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Biotech Discovery May Work Against AIDS

by Charles Linebarger

Researchers at Genentech, a South San Francisco biotechnology firm, say that a biotech “decoy” protein that may prevent the AIDS virus from infecting the body’s all important T-cells is now ready to test for toxicity in animals.

Genentech scientists and fellow researchers at Harvard University are involved in a race with other private and academic scientists at Philadelphia’s Smith, Kline and French Laboratories and Columbia University to be the first to reach the federal Food and Drug Administration (FDA) with a proven and safe protein agent that can be used to protect the immune system from the AIDS virus.

Both teams of researchers are also involved in a race to present scientific advances in the direction of such a “decoy agent” to the public. At stake are millions of dollars because stock prices and company profits will skyrocket when investors attempt to get into the long-awaited silver bullet that could cure AIDS. News of the Genentech announcement sent the firm’s stocks shooting upward at the Pacific Stock Exchange and on Wall Street.

And in Washington, Dr. Anthony Fauci, a nationally known AIDS researcher at the National Institutes of Health, was reported in the San Francisco Chronicle to be “very interested” in the animal tests that are planned to check the safety of the virus-blocking protein.

Fauci, as reported in the Chronicle, “It works very well in the test tube, and there appears to be an excellent scientific basis to proceed.” However, Genentech molecular biologist Dr. Daniel Capon told the Sentinel of his research team’s efforts, “AZT took two years to go from similar assays to being approved. For a drug like this, it’s either a quick pathway to approval (by the FDA), or it’s oblivion.”

Capon described what he thought was perhaps the most significant aspect of the protein “decoy” agent his firm is working on, “It would block the AIDS virus by different means than AZT. So this is in a different class of drugs. Sometimes by combining two drugs that act in completely different ways, the combination can be more effective than either of the two drugs alone. What’s significant is that this is not another improved version of AZT but a different class of drug entirely.”

Capon said that the Genentech “decoy” agent would be used as an AIDS treatment rather than as a vaccine since the substance is naturally processed by the body soon after entering the bloodstream. And after the substance was eliminated from the bloodstream, it would no longer have any effect on the virus.
Arson Destroys GLSA Booth at Fresno State

by George Mendenhall

The torching of an information booth staffed by the Gay and Lesbian Student Alliance (GLSA) at Fresno State University has set off a highly charged debate over whether the group should be allowed to remain on campus.

Heated debates continue at the present GLSA booth, a temporary structure which was immediately erected upon the charred remains of its predecessor, and on the pages of the campus newspaper and the Fresno Bee.

The GLSA site also withstood a challenge by two students who set up an anti-GLSA table nearby to collect signatures in opposition to the group. After garnering 40 signatures within 30 minutes, the anti-GLSA table was closed by Fresno State authorities for failing to obtain the proper permit necessary to operate on campus.

Hecklers also attempted to disrupt a free speech rally attended by over 200 students. The emotional event drew support from a number of other campus organizations, including the Latin American Club, the Women's Alliance and the Rainbow Coalition.

A statement from the school's sociology department was read, which deplored violence and urged continued recognition for lesbians and gays on campus.

"When we started out, our effort was quiet and educational," said GLSA President Angela Welton, "but the torching of the booth has activated us. We now feel compelled to react to what has happened. Now we are more than just a campus organization. We are a tight-knit family who are there when we need each other."

The booth-burning on November 29 has also resulted in a number of lesbian and gay students coming out. "Before the booth was burned, I would not have spoken out as a gay person," said one student who stepped forward to speak at the rally. "Today, I'm out of the closet — gay and proud.

"They should confine their sexual activity to the bedroom and their political activity to nothing," charged an antigay speaker at the free speech rally. "Why should we be forced to hire them because they are homosexual?"

The response came from Seri Dworkin, an openly lesbian faculty member who sponsors the GLSA group. "It is not possible for me to disassociate that which is personal and that which is political. When you're a minority, personal is political."

Dworkin, who has spoken out strongly during the past few weeks, told the Sentinel that Fresno State University President Harold Haak and the faculty's Academic Senate have both taken positions against the booth-burning and in favor of keeping GLSA on campus.

The Fresno Bee's extensive coverage of the campus debate on lesbian/gay rights has drawn numerous letters to the editor which are running 4-1 against GLSA. "I'm not surprised at the letters," Welton told the Sentinel. "People usually react if they are against something."

Welton, who contends Fresno is "not overly conservative," believes most of the opposition comes from the religious right. "On campus the response has been mixed," said Welton. "One thing for sure, we are now a more exciting group. We have proven that we can stand on the front line of activism and hold our own."

Overall, the experience has been a good one. It caused many people to talk about free speech, homosexuality and AIDS. It also brought our alliance members closer together. Some male members said they were now relating more to female members of our group," Seri Dworkin told the Sentinel.

"Some of us were quoted in the Fresno Bee on local television and spoke on radio talk shows. As a result, a number of people in the straight community off campus have donated money to rebuild the booth, and we did not even request help. Teachers tell me that their students say this is the first time they really were confronted with their feelings about homosexuality. We are getting rather brazen — some of us are now talking about our first Gay Pride March in June."

GLSA plans to rebuild their information booth and continue educating students with factual information about AIDS and lesbian and gay identity beginning of the next semester in January.

Happy Holidays from the San Francisco Sentinel
AIDS Emergency Fund Benefit: An Evening of Good Intentions

by Steve Silberman

Joan Baez and a diverse group of musician friends played a benefit for the AIDS Emergency Fund at the Warfield Theatre on December 17, raising over $10,000 for the fund's program of direct financial assistance for people with AIDS.

