were announced. It wasn't necessary for me to wonder long because Bob Golovich, the executive producer for Robert Michael Productions, arranged an interview with himself and Ed McMillian (Assistant to the Executive Producer). After having been there and having been a part of the voting machinery, I was especially curious as to how these "best laid schemes of mice and men had gang (that) far a-gley."

Golovich began, "I knew that evening when the winners were announced — I recognized that there must have been an error and I knew that it was going to be one that I had to correct. I summoned the staff and we recalled all of the judge's ballots [the next day] in order to do an official recount."

As a judge I mentioned to Golovich that I was annoyed that evening when we discovered the order listed for the eleven contestants on the program (and, incidentally, on the judges' secret ballots) did in no way coincide with the order in which the actual contestants came on stage. In other words, we the judges (as well as the audience) were scrambling pages around trying to keep each contestant — you should excuse the expression — straight. Their order of appearance had very little to with either the program or the ballot sheets.

Golovich quickly acknowledged, "This entire mix-up must ultimately be laid at my

feet. I am the executive producer and whatever went wrong with the actual numbers — and subsequent tabulations — of the contestants has to be my fault. The terrible thing is, and the thing that makes me feel badly is I know how disappointed those men are who we announced and who didn't make it. I know the kind of energies that went into this show on their parts and I realize that it was a case of my monitors for the evening plus the program listings plus the mis-numbered judges' sheets that have all gone wrong. Ultimately the fault is mine and for that I am truly sorry. But in retrospect the wonderful thing is that after having talked to the contestants, they were — with two exceptions — most considerate and understanding."

As for the ball itself — apart from the unfortunate voting error — this year's fete was produced by Allen White with a notable assist from Bob Cramer. From where I was sitting, it looked as if Cramer (always a perfectionist) worked as hard at making the Closet Ball a smooth affair as he does with his own popular Cable Car Awards. The staff of the Gallon was also supportive and instrumental in making the event a success.

There can be no question about the quality of the eleven contestants — we're talking class here! For the record the official winners of "Closet Ball '87" were David C. Jones (Norma Desmond) as Queen. Andy

Anderson (Summer Storm) was first runner-up, Clarence R. Sierra (Clair de Lune) was second runner-up, Dick Collier Jr. (Dela Musique) was third runner-up and Wally Talbot (Miss Magnolia) was fourth runner-up. And for what it's worth — in my less-than-humble opinion — these were very difficult decisions to make because there was an unusual amount of talent on that stage. For those who graciously acknowledged that they may not have made the "inner circle," one wants to repeat a line from the play, *The Rainmaker*, "Just remember, Lizzie, it ain't as if you'd never been asked."

One last note on a note that should be noted! Bob Golovich wants it known that Robert Michael Productions has in store all kinds of upcoming events including a Halloween "Artists and Models Ball" and a special Christmas show. Also a production of *Little Mary Sunshine* is scheduled in October with the Sunday brunch format that has become so popular with the current production of *Once Upon a Mattress*. And speaking of *Mattress*, I had occasion to meet Marshall Barer (the lyricist of *Once Upon a Mattress*) because he was in town to catch Andrea Marcovicchi at the Plush Room (Andrea was doing some of his material) and had that afternoon seen the Robert Michael Production of his show. In his words, "I was delighted. I thought they did a wonderful job." I agree. ■

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Issue: Missouri

Continued from page 3

housing and road improvements to accommodate the crew of the *Missouri* and more than a dozen support vessels, and the sailors' families. The supervisors would retain the right to reject homeporting after the environmental review process is completed.

"This community seems to be out of sight, out of mind," said Agnos in support of the Hunters Point artists and craftspeople. "The projections for the value that the *Missouri* will bring to the city, ironically and tragically, include the businesses that will be run out of business, or at least out of San Francisco, because there is no plan... for their relocation."

"This Memorandum of Understanding is not a fair deal for San Francisco, while it's a great deal for the Navy," said Agnos.

A thriving community of more than 300 working artists and small industries has enjoyed cheap studio space at the Navy's shipyard in Hunters Point for years. If the *Missouri* is homeported in San Francisco, the Navy will reclaim the studio space and the artists will be dispersed throughout the Bay Area.

Linda Hope, a painter with studio space at the shipyard, says an ad in a local art publication offered studio space in a South of Market location at twice the rate she currently pays. Her group, she says, is not taking a stand for or against moving the *Missouri* to the city, although individual members have their own opinions about the battleship.

"A lot of work, effort and planning

has gone into homeporting the *Missouri*, and there has been no effort or planning on our behalf," said Hope. "We want to remain apolitical, but we don't want to be overlooked in the face of a very political issue."

Agnos, meanwhile, made no attempt to hide his opinion of the Navy's homeporting proposal.

"I don't think we need the *Missouri* here in any shape or form," said Agnos. "I think it's a PR stunt on the part of the Navy, and certainly we're buying into it at great cost to the city."

Others warn that, even if the artists can be successfully located, the concentration of creative activities in the Hunters Point area provides a unique working environment that would be hard to recreate elsewhere.

"Hunters Point is one of the major concentrations of Bay Area artists, and such a viable, organic part of our culture here," explained Katherine Cook, chair of the Open Studio project, which every year gives the general public an opportunity to tour artists' studios throughout the city. "So many other places like LA and New York are taking our artists already that if we are going to maintain our position as a viable, strong cultural center, we need to be supportive to the artists."

Tony Dominski, a metal sculptor who builds intricate stairs and railings, says only two or three other companies in the city still do similar work. He says the Hunters Point area provides a special environment for working artists and craftspeople.

"I'm in one building, and in that building we have seven different businesses that range from high-fashion photography, to incredible display

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BEYOND THE BAY

CORINNE LIGHTWEAVER

Deep in the Heart of Texas

The US Supreme Court has acquitted a Texas gay rights activist who was prosecuted and convicted for shouting at a policeman during a traffic investigation involving his friend. The court declared unconstitutional a Houston city ordinance which made it a misdemeanor to "oppose, molest, abuse or interrupt any policeman in the execution of his duty." Chief Justice William Rehnquist was the sole dissenter in the decision.

"Houston's ordinance criminalizes a substantial amount of constitutionally protected speech, and accords the police unconstitutional discretion in enforcement," Justice William Brennan said for the majority.

"The ordinance's plain language is admittedly violated scores of times daily, yet only some individuals — those chosen by the police in their unguided discretion — are arrested. Far from providing the 'breathing space' that 'First Amendment freedoms need ... to survive,' the ordinance is susceptible of regular application to protected expression. We conclude that the ordinance is substantially overbroad."

Raymond Wayne Hill, executive director of the Houston Human Rights League and a founder and board member of the Gay Political Caucus, was arrested for shouting at the police

officer. "Why don't you pick on somebody your own size? ... Why don't you pick on somebody my size?" Houston police had made an average of 1,000 arrests per year for such offenses as "arguing," "interfering," "cursing," or "failing to remain quiet."

Gay Paper Bans Controversial Personals

LONDON — Gay men who place personal ads seeking partners will no longer be allowed to describe themselves as "AIDS negative" in *Capital Gay*, a local gay newspaper. The paper's announcement followed an expression of concern by the British Department of Health and Social Security and the British Medical Association.

The decision was made because HIV-antibody test results are "unreliable" according to the paper's editor, Graham McKerrow.

"An individual might not have had time to produce antibodies to it," said McKerrow. "A test would then wrongly show he was HIV-negative."

Individuals will still be allowed to say they are HIV-positive in personal ads, the paper stated, because positive test results are more reliable.

Canadians Protest Customs Censorship

TORONTO — More than 50 lesbian and gay activists demonstrated against Canada customs' continued seizure of lesbian and gay books. Chanting "Ban bigotry, not books" and "Free trade in lesbian books," activists led by the Canadian Committee Against Customs Censorship picketed the offices of the Prohibited Importations Unit to express their opposition to sexual censorship.

Some of the banned titles include: *In the Life*, writings by black gay men; *Fog Rag*'s 12th anniversary issue; and *How to be a Happy Homosexual*.

Gay Argentinians Denied Voting Rights

Gays in the Argentinian province of Buenos Aires are being denied voting rights under a 1946 law banning homosexuals from the polls because of their "indignity." The same law denies the vote to the "insane."

China Imprisons Lesbians

TIENSIN, CHINA — A 40-year-old lesbian has been sent to jail for engaging

in a sexual relationship with another woman. Gay sex is not explicitly illegal in China, but gays and lesbians have been imprisoned under laws against "indecent" and "immorality."

Half-Baked Homophobia in Alabama

BIRMINGHAM, AL — A gay man who was fired from his job wrote the *Alabama Forum* calling for a boycott of the bakery where he was formerly employed. The man said he employer knew he was gay previous to his hiring, but that the bakery owners had apparently gotten nervous after he cut himself on a Saran Wrap box and became afraid he would drip blood on the pastries and thus spread AIDS.

Jail Issues Pink ID Bracelet to Gay Man

SACRAMENTO — A gay man arrested for outstanding traffic warrants has charged the Rio Cosumnes Correctional Center with discriminatory treatment. The man claimed that after he was booked he "was issued a black shirt instead of the standard prison uniform

... was given an ID bracelet with a pink insert ... was issued trousers which were quickly replaced by a very tight pair of women's pants ... [and] was not issued toilet paper for two days." He also stated that prison officials confiscated necessary prescription medicine and failed to contact his physician regarding the medication. The sheriff's department is currently investigating the allegations.

TV Monitor "Patrols" Australian Men's Room

SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA — Television monitors have replaced police officers as "guardians of decency" in at least one men's bathroom in the city and speculation abounds that such monitors will soon find similar homes all over Australia. The cameras are hooked up to a surveillance room, from which activities in the bathroom can be monitored. According to the *Windy City Times*, it has been observed that the practice of installing monitors will most seriously affect working class and unemployed gay men who can't afford to cruise in bars, saunas, and clubs.

Items for this week's column were edited from the *Gay Community News*, *Philadelphia Gay News*, *United Press International*, *Montrose Voice*, *Phoenix Resource*, *Rites*, *Alabama Forum*, *Windy City Times*, and *Outfront*.

American Accused of Spreading AIDS

In Jail in Germany

by John J. Vischansky

Since February 5, a 45-year-old gay American has been sitting in a Nuremberg prison on AIDS charges.

After the initial arrest and incarceration in February, police from the Homicide Commission of the City of Nuremberg started looking for witnesses in the case; they combed gay establishments, stood outside a well-frequented public toilet downtown, and even turned up at the offices of the Nuremberg AIDS Help Group looking for potential witnesses — flashing mug shots the police had taken of the man.

By early April, the Nuremberg Public Department of Prosecution decided it had found enough evidence to press further charges against the

lawyer, Karl Heinz Becker, stated that public prosecutors had found out that the man had *merely* tested HIV-positive by investigating his medical records us-

ing highly questionable legal grounds.

Becker furthermore classifies the arrest as a back-up attempt to furnish "propaganda with the goal of supporting Bavaria's controversial politics for dealing with AIDS," especially since the usual release on bail was refused by authorities.

On May 28, Bavaria's extreme and draconic regulations on AIDS went into effect. Non-European foreigners, including Americans, applying for residency permits, are to be sent for an AIDS test on a discriminatory basis. After massive protest from Austria, residents of that country, as well as those from Vatican City, Switzerland,

Liechtenstein and a few other "clean" countries were exempted from testing.

In a massive rally, which took place April 4, nearly 10,000 protestors gathered in Munich in a futile effort to counteract Bavaria's repressive AIDS policies. Protesters and speakers drew parallels to Nazi Germany and compared Bavaria's published proposals for incarcerating AIDS victims "in closed wards" to a virtual reopening of the concentration camp Dachau. Dachau is located one half-hour away from the city of Munich.

In the same month as one city was pressing charges against an American with AIDS, the city of Dusseldorf in

north Germany presented a special medal of merit to an American with AIDS. Scott Barry was honored for his work in helping set up a local AIDS Help Group.

These incidents reflect an everywhere present dichotomy in German politics. Liberal vs. conservative, north vs. south, Socialist vs. Christian Socialist party politics.

AIDS is just one of the many fighting grounds. Forty years after the Nuremberg War Trials, in which Americans took Nazi war criminals to court, the Germans in Nuremberg have turned the tables. The scare tactics: the Nuremberg AIDS trial.

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**. Counseling 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.

Forty years after the Nuremberg War Trials, the Germans in Nuremberg have turned the tables.

man. The accusation: malicious intent to commit grievous bodily harm on four counts of unsafe sexual intercourse between June 1986 and January 1987.

Shortly after the man's arrest, the Bavarian Minister of Justice stated that it might be possible to charge the man with "attempted murder" under federal German law.

In the meantime, never-say-die Neo-Nazi elements in Bavaria are having a "Yankee-Go-Home" field day. "The first diseased persons came from the ranks of black GIs in the US Army," states a right-wing party organ, *Der Deutsche Beobachter (The German Observer)*. "After Coke and democracy, our 'liberators' brought AIDS to the country. Foreigners must return to their home countries."

In interviews in *STERN*, one of the leading German magazines, and in a Nuremberg magazine, the man's



We Are the World

Each week the *Sentinel* receives several letters praising a particular article in either our news, holistics or arts section. We also normally receive one or two hostile missives, damning our treatment of what a reader often deems a "gay-sensitive" topic. Generally — as long as the factual accuracy of a story is not in question — we're the most pleased with communications from irate readers. This, of course, may sound perverse. But, in truth, there's a method to our madness.

Because this is the *Sentinel's* special Gay Pride issue, it seems particularly pertinent to reflect on the role of the gay press in the liberation movement and, in particular, on the role of this newspaper within the San Francisco community. If possible, I want to explain why we take such delight in stirring up trouble — responsible trouble — and forcing our readers to think.

The birth of the gay press coincided with the beginnings of the gay rights movement in the '60s. Our first publications were the quintessential "bar rags" — filled with gossip, trivia and as much sleaze as the prevailing laws would permit. These early tabloids played an essential, invaluable role: they confirmed that we did, indeed, exist and they told us that it was perfectly OK to be gay.

Because the early gay press emerged out of a vacuum, it was necessary to stress solidarity and support as primary values. And as a result, the notion of a single "community" — unified in all endeavors because of a common sexual preference — emerged. This idea of a common gay consciousness (one that is mostly male and mostly sexual in its preoccupations) still governs the gay press in many cities throughout the US.

At the *Sentinel*, however, we believe that times have changed and are a changin' — sometimes at a dizzying, mind-boggling rate. Gay people in San Francisco have matured — in part because the AIDS crisis has forced us to mature. Ever since the early '80s, we've had to examine our lives more closely and more critically.

Clearly, the idea of a single gay community no longer works. We don't all think alike, and it is fascistic to imply that we do — or should. Instead, we need to rejoice in our diversity and look to the best, the wisest and the most experienced for leadership. This is the path the *Sentinel* has tried to follow.

Editorially, we see ourselves as presenting a critical forum for the most intelligent voices of today's "new generation." As a result, our editorial coverage is loosely based on the following principles:

- We believe gay people are not "victims" of a hostile, hateful world at

large. Instead, gays have repeatedly been abused and misunderstood, we believe this is primarily the result of ignorance. The problem requires education, vigilance and determination, but the problem is "theirs," not ours.

- We believe the concerns of lesbians and gays are frequently similar and intimately tied to the concerns of feminists, people of color, environmentalists, and all persons interested in the quality of life on this planet. Hence, our news coverage is diverse and refuses to view social problems exclusively in terms of a "gay agenda" or politics only in terms of "gay candidates." We want to give our readers as much information as possible from alternative sources; we want to encourage gay people to make the best, most intelligent decisions.

- We believe the medical establishment has failed to properly come to grips with the AIDS crisis. We also believe a large part of the solution to AIDS rests with the individual's personal and psychological well-being. Hence, we continue to present the nation's most comprehensive, on-going series of reports on alternative therapies for AIDS treatment.

- In our arts section, we reject the notion of a distinctly "gay" art. Instead, we believe gay people have always played a significant role in all of the arts — as both creators and passionate spectators. Hence, we cover the best in all local artistic endeavors, paying particularly close attention to the contributions of gay people. We believe the arts are one of the best ways of affirming the universal values of love, compassion and human dignity — regardless of sexual preference.

At the *Sentinel* we don't expect our readers to always like what we have to say, but we do hope that our editorial coverage will challenge individuals to define more clearly what it means to be a person who happens to be gay. Coming out is the most important/first step that any gay person takes. But besides that (and part of the great excitement of life in the '80s), it's critical to figure out how to evolve beyond the self-limitations of homosexual culture, the "gay ghetto" of the past.

This weekend, as we march and celebrate in the 18th Annual Lesbian/Gay Freedom Day Parade, it's important to remember: We are strong, united and proud. But we are also an integral part of the much larger human fabric that we call the world. ■

Tom Murray
TOM MURRAY

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LETTERS

End Misogyny Now!

(This letter was also sent to Coming Up! and the B.A.R.)

To the Editor:

The undersigned are a few of the thousands of lesbians who supported Harry Britt in the recent congressional primary. While we were not in agreement with *Coming Up!*'s endorsement of Nancy Pelosi in the congressional primary race, we do support the right of *Coming Up!* to have their own opinion, no matter how unpopular. Also, we remain supportive of the paper as a whole. We can disagree with its position on the congressional primary, and still view *Coming Up!* as the most consistently progressive paper in our community.

We are writing now to express our outrage at the viciousness and misogyny unleashed in response to *Coming Up!*'s editorials, and to voice our criticisms of the failure of Harry and other leading gay men to take any kind of public stand against such behavior. The fact that *Coming Up!* is the only paper in our community that speaks equally to lesbians and gay men, and is edited by a lesbian, is not lost on us.

Certainly there is always a political price to pay for taking an unpopular stand, and a community newspaper is no exception to that rule. There is nothing, though, that justifies the responses engendered by *Coming Up!*'s support of Pelosi and their criticisms of Britt. The harassment, economic threats, caricatures in the other gay papers, and the like are not expressions of valid political disagreement — they are the all-too-real proof that women-hating is alive and well within our community.

The evidence of this is extremely

disheartening. One of the themes of Harry Britt's campaign was unity, and the campaign did much to bring together in new ways many lesbians and gay men. Our two communities have traditionally been separate, and not particularly close. The AIDS crisis has done much to pull us together, and the opportunity to work together on Harry's campaign was turning that into concrete political gains.

It is not so much that we are surprised that there are still men out there who treat women as second-class citizens, and dump on us all their misguided hatred. No, it is that there has not been one leading gay male political leader who has made any public attempt criticize or struggle with his gay brothers around their misogyny. So it is left to us — the lesbians — once again to say that we will not tolerate this behavior. If we are to stand in unity, we will only do so on the basis of mutual respect and support. It should not be solely on our shoulders to challenge the gender-based hatred that still persists.

We demand an end to the threats to advertisers, and end to the caricatures and sexist comments, and an end to the tolerance for misogyny amongst gay men. The lesbian/gay community is facing a deadly crisis, and continuing threats to our civil rights. We are a diverse community, and we will continue to have our political differences as we all sort out for ourselves how to move forward. If we can't have disagreements without resorting to the most backward prejudices we sabotage our own struggle.

Pat Norman, Roma Guy, Pam Cameron, Sally Gearhart, Barbara M. David, Robert Achtenberg, Jean Crosby, Diane Christensen, Carmen



Cappi Patterson with an array of kittens looking for new homes. For information on how you can adopt a PWA pet call Pets Are Wonderful Support (PAWS) at 552-2925.

Yasquez, Priscilla Alexander, Jean Harris, Diane Jones, and Virginia Crowder

Pets Need You

To the Editor:

People with AIDS face some difficult ordeals, but one of the worst for those with beloved pets is facing the prospect of losing them when health or finances no longer permit adequate care. Even when they can be kept, worrying about their ultimate placement and welfare is an awful burden for the PWA.

PAWS for PWAs (a project of the SF AIDS Foundation) provides pet food, supplies, home care, veterinary treatment, animal visitation, and temporary foster homes while owners are

incapacitated, and, finally adoption (preferably "godparents" ready in advance to take the animal). We desperately need foster and adoptive homes for the dogs, cats, birds, etc. of AIDS/ARC patients.

If you can give a home, even temporarily, to a loving pet that has lost his daddy, please call. And, of course, we can always use money and volunteers. Thank you.

Jon Howell
PAWS for PWAs
552-2925

Hisses Not Kisses

To the Editor:

As a playwright, I am furious at Robert Julian's remarks regarding AIDS-related plays, and in particular,

his unnecessary dismissal of the play *Jerk* by Robert Chesley as a play which illustrates the fact that "the male gay community's obsession with the penis has been recently replaced by a fetish for disease."

Julian states that it is time to move on, and that no gay person would want to pay money to watch a play about AIDS. Am I to understand that as a playwright I am not entitled to help audiences better understand themselves and their reactions to this horrendous health tragedy? Lives are being lost, Mr. Julian, beautiful, gay lives are being snuffed out, and our gay theatre, which is both a political and an emotional forum, rightly reflects this heartbreaking crisis.

Some people choose to go to the

FROM THE DESK

DAVID M LOWE

Unbelievable Experiences

I knew it was going to be one of those days when the telephone rang just as my alarm clock was going off. Before the receiver even reached my ear I could already hear the voice on the other end frantically telling me the United States Supreme Court had just ruled against Gay Games II. Before mid-morning I would learn that the president had begun appointing his AIDS advisory commission (including a chairman nobody ever heard of), a gay couple had been told their relationship meant nothing and — God forbid — I was falling in love with a gay Republican.

"It's fucked! Oh, I can't say that; you're a family newspaper, aren't you?" reacted the voice of NGLTF director Jeff Levy from his Washington DC office.

"Of course you can," I replied. We both sensed the outrage and despair that would grip many members of our community as the word passed from

phone to phone throughout the country.

"God forbid the Supreme Court make it through a June without doing something homophobic," Jeff continued. I immediately wondered who was doing PR at the high court. Surely, they must have known this was Lesbian/Gay Pride Month. Even more dis-

heartening and scary is that they probably don't know.

They didn't know that Dr. Tom Waddell, founder of Gay Games, was too sick with AIDS to respond other than by sending a statement through his attorney Mary Dunlap. They didn't know that Mary would be hopping mad and decide to devote her life to continue the fight long after Tom is taken from us. They will soon know that we will not take this sitting down and will face many, many of our asses sitting on their hallowed steps in an act of civil disobedience as autumn grips the capital.

In the final early morning analysis, I was just glad I had enough work to accomplish that I wouldn't have much time to think about the ruling. I was sure that I would have a number of strong feelings to express before sundown. I was sure many people would be devastated by dinner. How would we react?

But for now I had a story to manage and a column to write. So fuck the Supreme Court and on with just another day in America. God, I'm so glad I've been afforded the privilege to spend it in San Francisco. I briefly wondered what chance the boys in Al-

toona, Pennsylvania would even have to publicly express their feelings. Once again I was reminded of our responsibility to speak long and loudly in their behalf.

It Gets Worse

With yet another call and a quick glance at the cover of the *Chronicle* comes more bad news. Even in San Francisco, lesbian/gay relationships mean absolutely nothing. On the eve of the outrageous ruling by the US Supreme Court and on the heels of the one-year anniversary of the ruling against Michael Hardwick, the SF Court of Appeals ruled to restrict the definition of "close relationship" to a marital relationship meeting the legal requirements imposed by the legislature.

Their ruling came in the case of Gary Coon who was seeking recovery for emotional distress suffered as a witness to the alleged assault of an intimate male friend. Without going into all the legalese, I'll just tell you that the court ruled he was not entitled to recover because he failed to establish the "close relationship" requirement.

The only bright spot is that Presiding Justice Clinton White was the lone dissenter against his two colleagues. We'll have more on this one next week in the *Sentinel*, but for now the bottom line is Coon's lover was allegedly beaten by a MUNI bus driver and the court

Insult to Injury

On the day of the Supreme Court decision the president decided to announce his choices to sit on the administration's AIDS Advisory Commission. At press time we learned the chairman of the commission is to be a doctor from the Mayo Clinic, William Eugene Mayberry. So far, everybody I've talked to has never heard of the guy and with the way things are going this morning I'm just not going to devote any time at all running down the names of the other members. I can't deal with finding out there is absolutely no one from the lesbian/gay community on the commission. I'll be shocked if they even acknowledge we exist at this point.

