

San Francisco
Sentinel

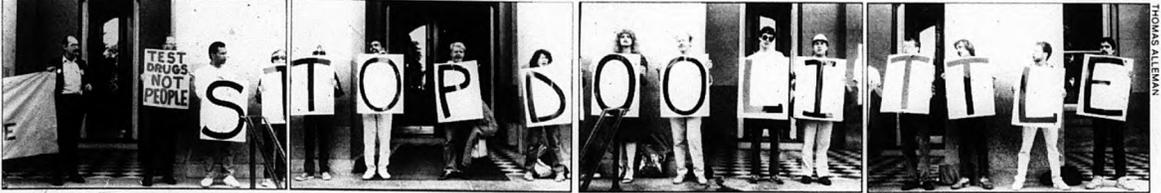
**Looking at
Religious
Science
pg. 15**

500 Hayes Street, San Francisco, CA 94102

415-861-8100

Vol. 15, No. 34

August 21, 1987



THOMAS ALLEMAN

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.

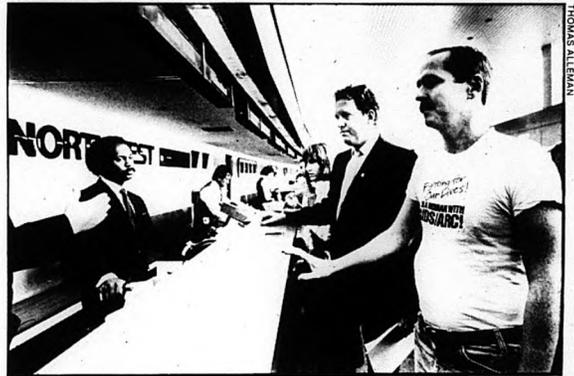
Leonard Matlovich, the Vietnam war hero with AIDS, went to San Francisco International Airport to buy a Northwest Orient ticket after hearing

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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THOMAS ALLEMAN

AIDS activist Ken McPherson and Leonard Matlovich challenge Northwest Orient's policy on selling airline tickets to people with AIDS by attempting to purchase passage to Washington, DC, from SFO.

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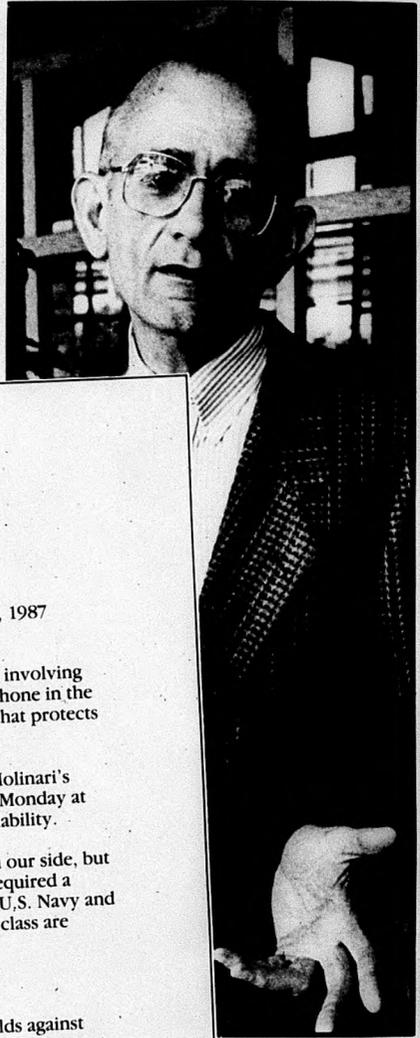
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“... When I committed my support to John Molinari's campaign for Mayor, I never expected him to betray us over a battleship.”



**LAWYER
RICHARD GAYER**

One Grand View Terrace
San Francisco, CA 94114
(415) 861-3454

August 19, 1987

Dear San Franciscan:

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 unreliability.

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 _____ (Please Print)

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



Supervisor Harry Britt speaks in opposition to homeporting the USS *Missouri* in San Francisco Bay during Monday's emotionally charged and rowdy hearings that resulted in eight arrests.

Britt: 'The Fight's Not Over' Homeporting Approved

by Corinne Lightweaver

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 Gonzales, Tom Hsieh, Bill Maher and Wendy Nelder. 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 includes 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 treat lesbians and gay men any differently than anybody else.

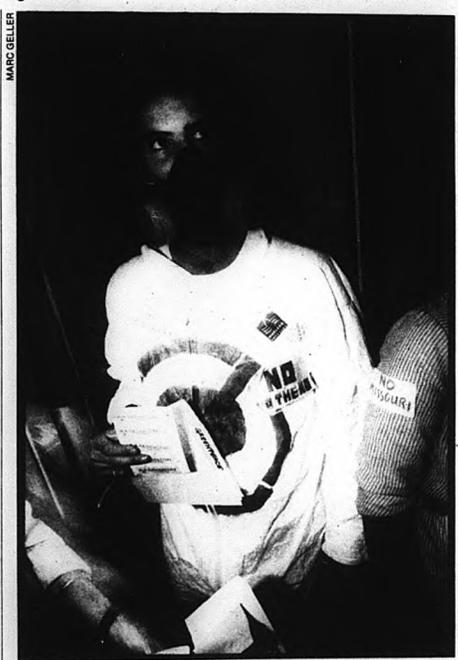
"I want to express to the mayor my disappointment that she has not accepted my efforts as anything but a political ploy," said Britt, adding that the lesbian/gay community of San Francisco is not satisfied with the Navy's policies.

"There is indeed language in the federal civil service regulations that in 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 gone 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 take care of lesbian and gay rights."

Britt said Attorney Matthew Coles had begun extensive discussions with Captain Mac Williams of the Pentagon

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



NO MO! protester expresses his displeasure with the homeporting plan passed 6-5 by the SF Board of Supervisors on Monday.

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

reserved the right to discriminate (see sidebar). Britt requested answers in writing from the Navy and received a response which he said essentially claimed that the Navy does not discriminate.

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AIDS Vaccine Approved for Human Testing

The Food and Drug Administration has approved an experimental AIDS vaccine for human testing. The study of the effects of the experimental AIDS vaccine on 81 volunteers will be supervised by the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Disease and will take place at the clinical center of the National Institutes of Health.

The study will be designed to assess safety and immune reactions to the experimental vaccine developed by MicroGene Sys of West Haven, Connecticut.

The experimental vaccine will be tested on mostly male homosexuals who have not tested HIV positive. If the vaccine is effective, the volunteers will

test positive for exposure to HIV, but will not develop AIDS or be able to transmit the virus to others.

If the experimental vaccine passes this initial trial, further studies will be done at other test centers. Experts predict an effective AIDS vaccine is still five or ten years away. ■

Agnos Bill Moves Toward Senate AB-87 Altered to Win Doctors' Approval

by George Mendenhall

AB-87 moved one step further toward the governor's desk on Wednesday when it was approved, 5-2, by the Senate Health and Human Services Committee. Two of the nine-member committee did not vote. Exactly five votes were needed for passage. The bill's author, Assemblyman Art Agnos, had earlier won Assembly approval (41-34) and is now moving his bill toward the Senate floor. The Senate adjourns on September 11. There was one major change made, as Agnos agreed to make the written consent to an antibody test an oral consent.

In order to hold together a coalition of AIDS groups and legal and medical supporters, Agnos accepted 19 amendments — ten of them from the California Medical Association, including the one on consent. The CMA is now re-evaluating its opposition. A CMA endorsement could mean victory for Agnos in the Senate and a possible signature from the governor.

The CMA has been opposed to the section that required that a patient give separate, written approval for every member of the medical team. Agnos agreed to alter this to allow for an overall oral consent that would apply to all members of the medical team at once. Dr. Laurens White, president of the executive council of the CMA, told the Senate committee, "It appears that what we wanted has been accepted and our legal counsel is taking a look at it. I cannot 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 commissions. A state 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.

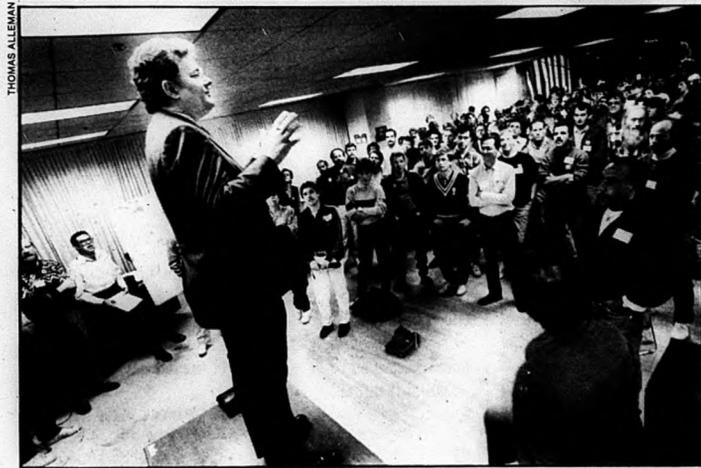
"The centerpiece of AB-87 is a 24-member commission," the assemblyman stressed, "that brings together all the kinds of expertise that we need to deal with AIDS — in insurance, the

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 agreeing 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 the consent change. 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 reviewing the results of the antibody test. Now, a doctor who is going to authorize the test first goes through procedures of informing the patient about the test as outlined by the Federal

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Harry Britt addressed a roomfull of Saturday volunteers during his unsuccessful, debt-ridden campaign for Congress last spring.

Put Harry in the Black

by John Wetzel

Carole Migden, principal fundraiser for the 1986 Britt 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 Migden in an interview earlier this week. "Literally thousands of volunteers worked on the campaign.

We're saying, "If you gave \$15 before, give it now."

"Anyone in fundraising knows that this is the most difficult, unyielding and uphill of battles — particularly as we move into the mayoral season with other kinds of races becoming more appealing to the average donor." Migden says the debt of approximately \$25,000 could hinder future tries by Britt at elective office. She issued an appeal to the gay community, 70 percent of which, she claims, supported the candidate.

"Established politicians debated

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.

"That a gay man can enjoy a broad range of support outside the gay and lesbian community — that's what Harry's candidacy illustrated," Migden said. "It's now clearly established that

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Legislators Get AIDS Info Deluge

by George Mendenhall

Two hundred spectators jammed a capitol conference room Monday afternoon to hear an AIDS Information Forum organized by the chair of the Assembly Health Committee, Curtis Tucker (D-Inglewood) and Assembly Speaker Willie Brown (D-San Francisco). A phalanx of eight television cameras and a large assemblage of reporters recorded statements by 20 AIDS doctors, attorneys and service professionals while the chairs and vice-chairs of the five key Assembly committees hearing AIDS legislation listened. All speakers were either neutral or were opposed to the Doolittle package.

"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.... Most public health authorities encourage widespread testing on a voluntary basis in conjunction with intensive education programs which have as their result changes in behavior, particularly among infected persons. Public health officials have expressed grave concern that widespread mandatory testing will drive persons at risk for AIDS away from prevention and education programs."

Anti-Doolittle activists filled most of the chairs and occasionally laughed or applauded — with minor reprimands from Chair Tucker. When a large STOP DOOLITTLE banner was shown in the back of the room, however, he asked politely that it be removed — and it was. There were no audience disturbances, and those attending remained attentive.

Dr. Marcus Conant, a nationally

known AIDS researcher, talked of the extreme anxiety experienced by people who learn they have tested positive on the AIDS antibody test. He said he opposed all the Doolittle bills that result from "a hysterical public."

The doctor gave these statistics: There have been 40,000 cases of AIDS in the United States — 10,000 of those in California, of which 5,000 have died. AIDS Related Complex (ARC) cases number 20,000 in the state. He said a recent study indicated that 20% of those who have the AIDS virus for seven years will develop AIDS, and it is unknown about those who have it more than seven years. The number of those infected (positives) in California is estimated at 200,000 to 300,000 people, and "once infected you remain so for your lifetime."

Conant brought even more bad news — "There is no hope that we will see a vaccine in the next few years." He said the only hopes are education and volunteer testing, as it is vital to know who is infected in order to impede the transmission of the disease. The doctor also

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MAKE DINNER MAKE FRIENDS MAKE A DIFFERENCE

AIDS is a hard fact of life for many of us in San Francisco, 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



SHANTI PROJECT

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 on 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 I don't intend to because I conduct my life in a manner which makes transmission impossible. But since I'm a member of a high-risk group, I might have AIDS. I said I just don't know."

"Then I said I'd like a ticket to Washington for the National March," recalled McPherson. The representative from Northwest who told McPherson about the company's AIDS policy was Supervisor Steve Langhart. Langhart told Matlovich and McPherson to contact William Renne in Minneapolis for further in-

formation on Northwest's policy toward people with AIDS.

"I said, does that mean you aren't going to sell me a ticket," McPherson recounted asking Langhart. And Langhart replied, "I've already told you to talk to Renne."

Renne did not return the *Sentinel's* calls but Langhart at San Francisco International did. Langhart told the *Sentinel* that Northwest's policy toward people with AIDS was that anyone with AIDS would have to supply the airline with a certificate filled out by their doctor to the effect that the person with AIDS was medically allowed to fly.

Asked about McPherson's problem in getting a ticket, Langhart said, "I wouldn't know what the policy is for sure, but you might have trouble getting a ticket if you came forward [with the information that McPherson supplied]."

Ben Schatz of the National Gay Rights Advocates is working with Matlovich and McPherson on their problems with Northwest. Said Schatz, "At this point we're filing suit on behalf of Leonard Matlovich. They refused to sell him a ticket because he has AIDS. I believe that violates federal law, the Air Carriers Access Act of 1986, which bars discrimination against people with physical handicaps."

"We're doing research," added Schatz, "and we may still negotiate with them. We're mapping our legal strategy."

Asked about the apparent change in Northwest Orient's AIDS policy, which now requires a doctor's certificate for a person with AIDS to buy a ticket, Schatz responded, "Their revised policy is also completely unacceptable. They are asking people to violate their own right to confidentiality."

**Demonstrators Protest
AIDS 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 AIDS 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," "S-T-O-P D-O-O-L-I-T-T-L-E" was spelled out by those holding individual letters. The chants continued until organizer John Belskus, 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 AIDS Information Forum held in a capitol conference room after the rally. None of the seven Doolittle bills under consideration in the legislature centers on AIDS care, treatment or research. Their emphasis is either on AIDS antibody testing or penalizing people with AIDS for possible misconduct. The seven Doolittle bills are only a few of several hundred bills being passed or shelved in this four-week period that ends the 1987 legislative session.

Shireen Miles, president of the California National Organization for Women, told the noisy enthusiastic crowd that NOW has 24,000 members in the state and that it opposes all the Doolittle bills. "These bills deceive the public," she stressed, "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 Boneberg, of Mobilization Against AIDS, 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, gay lobbyist for Lobby for Individual Freedom and Equality (LIFE).

"We can defeat these bills," Boneberg said, "if people will vote 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 AIDS. There must be no compromise on this. We must go beyond just fighting AIDS bigotry — to demand more money for AIDS education, research and treatment."

One of the state leaders in the Stop LaRouche movement, Ralph Payne of California AIDS Network, was adamant. "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 PANIC, 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 stand by while this is happening. We said during the LaRouche campaign that we would not allow one of our people to be put on a list — but

what we should have said is that we will not tolerate any Californian being put on a list."

"People care about this disease now," Supervisor Tom Nolan of San Mateo County told the rally crowd. "I am here to testify and to lobby legislators to emphasize that education

"People with AIDS are being denied privileges. . . . People like Doolittle are killing them."

— Gary Harman

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 peo-

ple away somewhere, the public will think that they will not have to worry. People will feel they then 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

people like Doolittle and LaRouche, who tell us that the 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 prostitutes. 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.' We do have to worry, for if we do not stop this now, we will be here again and again, year after year."

Reverend Jerry Sloan of Sacramento's Metropolitan Community Church told the cheering spectators,

"Like most of the right wing, Doolittle has tried 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 casually being 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. ■



Protesters spell out the day's agenda and predict history on the capitol steps in Sacramento on Monday afternoon. A majority of the repressive AIDS-related legislation proposed by State Senator John Doolittle (R-Roseville) were defeated in committee on Tuesday.

**SHOULD YOU TAKE THE
AIDS ANTIBODY TEST?**

Possible Benefits

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

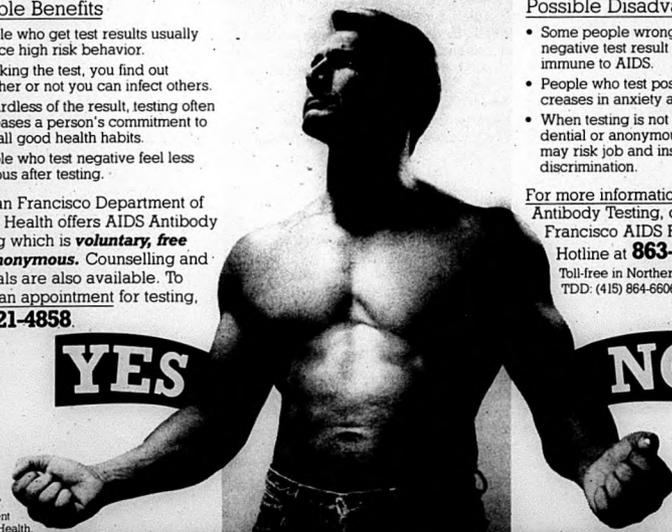
The San Francisco Department of Public Health offers AIDS Antibody Testing which is **voluntary, free and anonymous**. Counseling and referrals are also available. To make an appointment for testing, call **621-4858**.

Possible Disadvantages

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

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

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



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



GET THE FACTS. CONSIDER YOUR FEELINGS. THEN DECIDE.

The Missouri in Perspective

Now that the smoke has cleared from the air after the battle over the homeporting of the USS *Missouri*, it's time to put the whole debate into perspective.

First and foremost, we should recognize that through patient negotiations between the Navy and members of the Board of Supervisors, a historic agreement was reached that explicitly acknowledges that the Navy will not discriminate against lesbians and gay men in civilian employment.

This has never happened before. Here's the exact language adopted: "The Navy and the city declare that they will not discriminate against any civilian employee, applicant for civilian employment, or contractor because of race, color, religion, ancestry, national origin, age, sex, sexual orientation or handicap."

"Further, the city and the Navy agree that HIV infection and AIDS/ARC are and shall be treated solely as a medical condition with respect to employment decisions."

Nothing could be plainer.
There are those who are already making political hay out of the fact that the final gay rights language adopted differed from that proposed by Harry Britt, and that

somehow the final package "sells out" gay rights. They hope to start a groundswell of opposition to what is, in reality, a major step forward in moving the military toward more progressive attitudes towards lesbian and gay men.

Art Agnos, in particular, has turned the disagreement between Britt and Molinari into a wedge with which he hopes to divide the gay community.

Well, Harry Britt was there. He knows John Molinari supports lesbian and gay rights. Britt and Molinari may agree to disagree on this issue, but he still supports Molinari for the same qualities Molinari displayed throughout this debate: he is an honest broker who brings all parties to the table and seeks a consensus without grandstanding.

Many people of good will may have a difference of opinion over the *Missouri*. But for the gay community the *Missouri* is not the issue. It never was. Process is the issue. In this case, the process employed by John Molinari brought us further than all the finger-pointing in the world ever will.

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 Molinari for mayor, then by calling on the Alice B. Toklas Club to put an end to its endorsement war by rolling back voting eligibility to January 1 memberships, and finally by criticizing Art Agnos for not readily accepting that compromise which could salvage the good name of Alice.

We believe that it is what a newspaper is for: to present the news fairly, to raise significant issues for debate and to promote solutions that we believe will benefit us all. We think that our readers agree, and we have been gratified to note in recent weeks that the *Sentinel* has been picked up and read 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 thing if those papers disappear before anyone has an opportunity to read them. Last 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 "dumped." Our investigation suggested to us that this might be true. Apparently several thousand copies seemed to disappear from at least one location in an unusually short time. We immediately replenished our papers in this location.

