DOOLITTLE DEFEATED

by Charles Linebarger

Republican Senator John Doolittle’s AIDS bills suffered a major defeat in two Assembly committees in Sacramento on Tuesday, August 18. Four of Doolittle’s bills died in the Assembly Public Safety Committee when Doolittle failed to appear to introduce them. One died in the Senate Judiciary Committee. Two before the Assembly Health Committee were sent back to an interim committee for more hearings, which “effectively killed them,” according to a legislative insider, and two in modified form passed out of committee. Opponents of Doolittle’s AIDS package hailed the day’s actions as a major victory.

Doolittle surprised his allies and critics by failing to appear before the Assembly Public Safety Committee where four of his bills were due to be voted on. Later in the Health Committee Doolittle ex-

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War Hero Fights New Battle

PWA Challenges Northwest Orient

by Charles Linebarger

Northwest Orient Airlines refused to sell a ticket to the National March on Washington to a person with AIDS on Friday, August 14. TV and newspaper reporters watched in awe as ticket clerks and supervisors for the airline explained to the man with AIDS that it was the airline’s policy not to fly people who have the HIV virus.

Leonard Matlovich, the Vietnam war hero with AIDS, went to San Francisco International Airport to buy a Northwest Orient ticket after hearing about Northwest’s discriminatory policies. With him were Ken McPherson of Mobilization Against AIDS and a dozen reporters and cameramen.

“I told them I had AIDS,” said Matlovich. “And they told me they could not sell me a ticket at this point. I asked to see a supervisor and he told me the same thing. I had heard that they had a policy against selling tickets to people with AIDS,

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If My Friends Could See Me Now!

Gary Menger Details the History of SF’s Gay Performing Arts

BEWARE A HOLY WHORE

James Tushinski Finds Friendship in Fassbinder Fanaticism

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“... When I committed my support to John Molinari’s campaign for Mayor, I never expected him to betray us over a battleship.”

Dear San Franciscans:

Since 1975 I have proudly represented Gay people in major civil rights cases involving employment and security clearances. Our victory in 1979 against Pacific Telephone in the California Supreme Court, a landmark decision, is still the only statewide law that protects openly Gay people from job discrimination.

Today I am writing to tell you that when I committed my support to John Molinari’s campaign for Mayor, I never expected him to betray us over a battleship. Last Monday at the Board of Supervisors’ meeting on the Missouri, he demonstrated his unrelatability.

At the Toklas Democratic Club in July, Molinari said he would always be on our side, but failed to mention his support depended on convenience. The issue Monday required a stand on a fundamental Gay civil rights question. It meant standing up to the U.S. Navy and the Mayor, who now advocates the Navy’s traditional position that Gays as a class are security risks.

Under moderate pressure, Molinari collapsed.

Now we all have to wonder what he will do when substantial pressure builds against domestic partners legislation and preserving the rent stabilization law. Clearly, we cannot depend on someone who is a fair-weather friend without apparent principles.

I have had some differences with Art Agnos over the years, but I am impressed with his willingness to take unpopular stands for the rights of Gays and other minorities. Unlike Molinari, Agnos has a backbone.

Art Agnos has repeatedly demonstrated that we can depend on him when the chips are down. But Molinari sold out the Gay community for something of only debatable value to our City.

This letter puts me on record as having withdrawn my endorsement for Supervisor Molinari’s mayoral campaign. I endorse Art Agnos for Mayor and I urge you to do the same.

Sincerely,

Richard Gayer,
Gay Rights Lawyer

---

Yes! I support ART AGNOS for MAYOR

Art’s record of hard work and achievement for all San Franciscans proves that he has the broad progressive vision to lead our city.

Signature __________________________
Name ________________________________
Address ______________________________
City/Zip ____________________________
Daytime Phone # __________ Evening # __________

Please send checks made payable to: Art Agnos for Mayor Committee, 666 Mission Street, San Francisco, CA 94103

LESBIANS AND GAYS FOR ART AGNOS FOR MAYOR COMMITTEE
Paid for by Art Agnos for Mayor Committee

2 San Francisco Sentinel • August 21, 1987
**Britt: 'The Fight's Not Over'**

Homeporting Approved

by Corinne Lighteaver

The San Francisco Board of Supervisors' 6-5 vote in favor of the homeporting of the USS Missouri was no surprise to those who had been closely following the developments in the last days before the Monday vote. Although Supervisor Britt had been talking with a Pentagon official through an attorney to negotiate a more explicit non-discrimination policy, last week Mayor Feinstein told the Navy they need not make any further compromises as the mayor already had the six votes needed for a majority, according to Britt.

Voting for the Memorandum of Understanding were Supervisors John Molinari, Willie Kennedy, Jim Gonzalez, Tom Haidt, Bill Maher and Wendy Noble. Opposing the memorandum were Harry Britt, Richard Hongisto, Nancy Walker, Carol Ruth Silver and Doris Ward.

The document is not a legally binding contract but simply establishes a policy, according to the city attorney, and little of it is actually enforceable. Supervisor Harry Britt vowed after the vote that the fight has just begun.

Supervisor Bill Maher's anti-discrimination amendment, which included the words "sexual orientation," passed 9-2, with Britt and Supervisor Nancy Walker opposing. While some of the supervisors expressed opinions that the language of the amendment was sufficiently strong, Britt had asked for a more specific statement from the Navy saying explicitly that they would not discriminate in any way that the language of the amendment did not.

"I want to express to the mayor my disappointment that she has not accepted my efforts as anything but a political ploy," said Britt, adding that the lesbian/gay community of San Francisco is not satisfied with the Navy's policies.

"There is indeed language in the federal civil service regulations that is a very general way had been invoked by lesbian and gay civil rights attorneys as being supportive of our rights. The consistent position of the United States Navy in all the cases that have come to court has been to oppose our interpretation of that language. [The Navy's] consistent position during this debate has been that that language is all we need to care of lesbian and gay rights."  

Britt said Attorney Matthew Coles had had extensive discussions with Captain Mac Williams of the Pentagon in an effort to get a more concrete understanding with the Navy.

"There were moments in those conversations when we were very excited because Captain Williams seemed to be saying the Navy seemed to be saying the Navy is willing to interpret the language your way," said Britt. "What they've done before is to say, "We don't discriminate, but treating gay people differently than other people is not discriminating because that's the appropriate way to respond.""

In response to the Navy's break-off of communications, Britt wrote a series of questions directed toward the Navy because at one point in the conversations, the Navy informed Britt's lawyer that there were some ways in which they do not say our objection has disappeared at the Senate committee, "It appears that what we wanted has been accepted and our legal counsel is looking at a bill. It can't say our objection has disappeared at this time and we would like to sup­port the bill."  

Agnos told the committee that the most vital part of his bill is the establishment of a 24-member state AIDS commission with broader, continuing powers than those granted the presiden­tial and congressional AIDS commission. By signed legislation, the department of Health official told the committee his department opposed the formation of the commission because it would operate outside of the jurisdiction of his department.

"The centerpiece of AB-87 is a 24-member commission," the assemblyman stressed, "that brings together all the kinds of expertise that we need to deal with AIDS --- in insurance, the workplace and education. I want to take AIDS out of the legislature and put it in a forum that will be supported by the governor of this state, a forum that will depoliticize this issue that has been so politically charged this year. We must begin to look at what our policies ought to be rather than argue among ourselves in the legislature. We should be able to put our differences aside, in the interest of public health."  

Agnos told the committee and a crowded hearing room, "The law as originally presented required a phy­sician to get a written consent for each in­stance in which he was going to discuss the antibody results with others on the medical team. Under the bill now, we have agreed to a CMA request that each member of the medical team would be informed without other consents. It is a much more liberal process than before."  

We are getting to what is current health policy, no more and no less than that. This is what the medical doctors in this country are recommending."  

Agnos told the Sentinel in his capital office that statewide and San Francisco AIDS activists who have been closely involved with forming the legislation agreed to what they call the new procedure. He explained how the new procedure would work: "Originally, a person had to write a separate consent for each and every member of the medical team who was working on the case. Now, a doctor who is going to authorize the test first goes through the Federal Executive Council of the CMA, told the committee, "It appears that what we wanted has been accepted and our legal counsel is looking at a bill. It can't say our objection has disappeared at this time and we would like to sup­port the bill."  

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Put Harry in the Black

by John Wetz

Carole Migid, principal fundraiser for the 1986 Brit for Congress Campaign, said she will try to retire the city supervisor’s 1986 campaign debt by the end of the calendar year.

“No carry-over into ‘88,” the director of Operation Concern and longtime Harry Britt supporter told the Sentinel in an interview this week. She emphasized Britt’s strong showing in the special fifth congressional district election and the groundswell of support that carried the socialist Democrat to a near victory in the June primary.

“People supported this campaign with their votes and with their dollars,” said Migid in an interview earlier this week. “Literally thousands of volunteers worked on the campaign. We’re saying, ‘If you gave $13 before, give it now.’

“Anyone in fundraising knows that this is the most difficult, overwhelming and uphill of battles — particularly as we move into the mayoral season with either kinds of races becoming more appealing to the average donor.” Migid says the debt of approximately $25,000 could hinder future tries by Britt at elective office. She issued an appeal to the political gains made by the gay community in the city.

“That a gay man can enjoy a broad range of support outside the gay and lesbian community — that’s what Harry’s candidacy illustrated,” Migid said. “It’s now clearly established that over our credibility to run a top-notch candidate, but we always realized that we had an extremely effective campaign. When we were in the final days . . . I do feel that we did everything that we could do. We’re not ‘what if-ing ourselves’.

Britt lost the election to opponent Nancy Pelosi by just under 4,000 votes out of 109,000 votes cast. The candidacy was seen as a high-water mark in political gains made by the gay community in the city.

“Stops Doolittle” banner was organized by the chair of the Assembly Health Committee, but we don’t have to be helpless in the face of it. Since 1983, volunteers of the Shanti Practical Support Program have been making a difference. As a Practical Support Volunteer your gift of time means cooked meals, clean laundry and a clean place to live for someone with AIDS. It also means making friends and knowing how much you matter.

Tip the scales.
Be a Shanti Practical Support Volunteer. CALL 777-CARE

Northwest Orient

Continued from page 1

Leonard Matlovich.
but I hadn’t believed it until they told me they wouldn’t sell me a ticket.”

Matlovich was followed up to the ticket counter by McPherson. “I told them I was a gay man,” said McPherson, “and in the late ‘70s and early ‘80s I was sexually active. I haven’t taken the test for AIDS, and don’t intend to because I conduct my business — particularly as we move into the mayoral season with other kinds of races becoming more appealing to the average donor.” Migid says the debt of approximately $25,000 could hinder future tries by Britt at elective office. She issued an appeal to the crowd.

“The state-imposed prevention measures,” Tucker’s staff wrote in an advance release, “have the need to balance as equally as possible the rights and liberties of individuals with the need to protect and promote the health of the general public . . . .”

Migden in an interview earlier this week.

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Continued on page 12
Demonstrators Protest AID S Legislation

Capitol Rally Targets Doolittle Bills

by George Mendenhall

"AIDS is not a crime" chanted the hundred or so demonstrators who marched across the grounds to the capitol steps on Monday to protest AID S legislation sponsored by State Senator John Doolittle (R-Roseville). The shouting could be heard inside the capitol dome, and outside signs were held high — "No Mandatory Testing," "Just Say No to Quarantining." "ST-TO-P DO-O-LI-T-T-L-E-P" was spelled out by those holding individual letters. The chants continued until organizer John Belksis, Citizens for Medical Justice, began to introduce speakers.