Glimmer of Hope

An early afternoon call from Congresswoman Nancy Pelosi brightens the day a little. She wants to express her personal concern and support for our community on this dark, dark day. She's also checking to make sure I have the names of her lesbian/gay staffers I requested yesterday. I do. I'm pleased to report that Pelosi has appointed two gay men and a lesbian to

Continued on page 10

AT THE COURTHOUSE

KEN CADY

Even Lawyers Have Gay Pride

My lover likes to tell the joke about the doctor and the lawyer at a cocktail party. The doctor complains about the number of people who accost him at such events seeking medical advice. The lawyer then advises him to send bill to the inquisitive guests. The doctor is quite satisfied with this suggestion until he receives a bill from the lawyer the next day!

Many people like to joke about high lawyer bills and ambulance-chasing attorneys. But the reality of the matter for the gay community is that many men and women are not making big bucks practicing law, but are instead using the opportunity to serve their community as well as make a living.

Last week, I received a letter from Jean O'Leary of the National Gay Rights Advocates (NGRA). I knew it would cost me money before I opened it, but so impressed have I been over the years with O'Leary that I took the risk anyway. The letter details the many accomplishments and current battles undertaken by the lawyers of NGRA. O'Leary says that NGRA's AIDS civil rights project was the first in the nation to fight AIDS-related discrimination full-time, battling insurers, employers and government agencies.

These cases have involved both in-court litigation, such as the battle against Great Republic Insurance and the Raytheon Corporation. In Chicago, a gay father fought HIV-antibody testing. The attorneys helped defeat a Texas quarantine proposal and were involved in the development of guidelines for the National Association of Insurance Commissioners, prohibiting anti-gay discrimination across the U.S.

Many publications with legal advice and discussions of legal issues are available from NGRA. Additionally, over 1000 people are helped each year with direct client assistance. NGRA serves as advice-givers to gay and lesbian lawyers and resource points for the national media.

Right now, they are undertaking an effort to create a Medical Manhattan Project on the scale of the extraordinary

effort to develop the atom bomb. A large-scale crash program to defeat AIDS requires a lot of work and a lot of money. If you would like to join Jean O'Leary, Benjamin Schatz, Len Graf and other lawyers in developing this program, contact them at 540 Castro Street. Make it part of your gay pride activity this weekend.

Other lawyers are working throughout the courts in San Francisco, making a living and being openly gay in the process. At the Hall of Justice, both assistant D.A.s and public defenders work to make the system of justice fairer and more considerate of gay and lesbian citizens. Some of us experience the courts as crime victims, some as defendants or witnesses. District Attorney Arlo Smith* employs myself, Chuck

Melinda A. Connor, Jan Leckliener and Susan Shalit. These attorneys, along with the gay investigators and support staff, have set a new tone for gay relations in the criminal justice system. Lawyers and court personnel who work with gays are bound to be more sensitive to our lifestyles when handling cases involving gays. Gays and lesbians work in virtually every sector of the system, including police officers, probation officers, clerks and bailiffs.

Now even the Municipal Court judges rub elbows with gays at their judges' meetings. With Mary Morgan as presiding judge and Herb Donaldson also on the bench, gay consciousness goes from the chambers to the bench.

In the Police Department, attorney Lawrence Wilson has been openly gay for several years. At City Hall, there are two openly gay attorneys employed by City Attorney Louise Renne. The private bar also has many openly gay

are out making the big bucks, and some of them are gay. But there are plenty more working for lower fees but finding just as much satisfaction in their profession.

This isn't to say that things are perfect. Gordon is still the only gay administrator. There are no openly gay Superior Court judges — something surely needed since these judges have, in many cases a lower level of consciousness on gay lifestyles. There is always room for more gay and lesbian attorneys. If we are ten percent of the population, we are still not close to that percentage in any of the above offices. There is also a need for an across-the-board effort to increase consciousness on AIDS issues, so that those currently less informed will develop a healthier attitude towards those afflicted with this disease.

But as Gay Pride Day arrives, we can take pride in what we do and who we are. For those who are working with us, but still in the closet, come on out and join us! You'll find the welcome is genuine.

And for those of you who like lawyer jokes, don't worry. So do I! Did you hear about the lawyer, the used car salesman and the banker gathered at the wake of an old friend? In his grief, one of the three said, "In my family, we have the custom that we give the dead some money, so they'll have something to spend over there." They all agreed this was appropriate. The banker dropped a hundred dollar bill into the casket and the car salesman did the same. The lawyer wrote a check for \$300 and took out the two \$100 bills! ■

As Gay Pride Day arrives, we can take pride in what we do and who we are. For those who are working with us, but still in the closet, come on out and join us! You'll find the welcome is genuine.

Haines, Keith Vines and Bref French as his openly gay assistants.

Public Defender Jeff Brown has Gordon Armstrong, the first attorney to come out of the closet at the Hall. Armstrong has been joined by Chuck Stolpe, Ron Albers, Carol Yaggy,

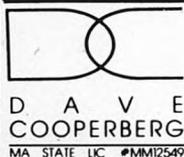
lawyers, fighting for our rights in civil litigation.

The point is that things are much different than they were years ago when Gordon Armstrong first came out. We are now a major force at the courthouse. There are plenty of lawyers who

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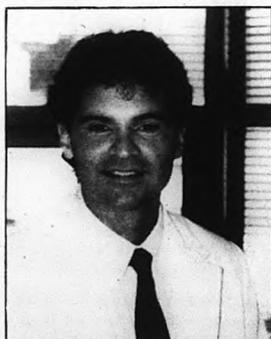
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POINT OF VIEW

DON VOLK

Reasons to Celebrate

I cried today. The "Letter to the Editor" was from a man who had just tested positive. Small puddles formed in my eyes. I turned away from our typesetter who was sharing his lunch with me.

"Are you all right?" he asked.
"I will be," I said, looking out the window at the Hollywood Hills. I sniffed, gulped back my tears, and laid the letter down. He sat quietly, respecting the moment as we have all learned to do these past seven years.

I know from that letter that we will be all right. That we are all right. Now. Tomorrow. And all the tomorrows after that.

We as a people will be all right because we are compassionate and caring, loving and responsible, stalwart and brave.

Acknowledging one's gayness is the most courageous act. It means you've dealt with the fact that a lot of people aren't going to like you — merely because you are who you are and you are willing to admit it anyway.

Who but a gay person would quote Nietzsche, Tennessee Williams and Judy Garland at a time like that. Who but a gay person would recall walking 60 freezing blocks in New York City to spend the night in one room with "the most perfect human being ever invented."

Our letter writer made me feel — at my deepest levels — some very important things about our people and our world.

We are inalterably brave. We are

teaching the world to live with a catastrophic illness. We refuse to be "AIDS victims," although "they" want to think of us as such.

We will continue to fight this battle. And it promises only to become increasingly bitter as "they" search for quick fixes in testing and quarantine rather than solve the real problem.

Our letter writer said, "My anger lashes out at those who make the issue the test, not the cure. Hell, I just took the test; it didn't hurt at all. It's the disease that kills."

As 1987's gay pride month draws to a close, our letter writer made me realize how much we deserve our gay pride celebrations — and that is what they should be — celebrations.

And his anger — and that of all our brave PWAs — will mobilize us to continue our work defining the AIDS agenda and making sure that it is implemented in ways that will serve both our community and public health concerns to protect those afflicted.

As 1987's gay pride month draws to a close around the country, our letter writer made me realize how much we deserve our gay pride celebrations —

and that is what they should be — celebrations.

Because we have not wilted before this devastating illness.

Because we have lived with centuries of oppression.

Because as a people we have taken the leadership on every level of the AIDS crisis and acted responsibly and courageously in the face of thousands of deaths of our loved ones.

Because we have assured our place in history as sane and responsible human beings in the first seven years of this crisis.

We have a lot of fighting to do ahead — not only on AIDS issues but on other issues of human dignity and human rights — and within our own community.

"It's a new ballgame and it won't be easy," he writes, "but I want more memories. They won't be the same as 63rd Street, but they can be as good."

So let us, like my letter writer, celebrate ourselves and good works this

month.

And return to the trenches next month to start the work we will celebrate next year. ■

Don Volk is the news editor of Los Angeles bi-weekly lesbian/gay magazine Frontiers. He is also president of the Gay and Lesbian Press Association.

Supreme Shaft

Continued from page 3

the Gay Games, calling the competition an "athletic contest in keeping with the spirit of the original Olympic games."

Supervisor Harry Britt said he will fight against a proposal to bring the 1996 Olympic Games to San Francisco "as long as they discriminate against lesbians and gay men."

The Supreme Court decision does not address a lower court decision against Waddell, making him liable for USOC legal fees. A lien for the fees has been placed against Waddell's home.

"[Waddell] stands tall for the Olympic principle of fair play that puts aside traditional differences in a spirit of shared humanity. The USOC doesn't," said Assemblyman Art Agnos. "The

USOC today became a bully instead of a referee in this fight."

Supervisor John Molinari vowed to support efforts to change the federal law granting exclusive use of the word "olympic" to the USOC.

"Today's Supreme Court decision is an outrageously discriminatory ruling against all lesbians and gay men, and it profoundly disappoints all of us who believe in freedom of speech and fairness," said Molinari.

Pat Norman, national co-chair of the March on Washington for Lesbian and Gay Rights, said she was "absolutely flabbergasted" by the high court ruling.

"It makes a statement of the kind of abuse that the government authorizes to oppress all those seen as less powerful and incapable of fighting back," said

Norman. "They're wrong."

"A man can be defeated, but not destroyed," said Waddell, turning to Ernest Hemingway's *The Old Man and The Sea*.

Contributions to continue the fight against the USOC can be mailed to: San Francisco Arts & Athletics, Box 343, 584 Castro Street, SF 94114. ■

George Mendenhall also contributed to this report.

FROM THE DESK

Continued from page 9

serve on her congressional staff. Dr. Steve Morin will serve as her health policy advisor, Phil DeAndrade has

Continued on page 14



"Best wishes from Supervisor Willie B. Kennedy!"



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PARADE & CELEBRATION

The Parade begins at Spear & Market Streets at 11:00 AM and will proceed up Market Street to Civic Center Plaza. All Floats (except Childcare) will turn left onto Eighth Street. Marchers will turn right onto Grove Street and move into Civic Center Plaza for the Celebration. The Celebration in Civic Center Plaza begins at 12:00 noon and will continue until approximately 6:30 PM. Two stages will provide continuous entertainment and speakers while a third will host a tea dance beginning at 2:00 PM. Check the Route and Site Map for locations.

CHILDCARE SERVICES

Free on-site childcare will be available during the Parade and Celebration at 100 Larkin Street (Corner of Larkin and Grove). Professional childcare workers will provide a safe and fun environment for children from 10 AM to 6 PM. Food, fun, entertainment and balloons will be provided for children up to ten years old. Registration will be on site. Please have proper ID — children will NOT be released to unidentified persons.

SPECIAL NEEDS SERVICES

We provide a comfortable, safe and dignified environment for people with

AIDS, ARC or chronic illness or who are disabled, visually impaired, hearing impaired, elderly, pregnant or fat or anyone with special needs who attends the Parade and Celebration. There will be viewing areas set up along the parade route and at the entertainment stages for all events. No smoking, scents or perfumes.

On-street parking is available to vehicles with disabled license plates only on Larkin Street between McAllister and Golden Gate Avenue.

Van & shuttle service is provided between the viewing areas and parking.

BART Access: Civic Center Station, elevator exit.

There will be a barricaded access corridor linking the BART elevator and the Parade viewing site and the stages.

Wood and metal chairs, wheelchair accessible portapottos, water and medical supplies will be available to all special needs sites.

Special needs monitors and coordinators will be on hand.

INFORMATION

An information booth is located in Civic Center Plaza at the East end of the reflecting pool.

Further program information and the order of Parade contingents will be available the morning of the event in On Parade.

PROUD STAGE POLK STREET AT GROVE

Tea Dance

STRONG STAGE POLK STREET AT McALLISTER

EMCEES: Susan Thompson & Hilleah TelnhahJinnie

Welcome
American English - Rock Band
Bang Nguyen & Elise Young
Speakers: Asian Gays
Scarlot Harlot - comedy
Randy Schell of CUAU -
Speaker: Homophobic violence
Way Out West -
Country Western Music
Larry Saxon & Reggie Williams
Speakers: Minorities & AIDS
Frances Lorraine -
Speaker: Gay Seniors
Robin Flower Band - music

EMCEES: Cathy Cox & Donna Yutzky of BACW

Robin Tyler - Comic
Blazing Redheads - Jazz/Salsa
Helen Ruvelas - 1987 Parade Co-Chair
Christian Haren/Art Agnos/
John Molinari - Speakers:
AIDS Education
Men About Town - music
Hal Muskat - Speaker: Gay Veterans
Cleve Jones -
Speaker: The Names Project

EMCEES: San Francisco Emperor & Empress

Vukani Mawethu -
South African Music
Pat Norman - Speaker: The National
March on Washington
Joy Schulenburg - Speaker:
Lesbian/Gay Parenting Issues
Pearl Divers - music
Menage - music
Sinegual - Salsa band
Pat Parker - Poet
E.C. Scott - music

UNITED STAGE GRASSY AREA SOUTH OF REFLECTING POOL

EMCEES: Ivan Meyers & Jol Rhone — Pacific Center

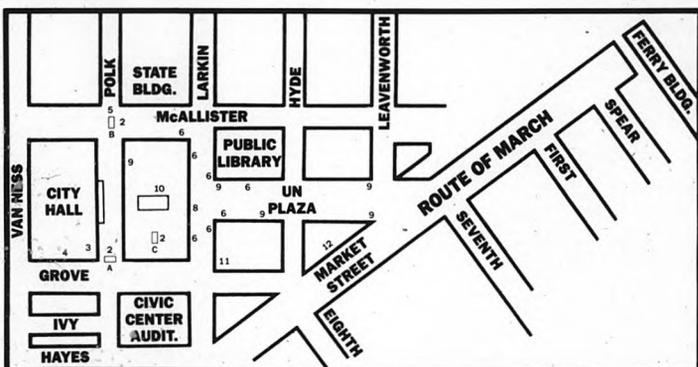
Welcome
Carrie Gerendasy - music
Miguel Ramirez -
Speaker: Living With AIDS
Donna Hitchens -
Speaker: Custody Issues
Stephanie Wallace - Poet
Howard Wallace -
Speaker: Labor Issues
Kerrigan Black - folksinger
Thomas Carol of Dignity -
Speaker: Papal visit
Deena Jones - music
Bart T. Casimer of 18th St. Services
- Substance Abuse

EMCEES: Chuck Hillbert & Rod Palmer

Meredith Miller/Nancy Shaw
-Speakers: Women & AIDS
Wry Crips - Disabled Women's
Comedy Group
Bill Folk - music
Helen Ruvelas - 1987 Parade Co-Chair
Christian Haren/
John Molinari/Art Agnos -
Speakers: AIDS Education
Nancy Vogl - music
Sally Gearhart -
Speaker: The Lesbian Agenda

EMCEES: Karen Ripley & Linda Moakes

Debbie Fier - music
Pat Norman - Speaker: The National
March on Washington
Karen Ripley - Comic
Judy Fjell - music
Karl Tierney - Poet
Flips - music
Linda Moakes - Comic
Lucie Blue Trembley - music



1. Stages
2. Viewing Areas
3. Health Tent
4. Safety Tent
5. Media Truck
6. Beverage Booths - Soft Drinks
7. Dancing Area
8. Parade Merchandise
9. Beverage Booths - Beer
10. Information Booth
11. Childcare Area
12. Special Needs Parade Viewing Area

MUNI/BART TRANSPORTATION:

Special MUNI service for the 1987 Freedom Day Parade and Celebration.

On Sunday, June 28, in addition to its surface and Metro surface, MUNI will greatly increase service on several lines, including MUNI Metro lines.

• **MUNI Metro Service** — All day service on lines J-K-L-M & N.

• **J-Church** — between 30th & Church and Embarcadero station every 9 minutes from 9 am to 6:30 pm.

• **N-Judah** — between 48th Avenue/Judah and Embarcadero every 9 minutes from 9 am to 6:30 pm.

Surface transit lines — additional service frequency for surface patrons and as alternate service if MUNI Metro is delayed or becomes overloaded.

• **6-Parnassus** — between 9th/Judah and the Ferry every 10 minutes from 9 am to 1 pm.

• **7-Haight/Stanyan** and the Ferry every 20 minutes from 8:30 am to 10 am and then every 10 minutes until 1 pm.

• **8-Market** — between 19th/Castro and the Ferry every 8 minutes or less from 9 am to 5 pm in both directions.

Every 10 minutes or less from 6 pm to 8:30 pm (or later if needed).

Information furnished by the San Francisco Municipal Railway. For additional information call 673-MUNI. ■

The Day After

Five candidates for mayor of San Francisco have agreed to appear together at a Monday, June 29 forum sponsored by the city's four gay and lesbian political clubs.

Art Agnos, Cesar Ascarrunz, Roger Boas, John Molinari, and Louise Renne will address issues of concern to the gay and lesbian community and answer questions from the audience at the forum, set to begin at 8 pm at the First Unitarian Church, 1187 Franklin Street, near Geary Blvd. The forum is free and open to the public. Bruce Pet-

tit, editor of the prestigious *Pettit Report* on San Francisco politics, will serve as moderator.

Sponsoring the forum are the Alice B. Toklas Lesbian and Gay Democratic Club, Concerned Republicans for Individual Rights, the Harvey Milk Lesbian and Gay Democratic Club, and the Stonewall Gay Democratic Club. ■

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 Zelchik and Associates.
Proceeds benefit AIDS service and education providers.

LETTERS

Continued from page 8

theatre to be entertained, and this is fine. But others choose to go see a play to be both entertained and enlightened. Mr. Julian talks about "the failure of gay playwrights to work through the specifics of the homosexual experience in order to portray more universal truths." What is more specific to our community today than AIDS and how we have managed to respond to it with a universal sense of community? What is more specific to our community today than a feeling of almost universal loss? And what is more specific to our community than the way we are showing the world through our support of one another the true meaning of universal love.

Mr. Julian wants to restrict our writers to material that will attract a crossover straight audience. I wholeheartedly agree that straight people need to see gay theatre. But that doesn't mean that we should dilute it in any way to make it more palatable. Let them discover us as we are. AIDS is their problem, too.

Yes, one might leave *Jerker* feeling depressed and fearful. The same could be said of *Death of a Salesman*. That doesn't make Willy Loman's story any less compelling. Kudos to Robert Chesley for his insightful play about our modern world. And a hearty hi to Robert Julian for his narrow-minded view of what a playwright who is gay may or may not write about.

Jerome Moskowitz

You seem to be experiencing a great deal of pain and fear in your life. I hope they will soon be replaced by love. Love heals. When you understand, accept, and demonstrate the literal truth of this statement, everything in your life will change... including your writing. Best of luck to you.

Robert Julian

Choosing San Francisco

To the Editor:

I read with some reservations George Mendenhall's piece "Gay Pride Week Begins" in the last issue. It seems a bit like comparing apples and oranges, or leathers and leather might be more appropriate, to equate our San Francisco event with the highly commercialized Los Angeles spectacle. It is clear that his angle to highlight the differences was that he was after, yet the impression left was that the San Francisco Parade and Celebration is somehow inadequate in comparison.

Mendenhall's piece also jumps around quite a lot throughout. I was often uncertain as to which event was being referred to and had to assume if the context was somewhat less than ideal that George was referring to our San Francisco event.

Thank you for taking the time to allow me to air my views. No harm was done as the San Francisco Parade and Celebration are not so sensitive, nor will our public I believe, be affected by the comparison. In fact, I myself might argue for a year-round organization should that be feasible for San Francisco.

The point is that we are not LA, and choose not to be. Thank you. William Thrasher Media Co-chair SFL/GFDPCC '87

Elitist Gays

To the Editor:

Tom Youngblood's letter (*Sentinel*, 6/12) amounts to no more than elitist posturing and ego tripping. I do agree, however, with his statement "Tom Edwards and I aren't exactly representative gays." It is obvious that what Edwards and Youngblood represent is elitism and tokenism, characteristics which are detrimental to the cause of gay and lesbian rights.

Incidentally, several of my gay, lesbian and straight friends (myself included) have in the past sent letters to the editors of the three local straight rags, the *Examiner*, the *Progress*, and the *Chronicle*, on issues relating to AIDS, homophobia, etc., only to have our letters ignored and our phone calls not returned. I cannot think of one positive thing the three aforementioned papers have done to benefit gay and lesbian rights. I am sorry, Mr. Youngblood, but simple tokenism just won't do. The straight papers do want our money and our business providing we stay in our places and be content with second-class citizenship status.

Youngblood's complaint that his letters are banned by the *BAR* publisher is one-sided for he does not explain the real reason for the *BAR*'s actions. The old cliché "There are two sides to every story" should be applied in his case.

Mr. Youngblood would do well to get his head out of the clouds and stop promoting elitism and tokenism in his letters to the editor. He certainly could be an asset to our gay and lesbian communities, especially at a time when the AIDS epidemic is devastating so many citizens of this country. So, how about it, Mr. Youngblood? Ed Dollak

Defending O'Conner

To the Editor:

I was shocked and offended to read the letter in the June 12 *Sentinel* from

Timothy P. Clarke which was a character assault on Tom O'Conner. Mr. Clarke is particularly ill informed about Tom O'Conner's involvement with the distribution of AL 721.

O'Conner has devoted long hours to locating and obtaining the actual formulation of AL 721 without monetary compensation. The price of AL 721 to the masses is the cost to O'Conner including testing and shipping expenses. I will also point out that the cost of this drug is a fraction of the cost of Burroughs-Wellcome's AZT.

Tom O'Conner is helping large numbers of people with AIDS nationwide, and I can assure you he is not profiting financially. He should be commended as a leader and a humanitarian not assailed as a "con artist."

Clint Werner

No Sympathy for Gann

To the Editor:

There is something pathetic and repulsive in hearing and reading Paul Gann's comments on his contraction of AIDS.

Somehow, one has difficulty raising compassion for a man who has already outlived the actuarial tables by more than a decade, screaming for someone to be tried for murder because he has contracted a disease that has already taken so many who never lived to be 75.

Granted, it is possible that without having contracted AIDS, Gann might live another 75 years, but not probable. At Gann's age, fatal disease could have been most anything, and, by all reports, almost was five years ago.

Yet we are faced with a man who survived a serious heart condition on donated blood, calling for a murder trial because the blood that sustained him through his ordeal eventually proved to be contaminated. While one can sympathize with Mr. Gann's situation, sympathy is tempered by the fact that old age alone might have been enough to pronounce the same sentence; tempered in the knowledge that through the donated blood he is

still here to scream "murder" at having contracted AIDS; and severely tempered because so many so much younger than he have died of AIDS before him without the vitriolic vindictiveness displayed by Gann.

I am sorry Mr. Gann has contracted AIDS; I lost what sympathy I might have had when he opened his mouth.

Donald Cameron Scot

Outraged at Evangelists

To the Editor:

I am outraged, to say the least, at the audacity of these free-spending television ministers who deceitfully prey on the confused, the gullible, the frightened and the lonely. Most of these ministers are nothing but smooth, tricky con artists. They are experts at getting people to part with their hard-earned dollars out of guilt and fear.

The biggest deceitful con of this century was the Oral Roberts "do-or-die" deception — all in the name of God yet. God must be as weary of these Bible Bangers as I am. I would rather give my money to a religious organization in my own hometown where I can see it in action — like feeding the hungry, clothing the naked, giving shelter to the homeless and visiting the sick. That's what true religion should be all about.