The concert was simulcast live on KQED Channel 9 and KQED-FM, and the audience included the city's two largest gay and lesbian choruses, Linda Tillery, Mimi Farina, Emmitt Powell and the Gospel Elites, and two members of the Grateful Dead.

It was an only-in-San Francisco event, with tuxedos, sit-downs and pine boughs in abundance. The program, recorded by Scott Beach, ranged from "Deck the Halls," sung by both choruses, to Tillery's soulful, stage-stealing rendition of Dylan's "Knocking On Heaven's Door," to a raucous gospel finale (unseen by the television audience) that ended only when the boxon contrabass was dragged offstage.

The sold-out concert was the fruit of a massive collaborative effort between Baez and her philanthropic organization Humanitas International, Supervisor Harry Britt's office, Bill Graham Productions and a long roster of groups that donated everything from the illuminated fir that flanked the stage to the logistics Humanitas International, Supervisor Harry Britt's office, Bill Graham Productions and a long roster of groups that donated money to the TV broadcast precluded an intermission. The audience was made up mostly of those in the theatre. At one point, Baez brought up a certain member of the audience as for those in the theatre. At one point, Baez brought up a certain member of the audience, who expressed her joy at being there.

The concert featured a number of local rock bands, including Bob Weir, who was immediately enquired about the benefit. The band's performance at the benefit was informally dedicated to his friend.

The fund was founded in 1982 as a result of a kitchen table discussion by Walter Melton, Frederick Booth, Rick Gevans and others who saw their friends' financial security evaporate after diagnosis. The fund provides grants of up to $1,000 a year to over 700 clients in the form of payment to providers, including allocations for medical equipment, grocery deliveries through the Grocery Express, warm clothing and travel expenses for visiting family members.

In the past, the fund has solicited donations, but Chris Cummins embraced by Christian Haren (r) after receiving a bouquet of roses from Joan Baez.

“My two favorite groups of loving, giving people together," said couple support volunteer Phil Leshner, surveying the crowded lobby. "If the intended solemnity of the event required a poignant moment, that moment came during "Let It Be" when one of our guests was joined onstage by Baez and the other musicians. As the gospel singers were joined together, "There will be an answer," an emaciated man in a wheelchair broke down in tears. Suddenly the camera was focused on him, and Baez turned him a bouquet. It was an awkward moment, coinciding in the instantaneous contriving of viewer's attention, but Baez's earnestness was apparent. Her hard work and the invisible labor of scores of volunteers had put bread on the table.

The gesture was roses. Contributions to the AIDS Emergency Fund may be sent to: 1150 California Street. Suite 3, SF 94109.

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Field Narrows in 18th District Assembly Race

The Candidates Voice Their Views

by Tim Taylor

With Art Agnos due to vacate his assembly seat January 8, efforts are proceeding within the gay and lesbian community to rally around a single, consensus candidate who can win an April special election.

Winning the seat presents the community — and its prospective candidates — with formidable tasks. Special elections are short, 100-day campaigns, placing burdens on candidates to develop name recognition and grassroots campaigns. And assembly campaigns are expensive, costing a minimum of $250,000 and potentially as much as $500,000.

Nonetheless, several names of prospective candidates have emerged and are generating excitement. Prominently perspective candidates have emerged and are generating excitement. Prominently prominent are attorney Roberta Achtenberg, community organizer Pat Norman and progressive and minority communities in a successful election effort.

The emergence of former Congress- man John Burton for the seat has rekindled hostilities between the lesbian and gay community and the dominant political coalition in the city.

Lining up to support Burton are Board of Supervisors President Nancy Walker and Rep. Nancy Pelosi. Burton will also make a strong claim on the leadership of labor, peace and tenants groups.

But the lesbian and gay candidates talked about also have strong records in these areas. Speaker Willie Brown, another Burton supporter, anged gay leaders when he said the community's candidates were single issue and uninvolved with other issues.

In fact, the four candidates mentioned have extensive backgrounds that include nuclear power opposition, tenants rights, labor, nonintervention in foreign policy, mental health, education and other progressive issues important to the 16th Assembly District.

"There is no substitute for a clear expression of power and [vote getting] is the kind of power that politicians respect."

— Achtenberg

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Activists Bring LIFE Into the Fight Against AIDS

by Corinne Lightweaver

Sentinel Los Angeles Bureau

After little more than a year of existence the fledgling Lobby for Individual Freedom and Equality (LIFE) has proven itself a force to be reckoned with. The only statewide organization whose sole issue is AIDS, LIFE works to prevent irresponsible policy-making around AIDS from becoming state law.

Last August, LIFE flooded Sacramento with more than 70 medical and legal experts and gay activists who testified against Senator John Doolittle's method of fighting AIDS. LIFE managed to stop every Doolittle bill except two which the group took a neutral position on.

Diane Hines, cochair of LIFE, considers the strategy an "unmitigated success," but says the community cannot rest easy.

"I consider last year the first inning of a nine-inning game, and we're ahead. We won the first inning," says Hines. "What I don't know if the community understands is that there are eight more innings. I think things will calm down some after this election year, but it seems rather visible that certain Republican senators are going to use this as an election issue."

"This year things are going to get hot and heavy for the gay community and, frankly, for anyone concerned about human rights. Not only is LARooche reintroducing that timeworn initiative again, with just one sentence altered from last year's version, but Doolittle, Senator Paul Gann and Los Angeles Sheriff Sherman Block may be jumping on the bandwagons with their own initiatives to put before the voters. It's going to be one hellsaw year." Fortunate for the gay community, LIFE — a coalition of more than 30 organizations — has already dug its roots in Sacramento, hired a full-time lobbyist and begun the lengthy process of winning credibility among the legislators. But this fight can't be won by one group alone. It requires a massive grassroots organizing effort, as well as through legislative lobbying channels.