Who could be doing this, and why? One possibility was that it might be the competing newspapers, concerned about the new standard that we are setting. We quickly dismissed this possibility as beneath our colleagues in the press. Our suspicions became more focused, however, when anonymous callers asserted as a matter of fact that named and unnamed Molinari supporters were doing the great paper theft.

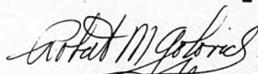
Please! We know a con when we hear one.

It is no secret that the news editor of this publication is an ardent Agnos supporter. David expands upon his beliefs in his weekly political column, generally critical of John Molinari and supportive of Art Agnos. It seems unlikely, therefore, that Molinari's people should "deep six" our papers at the very time that we printed the first editorial that was explicitly critical of Art Agnos. Indeed, we suspect that last week's publication was one of the few in which the Molinari forces would have found any real joy.

It is impossible to second-guess the motives of thieves and anonymous callers, however, so we reserve judgment. We are not listening to the words of callers in the night; rather, we are watching actions of candidates and their supporters in the light of day. We are watching, and so is the whole community.

A footnote on the Alice endorsement: We believe that John Molinari showed true statesmanship in quickly accepting the *Sentinel's* compromise in a letter to the club's membership. In contrast, Art Agnos ignored the challenge, and supporters of his at the club opposed it. Following our editorial, however, Art Agnos sent us a letter agreeing to the *Sentinel's* compromise.

We are still waiting to judge actions versus rhetoric. The matter was referred to the Alice bylaws committee which voted down the proposal on August 12. Regardless of that ruling, however, the members of Alice will have the final word. The actions of the followers of the two candidates when the final vote is taken will reveal the true sentiment of the candidates.



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LETTERS

Mollinari 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 person who were 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 and will abide by the result of that vote if that is the will of the membership.

Over the last few months there have been heated charges that one campaign or another has tried to stack the club with its supporters in order to win the endorsement vote. These charges have at times become virtually the exclusive focus of the mayor's race in the media, redounding to the credit neither of Alice nor of the candidates. It is now widely remarked that the endorsement, if it is given to any candidate, will be virtually meaningless.

As a long-time member of Alice and one who has been previously endorsed four times by this club, I am willing to go the extra step. No single election is worth tarnishing the good name of Alice.

The *Sentinel's* proposal is an admirable solution — one that would end the current hostilities ripping apart the club and the community. It is also a solution that would give perhaps the best picture of what the "true" voice of Alice is in the mayor's race.

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, not divide it. I believe

that this compromise will benefit us all no matter who wins the endorsement, and that it will put a stop to a battle that could leave lasting scars.

John L. Molinari

Agnos on Alice

To the Editor:

I read with interest your editorial in today's *Sentinel* and I wanted to respond at once.

As you know from our conversation today, I missed your first editorial for a very sad reason.

My chief of staff's six-year-old son was killed in a terrible accident when a truck hit him as he rode his bicycle in front of his home. It was a tragedy that brought me and all of us to a halt with enormous sorrow, and we just didn't pay any attention to politics last week.

Your proposal is a useful one, and I would accept it. I share your frustration that Alice's own voice is being overwhelmed by the politics of this year. It's not the only club it has happened to in this campaign.

I know the club's bylaws committee is now considering your proposal, and I hope that something will come out of it that will put the power of Alice where it belongs — with the members who have made a commitment to Alice over the years.

Thank you for the thoughtfulness you are putting into the issues, and please know that I take them seriously. The *Sentinel* has become a strong voice for all of us concerned about our city and its values. To me it has special value, not because I hope for favorable coverage and editorials, but because the standard of fairness it sets is vital.

Art Agnos

Molinari Endorsement

To the Editor:

Supervisor Molinari'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 retract your paper's endorsement of Molinari for mayor.

John Dunlap

Donovan Revisited

To the Editor:

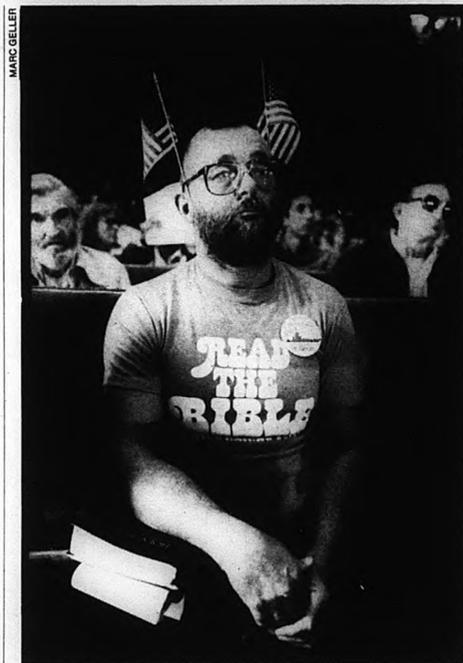
Robert Julian's interview with Scottish pop singer Donovan (July 31) was an unfair and insulting hatchet job. Julian made Donovan look pretty bad, but he made himself look even worse.

Julian admits that after suffering through Donovan's concert, he wanted to cancel the interview because he knew he would have nothing good to say to Donovan about the show. After tossing and turning all night, however, Julian decided to make a half-hearted attempt to go through with the interview.

Face it, Julian: You *hated* Donovan's concert; you *dreaded* having to interview him the next day, and you walked into the interview with a negative attitude. Under those circumstances, it's not at all surprising that you developed no rapport with Donovan and ended up with a boring interview.

What is surprising, however, is the rather slimy way in which Julian chose to handle this unfortunate situation. Rather than simply shrugging his shoulders and chalking it up to experience, he chose to turn the interview into a full-blown hatchet job, and he did so in a malicious and underhanded manner.

If you reread the interview, you'll



This PRO MO supporter at Monday's Board of Supervisors vote on homeporting leads one to ask, "From where did they import this clown?"

see that Julian follows up each of Donovan's responses with a snide put-down calculated to make Donovan look like a boring has-been with nothing interesting to say. Julian even made subtly snide comments about Donovan's wife and kids!

Julian, if you need to trash somebody, why don't you trash Lyndon

LaRouche or John Doolittle or somebody who deserves to be trashed. Donovan is a pleasant, harmless pop singer, and I can't imagine what you hoped to accomplish by throwing him to the wolves in such a despicable manner.

Jon Schons

Continued on page 12

FROM THE DESK

DAVID M LOWE

Hummmmm Baby!

Giants owner Bob Lurie's grassroots campaign to build a downtown stadium looks unstoppable if Roger Craig's kids continue to play championship baseball. On Wednesday night, the Giants moved into sole possession of first place in the National League Western division. It's the first time since 1971 that the Giants have been in first place this late in the season. In 1971, the Giants won the Western division and in 1987, look like real contenders to repeat. This is great news for Lurie who is campaigning to pass Prop W, giving him a voter mandate to seek private financing for a stadium at 7th Street and Townsend.

If the Giants win the division, Lurie is almost assured of a victory at the polls less than a month after the close of the season. If the Giants win the National League pennant, Lurie's Prop W will win by a wide margin.

If the Giants should happen to win the World Series, San Franciscans will give them a landslide mandate to play ball anywhere they want, maybe even with taxpayer dollars to help build a new home for the World Champions.

On the Hill

In the state capital this week we scored some major victories. On Monday, we made ourselves very visible and provided legislators with the necessary information required to turn around a move in the Senate to pass the

repressive AIDS legislation offered by State Senator John Doolittle (R-Roseville).

On Tuesday, Assemblyman Art Agnos, LIFE lobbyist Rand Martin, the STOP DOOLITTLE coalition and Mobilization Against AIDS activists Ralph Payne and Paul Boneberg successfully fought off passage of all but two of Doolittle's measures.

On the heels of that action, Agnos successfully shepherded his model AIDS legislation, AB-87, through Senate Health and on to Senate Appropriations, where a favorable nod would send the bill for final passage on the floor and on to a showdown at the governor's desk.

To everyone responsible for our victories in Sacramento this week, a "good job, boys and girls" is in order.

DOD Dish

The Department of Defense has been ordered to stop automatically subjecting homosexual applicants for security clearances to extended background investigations. The decision by US District Judge Thelton Henderson, handed down in SF on Wednesday, was a major victory for attorney Richard Gayer, representing High Tech Gays, the Silicon Valley group that brought the nationwide class-action suit.

The ringing declaration of gay rights will affect employees from such defense contractors as Lockheed Missiles and Space Co. in Sunnyvale to the shipyard firms involved with the homeporting of the USS *Missouri* in SF.

Post-Missouri

Efforts to stop the USS *Missouri* continue despite Monday's approval of the MOU by the Board of Supervisors. Wednesday night the San Francisco County Democratic Party endorsed Proposition U which would create a nuclear-free zone in the city. Passage of Prop U would create difficulty for the proponents of homeporting.

Missouri Roles

Supervisor Nancy Walker ruled the emotionally charged and sometimes rowdy *Missouri* hearing held Monday with the gentle sternness of a fraternity mom. While at the other end of the

spectrum, Wendy Nelder was a jerk, displaying her "Well, I never..." attitude. It's a role becoming to a supervisor serving her last term on the board.

Harry Britt suffered a major defeat at the hands of Supervisors Billy Maher and Jack Molinari, who successfully passed lesbian/gay rights language the Navy and the mayor could live with. Nine supervisors backed the Maher amendment. I believe Hongisto, Ward and Silver only voted with the majority on the Maher amendment to ensure the Navy understand SF has a solid commitment to lesbian/gay rights and only after a Hongisto amendment was defeated.

Nancy Walker was the only supervisor to stand with Britt for uncomprovised lesbian/gay rights.

The nine-vote commitment by the board gives the Molinari campaign a case for having ensured some sort of lesbian/gay rights while still winning approval of *Missouri* homeporting.

Molinari will suffer a great backlash from the progressive wing of the party and supporters of Art Agnos for mayor, who tout him as "selling out" lesbian/gay rights. Molinari might lose those supporters whose first commitment is to lesbian/gay rights, as well as experiencing some fallout from "soft" supporters.

However, among "hardcore" Molinari supporters he'll be credited with fashioning an acceptable compromise that created the least fallout among many diverse groups seeking to advance their agenda.

Britt is still on record as late as Thursday morning as supporting Jack's candidacy for mayor, a position he continues to find increasingly harder to justify among his progressive base.

Hongisto was the overall star of the



Supervisor Richard Hongisto.

Missouri hearing, making the most eloquent arguments against homeporting and challenging the Feinstein majority at every turn. Hongisto also led the fight for the strongest lesbian/gay language, and was the only supervisor opposing the *Missouri* to pass a significant amendment to the MOU.

In my opinion, Willie Kennedy was the big loser among progressives. She was the swing vote that went from opposing the *Missouri* to supporting the homeporting plan, without demanding the strongest possible anti-discrimination language. How would Kennedy have reacted during the civil rights movement if she had been asked to support a compromise that allowed blacks to move from the back to the middle of the bus instead of all the way up front?

On the other hand, Doris Ward truly represented her constituency and the

Continued on page 11

AT THE COURTHOUSE

KEN CADY

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 gripe of my own to the fraud unit office at 732 Brannan street. There I met Laurel Pallock, director of mediation services. Laurel supervises two paid staff members and several college students who actually handle the complaint mediation.

My sad tale began in May of this year when my travel agent sold me a Las Vegas package through PSA's Great Escapes vacations. It included a hotel, airfare and car rental, the latter so I could drive to the Grand Canyon. The

price for the rental car was \$26 plus tax, prepaid with the package.

When I went to claim the car in Vegas, the people at Hertz had never heard of me. They did come up with a car, but the \$26 did not include mileage over 100 miles per day. Here was a catch not disclosed in my original purchase, nor on the voucher PSA provided me to claim the car that they hadn't reserved for me. My additional expense turned out to be over \$130 more than I had bargained for.

When I returned home, my trusty

travel agent, Ineka at Orion Travel, agreed that the mileage fee wasn't disclosed 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 see 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

file 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 I'll update you if anything develops. But the mediators did ask that I pass on to you several tips to help you 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 plunking 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 it is usually binding. Demand written estimates for work, listing the cost for parts and labor. Don't take oral guarantees; get them in writing. Ask about finance charges, and shop around to see if the loan can be gotten cheaper elsewhere. Just because you're buying their product doesn't mean you have to buy their loan. Know what the store'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 or the business is located in San Francisco, and the transaction also occurred here, then contact the consumer complaint division at the address above, or call 553-1814 and ask for them. (If the purchase occurred in another California county, it's a better idea to utilize complaint mediators in that county.) Their services help you on purchase rip-offs as well as deceptive advertising, failure to deliver merchandise, refusals 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 pattern of fraud, a civil lawsuit or even criminal charges can be filed against the offending companies. Last year, the unit obtained \$334,000 in settling 2275 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.

CATHARTIC COMICS

Featuring THE BROWN BOMBER and DIVA TOUCHEE FLAMBEÉ by Prof. I.B. Gittendowne

AS THE BABY BOMBER ATTEMPTING TO CRUISE UNEXPLORED TERRITORY, A CHALLENGE UNFOLDS BEFORE ME. CAN I WADE THROUGH THIS ORANGE QUAGMIRE OF GUNK TO MAKE IT TO THE INVITING CRISTY BANKS OF THE DISTANT SHORE?



SUDDENLY I FIND MYSELF TRAPPED IN THE QUICKSAND-ESQUE DENSITY OF THE MUCK'S CENTER! UP TO MY NOSE IN THE SLIMY SUBSTANCE, I'M SURPRISED BY ITS SWEET, SPICY FLAVOR.



DETERMINED TO USE MY WITS AND THE POWER OF MY AMAZING APPETITE, I CONSUME THE CUSTARD-LIKE MASS UNTIL THERE'S NOTHING LEFT!



OF COURSE, YOU REALIZE YOU'VE RUINED THAT SWEET POTATO PIE FOR THE REST OF US...



Doolittle Defeated

Continued from page 1

plained to the *Sentinel* 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 one time."

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 requests 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 *Sentinel*, "I've got to sort this out [whether to ask for a waiver]. We may just wait till 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 felony for anyone who knows he/she has AIDS to donate blood; SB 1003, which made it a crime for health professionals not to test pregnant women for AIDS unless the woman refuses in writing; SB 1004, which added a three-year sentence for anyone with AIDS convicted of rape; and SB 1007, which required an AIDS test for everyone convicted of prostitution.

A fifth Doolittle AIDS bill suffered defeat at the hands of the Senate's Judiciary Committee. SB 1005, which mandated an AIDS test for all state prisoners with the test results to go to the warden, was made a two-year bill, which meant it must be re-introduced by Doolittle next year to be considered.

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

Said Doolittle in 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 1 1/2 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 they will not spread the virus."

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. Said Leff, "I care for dying AIDS patients daily in my practice, and I'm a former health director 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."

Assemblyman Art 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?"

Doolittle responded for Leff, "Assemblyman, we're trying to shift the balance from the civil rights of the victim to the rights of the potential victim."

Lieutenant Governor Leo McCarthy testified against SB 1000. "The war on AIDS is the most crucial public health problem this nation is facing," said McCarthy. "We could increase funding to find a vaccine in Sacramento or Washington, we could do more education, but rather than



John Belskus, SF member of Citizens for Medical Justice, testifies at AIDS information hearing held in Sacramento on Monday.

these obvious things we could do to end this epidemic, SB 1000 will hamper our efforts.

"The majority of medical scientists are against SB 1000," added McCarthy. "And fear of discriminatory measures will mean that those at risk will avoid testing."

Dr. Carl Smith, the health officer for Alameda County and the chair of the Epidemiological Committee for the California Association of Health Officers, told the Assembly committee that there was no good reason to give county health officers the HIV status of individuals in the county. Said Smith, "Because of constraints and the huge need for our services, we give these activities low priority. They are relatively unproductive. And secondly, when we receive this information we won't be able to guarantee confidentiality. We believe there will be a real loss of patients in our programs if we undermine confidentiality."

Asked Agnos, "Does this bill offer any health protection?"

"Really none," answered Smith. However, Assemblyman Gerald Felando (D-Torrance) was annoyed by Smith's testimony. "Dead is dead, doctor," said Felando loudly. "I really find you to be a disgrace to your profession." Felando's statements were met by loud boos.

Agnos defended Smith and

apologized for Felando's statement. "I apologize on behalf of the legislature," said Agnos to a chorus of applause.

Committee Chair Curtis Tucker (D-Inglewood) asked rhetorically, "What are we going to do with these people? I have a problem with just gathering statistics. We have no cure. You can go out and tell those people they have AIDS, but what in the hell are you going to do about it?... Somebody has suggested a hospital for AIDS people, but before we're finished, they'll be talking about barbed wire around that hospital."

The committee then voted to send the bill to an interim committee where another hearing will be held on the bill before the next legislative session begins in January.

"The effect of this is to kill the bill," explained a legislative insider. "Doolittle 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 premarital 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 requires mandatory AIDS testing of all involuntarily committed mental patients without the patient's consent. Speaking on behalf of this bill was Lorimar Cummins, a doctor with the Santa Cruz Medical Society. Said Cummins, "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 1000, 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 donated blood. The speakers against this bill didn't have an answer when Assemblywoman Doris Allen (R-Cypress) asked, "Why shouldn't anybody have the right to decide that they will get blood from a particular person?"

Doolittle bill SB 1008 was approved by the committee and joined the amended version of the marriage license bill as the only other bill in his nine-bill package to survive the day. Neither bill was opposed by the LIFE Lobby, the statewide AIDS activist lobbying group in Sacramento.

Said Rand Martin of LIFE Lobby, "We were neutral on SB 1001 and 1008. On SB 1001 because we felt it didn't do any harm and gives a little information to people who might not otherwise get it. And on SB 1008 because we did not have the resources to fight them all, and there was a significant controversy about whether this was a good bill."

Continued on page 12

CATCH THE EXCITEMENT!

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Unitarians Support Gay Rights

LITTLE ROCK, AR — The General Assembly of the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA), which voted to end discrimination against gay men and lesbians in 1970, passed new resolutions to update its bylaws almost unanimously.

UUA delegates passed resolutions at a meeting in June to support the rescission of current sodomy laws 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-care, a Southern California feminist women's health clinic, on July 27 turned out to be a false alarm, a bomb was found the same day at Family Planning Associates at the other end of town. Police found the bomb in the possession of 29-year-old Bible Missionary Fellowship member Eric Everett Svelmoe, who confessed to having made the bomb.

The Fellowship church has been picketing Woman-care, FPA, the now-defunct Birth Control Institute and other abortion providers in the county for over a year. According to Woman-care director Deborah Fleming, the bomb threat was the latest of over 100 instances of harassment in the past year alone, including personal threats against herself and other staff members.

'AIDS Hospital' Closes

HOUSTON, TX — The corporation that operates the nation's first hospital dedicated entirely to AIDS research and treatment says it will phase out the facility because of losses exceeding \$7 million.

The Institute for Immunological Disorders, which operated for less than a year, is a joint project of American Medical International, Inc. and the University of Texas system.

Celebrities Fighting AIDS

LOS ANGELES — Carol Burnett has recently completed production on a Walt Disney Productions video called, "AIDS: What Do We Tell Our Children," to be released this fall.

Elizabeth Taylor was quoted by a *Chicago Sun-Times* gossip columnist as telling her friends she is thinking of running for the US Senate because she is sick of the government's handling of the AIDS crisis.

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 members of the congregation were divided about their approval of Taylor.

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 Suddendorf, 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 spokespersons 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 1,695 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 (1,089), Tanzania (1,130) and Uganda (1,138).

WHO also provided the following geographical statistics: Africa (4,082 cases in 34 countries), Americas (43,798 cases in 40 countries), Asia (160 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 upgraded liquor license to My Place, 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.

Malno Remembers Slain Man

BANGOR, ME — On the third anniversary of his death, lesbians, gay men and friends gathered at the city's Unitarian Church last month to honor the memory of Charlie Howard, a 23-year-old gay man who was thrown off a bridge to his death by three teenagers in 1984. The mourners were met with a

reminder that not much has changed in Bangor: spray-painted across the sign on the church lawn which announced the service was the word "fag."

His attackers, who were tried as juveniles and pleaded guilty to manslaughter, have all been released from the Maine Youth Center, where the court ordered they serve "indeterminate" sentences not to extend past their 21st birthdays.