These television hustlers spend millions of donated dollars on lavish mansions, private jets, expensive cars and fat personal bank accounts that would stagger the imagination of most people, and all in the name of God — and of course, greed. W.C. Fields was right when he said, "A sucker is born every minute." James Stuart

Origins of AIDS?

To the Editor:

I was intrigued by your June 19 article about Larry Kramer for two reasons. First, I felt that Kramer stressed the lack of governmental leadership in the fight against AIDS, and second, he pointed out that this seemed deliberate. I think it would be very interesting to add that Doctor Gallo and his crew of scientists are part of this same government. I think also that Kramer made a good analogy when he saw similarities between the genocide practiced against the Jews and now the gays. In both cases, in the beginning, no one believed that anything quite so heinous as a deliberate murder of a people could be contemplated.

However, as any credible scientist will tell you, the AIDS virus is not a naturally occurring virus and as Doctor Wilbur Jordan, of Martin Luther Hospital in Los Angeles and former director of Public Health and an epidemiologist, has stated publicly, the AIDS virus was discovered "retroactively." Doctor Jordan has stated publicly that in the history of epidemiology there has never been an epidemic like AIDS, in virulence, that was discovered after the fact (i.e., 500 deaths).

Also, it might be interesting, if anyone is really interested, to ask what the only P-4 laboratory in the United States at Fort Detrick, Maryland, might have had to do with the development of the AIDS virus in the 1970s and its subsequent release into the gay community in New York. Also, the continuing appearance of "new" AIDS viruses might lend a spark of curiosity to the scientific community. Do not expect to hear that curiosity voiced in Doctor Gallo's camp, because he works for the United States government. Brett McCabe

All letters must be typed and legibly signed originals. Please include your complete address and telephone number. Deadline is the Friday prior to publication.

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let's stay healthy... together!

This project funded by the San Francisco Department of Public Health

Molinari

Continued from page 3

Bridge celebration for "crowding 800,000 people on the bridge." He believes there are three major issues in the city that should be addressed — a \$1 1/2 billion repairing of city facilities, expanding economic growth, and organizing to provide adequate AIDS care. The repair work and AIDS care would be financed with general obligation bonds, higher city fees, and possibly business and sales taxes. Boas said the city's health commission "is not working," and General Hospital cannot cope with non-AIDS indigent patients because of the AIDS care it provides.

"I really do not know how to identify myself with the gay community," the candidate stated. "I would like to do so. I do not have a politically-active gay in my campaign, but I would welcome such people. If I knew how to further involve myself, I would." Boas ignored a question about why he did not march in the annual gay parade, but said he was the first to fund the event through the hotel tax fund.

Ascarrunz gave a rambling talk in which he stressed that he was wealthy and respected, that his barber was gay, that he has a friend dying of AIDS and that he has given much of his time and resources to helping people. He stressed, "People are calling each other names, putting labels on each other. We need more communication. You and I are the same — we have labels. I deal with all people the same. I tell the truth." He stressed "that is not the way it was" when asked about a newspaper report claiming that he had said that Molinari bringing gays into City Hall had helped spread AIDS in the city.

Renne was well-received during her brief remarks. She began with an attack on the *Bay Area Reporter* for printing the "false information" that as city attorney she sought to declare the city's gay rights ordinance unconstitutional.

She said, "This was not, is not, and will not be the position of this city."

Evidently sensing that she is not perceived as a possible winner, she spent her time attempting to dispel that. She told members, "You can be with the winner. I am going to win. I cannot give you all my strategy, but I am not a stupid person. I have this thing pretty well analyzed. There will be a run-off election, and I will be in that. Then there will be another strategy." When elected, she said she would bring together "thoughtful and creative people." Answering questions about access to her department, she explained that it is understaffed but yet must handle 5,000-pending cases and 6,000 new claims each year.

Boycott

Continued from page 3

boycotts against Coors Brewery and Shell Oil.

Roger Shipley is gay, an officer of the local, and one of the negotiators. He explained, "The companies did not want us to go public but we refused. We told them we would not be gagged in taking our issues to the public and the press. They then said they would not extend the current agreement beyond May 31."

"For gay people, protection would be ended if the clause is dropped. It would be a field day for employers.

Under current language in our contract, we can file and process a grievance in sixty days maximum time and proceed to arbitration if the parties cannot reach a compromise.

"The net result of the companies' proposal on Section 20E [to eliminate non-discrimination language in the contract] would be to make violations more difficult for an employee to file, make it more time-consuming for government agencies to investigate [they have a one-year filing time to make an investigation], and ultimately have legitimate cases ignored or abandoned by agencies because of the overwhelming caseload." Management officials could not be reached for comment.

Macy's and Emporium have over 3,000 employees and are crucial in the union's broader negotiations with 30 additional stores that will begin soon. Shipley explains, "The standards for all of San Francisco are set in these negotiations — even for non-union stores as benefits move over to them. Gains and losses will impact on other stores, especially in the area of discrimination."

The Emporium is now involved in a possible discrimination case involving an openly gay man, Daniel Velarde, a store salesperson. The employee, with the store for six years, is being dismissed for poor attendance. There is consideration now of whether other factors are involved because of a recent in-

cident reported by Velarde.

The employee's appearance has been brought into question. Velarde wears his hair in a pony tail and often sports an earring. Recently, he was honored with a store sales award, but the Display Department allegedly was not permitted by management to take pictures of Velarde for a "winners" display. The employee contends that when he confronted the store manager about this, he was told that his appearance is not something the store wanted to put on display as its image. Two days later, Velarde was fired for poor attendance.

John Mendez, another Local #1100 business agent and union official, represents Velarde and wonders if the fact that the employee is a union activist and has a different appearance makes him more vulnerable to dismissal. He said the gay man is obviously a talented salesperson — earring and all. He is fighting the dismissal using the grievance procedure. It is not clear — as Velarde could not be reached — whether the employee will claim that his being gay was a factor in the dismissal, but if he did and there was no union protection clause, he would not be permitted to use that argument.

The language the two stores wish to drop is, "No person shall be discriminated against in regard to hire, tenure or employment or job status by reason of race, color, creed, national

origin, age, sex and sexual orientation. Job openings shall be filled by promotions wherever possible and always on a non-discriminatory basis."

Shipley said Local #1100 would be marching again this year in the Gay Freedom Day Parade "and our motto will be Gay Rights through Union Contracts."

Gay Book Summer Edition

The *Summer 1987 Edition of the Gay Book* was previewed this week at a gala party held Wednesday at Sutter's Mill in San Francisco's Financial District.

This is the fifth edition of *The Gay Book* and, like the previous editions, features a spectacular cover design by noted gay designer John Tomlinson. Mr. Tomlinson's other credits include the 1987 Lesbian/Gay Freedom Day Logo, the SF AIDS Foundation's "Use Condoms" advertising campaign, the SF Band Foundation Charles Pierce Fundraiser, and Alan Cranston's 1984 presidential campaign.

The 200-page *Gay Book* includes a business directory, color features and articles, and a 44-page resource guide that is one of the most comprehensive in the nation.

The Gay Book has now achieved a regular six-monthly publishing schedule and will appear every June and December.

DOPE AND BOOZE

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Cathedral) - San Francisco, CA 94102
7:00 PM - 10:00 PM

Ask Yourself:

- | | | | |
|--|---|--|--|
| Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> | 1. Have I ever been told by someone close to me that I have a problem with drugs or alcohol? | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> | 4. Have I ever forgotten what I did the night before when I was drinking or drugging? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> | 2. Have I ever tried to cut down on my drugging or drinking, but failed to live up to my promises? | <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> | 5. Have I ever tried changing my drink or drug of choice, thinking a particular type was my problem? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> | 3. Have I ever gotten in trouble with a lover, friend, job or the law due to my drinking or drugging? | <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> | 6. Have I come to depend on drinking or drugging to help me socialize and meet people? |

If you answered "Yes" to even one of these questions, it is likely that you have a substance abuse problem.

Getting high on drugs and alcohol used to be the thing to do. Now, times have changed.

Laws have been written to increase jail sentences for people convicted of drunk driving. Employers have begun to randomly test workers for drug use. If you do lose your job because of substance abuse, you may find it hard to get another one. Companies have installed procedures to avoid hiring people with drug or alcohol problems.

Drug and alcohol abuse has special significance to gay men. Dope and booze suppress the immune system. There is a clear connection between how high

you are and how likely you are to engage in unsafe sex. And, there is no question, sharing needles spreads the AIDS virus.

Do not wait until you have been arrested, have a serious health problem or lose your job and friends. Get help now.

18th Street Services provides outpatient counseling and referrals to gay men with substance abuse problems. Our staff is gay. We understand your lifestyle and concerns.

There has never been a better time than now to live clean and sober. Get off dope and booze.

18th Street Services

861-4898

Funding for this message provided as a public service by The CGRA Foundation.

St. Paul's
Lutheran
Church

(Oakland)

Sunday Worship
& Communion
10 am

St. Paul's is a member of
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Caucus)

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Hundreds enjoy the festivities at Sacramento's Lesbian/Gay Pride festival last weekend.

Sacramento Celebrates

by Caden Gray

More than 600 gay men and lesbians congregated at McKinley Park here in Sacramento last Saturday to celebrate Freedom Day.

On stage, comedian Danny Williams from San Francisco did his thing and people laughed.

Folk singer Bill Folk, also from San Francisco, sang and the crowd sang along.

Behind the booths, away from the main gathering, a tall man, clad in a black speedo and black leather vest, cruised back and forth in front of a large tub of water. The speedo man held three softballs in his right hand. A pretty young lesbian, her wet tee-shirt clinging provocatively, sat over the tub of water.

"Dunk a dyke," said the speedo man. "Only one dollar."

Comedian Karen Ripley from the Bay Area took over from Danny Williams and donned her 2-ply, Hefty bag body condom. People laughed.

While comedians joked and the Capitol City Squares danced, and while most of the people there were having a good time, the Reverend Jerry Sloan, in a pink shirt and rainbow suspenders, moved

through the crowd.

Sloan is the president of Sacramento's LAMBDA Community Fund, and was primarily responsible for organizing this year's 4th Annual Freedom Fair.

"It doesn't take much to plan," he said. "It basically plans itself."

According to Sloan, LAMBDA spent \$1,000 sponsoring this year's fair. It would have cost more, but Sloan told the city fewer than 500 people would attend. So LAMBDA did not have to purchase liability insurance. "I lied," he said.

This year, as in past years, the Freedom Fair occupied only a small corner of McKinley Park and lasted just one hot afternoon.

"I have a dream," said the Reverend Jerry Sloan. "I want to expand this into a week of cultural events. I would eventually like to see this thing move out to Cal Expo."

Issue: Missouri

Continued from page 6

work, and master cabinetry," said Dominski.

"If we can't stay at Hunters Point, we would like the city and the Navy to work very vigorously to find a place that's affordable and secure and comparable to our current studios," said Verity Dierauf, a painter and instructor at City College who keeps studio space at Hunters Point.

Mayor Dianne Feinstein, a supporter of the homeporting plan, says her office has already assisted three businesses in finding new facilities, and extended other leases until spring of next year. She vetoed an earlier anti-homeporting resolution by the Board of Supervisors, and says the *Missouri's* arrival could spark "the rebirth of San Francisco's waterfront as a major maritime facility."

"Homeporting will guarantee we maintain the remaining industry and add to it," Feinstein told the supervisors during the Wednesday hearing. "Without it, ship repair as an industry, can only decrease. In my opinion, it will not survive." According to the city's budget analyst, homeporting would create 1800 jobs in San Francisco, and pump \$96 million per year into the local economy.

Although environmentalists have expressed concerns about the impact of the dredging and other Navy activities, the mayor says their concerns are unfounded.

"Environmental impact studies to date show no adverse impacts that can

not be mitigated at reasonable costs," said Feinstein. She also downplayed anti-nuclear groups' fears that the *Missouri* will be equipped with Tomahawk missiles carrying nuclear warheads.

"Every Navy ship entering the bay today can be armed with nuclear missiles," said Feinstein "[and] the *Missouri* is no different." She noted that nuclear-capable vessels are already based in Alameda and at Mare Island. Neither the *Missouri* nor its support vessels is powered by a nuclear reactor, although other Navy ships based in the Bay Area are nuclear powered.

For security reasons, the Navy refuses to state which of its ships are armed with nuclear weapons. Recognizing that policy, Supervisor Harry Britt pressed a Navy official during the hearings to promise to help city emergency teams in the event of an accident involving nuclear weapons.

"The Navy is quite willing, as we have done historically, as during the earthquake of 1906, to work with your city and with the state on matters regarding emergencies, natural disasters, earthquakes, floods, that sort of thing," said Rear Admiral Robert L. Toney, the naval base commander. "You can count on us to be right by your side in the event you need us."

"I take that to include nuclear accidents as well," replied Britt.

Hearings on the Memorandum of Understanding will continue before the Board of Supervisors on Thursday, July 2 at 2 pm.

FROM THE DESK

Continued from page 10

been assigned the task of setting up the computer network between her Washington and SF offices as a systems manager and Catherine Dodd will advise her on women's, lesbian, child care, health, environmental and other policy issues. Dodd is a registered nurse.

Common Interest

What happens when a progressive Democrat and a gay Republican start spending time together? Well, on a day like today you put all your political differences aside and realize that no matter what your political affiliation, you're both gay and on a day like today, love and support transcends all else.

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A Safer Summer

You might have heard that reports of anti-gay and lesbian violence have doubled nationwide. At Community United Against Violence (CUAV), it's hardly a surprise. Because in San Francisco alone, CUAV has seen a 64% rise in reports of violence against gay men and lesbians in the past two years.

Sixty-four percent. Another impersonal statistic?

Not for Tom S., whose jaw was broken when six teenagers assaulted him on Market Street. Or for Sally N., whose knee cap shattered when her legs collapsed under her in a recent attack. Or for another CUAV client, whose eye was knocked out in a tragic battle with homophobia.

Thousands of individuals like Tom, Sally and others have found help through CUAV's services over the past eight years. With your renewed support, our community can continue to count on CUAV for critical programs such as:

- 24-hour crisis hotline;
- Visible and outspoken advocacy on behalf of gay men and lesbians who have been victimized;
- Safety alert campaigns to respond to trends in violence;
- Lesbian/Gay Speakers Bureau educating San Francisco high-school-aged youths;
- Safety monitors at parades, rallies and community gatherings.

Safety is hardly a new concept for CUAV. And as we have witnessed over and over again, it must extend beyond the bedroom and into the streets... into the schools... and into social institutions.

Defamation against lesbians and gay men in 1986 came from public figures and high offices:

- Secretary of State George Schultz jokes about giving Qadhafi AIDS;
- Popular New York talk show host Bob Grant says he wants to "beat the shit out of lesbians and gay men";
- The pope decrees that we should "not be surprised... when irrational and violent reactions [against gay men and lesbians] increase";
- The Supreme Court declares that we have no right to privacy.

These acts fuel the brutality we experience on the streets.

As morality makes headlines daily, and the fear of AIDS creeps closer to the heterosexual population, CUAV is gearing up for an active summer. Each year, CUAV gets its greatest number of calls for help during the summer months. Our stats have already begun to climb, and we must be prepared to face the challenge of the months ahead.

Your contribution is urgently needed now to keep our services available during these critical times. Please mail your check for \$100, \$50, \$25, or the most generous amount you can today to: CUAV, 514 Castro St., San Francisco, CA 94114.

A Decade of the Band

Ten years ago this spring, a young, talented musician from Kansas had a dream of an all-gay marching band participating in San Francisco's Gay Pride Celebration. Jon Sims made his way around town putting up flyers seeking other interested musicians to contact him. The San Francisco Gay Freedom Day Marching Band & Twirling Corps, the first openly all-gay marching band in the country was born.

A decade later, the band has many things to celebrate. The marching band has grown to become the San Francisco

Band Foundation, a multi-discipline arts organization made up of the Marching Band & Twirling Corps, the SF Flag Corps, the San Francisco Tap Troupe, City Swing dance band, the Vocal Minority and the Aides de Camp; all conceived and given birth to as a result of Jon Sims and his bag full of flyers. The Jon Sims Center for the Performing Arts is the foundation's tribute to the father of the gay musical movement in America.

Sunday, June 28, the San Francisco Band Foundation will march down Market Street, remembering Jon Sims, the boy from somewhere over the rainbow. The foundation will be marching, twirling, making music and carrying the giant rainbow flag, a symbol of our freedom; and they will be proud, strong and joyful, looking forward to the challenge of the next ten years.

March Raffle at Parade

Raffle tickets will be available to help raise funds needed at both the national and local levels to successfully organize and publicize the Sunday, October 11, National March on Washington. Ticket donations are \$1 each. First prize is a weekend trip to San Diego that includes roundtrip air fare and accommodations for two. Second prize is a \$100 gift certificate at On The Rack clothing store and third prize is a lunch for two at Luisa's restaurant.

The local Transportation and Housing Committee is sponsoring the raffle. As local people mobilize to participate in the march, the committee wants to assist as many of them as possible with their transportation and housing plans. The raffle tickets will be available at the Lesbian/Gay Freedom Day Parade's March on Washington booth. Other contributions may be sent to: Bay Area March on Washington, PO Box 3491, Oakland, CA 94609. For more information about housing and transportation assistance, call 330-5106.



Physique '87

Physique '87, the first ever National Gay Bodybuilding Championships, will be held in San Francisco on June 27. The event is sponsored by the San Francisco Band Foundation and features several weight classifications for both men and women including a Masters Division (ages 40 and up).

On June 27, preliminary judging will begin at Mission High School (18th and Church Streets) at 10 am (\$5 admission at the door) and the finals will begin promptly at that same location at 7 pm with a price of \$12 for orchestra seats and \$10 for balcony seats. For more information call George Birimisa at (415) 431-6254.

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HEALING RESOURCES

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Carol Weber's Curriculum of Joy Sharing Miracles

How many teachers of God does it take to heal the planet? This is a question offered by A Course in Miracles. The answer, according to Carol Weber, is only one. "One person completely committed to their own growth and healing. That person's strength can touch all beings." And she is willing to be that one teacher.

Carol Weber teaches A Course in Miracles. Or, as she would put it, she simply shares her experience. "If I want knowledge, I have to give away knowledge. I give away what I already know and it makes room for more to come through. The more you give the more you receive."

A Course in Miracles (ACIM) is one of the most widely used transformation

workers. One was Matt Garrigan who had decided to teach the course, and the group decided to go through it together.

"We lived the material, and it was very powerful for us as a group. I had done drugs, was drinking, had a great job, but felt empty inside. I knew there was something more."

There's a lesson from ACIM that says, "To do this course, you must be

THOMAS ALLEMAN



Carol Weber teaches A Course in Miracles, which she says is "designed to quiet your ego" and "reprograms the way your mind thinks."

"Grab onto what you want rather than focus on what is not working."
— Weber

tools available at this time for spiritual growth and healing. Study groups for ACIM are popping up all over the country, and books, lectures, and tapes on the course are widely available for spiritual students. What's perhaps most amazing about ACIM is its origin. Published by the Foundation for Inner Peace, the material was seemingly "channeled" through Helen Schucman, Professor of Medical Psychology at Columbia University in New York City.

Schucman had had no prior exposure to this kind of metaphysical thinking and her life, as she admitted, "was hardly in accord with anything that the course advocates." With the aid of William Thetford, her associate, Schucman wrote down the inner dictation from "the Voice" that eventually filled three volumes, including a text, workbook and teacher's manual. The workbook gives a lesson for every day of the year, and it "reprograms the way your mind thinks," according to Carol Weber. "The whole course is designed to quiet your ego. It just quietly gets relinquished." It takes at least a year for the student to complete the lessons in it. "You can't get into the course until you're really ready to transform on some level. The curriculum is joy."

The effect of ACIM has been totally transforming for her, personally. Weber discovered ACIM several years ago when working in a suite of offices with six other counselors and body-

willing to question everything you have value in." Weber's experience confirmed that. "The ways of the world are valueless. We're so caught up in business, money, career, relationships. The way of Spirit is there's one purpose: I am God, I am whole, I am complete, I am love, I am here to serve mankind. That willingness to let go of the ways of the world can initially cause quite a transition.

"All my attachments to people, to thinking I knew exactly how my life was going to turn out went through an upheaval. All the things that were shaky had to come to the surface for me to heal and choose again: 'Do I really want this? Is this what my life's about?' All these plans I had made of my grandeur were not what Spirit had in store for me. I had to surrender and let go into perfection those areas of my life that weren't perfect."

Divine Inheritance

"The message within ACIM is that there's nothing outside of you." There's something very exciting about knowing you completely create your own reality and that everything you do is out of love. No matter what you do you've never left your perfection, your natural inheritance. You're guiltless, free of sin, you've never done anything wrong. Ultimately, forgiveness is only an illusion because you've never done anything wrong. There's a part of us that knows that's true, and if you allow,

it will grasp this material. There's a willingness and readiness happening in the world at large. The world-healing meditations are a sign that the world is ready for a grand change."

On a smaller scale, you could say the same for Weber's Tuesday night support group, which continues to grow. "The purpose of the group," Weber specifies, "is to create a safe space, an environment where people can come and grow, evolve and share what their so-called blocks are, so they can go beyond them." A lot of sharing takes place. Participants discuss the ways in which they apply ACIM's principles to their everyday lives. There are meditations, written exercises, and a healing circle at the evening's end. It's an intensive three hours.

Making Miracles Happen

Many students of ACIM report engineering miraculous breakthroughs in areas of their lives. There's a genuine expectation of the miraculous, the unusual, and the remarkable. Weber says this is a natural process. "When miracles don't occur, something has

gone wrong. Who you are is love. You can have whatever you want. The only time you can't — so it appears — is

when you think, 'no, I can't.'

"Love can't be put into words, but it's an essence that's part of us. ACIM says, 'Seek the barriers to love's presence.' Someone who lives in the realm of faith knows that there is a way that will create miracle after miracle. There's a force within you and around you, that moves through you and walks with you always in your life — called God. You call upon this presence and you don't do it alone.

"When you want to create a miracle, you say, 'I want this.' Some people say, 'All things make way for the coming of the Lord' when they're in line for the movies, the line breaks and they find a seat. Against all odds, you hold the position that there is a way, and you call forth the part of you that can do it."

ACIM also refers frequently to the Holy Spirit. This sounds almost cloyingly religious, as if it were something external that comes upon you once in a while. Carol Weber likens the Holy Spirit to a bridge. "We have our human egos to contend with. Then we have this thing called God, which is a concept so vague, ambiguous or awesome that our minds can't grasp it. The gap between God and the ego is monumental to the mind. The Holy Spirit is that part of your mind which is the Higher Self, and is like your best friend. I talk to it, and when I don't know how to get what I want in my heart, I release it to this part of my mind that I know can take care of it. And it's not outside of you, which I think is a tendency in our upbringing to think the Holy Spirit comes and saves you."

Grasping the Holy Instant

There are also references in ACIM to "the Holy Instant." It's a principle that

Continued on next page



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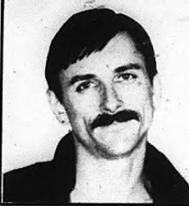
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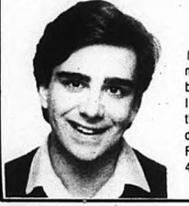
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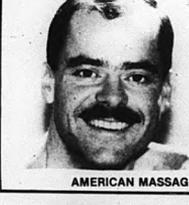
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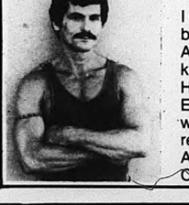
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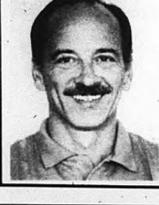
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allows you to go, "Oops, I slipped here." "Whereas many people go from such a slip into a tumble and crash, this Holy Instant brings instant recovery and resilience into the experience. "That ability to heal instantly is right here. No matter what goes on in your life you'll know you're not wrong, not an awful person, your life is not over, and you'll allow yourself whatever emotions come up. It takes you knowing that whatever is going on in your life you drew it to you to learn from and evolve and get a lesson for growth."