For that reason, LIFE's affiliates are the main strength of the organization. Begun in April 1986 with just three people putting down their own money and a few others making verbal commitments, LIFE has grown to 37 affiliates: three individuals and 34 organizations representing tens of thousands more. The affiliates support the lobbyist in Sacramento and work within their own communities through lobbying and grass-roots organizing.

Unlike many organizations, information flows in both directions in LIFE, from the lobbyist to the affiliates and vice-versa.

"Without the affiliates, we would not exist," says Hines. In Los Angeles, 15 organizations have joined LIFE, making LA the best represented region among affiliate organizations. Still, considering the number of gay, lesbian, feminist and civil rights organizations in Los Angeles and in California in general, the membership figures are scandalously low. Taking into account the benefits for the legislation and the members who support it, there are many more organizations that are not clambering at LIFE's doorstep.

Last year, LIFE's affiliates raised $50,000, an amount they're forecasting for $85,000, a "drop in the bucket" for similar lobbying organizations, according to Disler, former treasurer.

"We're working very much on a bare bones budget," observes Hines. "Everyone on the board of directors and the executive committee pays everything, their own phone, gas, mail, flights. We pull absolutely no money out of the organization — 100% of the money goes to the lobbyist, office, secretary, phone, mailing, etc."

"We need to spend more money," says Disler. "We only have one lobbyist; we could probably justify half a dozen." Lack of enough funding has made it necessary to put off some projects such as implementing Legi-tech, a computerized system into place, an amount well worth the investment for LIFE if the state and we're very much concerned."

Gradually becoming recognized as the leading expert and resource on AIDS, LIFE aspires someday to become the organization legislators will turn to first, rather than the California Medical Association or other similar groups that deal with myriad issues.

Last year, LIFE and its supporters monitored and lobbied the California Assembly and Senate in response to 47 AIDS bills stewing in the state legislature. This year, LIFE will be facing more than 60 AIDS bills.

One of LIFE's greatest strengths is the diversity of its members.

Don Disler says one of the organization's greatest accomplishments is "bringing together the disparate organizations that compose LIFE and hammering out the different issues around AIDS legislation. Arguably that wouldn't have been possible in the gay community if we hadn't been faced with such a crisis."

Continued on page 12

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"Believe that it's essential that we have representation in Sacramento around AIDS issues on a day-to-day basis," says Smolowitz. "LIFE's presence in Sacramento was part and parcel of a lot of influence resulting in the tabling and defeat of certain Doolittle bills.

"We have a big financial commitment to LIFE. ECCO's not the only Orange County member. Collectively it has meant a lot of effort. It has meant raising a lot of money to keep our lobbyist up there."

For Orange County, a positive outgrowth of work with LIFE has been the development of an advocacy network which had not existed before, notes Smolowitz, so that when there's a need to mobilize quickly or to utilize the resources of other organizations in Orange County, the telephone trees are already in place.

Les Pincu of Gay United Services in Fresno, says his organization joined LIFE to "support the positive bills such as Agnos' AB 1, as well as fight the negative ones. Although we're considered in the boondies, we do keep up with what happens in the rest of the world," declares Hines.

"We have not had one case — which I find fascinating — of financial difficulties as far as anyone living up to their word," declares Himes.

Making a financial commitment to LIFE may be difficult, especially for some of the smaller organizations, but Smid Smolowitz of ECCO says that having an advocate in the state capital is vital.

"Believe that it's essential that we have representation in Sacramento around AIDS issues on a day-to-day basis," says Smolowitz. "LIFE's continued on page 12
In Darkness There Is Light

Winter Solstice, December 22, 1987

It is the longest night of the year. On Winter Solstice, an ancient observance is to keep an all-night vigil, awaiting the coming of dawn and the return of the sun. In the darkness of the night, candlelight is lit. Songs are sung. Tomatoes are burnt. Fires are burn. In the darkness, we prepare for renewal by kindling light, warmth and joy within ourselves.

Christmas and Hanukkah also fall around this time of the year, but the celebration of the Winter Solstice is more universal and perhaps more important because it occurs with or without human observance. The cycles of nature can teach us much. They reveal the inevitability of change, and just when it seems that one trend has gone as far as it can go, a shift takes place, and we are in another direction. Nature’s balancing act is profoundly simple.

For gay men and women, the balancing act becomes more profound as the political irresponsibility of our nation and our world is revealed. AIDS, the AIDS epidemic drags on, and we continue to lose people we love. On the surface, it would seem that a cycle of never-ending devastation has befallen us. Yet, looking deeper, there is light in the darkness, if we have eyes to see it.

We see the light in the level of service many in our community have chosen to demonstrate. This holiday season we light a candle for the NAMES Project, Open Hand, the AIDS Emergency Fund, Project Inform, the Metropolitan Community Church, AIDS Healing Alliance, the Healing AIDS newsletter and so many others. All are fueled with the love, devotion and plain old hard work of people who could just as easily be doing something else, but who choose to contribute in these vital ways.

Many who have been given the charge that mainstream medicine considers a death sentence have inspired us with their courage to powerfully embrace life one day at a time and make a difference where it counts. New Friends, an organization composed of PWAs, takes newly diagnosed AIDS patients gently by the hand and helps them find their way in an often confusing maze of adjustments. We light a candle for them, as well as for the Shanti Project, which has trained so many volunteers to sensitively meet human needs.

In these challenging times, we have seen both great suffering and far greater heights of courage and compassion. We have seen the light that illuminates the best in our human nature and the need for still more light. We see demonstrations of love’s devotion day in and day out, as loved ones move through their cycles — some staying, some leaving — of most learning, growing and sharing their magnificence with us. We recognize our own magnificence by our ability to be touched by them.