Irish Unions Combat Discrimination

DUBLIN — The Irish Congress of Trade Unions has issued guidelines to combat discrimination against lesbians and gay workers. The congress, which represents 95 percent of all trade unions in Ireland, says their objective is to "create a workplace environment where lesbian and gay workers can have equality of opportunity and be free of harassment or possible reprisals from other workers or management."

The congress' recommendations include negotiating equality agreements with employers and working with

employers to establish procedures for reporting anti-gay discrimination.

Death Threats, Stoning in Mankato

MANKATO, MN — A proposed sexual orientation amendment to the city ordinance has brought homophobes out of the woodwork in Mankato. Two nights after the Mankato Human Rights Commission heard testimony on the amendment, a gay man was stoned in a city park. The man was able to outrun his attacker, but two weeks later, a truck full of men arrived at the house of a lesbian who had testified. The men yelled death threats at the woman and later followed a housemate to work.

The gay rights amendment was originally to be voted on in June, when four of seven council members supported the action. Because of a clerical error, however, the vote was postponed and is now slated for September 28. The response of homophobic citizens has unfortunately caused two of the original supporters to become "fence sitters," and it is unclear how they will vote next month.

Items for this week's column were edited from reports in the Gay Community News, Philadelphia Gay News, Washington Blade, Patlar Gazette, Mom Guess What?, Bravo!, Montrose Voice, Equal Time, United Press International, Another Voice and Bay Windows.

Please Read This Message

If You Visited The San Francisco City Clinic Between 1978 And 1980

Men who visited the San Francisco City Clinic between 1978 and 1980 may be able to provide critical information to AIDS research.

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San Francisco, California 94142-1873

City and County of San Francisco Department of Public Health

When you want the "real" story

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 reminded 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 results may be. Many of the proposed bills will be costly and do

nothing." Smith, who is the Alameda County health officer, recently withdrew his proposal that gave health officials guidelines for how they might proceed

patients, only 60% provided any counseling.

The lengthy session provided considerable information for the

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

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." Dr. Charles Gessert,

legislators: Blacks and Latinos 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 Minorities 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 Bell, explained his company's sensitivity 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 Lou 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 not a cancellation of a policy. California has the only law which legally prohibits this practice. He said testing is used to screen some

people applying for policies, but the AIDS antibody test cannot legally be given and "to my knowledge" is not. Keller added, "If you take too many people who are bad risks, the premiums for insurers to 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. ■

AB 87

Continued from page 3

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

Larry Bush, gay aide to Agnos, elaborated, "Before, when a person was asked and then wrote, 'I agree to be tested.' Now there is a rundown on what the test does and does not do. It is explained that the test does not screen people to determine if they have AIDS. If the person says no, the test is not to be given."

During the brief, 45-minute committee hearing, Rand Martin, of the gay lobbying group Lobby for Individual Freedom and Equality, endorsed the bill. He was joined by representatives from state hospital and nurses' associations. Dr. William Walker, Health Officers Association, pleaded, "We physicians operate in a vacuum due to the lack of an AIDS policy. There is a need for a commission — a mechanism that addresses AIDS not just as a medical problem but all of the other societal concerns. We need direction to assure that people with AIDS will be treated in a human and compassionate way."

Agnos reiterated to the committee that his bill was strongly supported by the US Surgeon General and had editorial endorsements from the *San Francisco Chronicle*, *Examiner* and *Progress* and the two major Los Angeles dailies. He said there was also support from over forty major service, legal and medical groups — as diverse

as the American Red Cross and the California Manufacturers Association.

The major opposition came from committee member Joseph Montoya (D-Los Angeles) who has also opposed gay rights legislation for several years. He said that for a patient to be allowed to give any consent to being tested was "onerous" and, in a lengthy debate with Agnos, said that doctors explaining the consequences of having the AIDS test to a patient would have a "chilling effect" which might cause a patient to not give consent. He added, "Doctors are not capable of counseling and this bill would make their task more difficult."

Speaking against the bill during the hearing was Reverend W.E. Timberlake, an ultra-conservative minister whose Committee on Moral Concerns is a Sacramento joke. The minister urged, "Under this bill employers would have to give preferential treatment to employees with AIDS and they would be dangerous as employees. There might be an exchange of blood if they don't wear gloves." Timberlake was joined by others who spoke out against safe sex education without parental approval and in favor of every hospital patient being given the antibody test without consent.

Agnos was surprised when an official of the state Department of Human Services said it is now state policy to accept that people with AIDS are handicapped people. A ruling in June by the state Fair Employment Practices Commission established that as fact for purposes of its complaint process, but it was never before recognized as official state policy. AB-87 would codify that FEPC position into state law. The DHS witness said that his agency not only opposes the formation of the commission in AB-87, but that DHS is also against the mandated wide distribution of the surgeon general's report on AIDS.

"The surgeon general of the United States," Agnos said in his concluding

Continued on next page

FROM THE DESK

Continued from page 7

progressive community while fighting for lesbian/gay rights. I hope future discussion on the MOU will result in Ward's amendments on affirmative action, guaranteeing a specific percentage of *Missouri* 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 homeporting plan, he will definitely ensure the Navy accept the strongest protection of lesbian/gay rights by insisting on passage of the HRC amendment. The choice is yours. ■

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Missouri

Continued from page 3

Britt said he wanted to see in the Memorandum of Understanding specific language saying that the Navy will not treat lesbians and gay men differently than other people.

"The fact that they're not going to do that troubles me enormously. Because if they're not going to treat us the same as other people, what are they going to do differently? And why? And why won't they tell us?"

Supervisor Bill Maher said he felt that the language in the anti-discrimination section he drafted was strong enough.

"I tried to write it with an eye guaranteeing that all our citizens will be treated fairly," said Maher. "There is an enormous amount of distrust of the armed forces by the lesbian and gay community, and there should be. The track record is not good [but] we're in the process of trying to make the Navy and all the armed forces understand that in San Francisco, all our citizens are going to be protected and all our citizens have equal rights."

Supervisor Hongisto proposed adding a sentence stating, "We the City and County of San Francisco and the Navy understand and agree that this guarantee against discrimination means that gay and lesbian people will not be treated any differently than any other people or anybody else."

The motion, seconded by Supervisor Carol Ruth Silver, failed by the same 6-5 vote in favor of homeporting.

"I think that the sentence that Supervisor Britt wishes to have added is on the face of it nothing that the Navy ought to be afraid of," noted Hongisto. "The fact that there is such resistance to



Supervisor John Molinari looking very mayoral after leading Mayor Feinstein's homeporting plan through some troubled waters at the Monday's hearings.

that single sentence suggests 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 great 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.



NO MO supporter flanked by Navy brass at Monday's Board of Supervisors hearing on the Missouri homeporting plan.

How Supes Voted

HOMEPORTING MISSOURI

Yes	No
6	5
Gonzalez	Britt
Hsieh	Hongisto
Kennedy	Silver
Maher	Walker
Molinari	Ward
Nelder	

MAHER AMENDMENT LESBIAN/GAY RIGHTS

Yes	No
9	2
Gonzalez	Britt
Hongisto	Walker
Hsieh	
Kennedy	
Maher	
Molinari	
Nelder	
Silver	
Ward	

HONGISTO SENTENCE LESBIAN/GAY RIGHTS

Yes	No
5	6
Britt	Gonzalez
Hongisto	Hsieh
Silver	Kennedy
Walker	Maher
Ward	Molinari
	Nelder

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David Duke—Agent

Britt Asks 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 naval personnel to patronize lesbian and gay business establishments?
- What specific sections of the San Francisco ordinance prohibiting discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and AIDS and AIDS-related conditions does the Navy find itself unwilling to agree with?

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

In a press conference last week, Britt said he objected to the city subsidizing this military project when it doesn't have

enough money for welfare or comparable worth.

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

AB 87

Continued from previous page

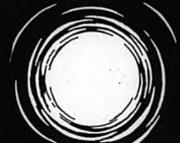
remarks, "has said this is what we have to do to get a hold on the worst epidemic in the history of this country. He is not a liberal Democrat from San Francisco. He came from Washington to ask us to put a bill together for the people of California. You have that bill before you . . . There are amendments, but no shocking changes. We now have nine AIDS task forces in the state — a piecemeal approach to a major epidemic. We must have a state AIDS

commission to give us direction."

AB-87 includes the creation of a 24-member AIDS commission, requires public school AIDS education, declares mandatory testing unwarranted, requires oral consent for antibody testing, imposes fines for anyone illegally revealing antibody test results, requires that test results be kept separate from the general medical files, denies test results to insurance companies, declares a person with AIDS to be physically disabled and requires circulation of the surgeon general's report on AIDS.

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LETTERS

Continued from page 6

Author's Note

It's just amazing what people pick up from the printed page. Personally, my motto is "Never explain, never complain." It is difficult to be successful at anything without being controversial. See the following letter.

Bob Julian

Stunned by Bob

To the Editor:

Bob Julian's wonderful interview with Sherry Agnos has forced me to rethink my choice for San Francisco's next mayor.

Stunning journalism! Enlightening. Thank you for awakening insights. Truly there is something of heroic proportions about the Agnos family. Thanks!

John Mortimer

Eviscerate Your Visa

To the Editor:

I was furious yesterday to pick up a magazine and read a full-page ad stating that every time I use my Visa card between now and December 31, Visa will make a donation to the 1988 US Olympic Team. Well, that news just pushed all the wrong buttons for me.

Many of your readers already know that the US Olympic Committee has a notoriously anti-gay history. In 1982, it sued the organizers of what was then called the Gay Olympics on the grounds that Congress had granted the USOC exclusive rights to use the word "Olympics."

Ultimately, the USOC forced the Gay Olympics to change their name to the Gay Games. As a gay man, I refuse to make a purchase that results in a contribution going to the US Olympic Team.

I urge readers who feel the same way to do what I'm doing: Cut your Visa card in half and send one half to Jan Soderstrom, Visa-Marketing Dept., Olympic Program, PO Box 8999, San Francisco, CA 94128. Enclose a note explaining why you will not use your card again. To phone the Visa Olympic Hotline, their number is 415-570-3735.

Then send the other half to me: Sasha Alyson, Alyson Publications, 40 Plympton St., Boston, MA 02118. I think I can find an artist who likes working creatively with unusual materials and who can use these half-cards to sculpt a memorial to Tom Waddell, the Gay Games founder who recently died of AIDS. Do it now, and we can have the memorial in time for the October March on Washington.

Campaign Debt

Continued from page 4

he's a strong political leader in the city, not only as a supervisor but as a political force.

"It's not disturbing that Harry has a debt [in the broader picture]," Migden said. "It's disturbing that there was a defeat. We were impressed with the outpouring of national gay support."

"Clearly, we proved that Harry is highly electable. He was the champion of the Democratic and the progressive coalitions of the city. He's more formidable than he's ever been, and he is important... to everything we believe in as strong, independent gay people."

She pointed to Britt's efforts to block Navy discrimination against gays and lesbians in the homeporting of the USS *Missouri* and new Britt rent control legislation as recent examples of the supervisor's increased influence on the board.

"So maybe sailors and realtors won't be contributing, but we have had the experience of people who do not even sup-

port all of Harry's issues donating," Migden said.

Sasha Alyson

Reach Out and Touch

To the Editor:

Gays have already discovered the fact that the toll-free numbers of TV evangelists can be put to imaginative use as a recreational means to relieve frustrations and as a relatively humane way for a besieged minority to combat its oppressors. I would like to point out how this technique could be expanded to other areas and to suggest one particularly worthy target in my home state: the *Boston Herald*.

The *Herald* seems to busy itself almost weekly with what amounts to little more than a hate campaign against gays. A representative example of their bigotry is editor Don Feder, who frets that gay rights would lead to "drag queens or boys from the local leather bar, dressed as Carmen Miranda and Zsa Zsa Gabor, demanding that a straight houseowner rent to them, while the bizarre duo prances before their children." The *Boston Herald* had two toll-free numbers, 1-800-882-1211 and 1-800-882-1692.

Every gay person has a perfectly legal right to make a single call to say simply, "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

or a few million times is bound to get a message across.

A phone call takes only a few seconds and in these cases does not cost a dime to us, while it costs our opponents heavily. It can be done with total anonymity and no risk. I am writing to gay papers across the country to urge all gays to make their voices heard in this way to the *Boston Herald* and to any other institutions that may arrive on the scene with both an anti-gay attitude and an 800 number.

Rick Wallbridge
Boston, Mass.

No \$ for Demos

To the Editor:

I got a "personalized" letter from the Democrats in the mail today. Perhaps you did, too.

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

I dashed off a note that said simply, as long as the party was holding its 1988 convention in homophobic Atlanta (the home of the *Hardwick v. Bowers* sodomy case), they wouldn't see any 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 to boot.
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. In the tradition of his many San Francisco premieres, Bressan's friends are presenting his powerful 1977 documentary of the politics of celebration, "Gay USA," at the landmark Castro Theater, scene of its SRO opening exactly a decade ago. The film tribute will begin at midnight, Saturday, August 22.

Bressan asked that his films be allowed to speak for him. In the turbulent summer of 1977, he rushed "Gay USA" to the screen in ten weeks to rally the community against the forces of bigotry then on the march. "Gay USA" documents a nationwide struggle to speak out against that oppression. It has been a cry heard around the world. "Gay USA" has gone on to play to foot-stomping audiences from Maui to Berlin.

All Bressan's films mirror his life. They are love stories, and "Gay USA" tells the story of his love for the men and

women, old and young, who made up his world. Contrasting the grim horror of pink triangles and concentration camps with the sunny celebration of lesbians from Kansas and Jewish boys in New York, the film reminds us how precious human freedom is — and how precarious.

At the end of Bressan's 1985 AIDS film "Buddies" (filmed before his own illness), one lone figure parades in front of the White House, picketing for the release of all the monies to fight AIDS. "Gay USA" magnifies that solitary voice thousands of times in the marching ranks and swelling crowds of gay and lesbian people fighting back.

Stuart Loomis, Bressan's longtime friend and a backer of his films, says the special midnight showing of "Gay USA" at the Castro Theater on August 22 provides an opportunity for the community: "We can look back and remember the spirit of '77 and rekindle that spirit for the struggle that faces us now."

committee and who led the questioning of Doolittle, told the *Sentinel*, "I'm very pleased because we dodged a lot of dangerous bullets today and in effect gave the politicians the sugar-coated pill that they can use in the next election."

"One bill got out that counted against AIDS," noted Agnos. "That was the marriage license bill which was watered down to the point where I think it relieves a lot of political tension that wanted something done, whether or not it helped. So we got a bill that says you simply check a box that says someone has been offered an antibody test. The results still go under my confidentiality laws."

Agnos said he felt SB 1008, the blood donor bill, "had nothing to do with AIDS. Under current law a blood bank can allow X's blood to go to Y. Doolittle's bill removes that discretion from local blood banks."

When asked why Doolittle had failed to appear before the other Assembly committee, Agnos said, "Yes, I heard that. I was surprised, too."

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SPACE AVAILABLE

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 as 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 10:00 AM to 4:00 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 863-6761.

A project of the Lesbian Caucus of the Harvey Milk Lesbian & Gay Democratic Club, in conjunction with the Irwin Memorial Blood Bank of San Francisco and Most Holy Redeemer Catholic Church.

Great Buys

Yard Sale, sponsored by friends of Operation Recovery and Gay and Lesbian Outreach to Elders, will be held on Saturday, August 22, from 9-4 pm at Operation Concern, 1953 Market St. (near Guerrero). Great buys on clothing, books, tools, games, toys, etc.! Proceeds from this fundraiser will go to Operation Recovery and the GLOE program to further the educational and social needs of each organization. For more information, please call 626-7000. □

AIDS Action Pledge

The first public meeting of a new AIDS activist organization, the AIDS Action Pledge, will take place at the Women's Building in San Francisco on Thursday, August 27 at 7:30 pm.

The AIDS Action Pledge is being initiated by independent members of the lesbian and gay communities who see an urgent need for creative and dynamic action to end the AIDS crisis. The Action Pledge will use the tactics of non-violent civil disobedience and direct action, as well as legal demonstrations, education efforts and lobbying, to exert pressure on the government, drug and insurance companies, and the medical establishment to meet the needs of people with ARC/AIDS.

Action Pledge organizers have two goals for the August 27th meeting. One is to encourage community members, affinity groups and organizations to join. The second focus for the meeting will be to discuss proposals for the AAP's initial actions. Possible focuses for action include increasing the availability of low-

cost drug treatments and health care; opposing mandatory testing and the repressive Doolittle legislation; supporting demands for special programs aimed at the black and Latino communities and youth; compassionate care for prisoners with AIDS; and many others. AAP initiators feel only an active and autonomous community movement can force an end to the AIDS epidemic, because the government bureaucracy, profit-oriented drug companies and the research establishment have shown they do not have the needs of the affected communities at heart.

Everyone interested in participating in or supporting civil disobedience or legal protests to fight AIDS is invited to attend the meeting and work with the AAP. Meetings will be held the fourth Thursday of each month and will be structured to encourage the empowerment and creative participation of members.

The Women's Building is located at 3543 18th Street. For more information, call 821-9087. □

Gay and Lesbian Parenting

Date: August 22, 1987 (Saturday)
Time: 9:30 am - 4:30 pm
Place: Golden Gate University, 536 Mission Street, SF

This program is designed to explore, share knowledge and pursue issues of gay/lesbian parenting in the '80s. The emphasis of the program will be on issues of parenting from legal, medical, psychological and personal vantage points; it is expected that those participating (including speakers and workshop facilitators) will include professionals, community workers, parents and would-be parents who are gay, lesbian, bisexual and gay-sensitive people.

• The baby boom of the mid-1980's includes the gay and lesbian communities, both in and out of marriages.

• AIDS has had a dramatic if poorly studied effect on gay parenting.

• Hundreds of gay and lesbian children and teenagers are among San Francisco's homeless and, too often, family-less people.

• Traditional modes of parenting are sometimes as ill-suited to gay/lesbian families as are other types of traditional relationships.

• Custody and visitation battles for

the lesbian mother and the gay father continue to have to be fought.

These and other realities underscore the need for discussion, planning and support among people working in law, psychology, politics, medicine, social work and other fields, about gay and lesbian parenting. This program will provide some opportunities for that discussion, planning and support.

Format of the program will be:
9:30-12 noon: main speakers (law/medicine/personal/sociological)
12-1:30: lunch (not included in admission to program)
1:30-3:30: workshops (small groups for discussion)
3:30-4:30: feedback and reporting in session of the whole

Cost of the program: \$10 for non-lawyers and non-BALIF law student/legal workers; \$20 for BALIF attorney members; \$30 for non-BALIF attorneys; free to all BALIF law students and legal workers. Pay at time of admission on August 22, 1987.

Wheelchair accessible. Sign interpreters provided. Childcare provided (call 282-6555 to indicate need for child care.)

Sponsored by Bay Area Lawyers for Individual Freedom (BALIF). Co-sponsored by Stonewall Gay/Lesbian Caucus, Lesbians in Law, the Lesbian Rights Project and National Gay Rights Advocates.

Time to Shine

"Send a person with AIDS to Washington for the March!" That's the idea behind the Pilsner Inn's all-afternoon party on Saturday, August 29. "A Day for the Country" will feature Country/Western music by Linda Lane and the Western Electric Band plus special hosts from noon-5 pm.

"A Day for the Country" will benefit "A Time to Shine," a project to send people with AIDS to the National March for Lesbian and Gay Rights in Washington, DC, October 11, 1987. Most people with AIDS cannot easily afford the travel costs necessary to make the trip, but it is imperative that they be present. The most effective voice in Washington is the voice of the person with AIDS. The impact is enormous!

Special guest hosts and hostesses at

the Pilsner will include Barbary Coast Cloggers, Sharon McNight, Mr. Marcus, Jim Cvitanich, Gail Wilson, Grand Dutchess Flame, the Names Project, Ms. Peckerhead and the Gay Fathers.