Even AIDS? Weber declines to speculate on the metaphysical cause of AIDS, which is refreshing, considering so many people are busy telling us where it comes from and what it's supposed to do for us. "I do know every person has the ability within themselves to transcend anything that goes on. You have the opportunity to love yourself through it, and not be ashamed and embarrassed by having a disease. Grab onto what you want rather than focus on what is not working. Your process of going through it will be much more effective. When anything happens it's an opportunity on some level for you to transcend and learn self-mastery."

The vast majority of Weber's students at her Tuesday night support group are gay men. As a straight woman doing intensive spiritual work with gay men, what has she learned from them? "We're not any different. Gay, straight, black, white are all labels to me. The game I'm playing now is that I prefer sex with men. But there's a part of me that's homosexual, that's every race and all things. One of the things that drew me to the gay community when I got into awareness is that willingness to know we are all things."

"I believe a lot of gay people have to go through the process of coming out of the closet, saying, 'I am what I am.' They've had to go through blocks of what people think about them, only to know it makes no difference, they're still free to be who they are. I've experienced an openness on the level of energies where there's a willingness to be both masculine and feminine. And it appears that the straight community is not as free."

Carol Weber holds a very optimistic picture of the world five years from now. "I see the principles of truth being much more solid and widespread within the world. A world more willing to discuss and allow different points of view. A world of greater peace, understanding and community. Almost a one-world community, which I believe is in process right now, and which is why things look so upside down now. I see ACIM being taught in the schools and so well-known that at parties we'll talk about God!"

There's a saying in A Course in Miracles that the Holy Spirit never gives you any more than you can handle. All you need is the willingness. At one point when Helen Schucman was channeling the material, she wondered why it was coming through her. The inner Voice responded, "You would do it." To that, Carol Weber adds, "For all of us what it comes down to is having willingness to change. The forms will be provided. Out of our own little bit of willingness, we can bring masterpieces into fruition."

Carol Weber's A Course in Miracles group meets every Tuesday night at Quan Yin Center, 513 Valencia at 16th, from 7-10 pm. A \$10 contribution is requested. For details call 885-2377.

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A T E A S E

POWER LANGUAGE AND GAY LOVE

Bowers v. Hardwick In Retrospective

by Mark Schoofs

E D I T O R S' N O T E

The article that follows is *not* an "easy read." However, we believe it is one of the most important essays the *Sentinel* has ever published. Author Mark Schoofs, a 1985 Yale graduate, offers a penetrating, dispassionate and — ultimately — liberating analysis of the uses (and abuses) of language in the 1986 landmark Supreme Court decision, *Bowers v. Hardwick*. This decision, as readers will probably recall, denied a gay man (and, by extension, *any* gay man) the right to privacy of sexual relations in his own home.

We don't anticipate you will quickly skim this piece or, necessarily, read it in one sitting. But the implications of Schoofs's essay are profound. His "deconstruction" of language employed by the Court offers a radical new tool for all of us — a means of fighting oppression and combatting restrictive ideologies. And finally, we believe this article is especially important for lesbian and gay professionals — those persons with direct access to the sources of power that define and give shape to what we call the American Democracy.

Tom Murray,
Editor-in-Chief

Eric Hellman,
Arts Editor

*You cannot face it steadily, but this thing is sure,
That time is no healer: the patient is no longer here.*

— T.S. Eliot

One year ago, the Supreme Court decided that the constitution does not protect gay love between consenting adults, not even in the privacy of our own homes. We were, of course, outraged and hurt. But a year has passed, and though the rage still flares and the hurt will not heal, these emotions feel anachronistic, like ghosts rattling chains in an empty house. Today, our consciousness of *Hardwick* is characterized by a different sensibility and a new mode of reacting.

We are objective now, even cold. No longer do we see the Court's ruling as a moral condemnation or even as a piece of legal reasoning — those are merely how the decision wants to be taken, what it purports itself to be, and time has tempered our minds too severely to be deceived by such pretensions. We see this ruling now for what it is: an act of naked power.

Seeing this, we no longer desire to rant or to justify. We want only to know how this power maneuver was able to succeed, what made it work and how we can counter its strategies and tactics. Cold and objective — indeed, almost cynical — we want only to understand in order to fight more effectively.

Conceptions of Power

And if it is true that Machiavelli was among the few — and this no doubt was the scandal of his "cynicism" — who conceived the power of the Prince purely in terms of force relationships perhaps we need to go one step further, do without the persona of the Prince...

— Michel Foucault

Conventional wisdom thinks of power in terms of physical violence: invasions, executions and torture. But, in fact, physical violence signals a crisis for power, a potential collapse of the prevailing order. Power operates

most effectively when we are not aware of any coercion, when everything is "normal" and "as it should be." Rather than resort to force, power prefers to convince, for its ultimate end is not obedience but uncritical concurrence. Language is therefore the greatest instrument of power: we think in language and hence are subject to its domination.

Language dominates us least of all by explicitly logical argument. It effects its power primarily through the subliminal influence of rhetoric, through connotations and associations operating beneath our level of awareness. Nowhere is this more true than in the *Hardwick* decision. Although the decision is made of "just words," the nation continues to feel the reverberations of these words, for it is the words themselves which constitute the act of power, the words themselves which effect domination.

Hence we can learn what we need to learn through a close examination of the Court's words.¹ With dispassionate exactness, this essay will analyze the Court's majority opinion to understand what tactics are used, how exactly those tactics function, with what larger strategies the decision integrates — in short, what are the essential features of this linguistic act of power.

Logical Negligence

We can easily reduce our detractors to absurdity and show them their hostility is groundless. But what does this prove? That their hatred is real.

— Moritz Goldstein

Fortunately, the *Hardwick* ruling offers a superb opportunity to ex-

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1. The Court's majority opinion was authored by Justice White and was joined by Chief Justice Burger and by Justices Powell, Rehnquist, and O'Connor. (Four other opinions were filed. Chief Justice Burger and Justice Powell wrote concurring opinions. Justice Blackman wrote a dissen-

ting opinion, which was joined by all the justices in the minority — Justices Brennan, Marshall, and Stevens. Justice Stevens also filed a dissenting opinion, which was joined by Justices Brennan and Marshall.)

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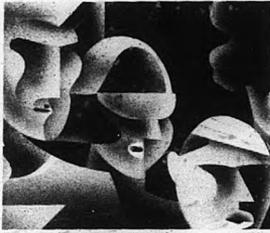
amine language as power. For one thing, the Court's intervention into the most intimate aspects of human life constitutes a clear abuse of the Court's authority — after all, Hardwick was arrested in his own bedroom. But more importantly, the Court's careless neglect of logic has left exposed its linguistic tactics and strategies.

The Court's reasoning consists mainly of simplistic one-line statements which dismiss complex issues and sidestep substantive arguments. In its definition of those rights which qualify "for heightened judicial protection," the Court states that such rights are those "deeply rooted in this Nation's history and tradition" or those "implicit in the concept of ordered liberty." The Court, however, addresses only the historical criterion, completely ignores the conceptual criterion, and then opines that "to claim that a right to engage in [homosexual] conduct is... implicit in the concept of ordered liberty" is at best facetious.

In contrast to the Court, Hardwick did not ignore the conceptual criterion; rather, he based a large part of his case on the argument that the right to engage in homoerotic relations parallels the already established rights

Court's primary obligation: to articulate why majority morality provides an adequate basis for the law in this case in contrast to other cases in which the Supreme Court deemed it did not. The Court never fulfills this obligation; it dismisses Hardwick's crucial argument with the imperious, but logically empty, statement, "We do not agree."

These are the grossest of the Court's many omissions of logic, and they leave exposed the linguistic power maneuvers. The cloak of reason is so threadbare that the form of power is clearly visible.



'History and Tradition'

Every tradition grows more venerable the more remote its origin and the more it is forgotten. . . . How slight the morality of the world would seem without forgetfulness!

— Friedrich Nietzsche

The Court deploys one of its most effective tactics when it defines those

Indeed, all those proscriptions beg the deduction that many of our forebearers must have engaged in homoerotic relations.

to use contraceptives, to use pornography in one's home, to have an abortion and to live with whomever one desires. These rights, contended Hardwick, derive from a concept of liberty which recognizes private conduct and intimate associations as essential to the dignity of an individual and his or her pursuit of happiness. Again, the Court ignores this crucial argument and instead feebly constructs an irrelevant argument to attack: "No connection between family, marriage or procreation on the one hand and homosexual activity on the other has been demonstrated."

The Court again neglects logic when it addresses the complex relation between morality and legality. Hardwick claimed that majority morality provides inadequate reason to support the law. The Court responds with a weak legal version of the domino theory: "The law . . . is constantly based on notions of morality, and if all laws representing essentially moral choices are to be invalidated . . . the courts will be very busy indeed."

This domino theory camouflages the

liberties which are fundamental and therefore qualify for special judicial protection. The Court stresses that such liberties must be "deeply rooted in this Nation's history and tradition." The opinion then cites examples of the criminalization of same-gender sexual relations in United States history, from which it deduces that such relations are not rooted deeply enough in "this Nation's history and tradition."

Suddenly we find ourselves beleaguered by "history and tradition," an august phrase which sounds authoritative regardless of its relationship to truth. In this instance the list of statutes which purports to represent "this Nation's history and tradition" in fact violates them.

The Court conflates history and tradition by treating these two terms as synonyms. History and tradition, however, are not only different but often antithetical. History seeks to evoke the whole rounded Being of an age. It is inclusive; its scope is nothing less than everything that ever was. Tradition, on the other hand, is ex-

clusive. It aims not to evoke a rounded whole but rather to invoke one line of the past, a line designed to unite one group in common cause or belief. In its quest for unity tradition honors certain events and vilifies others, thus distorting even the single thread of the past it desires to maintain. Whereas history recounts, tradition values. History aims at knowledge, tradition aims at power.

Judges are not historians, but if they rely on "history" to deny a people rights then one can expect them to at least acknowledge the fullness of history. The Court, however, limits itself to a six sentence recital of proscriptions against same-gender sexual activity, while failing to acknowledge that the very proscriptions which they invoke suggest the presence of homoerotic activity in "this Nation's history." Indeed, all those proscriptions beg the deduction that many of our forebearers must have engaged in homoerotic relations.

But we do not need to rely on deduction. Historical documents record that many Americans took the liberty of engaging in homoerotic relations, and that often they suffered severe punishments for it. Not, however, without occasionally showing defiance. William Plaine, for example, was executed in 1646 in New Haven on the charges that though "a married man . . . [he] had committed sodomy with two persons in England" and "had corrupted a great part of the youth of Guilford by masturbations . . . above a hundred times." But Plaine did not go gently. When interrogated about his "filthy practice" Plaine "did insinuate seeds of atheism, questioning whether there was a God." The vocabulary of contemporary civil rights was unavailable to William Plaine, and hence it would be somewhat glib to interpret Plaine's religious "questioning" as advocating homoerotic affection to be a "fundamental liberty." Nevertheless, Plaine's questioning does suggest dissent from prevailing moral and ethical norms. Furthermore, dissent is the voice of the oppressed and hence must seize whatever opportunities arise. In this light it is not farfetched to inter-

to be sure, there exists a long and well-known tradition of anti-gay opinion and legislation in this country. So well-known is this tradition that most Americans accept without a second thought the Court's claim that it constitutes "this Nation's . . . tradition." But in a country as diverse as the United States, it is almost impossible to speak of any one tradition as being that of the entire nation. Certainly no single tradition can encompass the whole of America's homoerotic aspects. For example, in contrast to the anti-gay fustinations by fundamentalist Christian ministers there stands a long and beautiful gay literary tradition.

There is also a legal tradition which accepts homoerotic affection, although the Court attempts to gloss over it. At the end of its cursory review of U.S. history the Court



points out that "until 1961, all 50 states outlawed sodomy, and today, 24 states and the District of Columbia continue to provide criminal penalties for sodomy performed in private and between consenting adults." The Court frames this fact so as to fit with what it calls "this Nation's . . . tradition"; according to the Court, the laws of 24 states and the District of

Both a celibate monk and Don Juan might classify as heterosexual, but that would hardly reveal much about their respective sexualities.

pret William Plaine's "questioning whether there was a God" as a profound objection to the proscriptions against his sexual freedom.

A genuine concern for history would have included at least a nod to currents diverging from mainstream opinion. The Court's attempt to summarize U.S. history makes no mention at all of any such currents, and as such it fails to meet even the most lenient standards of historiography. It simply is not history.

It is an invocation of tradition. And

Columbia continue the anti-gay legal tradition dating back to English common law.

Clearly this is true. But just as clearly, the 26 states which have repealed their sodomy laws are part of a different legal tradition, a tradition which accepts homoerotic activity as a valid option in the pursuit of happiness. This legal tradition is no less American for its being less old. The reversal of racially discriminatory laws is also a young tradition; few would argue, however, that it is somehow not gen-

2. The opening of Justice Blackmun's dissent puts the case into perspective: "This case is no more about 'a fundamental right to engage in homosexual sodomy,' as the Court purports to declare, than Stanley v. Georgia was about a fundamental right to watch obscene movies, or Katz v. United States was about a fundamental right to place interstate bets from a telephone booth. Rather, this case is about 'the most comprehensive of rights and the right most valued by civilized men,' namely, 'the right to be left alone.'"

3. This is not to imply that logic is devoid of power relations — it is not. Power is immanent within all types of relationships, judicial, economic, logical or whatever. But logical power is unique because the West has a very long tradition of analyzing and criticizing explicitly logical maneuvering, and therefore can handle the tactics and strategies of rational discourse. However, other kinds of power maneuvering pass us by virtually unnoticed, thus increasing their effectiveness. It is these power plays — the plays maneuvering far away from the clear fields of logic — that we seek to understand, and the Court's logical negligence makes that task all the easier.

4. The distinction between power and knowledge is tenuous, for knowledge itself is a

kind of power. Furthermore, in practice history is never innocent and always contains a great deal of tradition, a great deal of power maneuvering. What Nietzsche wrote of philosophy — that the moral (or immoral) intentions in every philosophy constitute the real germ of life out of which the plant grows — applies with equal force to history. Nevertheless, the theoretical distinction between history and tradition remains, and one way for the historian to distinguish himself from the tradition-maker is to foreground self-criticism and doubt (something which the majority opinion fails to do).

5. Material on William Plaine indebted to: Jonathan Ned Katz, Gay/Lesbian Almanac; Harper & Row, New York, 1983; pp 90-91.

6. The most celebrated representative of this gay literary tradition is perhaps Walt Whitman, who wrote frequently and passionately of "the dear love of comrades." In light of his praise of America and his elegies to Lincoln, it is impossible to exile Whitman from the ranks of the genuinely American. He and the tradition his poetry represents are as much "this Nation's" as any tradition which spurns homoerotic affection.

7. Justice Burger writes in his concurring opinion: "As the Court notes. . . . Condemnation of those practices [homoerotic relations] is firmly rooted

in Judeo-Christian moral and ethical standards." It should be noted that Justice Burger errs in the latter statement. Homoerotic affection was by no means always condemned by Christian moral standards; to the contrary, such condemnation did not arise until about the twelfth century. (Source: John Boswell, Christianity, Social Tolerance and Homosexuality; Chicago University Press, Chicago, 1980.) There even exists a marriage ceremony from the Greek church of the ninth or tenth century for a marriage between two men (source: John Boswell, Rediscovering Gay History: Archetypes of Gay Love in Christian history; Gay Christian Movement, London, 1982; pp 18-21). However, even if the Judeo-Christian tradition did uniformly condemn homosexual relations, such condemnation would provide no legal justification for the suspension of rights from gay people. The United States deliberately has no state religion; the moral views of Christianity or Judaism — or for that matter the moral views of the Moonies or the cult of Dionysus — are legally irrelevant.

8. "Excerpts From the Court Opinions on Homosexual Relations," The New York Times; Vol. CXXXV, No. 46,822; page 10.

9. Chief Justice Burger writes in his concurring opinion: "Blackstone described 'the infamous

crime against nature' as an offense of 'deeper malignity' than rape, an heinous act 'the very mention of which is an offense to human nature, and a crime not fit to be named.' . . . These citations provide cause for consternation: that the Chief Justice would dig back two hundred years to find so vitriolic an invective reflects dubiously upon his impartiality.

10. Source: Alfred C. Kinsey, Wardell B. Pomeroy, Clyde E. Martin, Paul H. Gebhard, Sexual Behavior in the Human Female; W.B. Saunders Company, Philadelphia, 1953; pp. 448-451. Kinsey summarizes his findings with this statement: "sexual contacts between individuals of the same sex are known to occur in practically every species of mammal which has been extensively studied." (p. 448).

11. Op. cit., John Boswell, Christianity, Social Tolerance and Homosexuality; p. 12.

12. Shakespeare, for example, uses the word "unnatural" almost exclusively to represent the most heinous acts: Lear's betrayal by his daughters — "savagely and unnatural" (Act III, scene iii, line 7) — or Claudius' murder of Hamlet's father — " foul and most unnatural" (Act I, scene v, line 25).

inely American. Thus with a subtle rhetorical gloss, the Court manages to exclude a young but vigorous legal tradition from the monolith it has erected as the nation's only tradition.

'Roots'

The starting point of these reflections was usually a feeling of impatience at the sight of the "naturalness" with which newspapers, art and common sense constantly dress up a reality which, even though it is the one we live in, is undoubtedly determined by history.

— Roland Barthes

To be accurate, the Court has not erected a monolith; it has potted a plant. The Court's review of history opens with the statement, "Proscriptions against that conduct [same-gender sexual relations] have ancient roots [emphasis added]." Earlier the Court defined fundamental liberties as those "deeply rooted in this Nation's history and tradition [emphasis added]," and this crucial defining phrase is repeated at the close of the Court's historical argument.

In spite of — or perhaps because of

Not only does the Court deny us basic rights, but they also presume to define who and what we are.

— this metaphor's apparent innocuousness, it is extremely potent. It is the only quotation from the main opinion that Chief Justice Burger cites in his concurring opinion, and he later employs the metaphor again.¹³ Many news reports quoted the metaphor, and *The New York Times* actually subtitled one section of its abridged version of the majority opinion "Ancient Roots of Proscriptions."¹⁴ However, despite the metaphor's wide resonance it has received little if any scrutiny.

By describing the proscriptions against homoerotic affection as having roots, the Court implies that those proscriptions — and its ruling — were developed as part of the natural order and therefore are unassailably valid. What this metaphor obscures is the human element — the fact that laws arise from political and social forces which are constructed and controlled not by any natural design but by human, very human, beings.

The metaphorical use of roots becomes still more insidious when we recall that the charge of violating nature has long been leveled against gay people. Chief Justice Burger explicitly exploits this allegation. In his concurring opinion he cites a quotation which calls same-gender sexual relations "the infamous crime against nature."¹⁵ The majority opinion is more subtle in its exploitation: because the ruling stems from "ancient roots" it must be natural; therefore whatever opposes it must be unnatural.



But homoeroticism is not at all unnatural. Same-gender sexual activity abounds in the animal kingdom,¹⁶ and this fact has been known at least since the time of Aristotle.¹⁷ Even if human beings were the only species to engage in homoerotic behavior, such uniqueness would not prove the behavior unnatural. What is unique to a species is precisely the "nature" of that species. Furthermore, what we most value in human behavior is often what is particular to our species; no one proposes banning abstract reasoning because it is unknown in the "natural" world.

The charge of unnatural is both em-

pirically false and logically flawed; unfortunately, facts and logic are hard pressed to counteract the subliminal force of rhetoric. This is especially true of "unnatural" or "against nature," for these are among the most emotionally charged condemnations in our language.¹⁸

By defining fundamental liberties as those "deeply rooted in this Nation's history and tradition" and then claiming that proscriptions against homoerotic relations have "ancient roots," the Court subliminally accuses Mr. Hardwick, and all gay people, of violating the natural order. Suddenly we are on the defensive, having to counter not only explicit arguments — which would be easy enough — but also implicit accusations.

It is an extremely shrewd tactical maneuver, and its shrewdness derives primarily from its clandestine operation. Power's efficacy rests on its ability to conceal itself; unmasked, power immediately weakens. As long as language remains transparent — as long as tropes such as "roots" and "rooted" are thought of as 'just metaphors' or 'mere rhetoric' — its subliminally persuasive force will continue unchecked.

Sickness and Sin

Christianity gave Eros a poison to drink: he did not die of it but degenerated — into a vice.

— Friedrich Nietzsche

medical associations attached to "homosexual." (For a detailed discussion of the words "homosexual" and "gay," see op. cit., John Boswell, *Christianity, Social Tolerance, and Homosexuality*, pp. 41-46.) Instead of "sodomy," this essay uses "homoerotic affection," "same-gender sexual relations," or similar terms. Almost any term would improve upon "sodomy," which bristles with negative associations.

14. Sources: op. cit., John Boswell, *Christianity, Social Tolerance, and Homosexuality*, pp. 42-43. Also, Michel Foucault, *The History of Sexuality*, Vol. I, trans. Robert Hurley, Vintage Books, New York, 1980, p. 43.

15. In this context consider that there is a verb form of sodomy — to sodomize — whereas there is no verb form of homosexual (or at least Webster's does not list one). If there were, presumably it would be "to homosexualize"; but clearly "to homosexualize" would mean something radically different from "to sodomize." Consider: one sodomizes someone by performing an action which is physical and leaves the essential personality of the "victim" unchanged; one homosexualizes someone by — and here one comes to a full stop. Just how would one homosexualize another? It would mean

Besides the charge of unnatural, history records two main strategies in the oppression of gay people, moral and medical. Same-gender sexual relations were either a "sin" or an "illness," and the vast majority of discussion on the topic — and hence the vast majority of thought — was bound by the vocabulary of morality or pathology. The Court's opinion exploits both of these strategies, primarily by its pervasive use of two words, "homosexual" and "sodomy."¹⁹

The word "homosexual" was coined in the context of late 19th century pathology; before that time "sodomite" referred to a person who engaged in same-gender sexual relations. The words have very different meanings. "Sodomy" connotes a temporary behavioral aberration, whereas "homosexuality" connotes a permanent psychological type. A sodomite commits an act, and it is the act which defines him as a sodomite. In contrast, even if a homosexual were to stay celibate for his entire life, he would still be a homosexual; not his actions but his mental and emotional being define him.²⁰ A sodomite does, a homosexual is.²¹

But "homosexuality" does not signify a neural category of being. Historically, the homosexual was a medical case in need of a cure. Erotic desire for members of one's own gender was at first thought to be congenital, but the advent of psychoanalysis quickly displaced the biological theories.²² The homosexual quickly passed from being deformed to being deranged, and although professional psychiatry no longer considers homoerotic feelings to be a malady,²³ the word "homosexual" still resonates with associations of mental illness.



Even if it evoked no negative associations, "homosexual" would remain a suspect word. It purports to classify a group of people, but the problems with this classification are legion. A major problem arises in determining just who is, in fact, a "homosexual." Kinsey's research found that 37 percent of the males surveyed had reached orgasm at least once with another man,²⁴ which indicates that over one-third of the men in this country can respond

homoerotically. But the meaning of that response varies widely; for some men it represents an intense desire, for others merely a casual interest.

Furthermore, Kinsey found that most people have erotic desires directed toward both sexes, and moreover that the relative balance of these desires does not necessarily remain the same for life.²⁵ These facts show the rigid homosexual/heterosexual dichotomy to be, at best, crude; the dichotomy takes no account of the degrees or the dynamics of sexual attraction. Kinsey himself wrote:

[Human beings] do not represent two discrete populations, heterosexual and homosexual. The world is not to be divided into sheep and goats. Not all things are black nor all things white. It is a fundamental of taxonomy that nature rarely deals with discrete categories. Only the human mind invents categories and tries to force facts into separate pigeon-holes. The living world is a continuum in each and every one of its aspects. The sooner we learn this concerning human sexual behavior the sooner we shall reach a sound understanding of the realities of sex.²⁶

Kinsey's report was first published almost four decades ago and is recognized as a landmark in the study of human sexuality. Certainly we can expect the Court to acknowledge the results of seminal scientific work which is pertinent to the issue at hand. The invalidation of the homosexual/heterosexual dichotomy is acutely pertinent, for the Court hinges its ruling on the classification of people as homosexual: "The issue presented is whether the Federal Constitution confers a fundamental right upon homosexuals to engage in sodomy [emphasis added]." The Court makes no acknowledgement that the homosexual/heterosexual dichotomy is at best simplistic and misleading. To the contrary, its unreserved use of "homosexual" implies that the Court assumes the truth and validity of such a dichotomy.