In darkness there is light. In the worst of times, the best is revealed. Even in desperate circumstances, the most humbling of situations, something magnificent emerges. In Christian mytholgy, the divine child is born in a stable rather than in an inn. There is a parallel here: the best in gay men and women is born in times of great rejection. Mainstream society has persistently told us, “No room here!” What is born elsewhere in time becomes a healing force for all who are willing to be empowered by it. The miracle of our lives emerges — no matter how many doors are shut in our face.

Our vigil continues. As the days become longer and the chill of winter hones our vulnerabilities to a fine edge, may each of us see our light. As we gather over the holidays, sharing the warmth of our biological and spiritual families, may we recognize what a gift we are to each other, to ourselves and to the society we inhabit. Even if that society is not yet mature enough to accept our gift, let us keep the candles burning. In darkness there is light. We are that light.
FROM THE PUBLISHER

ROBERT M. GOLOVICH

1987 Reflections, Part I - Politics

In his celebrated book, *And the Band Played On*, Randy Shilts describes the tragic growth of the AIDS epidemic in a painstaking, chronological fashion. Month by month, year by year, we watch the characters in the book slowly change from positions of bewilderment to denial to outraged panic about the disease.

For those who lived through that time in San Francisco and cared deeply about our immediate past is something of a revelation. We see how seemingly unimportant and unrelated decisions about our immediate past is something the consequences of his action or in-action has been an unchanging element in the story of human tragedy.

In years since, as we reflect back on 1987, no doubt we will have similar uncertainties about the wisdom or folly of our actions. And the exceptionally eventful year of 1987 will give us much to look back on.

The sound and fury of two political races dominated the news in the community for the last year. The first, between Democratic Party insider Nancy Pelosi and Supervisor Harry Britt, ended with a narrow victory for Pelosi and the Burton machine that anointed her. It was the first election since Milton Marks ran against Phil Burton for Congress in 1942 in which the community was significantly divided over whom to support, and there were legitimate arguments on both sides.

Lesbian and gay Brit supporters said that history compelled us to elect an openly gay candidate who could, passionately and uncompromisingly speak for our issues, most particularly AIDS. With equal good faith, lesbians and gays backing Pelosi believed that only someone who could go into Congress with stature and clout, someone who would immediately be accepted and listened to by the power structure, could pass that very legislation. Did we trade clout for commitment? Would another openly gay official in Congress have the power to be more aggressive about lesbian/gay and AIDS legislation? These are questions that may never be resolved. With only six months under her belt, Pelosi cannot be fairly judged yet, although she has performed well thus far. But the election was a crossroads that we will all mark either as an opportunity fulfilled or failed.

The second race, between Art Agnos and John Molinari, ended with a victory once again for the Burton machine candidate, Agnos. Similarly, the community was split, and both candidates claimed adherents.

Agnos supporters believed that he was an articulate and enterprising supporter of gay rights who had fought for us for years. They suggested that Molinari lacked that solid commitment. Additionally, they argued that Agnos’ social agenda would advance the interests of lesbians and gays along with all other groups in the city.

Molinari’s supporters on the case was that he was open to gay people finally becoming full participants in the city. Years on the case of Supervisors had allowed Molinari to do business with a wide variety of gay organizations, and his obvious interest in establishing ties set him apart. His works on gay issues in the city would finally open city government to gay people from all walks of life.

Would Molinari have said gay people are not? Will Agnos’ righteousness continue once he is in office, and will lesbians and gay men have any significant role in governing San Francisco in his administration? The first answer is not to history; the second, only time can answer.

1988 will be a year of decision for our nation, and we will see additional debates about our future in races for the Assembly and for the Board of Supervisors. But in years to come, it is 1987 that we will remember as the great turning point for the local political pattern of our community.

Next week: Reflections, Part II - The Community.
Cops Fear AIDS

Last Friday's Examiner carried a headline banner about police officers being increasingly nervous about exposure to AIDS because of "4 to 5 needle jabs per month." Two police officers have become so stressed out that they took disability leaves because of their fears.

As we in the gay community all know, fear that one has been exposed to AIDS is something that is uniquely an individual. Every spot on the skin, every sudden cough, a loss of a pound or two, and stomach upset. For too many of us, these fears have become realities. We know only too well the fear of AIDS.

To meet our fears, most of us have tried to become educated to the realities of AIDS and how we stand as members of the population. Our fears proved to be unfounded, so we have no reason to think it is safe.

In San Francisco, where AIDS has been seen for at least six years, is the level of education of police officers so lacking that they may have "unrealistic" fears. Our officers have already undertaken to educate themselves. The others should take a look at the NUI Reports by Hammett.

Hammett's survey reveals a fear among officers about spitting, biting and throwing urine or feces. "The fact is," he states, "that one cannot be infected through biting unless the person who bites has blood in his mouth and that blood comes into contact with the victim's body. The AIDS virus has been isolated in only very small concentrations in saliva and urine and not at all in feces. There are no known cases associated with transmission through bite marks or through urine."

This is not some gay political group speaking, this is the United States Department of Justice. If police officers cannot rely on this information, then we have a problem.

AIDS is something that can terrify an individual. Every spot on the skin, every sudden cough, a loss of a pound or two, and stomach upset. For too many of us, these fears have become realities. We know only too well the fear of AIDS.

We want to help. According to Capon, there is no reason to think it is safe. We have no reason to think it is safe.
BEYOND THE BAY

March on Washington Makes $70,000
WASHINGTON, DC — The $70,000 in surplus funds generated by the National March on Washington for Lesbian and Gay Rights should be divided into a fund for political and a fund for grass-roots gay organizations, according to a plan developed by march coordinators.