There will be food, fun and games with all proceeds to benefit "A Time to Shine." The Pilsner Inn is located at 225 Church Street in San Francisco (621-7058).

To organize your own "A Time to Shine" party, or for more information, call Matt Redman at (213) 738-8224 or David Almond at (202) 783-1828. □

Supermarket Food Drives for PWA's

Support the San Francisco AIDS Foundation Food Bank by shopping for extra groceries at participating supermarkets. Volunteers will be soliciting food for people with AIDS on Saturday mornings in front of the following stores:

- August 22nd — Petri's, Fulton and Masonic
- August 29th — Cala Foods, Haight and Stanyan
- September 5th — Cala Foods, 18th and Collingwood

The groceries are being distributed to 350 men and women who depend on the San Francisco AIDS Foundation — and you — for supplemental food. Call 864-5855 for more information about the food drives or other ways to donate to this worthwhile program. □

'80s Bisexuality

The Bay Area Bisexual Network presents a lively, informative, intimate discussion on *Bisexuality in the '80s*.

The forum will be led by Loren Phippen, a well-known Bay Area sex-educator, body therapist and public speaker at major universities and on television.

Bisexuality in the '80s will be held in Mill Valley on Thursday, August 27, at 7:30 pm at the Strawberry Recreation Center, 118 E. Strawberry Drive, 3rd floor meeting room (on Ricardo Street). Attendance is open to everyone. The meeting is wheelchair accessible, signed for the hearing impaired, and refreshments are available.

For more information, call Ann Just at 865-4927. Donation requested. □

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let's stay healthy... together!

This project funded by the San Francisco Department of Public Health

PERSONAL BEST

DONALD CURRIE

Life, Ekstasy and Rock 'n' Roll

Nina Hagen is the inspiration for my spiritual quest. Actually, LSD got the ball rolling, but Nina keeps it bouncing. She's living proof that you don't have to be a mindless drip to dip into the universal flow. The first time I saw her perform she was yodeling about "Sweet Jesus" and even throwing in some Valkyrie-like "Hare Krishnas." I was absolutely stunned, and I thought, "Darling, if this is religion, then this is for me."

Anyone who's seen Nina Hagen perform will understand what I'm talking about. She should be given a tax-free TV show and an 800 number. Her makeup is just as bizarre as Tammy Faye's, and her drag puts the "Christian" woman right down into K-Mart where she belongs.

But to return for a moment to the subject to LSD, I would certainly not advocate drug use in these perilous times (it's practically suicidal, let's face it); nonetheless, for me, acid got me going in a direction I'm still going in today. Some might call it straight to hell, but what do they know?

This was ten years ago, pre-You-Know-What, and my lover gave me enough of

that age of innocence and You-Know-What hit like a brick wall, and all of us have felt the chill hand on our throats and felt more than once that vast, gaping void opening up before us. And we have realized that all the questions we expected to answer in the misty leisure world of old age were smacking us upside the head too soon, and again to quote Nina the Queen, "Future is Now!"

So what's a boy to do? Well, this queen said, "Fuck this shit, Mary!" and dropped out, and I do mean put the brakes on a careening car. I stopped it cold in its tracks because I thought, "Well, if that's all there is" — Oh, Peggy! — "I'm not so thrilled with it."

There was this feeling of the need to take what I had revealed to myself out into the world, to test it against the slings and arrows of "real life."

the illicit substance to shock the monkey. At first, I...well, I sort of blacked out, and when I "came to," the Beatles were singing, "Good Day Sunshine," for God's sake, and my dear, I was... Born Again! Died and went to heaven, it's as simple as that. Or as Nina says about her LSD experience, "I died and I couldn't handle it, so I asked God to help me and he did. Since that day I know for sure that I have friends in heaven, because I met them." Amen to that, sister woman.

Now many years have passed since

In short, eternity beckoned, and I wasn't dressed.

"We have to do the Change!" — so I did. It wasn't. I assure you, just The Epidemic that brought about the transformation. A lot of things collapsed at once, too many dreams died, and...oh, all right, I admit it, it was male menopause, but one morning I woke up and knew that my attitude had to change.

So from working in an ad agency in New York, I jumped through that plate glass window (just like Alice or a Cocteau

poet) and spent a long snowed-in winter in the Poconos at a yoga ashram, and baby, I dug deep down into it — into the still jewel pool of my soul, into breath as an ocean of bliss, into true happiness. When I asked myself what I was doing with my life, I could simply say, "I'm breathing."

I could have stayed up in those mountains for the rest of my life, I was that happy. However, every ointment has its fly, and I was bugged by a couple of things. For one, I had a lover on the "outside" and nary a sister within. This was decidedly a dilemma. I mean, it was spiritual heaven but hetero hell. And though I had reached a plateau there which was profoundly important, a place of depth and love which I hadn't felt since I was a small child, I still felt drawn to the world outside. I was drawn to my lover who I had plenty to work out with (that's a whole other story) and to the gay community back in San Francisco.

There was this strong feeling of the need to take what I had revealed to myself in my winter retreat out into the world, to perhaps test it against the slings and arrows of "real life." Everything in the ashram was geared towards the nurturing of silence and inner paths, and so, of course, my god, you just flew straight up into it express, no problem. But "out there" I knew it was all more or less directed towards distraction, conflict, alienation and a materialistic system which was asking and deluding. It was one thing to live in a bubble and be enlightened, but would it hold up where mud was flung?

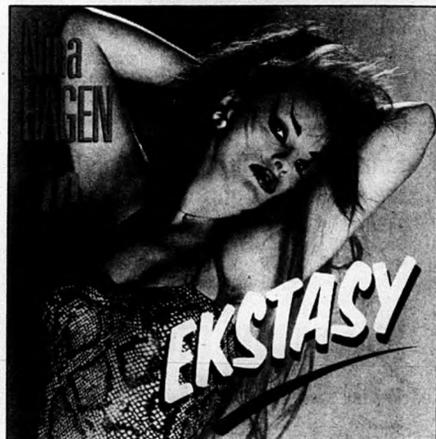
I was also conflicted about my responsibilities as a gay man in the face of AIDS. So many of my friends were dead or dying, and for some reason until that point in time, I had been spared. (What happened? I'd done everything I could to get it!) But it seemed to me that if it was my fate to survive, then my survival had to have some purpose to it; that purpose would have to have something to do with helping others to heal and stay well.

And so I packed up my stone tablets and came down from the mountain, and from that moment, my path has been laid before me in a perfectly harmonious pattern. Now when I ask myself what I'm doing with my life, I can still say, underneath it all, "I'm breathing" and

add to that in layers of color like my own rainbow flag, "I'm studying Chinese medicine, I do yoga, I do reiki (a lovely healing therapy), I do tai chi, I meditate."

Jesus, there's practically nothing that I don't do — a regular spiritual wonder-kind. These days you'll find me sequestered in my home surrounded by weighty tomes of Chinese medical arcana, scrambling through the pages of the *pharmaco-*

But, mercy me, I started this off as an ode to Nina Hagen and ended up talking about myself instead. So let me end with a quote from one of my favorite songs of hers called "The Change." In it she says, "There is no such thing as death. It's just a transformation." Elizabeth Kubler-Ross says it, too, and so does the Dalai Lama and Jesus and Ramakrishna and a whole lot of other heavies, and they are all swinging on the same cosmic beat of



copeia like some mad old alchemist or walking the streets observing people's faces for symptom/sign complexes of deficient fire or excess internal heat (there's a lot of that going around) and wishing I could examine their tongue and feel their pulse (times have changed!). I can say with certainty that I'm happier than I've ever been. I have my whole self at last, and it is forever *tra la*.

which our heartbeats are a pale, if sincere, imitation.

"There is no such thing as death." We are all testing the truth of that statement now. Not one of us has been untouched by it. Nina also tells us to "Be Fearless" and hey, she's the fifth Buddha, she lives in a UFO. She oughta know. So brother, be fearless. And kind. ■

Child's Play Course Coming Up

Do you remember being told not to color outside the lines or that you couldn't keep your snowballs in the freezer? As children we were all trusting, spontaneous and creative. Over the years these qualities were diminished by the direction, expectations and limitations of others. *Child's Play* — *The Creative Adult* is a course designed to enable you to joyfully experience the creativity and

uninhibited expression of the child within you.

The course is offered by Sean Drake, a graphic designer/fart director and motivational consultant who offers private consultation, workshops and classes. *Child's Play* will meet six Thursday evenings, beginning September 3, at A La Page Studio, 108C Fillmore Street in San Francisco. A free introductory evening will be offered on August 28. For more information, call Sean at 647-5006. ■

ASTROLOGER

R O B E R T C O L E

August 21-27, 1987

WEEKLY ALMANAC: Whew! We made it through the Convergence; now we have to face a stunning stellium of planets in the sign of Virgo. This weekend, Mercury, Mars, Venus, the Sun and the Moon will enter Virgo almost simultaneously. It's an excellent time to organize details in the pursuit of the vision with which you were inspired at the Convergence. Work miracles!

♊ ARIES, THE SHEEP (Mar 21-Apr 19): Miraculous healing power radiates through your fingertips. Your heart is pounding with the power of love. You have been programmed to eliminate suffering, and this weekend all the forces of the heavens are backing you up. Zero in on the areas which are most afflicted with disease and give them a love-zap. When the healing takes effect, prepare yourself and partners for major changes in job schedules. You can only work as hard as the healing permits.

♉ TAURUS, THE OX (Apr 20-May 20): Oh, yes! The games people play! Especially people like you, big, lazy, old oxes. Nobody seems to plod through the crises and conflicts like you do. Maybe you're just avoiding extra

work for yourself by spontaneously eliminating questions and doubts. In any case, you definitely have the crowds footed. Continue to act out your fantasies, pretending that life is just a bowl of cherries. It's time to let the child in you out to play. Leave problems for parental figures.

♊ GEMINI, THE WOLF (May 21-Jun 20): A major problem in the household will be resolved this weekend; the solution obviously calls for far-ranging changes. It's great to have the personal differences ironed out between you and your roommate; if any moves in residence are required, the transition will occur with little upset or confusion. You have the good life waiting for you in a new house with new neighbors. More work, but you're both up for it!

♋ CANCER, THE CRAB (Jun 21-Jul 22): Ah so! You finally understand the punchline of the cosmic joke that's been running through your head over and over again for the past week. Simple, honest realization won't change the basic commitments of the past, but the clarity will direct you to new, outrageously exciting friendships. Meaningful conversation is based on your will-

ingness to avoid any references to shortcomings and long-lost lovers. Develop your present tense.

♌ LEO, THE SNAKE (Jul 23-Aug 22): Money starts piling up around you in relatively large chunks this coming week. Your budget is starting to work like a charm. Spend a little on good food and new clothes, but try to save as much as possible. You deserve to be a little stingy for the time being. Scout out the sales, ask the boss for a raise, and get a grip on uncontrolled appetites. A month from now you'll be rolling in the dough.

♍ VIRGO, THE PIG (Aug 23-Sep 22): Wow! What a birthday party this is going to be! Five planets rush into your modest sign and force you to celebrate newfound self-confidence with a lot of hoopla. Go wild with the excitement. Make a point of introducing yourself to impressed strangers. There's no better time in the whole year to push your way into the #1 position. You deserve to be first. For your free birth chart, send birthdate/time/place to Robert Cole, PO Box 884561, San Francisco, CA 94188.

♌ LIBRA, THE LEOPARD (Sep 23-Oct 22): Your third eye is opened to the blinding light of cosmic consciousness, but you can't tell a soul. You have discovered the link between faith and power, between symbol and reality, between cause and effect. Yet these earth-shattering theories cannot be rationally communicated to anyone else; they'd think you'd finally flipped out. Hide your motives; respond unpredictably. It's a rare chance to do what you want instead of what you ought.

♏ SCORPIO, THE SCORPION (Oct 23-Nov 21): The power of your imagination is amazing this week. You create a vision in your mind, and suddenly it appears around you in every single detail. Mother Earth is borrowing your mind for a few weeks to do some dreaming, so let her have control. She will show you that the future is full of hope, and ultimately she'll show you the special role you are to play in cosmic creation. For the time being, dream on, you fool!

♐ SAGITTARIUS, THE HORSE (Nov 22-Dec 21): As you achieve a state of perfection, people will naturally gather around you; they'll make you into a role model. You must begin to realize what a tremendous impact you have on ordinary folks. Convince yourself how important you are in the community. If your neighbors want you to teach and lead, take their coercion as good advice. This is your chance to be the star of them all!

♑ CAPRICORN, THE WHALE (Dec 22-Jan 19): Running away to an island of pleasure with your lover is the only antidote for anxiety this week. You could sit around the office and twiddle your thumbs waiting for the phone to ring, or you could hasten to take a well-earned vacation. It's time to get rid of the cramped-up, choking feeling that results from being too close to too many people for too long. Surprise your lover by taking him/her on a lark neither of you will ever forget.

♏ AQUARIUS, THE EAGLE (Jan 20-Feb 18): Prepare for an intimacy rush like you haven't felt in a long time. Being close to someone and feeling the deep trust can cause you to reveal many secrets which have been hidden away for months, maybe years. If you personally participated in any of the gory details, you'd better fess up to somebody before it drives you mad. Once the story's been revealed, your lover is forever bound to you by confidentiality. Give trust a chance.

♉ PISCES, THE SHARK (Feb 19-Mar 20): While shuffling along at an ordinary pace, you see several good friends go rushing by in pursuit of delusion. One special friend chooses to slow down and be with you. This weekend is a celebration of your cosmic connection. It may be rather weird for a while, and you may have to put up with some criticism about lagging behind in the crowd. But it's all worth it; worth a little love, that is!

HEALING RESOURCES

ROBERT JULIAN

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 metaphysical in origin, are generally ignored by the press as lunatic claims, the delusions of religious fervor.

One organization reporting such recoveries is the Marin Community Christ Church of Religious Science. Their claims are not publicized 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?

I think every person, regardless of sexual preference, has the same inner urgings to know the source of their being. Our church holds the concept that we are born of the spirit, and this spirit is inherent in all human creative activities. There is a natural yearning to know oneself as part of that greater self we call God.

Does your church have a lot of gay members?

Our church has about 550 members, and about 120-125 of them are gay.

Science of Mind (also known as Religious Science) is called a "new thought" religion. What does this mean?

The term denotes the difference in approach we have to mainline Protestant, Catholic or Jewish religions. At the turn of the century when Puritanism was very strong in this country, we in-

terpreted. We deny the need for them, but we do not fail to recognize their existence in our experience.

Those of us who study or practice the science of Christianity need to ask ourselves, in relation to the health crisis, what is the causative factor behind this situation. First of all, you have to recognize that it is not a gay disease. 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 sees itself in relationship to each other, their family, their peers and God.

My experience has been that gay people have been caught in a Catch-22. They have been conditioned from early childhood to reject themselves, to not hold themselves as worthy or viable for the grace of God as taught by traditional religions. I think, as a result, a race-consciousness has evolved that most gay people are not even aware of. I think this thought is in the "collective consciousness," as Jung called it, and that it is unconsciously acting itself 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, such situations as 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.

roduced new concepts of one's relationship to God, which were radically different from the more traditional approach to religion. We were dubbed a "new thought" religion. What makes it a "new thought" is that it involves thought. Everything begins and ends in thought.

As 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 have no thought about it, just do it."

Let me ask you some questions about the health crisis and the variety of religious approaches to the subject. Jerry Falwell would say it's God's curse on homosexuals for sinful behavior. Christian Science would take totally different viewpoint and say that AIDS does not exist because Christian 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 anything called "disease," which they do not believe in. Religious Science introduced a concept called the "relative" along with the absolute. A disease, although not in God because God is perfect, would be a relative experience in an individual. We recognize that pain, disease and other such human experiences are true ex-

Science of Mind does not recognize a gay person, per se. In our understanding, every person is a whole person, not straight, gay or bisexual. How they express that wholeness, which is their God-self, is an individual choice. We don't see people in terms of their sexual preference, we see them as whole, perfect and made in the image and likeness of their being, which is God.

We need to start looking at what is beautiful, what is good. What are the contributions that so-called "gay" people have made to our society? We must accept the tremendous gifts those who are considered to be "gay" have given and continue to give to our society. When that happens, the consciousness of all people will begin to change in relationship to gay people. We'll have a new renaissance. AIDS has brought a tremendous opportunity to turn a sow's ear into a silk purse. Gay people have a great opportunity now to help usher in the spiritual millennium.

People who have been persecuted and who have clearly displayed the sensitivities of art, literature and music in spite of these things are capable of overcoming all things. They have already displayed this ability, they have survived. Yet they have not lost that wonderful gift of God which is demonstrated in these qualities of sensitivity and creative genius.

I would like to see gay people stop thinking of themselves as different from

everyone else. If you buy into that thinking, you separate yourself from the source of your being, the qualities of God. I counsel people to recognize that they are a perfect child of God. God is not interested in their personal sexual choices. I try to help people re-establish themselves with a sense of wholeness, self-acceptance and self-worth, which must ultimately produce wholeness in body, mind and spirit.

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

A spiritual mind treatment is just like a medical treatment in the medical field. We believe that everything begins and ends in thought. That is why we're called "new thought." We feel that there is only one ultimately infinite mind which we all individualize. The practitioner eliminates, through the use of this one mind, anything and everything contrary to the truth between the individual patient and his relationship to God. They work for a state of absolute oneness between 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, healing results?

Absolutely. How does this differ from faith healing?

Faith healing works primarily on the emotions, based upon the charisma of the individual healer. We believe that if an individual has faith, as Jesus said, that all things are possible for them. We try to raise the individual's faith through spiritual mind treatment to the point where they heal themselves.

For a person who goes to a faith healer, the healing which may succeed in the presence of the healer may not be lasting. We feel it is better to teach the individual, through treatment and a change in consciousness, to have faith in that power greater than they are which they can use, rather than having faith in someone else. We work ourselves out of a job. Our function is to put that person back 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 instantaneously, or through an orderly progression, produce a healing of body. I have been told by my practitioners that several of their clients have made what has been referred to as a miraculous recovery. But that is primarily due to the individual involved. It all depends on where that individual is and to what extent they are willing to let go of their past conditioning, their lack of acceptance and other things.

There are many components that make it possible for a person with a catastrophic illness to be healed. I would like to brag and say we have had many people that have been healed of AIDS, which we have, but we don't exploit that. What is true for one person can be, but is not always, true for another. I don't want us to represent ourselves as the cure-all for AIDS. We are the cure-all for the relationship between the individual and their primary source of being, called God. We try to bring the individual back to their primary relationship to God. In God, all things are possible, therefore healing can be expected and is often experienced.

There's been a lot in the paper about the Jim and Tammy Bakker Holy Wars, the PTL, Jerry Falwell. You're a minister, they're ministers, what's the difference between you and them.

The difference is this: you can't speak

Continued on next page



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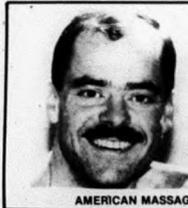
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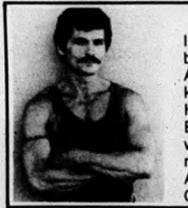
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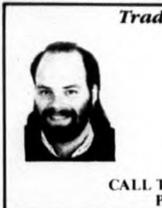


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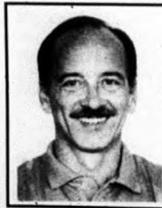
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HEALING RESOURCES

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 downfall. 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 united 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 principle of love, God is the principle of life. We do not have the right to individually choose a quality of godliness that is the opposite of what clearly has been identified over thousands of years as the essence of godliness. You cannot say God is a God of love and hate, of good and evil. This is not the will of God, but the inverted will of humankind. God is a God of love, of life, of light. If you preach the truth of evil, of qualities that are unlike God, you bring them into your own life, and they become your own destruction.

Only when you begin to look at the facts, at the spiritual truth of our being, can you turn the tide. As we demonstrate our ability to do this, AIDS becomes a thing of the past — as will all other kinds of diseases. Whether they are the mental homophobia that is present in certain areas or physical illnesses. The light will come upon the earth and the darkness will comprehend it not, and I think we will enter the new age. That is what we are about, and this is what this church is about.