Even if the dichotomy were valid, even if human being did divide neatly into homosexuals and heterosexuals, the distinction would mean very little. Both a celibate monk and Don Juan might classify as heterosexual, but that would hardly reveal much about their respective sexualities. Classifying them by whether they prefer blondes to brunettes would tell as much.

The emptiness of the word "homosexual" does serve to make it more effective as an instrument of power. The word transposes the issue at hand from whether citizens of this country can engage in certain sexual practices to whether "homosexuals" can engage in those practices. The Court's attempt to scapegoat gay people becomes even clearer when one realizes that the obverse of "homosexual" — "hetero-

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13. Instead of "homosexual" this essay employs the words "gay" or "homoerotic." While not perfect, these words have several advantages over the term "homosexual." "Homosexual" was coined as a category to be assigned by doctors to patients, a practice which can all too easily infringe on the sovereignty of the individual. "Gay" avoids this pitfall by implying a category which is primarily self-assigned. (A person who only occasionally has engaged in homoerotic activity would probably not consider himself or herself "gay"; a psychologist, however, might label such an individual "homosexual.") This self-assigned aspect of "gay" is also politically impotent. A group's choice of its own label represents a rejection of society's definition and an affirmation of its own identity. Just as blacks have the right to reject "Negro" and "colored" and choose their own label, so too do we. Gay is the word we have chosen, and the Court's refusal to respect this choice implies a tremendous presumption: not only does the Court deny us basic rights, but they also presume to define who and what we are. As for the term "homoerotic," it connotes an entire constellation of intimacy and attraction between people of the same gender; "homosexual," on the other hand, excludes all but the explicitly sexual. Also, "homoerotic" has less of the clinical or

changing their psychic and emotional, and quite possibly their genetic, makeup.

16. Op. cit. John Boswell, *Christianity, Social Tolerance, and Homosexuality*, p. 9, footnote. Curiously, there was at first some debate over whether homoerotic feelings were in fact a defect or merely part of the normal range of human variation. Psychoanalysis, however, emphatically categorized such feelings as an illness. Here is should be added that neither biology nor psychology has formulated a conclusive theory as to the origins or causes of homoeroticism — or for that matter of heteroeroticism, or of anything in between. Perhaps this is because both disciplines are, for the most part, asking the wrong question. Science should not seek only the origins and causes of "homosexuality" or "heterosexuality." Rather, science should explore sexuality in general and merely seek to understand all its diversity, not merely a few arbitrarily chosen aspects.

17. By a unanimous vote of its trustees, the American Psychiatric Association removed "homosexuality" from its list of mental disorders on December 15, 1974. (Source: John J. McNeil, S.J., *The Church and the Homosexual*, Sheed Andrews and McNeil, Inc., Kansas City, 1976, p. 117.)

18. Alfred C. Kinsey, Wardell B. Pomeroy, Clyde E. Martin, *Sexual Behavior in the Human Male*, W.B. Saunders Company, Philadelphia, 1948, p. 650. Kinsey also found that 13 percent of women had sexual contact with other women to the point of orgasm (see op. cit., Alfred C. Kinsey, Wardell B. Pomeroy, Clyde E. Martin, Paul H. Gebhard, *Sexual Behavior in the Human Female*, p. 475).

19. Op. cit., Alfred C. Kinsey, Wardell B. Pomeroy, Clyde E. Martin, *Sexual Behavior in the Human Male*, p. 639 and op. cit., Alfred C. Kinsey, Wardell B. Pomeroy, Clyde E. Martin, Paul H. Gebhard, *Sexual Behavior in the Human Female*, p. 471.

20. Op. cit., Alfred C. Kinsey, Wardell B. Pomeroy, Clyde E. Martin, *Sexual Behavior in the Human Male*, p. 639. (Kinsey repeats this basic idea in op. cit., Alfred C. Kinsey, Wardell B. Pomeroy, Clyde E. Martin, Paul H. Gebhard, *Sexual Behavior in the Human Female*, pp. 469-471.) In recognition of the fluid nature of sexuality, Kinsey abandoned the crude homosexual/heterosexual dichotomy and instead posited a continuous scale from 0 to 6. On his scale 0 indicates complete heterosexuality, 6 complete homosexuality, 3 perfect bisex-

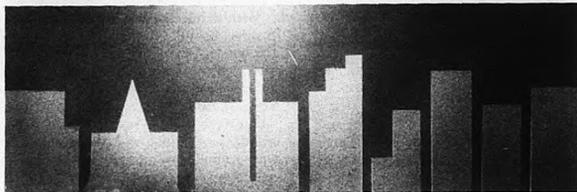
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sexual" does not appear anywhere in the majority opinion.²¹ By omitting even the mention of heterosexuality, the Court implies that homosexuals are not merely a different classification in one system, but wholly other beings — and moreover, beings who are psychologically ill.

Whereas "homosexuality" is an illness, "sodomy" is a sin. Derived from Sodom, the Old Testament city which God destroyed for its citizens' "wickedness,"²² the word teems with connotations of sin and evil. Yet the Court refers to same-gender sexual relations almost exclusively as "sodomy."

The Court never defines for itself the word sodomy, but quotes in its first footnote the state of Georgia's definition: "A person commits the offense of sodomy when he performs or submits to any sexual act involving the sex organs of one person and the mouth or anus of another." This definition focuses solely on the physical act, excluding the emotional and psychological elements. Both a couple of 50 years and a prostitute and his or her customer could be "guilty" of the same "offense." By its use of the term "sodomy" the Court implicitly denies that homoerotic acts



sodomy between consenting adults in general, or between homosexuals in particular, are wise or desirable. It raises no question about the right or propriety of state legislative decisions to repeal their laws that criminalize homosexual sodomy, or of state court decisions invalidating those laws on state constitutional grounds. The issue presented is whether the Federal Constitution confers a fundamental right upon homosexuals to engage in sodomy. . . .

The rhetoric of a "fundamental right" sets and orients every discussion in the majority opinion, and also in the concurring and dissenting opinions. Even when not explicit it is present nonetheless, underlying every argument

the focus of our new cold eye. Instead the aim is to view "fundamental rights" as a rhetorical force, as a locus of power in language, and then to analyze precisely how this rhetorical device effects its power.

Webster's first definition of "right" reads, "an ethical or moral quality that constitutes the ideal of moral propriety . . . something morally just."²³ This definition coincides perfectly with the legal conception of rights; the Constitution declares that fundamental rights — those of "life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness" — are something "inalienable" with which all people are "endowed by their Creator." When the Court rules that gay people lack a fundamental right to have sexual relations, it casts a moral shadow over gay people and their intimate behavior; something about gay people and homoerotic affection is, literally, not "right."

The Court, however, strives to disclaim any meaning wider than the strictly legal. The ruling, states the Court, does not judge "whether laws against sodomy between consenting adults . . . are wise or desirable" but only "whether the Federal Constitution confers a fundamental right upon homosexuals to engage in sodomy." This disclaimer rings of disingenuousness. The Court cannot be unaware of the moral resonance of terms such as "sodomy" and "fundamental right," and neither can the Court be blind to the profoundly political effect of such language.

The Court's seemingly narrow ruling in fact lowers the sword of Damocles which already hangs over us. Federal law does not prevent state or local authorities from persecuting gay people, and now those authorities have implicit

We cannot let this ruling — or any of the power-pronouncements we face and will continue to face — stand unchallenged. We must intensify our critical acumen and unmask linguistic strategies and tactics. We must see all discourse as motivated by political and psychological goals, and we must expose the discursive devices which aim at achieving those goals: the conflation of similar yet essentially different terms, the underlying logic of metaphors, the subversive meaning of words spoken and of words left unspoken. We must see language as the primary and most effective means of domination. We must



see language as power.

And against this power we must deploy — the same power. There is no alternative. Only through language is language conquered. If a Supreme Court ruling — or a Catholic Pastoral Letter or a politician's speech or any item of discourse — frames the issues in homophobic terms, then we must reframe the same issues from our perspec-

Power's efficacy rests on its ability to conceal itself; unmasked, power immediately weakens.

often express love and devotion and hence are central to an individual's pursuit of happiness. As Justice Blackmun points out in his dissent, such a denial constitutes "the most willful blindness."²⁴

Such a denial, coupled with the scapegoating tactic implicit in the word "homosexual," enables the Court to rule as it did. The Court defines the issue at hand as "whether the Federal Constitution confers a fundamental right upon homosexuals to engage in sodomy."²⁵ It would have been far more difficult for the Court to have ruled as it did had it worded the issue in a more comprehensive way — for example, "whether the Constitution confers a fundamental right upon people to express affection in the manner of their own choosing."

'Fundamental Right'

"Might before right" is a misleading proverb, for power need not compete with the law; the law is its attribute. Power has the law on its side, whereas powerlessness needs none.

— Max Horkheimer

Although the Court did not word the issue before it in a comprehensive manner, it did make a great effort to specify exactly what it did and did not decide.

This case does not require a judgment on whether laws against

and discussion. Moreover, it is the location least likely to receive scrutiny because conventional wisdom accepts its parameters wholeheartedly and without criticism. After all, it is precisely the function of the Supreme Court to discuss and decide matters of fundamental rights; to express this language, and hence barely pause to examine exactly how it functions as an instrument of power. But it is precisely these devices of language — the devices which are most pervasive and expected but least examin-



ed — which require our most rigorous analysis.

The aim here is not to propound a moral point; that we deserve the right to have sexual relations is certainly a valid and important argument, but it is not

The ultimate end of power is not obedience but uncritical concurrence.

support in the text of the Supreme Court's decision.²⁶ By disclaiming any moral or political meaning to its ruling, the Court tries to wash from its hands all responsibility for inciting the politics of bigotry.

Their responsibility notwithstanding, it does not make for very effective practical action to indulge in moral indignation and rail against the five majority justices. Already one of them has resigned, and time will unseat the remaining four. But the ruling itself will endure. And it is the ruling itself — the ruling separate and distinct from its authors and ratifiers — which will affect the balance of freedom and oppression.

We must talk, write, argue, criticize, acclaim, debate, protest, and affirm. If nothing else we will weaken the power of language as a whole; dividing language against itself will make its tactics and strategies more visible, hence less potent. The point, then, is to combat language with language. We must fight back by speaking out. ■

Mark Schoofs received a bachelor's degree in Philosophy from Yale University in 1985. He currently lives in San Francisco where during the day he writes fiction and essays, and during the night waits tables. His favorite leisure activities are gay swimming and water polo.

Continued from previous page

and so on. (See op. cit., Alfred C. Kinsey, Wardell B. Pomeroy, Clyde E. Martin, Paul H. Gebhard, Sexual Behavior in the Human Male: pp. 636ff.; also op. cit., Alfred C. Kinsey, Wardell B. Pomeroy, Clyde E. Martin, Paul H. Gebhard, Sexual Behavior in the Human Female: pp. 465ff. Although Kinsey assails the homosexual/heterosexual dichotomy, he still employs the two words.) Even if we assume that the Court intended its use of the word "homosexual" to refer to Kinsey's scale, the question which the Court would still have to answer remains: at what point is someone homosexual? Only at 67? Everything past three? Anyone with any homoerotic urges whatsoever? Consider an analogy: if one looked at an ink wash passing from absolute black through continuous shades of grey into absolute white, at what point could one say the black had become white? Besides all of which, Kinsey's scale does not overcome two other basic dilemmas. The first is a political problem: who determines a person's position on the scale and what motives, conscious or unconscious, may be acting on him or her? The second is a procedural problem: how can one reliably assess where on the scale an individual belongs? In other words,

what methodology can accurately quantify so nebulous and complex a phenomenon as sexual orientation?

21. "Homosexual" does not appear in any of the concurring opinions either. It does, however, appear in both dissents.
22. Ironically, this wickedness was not same-gender sexual activity; Sodom occurs often in the Bible as a symbol of evil, but not once is that evil specified as homoerotic relations. The "wickedness" seems to have been inhospitality. (See op. cit., John Boswell, Christianity, Social Tolerance and Homosexuality: pp. 94-99.)
23. Justice Blackmun in his dissent writes: "Only the most willful blindness could obscure the fact that sexual intimacy is 'a sensitive, key relationship of human existence, central to family life, community welfare, and the development of human personality.' . . . The fact that individuals define themselves in a significant way through their intimate sexual relationships with others suggests, in a Nation as diverse as ours, that there may be many 'right' ways of conducting those relationships, and that much of the richness of a relationship will come from the freedom an individual has to choose the form and nature of these intensely personal bonds."

24. Incidentally, the Court's wording of the issue leaves open quite a few questions. At first the Court seems to think that the issue is whether "homosexuals" can engage in sodomy. This, however, begs the question of whether heterosexuals can engage in sodomy, especially since the Georgia statute makes no reference either to the gender or to the sexual orientation of the parties involved in "sodomy." The Court answers this question in a footnote: "The only claim before the Court . . . is Hardwick's challenge to the Georgia statute as applied to consensual homosexual sodomy. We express no opinion on the constitutionality of the Georgia statute as applied to other acts of sodomy." But this wording begs the question of a gay person who engages in sodomy with a member of the opposite sex — has the Court expressed an opinion on his or her right to engage in such activity? In sum, the Court seems unclear as to exactly what it is ruling upon: does it mean to rule on whether homosexuals as a class of people have a right to engage in sodomy of whatever kind, or does it mean to rule on whether people of whatever sexual orientation have a right to engage in homosexual sodomy as a class of sexual activity? Such ambiguity is a cause for considerable wonder: specifically, one cannot avoid

suspecting that this lack of judicial precision resulted from a blinding eagerness to make a generally anti-gay ruling.

25. Webster's Third New International Dictionary, unabridged edition. Webster's also gives the etymology of "right" as deriving from words originally meaning "straight" or to "lead straight." This etymology greatly deepens the moral connotations of the word, especially when one considers the moral significance attributed to straight — as opposed to, for example, "wandering astray" — in such seminal works as Dante's Divine Comedy and Milton's Paradise Lost. Furthermore, the etymology of "right" is especially loaded in this particular context, for in common parlance "straight" and "heterosexual" are synonymous.
26. Shortly after the Court handed down its ruling on Hardwick, two men in Georgia were convicted on sodomy charges. The prosecutor in the case told the Atlanta Constitution that he decided to pursue the charges as a result of the Hardwick decision. (Source: Ray O'Loughlin, "Nevada Law Violates State Constitution," Say Attorneys," Bay Area Reporter, Vol. XVI, No. 38: p. 3.)

ODC/San Francisco

Discovering a 'New Narrative' in Dance

If you want to boil life in the '80s down to a single locution, try that advertising buzz word, "disposable." From \$2 watches to the growing numbers of humans considered expendable to the ubiquitous plastic bag, the message of our times is consistent and clear: if you don't want it, just throw it away and get yourself a new one.

Brenda Way, the plucky and intrepid ODC/San Francisco artistic director, whose politics and feminism were forged in the fire of New York City collectivism in the 1960s, considers that attitude to be "one of the greatest artistic liabilities to the growth of dance in America." And she won't buy it. "I don't make throwaway choreography," she said in an interview last week at her Oakland home.

So instead of discarding *Tamina* — the major new work of her modern dance company's last season — when she found "it wasn't adequately finished," she decided to revise and rework it, commissioning a new score from Paul Dresher to replace Jalatu Kalvert Nelson's ineffectual effort, and reevaluating the choreography from scratch. The result, retitled *Prague and the Angels*, opened last evening at the Herbst Theatre, where it will be repeated tonight and Saturday night.

Two spanking new works on ODC/San Francisco's home season — *Laundry Cycle: The Long and the Shorts*, a witty salute to the Bay Area as the home of the first laundromat, with a bright new score performed live by The Bobs, and *The Tangle*, a series of duets set to a veritable anthology of 20th century waltzes — will undoubtedly attract the lion's share of media attention, simply because they are new.

But, for my money, *Prague* is the piece to see, for if Way can pull off this reprise, she will have taken a tremendous choreographic leap, a leap into an arena largely unexplored since Merce Cunningham took the narrative out of modern dance and Yvonne Rainer wrote a manifesto celebrating pedestrian or "found" movements. For Way it is, obliquely, a gambol back into the hoary realm of her own past as a baby ballerina, into the land of stories.

Some may consider this an unlikely direction for this highly intelligent, almost hyper-kinetic woman to take, considering she cut her teeth as a structuralist, movement-oriented choreographer 15 years ago while teaching dance at Oberlin College, where the Oberlin Dance Collective was founded. Unlikely, yes, but not uncharacteristic of Way, a woman who, by her own description evades "trends" and works "without premeditation."

Way's early work was powerfully influenced by Randy Coleman, an Oberlin composer who experimented with new symbology and methods of writing music. Way took Coleman's "Format" scores — which in-

cluded indications for the range of pitch, articulation, duration, and dynamics — and used the composer's principles to generate abstract movement.

Way explained in an interview last year, for example, that she made "staccato notes into short, fast movements, and long low notes into movement low to the ground." The results were a rich "subject of inquiry" for Way's

hungry intellect, that could be easily discarded if unsuccessful. (In her one concession to the philosophy of disposability, Way asserts that, "When you're a young artist, you do well to throw away.") They also provided an alternative to old-fashioned dances based on life rather than movement.

"Basically," says Way, "I thought making work that was about a story or about my life wasn't very interesting." On the other hand, Way says that she never made a movement in her life "That didn't come right out of here," that is, out of her "center." In those early days, she says, "I was passionate about chasing down what movement could be. And also, I was trying to figure out what virtuosity would look like if people

not have come up with on her own, but also made her realize how meanings can be read into steps that are not intended to be about meaning at all.

"What kind of movement done by the dancer, with no narrative idea in mind, would resonate in very specific psychological ways to the spectator?" she asked herself in a characteristically crisp, brainy formulation. When, for instance, does an awkward balance on two hands and one foot get read by the audience as a struggle for survival, or toward evolution, or enlightenment?

Way's current definition of narrative in dance — that is, movement that bears "any relation to life outside the dance studio ... relation, not enactment, and which utilizes

dance on a little square of carpet, a tiny world that is all they have to call their own. "I was big on structural references to meaning," says Way. "The meaning was in the format of the constraint."

While continuing to make important abstract and movement-filled dances, Way extended further into the narrative realm in 1983 with *Adam's Invisible Hand*, which she sees as an artistic turning point.

"It wasn't really until *Adam*," says Way, "that I realized, I mean, you know, it's really a story here. And I want the dancers to get a sense that while the character is coming from the movement, it ends up in the face. We were really struggling in new terrain."

Way's last two big projects, *Invisible Cities* and *Prague*, have continued the fusing of choreographer as formalist and choreographer as storyteller. At this point, except for her continuing use of devices developed in the "Format" series — with names derived from music serialism, like "retrograde" or "inversion," or of her own whimsical, descriptive derivation, like "drop-ins" and "drop-outs" — you'd hardly recognize Way's abstractionist roots.

Now she talks about choreographing through "intuition," about "trying to touch on the depth of human experience," and about investigating "reflective as well as intellectual places" that had been of little concern to her just 15 years ago. Where did the new perspective come from? Try simple feeling.

"There's always been tons of feeling in my life," laughs Way, "but most of it's been at home. You don't have four kids and two husbands without a lot of feeling, one way or another. Really, it's just that my opinions about what was important art did not include that realm in such a direct way. I didn't approve. ... I have stopped judging what is appropriate craft, and it feels good."

"I am no longer afraid to do what I want to do," she explains. "So I can admit that the fact that I was brought up in ballet probably has had some effect on me somehow. But it is the fact that I am old enough now to see that things have beginnings and ends that has given me permission to make stories. I mean, you know, people are dying. They grow up and die. They have children. Things have moved on. That feeling of 'life form' has taken on an importance in my life, whereas earlier, elegant form, arbitrary form, manmade form was what interested me."

"I think also I really value the simple, central feelings of connection with another person," Way continues. "So it's not at all surprising that that's at the core of *Prague*. It's not a story that has a beginning, a middle, and an end, in the sense that they grow up and have a family and they die. But there is something simple in it."

Way sums up the change in her artistic perspective by declaring, "You have a longing and you do your best to satisfy it. You jump in both legs, both arms."

"A whole lot of everything has to do with courage. I'm just enjoying heading into that old-fashioned thing: drama." ■

ODC/San Francisco performs at the Herbst Theatre, tonight and Saturday night, 6/19-20, at 8:30 pm. For information and tickets, call 392-4400.



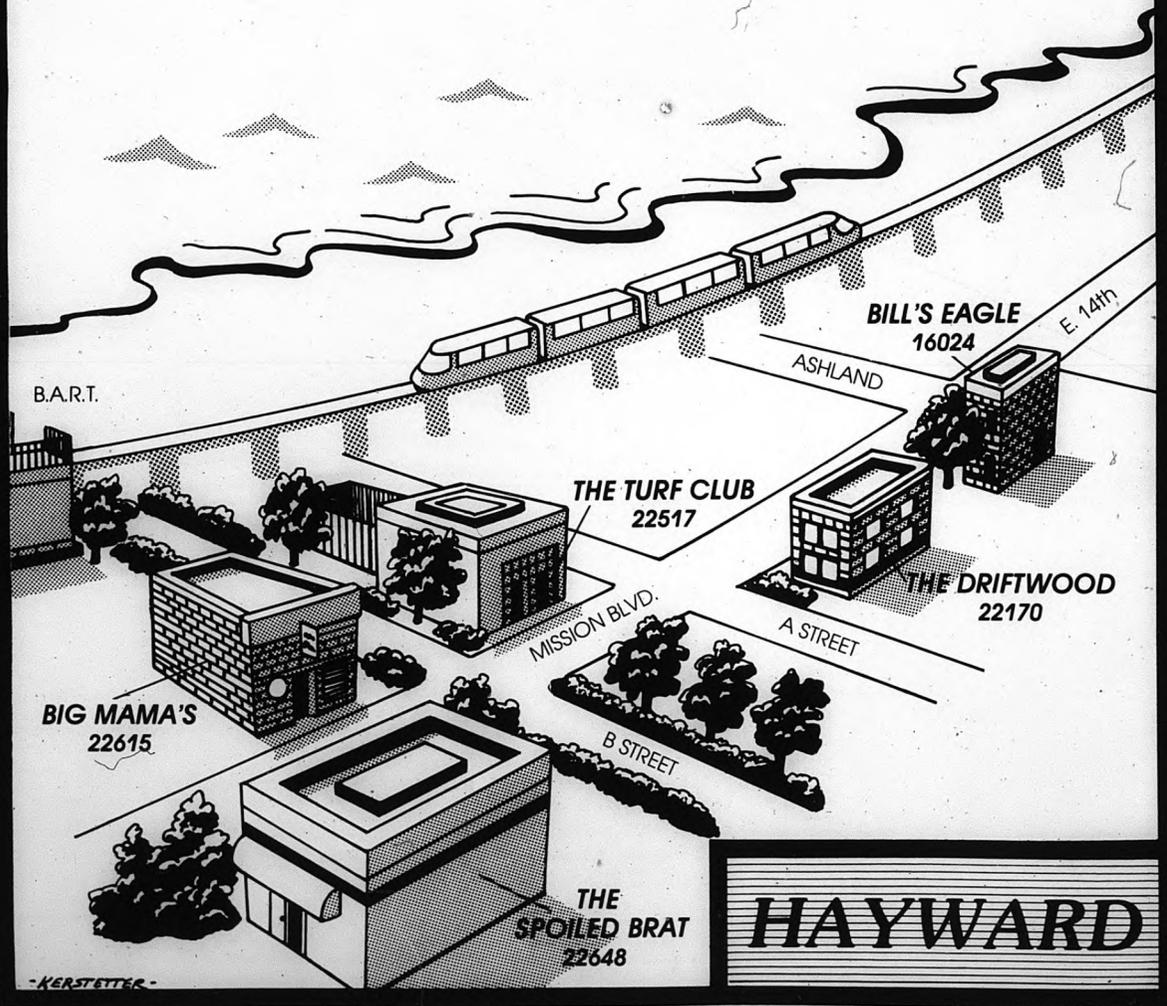
Post-modern passion: Arturo Fernandez and Elizabeth Gravell danced in *The Tangle*, one of the works included in this weekend's performances by ODC/San Francisco. Inset: Choreographer Brenda Way.

character" — comes straight out of those early experiments. After the Collective moved from Oberlin to San Francisco in 1976, Way logically extended her formalist forays into investigations of specific feelings. Not stories, mind you, but states of mind.