The plan calls for the march's seven-member executive committee to serve as a focal point and to fundraise proposals from gay groups, according to Kay Osterberg, one of the cochairs of the march.

The plan, developed at a meeting of the executive committee, must now be ratified by the 90-member steering committee.

The executive committee plan calls for a $5,000 ceiling on all grants and limits the grants to projects intended for a $5,000 ceiling on all grants and limits the grants to projects intended to advance gay civil rights or AIDS-related programs on a state or national level.

Twenty-five percent of the grants would be earmarked for groups serving racial minorities.

Altogether the march raised between $250,000 and $250,000 to $300,000 to $300,000 to activities. An audited financial statement will be released next year.

Elect More Women

PHILADELPHIA, PA — More than 500 feminists gathered in a Philadelphia hotel earlier this month to work for the election of more women to public office.

The Feminization of Power Campaign aims at doubling the number of feminists running for public office.

Patricia Jardine spoke of the need to elect more women, saying, "We are committed to making total change because we're losing our rights. If you are a lesbian or gay, we want to make sure that the measure is to be introduced next year."

Since the gay rights proposal passed late in the session, it is conceivable to hold the bill past the end of the year, necessitating that the measure be reintroduced next year.

The committee is chaired by Boston Senator Royal Bolling, an outspoken opponent of the measure.

A final draft of the proposal will be prepared by the end of December, but proponents are undecided about when to introduce it. The bill could be formally introduced before the 1988 budget is adopted, or it could be delayed until after the March 1988 local elections and presidential primary.

Gay Rights Bill Stalled

BOSTON, MA — The Massachusetts gay rights bill remains stalled in the state legislature amid concern that the bill, which has passed both houses, will not become law because of an arcane parliamentary rule.

Under the rules of the state Senate, legislation is held in a powerful committee for up to 90 days before it is transmitted to the governor's office for review.

Therefore the march bill is not scheduled for review until February. Even if transmitted, the bill could still be delayed by a committee or by the governor.

The governor's panel represents an effort to get around the legislature's inaction.

The 24-member task force includes blacks, Hispanics, Native Americans, Jews, Southeast Asians and representatives from the gay community.

The force is working with the Joint Legislative Religious Coalition, which has recommended data collection of harassment incidents, upgrading of penalties and enactment of laws against organized hate groups with a presence in Minnesota.

Christians Told Deadbeat List

MIAMI, FL — State officials, alarmed by the rising rate of student loan defaults, recently released a survey with a high record of deadbeats, and found the worst offenders attended a homophbic, fundamentalist Christian university.

According to a recent story in the Miami Herald, the rate of defaults by students attending Miami Christian University was the highest in the state with 4.5 percent of all loans in arrears.

The university broadcasts a regular radio program dealing with Christian themes and recently attacked a Conference on Developing a Positive Gay/Lesbian/Bisexual Identity.

First Corporate Gift

Chevron Donates $125,000 to Open Hand

Chevron USA Inc. has made a major donation to Project Open Hand, the first and only meal service in the nation for people with AIDS and ARC, that will allow the organization to purchase a permanent headquarters with kitchen facilities, according to Ruth Brinker, founder and director of Project Open Hand.

"This contribution of $125,000 will assure our ability to help those who cannot help themselves," said Brinker.

"While we still need donations to purchase food and supplies, this grant gives us the stability to grow and serve more individuals."

Open Hand, which feeds almost 300 people daily with AIDS and ARC, was in danger of being without kitchen facilities until January, when Brinker received $125,000 to purchase property with kitchen and office space.

"We hope there will be other donors who will add to Chevron's outstanding contribution," Brinker said.

"This is an important gift to a vital organization," said Bill Strole, Chevron public affairs manager.

"This money will allow Open Hand to find a real home and to expand its services."

"For some the greatest gift at Christmas time is simply a hot meal," Strole added.

"Chevron is pleased to be able to help fund a program that provides meals 365 days a year to people who are too sick to make their own."

Project Open Hand, based in the kitchen at Trinity Episcopal Church at Cough and Bush Streets in San Francisco, must move at the beginning of 1988 because the church needs the space for its own uses, according to Brinker.

Open Hand has placed a bid on an undisclosed property. The group should know in the next few weeks if the bid will be accepted, Brinker said.

Founded by Brinker in late 1985, the nonprofit Project Open Hand is staffed by 60 volunteers and 20 non-volunteers and delivers of two hot meals to each client between 4:30 pm and 6:30 pm daily.

Brinker started the program after one of her friends died because he was too weak from AIDS to cook for himself.

"I decided that no one should go hungry," she recalled.

Brinker and Project Open Hand have been honored with awards from the National AIDS Network, American Red Cross and KRON's Those Who Care award.

Open Hand's annual budget comes directly and responsibly. "I decided that no one should go hungry," she recalled.

The Governor's panel represents an effort to get around the legislature's inaction.

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The force is working with the Joint Legislative Religious Coalition, which has recommended data collection of harassment incidents, upgrading of penalties and enactment of laws against organized hate groups with a presence in Minnesota.

Anti-Gay Violence Group

SEATTLE, WA — Seattle's anti-violence coalition, which monitors crimes against lesbians and gay men, has met to plan next year's activities and adopt a new name — Shoulder to Shoulder.

Projects planned for the coming year include a women's self-defense pamphlets and a possible rally for Valentine's Day.

A Valentine's Day march would be modeled after activities organized by the women's community, like Take Back the Night, which have been held to protest violence against women.