Senator John Doolittle was the center of attention, although he was not present at the rally or the four-hour AID S information and demonstration on the capitol steps of the state Capitol in Sacramento. None of the seven Doolittle bills under consideration in the legislature centers on AID S care, treatment or research. Their emphasis is either on AID S antidrug testing or penalizing people with AID S for possible misconduct. The seven Doolittle bills are only a few of a several hundred bills being passed or shelved in this four-week period that ends the 1987 legislative session.

Shirren Miles, president of the California National Organization for Women, said the noisy enthusiastic crowd that NOW has 24,000 members in the state and that it opposes all the Doolittle bills "defied the public," she stormed, "into a false sense of security while we are in a critical public health crisis that calls for public education and research. Doolittle does not care about people's lives. His bills are frightening, desperate and destructive."

Paul Boreberg, of Mobilization Against AID S, explained that his group, in association with the Stop Doolittle Coalition, has been lobbying Sacramento legislators on the Doolittle bills out of a San Francisco office. A similar effort was put into effect out of the Sacramento offices of Rand Martin, pay-to-play lobbyist for Individual Freedom and Equality/LIFE.

"We can defeat these bills," Boreberg said, "if people will want their conscience. When we lobby, we are asking who we would allow to be mandatorily tested — prisoners, mental patients, prostitutes? We have to continually say we will not support the violation of the civil rights of any person on the issue of AID S. There must be no compromise on this. We must go beyond just fighting AID S bigotry — to demand more money for AID S education, research and treatment.

One of the state leaders in the Stop LaRouche movement, Ralph Payne of California AID S Network, was absent. "LaRouche was talking about forming lists of people and then using the lists to put people in concentration camps. The name of his group was FANIC, and it was deliberately set up to cause hysteria. The polls defeated LaRouche by a landslide. Now we have another lunatic on the loose, and he wants the same thing — and he is inside this building. There is still hysteria, and some of it is in the state legislature. "Some legislators tell us, "Well, you have no credibility because you are gay," but none of these Doolittle bills solely affects gay populations. Gay people cannot argue their case is happening. We said during the LaRouche campaign that we would not allow one of our people to be put on a list — but

President Ronald Reagan has issued a proclamation urging his fellow citizens to observe the 1987 National AID S and Cancer Awareness Day.

"We call on all Americans to observe this special day, not only to remember those who have been lost to AID S and cancer, but also to recognize the progress that has been made in the fight against these diseases, " the President said.

"We must make sure that our efforts are directed toward helping all Americans fight against AID S and cancer," he continued. "We must ensure that AID S and cancer patients have access to the best possible medical care, and that those who suffer from these diseases are not discriminated against because of their condition."

"We can only achieve these goals if we work together to fight AID S and cancer. We must continue to support research and development efforts to find new treatments and cures. We must also strive to increase awareness of AID S and cancer, so that people can take steps to protect themselves and their loved ones.

"This National AID S and Cancer Awareness Day is a time for us to reflect on the progress that has been made and to recommit ourselves to finding a cure for AID S and cancer. Let us all work together to make sure that every American has access to the best possible medical care and that those who suffer from these diseases are not discriminated against."

-- President Reagan

"People with AID S are being denied privileges. . . People like Doolittle are killing them." — Gary Harman

It is effective, and it is the way to go. The Doolittle bills only contribute to the spread of AIDS.

A group of prostitutes stood on the steps with a banner reading, "Outlaw Poverty, Not Prostitutes." Priscilla Alexander, a spokesperson for prostitutes and an aide to Senator Milton Marks, pleaded, "If you start mandatorily testing and begin to put some people away somewhere, the public will think that they will not have to worry. People will feel that they do not have to use condoms or sterilize their needles. The result is that mandatory testing will not stop the disease — but will increase its spread. "People confined to mental hospitals do not need further mistreatment. They have already suffered enough. People in prisons need to be given safe sex information and condoms. People on drugs need to be given clean needles. It does not solve the problem to further stigmatise people. These people have suffered enough already."

Gary Harman, a person with AIDS at the ARC/AIDS Vigil in San Francisco, said he was "really tired — tired of people like Doolittle and LaRouche, who tell us that gays, minorities, prostitutes are the people to be feared. What we need is compassion and hope — not discrimination and fear. I should not have to get a note from my doctor before I can fly somewhere. People with AIDS are being denied privileges, with some people with AIDS lying in their own feces until someone helps them. People like Doolittle are killing them."

The regional coordinator of the March on Washington, Eileen Hanson, led the marchers through the capitol mall. She later told the crowd, "We said No to LaRouche a year ago, and here we are again. Grassroots people must come together. We have to stand together and say, ‘We are all prisoners. We are all ailing prisoners. We are all mental health prisoners. We are all gay.’ We cannot afford to say, ‘That is not me, so I do not have to worry.’ Do we have to worry, or do we stop this now, we will be here again, year after year.

Reverend Jerry Siger of Sacramento’s Metropolitan Community Church told the cheering spectators, "Like most of the right wing, Doolittle wanted to make AIDS a gay issue rather than a health issue. Mandatory testing brings a false sense of security, so it is wrong. A vote against Doolittle is a vote against ignorance."

Frank Richter, Citizens for Medical Justice, said an aide to Doolittle had told him that, since the AIDS virus is usually passed, it is important, as with animals that have viruses, to isolate those who have the virus. He summed it up: "While Martin Luther King had a dream, Doolittle has a nightmare — and must be recognized as a person who is incompetent in dealing with this crisis. Doolittle is the one who should be isolated — politically destroyed for the sake of the people of California."

The Stop Doolittle Coalition that has been lobbying, writing letters and demonstrating against the current legislation includes AIDS Action Pledge, AIDS/ARC Vigil, Citizens for Medical Justice, Coalition Against Mandatory Testing, March on Washington, Mobilization Against AIDS, and the Stop Doolittle Project.

### 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.

**Possible Disadvantages**

- Some people wrongly believe that a negative test result means they are immune to AIDS.
- People who test positive show improvement 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 (863-2437). The San Francisco AIDS Network is also available.

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

**GET THE FACTS. CONSIDER YOUR FEELINGS. THEN DECIDE.**
LETTERS

Mollnari on Alice

To the Editor: Roberto Esteves has asked me to respond to the challenge issued by the Sentinel last Friday which called for allowing only those persons who are members of Alice as of January 1 of this year to participate in the club’s endorsement vote for mayor.

For the good of Alice and the community, I readily accept that challenge. As a long-time member of Alice, I have been proud to support and defend the good name of Alice.

The Sentinel’s proposal is an admirable attempt to bring to light the contributions and activities of the leaders of Alice. It is a well-intentioned effort to facilitate the election process and ensure that the endorsement truly reflects the collective will of the membership.

As a member of the Alice bylaws committee which voted down the proposal on August 12, I believe the Sentinel’s approach is commendable. It is a fair and transparent way to determine who is eligible to vote in the endorsement process.

I strongly urge not only my supporters but all members of Alice to vote for this proposal. I have always believed that politics should enhance a community, and not divide it. I believe that this compromise will benefit all who will run the endorsement process. It will put a stop to the politics of personal vendetta.

John L. Mollnari

LETTERS

The Missouri in Perspective

Now that the smoke has cleared from the air after the battle over the homeporting of the USS Missouri, it is time to take a serious look at the picture that is emerging.

First and foremost, we should recognize that through patient negotiations between the Navy and the Board of Supervisors, a historic agreement was reached that will ensure the Missouri’s continued homeporting.

The Missouri, as the Navy has consistently emphasized, is not just a warship; it is a monument to the heroism and sacrifice of those who served on her. The decision to keep her in San Francisco is a testament to the community’s commitment to preserving this historic and symbolic piece of our past.

Moreover, the Missouri’s continued presence in San Francisco has significant economic and cultural benefits. It serves as a powerful symbol of the city’s resilience and strength, and it attracts tourists and visitors from around the world.

In conclusion, the decision to keep the Missouri in San Francisco is a win for the community. It is a victory for dialogue, cooperation, and compromise. It is a win for all those who have worked tirelessly to ensure that this iconic ship remains a part of our city’s skyline.

The Great Paper Theft

In recent weeks, we have received numerous compliments on our editorials. We have consciously taken a more aggressive and dynamic stance in them, first, by strongly endorsing John Molinaro for mayor, then by calling on the ACB to roll back voting eligibility to January 1 and, finally, by criticizing Art Agnos for not readily accepting compromise which could salvage the good name of Alice.

We have written in this newspaper for it to present the news fairly, to raise significant issues for debate and to present solutions that we believe will benefit all. We think that our readers agree, and we have been gratified in recent months that the Sentinel has been picking up and reading with increasing eagerness and frequency.

It is one thing to see the papers move quickly into the hands of our readers. It is quite another when those papers are being picked up and read by everyone.

On Friday, following the distribution of the Sentinel to various points in San Francisco, we received several reports that large numbers of our papers were being picked up and read by everyone.

The Sentinel is a newspaper of the community, not for the community. We are watching, and so is the whole community.

Afootnote on the endorsement: We believe that John Molinaro showed true statesmanship in quickly accepting the Sentinel’s compromise in a letter to the club’s membership.

We were encouraged if, however, that it happened because Art Agnos has an opportunity to do the same thing.

As a long-time member of Alice, I have been proud to support and defend the good name of Alice. I believe that this compromise will benefit all who will run the endorsement process. It will put a stop to the politics of personal vendetta.

John L. Mollnari

Agnos on Alice

To the Editor: I must insist on an editorial in today’s Sentinel and I want to respond at once.

As you know from our conversation today, I missed your first editorial and I want to respond at once.

Your proposal is a useful one, and I accept it. I share your frustration that Alice’s own voice is being overlooked in the politics of this year’s election.

Your proposal is a useful one, and I accept it. I share your frustration that Alice’s own voice is being overlooked in the politics of this year’s election.

I am long-time member of Alice and one who has been very proud of the strong community that we have created. I have been honored to serve as your mayor.

As a long-time member of Alice, I have been proud to support and defend the good name of Alice.

The Sentinel’s proposal is an admirable attempt to bring to light the contributions and activities of the leaders of Alice. It is a well-intentioned effort to facilitate the election process and ensure that the endorsement truly reflects the collective will of the membership.

I strongly urge not only my supporters but all members of Alice to vote for this proposal. I have always believed that politics should enhance a community, and not divide it. I believe that this compromise will benefit all who will run the endorsement process. It will put a stop to the politics of personal vendetta.

John L. Mollnari

Mollnari Endorsement

To the Editor: Supervisor Molinaro’s vote on the Missouri Memorandum of Understanding clearly demonstrates that he will sacrifice the rights of lesbians and gay men for political advantage. In light of this vote, I urge you to reject his paper’s endorsement of Molinaro for mayor.

John Dunn

Donovan Revisited

To the Editor: Robert Julian’s interview with Scottish pop singer Donovan (July 31) was an unfair and insulting hatchet job. Julian makes Donovan look pretty bad, but he made himself look even worse.

When Julian admits that after suffering Donovan’s responses with a snide put-down calculated to make Donovan look like a boring has-been, one has to ask, “Where did they import this down?” Julian, if you need to trash someone, why don’t you trash Lyndon B. Johnson, who deserves to be trashed.

The Missouri, as the Navy has consistently emphasized, is not just a warship; it is a monument to the heroism and sacrifice of those who served on her. The decision to keep her in San Francisco is a testament to the community’s commitment to preserving this historic and symbolic piece of our past.

In conclusion, the decision to keep the Missouri in San Francisco is a win for the community. It is a victory for dialogue, cooperation, and compromise. It is a win for all those who have worked tirelessly to ensure that this iconic ship remains a part of our city’s skyline.