Red Shoes (1977), her first work after coming West, had the dancers stomping in red Adidas sneakers, in what she calls a "mini-narrative exploration of compulsion." (The lifted movie title alone is enough to imply a story.) Just before came *Ladies in Waiting* (1976), a lovely adagio for four women who



STRONG, UNITED, AND PROUD IN HAYWARD



'Pulp and Circumstance'

Zippy Satire Charms and Seduces

You couldn't find a better example of how right things are getting at Theatre Rhino than *Pulp and Circumstance*, the new musical comedy that's just settled in for what looks like a comfortable long run on the mainstage.

Pulp and Circumstance is an affectionate take-off on lesbian pulp novels of the 1950s and early '60s. Appearing out of the blue as a new dime store paperback subgenre a few years after WWII, most of these tomes were male-written lurid exploitation stuff.

But a few were written by women, under pseudonyms. Despite the limitations of pulp convention, they managed to offer fairly sympathetic portrayals of struggling individuals, relationships, even women's bars. Being a hell of a lot more accessible to the average closet inhabitant than the likes of *The Well of Loneliness*, they were collected and devoured (and often hidden and protectively destroyed) by women eager to have some confirmation that they weren't alone.

Like the Magic Theatre's hugely successful *Sharon and Billy*, this production is the rare nostalgic homage/satire that neither descends into smug campness or blunders into duplicating the bland or stupid aspects of the material it springs from. It doesn't have (much of) the dark undercurrents *Sharon and Billy* provided as the flipside of *Happy Days* nostalgia. But fine-tuned frivolity is always as hard to achieve as anything else, and yes, we do need it now more than ever.

It's clear from the moment one enters the theatre that this play was approached with slumber-party glee by everyone involved. Vola Ruben's sprawling set screams Day-Glo and Viewmaster, threatening even to spill into the lobby out of sheer high spirits. Split-level and multipurpose in the best 1953 Sears Roebuck fashion, it encompasses both the neat efficiency apartment hovel of the SF would-be nuclear family, the Harringtons, and the notorious "lesbo-queer" bar next door,

Maxie's Hideaway. Following a prelude of well-chosen period schlock rock, the cast crowds onstage to sing the ebullient opening of Jan Cole's score, "Welcome to the Hideaway."

The moment the music dies out, however, it becomes clear that the neighborhood is something less than one big happy family. The Harringtons are everything a nice abnormal girl would want to escape from, and that's exactly what soon-to-be-legal Lauren (Judy Wellisch) would love to do.

Her mother (Ann Block) is well-meaning, but a staunch proponent of the hair-pulling, eyelash-plucking, rouge-wielding school of female self-torture; Lauren would prefer to turn her pixie cut look into something more butch, and flee to Nashville where she can become "the next Kitty Wells."

If there are fun points here and there one might like to hone to a higher polish, it's only because Pulp and Circumstance is so good one wants it to be perfect.

Her stepfather (Mykel J. Mengert) is the worst of her lot — a homophobe with a mouthful of dyke-baiting bluster, a sponge (he's supposedly too engrossed in med school to bring home any bacon), and inveterate hetero lech whose hands know no dignity or step-parental bounds.

While Lauren secretes her lesbian pulp novels under the living room couch and dreams of the presumed all-girl heaven next door, Maxie's Hideaway has more than its own share of melodrama going on. Maxie (Donna Davis) herself is the classic broad-behind-the-bar, swallowing her pride when the cops show up for their usual hush money, as protective of her



Pucker up: Judy Wellisch (left) plays the innocent yet yearning Lauren and Nancy Lee Russell plays her seductress, the manicurist, Babs, in Theatre Rhino's passionate musical comedy, *Pulp and Circumstance*.

clientele as of her inevitable Mysterious Past. Part of that past unexpectedly shows up in the form of ex-flame and on-going heartbreak Dottie Dean (Sheila Traviss), a repentant Bad Girl who, rather surprisingly, does *not* in this case redeem herself in the end.

Subplots and spectators among Maxie's clientele include the big-hearted and -tempered Jocelyn (Brandi Swann), whose volcanic devotion to the jumpy little military type Sarg (Karen Shaw) is endangered by Sarg's

off the second half's heightened melodrama, racing toward a rather abrupt ending that may need a little more work.

Directed by Adele Prandini and written by Prandini and Sue Zemel, *Pulp and Circumstance* balances a joyous abandon with some of the tightest staging and ensemble work around. While comic-book verve is the order of the day, elements of wistfulness, pathos and social reality are neatly woven into the overall package as well. The realities of sexual expression are never very far from center stage here, but they manage to steady rather

than belabor the overall high spirits.

If there are fine points here and there one might like to hone to a higher polish, it's only because *Pulp and Circumstance* is so good one wants it to be perfect, the better to seduce everybody who attends theatre (or ought to).

The tuning required is fairly minimal, though. Prandini and Zemel have assembled a cast deliciously capable of fleshing out their gallery of (slightly-more-than) stereotypes, and

Continued on page 33

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LIVE MUSIC NIGHTLY

'Harry and the Hendersons' Bigfoot Phone Home

My first impression of *Harry and the Hendersons* was that the screenwriters had taken information about Bigfoot and the screenplay of *E.T.* and fed them into a computer. The *E.T.* formula has been followed to a you-know-what, right from the opening forest steadicam point-of-view shots. Formula filmmaking makes me feel somewhat ripped off no matter how charming. Yet this film, while not significantly transcending the formula, manages at least in part to get away with it.

I have to admit I find the premise of an almost reformed hunter who works in his father's gun shop accidentally hitting a Bigfoot with his car on a family vacation pretty funny. And while the formula elements of the film unleash some whopper clichés, there is enough original humor to offset them.

cyclone fence at a highway full of cars (shot a la *Koyannisqatsi*) with a profoundly ambivalent gaze is alone worth the price of admission.

Considering this film in relation to earlier ape man genres (*Tarzan*, *King Kong*) provides an example of our changing relationship to nature. The old chal-

The most one can generally hope for is inoffensive fun, which Harry and the Hendersons basically gives us, along with an environmentalist message in a charming package.

Thematically, the film generally gets across its environmental protection message, and to the extent that it contributes to an increased awareness of the interdependence of species and cuts humans down to size, I have a soft spot for it, clichés and all. The brief moment where the Bigfoot, Harry, stands at the edge of the forest looking through a

lunge to seek out and tame the vast and threatening wilds has become the desire to protect the displaced creatures who come across our path, having run out of wilds to inhabit. In this context, returning Harry to the forest is merely a stopgap measure and lacks the nobility such an ending would have had in the *King Kong* days. Pro-

viding old answers to new questions is perhaps the most damaging cliché of this film.

Another question that gets an old answer is what does it mean to be human (as opposed to animal). Harry's characterization in this regard is a bit fuzzy (so to speak) in some areas, such as how does he understand, can he speak, etc. He laughs and cries, watches TV, listens to a Walkman, yet he purrs when happy, and his notion of sitting (as in "sit, boy")

the film's intention to portray Harry as human in the best sense of the word. Where the obsessional Bigfoot-hunters (like the scientists in *E.T.*) are presented as the bad guys — that element of (male) humanness Henderson is fighting both in himself and by protecting his guest — Harry, in all his big, bumbling gentle-giant (male) glory is seen as the good guy, the teacher for protagonist Lithgow.

The key word here is, of



What becomes a legend most? The Henderson crew caught in a moment of awe, discovering Harry, a legendary creature who becomes a member of their family.

has devastating consequences to the Henderson house.

John Henderson's (John Lithgow's) mission to embrace Harry as a member of the family shows

course, "male." Screenwriter/director William Dear has transposed the hero function from *E.T.*'s child's eye view (scripted by a woman) to that of a man, positing notions of what does it mean to be human in strictly adult male terms.

The children's roles are reduced to formulaic proportions (boy = urge to violence, girl = appreciation of natural beauty).

Their function seems to be strictly to complete the nuclear family. The woman's role (Melinda Dillon as Nancy Henderson) comprises the male fantasy of the caretaker mom who affectionately indulges this untamed maleness, this unintentionally yet thoughtlessly destructive bigness. Other female characters include nosy neighbors, nosy reporters, and a fat woman descending into a hot tub juxtaposed with a chicken going into a pot. Clearly, in this film's terms, to be fully human is to be male.

This is not to take away from the fun of watching John Lithgow steal the show from a main character resembling a hirsute Oscar Madison. Lithgow's gestures as he attempts to conceal the fact that the floor beneath him is rising and falling make for delightful physical comedy. His likeability helps gloss over some of the film's thematic weaknesses.

Harry's shenanigans also provide many fun moments, such as undercutting the schmaltz of presenting roses to the daughter by dropping her to the floor with an affectionate cuff; or looking for the rest of the deer (hunting trophy) behind a wall.

David Suchet, as veteran Bigfoot hunter Jacques LaFleur, is a great nemesis and comic foil who contributes such memorable images as sniffing the wrong ends of two roses for Bigfoot-scent. And Don Ameche's brief appearance as Bigfoot expert Dr. Rightwood adds some class to the film.

Expecting this kind of crank-out summer hit to display an in any way enlightened consciousness is patently unrealistic. The most one can generally hope for is inoffensive fun, which *Harry and the Hendersons* basically gives us, along with an environmentalist message in a charming package. Its male-identification and utopian ending mar this charm less through their political ignorance than by coming off as clichés. Perhaps this, at least, is progress. ■

Harry and the Hendersons is playing at the AMC Kabuki 8 (931-9800).

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Pippin's Pocket Opera

'Flappido'

I was standing in the lobby of the Pocket Opera's Waterfront Theatre and talking to a soprano. She was recounting her most recent horror attack. "Last week, I had to step into a duet recital with just a day's notice. Stress time, for I had to learn most of the numbers overnight. In the middle of the 'Brindisi' from *Traviata* I forgot the words and began making up Italian sounding syllables.

"Everything was going all right, except that the tenor was giving me some pretty weird looks, until I came up with 'flappido,' and then my partner almost burst out laughing. It was a struggle just to keep singing. The audience, of course, never noticed a thing."

The return of Pocket Opera this season, after a couple of years of homeless wandering, brought back not only the company's proverbial glories but many of its problems as well. Several nights this spring were marred by painfully out-of-tune orchestral playing. Ensemble precision is only a dream at Pocket Opera and not even a very realistic one. A restricted budget precludes much rehearsal and that missing preparation is often all too audible. If you catch Pocket Opera on a bad night, you risk never going back.

Still, the soprano's little confession tells all. Most of the audience listening to an opera in a foreign language isn't really listening. They are floating on some cloud of music and emotion, free of immediate restraint and oblivious to all particulars, except for the tenor's squelched high C or the soprano's reckless lunge for one.

At Pocket Opera, through Pippin's translations, the words become the vehicle for getting the audience's deepest attention, just as the composer intended. Because the audience is listening for the words, they are engaged with the meaning of the music in a way that's seldom experienced

at foreign language performances.

The risk for opera in the big houses in America, where the work is always performed in the composer's language, is that the dramatic impulse will slip out of the enterprise entirely. One reason Italian and German singers are often more dramatic is that they are used to communicating with their audiences. No one knows the degree to which American audiences shut down at the usual opera performance better than the young American singers. Pocket Opera is not only showing American listeners what music-drama can mean, it is giving its singers the chance to communicate, to sing to an audience, not just at it.

The high point of Pocket Opera's recently finished season was Pippin's new translation of Mozart's *Abduction from the Harem*, where the story is updated to 1969 Turkey with Pedrillo, Blonde and Constanza imprisoned by the authorities for possession of two joints. Tampering with the time-frame or setting of an opera can cause problems because those changes usually go against the music somewhere, but in Mozart's *Abduction* the music always stops before the dialogue begins.

Furthermore, in this opera Mozart's arias and duets usually depict the character's emotional response to a situation rather than the situation itself. Pippin thus achieves his modernization entirely within the spoken dialogue, while still using each



Pocket Opera's Marcelle Dronkers (left), Richard Walker, Debra Lynn, and Donald Pippin (at piano).

passage of dialogue to create the perfect set-up for the music that follows.

Never has Pippin so naturally enunciated the various moods of the composer's music, while at the same time bringing the drama closer to us. This new work is a sure-fire hit that I hope Pocket Opera will revive next season.

Baker Peebles, despite some trouble with his upper-register, gave a rewarding performance as the lead tenor. He is a deeply musical singer. Mozart's writing for his lead soprano, Constanza, is perhaps more than any singer can truly master, but after a rocky start, Leonore Turner battled those fiendish difficulties admirably. Her more inward moments were sublime. Kevin Skiles and Jacqueline Dickey were pretty cast as the hippie couple, Pedrillo and Blonde. Although Dickey has a little acid in her voice, her technique is

fluent and agile; Skiles has never sounded better. William Neil's bass encompassed Osmin's extreme extensions remarkably well and he proved himself an excellent actor in the part of the redneck sheriff.

Pocket Opera's principal problem is assembling an adequate orchestra. Since the Pocket Philharmonic never involves more than a quartet of strings, an enormous burden falls on each one of them, and in particular on the lead violinist. The young singers flock to Pippin because he gives them the chance to perform leading roles and to learn to communicate with their audience. Where are the aspiring great among the instrumentalists? This season, except for Elizabeth Blumenstock and Stefan Hersh, the pickings were pretty slim among the violinists.

It is true that good instrumentalists tend to attach themselves to orchestras or other institu-

tions more than singers do, and this connection often prevents them from accepting Pocket Opera's occasional gigs. I wish to be generous to Pocket Opera's problems in finding adequate instrumentalists. It's a difficult dilemma, I realize.

But too frequently the enjoyment of a Pocket Opera performance is sacrificed to this problem. The first violinist for Mozart's *Abduction*, for example, did not totally destroy the magic of the evening, but he tried. The first violinist for Bellini's *Norma* dragged down the opening night performance woefully. Vicky Van Dewark already had her hands full with the toweringly difficult title role; she should not have had to work against such an ill-tuned accompaniment as well.

In the Handel operas the situation is even more extreme. The strings, and especially the first

Continued on page 33

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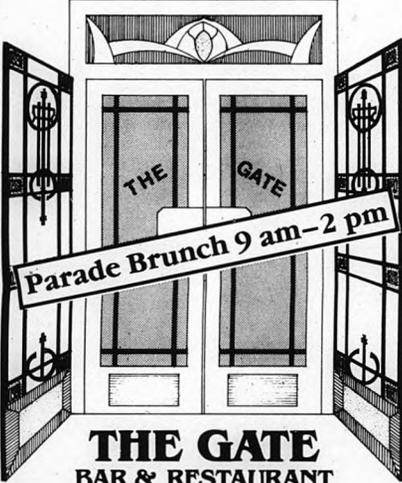
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SECOND GLANCE

STEVE ABBOTT

'Why Choose to be Gay?'

Letter to a Friend

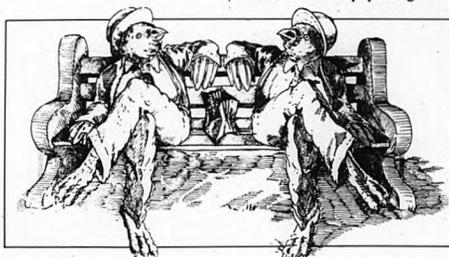
Dear Jeremy,
A couple of months ago we were talking at Cafe Picaro about a young contemporary of yours who I thought was straight but you thought was gay. "But Jim has the right to define himself as he chooses," I said.

"Why would anyone *choose* to be gay?" you replied.

The pain of your question shook me. For 17 years I've devoted much of my life and writing to celebrating gay life. I've studied our history. Despite all the different forms homosexuality has taken in various cultures around the world, despite all the inquisitions and pogroms against us, our courage and imaginative resilience has never flagged.

Lesbians and homosexuals have taken pioneering positions in almost every society. We've been shamans, poets, warriors, singers, artists, teachers, government leaders, sports heroes, philosophers, filmmakers and movie stars. Whether we've become world famous or just locally infamous (the town "queer"), we've functioned as the imaginative antennae of our species as Judy Grahn shows in her inspiring book, *Another Mother Tongue*. Walt Whitman thought same-sex love was so important to America's well-being that he gave it central praise in his essay, "Democratic Vistas."

Still, I understood the pain of your question. After 20 years of gay liberation, homophobia is still rampant. Same-sex relationships, even if life-long, are blessed by neither church nor state. Anti-gay violence has only escalated since the murder of Harvey Milk; and alcoholism, drug addiction and AIDS have sapped our community of much of its strength and joy. Films like *Pick Up Your Ears* don't paint a



don't even have the right to exist unless we hide who we are and work twice as hard as everyone else to justify ourselves.)

When I was the age of you, Jeremy, and your friend Jim, I tried to find books on homosexuality but that was difficult. The few I did find were sad tales — Oscar Wilde's biography, Andre Gide's *The Counterfeiters*, Cavafy's poems. Plato's friends seemed happy but they lived in ancient Greece. The few psychology books that even mentioned homosexuality implied it was, at best, an emotional immaturity.

Then, in 1967, I finally met someone who was not only openly homosexual but who broke the stereotypes — Allen Ginsberg. With his wild beard, anti-war politics and exhilarating poetry, he demonstrated more courage and charisma than had anyone I'd ever met. "Easy for him," I thought cynically. "He's just passing through this hick town.

ject me? What drastic changes would this new self-definition make in my life? I didn't know, but after 27 years, I knew I had to get honest with myself and with society-at-large. Even then, it was two more years before I built up the courage to tell my parents.

Some friends did reject me. Being openly gay affected my career opportunities, too, and may still do so even though I no longer feel compelled to wear a "Gay Is Proud" button everywhere I go. But I've never once regretted my decision. And I was never more proud than when I helped organize Atlanta's first gay liberation march. Only 200 people marched, mostly students and hippies walking behind a convertible full of drag queens. A few even wore paper bags over

their heads fearing they might lose their jobs. But they were with us. For once we were standing together in someplace other than a darkened bar.

I've been marching for gay pride now for 17 years and I've seen our numbers swell. I've marched in butch or fem drag, with friends or lovers, with a Gay Fathers contingent, a Clean & Sober Living contingent, a US Out of Central America contingent — or alone. I've learned I don't need a lover to feel good about being gay, though I'm grateful for those I've had. And I'm not daunted by the specter of AIDS.

We've faced plagues and persecutions before and with flimsier support networks than we have now. Sure, I'm hating that several friends are sick. And I hurt when my first lover was murdered by an AWOL Marine in 1972. But I've seen a spiritual rebirth in our "community," as my gay and lesbian family like to call it. We have squabbles as do most families, but when the chips are down we stick together.

That's why I'm proud to be gay, Jeremy. Did I say "be gay"? "Continuing-to-become gay" I like better because same-sex love has opened the up, not only to wonderful physical pleasures but to emotional and spiritual experiences I'd never have discovered otherwise. Deciding to call myself gay was a life choice, a venturing into unexplored territory and into an identity that still continues to deepen and expand. By calling myself gay I've had to *create* an identity instead of just fit into a prefab self defined by church, state or corporation.

I've learned much from my older gay brothers and sisters — Sappho, Whitman, Stein, Ginsberg as well as Robert Duncan, Harold Norse, Tobias Schneebaum, and Jim Riggs, my first Tai Chi teacher who at the age of 60 began a new career as an architect. We pass this wisdom on. But same-sex love isn't limited to their experiences or to mine. If you choose to call yourself gay, Jeremy, be always proud because you — and your generation — will bring still new meanings to this word, this life. ■

By calling myself gay I've had to create an identity instead of just fit into a prefab self defined by church, state or corporation.

very bright picture of gay life, either. So if being gay means facing violence, hatred and death (or growing old alone), why would anyone *choose* to be gay?

I can only answer this question for myself.
From third grade on, I knew I had a special physical and emotional attraction for those of my own gender. Up through college, however, I felt I had to hide or sublimate this attraction to survive. Why would God give me these feelings if they were bad? Not knowing the answer, or knowing other gays I could talk to, I sublimated my sexual energies into art, poetry, drama and community service of various kinds. If anyone was unjustly oppressed, I'd take up their fight because I knew what oppression felt like even though I didn't yet think I had the right to fight for my own freedom.

(The first thing we're taught if we're gay is that we're sick and unworthy. We're taught we

He doesn't have to live here."

Several more years passed. I had been to Europe now where it was cosmopolitan to be "bi." (Not to put down our bisexual brothers and sisters. As gay liberation picked up steam, bi's have been unfairly attacked by gays and straights alike.) But it wasn't until after Stonewall and the first gay manifestos that I took my final step out of the closet.

I was well-known in leftist politics in Atlanta, had a graduate fellowship in English, and had been student government president. When someone wrote a column in the campus newspaper attacking homosexuals, I responded with a spirited defense, publicly defining myself as gay for the first time.

This was the scariest thing I'd ever done, much more so than refusing induction and facing jail. I felt like I'd jumped off a cliff. What would happen to my marriage? Would my friends re-

Pink Dildo Phobia

Well, this is something of a mess. I wrote it Monday night, suffocating amid fifty clippings of various length and importance, all of them about AIDS. In retrospect, I made a mistake: in honor of the parade, I ought to have gone with a full-blown jerk-off screed; but good judgment has always limped along right behind outright, irrefutable irresponsibility in the debit column of my "positive" attributes. . . .

Enjoy yourselves this weekend, nonetheless: and as you watch the Dykes on Bikes roar past, think of our lame (and ugly) duck(ing) mayor, who refuses to appear in our parade because, image-wise, she feels it wouldn't do her any good "to ride behind a giant pink dildo."

Someday, our prince(ess) will come . . . and come . . . and come . . .

Helms A Poppin'

When I blasted Sen. Jesse Helms (R-NC) for his demented ravings about AIDS quarantines last week, I hardly thought I'd be joined by the oft-genteel *New York Times* (which, by the way, for all its pretensions to high-minded and serious fish-wrapping, is absolutely rife with typos; it reads like the mid-'70s *Chronicle*).

But there it was, in a June 17 editorial: "[Helms'] goal, he explains, 'is to protect the people who are innocent.' Innocent? Of a disease? What would happen to the guilty. . . ?"

Indeed: when was the last time you felt "guilty" of getting, say, a cold? Or for that matter, "innocent" for avoiding it?

The *Times* also notes that 1.5 million Americans carry the virus — three times the total number of inmates of all state and federal prisons. "Mr. Helms," the editorial says, "had better start pushing for construction of internment camps." It adds that there's "an alternative: Teach people how to avoid getting or getting the virus."

My alternative: let Jesse Helms be the exemplar of his quarantine plan. Let's lock him up in a dung-splattered barb wire cage and poke him with large megalot-cattle prods; then, for laughs, we'll strip his civil rights.

Crime of the Times

But just when you think you have a friend. . . .

The *Times* blew a lead in their story on teens and AIDS two days later. The June 19 *Chronicle* led the same story with this: "Teenagers could become the next group swept by the AIDS epidemic because many are prone to experiment with drugs and sex and are heedless of their own mortality, experts testified yesterday." The story also mentioned — in the eighteenth paragraph — that Surgeon General C. Everett Koop suggested to the House Select Committee on Children, Youth and Families that "hospitals test surgery patients for AIDS virus before they go under the knife."