Coordinator Clinton Lusk said, "The community has shown that violence is a significant problem that is increasing and needs to be dealt with directly and responsibly."

Crimes Against Minorities

Hearings Set

MINNEAPOLIS, MN — A gubernatorial task force on prejudice and violence has scheduled right hearings on crimes against minorities, including lesbians and gay men.

The hearing, which will address crimes against people and property, will compile data in an effort to strengthen laws and adopt new laws to address the needs of the community.

Earlier efforts to adopt such a measure in the legislature failed when criminals objected to the inclusion of lesbians and gay men in a proposed statute.

The governor's panel represents an effort to get around the legislature's inaction.

The 24-member task force includes blacks, Hispanics, Native Americans, Jews, Southeast Asians and representatives from the gay community.

The force is working with the Joint Legislative Religious Coalition, which has recommended data collection of harassment incidents, upgrading of penalties and enactment of laws against organized hate groups with a presence in Minnesota.


Beyond the Bay was edited by Seattle Assistant News Editor Tim Taylor.
LIFE
Continued from page 7
A willingness to set aside differences and personality politics and find common ground has made it possible for organizations on seemingly opposite ends of the spectrum to work cooperatively together toward a common goal: gay and nongay organizations, Republicans and Democrats, who work more "within the system" and those gay and nongay organizations. Repubmon ground has made it possible for... Smolowitz. Bob Craig and David physician; as well as members Richard Jennings, treasurer; Dr. Will Warner, state wields too much power. This year our accent is on proactive legislation, drafting bills that address prob... the phone themselves to call the... Martin attributes that successful... Martin to illness. And not only are they... Continued from page 3
Sacramento. "Any lobby that starts out is going to... me to prove myself to [Senator] Art Agnos, who is no...answers," says Martin to illness. The lobbyist has found that increasingly more legislators' offices are open... and financially by AIDS, the efforts... to LIVE's consistent grass-roots effort. The first half of... lobbying is becoming increasingly critical. Consider the following:
• Senator John Doolittle is making noise that he will introduce a new package of AIDS bills.
• Assemblemenf Pat Johnson (D-Stockton), the chair of Assembly Finance and Insurance, told the LA Times that he will introduce a bill to repeal the restriction on testing eligible for experimental drugs not yet approved by the Food and Drug Admin. Still, Himes says, things have never been through anything that basically couldn't be done in a 35 minute show. Our entire message has been... over a question of why things have not happened, though, without first building a foundation in the capital. The first half of LIFE's existence was devoted to building name recognition and awareness of the issues, says Rand Martin, LIFE's full-time lobbyist in Sacramento. "Any lobby that starts out is going to take three or four years to build a reputation," explains Martin, noting that legislators need to see that lobbying representation is a legitimate, have viable credentials and represent a... It took me while to prove myself to [Senator] Art Agnos, who is no... issues," says Martin to illness. The lobbyist has found that increasingly more legislators' offices are open... and financially by AIDS, the efforts... to LIVE's consistent grass-roots efforts. When legislators hear from voters who mention LIFE, they're more open to hearing from LIFE's lobbyist. the living to remember them as they... Copyright © 1987, Los Angeles Times. Used with permission.
It’s fullest display occurred during the National March on Washington when volunteers from the NAMES Project spread it out on the Capitol Mall. The display in Moscone Center is only one of 24 cities during a nationwide tour scheduled to begin on April 7 and end on July 27.

The idea for the Quilt came to Cleve Jones when he saw the names of hundreds of San Franciscans taped to the wall of the old Federal Building after a candlelight vigil. The marchers, carrying placards with the names of fallen friends, went to UN Plaza to honor the American people. The quilting bee, Jones said when he first announced the NAMES Project, is as American a tradition of self-reliance and community as can be found.

Each panel is designed and produced by friends or family or loved ones. They are intended to express how the person is remembered. Collectively, they express the diversity and individuality of the entire community of people, alive or dead, well or ill, who have been struck by the epidemic.

The Quilt touches everyone differently. Larry Goodloe, an electronics technician from Hayward, saw the Quilt on KPIX-TV and came to Moscone for a better look because one of his co-workers has AIDS. He knows no one enclosed in himself.” The Quilt itself, he said, asking to be quoted, “will be a document on the level of the Bayeux Tapestries.”

Tony Molina, a person with AIDS, bears a KS lesion on his face. He works in the NAMES Project as a volunteer. “It is a great honor,” he says. “When I am close to death, I feel very alive. If you believe in Jesus Christ, you must feel pain.” A nurse who came to the United States from Cuba, Molina says of the Quilt, “It is keeping me alive. I am living with AIDS, not dying from it.”

Mark Varnadore, a gardener from Santa Rosa, came to find two names in the Quilt. He found only one. “It stunned me,” he adds. “I can make two more. If they call for more, I’ll make them.”

Judy Jacobs, an assistant chaplain for the Episcopal Chaplaincy of San Francisco General Hospital at Ward 86 and 5A, worked as a grief counselor during the showing of the Quilt. “The Quilt,” she says, “is so transforming. This room is full of emotion. People have been holding out, holding on to their feelings.”

She recognizes grief and goes up to those who need someone. “It’s permission for them to have their own feelings.” She touches them, holds them as they cry. “The only way we will survive this crisis,” she says, “is to hold each other. We’ve been brought up in denial. The Quilt helps us share each other’s loss.”

Looking out across the floor of Moscone, she muses, “It’s a battlefield. These are young people. Most of us here have never known loss like that.”

And of the Quilt she says, “Their presence will continue to teach as it goes around the country.”