The offices of the Marin Community Christ Church of Religious Science are located at 670 Bridgeway, Sausalito. Information regarding Sunday morning and Wednesday evening services may be obtained by calling 332-9063. A healing circle led by Dona Willock, licensed Religious Science practitioner, meets every Monday night in San Francisco. The address is 248 Myrtle (near the intersection of O'Farrell and Van Ness). For information regarding the healing circle, call 479-0145.

Van R. Ault is on break this week and will return the week after next.

AIDS Mastery Returns

The next AIDS Mastery San Francisco workshop will be on the weekend of September 18, 19, 20. The workshop is primarily for people with AIDS, ARC, and those whose lives have been significantly impacted by AIDS.

The AIDS Mastery is an intensive three-day workshop designed to help participants get in touch with their own creativity, self-love, and power of choice as a means of living in the present. Through the use of one-on-one processes, group interaction, visualizations and emotional exercises, participants release emotional and attitudinal blocks which limit their own healing power in their lives. The cost of the weekend, which runs from Friday evening through Sunday evening, is \$250. However, no PWA or PWARC will be turned away due to lack of funds — people are asked to pay what they can.

A free introductory evening given by previous graduates of the AIDS Mastery will be held on Tuesday, September 15, at 7:30 pm, at A LA PAGE Studio, 108-C Fillmore (one block from Duboce) in San Francisco.

For more information, please call (415) 553-2511.

The best thing I can think of would be to create a union between something as beautiful and powerful and wonderful as Hollywood films and a criticism of the status quo. That's my dream, to make such a German film.

Herose from obscurity to international fame, lived a flamboyant life-style filled with emotional cruelty, kinky sex and extravagant gift giving. He was obsessed by the movies, making 35 feature films in 13 years. He was openly homosexual, married twice (once with his boyfriend as best man) and supported a 30-gram-a-day cocaine habit by demanding his salaries in cash.

His dream was to win an Oscar for best director and "to be ugly" on the cover of *Time*.

He almost made it. On June 10, 1982, just after finishing post-production on *Querelle*, one of his most controversial films, Rainer Werner Fassbinder died. Officially, the cause was a "cerebrovascular accident" — a stroke. Unofficially, it was a combination of cocaine, barbiturates, alcohol and a nonstop schedule. He had been destroying himself for years, overworking and overconsuming in a mad attempt to cram as much experience into as short a time as possible.

Fassbinder gathered a family of talented neurotics around him, manipulated and loved them and was in turn loved and hated by them. He was vilified by the political Left and Right and was both passionately adored and despised by film critics and audiences. He was raised to the status of cultural icon and dismissed as a flash in the pan.

He was Fassbinder. No one could be neutral about him.

At the height of his career, Rainer Werner Fassbinder was a household name in Germany and fast becoming one throughout the rest of the world. His works saturated German television. They routinely won the top awards (or at least inspired shouting matches) at the major film festivals. When *The Marriage of Maria Braun* was released in 1978, it broke box office records in Germany as well as becoming an enormous international hit. Money began pouring in. Producers camped on his doorstep with contracts. Fassbinder was bankable.

Years later it's easy to forget all that. Bankable directors, like bankable stars, come and go. Yet the memory of Fassbinder remains, his scandal-ridden life becoming grist for biographers. Most recently, Robert Katz's *Love Is Colder Than Death: The Life and Times of Rainer Werner Fassbinder* has emerged on the marketplace. It's chock-full of second-hand details concerning the exact quantity of drugs consumed and Fassbinder's excursions into fist-fucking and flagellation, but what the book lacks is any concrete understanding of the man's art. Katz practically ignores what Fassbinder lived and died for — his films.

It isn't easy to accept that suffering can also be beautiful... it's difficult. It's something you can only understand if you dig deeply into yourself.

In the spring of 1976 I saw my first Fassbinder film. I was an undergraduate at a very film-conscious school, the University of Illinois, and I had a reputation for film bingeing. During my first semester I saw 60 films, sometimes taking in three a day. By the beginning of the second semester I was becoming jaded.

My best friend Michael (also a film junkie) first pointed out the long, almost preposterous German name of the director to me.

"Oh pa-leez," I said. "A recent German film." That semester if it wasn't French and didn't star Jean-Louis Trintignant, I was dubious.

But that name kept reappearing. I'd see it in film magazines or hear it mentioned in passing by professors. So when Fassbinder turned up on the film calendar

again, I was curious. I bribed Michael with the promise of pizza after the movie, and we went.

For close to two hours not much happened.

In a hotel on the Spanish coast, the cast and crew of a film await the arrival of their director, their star and the production money. When the director, a punky, good-looking blond wearing a leather jacket and having boyfriend trouble, arrives, he finds everything in chaos.

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.

binder 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

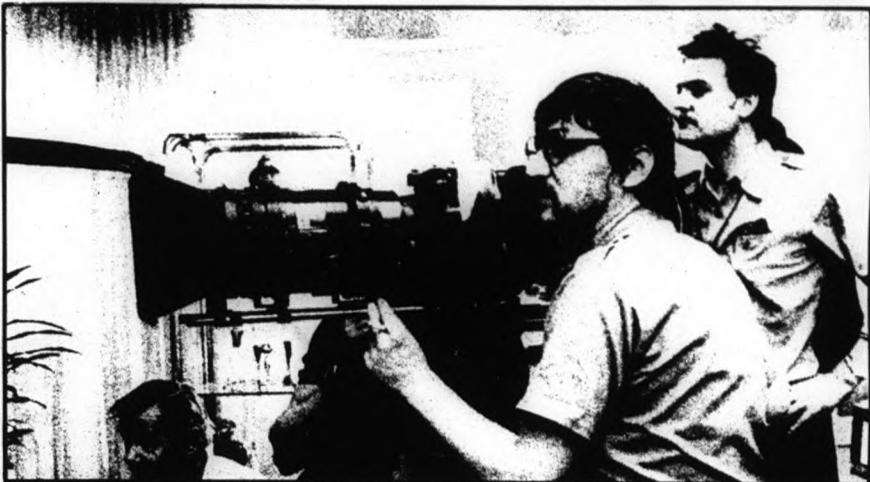
care. In the days of gay liberation and political consciousness-raising, that was an unusual, not to mention vaguely frightening, thought. What about the struggle? What about the oppression of gay people? On the lighter side, here was a man who, when it came to casting someone to play

stage, but one in which homosexuality was taken for granted. An illiterate, out of work carry named Franz (played by Fassbinder) wins a fortune in a lottery and then loses it all when his upper-class lover tricks him into investing in the failing family business. Once again destitute, Franz is deserted by his lover and ODs on sleeping pills in a subway station.

Grim, cynical, maybe even a bit melodramatic, it's true, but the film was a revelation. It wasn't about homosexuality at all, but about emotional and financial exploitation, about self-oppression. Franz's temper and extravagance are as much responsible for his downfall as his lover's greed, and thus his death, while sad, is also inevitable.

Not that I thought about much of this as I watched the film. A good film doesn't hit you ideologically first, it hits you visually. It gives you scenes you can't forget. In *Fox*, it's this one: Franz's lover, Eugen, takes him to a high-class clothing store run by Eugen's former lover. As Franz tries on suits in the dressing room, Eugen and his ex talk quietly. They obviously still love each other; we suspect

BEWARE A HOLY WHORE



Remembering Rainer Werner Fassbinder

by James Tushinski

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 budge. 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 booped. 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 fictionalized story of what had happened during the making of a previous Fass-

himself, chose a pretty-boy and then cast himself in an equally prominent role, as if smirking at critics who would cry "narcissism!" I was hooked. I wanted to see more.

... [H]omosexuals have been very pitying, and also most of them are dominated by a sense of shame, which the Jews haven't had. The Jews have never been ashamed of being Jews, whereas homosexuals have been stupid enough to be ashamed of their homosexuality.

"I know you hated the last one," I told Michael, "but this one's different."

The night before I had experienced my second Fassbinder film, *Fox and His Friends*, and, with the fervor of one born again, I persuaded Michael to see it with me that very evening. It was different. *Fox* was a film in which gay characters took center-

that Eugen is only with Franz for his money. The camera moves away from them, making its way across the room, when suddenly it tilts up toward the ceiling. There, in the mirror used to keep an eye on potential shoplifters, we see Eugen and his ex-lover passionately kissing.

After the film, I was halfway down the row heading for the door when I realized Michael wasn't behind me. I turned around and saw him still sitting in his chair.

"Are you all right?" I asked, walking back to him.

He got up, glassy-eyed, and said, in a breathless whisper, "I loved it!"

All in all, I find that women behave just as despicably as men do, and I try to illustrate the reasons for this: namely, that we have been led astray by our upbringing and by the society we live in.

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 nesting 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 costuming 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

ly 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 choral was considerably larger than



Tooting up: City Swing members at play.

'If My Friends Could See Me Now!'

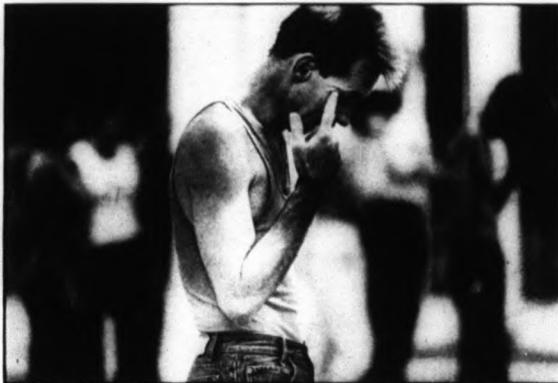
A History of the Lesbian and Gay Performing Arts in San Francisco

by Gary Menger

Photographs by Thomas Alleman



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.

response. More than ever before and in a new, open way, it was "okay" to be gay in San Francisco.

During the springtime of this "coming out" Jon Sims, an earnest young musician, was nearing the culmination of a fantastic dream he'd labored hard to realize — the formation of the world's first gay marching band! And how our hearts all swelled with pride that Sunday late in June when his band stepped smart-

Robert Shaw's or Robert Wagner's, and no less serious of purpose. Their very first performance was indeed a serious occasion: they sang on the steps of City Hall an evening late in November of 1978, following the assassinations of George Moscone and Harvey Milk.

During this same busy time, Rosie Radiator had been hard at work on an equally ambitious project, the formation of a group of 40 precision dancers: The 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-



Jene Bombardier, member of the Lesbian/Gay Chorus.

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, Mikio 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 Fludd and Dell Madill.

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



Stepping out: Tap Troupe members perfect their rhythms.



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

sion Street, the former Pacific Ballet building). The Center is operated by a new financial umbrella organization, the San Francisco Band Foundation. Its members now include City Swing, the Tap Troupe, Vocal Minority, the Twirling Corps, the Flag Corps and, of course, the Band itself. Dick Kramer's Chorale and the Lesbian/Gay Chorus (along with its pop vocal subgroup, Menage) remain independent. The sole member of the original GGPA is the Gay Men's Chorus, and its two subgroups, the classical Chamber Singers and Men About Town, a pop ensemble.

Our performing groups have grown stronger and more polished over the years and are presently busier than ever. New members are attracted not just because of a desire to perform but because of the excitement and special camaraderie that comes with participation. In fact, approximately 10% of the membership in most of the groups are not musical performers but instead do volunteer support work — and they're always especially welcome. Today's groups include:

□ **The San Francisco Gay Freedom Day Marching Band, Twirling Corps and Flag Corps** (90 members) performed twice in the spring at the Palace of Fine Arts, and will be featured Monday, 8/24, in their Venetian Room fundraiser. They also have two street fairs and a parade coming up in the fall and will be part of the October 12 March on Washington. The

Band wraps up the year with the Emporium Christmas Parade and their third annual "Dance-Along Nutcracker" at the Gift Centre. Band and Corps members rehearse every Tuesday evening at the Sims Center and welcome new members. The Band is directed by Jay Kast. For general information, call 621-5619. The Flag Corps (which has been a separate entity since 1984) is especially growth oriented. For information, call manager/director Nick Giunta at 626-7676.

□ **San Francisco Tap Troupe/City Swing** (15 members each) were featured in the recent Palace of Fine Arts performance and in last year's "Dance-Along Nutcracker." They also perform once a month at Trocadero Transfer's Friday "Tea Dance." Both the Tap Troupe (directed by Wayne Fleisher) and City Swing (directed by Wayne Love) rehearse every Wednesday evening, 7:30 pm, at the Sims Center; the Tap Troupe rehearses Mondays as well. City Swing holds auditions as interest requires; the Tap Troupe auditions prospective members once a year in the fall. General information: 621-5619.

□ **The Gay Men's Chorus** held their spring concert in Davies Hall with Charles Pierce and Barbara Cook and were featured in the Band Foundation's Palace of Fine Arts show. Their summer concert on July 18 was shared with the Women's Philharmonic. Again, in December,

they'll perform their traditional "Now Sing With Hearts Aglow." They audition new members at least twice annually and will be doing so in early September. Some singing experience and sight-reading ability is required. Rehearsals are held weekly under the direction of Gregg Tallman. For information, call business manager Tim Garner at 861-3512.

Note: **Men About Town**, a pop ensemble, and the **Chamber Singers**, a small classical ensemble, accept new members only from within the ranks of the Men's Chorus.

□ **The Lesbian/Gay Chorus of San Francisco** (35 members) was the primary performance group at "In Memory of Friends," a special concert held in April at the Palace of Fine Arts. In June they hosted the annual Gay Pride Concert, featuring all the other performing groups. This fall, the L/G Chorus joins with Glide Ensemble to present a Country/Western concert and dance on October 2. The Chorus rehearses weekly on Thursday evening at the St. Francis Lutheran Church on Church Street near Safeway (8 pm) under the direction of Pat Parr. When auditioning prospective members, they look for some vocal experience, but the primary emphasis is on commitment. For information, call business manager Mary Ann DiPietro at 621-8577.

Note: **Menage** is an octet; replacement members are sought only within the Chorus.

□ **Vocal Minority** is a tight, four-part vocal group that performs arrangements of pop standards and show tunes. They're featured in all the major Band Foundation presentations and will next be seen Monday, 8/24, in the Venetian Room event. This group offers shows of their own twice annually, usually for a three-weekend run (they just completed seven performances of "Big on Broadway" at the Intersection). Vocal Minority rehearses twice weekly, Mondays and Thursdays at 7:30 pm at the home of director Bill Ganz. They have no present plans for expansion and audition only as necessary for replacement members. For information, call business manager Deb Clifford at 431-4849.

□ **The Dick Kramer Chorale** (40 members) performed their fifth anniversary concert, "Fanfare," in the East, South and North Bays earlier this year. They'll soon be preparing their traditional Christmas concert. The Chorale rehearses once weekly on Tuesdays at St. Francis Lutheran Church (Church near Market), and there's a monthly rehearsal for individual sections. This group is classically oriented and requires both sightreading ability and strong vocal skills. They are also very growth-oriented. Auditions are held three times a year. For more information, contact director Dick Kramer at 863-0342. ■

BEWARE A HOLY WHORE

Continued from page 17

For the next few years Fassbinder flooded the campus. Not only was there a backlog of early films, but the man kept cranking them out. They didn't all have gay characters. They weren't all even very good. Some were static, almost excruciating experiments linked to Fassbinder's early avant-garde theater days. Some weren't even available in America, adding to their allure. But the sheer number of really good, even great, films we saw was mindboggling: *The Bitter Tears of Petra von Kant*, *Effi Briest*, *The Merchant of Four Seasons*, *Ali: Fear Eats the Soul*, *The Marriage of Maria Braun*, *Chinese Roulette*, *Wildwechsel*.

Fassbinder seemed to carve out his own film industry, using the same actors, the same crew, sometimes similar stories from film to film. His philosophy was, on the whole, bleak. Film critic Thomas Elsaesser called it "a cinema of vicious circles," noting that the typical situation in a Fassbinder film involved a dominating figure (parent, spouse, boss) who makes sadistic demands on, betrays, deceives or abandons the protagonist, who, for some reason, is unable to escape the domination. But the antagonist also has little control over his or her actions, possessing complex, sometimes unconscious motives. "What the films ultimately appeal to," Elsaesser says, "is a solidarity between victims."

Yet occasionally Fassbinder is capable of seeing a hopeful side to life as well. It can be the simple easing of loneliness which occurs at the end of *Mother Kusters Goes to Heaven* or the suggestion that the interracial, age-disparate relationship in *Ali: Fear Eats the Soul* will persevere in spite of everything. Life, as Fassbinder sees it, is never easy. It is a struggle, full of betrayal and drudgery and death. Economic, social and political forces all work to an individual's detriment. If you do survive, you are never unscathed.

Grim, grim, grim... and yet Fassbinder's characters, even his most reactionary and despicable ones, are never ridiculed or viewed as inferior. Their humanity came through in never-to-be-forgotten moments on the screen, moments that made Michael and I hold our breath not only because we were astonished and moved; we also delighted in the visual, structural and emotional soundness of these films. They made sense to us, even on some levels we couldn't quite understand.

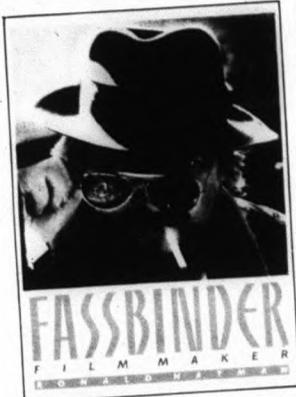
Since I'm not a second Marx or Freud who can offer people alternatives, I have to let them keep their own wrong feelings. And I don't believe that melodramatic feelings are laughable — they should be taken absolutely seriously.

By the time I graduated, Fassbinder was in his heyday. Andrew Sarris

was teaching an entire class on *Chinese Roulette* at NYU. Michael and I became fanatics, spouting our favorite lines, spending hours condemning distributors for not making certain seminal Fassbinder films available. We had heard a few things about the man's personal life, read a few interviews. We knew he was flamboyant, always doing things to shock the status quo, never without his beat-up leather jacket and fedora. He was the *enfant terrible*, the bad boy of world cinema. We were thrilled. We wanted to be bad boys, too.

I wrote a screenplay about inescapable societal forces. Michael made a film about a woman obsessed with her blender and bought a leather jacket. 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 now. In rapid succession, *Lili Marleen*, *Lola* and *Veronika Voss* were released. Fassbinder's films had evolved,



gotten more visually extravagant, more emotionally complex. We had heard rumors of his 14½ hour television film, *Berlin Alexanderplatz*, of his new film based on Jean Genet's brutal and erotic *Querelle*. His next film was supposed to be a biography of Rosa Luxembourg starring Jane Fonda. The man's energy frightened us a little.

"How can he do it?" Michael asked, his voice too far away.

"I don't know," I said and then thought, quite suddenly, *he's working himself to death*.

When I read in the newspaper he had died, I was working a boring job in an incredibly oppressive environment. I felt trapped. I felt I was living in a Fassbinder film. I went home sick that afternoon not because I was particularly upset, but because Fassbinder's death seemed to signal an end to a period of my life. Things were different after that.

Michael and I called each other less and less. It wasn't that we had nothing to talk about; it was other things. Michael was involved in an obsessive love affair. I was getting caught up in politics. Neither one of us was making enough money to sup-

port our phone bills. Life was like that. Fassbinder would have understood.

I'm always having the feeling that I don't want to do it [make films] anymore at all, that I'd like to take a break for a year or so, and then, when the first week of that year is up, I can't endure it anymore after all....

Over the next five years I learned more and more about Fassbinder's personal life, mostly from Ronald Haymin's excellent, *Fassbinder Filmmaker*. He emerged as alternately a paranoid, vicious oppressor of those closest to him; a shy little boy in a grotesque, gargantuan body; an exploiter of people's talents and emotions; and a charismatic genius. Somehow, amid all the overindulgence — the drugs, alcohol, food and sex — Fassbinder channeled his obsessive, tormented personality into his films, creating a distanced, fictionalized mirror of his life.