The *Times*'s lead: "C. Everett Koop, the Surgeon General of the United States, predicted today that testing of surgery patients for the AIDS virus would soon become routine." Not till the third graf did the *Times* mention anything about the teen/AIDS connection, with this

little sop to the Administration's prudish agenda: "Dr. Koop also [said] that he believed young children could be taught to abstain from sexual relations until marriage, but he said that condoms must be offered to the 70 percent of adolescents who are already sexually active."

First surgery, then abstinence, then — oh, yeah: kids have sex and need, goddamnit, education.

Sex Fed

But not the kind proposed by William "Nuts of Ice" Bennett, our ham-fisted, neo-Christian Secretary of Education.

In a sex education screed run on the June 18 *SF Examiner*'s op-ed page, Bennett first fired off a few statistics he called "staggering" (including that "more than half of America's young people have had sexual intercourse by the time they are 17" — staggering? I call it encouraging), and called them "an irrefutable indictment of sex education's overall effectiveness in reducing teen-age sexual activity and pregnancies." Education is supposed to reduce teen sexual activity? (Pregnancy is another matter: life's tough for a fifteen-year-old mother and her baby.)

Slithering and sliding down the slippery slope of lobotomized logic, Bennett then said he thinks "most Americans want to urge their children to do not what is 'comfortable,' but what is right," and cited uncredited "recent surveys" showing that "70 percent of . . . adults surveyed said they thought sex-ed programs should teach moral values," and that, "believe it or not, teens agree."

Space limitations prevent a full accounting of Bennett's wall-eyed rant, but he does say that "sex education courses should speak up for the institution of the family," and that "if sex-education courses are not prepared to tell the truth. . . then we should let them go out of business."

This is the man, remember, responsible for AIDS education in our schools. Feel better?

Quaren-Teen

Well, perhaps Secretary Bennett's little plan might have "saved" that poor 14-year-old boy in Pensacola, Fla., who was "quarantined" in a mental ward by the state health department "to prevent him from spreading AIDS," according to the June 17 *NY Times*.

A state custody petition, see, alleged that the boy had gay sex, was involved in a gay porn ring, tried to commit suicide twice recently, and is a repeat runaway.

The unnamed boy's now in the youth section of a community mental health center as a "dependent child"; right now,

his mother is trying to regain custody of him. Her lawyer says he expects future attempts at quarantining (of the boy — and others) under Florida — and other states' — laws.

This country is going to Helms in a fucking handbasket.

The Un-Examined Life

Starting here at home: in an unbelievably moronic move, the Hearst Empire's little *Examiner* came out full-force in its June 14 editorial for — ready? — "broad mandatory testing, perhaps more universal and repetitive than contemplated by the president." (My emphasis.) Never mind the shitty grammar: this is a direct slap at civil rights.

Granted, the piece decried Reagan's "us against them" mentality, said it hoped "teenagers were as responsive to anti-AIDS education as gays," and, in its third graf, vehemently suggested that testing "must be linked to counseling and education, as well as the most stringent anti-discrimination and confidentiality statutes."

But after proposing testing for prisoners, immigrants, and marriage license applicants, the paper betrays its hand: "By the time we knew about the disease, 30 percent of San Francisco's gay population was already infected. By the time public health considerations won over and bath-houses were closed, perhaps 50 percent of Bay Area homosexuals had the virus." (My emphasis.)

It also notes that "fears of discrimination and quarantine must be alleviated by law, [but]. . . are less applicable as AIDS moves into the general population."

Tell that to the 96 percent that make up the high risk groups: gays, bisexuals and IV drug users.

Dolled Eagle

There's more AIDS news — always more — but fuck it. This is, after all, a celebratory weekend. So let's get on to some real news.

I scampered down to the Eagle last Sunday, figuring if they had the poor judgment to invite me to be a "celebrity" auctioneer in a fundraiser for the AIDS Emergency Fund and God-fathers Service Fund, I certainly had the bad taste to show up.

So did mayoral hopeful John "Big Jack" Molinari and his hilarious wife, Louise. (Initially, Mrs. Molinari hid in the car while hubby did his duty, but the surging crowd chanted her name, assured by Big Jack that if they did, "she'll come.") She did: she's raw, and bonkers.)

Molinari, rasping into a near dead mike, asked fellow auctioneer Mr. Marcus, "Why is yours louder?" Because, said the BAR Hopper, "mine's bigger" — and you can keep the line, darling.

Staggered by the acres of edible chests, I managed to drop a largish household appliance, just as I was starting to blend, my presence began waring thin but my auctioning partner, comic Danny Williams, kept the jokes (if not the beery brutes) coming, simultaneously taking the piss out of the proceedings (if not the beery brutes) and keeping us from toilet bowling for dollars. At \$150 for 30 minutes, the boy's a cheap date; at sixty laughs a minute, that's only a little over eight cents a laugh, and he'll throw in (if not up) lunch.

Between us, we sold an embarrassing array of one-handed reading books, reading lamps,

FULLFRAME

by Marc Geller



France 1973

juicers, platters, T-shirts, stuffed toys, little boys, dangerous weapons, military secrets — what? No, no: scratch those last three. The evening was rough, but an even trade: I went in for my first time, and emerged an Eagle beaver.

In and Out

• The irreverent Reverend Boyd McDonald, *ecriveur du sex extraordinaire*, checked in recently

to say his News Hawk column (one of my inspirations), which used to run in the *NY Native*, now appears in *Blueboy* and *Numbers*; and he has just released *Filth*, the latest in a long line of reader-written sex-experience books. Give the man a scan; he's the funniest gay writer of his, or any, generation.

Scene and Herd

"They are responsible for AIDS; they opened the gates to gay people."

SF mayoral hopeful and nightclub owner Caesar Ascarrunz, on candidates John Molinari and Roger Boas, *Chron.*, June 19.

"I flirt with everybody: grandmothers, garbage men. It's my nature."

Madonna, on the joys of womanhood, *Tonight Show*, June 9.

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Gay Prahd

Some of us began celebrating Gay Pride Week last Sunday. I guess we just couldn't wait. I joined Memphis Mark, Bobo Baird, and Marc Geller on a drug-fueled pilgrimage to Berkeley's Provo Park for East Bay Gay Day. We were hoping to catch Jon Sugar's latest gone-homo combo, but the ruling sisterhood had whipped them on & off stage before we could elbow our way through the throngs.

We arrived just in time for the lesbian hacky-sack tournament. Directly, Sugar came bearing down on me like the Cookie Monster on an ibogaine jag, snorting, "Don't worry we got it all on tape! Hey, I'm one of the gay handicapped: I'm fat! Hey: sign of the goddess —" making an orifice, touching his open thumbs and forefingers in front of his face.

Memphis Mark and Bobo Baird were looking like they'd been dropped into the Twilight Zone. Squinting at the crowd, it looked like none of the young and the fearless who had ushered in the dawn at the Summer Solstice Orgy had stumbled down for this celebration of Sisterhood. I saw two gents in motorized wheelchairs with pointers stuck to their heads beetling back and forth in front of some crooning waif of Lesbos. Memphis Mark squealed, "Gay praht," and we all went tearing back to the Geller-mobile for celebratory slugs of high-proof bourbon.

We tooled on down to Doug's Bar-b-que and shared an order of chicken and pork ribs that were worthy of canonization. A 3'2" black grandmother in her

going-to-church hat was sitting in an adjoining Cadillac. Geller snapped her picture and grinned, "Bon appétit!" She fixed him with a mojo eye and croaked, "Bone yo'self, ofay!" Memphis Mark took his lips off the flask to sing out; "Gay praht," as Geller gunned us back across the Bay.

We lost the young bucks back in town. Geller and I, however, soldiered on to K.D. Lang's show at the Great American Music Hall, where local girls did close-clutch bunny hops as the Canadian cowgirl bellowed all the encouragement they needed; then on up Polk to the New Belle where David Kelsey has perfected his rendition of Bette Davis playing the Phantom of the Opera. The unmistakable scent of homosexuality was clearly in the air.

The astute will catch it this week, at various of these upcoming shows, but there ought to be an awesome concentration of the most rambunctious and enchanting of these aromas at the corner of 9th and Howard, where the queer-bar-that-surpasseth-all-knowing, that celestial gay praht pit stop, The Stud, has reopened its doors.



Wily, startling minimalists, says Adam. And the back-up band's not to be missed, says Don. Wire plays Monday, 6/29, at the I-Beam.

Those who couldn't wait will no longer have to.

Ophelias, Miss Kitty

The headliner is a Stanford grad in a kilt who does bad Donovan imitations, but Kitty can roar. She ought to sit on the mosquito. Cool club. (Firehouse, 6/26, 10:30 pm, \$4)

Love Club

Howie Klein's fave dance band, very Uxmal Friscoiland, wig it up at this cozy club. (Nightbreak, 6/26, 10:30 pm, \$3)

Jon Bon Jovi, Cinderella

Pop metal heroes hit the 'burbs. Bobo Baird will review the show. Memphis Mark will cover the men's room. I'll be playing air guitar. Hope the Dykes on Bikes can make it. (Shoreline, 6/26 and 27, 8 pm, \$17.50 res., \$16.50 lawn)

George Strait, Kathy Mattea

Last Saturday afternoon I found a shocking message on my machine: an earnest voice declaring evenly, "I am in hell. Hell. Help?" It was Memphis Mark stranded at a company picnic at Marine World/Africa

USA. At his insistence, we'll ride into the heart of station-wagon purgatory tonight to see the most authentic talent of all the new country traditionalists. Hope there's a big contingent from the Rawhide 2. Gay praht! (Concord Pavillion, 6/27, 8 pm, \$16.50 res., \$14.50 lawn)

Sam Kinison, Carl La Bove

Big Sam is a screaming sack of shit, whose giddy bile-driven screeds against women and queers appeal to cocaine-addled Reagan supporters. It's a minor, if appropriate, obscenity that this human sewer will be playing 13 yards away, and 13 hours before, the center of the Parade. He should be hit by a truck. (Warfield, 6/27, 8 and 10:30 pm, \$17.50 res.)

Meat Puppets, Carmaign De Forrest, Sea Hags

The Hags adore Aerosmith and are getting a lot of mileage out of Rick Rubin's reported interest in Def Jamming them. Carmaign and his ukulele may not be Tiny Tim, but I still call it novelty. The Meat Puppets went from hardcore to backporch country to the cosmos, and seem to have lost some of their ferocious gumpation along the way; may history give it back. The historic hall hosts a mighty eclectic bill. (Fillmore, 6/27, 8 pm, \$10 adv., \$11 day)

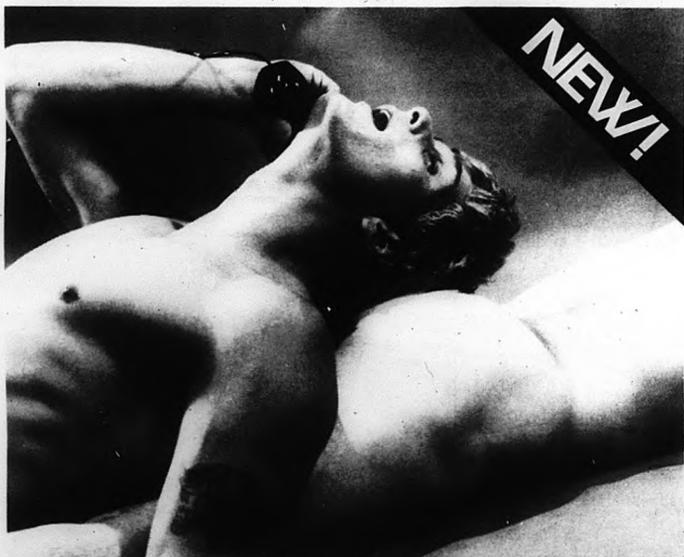
Until December

Mega-hunk frontman and gay-booster Adam Sherbourne is out. The new line-up (singer from Houston, guitarist from Thrill of the Pull) unveils their new package at Palazzo Winkie. (DVA, 6/27, 11 pm, \$8)

Voice Farm

Their Devo meets Kraftwerk act is stellar, even if it does start to wear after about the fourth viewing, but this is a desperate balls-

Continued on page 32



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WEEK AT A GLANCE

EDITED BY PATRICK HOCTEL

27 JUNE SATURDAY

Cocktail Cabaret at the DNA Lounge presents **D.J. Lebowitz**, performing all your favorite songs from Sinatra to the Sex Pistols. Doors open at 9 pm. 375 11th St., SF. \$5.

The SF Band Foundation sponsors **Physique '87**, the first ever National Gay Bodybuilding Championships. The event features several weight classifications for men and women, including a Masters Division (age 40 and up). Preliminary judging begins at 10 am (\$5), and the finals begin promptly at 7 pm (\$12/orchestra, \$10/balcony). Mission High School, 18th and Church Sts., SF. Tickets available through BASS outlets, City Athletic Club, and Women's Fitness Center.

SF's Girth and Mirth Club holds its **Annual Founders Day Party**; local members will entertain chubbies and chasers from all over the country the day before the Gay Freedom Day Parade. Meet the new chubbies and their admirers. 7:30 pm. 3744 16th St., #3, SF.

Artists for Community Life presents **Poetry and Well-Being**, a literary reading to benefit the organization's free art workshops for those afflicted with AIDS. Local literary luminaries Dodie Bellamy, Kevin Killian, James Broughton, Armistead Maupin, Neeli Cherkovsky, and Harold Norse read from their works. 2:30 pm. New Langton Arts, 1246 Folsom St., SF. \$5. Info: 626-5416.

The SF Wrestling Club hosts an **Open House/Potluck Party** complete with wrestling workouts and swimming. The club is open to everyone, regardless of age, weight, experience, etc. 11 am-3 pm. 172 Prentiss St., SF. Info: 824-7915 or 821-9721.

The Stanislaus Gay Alliance holds a **Generic Dance** with dancing, food, a no-host bar, and generic fun! Proceeds to benefit SGA. Everyone over 21 welcome. 8 pm-1 am. Eagles Hall, 126 Camellia Way, Modesto. Advance tickets: \$5 each/\$9 for 2; at the door: \$6 each/\$12 for 2. Write SGA, PO Box 5163, Modesto, CA 95352.

The **East Bay FrontRunners** do Lake Merritt. Meet at the corner of 14th and Oak Sts. near the Cameron Stanford House. Flat three-mile loop. 9:30 am. Info: 526-7592 or 261-3246.

Green Gulch Farm presents **Summer Herb Craft** with Wendy Johnson and staff. A variety of craft, uses for culinary and ornamental herbs will be offered in this class. Bring picnic lunch. 10 am-1 pm. Garden. Zen Center, Star Route One, Sausalito. Reg/info: 383-3134. \$25.

28 JUNE SUNDAY

EVENT OF THE WEEK

Come out and celebrate the **1987 Lesbian/Gay Freedom Day Parade and Celebration**, which starts at 11 am at the corner of Market and Spear Sts., SF! The 18th Annual Parade contains bands, floats, and hundreds of contingents exemplifying the wonderful diversity of our community. Stick around for the gala events at the Civic Center Plaza, starting around noon: speakers, dancing, singing (three stages this year), food, and oh-those-bods! It's our day in the sun, so join in!

The Unknown Artist gallery showcases paintings by **Jack Lewis** and **Denny Holland** with ceramics, sculpture, prints, photography, glass, and other "affordable" art by Bay Area "unknown" artists. Through 7/31. 12-8 pm, Tues.-Sun. 528 Laguna St. (between Fell and Hayes), SF. Info: 552-7134.

Those nasty boys from the Secret Gospel Church throw a post-parade **Open House**. Get more intimately acquainted with your fellow marchers and celebrants. Refreshments. Males 18+ welcome. 2-11 pm. 746 Clementina St., #2, SF. \$5. Info: 621-1887.

Lipps Underground Club sponsors a **Dance Your Pants Off Party**: a benefit for the Footloose Dance Company. Dance to the Moit Moit and Ibbilly Bibbilly bands and to headliner Club Foot Orchestra's latest music, hot off their new album. Doors open at 6 pm. Music begins at 7 pm. 9th and Howard Sts., SF. \$8. Info: 648-2310.

The JO Buddies and the SF Jacks co-host a **Post-Parade Party**: a jack-off party benefit. Relieve that



The prize-winning, international hit **Nunsense**, chronicling the musical mishaps of the Little Sisters of Hoboken and their attempts to raise money for a very different type of order, plays an open-ended run at the Marines Memorial Theatre, SF. Local cabaret performer Sharon McKnight debuts as one of the holy sisters. Tickets are selling fast. Call 771-6900.

post-parade tension by indulging in some high-spirited release with other fun-loving revelers. Last year saw 150 men working themselves joyfully into a bacchanalian frenzy! Lots of new faces. Doors open 4-7 pm. Party ends at 10 pm. 890 Folsom St. (near 5th), SF. \$7.

29 JUNE MONDAY

A **Leathermen's/S&M Support Group** meets to discuss issues and problems with others in the lifestyle — or for those wanting to learn. 7:30 pm. MCC. 150 Eureka St., SF. Donation requested. Info: 931-6160.

Modern Times Bookstore presents a **Poetry Reading** with Roberto Bedoya, Karen Brodine, Kinnie Fries, and Merle Woo. 7:30 pm. 968 Valencia St. (near 21st), SF. \$3-\$5, sliding scale. Info: 282-9246.

30 JUNE TUESDAY

Gay International Folkdancing for lesbians and gay men meets every Tuesday evening at the Colingwood Community Center. Beginners welcome; dances taught 7:30-8 pm. Dancing lasts from 8:9-30 pm. \$2.50. Info: 585-9784 or 285-5634.

Last chance to see Anthony Simmons's **Black Joy**: an English comedy of often Dickensian proportions, billed as a "fable" about the London education of a new arrival, Benjamin Ignatius Samuel Jones (Trevor Thomas), from Guyana. Simmons manages to coax appealing and believable performances from his principals in this exuberant, cautionary tale. 7 and 9:15 pm. The York, 2788 24th St. (between Bryant and Potrero), SF. Info: 282-0316.

BurLEZk: erotica for women by Blush Productions — the best and the oldest show in town. Advance tickets and reserve seating available; call 861-4723 during regular business hours. 9 pm. Bay Brick Inn, 1190 Folsom St., SF.

1 JULY WEDNESDAY

American Inroads hosts the exclusive 1987 US appearance of **Australia's Circus Oz**: a brash, joyful, superbly skilled new vaudeville circus for audiences of all ages. Plays through 7/12. Palace of Fine Arts Theatre, Lyon and Bay Sts., SF. Times/tickets/info: 863-1320 or 762-BASS.

Operation Concern and Gay and Lesbian Outreach to Elders sponsor a **Women's Writers Workshop for Older Lesbians (60+)** and friends

every Wednesday. 6-8 pm. 1853 Market St., SF. Info: 626-7000.

2 JULY THURSDAY

Featured tonight in **Frameline Presents**, an anthology program of gay and lesbian video, are an interview with *Prick Up Your Ears*' director Stephen Frears and a backstage video at "The Battle of the VIPS," a pageant of top female impersonators. Other highlights are "Morton Street," a pop music video, and "Hero of My Own Life," the story of David Summers, a cabaret singer, political activist, and person with AIDS. 8 pm. Viacom Cable Channel 25, SF. Info: 861-5245.

Julian Baird facilitates a **Loving Relationships Support Group**, which focuses on "Loving Our Self," "Healing Our Relationships with Others," "Sex and Intimacy" — among other topics. Meet other spiritually minded men and women. Open to all. Refreshments. 7:30-10 pm. 2782 Sacramento St. (at Scott), SF. \$10. Info: 563-2577.

3 JULY FRIDAY

Deep Inside the Porn Industry: the lowdown on who controls the adult entertainment business and how erotic video is determined. Susie Bright, *Forum* adult video columnist and editor of *On Our Backs*, explains how X-rated videos are made and how you can find relevant erotic material. 7:30 pm. Modern Times Bookstore, 968 Valencia St., SF. \$2/\$1 Modern Times members. Info: 282-9246.

Donnell's July 4th Dance Party: a benefit for Face to Face! The AIDS Network features hot music from the area's best-known DJs. Soft drinks. 8 pm. Veterans Hall, Church and 1st Sts., Guerneville. \$5 at the door. Info: 528-3011.

The 1987 Tony Award winning SF Mime Troupe brings its 1972 Obie Award winner, **The Dragon Lady's Revenge**, an "oriental" mystery a la *Terry and the Pirates*, to the parks this summer for its 25th season of free shows from July 4th through Labor Day. Today's season kick-off is the traditional Backyard Preview Party at 855 Treat Avenue, SF. 2 pm. Info: 285-1717.

The **SF FrontRunners** meet for a holiday run at Justin Herman Plaza (next to Hyatt Regency). Very level run to Municipal Pier and back. 10 am. Info: 647-3227 or 337-8704.

Sean Drake facilitates the weekly **Healing and Empowerment Series** to address the healing of mind, body, and emotions. Each meeting involves deep-trance visualization and other healing techniques. Guest facilitators appear periodically to offer participants exposure to the variety of practitioners and techniques available in the Bay Area. 7:30 pm. Quan Yin Acupuncture Center, 513 Valencia St., SF. \$5. Info: 861-5733.

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.



GGBA goes BBB! The Golden Gate Business Association hosts a fundraising night at Beach Blanket Babylon, today, June 26 at 10:30 pm, Club Fugazi, 678 Green Street, SF. Tickets are \$25 and proceeds go towards the Shanti Residence Project and the Association. For tickets and info, call 956-8677.

June 26-July 2, 1987

WEEKLY ALMANAC: The Moon is new; Mercury, Saturn, Uranus, Neptune and Pluto are retrograde; and Earth is as far away from the Sun as she gets in her annual orbit. What a way to begin the month of July, named after Julius, the Caesar! Supreme messages radiate from the Emperor and the Empress in the Tarot. Take heed all members of the Galactic Federation; the feathered serpent has arrived.

♈ ARIES, THE SHEEP (Mar 21 - Apr 19): Cuddled up in the warm security of your family, nothing can shake you. You are at once totally dependent on and totally supportive of your housemates. This is a perfect time to reveal hidden secrets and unbelievable fantasies. Let your light shine in the home. And, as far as household chores, get busy moving furniture, painting walls, and cleaning out closets. Relatives are on their way over for a visit and you want to make a perfect impression, don't you?

♉ TAURUS, THE OX (Apr 20 - May 20): Open your mind to the vast amount of information which will come to you from several major sources this week. Old stubborn attitudes must be replaced with fresh, vital insight

if you are going to survive through the coming changes. The core of your beliefs is secure, but the actions which radiate from that center are no longer appropriate. Research a new lifestyle. Careful observation with very little assumption is best.

♊ GEMINI, THE WOLF (May 21 - Jun 20): Foster finicky choices and clearly communicate forbidden desires this week. You must no longer accept second-rate options left over by your mentors. It is quite possible that you have discovered the truth for yourself. Cut frayed strings of attachment before they break. Jump off the ship before it sinks. Providing for your own security is crucial right now; in the future you can reconnect with important friends on your own terms.

♋ CANCER, THE CRAB (Jun 21 - Jul 22): Your ninth chakra is exploding like a Roman Candle; you have a psychedelic lightshow hovering just above your head. If friends seem blinded by the light of your countenance, don't be even slightly surprised. Most importantly don't try to hide your magical aura from those you rely on. Your bizarre behavior will not hurt anyone who truly loves

you; in fact it's a signal that you've discovered your own power and no longer need to cling onto theirs. For you 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): Proverbs and prophecies directly conflict with your personal vision of the future, but that is no reason to veer off your own course through the corridors of karma. So what if your friends believe that a great-global change is coming? So what if everything you once believed to be secret wisdom suddenly becomes common knowledge? You still have a few tricks up your sleeve, so settle down and let the competition have temporary control. Practice the art of being light.