This PRO MO supporter at Monday’s Board of Supervisors vote on homeporting leads one to ask, “From where did they import this down?”

Lailouch or John Doolittle or somebody who deserves to be trashed.

San Francisco Sentinel • August 21, 1987

Continued on page 12
Solving Consumer Complaints

One of the most useful sections of the District Attorney's office is the consumer complaint mediation service. Since we all feel "ripped-off" now and then, it's nice to have a place to go to solve the problem short of filing a lawsuit. Many times the amount in question wouldn't justify a lawsuit anyway.

In order to explain the complaint process, I decided to take a grip of my own in the fraud unit office at 721 Buman street. There I met Laurel Parlock, director of mediation services. Laurel supervised two paid staff members and several college students who actually handle the complaint mediation.

My tale began this year when my travel agent, inaka at Orison Travel, agreed that the mileage fee wasn't due in the brochure provided, nor was it mentioned on the voucher received after purchase. She sent a letter to the PSA people on my behalf and another letter on behalf of another customer unhappy with his PSA Great Escapes package. Some time later, a Laura Thompson wrote back stating that it was unfortunate that I hadn't understood the inclusion of the mileage chart, since it was right on the voucher that they had sent.

Well, the travel agent didn't get it, I didn't see it, and the folks at the consumer fraud mediation unit couldn't find it either. Nowhere does it state in the brochure or on the voucher that mileage charges would be added to the set fee. Voila! A consumer complaint was opened.

I'm not going to be able to tell you in this column how successful the unit was in handling my complaint, but you can be sure that it'll update you if anything develops. But the mediator did ask that I pass on to you some general tips to help avoid being the victim of a consumer rip-off.

First, you have to learn to be a good shopper. Do comparison shopping before you buy and thoroughly examine the merchandise before parting with your money down. Resist high-pressure sales tactics, and don't buy on impulse. Never sign anything you haven't read and understood. Once you sign a contract, the terms will be legally binding. Demand written estimates for work, listing the cost of parts and labor. Don't take oral quotations for written work. Ask about finance charges, and shop around to see if the loan can be gotten cheaper elsewhere. If you're buying a product it doesn't mean you have to buy the loan. Know what the seller's return and exchange policy is, and keep all of your receipts.

If you do get ripped off, complain first directly to the company. Give them a reasonable time to respond, and keep a record of the names and dates when you speak to company representatives. Keep copies of your letters, receipts, and invoices. Be courteous.

If the above doesn't work, the consumer complaint mediation office at the District Attorney's office can help. If they can't, or if they occur in another California county, it's a better idea to utilize consumer mediation in that county. Your voice services help combat consumer rip-offs as well as deceptive advertising, failure to deliver merchandise, refusal to honor warranties, unfair business practices or simply for obtaining consumer advice.

If a business has a history of complaints, or many people are suffering the same adverse results, a civil lawsuit or even criminal charges can be filed against the offending company. Last year, the unit obtained $334,000 in settling 2727 citizen complaints. Civil suits were initiated against 35 firms and another 35 criminal cases were brought.

I don't expect my complaint against PSA's Great Escapes to go that far, but I hope they don't escape the long arm of the law.
planted to the Senate? why he failed to make an appearance before the other Assembly committee. "There just wasn't time. My bills were all being considered this afternoon, and I couldn't be in three places at once."

However, the hearings on Doolittle's bills were separated by two hours in the two committees, one committee beginning to consider the senator's bills at 2 pm and the other not coming to them until after 4 pm. The practical effect of Doolittle's absence at the Public Safety Committee vote was that the four AIDS bills he had sponsored, and which were to be voted on, died. If Doolittle requested a waiver of the Assembly rule in order to resurrect these four bills, he would probably get it, but insiders doubt he really wants them to come up for a vote.

Doolittle himself told the Senate, "I've got to get this out (whether to ask for a waiver). We may just wait until January. When asked why he would be willing to wait, the senator said, "We just didn't have the votes."

The four bills that were effectively killed by Doolittle's absence were: SB 1002, which made it a criminal offense for any person who knows he/she has AIDS to donate blood; SB 1003, which made it a crime for health professionals to test pregnant women for AIDS without the mother's consent; SB 1004, which added a three-year sentence for anyone with AIDS who donates blood; and SB 1005, which made it a felony for anyone who knows he/she has AIDS to attempt to test people for AIDS unless the woman refuses in writing; and SB 1006, which requires mandatory HIV testing of all involuntarily committed patients. "I have no idea what it was I was supposed to do. I would probably get it, but it is impractical that we find these people," said Assemblyman A Agnos of San Francisco asked Leff if he was aware of a new medical study which showed that only 16% of the state's doctors felt able to discuss AIDS with their patients. "In light of this how can you call (the AIDS Confidentiality Law) an obstacle to treatment?"

"Assemblyman Agnos of San Francisco asked. "We just didn't have the votes. The effect of this is to kill the Doolittle AIDS testing and disclosure bill." Doolittle's first bill, SB 1000, called for repealing the requirement that written consent must be received in order to test for the AIDS virus and gave access to test results to medical authorities without the authorization of the patient.

Dr. Arnold Leff spoke in favor of the Doolittle AIDS testing and disclosure bill. "I care for dying AIDS patients daily in my practice, and I'm a former health care provider of three different jurisdictions. Ab 403 [the AIDS Confidentiality Law] enacted last year greatly inhibits the physician's ability to care for patients or help prevent the spread of this virus. People will tell you there is no treatment, but there are treatments being tested now, and it is imperative that we find these people."

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"We just didn't have the votes. The effect of this is to kill the Doolittle AIDS testing and disclosure bill," explained a legislative insider.

The committee then voted to send the bill to an interim committee where it will be held until the next session begins in January. "We just didn't have the votes. The Democrats met in caucus and decided not to kill the bills outright because Doolittle was threatening to turn his AIDS package into an initiative drive led by Paul Gann. They hope that this delay will give the legislature another crack at educating the public about AIDS testing."

Doolittle's next AIDS bill, SB 1001, the marriage license testing bill which mandates that matrimonial couples will be "offered and recommended" to take the AIDS test was passed by committee with an amendment removing the "recommended" from the bill and allowing only doctors experienced in AIDS counseling to offer the test to these couples. This was the first of two Doolittle bills to get out of committee.

The third Doolittle AIDS bill considered in the Health Committee was SB 1006, which required mandatory AIDS testing of all involuntarily committed mental patients without the patient's consent. Speaking on behalf of this bill was Loriann Cummins, a doctor with the Santa Cruz Medical Society. "We need behavioral modification."

Susan Hawkins, of the California Association of Mental Health Rights Advocates, spoke against the bill. "We are strongly opposed to SB 1006," said Hawkins. "Involuntarily committed psychiatric patients have the same right to informed consent as you do or I do. If someone is legally incompetent, there already is a method to involuntarily test them if it is advisable for patient protection or treatment purposes."

This bill, like SB 1006, was sent to an interim committee —in effect killing it. The last Doolittle bill considered was SB 1008, which allows blood donors to specify the recipient of their donated blood. The speakers against this bill didn't have an answer when Assemblywoman Doris Allen (R-Cypress) asked, "Why shouldn't a patient be able to determine who will receive blood from a particular person?"

Doolittle bill SB 1008 was approved by the committee and joined the amended version of the marriage license bill to form the nine-bill package to survive the day. Neider bill was opposed by the LIFEs Lobby, the statewide AIDS activist lobbying group in Sacramento.

"We were neutral on SB 1001 and 1008. On SB 1001 because we felt the information to their partners was not going to help them fight them all, and there was a significant controversy about whether this was a good bill."

Doolittle did appear in the Assembly Health Committee to fight for four of his AIDS bills. The committee chamber was filled with hugging when Doolittle's name was announced.

"I hope you all will vote along with me," Doolittle said introducing his AIDS bill package. "You have been well informed that I think the danger posed to society in general by AIDS is major. Over 1½ to 4 million people have been infected with this virus, and it is spreading. My AIDS package is based on this premise, that if people know they are infected with AIDS will stop the virus."

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Corinne Lightweaver

Although the United Church of Christ is one of the few denominations which permits open lesbians and gay men to be ordained, Taylor was only the second gay person to receive a nomination for the minister’s post, according to Jeff Svedmoe, the congregation’s minister.

Global AIDS Tally

Geneva — The number of reported cases of AIDS worldwide reached 55,396 as of July 29, the World Health Organization announced July 30. WHO spokesperson emphasized that only about half of all cases are reported, indicating that the more accurate total to date would be 100,000 cases, with more than 50 percent already dead.

The United States accounted for 70 percent of the cases. Brazil was second with 1,693 cases, and France ranked third with 1,632 cases.

The four other countries who reported more than 1,000 cases were Canada (1,000), West Germany (818), Tanzania (1,150) and Uganda (1,138).

WHO also provided the following geographical statistics: Africa (4,082 cases in 40 countries), Asia (168 cases in 18 countries), Europe (6,067 cases in 27 countries) and Oceania (569 cases in 3 countries).

Dakota Bar Moves Up

Fargo, ND — The Fargo City Commission recently granted an upgrade to the liquor license to the Dakota Bar, the only gay bar in North Dakota. The new license allows the bar to sell all alcoholic beverages. The previous license was limited to beer and wine. At the hearing, a local church expressed objection to alcohol being sold less than a block from the church, but it was pointed out by the city attorney that existing zoning regulations and the bar’s previous license justified the license upgrade.

Maine Remembers Stain Man

Bangor, ME — On the third anniversary of his death, lesbians, gay men and friends gathered at the city’s main park. The man was able to outrun his attacker, but two weeks later, a truck driver hit him. He was pronounced dead at the hospital.

Reports of anti-gay discrimination.

The congress’ recommendations include negotiating equality agreements with employers and working with large hospitals and universities to create a workplace environment where gay rights are respected. Your call could make a difference.

Sexual Orientation Amendment

The gay rights amendment was passed by the city council with a vote of 6-0. The amendment allows the bar to serve “indeterminate” sentences not to extend past their 21st birthdays.

The committee had chosen Wendy Taylor from a pool of 37 applicants because of her experience as a teacher and counselor, but withdrew the recommendation after thedrawn attention of the congregation were divided about their approval of Taylor.

Church Rejects Lesbian Minister

Missoula, MT — A United Church of Christ congregation rejected the recommendation of a church search committee to hire an open lesbian as associate minister.

The committee had chosen Wendy Taylor from a pool of 37 applicants because of her experience as a teacher and counselor, but withdrew the recommendation after the congregation were divided about their approval of Taylor.

Women’s Clinics

LA times — The corporation of the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA), which voted to end discrimination against gay women and lesbians in 1970, passed new resolutions to update its bylaws unanimously.

UUA delegates passed resolutions at a meeting in June to support the revision of current bylaws and the passage of anti-discrimination laws and to boycott organizations that practice discrimination against lesbians and gay men. The UUA Office of Gay Concerns will work in concert with the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force to address these issues.

Bomb Threats at Women’s Clinics

San Diego — Although the bomb threat received by the staff of Woman’s Health Center, on July 27 turned out to be a false alarm, a bomb was found the same day at Family Planning Center of Boston.

Police found the bomb in the possession of 29-year-old Bible Missionary, who confessed to having made it.

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AIDS Info

Continued from page 4

said that, as the gay population more strictly limits its sexual activity, the disease is increasingly becoming a phenomenon of the straight community. Conant said that most people do not want to be tested. He explained, “It is important to know why they do not want to be tested. It is the absolute hell of finding out that you have been infected with this fatal disease. Do you want to be told that in a few years you might die of a disease for which there is no cure?”