So when I read a slick, "tell-all" biography like Robert Katz's book, I wasn't "shocked." Oh, there are a few more grisly details, a few more glimpses

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 "family," but far from illuminating the "dark depths of a genius," Katz merely stands back and doles out sleazy tidbits, pretending to be worldly, pretending not to judge a man whose talent far outstrips his biographer's. Nevertheless, Katz can't help holding his nose from time to time. He can't keep himself from interjecting snide little comments which tell us more about the narrator than about the subject of his book.

Besides being permeated with a thinly veiled homophobia (Katz even claims someone "became" homosexual just by associating with Fassbinder), *Love Is Colder Than Death* seems second-hand and padded. Half of the interviews and recounted incidents have appeared in other books — notably Haymin's critical biography. The original interviews Katz provides are with the most unreliable of Fassbinder's acquaintances — ones who either held violent grudges against him (like actor Kurt Raab) or who were too naive to see what was going on around them (Juliane Lorenz — the second Mrs. Fassbinder). The book has been stretched out to 200 pages by using a large typeface

and including appendices, a sketchy filmography, and a "cast of characters" — a listing of who's who in the book, what their relationship was to Fassbinder and what they are doing now.

But the biggest problem with the book remains Katz's silence concerning Fassbinder's work. While Haymin's thesis mixes the man's life with his films, making only cursory distinctions between them, Katz treats the films merely as titles or as brief stops on the road to Fassbinder's inevitable end. That view, to anyone who knows the films at all, is hogwash.

Fassbinder and his films were one and the same. He put everything he was into them, even when it meant they would suck him dry. I like he knew it would happen like that. Think a character in one of his films, Fassbinder was unable and unwilling to escape from the thing that was consuming him, the thing he loved the most.

The Holy Whore is the cinema. And Rainer tried to warn us.

But he found a way of beating his devouring lover. He joined with it, became a part of it, leaving behind the mess he had made of his life and encoding himself like a strand of DNA on every frame of celluloid he shot. When Michael and I, thousands of miles apart, watch his films, Rainer Werner Fassbinder replicates before our eyes.

Recently I rented a video of one of Rainer's films that had managed to slip through my fingers. It was his only film in English — his version of Nabokov's novel *Invitation to a Beheading*. Afterwards, I thought of Michael. I tried calling him several times over the next few days, but he was always out. When I finally did 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 Haymin, Simon and Schuster, \$9.95, paper.

Love Is Colder Than Death: The Life and Times of Rainer Werner Fassbinder, by Robert Katz, Random House, \$19.95, hardcover.

All Fassbinder quotes taken from interviews which appeared in:

Fassbinder, edited by Tony Rayns, British Film Institute, London, 1980.

Fassbinder, various authors, translated by Ruth McCormick, Tanam Press, New York, 1981.

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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 (elsewhere) and settles into domesticity: Coupledness, 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 domesticize 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 performing visit to San Francisco. With this duo, I was braced 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 curdle my blood.

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 good ones.

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 hurling across the mat, just slowly enough to register. Magic tricks, juggling, tuxedos, a spot of pleasant 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 cross-cuts a single sentence at-a-time with more stream-of-consciousness text; abrupt changes from dance to acrobatics to mimicry. *Crawling Off Broadway* lunges from satire to slapstick, from self-parody to serious introspection. In a typical bit, the deadpan Keegan delivers devastating parodies of Bob Fosse jazz slinkiness, sugary nostalgia musicals and foggy post-modernism — all in about five seconds each.

Keegan, the half with

country trip from New York to the West Coast, *Passing* uses the trip both literally — with all the relationship-straining annoyances of spending a week on the road together — and as a metaphorical journey through American homophobia, personal histories and spiritual quests.

Lloyd, for some reason, gets stuck with most of the brief song interludes, most of which could be done without. His comic and movement abilities aren't as striking as his partner's, but he does have an unforced, compelling way with an anecdote and does very well at characterizations. Together, the two work so smoothly and inventively that

action is a gold mine of nerves-unravelling comedy: Keegan describes a near-nervous breakdown at a Howard Johnson's and the advantages of meditating in an upside-down lotus position. The pair explores the shrill outer limits of marital discord, reacting with wide-eyed terror to an "intruder" outside their tent that turns out to be a deer.

Each relationship being a microcosm of the world that surrounds it, *Passing on the Right's* larger themes and personal insights stand on equal footing; if Keegan and Lloyd ricochet from impulsive thoughts of divorce to tender reconciliations, their schizophrenia just reflects the uncertainty that societal oppression has made a way of life for many gays and lesbians. They may find shelter in each other, but they find plenty of doubts, too.

As personal and potentially indulgent as these pieces are, there's precious little fat to be found on their bones. 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 us believe this is the "real" thing. They're smart enough to avoid trying to communicate the ephemera of their attraction — they know that what cements relationships is often vague, while the tics and burrs of what pulls people apart are closer to real drama. While the politics of being a gay couple inform their every move, they wisely shy away from platitudes or agitprop. They realize that their own opinions may verge on prejudices, that the most politically correct of truths are still subjective.

Keegan and Lloyd come close to being gay performance Everymen — gleefully experimental yet accessible, at-tuned to but not blinded by the times, disinterested in pandering to (or shrinking from) stereotypes. Couples, take note: here are your scrappy role models.

Keegan and Lloyd play at Theatre Rhinoceros, 2926 16th Street, Thursdays through Sundays until August 30 at 8 pm. Info/charge by calling 861-5079.



Performance artists Davidson Lloyd (left) and Tom Keegan offer an eclectic mix of storytelling, acrobatics, dance and mimicry in their two-man show at Theatre Rhino.

trying to separate out each individual's talents would only diminish them.

After intermission, things resume with a longer piece the

of Americana and possible separation from Lloyd.

Footnotes of personal and gay/lesbian collective history are seamlessly intercut into the

Keegan and Lloyd achieve a multimedia breadth and fluidity unencumbered by the usual willful obscurity or technical overdose.

pair have been performing and honing for several years, *Passing on the Right and Other Accidents of Life*. Structured around a six-day, cross-

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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 inter-

ested in making dances that possess a strong dramatic content. At least this was the case with *Requiem d'Alyse*, the major work of the evening, and *Nocturne*, a short narrative piece featuring SF Ballet principal Christopher Boatwright.

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.

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 Tracy-Kai Maier), arrives on the scene, performs a lovely solo and quickly expires. This prompts 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 readily — and without apparent motivation —

Romantic 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.

chicks and Jon Konetski. The only drawback to this piece was the excessive number of difficult, often awkward, lifts for the men. The lighting by Sara Linnie Slocum was exceptionally striking. The costumes, white tights with pastel tops for the men and skirts-to-match for the women, were attractive in a sugary, cotton-candy sort of way.

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 Holst and Marina Hotchkiss) was,

"Ballet Egyptian" required especially precise footwork (mostly on pointe) by Katherine Warner and careful, self-assured partnering (again from Konetski). There was something kitschy (one couldn't help but think of all those tomb-painting



Debra Rose and Gregory Dawson dance in Paul Russell's "Five Variants."

becomes this remote other's slave, sending Lopez to the madhouse and soon returning the girl to a state of rigor mortis.

If all this sounds a touch confusing and rather strange, it was. Russell's choreography was never able to convincingly delineate the convoluted specifics of the dance's narrative. There never seemed to be sufficient motivation — expressed in dance — for all the histrionics 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

however, exceptionally graceful and buoyant. The program notes were, again, cloying and tended to negate any spiritual passion for the profession of painter.

The two best works included on the program were Russell's "Five Variants," a charming, lyrically 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 Marina Hot-

profiles) but believable about this dance. It seemed like just the sort of exotic, ballet-at-the-pyramids type of thing that Pavlova might have done. The decor (a single disc encircled by a stylized serpent) and lighting were very beautiful. The costumes, a yellow-green, jewel-encrusted bodysuit for the woman and a turquoise affair (with one leg missing) for the man, were painfully dissonant to watch.

Still, the overall impression received from this new troupe's performances was one of clarity and expressive strength. I'd look forward, assuming some of the tensions are resolved, to seeing them dance again.

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Leland Rice's Photos at SFMMA Writing on the Wall

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 psychohistorical 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 graffitiists to cover one

space, the streets facing the Berlin Wall, under the eyes and machine-guns of the watchtower guards, must have seemed a raw and naked environment for a photographic enterprise.

The exhibition consists of twenty-one large-scale Cibachrome prints made from Rice's medium-format transparencies. Abandoning his earlier use of color-negative film with its more subtle range of color, Rice here chose to work with the more vivid and highly contrasting tones of Cibachrome, perhaps to capture more immediately the vibrancy of his subject matter. The metallic sheen of glossy Ciba prints is notoriously difficult to look at, and here the problem is

David Bowie and Lou Reed have spoken, and Berlin has become an obligatory city of pilgrimage for angst-laden, post-adolescent art students from Edinburgh to Tokyo.

side of it (the other side is, you guessed it, whitewashed) with a constantly changing display of platitudes, 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 canvas of vernacular expression, which Rice first saw in 1983. His concern is intentionally

only further compounded 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.

On the positive side, however, the large black borders which Ciba prints naturally provide do



Leland Rice: *So Look at Yourself Looking*, cibachrome print, 1986/87.

ly consistent. David Bowie and Lou Reed have spoken, and Berlin has become an obligatory city of pilgrimage for angst-laden, post-adolescent art students from Edinburgh to Tokyo. The kinds of images they leave behind — and take back home — can be seen any day of the week in the undergraduate galleries of the San Francisco Art Institute.

dence. The Wall is a palimpsest of messages and signs that memorialize, question, celebrate and threaten.

There are the ubiquitous Kilroys ("*Wir waren hier*"). Political slogans — at least in these photographs — are surprisingly scarce or banal ("*Liberty or Death*"). There is, however, poetry:

*"Arbeiter und Bauern
Brauchen keine Mauern."
("Workers and farmers
Don't need walls.")*

And there is wit: Humpty Dumpty making his precarious escape from the Eastern sector, in his face the essence of apprehension.

Rice's choice of framing, which sometimes cuts across words and images, invites us to look not so much at the particulars of the Wall, but at its ensemble. Like the *Wall Sites* series, these photographs can be

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 squiggle of the pen or the paint can, no matter how illegible it has become, was at one time a mark of direct human volition 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 863-8800.



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

apolitical and concentrates instead on the almost abstract interplay of colors and shapes that cover every inch of the rough concrete surface.

Rice is best known for his earlier *Wall Sites* series, in which he photographed in color the walls of various artists' studios, with their inevitable blotches and dribbles of paint. Compared to the safety of an artist's work-

serve beautifully to set off the colors in the prints and add a stylish consistency to the installation.

Although his approach is not strictly documentary, Rice is engaging in a sort of archeology by recording the vast build-up of visual information that the Wall contains. The imagery, which one might think of at first as cross-cultural, is in fact striking-

That the vital 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 ideologues can easily interpret as so many symptoms of pathological deca-

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Verdi's *La Traviata* is one of the most re-recorded of all operas, yet 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.

□ The best all-round choice for a single set is probably **Carlos Kleiber's** 1977 DG recording with **Ileana Cotrubas**, **Plácido Domingo** and **Sherrill Milnes** (2 CDs). Kleiber, alone of the modern conductors, clearly articulates the glittering surface of Verdi's music while at the same time penetrating beneath it. Ten years ago, Cotrubas was a bright-voiced, innocent sounding Violetta with enough sparkle for the first act as well as enough pathos for the later ones. Domingo was a warmly suave Alfredo, and Milnes made a decently impassioned Germont.

The most detailed of contemporary readings of the heroine's music come from **Renata Scotti** in her 1980 recording with **Alfredo Kraus** and **Renato Bruson**, conducted by **Riccardo Muti** (Angel, 2 CDs). Scotti's performance is in every way deeper than her 1961 attempt. The floritura in Act I has rarely been so effectively delineated, and her dramatic rendering of almost every line will keep the interest of even the most jaded *Traviata*-lover.

In exchange for these virtues, however, one must put up with a hard, sometimes uncontrolled sound at the top and a bluntness whenever the diva moves from piano to forte. Kraus is the most sophisticated of all the Alfredos;

his fans will surely want a copy of this recording just to hear him make a gentleman of Alfredo. Bruson is stolid 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 Germont in **Milnes** (RCA), but Pretre is an erratic 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 Violetta's illness. Joan Sutherland is too maternally in her attempt with Pavarotti, who by 1981 was himself already producing too heavy a sound to do justice to Alfredo'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 one hand, his performance is hectic, where it should be kind, but on the other, it is a phenomenally detailed rendition of the score. If you have been wondering what it is that conductors contribute to an opera performance, take the*

time to study this recording, because in it you can hear every nuance of Verdi's instructions come vividly to life.

Maria Callas made her Cetra recording of *Traviata* before she had fully analyzed the title role. Yet despite the diva's clumsy coloratura 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 on Angel, from Lisbon in 1957, sports Alfredo

pact is shattering. Ludwig was in heroically brilliant voice for this performance, and Vickers, even in 1961, shows a depth of understanding of Florestan's music that none of his rivals can equal — except, perhaps, for Julius Patzak on the 1952 Furtwangler performance with Kirsten Flagstad as Leonore.

Many listeners find that Furtwangler/Flagstad performance to be one of the pinnacles of opera-listening, but I find that **Furtwangler's** studio recording with **Martha Modl** and **Wolfgang Windgassen** surpasses it in dramatic intensity. Furtwangler's interpretation is truly a fight for freedom, and Modl's

fussy. Helga Dernesch, who must have been stunning in the role on stage, is strained on the top, though luscious below, and Vickers, encouraged no doubt by Karajan; is idiosyncratic to the point of mannerism.

□ *Tosca* belongs to **Maria Callas**; her 1953 account, conducted sublimely by **Victoria De Sabata**, with ideal support from **Giuseppe di Stefano** and **Tito Gobbi**, is one of the great recordings of all time. Now that it has been issued on CD, all the haunting colors of Callas' voice come through in even greater detail. Her "Vissi d'arte" could ring tears from a stone. Di Stefano's "E lucevan le stelle" combines the pathos of Bjoerling with the brilliancy of Pavarotti. Gobbi is, as always, a masterful singing-actor.

For listeners who require a more beautiful voice in the title role, there are two modern choices: **Leontyne Price** (I prefer her performance for Karajan to her remake with Mehta, though she has better coloration on the latter), or **Caballe** (her "Vissi d'arte" is spun gold). Di Stefano in 1953 was the greatest of all Cavaradossis (and various live performances from that era prove that his easy upper register was not just the product of studio wizardry), but Pavarotti offers a performance to contend with — as does Domingo on the Metha/Price set. Gobbi's Scarpia is without an equal anywhere among the complete recordings; you have to go back to Lawrence Tibbett's "Te Deum" to find comparable dramatic insight.

□ The funny line about Verdi's *Nabucco* is that the composer mistreated his first Abigaille so badly that he eventually married her to make up for ruining her career. In modern times this soprano part has become the property of the extravagant flame-throwers who have nothing to lose. **Elena Suliotis**, singing on the London recording, is the most exciting of the recent exponents of this music, but she can peel the paint off you walls if you aren't careful. Her *Nabucco*, however, is Tito Gobbi, and his insight into the tortured soul of the Babylonian king is well worth putting up with Suliotis' vulgarity.

Ghena Dmitrova, who will perform the part here, seems to be destroying her voice by relentlessly repeating Abigaille everywhere. But a little research proves that the problem is not new. Though Dmitrova's DG recording dates from 1983, it still presents some terribly raw singing from the diva. Yet it does boast the best sound of the bunch, including the razor-sharp conducting of **Giuseppe Sinopoli** and the sumptuous singing of **Piero Cappuccilli** in the title role. For those who want to anticipate what we will hear in the house this fall, this set is the one to get.

To my ears **Renata Scotti** is the most conscientious of the contemporary interpreters of Abigaille's music, and most of the time she keeps her voice under superb control. Her *Nabucco*, however, is not up to the competition offered by either Gobbi or Cappuccilli, and her conductor is merely adequate. For those who can tolerate 1949 live-performance sound, the old Callas recording on Turnabout with **Gino Bechi** from the Teatro San Carlo in Naples is about as exciting as you can find. ■

This is the second part of a three-part article.



Kraus as a very elegant young man, but the most haunting performance to my ears is Callas' 1958 London appearance with the stylish singing of **Cesare Valletti** as her lover and the sympathetic conducting of **Nicola Rescigno**.

□ The choices for Beethoven's *Fidelio* begin with **Otto Klemperer's** classic account with **Christa Ludwig** and **Jon Vickers** on Angel. Klemperer's slow tempi take some time to get used to, but as you move through the score, they gradually gather incredible power. By the time you reach the dungeon scene, the im-

Leonore, despite some screaming on the top and some labored coloratura, is the most committed on records. The recording is now being issued by Cetra-Fonit, but it is also still around in its budget Seraphim pressing.

Leonard Bernstein's tumultuous performance on DG is undercut by a pallid Gundula Janowitz and a sedate Rene Kollo, but it is now in glorious CD sound. **Herbert von Karajan's** Angel recording is suffused with subtlety, and it contains the most exhilarating final scene, but too much of the conductor's work comes across as merely

TAHITI THANKSGIVING

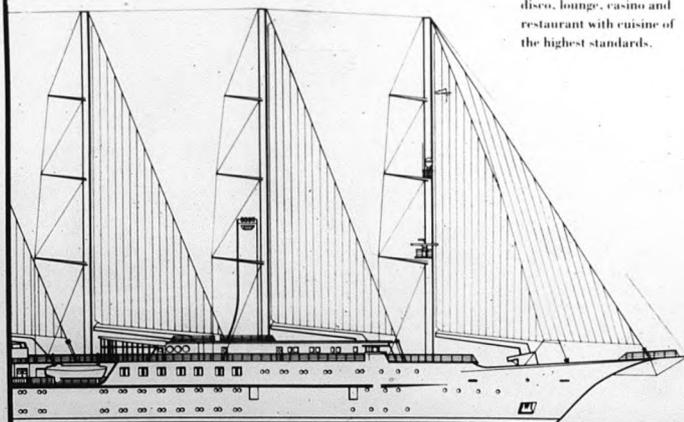
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Rock, Records and the Faithfull Don Plays Catch Up

Now that the Rock column only rears its nasty peroxidized head in every other issue of the *Sentinel*, I feel compelled to spend several column inches just catching up on past events and various record releases. Sometimes next to nothing will transpire in a two-week period, and other times the face of rock and roll will change completely or offer a bounty of developments. The latter situation best describes the past two weeks.



Detail from the cover of the Donner Party's latest, exuberantly unpretentious LP.

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 swan 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, "Girlfriend in a Coma." It's very seldom that I'm not pleased as punch over new Smiths vinyl, but this last one got filed after one listening. I reserve (and hopefully will use) the right to change my mind, but at this

music is slow, atmospheric and voluptuously moody. Bassey's rich voice glides monumentally, sends shivers down my spine and has always put every member of The Bond-Girl Theme Singers to shame. Chrissie Hynde take note.

Another pleasant surprise is the latest LP from Marianne Faithfull. *Strange Weather* is a collection of some old faves, a new version of her first-ever hit, "As Tears Go By," and the title song by Tom Waits. Not since *Broken English*, her tough and vengeful comeback LP of '79, has Faithfull seemed so effective. The difference between the two LPs is immense.

Broken English showed a pissed off, ex-pop star bounding back from hard times with a forked tongue, croaky voice, and a dark urge to tell it like it is, as ugly as it might be. *Strange Weather* does not confront but rather eases its way along with no heavy statements. Faithfull sounds comfortable, natural, and like a vocal artist who's finally found the perfect perch from which to sing. And sing she does, from the mournful, gravelly lows of "I Ain't Going Down to the Well No More," a song

Faithfull enters each composition like it's her own living room and sings from there.

time, I find the new release limp and silly. The cover art doesn't even measure up. If I seem morose, like I've lost the will to live, that's why. Boo-hoo.

On the other hand, a few new records I've acquired recently stride forward with enough strength to either pull me out of the doldrums or make basking in them very pleasurable. The new single by Yello, "The Rhythm Divine," features the unmistakable and mighty vocals of Shirley Bassey, the semi-forgotten pipes behind the Bond theme songs "Goldfinger" and "Diamonds Are Forever." The

that makes you wonder if she'll make every step of its vocal descent, to the whimsical '20s romanticism of "Penthouse Serenade," a charmer that's tailor-made for gazing into a lover's eyes and then a city's lights afterwards.