♍ VIRGO, THE PIG (Aug 23 - Sep 22): Parades, parties, and political gatherings cram your schedule with exciting appointments; be avidly aware of the importance of personal introductions this week. After many months of being ridiculed for your plans, now you find your fantasies in tune with the times. Make haste to promote your goals in public. Those who are listening are those who have the power to make your dreams come true. You've been right all along!

♎ LIBRA, THE LEOPARD (Sep 23 - Oct 22): The radiant glow of success surrounds you

like a rainbow. You are definitely one of the most popular people on the planet right now. It's not enough to suck up all this attention for yourself, so take your lover with you when you get up on stage. Together you will surprise the crowds with your antics. This example of cooperation is sorely needed by those whose lives are ripped to shreds by competition and deceit. You're the ones!

♏ SCORPIO, THE SCORPION (Oct 23 - Nov 21): Love has a way of answering questions that philosophy can only ponder. Look deeply into the eyes of your lover this week and you will discover the purpose of your life. You are here only to be loved and appreciated. It takes a special power to surrender big ideas of success and fabulous fortune. Drop defenses, eliminate excuses, and peel away layers of selfishness. Fall helplessly into the love which surrounds you. Be passive and prosper.

♐ SAGITTARIUS, THE HORSE (Nov 22 - Dec 21): With amazing spiritual fortitude you can pry open even the most well-protected heart. A poor, struggling seeker approaches you for wisdom this week, and you can see the terrible pain which is lodged in his/her innermost being. Approach this situation delicately lest you destroy important defenses which this person has held onto since childhood. You can open the heart chakra more easily with the light of compassion than with the force of truth. A rose in bloom is a sign of success.

♑ CAPRICORN, THE WHALE (Dec 22 - Jan 19): Most

of the time you feel so big, but this week is a magical opportunity to feel very small. Forget self-imposed responsibilities for controlling and protecting. Let fragility and sensitivity rise from within where they've been hidden for so long. At first, you may feel threatened but then you'll realize what incredible friends you have. They will not let you be harmed. On the contrary, they will lift your delicate soul up onto an altar of love. Worship the small.

♒ AQUARIUS, THE EAGLE (Jan 20 - Feb 18): Teamwork is essential. How often do you assume total responsibility for the woes of the world? How often do you forget that your work demands interaction and mutual support? Let go of the reigns of authority for the next few days and don't worry if your projects run off in different directions. Your team will adapt to the diversification process and, before you know it, the great dream will be closer to realization. Trust your team.

♓ PISCES, THE SHARK (Feb 19 - Mar 20): A shy playmate has obviously taken a liking to you but he/she doesn't quite understand the right way to tickle your fancy. You are more than flattered by these cautious attempts to stimulate your interest, but it's much better to let the little devil try and try some more before you join in the game. Run the risk of teasing your friend because it helps heighten the expectations. There are many signs that this summer you'll share adventure and romance. This is just the beginning.

TELEPHONE BULLETIN BOARD

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- Personals

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ROCK PREVIEWS

Continued from page 30
to-the-wall showcase as the smugos work to win over A&R men. Watch them sweat. Freebies available at hip fashion stops. Try Rolo's, and come support our own hard-working homos. (D'V8, 6/28, 10:30 pm, \$8)

Beat Nigs

This local combo (five black and one Asian) marries the Last Poets' canny rap with Neubaten's deconstructed funk. Hot rhythms, power tools, and raving glory. (Firehouse, 6/28, 10:30 pm, \$3)

Sylvester

The I-Beam's traditional post-parade tea-dance will feature an appearance by the stunning Diva herself; soaring over tracks. (I-Beam, 6/28, 8 pm, \$5)

Run DMC, Beastie Boys, Davey D.

Too bad the cartoon nihilists have to go running their mouths about "hating fags." Just what teenagers need to hear. Real courageous. Real swift. Baird swears that Davey D. is Molly Ringwald. He's not going either. (Shoreline, 6/28, 7:30 pm, \$17.50 res., \$15 lawn)

Wire, Ex-Lion Tamers

The headliners were wily, startling minimalists — ultimately more influential than fellow upstarts The Sex Pistols and The Clash from the class of '77. Reformed eight years after their last LP, their comeback may not

carry the abrupt wallop of their 21-song debut, but it has its moody triumphs. The openers are a Wire cover band from New York, who reportedly reenact the classics that the band doesn't do anymore. Very clever. Bobo Baird sez, "Not to be missed!" Yes, sir. (I-Beam, 6/29, 11 pm, \$11 adv., \$12 day; 6/30, 8:30 pm — no opening act, \$11 adv., \$12 day)

O'Kanes, TBA

This could be the sleeper of the week: a Nashville duo featuring Kiernan Kane ("Until You Love") in collaboration with Jamie O'Hara, who penned The Judds' "Granpa Tell Me Bout the Good Old Days." Word has it that the two have gone sparse and lonesome with an eponymous debut LP that sets Everly Brothers harmonies against Louvin Brothers landscapes of hayrides into dread. I'm counting on Memphis Mark to, strap on his full bolo-tie-bondage outfit and come on down to wave the Tennessee flag. (Wolfgang's, 6/30, 8 pm, \$12.50 adv., \$13.50 day)

The Replacements, TBA

The shambling romantics stumble back into town with their latest LP, *Pleased To Meet You*, ranked second only to Wire's *The Ideal Copy* on W.A.R.D.'s Progressive Radio chart. This is the week to catch them back-to-back. Some folks say the boys have reigned in their willfully fucked-up shows; others tattle that Westerberg already hates the new guitarist. I'd go see for myself: Bastards of Young indeed. (Fillmore, 7/1, 9 pm, \$13 adv., \$14 day)

Continued from page 23

backed them up with a terrific production. Sue Cole's music perfectly balances a kitsch appreciation of period pop and the characterization demands of a musical Big Show, while the satirical thrusts of Zemel/Prandini's lyrics make it acceptable for the cast to get by with shrewd comic timing rather than any particularly good vocal resources. Anne Bluethanal's choreography work grand-slams in exactly the area that so many small-theatre musical efforts flunk in: when central characters are busy delivering a song up front, the subsidiary ones are given so much delicious (and character-perfect) movement doodads to do that one's eyes race to take in all the business.

The sharper and richer the caricature, the more precise the

Ann Block is a flawless *I Love Lucy* befuddlement of mixed emotions as Lauren's ultra-fem (or so it seems) Mom, and if Mykel j. Mengert is less than convincing in his skirt-chasing macho swagger, his sharp comic reactions make him a perfectly despicable all-purpose slime. The Harrington's duet of marital discontent, "Perfect and Fine," is probably the evening's best-written and acted satirical barb.

Donna Davis's earnest, embattled Maxie is the perfect foil for Sheila Travis, who manages a lengthy drunk act with ease and, in one parting look, manages to neatly encapsule a whole tradition of literary lesbian high tragedy. Patricia Silver aptly conveys the sense that she could verbally (and physically, if necessary) behead a foe without mussing her carefully bunned hair, and have a smoke and a glass of champagne while doing it.

right-minded but easily swallowed tonic you might have preferred to take Mom and Dad to in lieu of that copy of *Now That You Know*. Like the best satire, it has a nice soft center of kindness. And a nice hard outer shell of zippiness. After San Francisco gets its fill, this production ought to go into the export business.

Pulp and Circumstance plays through July 18 at *Theatre Rhinoceros, 2926 16th St., SF. Call 861-5079 for further information.*

CLASSICS

Continued from page 27

violinist, can make or break a Pocket Opera Handel performance. In *Semele*, the first violinist played so badly that not even the glorious work of soprano Evelyn de la Rosa, tenor Robert Tate, and mezzo Stephanie Friedman could wash away the unpleasant impression made by the whole.

On the other hand, violinist Elizabeth Blumenstock's contribution to this year's rendition of Handel's *Ariodante* raised it to one of the finest operatic experiences I have ever had. Not only was she always securely on pitch, but the articulation of Handel's melodies, all of which pass through her hands, was stylish and insightful. The support she gave to Stephanie Friedman and Sara Ganz as Ariodante and Genvra allowed them to take flight. Friedman, always a gleaming light on the local music scene, continues to deepen her already profound art and Ganz is proving to be a soprano of limpid purity.

Brandi Swann is a marvelous stage presence — passionate and/or indignant, she can place hands on hips and instantly seem both the immovable object and the irresistible force. She's at once dead-serious and impossibly funny, though her big number could benefit from more vocal punch. As Sarg, Karen Shaw seems at times a bit uncertain of her stage command. But when she relaxes a tad her hyperactive yelps of distemper will be ideal, and no one argues the point when she fumes, "If it wasn't for the nookie, there'd BE no Army!"

Pulp and Circumstance is a smart, tight, and willfully naughty (which means it will be pure fun for gay audiences and a titillating stretch of fun for everyone else). It's the kind of

This production is the rare nostalgic homage/satire that neither descends into smug campness or blunders into duplicating the bland or stupid aspects of the material it springs from.

talent demanded. Judy Wellisch's Lauren has a quizzical tomboy spunk built right in, and she gets a spectacular counterpart — Nancy Lee Russell's spoiled deb is the utterly delicious extension of the snotty/sexy second leads in such screen classics as *Gidget Goes Hawaiian*, except that here we get to like her.

When Russell challenges an insult to her femininity with "I'm 100% female!" the audience gasps its agreement — anyone who would dare suggest otherwise must be either a frustrated rejectee or a victim of extremely poor perception. Their climactic duet, "Something When," is a comic marvel initiated by the most erotically novel palm reading you're likely to see on stage.

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SF Modern Museum Cancels "Free" Thursday Nights

The San Francisco Museum of Modern Art recently announced that a new "bargain night" admission policy will replace the Museum's long-tradition of no admission charge on Thursday evenings. The Museum's free Thursday night has historically been one of the most popular and well-attended periods for Museum usage.

The new Thursday admission fees will be \$2 for adults and \$1 for students and seniors between 5 and 9 pm (previously, the Museum was open until 10 pm on Thursdays; the Museum Cafe will now close at 8 pm). Both the new hours and fees are considered "tentative" according to SFMMA spokesperson, Marcia Tanner.

In addition to charging for Thursday evenings, the Museum

will now be free to all visitors on Tuesdays between 10 am and 5 pm. The new free day is "designed to encourage attendance during the day, when seniors and students are more likely to visit," explained Tanner.

When asked whether she thought the new Thursday evening admission policy would discourage artists from visiting the Museum, Tanner said, "I don't really think most of the visitors on Thursdays are artists. Anyway, we hope they'll come on Tuesdays during the day."

The regular admission fees for SFMMA are \$3.50 for adults and \$1.50 for students and seniors.

Any person wishing to comment on the Museum's new admission policies should write directly to Marcia Tanner, Director of Public Relations, SF Museum of Modern Art, 401 Van Ness Avenue, San Francisco, CA 94102 — or telephone 863-8800.

Sentinel

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CLASSIFIEDS

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ABBREVIATIONS

GBM	GAY BLACK MALE
GO A	GAY ORIENTAL MALE
GV M	GAY WHITE MALE
GJM	GAY JEWISH MALE
BWM	BISexual MALE
BB	BODYBUILDER
F/AP	FRENCH (ORAL) ACTIVE/PASSIVE
Gr/AP	GREEK (ANAL) ACTIVE/PASSIVE
J/M	MASTURBATION
L/L	LEVIATHAN SCENES
S/O	SADD-MASOCHISM
B/D	BONDAGE/DISCIPLINE
W/S	WATERSPORTS (URINE SCENES)
FF	FIST FUCKING
VA	VERBAL ABUSE
C/BT	COCK & BALL TORTURE
VERS	VERSATILE
P/O	PHONE JACK OFF
PWA	PERSON WITH AIDS
BJ	BLOW JOBS

FREE FOR PEOPLE WITH AIDS/ARC

You are in a unique position to appreciate the brevity and precariousness of life — make the most of this bad bargain by achieving the highest goal. By reawakening your dormant spiritual consciousness, avoid rebirth into any material body, which is a source of bondage and suffering. Enter into an eternal life filled with bliss and knowledge. This is not pie-in-the-sky, but an actual fact you can realize now in this lifetime. I will provide training and materials free to sincere applicants — write Lallitanda Dasa, Box 392, Brisbane, 94005. (KP26)

THE SECRET GOSPEL

of Saint Mark. Sexual teachings of Joshua-bar-Joseph, who the Greeks called Jesus Christ. Peace, joy and the brotherhood of man thru mystical sexual communion. Text and proof of authenticity in Phallos Newsletter. Sample copy \$2. Saint Priapus Church, 583 Grove SF 94102. (KP31)

SERIOUS AND AMOROUS

GWM, 5'11", 135 lbs, 45 years old is ready for a mate to share common interests. I am a stable professional who is very serious about a permanent loving relationship with a mature person whose safe sex and no drugs are a must. (707) 865-2030.

BONDAGE TOP SEEKS PROTEGE

who is sincerely interested in learning the art and techniques of tying up the human male body. I have 20 years experience with bondage and would like to share my knowledge, skills and experiences. If you are the guy who wants to carry on with this talent; send a detailed letter describing yourself, your experience and bondage fantasies. I am not into S&M and enjoy working with novices. Guys who like having their bodies tied-up should also respond to this ad. Write with phone number to: PO Box 26322, S.F. CA 94126. (KP26)

EMERGENCY FOOD BOX

For test positive and high risk people who can't use soup kitchens. Help feed the hungry. Auction, first Saturday every month, Watering Hole 4 to 7 pm. Video tapes, clothing, pornography, leather. Bargain prices. Malnutrition is AIDS co-factor. Cash and auctionable items needed. Gay Rescue Mission, POB 6141, SF 94101. 431-2188. (KP31)

WEEKDAYS

Attractive masculine GWM 30, 6'1", slim with smooth, tight buns seeks hard, horny top or top couple (18-30) for regular weekday encounters. OK: sling, pony, light SM, BD. Other? Not OK: drugs, condoms a must. Reply to Box #22, 2370 Market St. S.F., CA 94114. Photo appreciated but not necessary. (KP26)

G.W.M 32, P.W.A. still healthy, very active physically looking for someone with masculine good looks and demeanor, into finding a workout buddy to work up a sweat with and possibly release some tension. I: 5'11" 155#s, Br/br, clean shaven, well hung. Sentinel Box 944. (KP26)

ASIAN PLAYMATE

WM, 34, 180#, already involved in a relationship, but looking for some outside fun. Hoping to find Asian interested in developing ongoing friendship and sex. Like to hold, cuddle and be close. If this sounds appealing to you give it a try. PO Box 22584, SF, CA 94122. (P26)

KINKY EXHIBITIONIST

Hot, goodlooking, GWM, 6', 160#, 35 yr. old with hard, muscular body and real pretty dick loves to show it all off real good for appreciative, verbal, horny men. Tell this daddy stud what you want to see! Available daytime only. Write with phone # and photo, if possible. Sentinel Box 943. (KP26)

Body Builders and athletes who enjoy or want to experience the sensual and erotic art of bondage with other Body Builder. Safe, fun, euphorically delicious. NO ef-feminate man or overweight. Respond to PO Box 5401 Oakland, CA 94605. Answers with picture get my first response. (KP28)

FACESITTERS W/S & P/O

Gd/kg 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. (K-28)

CHRISTOPHER SANTELL

and ANTHONY ELLISON Please call Ron Huberman at the District Attorney's office. Very important. 553-1572

CLEAN CUT & COLLEGIATE

Preppy Southern California native, 5'8", 155 lbs., brown hair, blue eyes, boyish 34 wants to connect with a masculine, selfconfident top man, 26-40, attractive & physically fit, for a stable, monogamous relationship. Interests include travel, dancing, sunbathing, water/snow skiing. I'm somewhat shy at first, loyal by nature, like a balance of domestic & outside activities shared with my partner. I'm drug, alcohol and smoke free. Take the lead and drop me a line with photo. I'll return it or send you mine. Reply to Sentinel Box 941. (KP26)

"... EVERYTHING TO GAIN"

Healthy GWM, 5'10, 155, Bl/br, 40, good build, average-good looks, affectionate, reciprocal, compatible, versatile top, witty, tactile, natural. Like nature, the arts, camping, cuddling, sex with emotion, spontaneity, unpretentiousness, sharing. Dislike artificiality, flamboyancy, drugs, aggression. Seeking a younger, (20-32?) "real" guy, boyish, sincere, mature, bottom versatile, compact build. Location unimportant, you are. Respond with photo and letter to Box 1331, Belmont, CA 94002. (P26)

HUMILIATION

College student, 22, 5'11", seeks guy to do fantasies of forcing young, shy, straight guy to strip, be fondled, spanked, W/S in hot steamy shower, be verbally & physically humiliated about nakedness, J/O against will. I like long J/O sessions having my balls grabbed, licked or teased for several hot hours. (No anal/oral). Let your imagination go wild. Will travel to SF & spend several hours or an entire weekend locked naked in your bedroom. You call the shots. Send ideas & phone # to Jon, P.O. Box 19974, Sacramento, CA 95819-0974. (AP27)

SENIORS — SOFTIES

GWM, retired, early 60's, healthy, no longer hard, still horny, seeks other seniors like himself, or younger softies, for daytime manual sessions. Mutual body play, erotic massage. Any build, size, cut preferred. No kink, drugs, interested? Let's talk! Frank letter with phone number. Box 1197, 41 Sutter Street, SF 94104. (KP26)

WANTED: TOP BUDDY

Warm, happy GWM, PWA seeks GBM or GWM with AIDS/ARC for mutual pleasure. Sentinel Box 942. (KP28)

SLIM ASIAN WANTED

Sincere WM, 37, 6'2", 170 lbs, slim, blue eyes, leather/leather oriented, seeks warm hearted slim Asian some of my interests: 20-38. Open to many interests: movies, meditation, swimming, psychology. I don't smoke and don't particularly enjoy bars. Write: Bob, POB 14794, SF 94114 (KP26)

WANTED

Slim masculine leather bottom 20-35 years must be eager to please 2 hot leather masters. Dad, 41, 6'2", 170 lbs., hung, blue eyes. Young buck, 29, 5'7", 135 lbs, blond body builder, green eyes. B&D, spankings a must. If you're our man respond with phone no. to: Joe, P.O. Box 421152, San Francisco, CA 94142. (KP27)

EAST BAY

Oakland GWM, 44, 6'2", 185#, well hung, salt & pepper hair, short beard, basically a top but enjoy oral sex getting and giving, seeks new friend(s) with possibility of a relationship. Prefer masculine men who are health conscious and in good shape and who do not necessarily fit in the bar scene. Evenings until 11 pm. 436-3305 (KP27)

COCKADO ROOSTER WANTED

I want to move do you? 41 year old, 160 lb 5'10", Auburn hair, hazel eyes, gk, clean shaven, smoker, seeking slender, aggressive, sex-driven L/L top, playful, tolerant, exercise buff, cat-lover to set up our home. Employed, drug free. Bill, PO Box 42771, SF 94142. (AP27)

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. (KP28)

ON THE COUCH

JOHN ARMSTRONG

What's Wrong with Me?

Dear John

"What's wrong with me?" I can't seem to establish a relationship that would have any lasting value. I'm fairly good looking, educated, dependable, self-supporting, honest, and I try to never pass judgement on others. What's lacking?

I socialize in many diverse circles and have many friends. Am I destined to be a single gay man or is it a matter of time? Any and all advice is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,
"The Flutist"

Dear Everyone,

I am beginning to get quite a few letters similar to the above. Now I consider myself to have an exceptional ability to evaluate people, but if you read the above letter you will see that the man just isn't giving me anything to go on. Anyway, to head off a spate of unanswerable letters of this type, I have composed a set of guidelines for self-examination. If you have

been single for most of your gay life, and have started asking yourself the question, "What's wrong with me? Why don't I have a man?" — sit down with the following test, answer the questions honestly, and by the end of it you should have a very good idea of the problem. If you are still mystified, send the answers along to me with a SASE. I'll look it over and tell you what I think.

First, let's get clear about where I stand on the roll of looks in getting a relationship. Good looks are a tremendous asset. If you are terrifically good looking, it can overcome just about any personality defect you may have. On the other hand, lack of good looks is not a liability. No matter how far you may deviate from the ideal, in terms of body build, age, effeminacy, or whatever, there will be someone out there who's been looking for someone just like you. (Unless of course, you feel compelled to talk about it. If you go on and on

about how old/fat/ugly you are and how sorry for yourself you feel, you can drive away literal legions of prospective mates.

Yes, my faithful readers, John thinks that if you have looked for years for a partner and failed to find him, the most likely place to look for an explanation is in the one area most humiliating to explore: the personality. And so to work.

My Loveability Potential

In my experience, people with romance problems divide into two basic groups: those who can't get a date and those whose budding relationships fizzle out after a few meetings. The first questions apply to those who can't seem to get a first date; the second to those whose relationships fizzle out. First, get clear in your mind which group best describes you.

1) I can't get a date. Are you meeting lots of men? Obviously, if you aren't meeting men the mystery is explained.

Are you doing all you can to optimize your health? People who take care of themselves have a very special positive air about them. Eat well. Exercise. If you drink or drug, not to excess. No one wants to hitch up with a burned-out wreck. As we've seen from a previous column, PWA's are loveable. They're fighters. They're doing all they can to last as long as they can. It's not the end result

that counts so much; it's the attitude you have toward yourself that results from your efforts.

When you meet someone, in whatever setting, do you find yourself genuinely interested in who they are, their history, their plans, interests, dreams? People can sense when they are being seen simply as a convenient person to complete your life, and they do not like it.

How do you feel about life in general? Are you seething inside with some great hate, despair, contempt or other negative emotion that never goes away? You may think you have it hidden, but others can sense such attitudes and move away from them.

2) My relationships fizzle out. Do you suddenly change when you are in a budding relationship? Are you absurdly, unreasonably jealous? Do you hang on him and demand that he always be there for you? Do you suddenly become faulty finding once you are going with someone? Do you expect them to read your mind and be able to guess what you want? Are you driven to fury when you discover that your assumptions about some guys were wrong, and does that mean to you that there is something "wrong" with him?

Are you uncomfortable with the normal ebb and flow of a developing relationship? When two men are developing something they tend to move closer, then move away, rather unpredictably. Some men find this intolerable, feel abandoned.

and end the relationship.

Are you the type that falls madly for someone, then at about six weeks or so discovers something negative about them that you just can't tolerate and you break it off — but the funny thing is, this happens every time?

If you answered yes to any of the above questions, you have answered the big question. It is that trait in you that is standing between you and a long-term relationship. Now what to do about it: 1) You can change. Get some therapy or do it on your own. Use an appropriate self-help book, or seek out some other guidance. 2) Compensate for it. Hide it better or discuss the problem at the outset with your prospective partners, so that they may be more patient with it, or even able to help. 3) Accept that you're just not couples material. Not everyone is. Find other satisfactions, life goals and sexual outlets.

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 c/o 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

MASSAGE

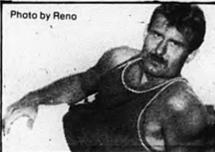


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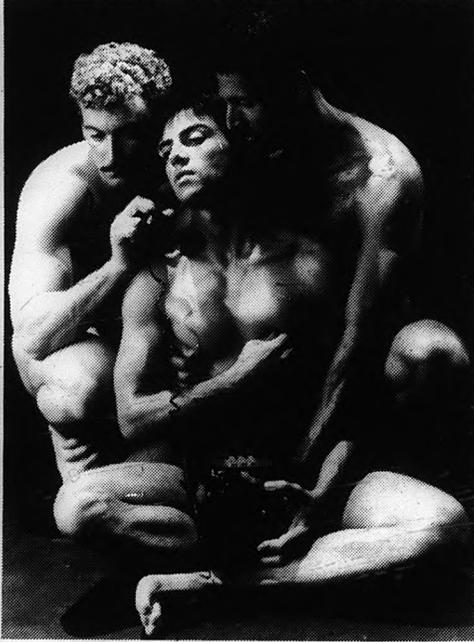
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Supervisor

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