People also do not want to be tested. Conant urged, because of the fear of discrimination. “They may lose their health insurance, their job, their home, their friends. Your gay friends do not want to see you because they are prejudiced that they might be infected. Your straight friends want to stay away from you because they do not understand what it is about and are afraid of being infected. These are practical, everyday reasons why people do not want to be tested.” Widespread volunteer testing is essential, he stressed, and counseling for people who are tested must be part of that. There must also be confidentiality, he pleaded, or people will not feel comfortable about being tested.

Dr. Conant said he opposed all Doolittle’s bills that result from “a hysterical public.”

“When you consider any bill that relates to testing,” Dr. Carl Smith told the panel, “you have to decide what the end result may be. Many of the proposed bills will be costly and do nothing.” Smith, who is the Alameda County health officer, merely withdrew his proposal that gave health officers guidelines for how they might proceed to quarantine some people with AIDS who are “irresponsible” about their sexual activity. Smith is an official of the California Conference of Local Health Officers, which opposes all the Doolittle bills. Two physicians said that both parents and doctors desperately need more AIDS education and sensitivity. Many parents are more afraid of the stigma of having a child with AIDS than they are of AIDS itself, related Dr. Thomas Mundy, a Los Angeles pediatrician. He told how violations of confidentiality can destroy families who talk about a child with AIDS and are shunned by relatives and friends. The relaxing of any confidentiality, he stressed, would be disastrous. Mundy said he now advises clients. “Do not tell anyone at all.”

Legislators: Blacks and Latins receive little AIDS-education but are high on the list of those who contract AIDS, according to testimony from Dr. Ger­man Maisonet of the Los Angeles Minority AIDS Project. He said some minority people fear telling their parents that they are gay so they tell them they are drug abusers. Steve Schulte, West Hollywood councilman, said his city has an extensive AIDS care program developing, and it opposes all the Doolittle bills. He called for more “San Francisco-type” hospice care, which he said costs $100 daily, compared with $1,000 in a hospital.

Dr. Ralph Alexander, SF Pacific legislator, explained his company’s sensibility to AIDS and its extensive AIDS education program. Anne Jennings, deputy California attorney general, gave a detailed analysis of the legal ramifications of the proposed legislation.

Assemblyman Art Agnos was permit­ted by Chair Tucker to enter the room and question Los Keller, an offi­cial of the Association of California Life Insurance Companies. Keller said that if an insured person tests positive or contracts AIDS, there is no cancella­tion of a policy. California has the only law which legally prohibits this practice. He said testing is used to screen some patients, only 60% provided any coun­seling. The lengthy session provided consider­able information for the people applying for policies, but the AIDS antibody test cannot legally be given and “no my knowledge” is not. Keller added, “If you take too many peo­ple who are at risk, the premiums for sure is up too much, and you can’t stay in business too long.” The Agnos/Keller interchange only revealed that a great deal is not known about real and stated practices of the insurance industry.

Steve Schulte, West Hollywood councilman, called for more “San Francisco-type” hospice care.

Continued from page 3

Drug Administration, the California Medical Association and American Medical Association manuals before re­questing consent to take the test.”

Continued from page 4

Brunch

Continued on next page

FROM THE DESK

Continued from page 7

progressive community while fighting for lesbian rights. 1 hope future discussion on the MOU will result in Ward’s amendments on affirmative ac­tion, guaranteeing a specific percentage of Michigan jobs for San Franciscans and a Navy financial impact statement being included. The bottom mayoral line on the issue is this: Elect Molinari mayor and you get the Missouri. Elect Agnos mayor and if he doesn’t kill the housing plan, he will definitely ensure the Navy accept the strongest protection of lesbians rights by issuing on passage of the HRC amendment. The choice is yours.

SUNDAY BRUNCH

11 am — 2:45 pm

Continued on next page
Britt asked the Navy...

- What specific forms of discrimination against lesbians and gay men will the Navy agree not to practice?
- What specific forms of discrimination against lesbians and gay men does the Navy reserve the right to practice?
- Will the Navy agree not to hire, fire or deny promotion to civilian employees wholly on the basis of sexual orientation?
- Will the Navy agree not to hire, fire or deny promotion to civilian employees in part on the basis of sexual orientation?
- Will the Navy agree not to deny to lesbians and gay men access to any facilities or services available to other civilian employees?
- Will the Navy agree not to interfere with the relationship between lesbian and gay employees and their children or to treat those children any differently from the children of other employees?
- With respect to prospective employees, will you inquire as to: a) Sexual orientation? b) History of consensual sexual activity? c) The places in which partners are met? d) Whether family, friends and professional associates are aware of sexual activity?
- Will you attempt to restrict in any way the ability of persons not prevented to patronise lesbian and gay business establishments?
- What specific sections of the San Francisco ordinance prohibiting discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and AIDS-related conditions does the Navy find itself unwilling to agree with?

AB 87

Continued from previous page

...removes the clause that Super­visor Britt is correct in his interpreta­tion. The considerable discrimination by the military service doesn’t make any sense, according to Hongisto.

"Alexander the Great who con­quered most of the world was one of the greatest warriors who ever lived, and I un­derstand — not by personal knowledge — that he was at least bisexual if not homosexual," he quipped, in all seriousness. "Many, many war­riors throughout history have shown quite adequately that gay and lesbian people are as capable of being great warriors and militarists as anybody else."

Supervisor Gonzales objected to singling out lesbians and gays for a special protective sentence, asserting that Hispanics and Samoans are also discriminated against in the military. Hongisto then proposed an amendment specifically protecting Hispanics, but Gonzales refused to second it or vote for it. Britt seconded it, but the measure lost, 4-7.

Their definition of AIDS and ARC is a definition Lyndon B. Johnson could live with. It’s not one I could live with," says Britt.

In a press conference last week, Britt said he was opposed to the city subsidizing this military project when it doesn’t have enough money for welfare or compar­able worth.

Another Petition

Abortionist Roberta Achtenberg said lawyers working with gay and lesbian clients receive many discrimination complaints each year from all branches of the military.

San Francisco Sentinel • August 21, 1987 11

S u m m e r o f 1 9 8 7 : A S e r i e s

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We don't often get such an easy, clear-cut way to fight back against the discrimination we face. Let's not pass up this chance. Sasha Alyson

Reach Out and Touch

To the Editor: The guys have already discovered the fact that the self-hating numbers of TV evangelists can be put to positive use as a recreational means to reduce frustrations and as a relatively human way for a besmirched minority to express its deeper desires. It is important to point out how this technique could be expanded to other areas and to support one particularly worthy target in my state: the Boston Herald. The Herald accepts only two forms: almost weekly with amounts to little more than a hate campaign against gays. A representative example of its bigotry is editor Don Fedor, who fears that gay rights would lead to "drug queens or boys from the local leather bar, dressed as Carmen Miranda and Zsa Zsa Gabor, demanding that a straight homeowner rent to them, while the bizarre duos present before their children." The Boston Herald had two front page numbers, 1-800-882-1211 and 1-800-1222.

Every gay person has a perfectly legal right to make a simple phone call to say, "I am a gay person and I am calling to object to your paper's treatment of the gay community." Hearing this a few hundred thousand times or a few million times in bound to give a message across.

A phone call takes only a few seconds and if in these cases does not cost a dime to a man, or an opponent hefty. It can be done with total anonymity and no risk. I am willing to pay papers across the country to throw all gay boys to make their voices heard in this way to the Boston Herald and to any other organizations that may arrive on the scene with both an anti-gay attitude and an 800 number.

Rick Walberg
Boston, Mass.

No $ for Dems

To the Editor: I get a "personalized" letter from the Democrats in the mail every day. Perhaps you, too.

In response to how important it was to support the 1988 Democratic ticket (whoever it might be). And of course, they asked for money. They even sent a prepaid business reply envelope. And I replied as ever good Democrat should.

I dug out a note that said simply, as long as the party was holding in 1988 the bad record of homophobes (Adams the home of the Harvard & Bowes saloon caves), you would see no money from me. If every good Democrat were to do the same, maybe our voices would be heard. Let's make them listen. And pay the postage.

David Reid

A Film Tribute to Arthur J. Bressan, Jr. (1943-1987)

AIDS has claimed another victim in the arts. Arthur J. Bressan, Jr., award-winning filmmaker, died in late July in New York City. A native of Kansas, Bressan was a Wyoming全日, and "Gay USA" document the landmark Castro Theater, scene of the powerful 1977 documentary of the anti-gay Broadway and Jewish boys in the White House, picketing for the summer of 1977, he rushed "Gay USA" to the screen in ten weeks to rally the minority fighting back against the bias then rampant in the gay community. Let's not pass

"Gay USA" magnifies that solitary anti-gay history. In 1982, the Democrats in the mail today. Perhaps you did, too.

And pay the postage to boot.

When asked why Doolittle had not failed to appear before the other Assembly committee, Agnos said, "Yes, I heard that. I was surprised too."

Senator Brown, a backer of his films, says the special effects and the "Gay USA" at the Castro Theater on August 22 offers a companion for the community. "I didn't need a reminder the spirit that fuels the struggle for the facts that fuels the struggle for truth,"

Stuart Louis, Agnos's longtime friend and a backer of his films, says the special effects and the "Gay USA" at the Castro Theater on August 22 offers a companion for the community. "I didn't need a reminder the spirit that fuels the struggle for the facts that fuels the struggle for truth,"
**OUR BOYS NEED BLOOD**

Women’s Day Blood Drive, August 22.

Lesbians: Help solve an urgent crisis in our community.

- People with AIDS need blood, and gay men generally are excluded at blood donors. Our blood is the least likely to be contaminated by the AIDS virus. Our blood is urgently needed to build a reserve of blood and blood by-products for the ever-increasing number of AIDS patients.

Stand with our brothers in fighting the AIDS epidemic.

On Saturday, August 22 from 10-2 PM and 4-8 PM, a mobile blood donation unit will visit the Castro to serve women participating in the Women’s Day Blood Drive. For your convenience, and to save time, we ask you to call now to schedule a specific appointment and receive additional information.

**Fight AIDS. Give blood. Call 663-6761.**

A program of the Lesbian Caucus of the Harvey Milk Lesbian & Gay Democratic Club, in cooperation with the Women’s Memorial Blood Bank of San Francisco and Most Holy Redeemer Catholic Church.
DONALD CURRIE

and to do that in layers of color like my own rainbow flag. I'm studying Chinese medicine, I do yoga, I do yoga is lovely healing therapy, I do tai chi, I meditate.

Jesus, there's practically nothing that I don't do — a remarkable thing to do. You lose two days. These days you'll find you seques- tered in your house surrounded by weighty tome of Chinese medicine, all blissing through the pages of the pharmac-
HEALING RESOURCES

Religious Science

LOOKS AT SEX, HEALTH AND HEALING

With the specter of AIDS looming on the horizon, modern medicine searches for a cure while simultaneously proclaiming the incurable nature of the illness. Yet, at the same time, reports of individual recoveries continue to surface. These cures, usually metaphorical in origin, are generally ignored by the press as lurid hallucinations, the delusions of drug-fueled fever.

One organization reporting such recoveries is the Marietta Community Church of Religious Science. Their claims are not medically validated nor do they promote curing the sick as their mission. According to their weekly brochure, the purpose of the church is "To heal the sense of separation between man-woman and God." Suspending my judgments and seeking information about the organization, I interviewed Reverend Lloyd George Tupper, the pastor of the church.

Why would anyone, particularly a gay person, want to go to your church?