Faithfull took a chance with covering old songs, a trend practiced by everyone from Linda Ronstadt to Toni Tenille, but she leaves those croon-muffins in her dust. Rather than wrapping a voice around a song, Faithfull 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 of the year.

A recent release from a local band called the Donner Party has crept its way under my well-worn stylus and refuses to leave even after repeated listenings. I've always loved this band's name for reminding me of my favorite childhood covered-wagon story in which stranded pioneer settlers resort to cannibalism on the Donner Pass.

If the name isn't enough, this three-piece band pounds 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. They possess a deadpan lyrical sense of humor and an exuberant, unpretentious spirit. While listening I'm often reminded of the Meat Puppets, 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 some live shows. Big Black, easily the most ferocious band that ever was, played the I-Beam a few weeks ago, one stop on their last tour ever, which ended in Seattle with a gig in an underground steam plant turbine. The charming trio disbanded because guitarist Santiago Durango is going to law school. Steve Albini and Dave Riley feel they've taken Big Black as far as possible and should quit before anyone has a chance to say "they sucked."

The wretched, foul realism and unadulterated force of Big Black will live on in memory thanks to Cathy Cohn at the I-Beam who booked them twice this year. The final show was an unforgettable and now historical event. Look forward to Big Black's upcoming posthumous LP, *Songs About Fucking*.

The Wipers, a Portland band with ten years and eight LPs under their belts, opened for Big Black. For over an hour, the hardened three-piece bathed the audience in a sensual, thick, textural guitar-ospheric heaven. Two bands, two brilliant performances. It was the show of the year, and if you missed it, ha ha ha. It was better than "Cagney and Lacey."

As the deadline for this article grew nearer and nearer, simultaneous with the Harmonic Convergence and the tenth anniversary of Elvis' death, I felt the need to include at least one recent show. Sister Double Happiness came highly recommended, so I caught their show at the Chatterbox, a small venue on Valencia near the sobbing wino park, the tragi-queen Crystal Pistol, the steroid sports palace and my apartment.

I entered the club in the middle of a song called "Poodlewd," a

Continued on page 28

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DENNIS CROW ON PIANO

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 Jim Dodge's *Not Fade Away* and boot north to the Big Country. After this week the expedition is mandatory.

There were the irritations: The Firehouse-advertised Miss Kitty gig, which they had failed to book, followed by her Kats & Kittens lounge act at the Paradise, which proved dull and abrasive. Then there was Elvis' Death Day: Memphis Mark glowering in a shimmering blue shirt after an archaeological dig through the pink section had failed to yield even one cinema boasting an Elvis film. Finally, his eyes glistening like switchblades, he drawled sadly, "Don't these people have any respect for culture?"

Bleak turned to rank Monday when facile Jack Molinari took to mooning Harry Britt and kissing the Di-thing's ring with his tie-breaking set of votes to homeport the *Mo*. I was ready to call CUAU to send over an escort to restrain me from an unheeding physical assault on any clueless homos I might encounter still sporting Molinari buttons. The milk of human kindness was beginning to curdle.

Tuesday night the incomparable Jerry Sheller poured it out from the taproot of wisdom and memory, singing about the lost highways and *home* without end. I fingered the scrawled invitation from my brother, "You bring the bourbon. I'll bring the mint." I knew there was a silver bird, Seattle-bound, with my name on it.

I plan to be back, all too soon, to see if Worn Hinckle can't bring some grit, abandon and imagination to the mayoral race; to welcome back Patsy Cline; to retrieve my cowboy boots from Memphis Mark; to marvel at Mr. Sheller; and to reclaim this column from the able and manic hands of another-year-older Don Baird, who will attend your

needs in my absence. I'll have to trust *you*, dear readers, to check out these shows and let me know what I missed.

Bandido

The booker describes this ten-man combo as "border rockers: Santana with salsa and R&B." Sounds like a post-*La Bamba* excuse for World Beat to me. Dress cholo and scream. (SF Music Works, 8/21, 9:30 pm, free)

Yma Sumac

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, 5 pm, \$18, \$15; 8/25, 26 & 27, 8 pm, \$18, \$15)

Until December, Tooth & Nail, Mr. Hyde

The headliners are still breaking in their new lead singer, and he'll never fill the shoes of their hunk ex-frontman. Partisans describe the new sound as "early Bronski Beat with feedback," but even they don't sound too convinced. The openers ought to steal the show. (Kennel Club, 8/21, 10 pm, \$8)

Joan Jett & Johnny Gunn, TBA

I used to think it was great when Joan would dyke it up in black leather and sing "Crimson and Clover" without changing the gender. She's probably *still* at it. A big Dykes-on-Bikes turnout could make this gig. (Stone, 8/22, 10 pm, \$12.50 adv, \$13.50 day)

Allison Moyet, Bourgeois Tagg

Moyet may well be the best female vocalist in the UK: tough and sultry, immense and poignant. She was Vince Clarke's partner in Yazoo, and Andy Bell cops more than a few of her licks in Erasure. Her first solo LP was a breathtaking wonder, and if the

Happiness in this issue as further persuasion. The opener sounds fine, and the venue deserves every cent you can spare them. Carry condoms and dress rowdy. (The Farm, 8/22, 8 pm, \$7)

Yo, Ophelias

Yo have been critics' darlings for ages around here. I was never



Jerry Sheller pours out wisdom and memory at the Kennel Club, 8/25.

follow-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'll be looking to sell the sucker here. (Warfield, 8/22, 8 pm, \$17.50 res)

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

My esteemed Zippo-toting colleague is crazy into male-lesbianism 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 strip for them. At this mega-cool skateboarder haven, those moments alone might justify his ardor. You'll find his review of Sister Double

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 Ophelias unless you yearn for bad Jethro Tull. (Kennel Club, 8/22, 11 pm, \$4)

Problem Child

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

Tooth & Nail

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

Star Tracks

Members of the audience get

their turn at stardom, singing to tracks — as the scourge of Japan and the malls creeps towards the Castro. They shoot horses, don't they? Think of it as a vocal jock-strap contest. (SF Music Works, 8/23, 9:30 pm, free)

Chris & Cosey, SPK

The headlining duo were founding members of the industrial iconoclasts, Throbbing Gristle. In the last seven years, over eight albums, they've moved into post-nuclear dreamscapes. The openers, formerly the psychic affront that was Surgical Penis Clinic, graduated last year to the techno-swamp of their *Machine Age Voodoo* LP, and have since added Balinese gamelans, Javanese flutes and Tibetan drums for their latest, *Songs of Byzantine Flowers*. Very deep. Wear black. Smoke in large quantities. Bring disco whistles. (I-Beam, 8/24, 10 pm)

Bone-a-fide Blues Jam

Street legend Big Bones and John Lee Hooker sideman, Jim Guyette, take on the planet. (Kennel Club, 8/24, 10 pm, free)

Ricky Ringold

Miss Kitty's prodigious bassist out-busks Billy Bragg with his Club Nine-in-exile show. Three Zippos from my Madonna-headed colleague. (Paradise Lounge, 8/25, 9 & 11 pm, free)

Jerry Sheller

When the black field hand and the white-trash JD met out behind the sugar shack with shaky reverence, blind hunger, and carnal rage and sorrow — rock 'n' roll was born. It is a revelation this deceptively unassuming gentleman owns and quietly enacts. Modest and awesome. (Kennel Club, 8/25, 10 pm, \$1)

David Thomas, Ped-Xing

The strange homunculus, former lead singer with Pere Ubu and devout crackpot Christian, pulls eerily into town for this solo gig. Some find him maniacally hilarious of late while others are baffled. I won't venture a guess. (SF Music Works, 8/25, 9:30 pm, \$7)

Diamond Dogs

Purportedly a Bowie-clone cover band reinventing the glam-rock monster at his most ferociously excessive — but that's the booker's guess. (Nightbreak, 8/25, 11 pm, \$2)

Danny Williams, Tom Ammlano, Doug Holsclaw

It's Boys-Night-Out at the Baybrick, as the congenial lesbian boite hosts three of our most gifted gay comics with rising star, and Alex Bennett regular, Barry Brady, as MC. Sounds stellar and the price is unbeatable. Don't miss it. Miss me. (Baybrick, 8/27, 9 pm, free) ■



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Lubricious Orgies

Yea, 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 dead now.

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 flack told the Aug. 15 *Chron*, "We interpret AIDS to be an infectious, contagious disease," suggesting, since AIDS is only sexually transmitted, that the airline fully expects AIDS/ARC sufferers to conduct vast, lubricious 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 finally flown home on an Air Force plane; his parents paid \$40,000 for the service. He died a week later.)

Northwest changed its policy last Friday, allowing AIDS/ARC carriers 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 doc'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 "Holy Sneezer" Idol has no fear of flying; he's a touring rat. And when he graced SF with his ciphersome magnificence recently (he played the Shoreline Amphitheater), his crew retained thirteen rooms at the spendorous Phoenix Motel on Eddy and Larkin. An inn-keeping insider said that while the crew was "reasonably tame, two of the best looking guys asked about — and went to — the Stud. They told our concierge afterward they were favorably impressed."

The crew passed its leisure hours in what the insider called "little boy games" — e.g., "chicken" fights in the pool — suggesting, although perhaps unintentionally, an undying affinity with what makes this column great.

Phoenix Arid 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 pics of Stuart "Son of Ogre Ollie" North and Mathias "Wings Over Red Square" Rust; but I appeared to forego 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 mag, now off the stands (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 pic, the family, 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 forelocks fall insouciantly above his pert, turned-up nose. In another photo, River sits atop the younger Leaf, playfully tweaking 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 Flash* article, sent by eagle-eyed 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 stands at Kiosk on Castro when I checked last week.)

This 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, not to mention his soulful aura, seizes the day.

FULLFRAME

by Marc Geller



Florence

1980

There, goddammit: is that enough?

Caged Be Ye

Another watchful browser brought to my attention a recent, albeit undated (dammit) *Chron* piece on the Utica, NY, zoo, which is "attracting hundreds of visitors to see an exhibit of caged *Homo Sapiens Juvenilis Americanus*." That's right: teens in cages at the zoo. I applaud 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 Utica, in his "native habitat." Realism, of course, demands certain relevant artifacts: well-worn (but unlaundered) pairs of Jockey shorts strewn about, skin mags, lotion and, of course, jizz towels.

Continued on next page

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ROCK

Continued from page 25

bluesy number with a "I want to play with your poodle" chorus. I couldn't tell if the vocalist was talking bestiality or nicknamed genitalia, but I liked it! The band packed a good, normal and healthy blues-rock crunch, spiced up with tight musical breaks and starts/stops that just dared you to dance. The vocalist has a gritty, expressive voice beyond his years and an openly gay stage demeanor.

Lyrical content touched on AIDS, gay politics and religion among other things. The audience was a friendly, responsive and completely urban group, many of whom seemed familiar with the licks and lyrics. The vocalist introduced their last song as "Tough," then said, "Tough... Tough... tuff... I just can't say it like a hetero." ■

LESS TALK

Continued from previous page

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. ■

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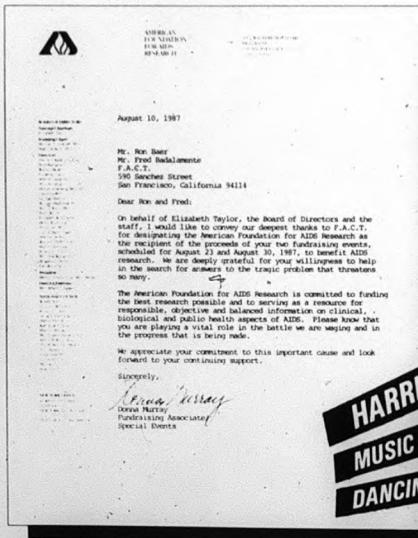
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WELCOME

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!

Sentinel

WEEK AT A GLANCE

EDITED BY PATRICK HOCTEL

22 AUGUST SATURDAY

All lesbian 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 **Team San Francisco**, the SF contingent to Vancouver in 1990. 10 am-noon. Amelia's, 647 Valencia St., SF. Info: 824-5199 or 552-4452.

Ellipse (Peninsula AIDS Services) holds its **2nd Annual Fiesta Italiano Night**: an AIDS benefit dinner for PWAs and PWARCs. A VCR is the door prize. No-host bar. 7 pm and 8:30 pm. The Cruiser Lounge, 2651 El Camino Real, Redwood City. \$20. Tickets/info: 366-2437. Res/seating: 366-4955.

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), Rm. 21, SF. After the meeting, there will be a get-together at Cafe San Marcos. Info: 386-7364 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, food and beverages. Noon-6 pm. 12th St. between Harrison and Folsom, 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 Scriabin, these pieces range from the lyric joyfulness of Isadora's early dances to the passionate and dramatic works of her later compositions. 8 pm. Hatley Martin Art Gallery, 41 Powell St., SF. Info: 392-1015 or 392-1024.

The Castro hosts a special film tribute to the late Arlie Bressan with a midnight showing of the director's **Gay USA: The Politics of Celebration** on 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," *Gay USA* documents a nationwide struggle to speak out against the forces of bigotry. Relive those moments and help celebrate one of our true talents. Midnight. Castro near Market. \$3.

23 AUGUST SUNDAY

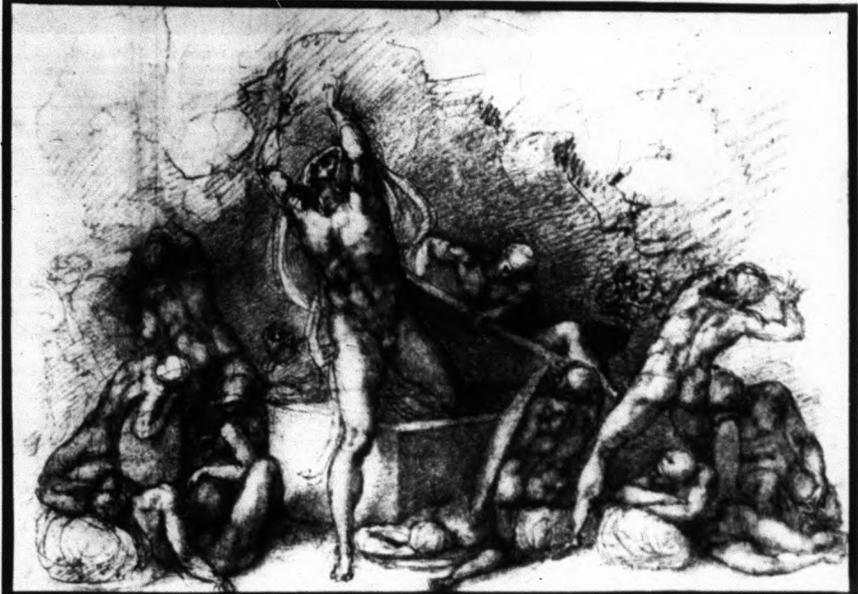
Famed Scottish fiddler **Alasdair Fraser** appears in concert with pianist **Paul Machlis** as part of the Old First Concerts Series. Fraser's program includes traditional Scottish airs, strathspeys and reels — as well as improvisations and new compositions based on ancient folk tunes. 4 pm. Old First Church, Van Ness Ave. at Sacramento, SF. \$7 general/\$5 seniors and students with ID/\$3.50 members. Tickets at door. Info: 474-1608.

Bobby, a prose work of fiction adapted to the stage by Robert Goldstein and Robert Chesley and directed by Kelly Hill, premieres at Footwork. The piece stars Tom Redalia and focuses on one man's reconciliation with having been forced to start life from the bottom. Plays through 9/6 (Sundays only). 8:30 pm. 3221 22nd St. (at Mission), SF. \$8 at the door.

Louise Rafkin, editor, along with some of the models who contributed to *Different Daughters: A Book by Mothers of Lesbians*, reads from the book with a booksigning afterwards. 7 pm. Walt Whitman Bookshop, 2319 Market St. (near Noe), SF. \$3. Info: 861-3078.

The SF office of the National March on Washington hosts a reception for gay Boston City Councilor **David Scondras**. 7-10 pm. Call the office (861-5536) for location and suggested donation.

EVENT OF THE WEEK The Concord Jazz Festival closes out its festival week with a stellar line-up at the Concord Pavilion from 2-11 pm today: (in order of appearance) **Jessica Williams**, **Frank Morgan**, **Airto** and **Flora Purim** Band featuring **Jose Neto**, **Joe Williams**, **Herbie Hancock**, **Wynton Marsalis** and **Larry Carlton**. 2000 Kirker Pass



Michelangelo 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 Master Drawings from the British Royal Collection." Works by Raphael, Leonardo, Ghirlandaio, Giovanni Bellini, Giorgione and Canaletto (among others) are included. The show continues through October 25. Call 750-3614.

Rd. (8½ miles off Hwy. 680), Concord. \$22.50 res/\$15.50 lawn. Tickets/info: 762-BASS.

Bay Area Jazz Celebration: **The Freddie Hubbard Quintet** and special guests **Bobby Hutcherson** and **Andy Narell** make for an exciting finale to the 50th Anniversary Season of Stern Grove's Midsummer Music Festival. 2 pm. 19th Ave. at Sloat Blvd., SF. Free!



Ten years of explosive comedy: The **Plutonium Players** celebrate a decade of politically astute laugh-making. See listing for Friday, 8/28.

24 AUGUST MONDAY

B and B: Bogart and **Bacall** in two of their best — *Dark Passage* and *The Big Sleep* (new 35mm print) as the Castro continues its film noir series. *Dark Passage* boasts SF locales and the gloriously sinister Agnes Moorehead, and *The Big Sleep* is full of great bits (a brunette Dorothy Malone, Elisha Cook, Jr. and Martha Vickers as Bacall's infantile, trampy sister); a plot even the author (Raymond Chandler) couldn't figure out; and B and B striking sparks. 7:15 pm and 9:15 pm. Castro near Market. Info: 621-6120.

Michael Greer hosts **You & the Night & the Music**: the third annual gala evening of comedy and music to benefit the SF Band Foundation. Proceeds from this year's event will go to send member groups to the March on Washington. Highlights include performances by the Flips, Cindy Herron, Dan Fludd, Menage and Danny Williams. 8 pm. Venetian Room, Fairmont Hotel, California St. at Mason, SF. \$25. Tickets at all Headlines. Info: 621-5619 or 986-3185.

25 AUGUST TUESDAY

Created by Claude Segovia and Hector Orezzi, **Flamenco Puro** opens tonight at SF's Orpheum Theatre for four weeks. This production brings to the US Andalusia's most famous flamenco artists — most 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. 1192 Market St., SF.

Amir Naderi's **The Runner**, the first post-revolutionary Iranian film to be released in the US, plays at the Roxie through 9/3. This work of "astounding power and simplicity" revolves around Amir (Madjid Nirooumand), a homeless boy struggling for his livelihood. *The LA Times* found it "reminiscent of the finest Italian neorealist films." 3117 16th St. (at Valencia), SF. Times/info: 863-1087.

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 ageless woman recounting the high points of her youth, sometimes inaccurately, to her grandnephew. Plays through 8/30. 8 pm. SF State University, McKenna Theatre, 1600 Holloway Ave., SF. \$18. Tickets: 762-BASS or 392-4400.

Bay Area Lawyers for the Arts (BALA) offers **How Should I Do Business: Partnership, Corporation, Proprietorship?**: a workshop led by an experienced attorney who will answer your questions about the different forms of doing business. 7-8:30 pm. Fort Mason Center, Bldg. B, Rm. 300, SF. \$10 general/\$5 BALA members. Info: 775-7200.

27 AUGUST THURSDAY

This month's **Electric City** shows Pat Norman and Harry Britt at a March on Washington committee meeting. Also featured is a visit to the Up Your

Alley block party with Mr. Marcus — plus an inspirational message from the Rev. Harry Feedwell. Screenings at Maud's, Peg's Place, and The Village. 9 pm. Cable channel 6, SF.