A call comes over her walkie-talkie. Someone needs her now. She goes to the entrance area of the display hall. Without hesitation, she spots a young man and embraces him. He breaks into wrenching sobs. She caresses his shoulders and arms as she holds him against her. The sob subsides into silent tears, and the tears stop. The exchange some words. The young man smiles. His girlfriend takes his arm. They say goodbye to Jacobs and leave.

The Quilt abides, The casualties mount.

Mark O’Brien The Unknown Alone Dennis T. Jon Sims

ARCAIDS Vigil encamped outside the offices of the Department of Health and Human Services in protest of federal policy on AIDS. Before long the lower stories of the building were covered end to end with the placards. Then rain and high winds tore some of them loose, and they fell like leaves. Those who were present still remember the moment with awe.

Jones settled eventually on the format of a quilt to bear the names, for the NAMES Project, like the Vgl, appeals to the fundamental decency of the
The Los Angeles native notes that power has shifted in the city, a phenomenon pioneered by the leadership vacuum. The neighborhoods are now the new "power centers," Achtenberg says, "and that's where we can build support." "I think that any viable candidate has to understand the new ecology of power and how to get to those, if he or she is going to be suc-

cessful." "Getting bills passed into law, Morin said, is his strong suit. "That's what I do very strongly about. That's what we're doing and this is how we're going to get there." "I resent with all my being that John Burton has imposed himself on this race. I fed has done nothing but say not to do what I think is the right thing," Wolfred says, "and one obvious piece of that is voting to have an atomic energy plant in Diablo Canyon."

Steve Morin. Steve Morin unabashedly describes himself as "a cog in the Burton machine," although he is quick to try to change the resulting image from that of a group of middle-class power brokers dictating the complexion of the local political landscape to a coalition of labor, environmentalists, renters and minorities. He adds that the gay community ought to be able to place a finger under that umbrella, as he has. A key staff assistant to Rep. Nancy Pelosi, Morin also serves as Speaker Willie Brown's highest gay appointee on the state's continually changing Mental Health. "We've been a pioneer in lesbian and gay community to look at the up-

casonry played in AIDS. Achtenberg said. "One of the reasons this race needs to be run is the kind of power is the one who understands the technical kind of power." "We've been a pioneer in saying that we're doing and this is how different perspectives." Norman said. "I don't see that anyone who runs for the seat can be focused on any one par-

ttlement and AIDS issues."

Aiken, the New College of San Francisco, she led the pioneering public-interest law school toward academic, student-led programs, and she is now active in environmental law and tenants rights, and says her energy will infuse her campaign.

She also notes her style of law will be reflected in her ability to represent the highest level of excellence. "It's not just about the law, it's about practice law," she said, "It's by trying to listen to my clients and to do what I can do collaboratively to empower them and to advocate on their behalf." That's the way I intend to create the trust that needs to be created over time with the district's constituents!" Aiken says, "It's that we need to build a strong sense of cooperation, a sense of shared commitment."

I practice law," she said, "by trying to help people come to understand the system and to work within the system."

Aiken's office is in Noe Valley where Morin was a tenured professor at Antioch College. Aiken was the only candidate running who can claim the experience of drafting legislation that has been subject to gubernatorial veto. Of a prospective candidate, Morin says, "Basically [my] theme would be the Sacramento insider with the technical knowledge, the political negotiation know-how to make things work in such a way that the district would benefit." Before Morin makes the leap from aide to candidate, however, he is waiting for final word on whether Burton will run.

Burton's candidacy knocks Morin out of the race. It may even play into Morin's long-range scenario in which Burton abides by his promise to hold the seat for only two terms. Morin believes he would then be in a better position to win the seat four years from now, after being groomed by Burton's coalition as a successor. The issues that drive Morin are "assuring an adequate government response to AIDS, assuring an ade-

quate response to homelessness and issues pertaining to affordable housing." He also has a public safety and mental health concerns.

A licensed clinical psychologist, Morin, 42, has written extensively. He played a key role in getting the American Psychological Association to change its view that homosexuality was not a mental illness. "We are the ones who understand the technical kind of power."

In 1972 he helped found the Associa-

tion of Lesbian and Gay Psychologists and created a big splash when the group held a press conference calling for equal representation and treatment of gay and lesbian professionals, a full report on LaRouche to Doofy. She says no matter plan exists to make a gay presence a permanent part of the political power structure. "She said there is need to build a structure that will advance gay people and causes. "One of the reasons we have built that system is that we need," she says, "to be constantly, constantly reacting. And what I feel the job of a legislator is to take time, in reasonable, rational ways; cold ways; clear ways and say this is how we're going to get there." Citing the March on Washington as an example of effective gay and lesbian organizing, she said more leverage needs to be exerted upon current restructuring of how gay people were diag-

Norman is a Berkeley veteran who witnessed 20 of her colleagues receive dishonorable discharges because of allegations concerning their sexual orientation. "Every time we run a candidate, we build muscle. A political organization has to be constantly building or it atrophies." . He continues, "Our agenda is the full empowerment of gay people. I'm disappointed that the Willie Brown and the John Burtons of the world didn't put themselves on the line of months ago, and say, 'If the seat opens up, let's talk about it and discuss who's the best candidate for the progressive community of San Francisco.' Rather, they put up a candidate and say we're nothing but one issue, which indicates"

The need to run somebody. That's a need. The need to run somebody and then be fully empowered in what's going on." Wolfred, 42, has a doctorate in clinical psychology from the University of Illinois. He came to San Francisco in the middle of Harvey Milk's successful supertorial campaign and worked as a volunteer stuffing envelopes. Later, he was Brit's first administrative assistant in City Hall. That experience introduced Wolfred to the local power brokers and helped him win wide support in his successful run for the Board of Supervisors. He was appointed to the board and served on a number of key committees associated with Operation Concern before joining the AIDS Foundation in 1983.