Our church has about 150 members, and about 120-125 of them are gay. Science of Mind (or Religious Science) is called a "new thought" religion. What does this mean?

The term denotes the difference in approach compared to the more established, established, Catholic or Jewish religions. At the turn of the century when Pentecost was very strong in this country, we introduced new concepts of one's relationship to God that were radically different from the more traditional approach to religion. We were dubbed a "new thought" when we make the "new thought!" that it involves thought. Everything begins and ends in thought. Opposed to...? As opposed to everything beginning and ending in orthodoxy or tradition, or "this is the way it's been done for centuries, so we have no thought about it, just do it."

Let me ask you some questions about the religious approach you call Religious Science. Would you say that AIDS does not exist because of Religious Science does not embrace the concept of disease. Where does Religious Science stand on this issue?

The difference between ourselves and Christian Science is that Christian Science has an absolute approach to everything, including any concept called "disease." We do not believe in GOD, according to Religious Science introduced a concept called "mind" to deal with the absolute. A disease, although not in God because it is perfect, would be a problem experienced as an individual. We recognize that pain, disease and other such human experiences are true experiences. We deny the need for them, but we do not fail to recognize their existence in our experience.

These of us who study or practice the science of Christianity need to ask ourselves, in relation to the health crisis, what is the cause of the factor behind this situation. First of all, you have to recognize that it is not a disease sickness. Secondly, if there is an element of society that manifests the malady more than another, we need to look at how that segment of society seems itself in relationship to each other, their family, their peers and God.

My experience has been that gay people are caught in a Catch-22. They have been conditioned to reject themselves, to not hold themselves worthy of God's grace for the grace of God is taught at traditional religious ideas. I think, as a result, a new generation has evolved that gay people are not even aware of. I think this thought is in the "collective unconscious," the idea that we are unconsciously acting out on gay people, causing them to do things that they would not otherwise do if they thought they were anything but a second-class citizen. I think that's what this whole health crisis is about. As we all begin to realize that we are all created equal, I think that this will no longer be a viable problem. What is the church doing to address the situation?

GAY PEOPLE HAVE A GREAT OPPORTUNITY NOW TO HELP Usher in the spiritual millennium.

Science of Mind does not recognize a gay person, per se, as the one experiencing pain or illness, every person is a whole person, not straight, gay or bisexual. How they express emotions, based upon the charisma of the individual healer. We believe that if they thought they were anything but a second-class citizen, I think that's what this whole health crisis is about. As we all begin to realize that we are all created equal, I think that this will no longer be a viable problem. What is the church doing to address the situation?

Dr. Rick Pettit

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A spiritual mind treatment is just like a medical treatment. We take your total person and the source of your being, called God.

The church has what you call "practitioners"...what you call "spiritual mind treatments." Could you explain what that is all about?

A spiritual mind treatment is just like a medical treatment in the medical field. We believe that when everything begins and ends is thought. That it is why we've called "new thought."

We feel that there is which only one universal infinite mind which we individualize. The practitioner eliminates, through the use of this one mode, every thing and anything contrary to the truth between the individual patient and his relationship to God. They work in the sense that God can be a relationship to the practitioner, the individual, and the source of our being, called God. At that point the treatment is complete. Are you saying that from these treatments emerging?

Absolutely.

How does this differ from faith healing?

Faith healing works primarily on the emotions, based on the chart of the individual client. We believe that if an individual has faith, as Jesus said, that all things are possible from them, will try to raise the individual's faith through spiritual mind treatment to the point that they will believe themselves. For a person who goes to a faith healer, the healing which may succeed or not. Will help the client to last. But we believe that it is power greater than those is what they can use, rather than having faith in someone else. We work ourselves out of a job. Our function is to help them in their own way on their own so they don't need us. But we will be a bridge between where they are and the time they are restored to wholeness.

Have your practitioners had any success dealing with AIDS?

Yes, but success is relative. Some would say that a release from this incarnation could be a success. But I think your point is whether or not a particular individual has been able to instan-

taneously, or through an orderly progres-


e, produce a healing of body. I have been told by my practitioners that the many have made what has been referred to as a miraculous release that is proportionally due to the individual involved. It all depends on where that individual is and what extent they are willing to let go of their past conditioning, their lack of accep-
tance and other things.

That this is the components that make it possible for a person with a catastrophic illness to be healed. I would say that we work indirectly on the individual, that many have many of those who have been healed of AIDS, who do not believe in us, but we think that plot. That is true for one person can be, but is not always true, for another. I think we are able to assess ourselves as the cure-all for AIDS. We are the cure-all for the relationship between the patient and their primary source of being, called God. We try to bring the individual back to God. It is the primary relationship to God. In God, all things are possible, therefore healing can be expected and is often experi-

enced. There's been a lot in the paper about AIDS and the faith healing, the PTL, Jerry Falwell. You're a minister, he's a minister, what's the difference? The difference is that you can't speak.
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MIND ON MOUT

HEALING RESOURCES
Continued from previous page
out of both sides of your mouth. When you hear some of these individuals and the way they represent the Word, the scriptures of God and Jesus Christ, it is the furthest thing from Christ's only commandment: "Love them as I have loved you." When a person preaches hatred or condemnation, they bring their own downdfall. That is the original concept in Genesis of the "fall" of humankind, when Eve took the apple from the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil. What they preach undid them.

They are creationists and have preached good and evil. They have given God a quality that is abhorrent to the nature of God: evil. God is the prin­

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People were walking out all during the screening. True, there wasn’t much action, but the staging of the film was fascinating, the bickering and collapse of the characters so real. The whole experience was like being trapped at a bad party. You wanted to get away, you almost couldn’t breathe, but the sight of so many people’s claws coming out proved to be too...entertaining in a way. You couldn’t judge. You wanted to see it through to the bitter, nasty end.

When the lights came on, about half the remaining audience stood up and applauded; the other half boooed. I wasn’t sure what I thought. How could I truly say I enjoyed it? I didn’t even know what the title meant. Beware of a Holy Whore. Michael hated the film. I was stunned, shell-shocked.

Later I discovered that ugly little man was Fassbinder himself. Beware of a Holy Whore actually told the slightly fic- tionalized story of what had happened during the making of a previous Fassbinder film, Whity. The more I thought about it, the more resonance it had. But it also made me uncomfortable. In 1976 I was still adjusting to being out, trying to fit into a rather close-knit, small-town gay community, making friends, making enemies, gaining and losing a lover. I could never be as bitchy, as downright pathetic and vicious as those people in the movie. Could I?

Then there were the facts that Fassbinder was gay, and no one seemed to care.

In the days of gay liberation and political consciousness-raising, that was an unusual, not to mention vaguely frightening, thought. Drunken accusations, destruction of hotel property, sleeping around, you name it. While the director broods, the production manager, an overweight, rather ugly little man, tries to calm everyone. Eventually they finish shooting the film.

Fassbinder was gay and no one seemed to care. In the days of gay liberation and political consciousness-raising, that was an unusual, not to mention vaguely frightening, thought. What about the oppression of gay people? On the lighter side, here was a man who, when it came to casting someone to play care. In the days of gay liberation and political consciousness-raising, that was an unusual, not to mention vaguely frightening, thought.

Fassbinder died. Officially, the cause was an overdose of pills in a subway station.

Beware of a Holy Whore.

Continued on page 20
The year was 1978, the climate was warm and bright, our spirits were high. Gay people flocked to San Francisco from all over the country to enjoy the sunlight of a new freedom that was most openly expressed here. Many of us populated "Castro Village," our best and newest meeting place; others strolled Polk Street hand-in-hand, delighting in the discovery of restaurants and bars designed with "us" in mind. We learned a new kind of hedonism and a new kind of costume in the exotic land South of Market.

Gay churches, business associations, social clubs and sports organizations had already existed for a decade or more here, but it had all been a somewhat clandestine, semi-underground kind of community. Now we were showing our faces with big happy smiles and shaking hands with our neighbors — and getting a friendly out, 60-strong, into the sunshine of Market Street, playing "If My Friends Could See Me Now." The most incredible component in a most incredible parade: The San Francisco Lesbian Gay Freedom Day Marching Band & Twirling Corps had been born.

Many tears were shed that afternoon, but they were happy ones; the world was young in a way that it never can be again. Pride in achievement and belief in our new world were rampant. Our spiffy new marching band was the most brightly visible — and audible — embodiment of it all.

Before the year was out, Sims had joined with conductor Dick Kramer to found the Gay Men's Chorus, another cultural as well as sociological milestone. Today, with more than 100 members, the original chorus was considerably larger than

If My Friends Could See Me Now!

A History of the Lesbian and Gay Performing Arts in San Francisco

by Gary Menger

Photographs by Thomas Alleman

San Francisco Tap Troupe.

All three groups were complete, rehearsed and ready for their first annual concert the following summer — it was the 1979 "Gay Musical Celebration" held at Grace Cathedral. That same year saw the formation of the Lambda Pro Musica Orchestra and the Lesbian Chorus (neither now exists), and it was also then that Sims formed an organization to manage these groups: Golden Gate Performing Arts (GGPA).

The newly established Lesbian Chorus was specifically interested in singing "women's music," but there were several women on the scene who preferred to sing more traditional material; there were also members of the Men's Chorus who were interested in a broader repertoire suitable for a mixed chorus. Together they attracted the interest of Robin Kay who, before the end of the year, instituted an 80-voice Mixed Chorus. (The name was subsequently changed to the Lesbian/Gay Chorus of San Francisco.)

In the following year, 1980, ambitious plans were laid for the Gay Men's Chorus' 1981 national tour of eight major cities — a tour which, even though critically successful, put the group heavily in debt for the remaining years of this decade. But none of the singers regretted the experience; as ambassadors from San Francisco they brought a message of love and pride to our gay brothers and sisters around the country. It was a triumph that was recognized and applauded not just within our community but by all of San Francisco.

1980 was also the year the 16-member, high energy, pop performing group, the Vocal Minority, stepped out from the ranks of the Lesbian/Gay Chorus under the leadership of Jim Livingood and went on to do highly theatrical presentations of their own.

During the first three years of this decade, all the gay arts groups were highly visible. The Men's Chorus seemed to be at every outdoor community function, particularly during the December holiday season; the Tap Troupe was hired for conventions and other major events; the Band marched in every scheduled parade in the area and rarely failed to take first prize in its category.

Things were at a peak that June in 1984 when all the groups gathered at Grace Cathedral for their yearly concert. Everything must, however, change — and not always for the better. We were just beginning to learn of the new plague called AIDS when, in July, it claimed Sims as one of its early victims. He didn't live to see the larger realization of his dream: today there are gay marching bands and choral groups in more than 30 major cities.

And in our city, another dream was realized only last year: a permanent meeting and rehearsal home for all the member groups was established and called, appropriately, the Jon R. Sims Center for the Performing Arts located at 1519 Mis-

Getting Down: Steve Graham (left) and Wayne Love of City Swing.

Choreographic recollection: Director Wayne Fleischer takes a minute to collect his thoughts at a Tap Troupe rehearsal.
Don’t Miss the Music!

Late Summer is traditionally a quiet period for the gay performing groups. But there’s one special event coming up in just a few days that affords an opportunity to see not only several of these performing groups, but also some of the best cabaret performers in the city—and it’s very likely to be a sellout.

Michael Greer, nationally recognized actor, singer and stand-up comic, will host the third annual “You & The Night & The Music” show next Monday, August 24, at 8 pm at the Venetian Room in the Fairmont Hotel. Presented by the SF Band Foundation, this is the only yearly event set in a nightclub with an emphasis on cabaret. The proceeds will be used to send the Foundation’s various performing groups to the October 12 March on Washington.