Visions Gallery invites everyone to celebrate the opening of its new gallery (the largest photography viewing space on the West Coast) at 1155 Mission St. in SF with a grand opening reception and book-signing for the photographer, **Neil Folberg**, whose cibachrome photographs from his book, *In a Desert Land*, will be on exhibit. Hors d'oeuvres, a wet bar and free! 5-9 pm. Reg. hours: 10 am-6 pm, Mon.-Sat., free.

28 AUGUST FRIDAY

The SF Conservatory and KKHI radio co-sponsor the third annual **Operatic Lip Syncing Contest** at the SF Fair. Contestants compete for fabulous prizes as they silently sing their favorite arias before a panel of judges. 7 pm. Main Stage, Civic Auditorium, Civic Center, 99 Grove St., SF. \$5 (fair admission). Info: 564-8086.

The **SF Country Fair Flower Show** returns to the Hall of Flowers in Golden Gate Park through 8/30. Beautiful displays and some great buys. 10 am-6 pm. 9th Ave. at Lincoln Way. \$3 adults/\$2 seniors/free for children under 12.

Tonight and tomorrow night are your last opportunities to see **American Fish** by Demee Garepis. An original play presented by a Rhino playwright, this comedy/drama is set in Missouri in the early '60s and explores a young woman's passionate bonds with her stormy family — bonds that are created, destroyed and reborn as she discovers her sexuality. 8:30 pm. The Studio at Theatre Rhino, 2926 16th St., SF. \$5. Tickets/info: 861-5079.

Continuing their commemoration of their first ten years of political satire, the Plutonium Players present **Ladies Against Women: An Evening of Consciousness-Lowering** — described as "a savage and award-winning satirical indoctrination session designed to help Uppity Women become truly ladylike girls." 8:30 pm. Victoria Theatre, 2961 16th St. (near Mission), SF. \$9 adv/\$12 door/\$1 student and senior discount. Program repeats Sat., 8/29. Tickets/info: 763-8163 or 762-BASS.

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

SENTINEL CLASSIFIEDS

STRICTLY PERSONAL

Younger, intelligent and attractive man wanted for friendship, computer exchange (own small consulting co.), and mutual exploration into making society better. I'm committed to EST and sharing all that is positive about life. Sentinel Box 978.

MALE ACTRESS

Looking for stage/performance area in club or bar to perform.
Comedy - Fantomise - Impersonation
Male Actress out of work
Ginger St. John 775-5594
Fun, Laughs, Good-times
(You'll like me, I'll show you.)

OPERA BUFFS

Attractive, articulate, and energetic newcomer to Opera (did Ring Cycle in Seattle) wishes to attend any or all of this coming season. Will share expenses. I'm late 20's, your age, politics for anything else (for that matter), unimportant. Write PO Box 426, 3145 Geary Blvd., SF 94118.

Irish descent GWM, 5'11; 137 lbs; 5'8", friendly, outgoing; a retired cabinetmaker; professional; own business & house; like city (with someone) swim and hot tub; like to read and travel; like to meet someone not overweight, fairly easy; for at least sex and if things work out someone to be with and do things with. Send note about you and photo (returned). Let's talk. Sentinel Box 972. (35)

LA LAW

Kuzak (professionally, athletically) and Markowitz (interpersonally, physically, 39) has associate position open in socially conscious firm. Butch candidates 18 to 27 must meet highest educational, intellectual and athletic standards, position requires travel, research and informed debates. Partnership potential. For phone interview call Dave 494-9174.

S&M COMPOSER

Aggressive, wild, intelligent, good looking, classical composer, 43, 5'11", 150, wants lover who is S or both and who craves "classical" music. Write Colit to day at Box 971. (36)

HANDSOME GAY MAN 48

Wishes to share artistic, reflective and physically active life-style. Classical music, gardening, primitive camping, and weight-lifting are my major activities. I am a pianist and certified masseur. Looking for honest, communicative, healthy and creative relationship with a dash of fireworks to boot. Photo appreciated. Write PO Box 6381, SF, CA 94114. (34)

LOVE UNCLUT

Early 40s GWM loves foreplay. Being tall, dark-complected, big balls, or curly hair are pluses, but not mandatory. I'm a tall, hairy, husky guy who smokes. I enjoy being bottom, French, JO, and 7 if we practice safety and mutually enjoy. I'm easygoing, very masculine, sincere, fun, affectionate cuddler, have many interests, and would like a long-term relationship. Please write with photo & photo (returned). Thanks. Sentinel Box 982. (36)

PROFESSIONAL MAN

SEESks YOUNGER
Experience the security and rewards of a relationship with an older man. Me: GWM, 5'9", 170 lbs, 42 years old, muscular and masculine with varied interests including oral and JO. You: 18 to 25, masculine, an inclination to go to a gym, work ethic, clean and with oral inclination. Write to Sentinel Box 986. (35)

MARRY A MATURE MAN

It's time to settle down with a younger, probably smaller, man who needs mentor/lover. I'm 45, financial district professional, blonde/blue, 5'10", husky, smoker. You: bright, employed, eager to learn. Mutual love, trust, support, devotion. High libido, no drugs, monogamous. Photograph to 121 Collingwood, SF, CA 94114.

MEN'S ELECTRONIC NETWORK

Just as television changed the way we see ourselves and others forever, THE MEN'S ELECTRONIC NETWORK will transform your relationships with other gay men in a way you've not imagined. Let's find out what love really is. (415) 664-M-E-N (664-4636)

WANTED: ASIAN FRIEND/PLAYMATE

WM, 34, wants to meet Asians interested in developing friendship and enjoying sex. It doesn't matter whether you are single or not; if you are looking for some fun, this might be right for you. Very much enjoy cuddling and such. How about you? PO Box 22584, San Francisco CA, 94122. (34)

LOVE AND ADVENTURE

What, me? Already less than two to go to 50, masc, but cuddly, keeping in great shape with running, etc. Here in Silicon Valley, active in science, classics, math, not excessively offbeat. And you? Younger, fit, topless, non-smoker, likewise interested in adventurous, loving monogamy. Sentinel Box 956. (35)

YOUNG JOCK WANTS BUDDIES

Young, bl, skateboard & jams type wants similar dudes to play with. Bodybuilders, military, or daddies okay too. Your picture gets mine. Write and tell me what you like to do. Bye. Sentinel Box 966. (35)

RAPE

Consensual, of course. Hot, good-looking, well-hung GWM, 33, seeks clean, goodlooking, trim, GWM bottom, 21-40, who likes it rough and hard. All-out domination, physical and verbal, major Greek (safe only), B&D + leather optional. No smokers, drugs, FFW/S. Photo or detailed description to Sentinel Box 983.

GOODLOOKING BLOND

Seeks wealthy older man with large, well-appointed home in SF for a comfortable domestic relationship. I am 29, 5'10", 155 lbs, employed, active and sophisticated. I like a mix of high-life comfort and down-to-earth adventure. If you are active yet understanding with a younger man, please respond to Sentinel Box 976.

BRIDGE

Duplicate bridge partner sought by prof GWM 44 bridge novice (1 MP) new to SF. Also interested in social bridge. Sentinel Box 967. (35)

MODELS WANTED

Need very attractive men and women to model for ads. No pay, but great exposure. Call Mike at 861-8100.

ASIAN MEN WANTED

for friendship, maybe more. I'm an older gay man who enjoys dining out, boating during the summer, and good friends. I live in Vallejo but am in the city much of the week. Sentinel Box 979.

A BETTER WAY TO MEET

M.E.N.
Men's Electronic Network
(415) 664-4MEN or 567-5905

RACQUETBALL PLAYERS

Looking for competitive players for regular work-out. Your gym or mine. Intelligent, classical music lover, could add social angle. Sentinel Box 975.

GLORY HOLE VIDEO

Last chance to show your big fat meat in a creative fun video. No faces filmed but mine. Private - just you and me. Safe with a JO finish. Need \$8 and up. Get a free copy of your segment. Call Tom 285-4198. I am 37, 5'9", 142 lbs., goodlooking.

GAY COMMUNITY CENTER

The Gay Rescue Mission Community Center, 1080 Folsom, is now open for drop-in, from noon to 4pm. Free coffee, snacks. Member: Emergency Food Box Program and SF Food Bank. Volunteers needed to expand hours, services. Also need chairs, tables, couches, desk, TV, refrigerators, microwave, typewriter. 863-2079 or 431-2188.

SECURE AND SEEKING

I'm 37, professional, blue eyes, brown hair, close trimmed beard, hairy. Involvement include travel, photography, HONESTY, cleanliness, music, cooking, theater. Stern Grove and opening night at the ballet!! Quiet dinners in front of the fireplace. If you have similar interests contact me. Box 280455, SF 94128-0455. Photo returned.

HANDSOME ORAL EXPERT MASSEUR

Friendly, 38, tall, well-built, hairy, masculine, moustache, hot active mouth and long sensual tongue seeks a healthy, trim, light, flat-bellied, smooth, boyishly good-looking, responsive man, 21-35, any height/race with a stiff, beautifully shaped, fairly thick cock (any length) that stays real hard and loves to be serviced, long slow, slow, slow, slow, boyishly good-looking, responsive man, 21-35, any height/race with a stiff, beautifully shaped, fairly thick cock (any length) that stays real hard and loves to be serviced, long slow, slow, slow, slow, boyishly good-looking, responsive man, 21-35, any height/race with a stiff, beautifully shaped, fairly thick cock (any length) that stays real hard and loves to be serviced, long slow, slow, slow, slow. PO Box 3556, Berkeley, CA 94703.

S&M MEET YOUR MATCH

Rough, raunchy, top, bottom, master, slave, daddy, boy, locker room? Meet your sex-match NOW! 1000's of private, one-on-one, phonecalls. No phone bill but long distance. Call 415/346-8747 NOW!

QUALITY GAY GENTLEMAN

39, 5'11", 215 lbs., trimmed beard, hairy, sophisticated, honest, sensitive, romantic, attractive bear seeks friendship/relationship with another successful, quality bear. Interests include art, theatre, travel, restaurants, shopping, sharing thoughts, feelings and values, quiet evenings at home. Prefer non-smoker, no drugs, not part of bar scene. Sentinel Box 980. (35)

NEW TO SF

Tall, early 40s, successful, professional, friendly-conscious, neg, GWM into regular gym workouts, bridge, travel, books, Lewis, SM, and life seeks to meet intelligent Bay Area neg GWMs, 35-49 for potential monogamous long-term relationships. Sentinel Box 984. (40)

I WANT MAKE YOU SICK

GWM, 36W, 5'8", 145 lb, good body, am handsome & taking AZT and responding very well. Am looking for Latin or Black over 28, interested in a casual, warm, intimate relationship. Respond with photo, phone.
584 Castro St. Suite #136
San Francisco, CA 94114-2588

LIKE CHICKEN?

Let's swap stories, experiences. CK. PO Box 4077, San Francisco, CA 94101.

ON THE COUCH

JOHN ARMSTRONG

Sharing Antibody Test Results

Dear Mr. Armstrong,

I recently took the AIDS antibody test and came out positive. I have some questions about the test, what it means, and how to share the results with others. What is the approximate percentage of those testing positive who go on to develop the syndrome? I hear conflicting figures all the time. Is there anything I can do to better my chances of not getting the syndrome? How should I handle my future sexual contacts? I plan on having only safe sex. Am I nonetheless

obliged to tell my partners that I am positive, and how do I do that without turning people off?

I've got a friend who tested negative who said that he'd go out with someone who tested positive if they agreed to play safely. Is this a safe and healthy attitude? Is he unique, or are there others like him? Should those who test negative only date negatives? It's so hard to deal with the sordid 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 as yet to the virus, and as long as you do not expose yourself in the future or have not exposed yourself in the six months prior to the test, you will not get AIDS. Unfortunately, it's less clear what a positive result means. It means you have been exposed and have developed the antibody and may, without warning, at any time, develop the syndrome. I, too, have heard conflicting theories about length of incubation period and percentage of positives who will develop the syndrome. That is because scientists are looking at the evidence and making educated guesses. No one really knows.

Since everyone else is guessing, let me share my guess with you. I subscribe to the co-factor theory, that there is no fixed incubation period, but rather, like the herpes simplex virus, HIV

can remain dormant for years and then can suddenly start attacking T-cells when something as yet unknown triggers the virus into action. Re-exposure to the virus, another viral infection and previously weakened immune response have all been suggested as co-factors. That would suggest that if you are positive you should: 1) Avoid re-exposure, i.e., have safe sex. 2) Avoid other diseases. This is hard to do, but you can at least not court them by doing such things as rimming which exposes you to hepatitis B and intestinal parasites. Do whatever you can think of to avoid unnecessary exposure to infections. 3) Keep your immune system healthy. Do that by staying as healthy as possible: eat well, exercise and avoid drugs and alcohol, which are known to weaken the immune system. If the co-factor theory is correct, as I believe it is, then the question of percentage of positives who develop the syndrome is meaningless. The question becomes which co-factor precipitates the syndrome, and how well you are doing at avoiding it. So take care of yourself and give yourself the best chance possible.

As to how and who to tell. There's an awful lot of prejudice and ignorance out there. Tell only those with a need to know. It's not something you will want to be general knowledge. In terms of prospective sex or relationship partners, I see no reason to volunteer the information. If you are going to always have safe sex, it doesn't matter who is positive and who is negative or even if you or your partner already has AIDS. AIDS is not passed by sexual contact, it is passed by unsafe sexual contact. So if you play safe, your immune status really doesn't matter.

Not everyone feels that way. I know a man who is looking for a lover, and is only dating negatives because he doesn't think he could handle having his lover die of AIDS. Other men are

so frightened of AIDS they couldn't be comfortable in bed with a positive, even playing safely. Other men are really attached to certain unsafe practices and are looking for negatives to do those things with. (This last is really dumb, in my opinion, as people lie or are self-deceived, not to mention that there is such a thing as a false negative result, as well as a six-month incubation period between exposure and its showing up in blood tests.)

Given that some men are concerned, rightly or wrongly, about their partner's immune status, I believe you have an obligation to be truthful if asked under those circumstances. You needn't say you've taken the test; simply say that you have reason to believe that you're positive and leave it at that. In my experience, the better informed someone is, the less they will discriminate on the basis of immune status. But if someone chooses to discriminate on that basis, they have that right.

One final word. You have my respect for your concern for your future partners and my compassion for your feelings of contamination. That may be one of the hardest things about a positive test result. That feeling of being a leper. You needn't feel that way. There is no way you can endanger others if you exercise just a little caution.

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

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- Personals

IT'S YOUR CALL.
Leave adult messages.
See if there's one for you
(415)
976-6677
\$2.00 PLUS TOLL,
IF ANY
24 HOURS

SENTINEL CLASSIFIEDS

PERSONAL

JOY OF COCK

Attractive, 36-year-old, healthy GWM seeks a few healthy, hung (5 1/2 to 6" around — 7 1/2 to 9" long) honest, trim, WM under 45, who enjoy a hot throat. If you fit this description, write. If not, don't waste my time lying. Sentinel Box 953.

BOY SCOUTS

Looking for athletic friends to go hiking, camping, skiing, and cycling. No "Tenderfoots." If enough people respond we could form a club. How about snowshoeing, hang-glider or rock climbing? I'm an Eagle Scout, early 30s, and into exploring my limits. Sentinel Box 989.

CHUBBIES AND/OR CHASERS

Goodlooking GWM, 300 lbs., 6'1", 45 years old, big belly, tits, legs, vers., seeks hot safe sex, WS. Available weekdays Mon-Fri. too, any age, size, race. Write Suite 120, 2966 Diamond St., San Francisco 94131. I'm horny! Let's do it soon! Write now!

'QUICKIES FOR STRAIGHT MEN'

Something "quickie" in the morning? How about after work? If you want head without commitment, and enjoy a "quickie"... call me. You should be white, trim, hung and very masculine (uniforms welcome, 6-7 mornings) or after 4:30 (afternoons). A machine answers my phone... Be ready with a descriptive message. Ron 775-6553.

THIS BOY'S FOR YOU

Attractive, healthy, intelligent, 35-year-old WM bottom needs to serve and submit to dominant, aggressive, experienced, safe and sane San Francisco top. Bottom has round, firm butt for spanking, muscular arms and legs for restraining, eager tongue for bootlicking, sensitive nipples and balls for working on, and a sincere, obedient mind for following your orders. Please send your orders to Sentinel Box 987. (35)

HOME VIDEO FUN

Goodlooking, well-hung, fun-loving guy with video camera wants to see your dick cum on TV. Crystal clear close-ups. Colossal cum shots. Good, clean, dirty fun. Dupe tape for you. If you can play weekdays 9-5, send your phone number. Sentinel Box 985. (35)

OLDER/YOUNGER

Bl WM, 39, friendly, responsible, intelligent but with psychological problems seeks similar guy. I'm attracted to thin, smooth, very young (18-30) guys, usually white or Oriental. Will exchange detailed letter, photo, etc. PO Box 22201, SF, 94122.

LONELY AND GIVING?

34, GWM, PWA seeking warm, sensitive relationship with GWM who is PWA/ARC. Prefer 25-35, 150-160 lbs, 5'8" or above. Call Dave at 861-9731 to arrange meeting.

BODYBUILDERS

GWM bodybuilder, mid-20s, looking for GWM bodybuilder, 20-33 years old, for strictly safe fun and possible relationship. Send brief self-description to B.B., PO Box 60406, Station A, 265 Cambridge Ave., Palo Alto, CA 94306.

LATE BLOOMER

I'm interested in organizing a group of men who have come out later in life (over 30). Married, Bl, with family, etc. Active and educated people preferred. Write this paper, Sentinel Box 988.

NEW TO SF

Tall, early 40s, successful, professional, health-conscious, neg, GWM into regular gym workouts, bridge, travel, books, Levis, SM, and life seeks to meet intelligent Bay Area neg GWMs, 35-49 for potential monogamous, long-term relationships. Sentinel Box 94. (40)

POETRY READINGS

Are there any men/women whom are willing to form a poetry group out there? For sharing favorite works, possibly reading their own works, or sharing with others the joys of poetry... Sentinel Box 990.

"SAILORS OR SAILLES"

If you have a boat or are looking to crew on one write to this box 477 c/o this paper for free referrals.

GUY WANTED

Young, lean, good-looking houseboy wanted to work, play with hot young dad. Talk to my answering machine to get me at 548-0842 anytime. Perfect for student, artist or worker.

BLUE COLLAR HOTLINE

Hot, sweaty construction workers and other muscular blue collar workers can enjoy a cold beer and soothing blow job after a hard day's work. Cum as you are; no need to change or shower. Call 826-4497 from 7-10 pm or leave message. Military also encouraged to call. (35)

UNDERWEAR FETISH

Young, hunky guy seeks well-built older guys into kinky sex scenes involving underwear: jockeys, boxers, bikinis, nylon, etc. Masculine guys only reply with photo to Sentinel Box 981.

JOB OFFERS

EARN \$6 to \$12 PER HOUR AND UP!

Circulate political petitions in area of your own choice. No experience necessary! No sales! Fun and easy. New openings, continuously thru December 1987. Choose your own hours — part or full time. Lesbian operated business. Must be self-motivated and able to work without supervision.

333-3740

SALES REP

Full time, needed for memberships for an exclusive gay and lesbian private club. Must have 3 to 5 years closing experience. Send resume to: The Comstock, 1409 Sutter St., San Francisco, CA 94109, or call General Manager, Tues. through Sat. at 885-6700.

HAIRSTYLIST WANTED

Castro St. salon is looking for a hairstylist with some clientele to work full time or part time. We have chair rental or commission available. A wonderful working environment with other talented people.

Bruno Hair Design
597 Castro St.
Please contact Dennis Bruno
621-7710

FOR SALE

"CARMEN"

'66 Karman Ghia, excellent running condition/service records, some paint/body required. Black lace not included.

\$2900. or B/O
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(PG34)

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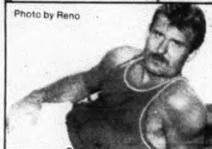
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Continued from previous page

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