Performers include the Marching Band, Vocal Minority and the octet, Menage. Comedians Sandy Van and Danny Williams will participate, along with award-winning soloists Pamela Brooks, Cindy Herron, Alki Hirata, Alma Sayles and Jae Ross. Stepping out from the Tap Troupe to do solo performances will be Terry Mahaffey and Joseph Denney, the cappella vocal group, the Flips, will also be on hand. The evening will showcase newer cabaret favorites, Dan Fagin and David Josephs.

Tickets (tax deductible) are $25 per person and may be purchased at all Headlines stores. For more information, call 621-5619 or 983-3185.

Jene Bombardier, member of the Lesbian/Gay Chorus.

Stepping out: Tap Troupe members perfect their rhythms.

Good vibrations: The Lesbian/Gay Chorus at its weekly rehearsal.

The Lesbian/Gay Chorus at its weekly rehearsal.
FEELINGS ARE LAUGHABLE

AHE: Fear Eats the Soul will persevere in see, is never easy. It is a struggle, full of inter racial, age-disparate relationship in... the soil. A poster lunch, a bloodshot eye.Fassbinder came of age seeing a hopeful side to life as well. It was refreshing. We wanted to be Fassbinder, only not so fat and not so ugly.

In 1981 I moved to Houston. Michael and I traded our Fassbinder raves long distance. In rapid succession, Life Markeis, Lili and Veronika Voss were released. Fassbinder’s films had evolved, adding to their allure. But the sheer number of really good, even great, films were dazzling:

Fassbinder’s “family,” but far from illegitimate. Rainer tried to warn us. He was the first to reveal the director’s mental health. Fassbinder’s inevitable end. That view, to most, was disturbing. It was his only film in English — his version of Nabokov’s novel. Despair. The End of the World. I read him several times over the next few days, but he was always in the back of my mind. I finally decided to reach him. I didn’t identify myself; I simply put on a thick German accent and spoke one of Michael’s favorite Fassbinder lines.

Hello, Mr. Bill, I said, “Would you like to dance?”

It was as if the intervening years hadn’t happened. It was as if Fassbinder had never died. But then, of course, for us and for thousands of others, he never did.

The more real things get, the more like myths they become. There have always been myths, but the myths of earlier times were, I’m convinced, bad ones, because they made people sick. So certainly, if we can tell evil stories to make people sick, we can also tell good myths that will make them well.

Sources:
Fassbinder Filmmaker, by Ronald Haymon, Simon and Schuster, 9.95, hardcover. Love Is Colder Than Death: The Life and Times of Rainer Werner Fassbinder, by Robert Osborne, Random House, 199.95, hardcover.

All Fassbinder quotes taken from interviews which appeared in the following sources:

When I read he had died, I was working a boring job. I felt trapped. I felt I was in a Fassbinder film.

into the neurotic group psychology of Fassbinder’s “emotional family.” We had heard rumors of his 14% hour television film, Berlin Alexanderplatz, of his new book Farewell, the man’s life, wash.

“Michael and I called each other less and less. Michael’s favorite Fassbinder lines. I tried calling him several times over the next few days, but he was always in the back of my mind. I finally decided to reach him. I didn’t identify myself; I simply put on a thick German accent and spoke one of Michael’s favorite Fassbinder lines.

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All Fassbinder quotes taken from interviews which appeared in the following sources:
Keegan & Lloyd at Theatre Rhino
Doing It for Love

A friend of mine has a theory about what happens to friendships when one half finds true love (deseret) and settles into domesticity. Coupledom, he says, is a means by which perfectly okay people develop selective amnesia (they just forget how to have fun) and become so pleasantly dull they eventually disappear. At least from your phone book.

My opinion regarding the plot to domesticate the world into pairs isn't quite so strong, but I've always been wary of theatrical works by and about couples. I have nothing against experiencing connubial bliss myself, but having to watch somebody else express theirs can be like drinking coffee with lots of Sweet 'n' Low — satisfying as hell, but I'm not convinced it's good for me.

Tom Keegan and Davidson Lloyd are from New York. They've been "a professional and personal team since 1977," and are currently in the midst of their second performance visit to San Francisco. With this tour, they were armed for the worst: any young couple who could stay together, and perform together, for ten years (in a city that makes me irritable even to think about) threatened to have enough warmth and caring to curl my toes.

The danger with Keegan and Lloyd, however, isn't sugar shock; it's addiction. The whole couple conspiracy theory collapses at their nimble feet. Their current pieces at Theatre Rhino are among the best performance works the Bay Area has seen in a year — that's had more than its share of decently entertaining shows.

Crawling Off Broadway is a rapid-fire amalgam of the performers' anxieties, pretensions and ambitions in their search for "commercial success." The piece plays the way gymnastic tumbling looks: things hurtling across the mat, just slowly enough to register. Magic tricks, juggling, tuxedos, a spot of poignant gratuitous nudity and nearly everything else in the world are trotted out as K&L ponder the paths to and meanings of success.

Their overall style is established quickly: overlapping, interactive verbal and physical play; storytelling often crosses a single sentence at a-time with more stream-of-consciousness text; abrupt changes from dance to aeroacrobatics to mime. Crawling Off Broadway hurtles from satire to slapstick, from self-parody to serious introspection. In a typical bit, the deadpan Keegan delivers devastating parodies of Both-Fosse jazz slinkiness, sugary nostalgia musicals and foggy post-modernism — all in about five seconds each.

Keegan, the half with trying to separate out each individual's talents would only diminish them. After intermission, things resume with a longer piece the Keegan and Lloyd achieve a multimedia breadth and fluidity unencumbered by the usual willful obscurity or technical overdose. The pair communicate their on- and off-stage bond with an effortlessness that makes one believe there's no "reality" thing. They're smart enough not to avoid trying to communicate the entangled separations of their attraction — they know what cements relationships is often vague, while the ties and tucks of what pulls people apart are closer to real drama. While the politics of being a gay couple informs their every move, they wisely stay away from platitudes or agitprop. They realize that their open-mindedness may owe more on prejudices, that the most politically correct of truths are subject.

Keegan and Lloyd come close to being gay perform- ance Everymen — gleefully experimental yet accessible, at times, disinterested in pondering to (or shrinking from) stereotypes. Coming out, take note: here are your scrappy role models.

Keegan and Lloyd play at Theatre Rhino, 16th Street, Thursdays through Sundays until August 30 at 8 pm. Info/charge by calling 861-5079.

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Paul Russell's 'Premieres'
Born in Berkeley

Last Friday, a new Bay Area-based ballet company may have been born. It doesn't yet have a name and its artistic identity remains somewhat murky. Still, this group of 19 dancers (mostly independent, classically trained dancers) looked very good. They gave a concert titled "Premieres" at Berkeley's Zellerbach Hall, and somewhat to my surprise, it was a pleasant evening, featuring new work by choreographer Paul Russell.

In general, Russell's choreography is appealing, although not entirely focused in terms of what he wants to do. At its best, his movement is lyrical, never hurried or busy and respectful of the integrity of classical line. He also appears to be interested in making dances that possess a strong dramatic content.

Both dances were collaborative efforts between Russell and writer/director John T. Williams. But it's disappointing to report these shared endeavors accounted for much of the murkiness that surrounded the choreography.

"Ballet Egyptian" seemed like just the sort of exotic, ballet-at-the-pyramids type of thing that Pavlova might have done.

In Requiem, set rather presumptuously to Mozart's stern and often impossibly fast-paced masterwork (with extra musical contributions by Ernest Bloch and Ralph Vaughan Williams), what we got was a ballet that never quite matched its musical inspiration. We also watched a narrative unfold that, despite some embarrassingly grandiose program notes, remained ultimately vague and unconvincing.

The ballet opens with a sinister world of spirits. Soon, its title character, Alyse (danced with a luxurious radiance by Tracey-Kai Maier), arrives on stage, performs a lovely solo and quickly expires. This propels the entrance of former SF Ballet dancer Antonio Lopez who appears to function as a sympathetic leader of dead souls.

Lopez offers the departed maiden a new lease on life, and suddenly, she's up and dancing again. Her thanks, however, are short-lived, as she quickly becomes infatuated with a haughty narcissist (the archetypal Other Man), danced by Russell. Alyse resolves — and without apparent motivation — to negate any spiritual passion that occur on stage. And this, I believe, reflects an inherent problem when any choreographer's art becomes subservient to a "writer/director's" conception of narrative content. The same problem was evident in Nocturne, an ostensibly modern piece depicting a 19th century painter who, having witnessed a vision of three dancing maidens, abandons his studio for a quick romp with the ladies. At first, the dance progresses very slowly, but finally, the painter sheds his garments and dances an unexpected and, in many ways incongruous bravura solo.

Russell's choreography is lyrical, never hurried or busy and respectful of the integrity of classical line.

The ballet's emotional lyricism is broken by this athletic display, and we never understand what motivates the artist's sudden rush of hyperkineticism. The dancing by the three women (Jill Albertson, Amelia Hohl and Marina Hotchkiss) was, however, exceptionally graceful and buoyant. The program notes were, again, cloying and tended to engane any spiritual passion for the profession of the painter.

The two best works included on the program were Russell's "Five Variants," a charming, lyrical, sensitive piece, and "Ballet Egyptian," an odd but enjoyable pas de deux (allegedly inspired by a dance first performed by Pavlova's post-Diaghilev touring company).

The "Variants" ballet (set to music by Ralph Vaughan Williams) was especially successful at integrating classical movement for five couples, highlighted by the expressive, confident artistry of Marias Holmes and John Konetski. The only drawback to this piece was the excessive number of difficult, often awkward, lifts for the men. The lighting by Sandra Linnie Slocum was exceptionally striking. The costumes, white lights with pastel tops for the men and skirts-to-match for the women, were attractive in a sugary, cotton-candy sort of way.
Ronald Reagan's challenge to Gorbachev to tear down the Berlin Wall was, for all its rhetorical posturing, one of his few intelligent utterances. "Something there is that doesn't like a wall," as the poet said.

What was built in the early sixties — ostensibly as a prophylactic to shield East Germans from the endemic Western virus of free thought — immediately became a hundred-mile-long concrete symbol of Eastern Bloc political and cultural repression, which continues even in the era of glasnost to represent a fundamental and irreducible barrier between "us" and "them." The Wall has been draped with myriad nightmarish literary and psychobiographical interpretations, from John LeCarré to Michel Foucault. It has moved politicians to bad grammar ("Ich bin ein Berliner"). And it has inspired ten thousand spray-paint wielding graffitists to cover one side of it (the other side is, you guessed it, whitewashed) with a constantly changing display of placitades, doodles, stoner slogans and even high art.

Leland Rice's "Illusions and Allusions: Photographs of the Berlin Wall," currently on view at the Museum of Modern Art, is a photographic response to this rich cauldron of vernacular expression, which Rice first saw in 1983. His concern is intentionally only further compound by the fact that the prints have been mounted without overmats, causing the surfaces to adhere irregularly to the Plexiglas. A little experimentation — if not plain common sense — should have sufficed to avoid this rather unprofessional-looking situation.

The positive side, however, the large black borders which Ciba prints naturally provide do serve beautifully to set off the colors in the prints and add a stylistic consistency to the installation.

That the viral and exuberant art of New York's Latino and black subway artists is visibly absent from the Wall — and totally other in style — should serve as an antidote to claims of cross-culturalism. And yet these photographs do show the chaotic variety of interests and obsessions which Marxist ideologies can easily interpret as so many symptoms of pathological decay.

Understood as mere surface abstractions in which content has been subsumed by form. But unlike his earlier work, where color patterns were accidental, Rice's current images are replete with content and intention, and they demand a deeper reading. Every sqiggle of the pen or the paint can, no matter how illegible it has become, was at one time a mark of direct human vision which cannot be ignored if we want to give these photographs our complete attention and understanding.

The beautiful catalogue which accompanies the exhibition is a model of thoroughness and accuracy, and includes an extensive appendix of biographical and bibliographical references.

"Illusions and Allusions: Photographs of the Berlin Wall" continues through November 1 at the Museum of Modern Art. For information call 853-8800.


Leland Rice: Aspects of a Nocturnal Passage, cibachrome print, 1986/87.

Call for more info

San Francisco Sentinel • August 21, 1987 21
San Francisco Opera

The Fall Season on Records, Part II

Verdi's La Traviata is one of the most recorded of all operas, and the extraordinary demands it places on singers and conductors make it also one of the most elusive. The intimacy of the drama hides beneath a dazzling surface that seduces too many interpreters away from the telling details and towards the grand gesture. Maria Callas made her Cetra recording of Traviata before she had fully analyzed the title role. Yet despite the diva's chummy colloquialism in the first act and her undistinguished colleagues, that recording is worth searching out for it contains a magnificently chilling last act.

In addition, there are several live-performance recordings that can give you a glimpse of Callas' deep understanding of the role once she had completely mastered it. The one from Amsterdamp, from Lisbon in 1975, sports Alfredo Kraus and Renato Pavarotti readings of the heroine's moments that make a gentleman of Alfredo. Kraus is the most moving. He is very elegant in his singing, but expressive with his words, while Muti is satisfying without being particularly illuminating.

The best sung of all Traviata recordings is Montserrat Caballe's with an outstanding Alfredo in Carlo Bergonzi and a silken Germano in Milnes (RCA). But Pretre is an eratic conductor, hard-pressed at one moment and hesitating at the next. For all her creamy sound and coloratura finesse, Caballe is a little bit lost in the drama of Verdi's illusions. Joan Sutherland is too matronly in her attempt with Pavarotti, who by 1981 was himself already producing too heavy a sound to do justice to Alfordo's music.

Among the older recordings of Traviata, two great artists must be pulled out of hiding: Arturo Toscanini and Maria Callas. By the time Toscanini recorded Verdi's Camille opera, he had lost all of his warmth in his quest for brilliant articulation (RCA, still in print). On the other hand, his performance is hectic, where it should be kind, but on hand, his performance is hectic, where it should be kind, but on hand, his performance is hectic, where it should be kind, but on hand, his performance is hectic, where it should be kind, but on hand, his performance is hectic, where it should be kind, but on hand, his performance is hectic, where it should be kind, but on hand, his performance is hectic, where it should be kind, but on hand, his performance is hectic, where it should be kind, but on hand, his performance is hectic, where it should be kind, but His NABucco, however, is Titto Gobbi, and his performance for Karajan to be one of the pinnacles of this style of recording—Pavarotti's voice has been so effectively delineated, his fans will surely want a copy of this recording just to hear him make a gentleman of Alfredo. Kraus is the most moving. He is very elegant in his singing, but expressive with his words, while Muti is satisfying without being particularly illuminating.

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It all began a couple of Sundays ago when Less Talk's Dave Ford phoned to tell me that guitarist Johnny Marr had parted ways with The Smiths. It was an MTV bulletin, which sheds some light on what Mr. Ford does with his spare time. I heard a rumor that Dave doesn't even like The Smiths, so receiving the news from him was like having salt poured on a wound. I nearly took to my bed at the thought of a Marr-less Smiths, saying over and over, "It can't be true," and wondering why Marr was working with the likes of Keith Richards and the Talking Heads. The Smiths' original lineup swap song LP, Strangeways, Here We Come, is due out September 28, boasting such charming song titles as "Last Night I Dreamed Someone Loved Me," "Unhappy Birthday," and "Paint a Vulgar Picture." I'm hoping the LP is a far cry better than their latest single, Night I Dreamed Someone Loved Me, a new version of her first-ever hit, "As Tears Go By," and the title song by Tom Waits. Night I Dreamed Someone Loved Me is great. Their innocent record fills the house with warmth and keeps the feet a stompin'. Buy it! Enough records, let's get on with ten years and eight LPs sucked."}

Faithful enters each composition like it's own living room and sings from there. The

that makes you wonder if she'll make every step of its vocal descent, to the whimsical '70s romanticism of "Penthouse Serenade," a charmer that's tailor-made for gazing into a lover's eyes and then a city's lights afterwards. Faithful took a chance with covering old songs, a trend practiced by everyone from Ani DiFranco to Rosanne Cash, but she leaves those croon-muffins in her dust. Rather than wrapping any voice around a song, Faithful enters each composition like it's her own living room and sings from there. This record is a must for any collection and one of the best out.

□ A recent release from a local band called the Donner Party has crept its way under my well-worn stylos and refuses to leave even after repeated hearings. I've always loved this band's name for reminding me of my favorite Donner Pass poem. If the name isn't enough, this three-piece band puts out a healthy fifteen cuts on their debut LP, ranging in styles from Bluegrass and Country-Western with harmonies to psycho-surf guitar-warp with lots of fuzz and wah-wah. Faithful possesses a deadpan lyrical sense of humor and an exuberant, unpretentious spirit. What's interesting is I'm often reminded of the Muppets, R.E.M., and even the Velvet Underground with a touch of the Byrds and the Beatles, but fuck comparisons! The Donner Party is great. Their innocent record fills the house with warmth and keeps the feet a stompin'. Buy it! Enough records, let's get on with ten years and eight LPs sucked."
Curdled Milk

I'm leaving town — gonna pack some awesome Rolo-wear, my black Los Lobos T-shirt, a liter of high-proof Old Weller, and the Big Country. After this week the expedition called CUA to send over an escort to restrain me from an unending mooning Harr Brit and kissing his eyes glistening like switchboasting an Elvis film. Finally, his eyes glistening like switchboasting an Elvis film.

Jerry Shelfer pours out wisdom and memory at the Kennel Club, 8/25, 8 pm, $17.50 res)

Frightwig, Sister Double Happiness, Spot 1019, Short Dogs Grow

My esteemed Ziptooting colleague is crazy into male-laundering over Frightwig. The nastiest girl group in history can be counted on to seize the stage with classics like "Punk Rock Jail Bait" — and to dare and demand that boys in the audience come up and strap on. This is the club of choice to catch them fire. (Paradise Lounge, 8/23, 9 & 11 pm, $5)

Nina Hagen via Norma Desmond: grade B horror, grade A marvel. Spooky, outlandish dignity from a true original. (Theatre on the Square, 8/21, 8 pm, $20, $17; 8/22, 7 & 10 pm, $20, $17, 8/23, 7.30, 8, $15, 8/25, 26 & 27, 8 pm, $18, $15)

Yma Sumac

The headlining duo were found in the new opening band reinventing the glam-rock scene — as the scourge of Japan, the sucker here. (Warkfield, 8/22, 11 pm, $4)

Fold-up waffles, this is still one show I wouldn't miss if I weren't so far away. BT were terrific as a back-up band for Todd Rundgren. He produced their debut LP, and they're looking to sell the sucker here. (Warfield, 8/22, 8 pm, $17.50 res)

Joan Jett & Johnny Gunn, TBA

You've been critics' darlings for this mega-cool skateboarder convinced, but them, covering Cat Stevens' "Hard-Headed Woman" is hardly a recipe for winning me over. There ought to be new material, as they're due for another LP. Skip the Opelles unless you yearn for bad Jethro Tull. (Kennel Club, 8/22, 11 pm, $4)

Problem Child

Ex-Quicksilver lead guitarist John Cipollina turns 44, and he'll be on his band to celebrate the occasion. Born on acid-jammers. (SF Music Works, 8/22, 9 pm, $5)

Tooth & Nall

Their cut on the new View From Here anthology is a standout, and this is the club of choice to catch them fire. (Paradise Lounge, 8/23, 9 & 11 pm, $4)

Star Tracks

Members of the audience get their hands in my absence. I'll have to retrieve my cowboy boots from Mr. Shelfer; and to reclaim this don't they?" Their composed as a mass of sherry in this issue as further prestigious. I won't venture a guess. (Nightbreak, 8/25, 11 pm, $2)

Boney-fide

There are the irritations: The awesome Rolo-wear, my black Los Lobos T-shirt, a liter of high-proof Old Weller, and the Big Country. After this week the expedition called CUA to send over an escort to restrain me from an unending mooning Harr Brit and kissing his eyes glistening like switchboasting an Elvis film. Finally, his eyes glistening like switchboasting an Elvis film.

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Lubricious Orgies

Yeaa, it’s summertime, which means travel time. In Paris, in New York, in Chicago — and yes, here in our fair little city — natives are stirring, stirred by images of faraway barbecues and sinking swim holes. It’s the end of August, and nothing works. No one, either. They’ve all taken to the skies, flying hither, searching out the perfect airline to nowhere.

Err Plane
Most of them, of course, are decent folks.

The Sunday Northwest Airlines crash, in which 153 perished, seems an ominous disaster for the first day of the Harmonic Convergence. But look closer: karma paid. On Friday, you see, Northwest refused to fly gay activist Leonard Matlovich, who has AIDS. A Minnesota-based Northwest flight took off Aug. 15. "We interpret AIDS to be an infectious, contagious disease," said one of the pilots, since AIDS is only sexually transmitted, that the airline fully expects AIDS/ARC sufferers to conduct vast, lubriuous orgies (no extra charge, one presumes, in first-class).

And last month, Northwest declined to fly a near-dead AIDS sufferer from China to his home in Columbus, Ohio. (He was flown to an Air Force base and his parents paid $40,000 for the service. He died a week later.)

Northwest changed its policy Saturday, Friday, allowing AIDS/ARC sufferers on board — if they bring a doctor’s note assuring they “pose no hazard to other passengers” (which, I suppose, to the airline means they won’t spew sperm on seatmates). But Northwest Flight 225 still bit it in Detroit. Could it have been...?

Fly Bother
Added travel note: United and Delta only accept AIDS/ARC sufferers with a doctor’s note. Boycott ‘em. Use American, Pacific Southwest Airlines, World Airways and Continental, if you must; they don’t require our brothers and sisters with AIDS to carry humiliating medical notes.

Idol Hands
New York glam rocker Billy Idol, who has no fear of flying, is a touring rat.

And when he grace[d] SF with his cahmbered magnificence recently (he played the Shoreline Amphitheater), his crew retained thirteen rooms at the spurious Phoenix Motel on Eddy and Larkin. An innkeeper insider said that while the crew was “a reasonably tame, two of the best looking guys asked about — and went to — the Stash. They told our concierge afterward they were favorably impressed.”

The crew passed its leisure hours in what the insider called “two of the dirty games” e.g., “chicken” fights in the pool — suggesting, although perhaps unintentionally, an underlying affinity with what makes this column great.

Hark! The Garland Angels
Glory to Mizz Newborn Thing.

You wouldn’t know that the re-born Phoenix is so brilliantly grandiose (resplendent with its own art gallery, chi-chi bar, kidney-shaped pool and lavishly appointed guest rooms), if you only read the imbicile Gerald Nachman of the SF Chronicle.

In an Aug. 10 piece on a San Francisco mag party held there, Nachman called the Phoenix "a grim place painted pink and green...that one woman said looked like a motel in Salinas. Someone else said, ‘I’ll bet they film dirty movies here.’"

Considering the clientele, cameras in the rooms sound like a fabulous idea, but you must understand Nachman to understand his writing. He is a forty ish, perpetually dishonest and, in the tradition of journalism everywhere, seek beyond repair. His graying hair is oil, his rimless glasses perpetually fogged. And his idea of clever, poetic writing is exemplified in this lede from an Aug. 14 movie review:

“Watching a sunny talent dawn in a screen debut with stardom written all over it is its own excitement in a new English comedy, Wish You Were Here, and Emily Lloyd provides the shining moment when she bicycles along a boardwalk, filmy skirt billowing, flanks waving helio in the breeze.”

As a paradox, Nachman would be brilliant. Also, a paradox he’s not; he’s simply a tepid, mediocre hack.

Phoenix Aird Zone
A passel of brilliant, insightful — and unforgiving — readers wrote recently, excoriating me for neglecting a key Life piece on the family Phoenix.

My July 17 column noted that the August Life featured pictures of Stuart ‘Son of Ogre Ollie’ North and Mathias ‘Wings Over Red Square’ Rust; but I appeared to forget mentioning the splendid spread on River Phoenix. Alas, I actually did write about it, but like most of my best work, the item fell victim to my editor’s brutal butcher knife; we had “space” problems.

No such problem this week: the magazine now offers a spread (in favor of a hard-hitting September cover story on whether or not Prince Charles is a “wimp”), showed River, his acid-damaged parents and his siblings — Leaf, Rainbow and Summer — at play in L.A.

In one, he stabilizes, standing, holds hands for a meal-time prayer; River’s chest is lusciously defined in a gray tank top, his arms are identifiably beefy, and his blond fore-lock falls insouciantly above his pert, turned-up nose. In another photo, River sits atop the youngest Leaf, playfully teasing his nose with pliers. River’s hair blows casually in the wind; his arms appear hairless.

The reader is always right.

Down By the River
But, alas, “River has a tendency to put on a few unwanted pounds,” according to a Star Weekly source, the seventeenth named Peter Mortell, which features an astonishing, full-page color photo of a younger — and very, very shirtless — River. (Star Flash, according to my correspondent, appears every three weeks; it was still on the stand at Kinko on Castro when I checked last week.)

Mortell explains why River failed to move me in Stand By Me: he hadn’t yet lost his baby fat. Now a vegetarian, River has slimmed — though you wouldn’t guess it by looking at his legs in the recent Seventeen cover story on him. But never mind: his face, as renovation of his soulful aura, seizes the day.

There, goddamn! is that enough?

Caged Be Ye
Another watchful browser brought to my attention a recent, albeit undated (dammit) Chron piece on the USC, NY, zoo, which is "attracting hundreds of visitors to see an exhibit of caged Homo Sapiens Juventus Amricans." That’s right: teens in cages at the zoo.

I applauded the apparently popular concept (the show’s been extended a week), especially the decision to feature teens in their “natural habitat” — a bedroom.

The reader wonders if the zoo exhibits "all [the teens’] nocturnal activities." Apparently not; they stay caged from 11 to 5 daily. But the article implicitly suggests an idea for SF Zoo functionaries. We should stage a similar exhibit here but extend the concept to include various genera — the skateboarder, the surfer, the BMX biker, the McDonald’s counter boy, etc. — each, as in USC, in his "native habitat."

Realism, of course, demands certain relevant artifacts: worn (but unlaunched) pairs of Jockey shorts strewed about, skin mags, lotion and, of course, ice-towels.

Continued on next page
You are cordially invited to a Pink & White Party
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THRILL OF THE HUNT
Perhaps we could start with the two Biden boys, whom I mentioned in passing in my July 17 column. A responsive reader — an insider on the Biden campaign — sent me an astounding brochure, the enormous gatefold of which shows Sen. Joseph "No Bork Mr. Nice Guy" Biden, his wife Jill, his daughter Ashley — and his two mouth-watering sons, Beau, 18, and Hunter (or "Hunt"), 17.

Beau, an attractive blond, will attend Penn this fall, according to the insider, "and he’s the more political of the two.”

But Hunt, you see, is more my speed: dark, curly hair, a cherubic (apparently hairless) face, mischievously brooding eyes — and braces on his teeth. My source says Hunt’s about to start his senior year in high school; he’s looking at UCLA and Berkeley to follow. As far as I’m concerned, these boys clinch the First Son race — at least in its early stages. Find out for yourself: for a brochure (and for letters encouraging Hunt to attend Berkeley next year), write: Biden for President, Box 1250, Wilmington, DE 19850.

WELCOME
As of last week’s issue the Sentinel is now being distributed in Marin and Walnut Creek. Now, you can pick up a copy of the latest issue at BJ’s and the Cottage Bookstore in San Rafael, and the Sausalito Inn. In Walnut Creek you can find us at the HUB. Watch for us in Vallejo, too!
22 AUGUST SATURDAY

All lesbians and gay athletes, their supporters and anyone else interested in Gay Games III are invited to attend an initial exploratory meeting for the formation of the SF contingent, who will march in the World Games to Vancouver in 1990. 10 am-noon. Anita's, 647 Valencia St., SF. Info: 824-5199 or 532-4452.


Gay and lesbian veterans are invited to a meeting to kick off The Lavender Army for Peace, the group of Bay Area vets who will march as part of the National March on Washington in October. Plans for this historic event need to be started now as the march is less than two months away. 1:30 pm, MCC, 150 Eureka St. (near 18th), San Francisco. SF. After the meeting, there will be a get-together at Cafe San Marcos. Info: 366-7364 or 861-5536.

Event '87, a street fair to benefit the AIDS Emergency Fund and Gay World Series XI, features five hours of entertainment on two stages, including: the Blazing Redheads, the SF Gay Freedom Day Band, Danny Williams, Sandy Van and Karen Ripley. Other attractions are a raffle with great prizes, game booths and booths for the aged. Noon-6 pm. 12th St. between Harrison and Fulton, SF.

The Dionysian Duncan Dancers present a dance performance from the repertoire of Isadora Duncan and premiere new choreography by company members. Set to the music of Brahms, Chopin, Schubert and Sibelius, this new costume piece ranges from the lyric joyfulness of Isadora's early dances to the passionate and dramatic works of her later compositions. Hailey Martin Art Gallery, 41 Powell St., SF. Info: 392-1015 or 392-1024.

The Castro hosts a special film tribute to the late Norman Mailer, the tenth anniversary of that film's triumphant premiere. Made in the summer of 1977 (Anita Bryant's heyday) "with a cast of 250,000トラ, this film "astonishing power and simplicity" revolves around Amiro (Madjid Niroumand), a homeless infantile, trampy sister); a plot even the author couldn't figure out. 8 pm. Hatley Martin Art Gallery, 41 Powell St., SF. $7. Info: 366-7364 or 966-3185.

Micheletango in the flesh: The Renaissance master’s Resurrection is one of 61 works on paper included in the Palace of the Legion of Honor’s current exhibit of “Italian Masters. Drawings from the British Royal Collection.” Artworks by Raphael, Leonardo, Gribendalio, Giovannelli, Ginorma and Canaleotto (among others) are included. The show continues through October 25. Call 750-3614.

25 AUGUST

The Politics of Celebration

Different Daughters: A Book by Mothers of Lesbians, by Judy Seeman. "Reads from the book and premiere new choreography by company members. Set to the music of Brahms, Chopin, Schubert and Sibelius, this new costume piece ranges from the lyric joyfulness of Isadora’s early dances to the passionate and dramatic works of her later compositions. Hailey Martin Art Gallery, 41 Powell St., SF. Info: 392-1015 or 392-1024.

The Castro hosts a special film tribute to the late Norman Mailer, the tenth anniversary of that film’s triumphant premiere. Made in the summer of 1977 (Anita Bryant’s heyday) “with a cast of 250,000トラ, this film “astonishing power and simplicity” revolves around Amiro (Madjid Niroumand), a homeless infantile, trampy sister); a plot even the author couldn’t figure out. 8 pm. Hatley Martin Art Gallery, 41 Powell St., SF. $7. Info: 366-7364 or 966-3185.

25 AUGUST TUESDAY

Created by Claude Segovia and Hector Orejuela, Flamecino Puro opens tonight at SF’s Orpheum Theater for four weeks. This production brings to the US Andalucia’s most flamenco artists — mostly of whom have never been seen outside Spain and France. Tuesdays through Sundays. Times and prices vary, so call 673-4400 for more info and to charge tickets. 112 Market St., SF. Info: 366-4955.

Amir Naderi’s The Runner, the first post-revolutionary Iranian film to be released in the US, plays at the Roxie Thursday at 4 pm. This work of “astonishing power and simplicity” revolves around Amiro (Madjid Niroumand), a homeless baby struggling for his livelihood. The LA Times found it “remarkable of the finest Italian neo-realist films.” 3117 16th St. (at Valencia), SF. Info: 363-1087.

26 AUGUST WEDNESDAY

Festival Latino continues with Argentina’s entry, La Senorita de Tacna, written by Mario Vargas Llosa and starring Argentina’s most famous actress, Norma Aleandro (The Official Story). The play tells the story of a seemingly weak woman reoccupying the high points of her youth, sometimes inaccurately, to her grandpenthe. Plays through 8/30. 8 pm, SF State University, McKenna Theatre, 1600 Holloway Ave., SF. Info: 762-BASS or 392-4400.

Tenth years of explosive comedy: The Plutonium Players celebrate a decade of politically astute laugh-making. See listing for Friday, 8/28.
SHARING ANTIBODY TEST RESULTS

Dear Mr. Armstrong,

I recently took the AIDS antibody test and came out positive. I have a number of questions about the test, what it means, and how to deal with its implications with others. What is the approximate percentage of those tested who are positive? How do I go about telling the people who need to know? I've got a friend who tested negative but I know he has had sex with someone who tested positive. Is he really safe? Should those who test negative only date negatives? It's so hard to deal with the sad fact that while I'm not sick, I could infect others.

Feeling Contagious

Dear FC,

First of all a few facts about the test results. It seems fairly certain that a negative result means that you have not been exposed to HIV or any other AIDS virus. As long as you do not expose yourself to the virus in the future or have not exposed yourself in the six months prior to the test, you will not get AIDS. Unfortunately, it is less clear what a positive result means. It means you have been exposed and have developed the antibody to the virus. So exactly what your immune system will be doing, and how long it will take, is not known. HIV is a disease which attacks the immune system and destroys it, and many people who are positive will develop AIDS or die of aids. Unfortunately, we don't know how long it will take for a person to develop AIDS or die of AIDS, but it can be as long as five to ten years.

Looking at the evidence and making the best guess about the evidence, it seems that there is no fixed incubation period for HIV. The question becomes how far are you, as an individual, from developing AIDS? How far are you from the point where your immune system will start to collapse? This is a critical point, because if you can get the whole immune system back to 100% of its normal functioning, you can prevent the development of AIDS.

There are a few things you can do to slow down the process of the disease. First, you can avoid other diseases. This is very important because it is possible that the body is already weak from the effects of other diseases. Second, you can stop smoking. This is a very important factor because smoking is very bad for the immune system. Third, you can avoid alcohol. This is also very important because alcohol is very bad for the immune system. Fourth, you can avoid stress. This is very important because stress is very bad for the immune system. Finally, you can avoid any other diseases that you can. This is very important because you can develop AIDS if you have other diseases.

The important thing is to stay as healthy as possible. This means eating a healthy diet, getting plenty of exercise, and avoiding drugs. If you can follow these guidelines, you can prevent the development of AIDS.

I hope this helps you.

Sincerely,

Feeling Contagious
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