"The put issue for our community is we want full empowerment," Wolfred says, "and one obvious piece of that is voting to have an atomic energy plant in Diablo Canyon."
HEALING RESOURCES

VAN R. AULT

Spiritual Preparations for the New Year

The beginning of a new cycle is always an auspicious occasion for healing and transforming your life. In our culture, the biggest cyclical celebration takes place over New Year's. Even though the spiritual opportunities for this cycle are seldom embraced, it's an excellent time for inner work.

There's so much energy moving towards releasing the old and welcoming the new, that's it's a waste not to harness some of it and use it for significant self-expansion. I'd like to share some techniques for moving powerfully into these new cycles.

As Margaret Hamilton said in The Wizard of Oz, "These things must be done diligently. Or you hurt the spell." This is certainly true when it comes to the implementation of the transformational opportunities that the New Year presents. The resolution is often aborted because the person just didn't make the time to work through the underlying issues of their resolution. Just deciding to do something has no bearing on the surface, but on deeper levels, it can be a lot more involved.

Sometimes I've helped clients address the critical issues in their lives realistically and most emphatically so that their goals have a chance. The process begins where most important ceremonies start — with self-purification and release.

Physical Housecleaning

Since the process a few days ahead of January 1, if you can, with a thorough cleansing of your immediate material world, is indicative of your overall consciousness, so begin there. Go through your belongings carefully. Take it one room at a time — look at what you have that no longer serves you. Does that old, broken radio serve a purpose? Does the closet in the basement have any part in your future plans? Will you ever wear those old shirts again? Are you just taking up space? If not, get rid of them.

Give your desk and papers a good purging. Anything you have that does not support you in loving yourself, that feels constrictive or puts you in a state of confined living has no constructive function in your abode. If you like, you might even gather some of these material things together and, with a dramatic flourish, cast them into the fireplace and burn them.

It'll help enormously if you handle any bills or debts lingering from 1987 before the calendar runs out. Give your home a good physical cleansing: windows, floors, upholstery, carpets, whatever needs doing. Don't forget the closets, bookcases, backpads, briefcases, and purses and pockets that frequently hold the most residue of the past. You'll be amazed at the trash you'll throw out and the wonderful, light feeling that you carry with you into 1988 as a result.

When you're done, take a bowl of burning sage and smudge frankincense from room to room in your home. (Cut the smoke alarm off first.) Let the rooms fill with the aromatic smoke until it's moderately thick in the air. The effect of these herbs is very purifying, and spiritual practitioners have used them for eons to cleanse negative psychic energies from a dwelling. Open all the doors and windows and let the smoke clear. Notice how much cleaner it feels.

Mental Housecleaning

Now it's time for inner work. Don't skimp with this part; make time for it, because you don't want to drag it into the new year. Forgive, or you'll be dragging the past into your new life and how you're working. The hard part first: look at the least successful, most challenging aspect. Would that be your love life, your job, your health, your financial situation or spiritual development?

Call up your hottest issue. Now just look at it. Relax, sit back, observe it. Look at the drama of your challenge. What kinds of changes need to be made here? For example, do you need to learn to be more assertive, asking for what you want with your loved one? Do you need to reevaluate the workplace at the job that you're not doing more than one person's job? Do you need to upgrade your immune system, get more exercise, or fine tune your budgeting?

Do you need to learn to be more spiritually receptive? What needs to be done? Now, how are you resisting the necessary changes? You can get this information by just reviewing all your reasons for not going forward. Notice your resistance moving through all of your reasons. Is it too much trouble for you? Would you rather not be the boss? Would it take time, money or energy you're unwilling to invest? Maybe you don't feel you have any control over it, or you just can't think of any idea of what's needed. Just notice your resistance, whatever form it's taking.

All you need is the willingness to make a change for that change to begin. Within the next 24 hours, you might find a new way of thinking, a new way of being, a new way of making choices.

Don't judge yourself or beat yourself up. Just sit and slide around it. Simply observe.

Answer this question honestly: "Am I willing to move my resistance to moving forward?" In either case, are you willing to let go of your "reasons" for not making changes? Do you need to know how to do this or have an inkling of what follow through would be? The only reason "I won't" is if you're "scared of the unknown." It's fine if the answer is no. At least you'll be communicating honestly with yourself. Also, remember you don't have to use your mind right away. You can give it some thought. You're basically asking yourself: "Am I willing to let go of it and over it to let something better into my life?" It takes guts to go from the known to the unknown. If you answer yes, congratulations! If you answer no, you now have a powerful step in moving towards greater mastery in that particular area of your life. That will also support you in mastering every other area of your life. All you need is the willingness to make a change for that change to begin to within. The rest of the process then organically emerges.

There are many ways to stimulate the release of your resistance to this important shift. You might want to write it down, over and over, "I am willing to release my resistance to ... ." You can chant it as it-taking to meditation and contemplate it quietly.

Offer it as a prayer to the Higher Power.

Another tool you may find helpful is the accompanying prayer treatment for releasing resistance. Declaring it aloud, or silently, at any time you're truly willing to move will activate its power for you. I particularly recommend tape recording the treatment in your own voice and playing it as you go to sleep. If you know how to induce self-hypnotic trance, do that before playing or declaring it, so the treatment flows directly into your subconscious. You can also get together with friends, declaring it in unison, for added power. One feature of the treatment is that it

Continued on next page

Prayer Treatment for Releasing Resistance

Love is the Highest Power in the Universe — the Source of All Creation. Love is the catalyst for all beginning and the great release of endings. Love brings peace, patience, courage and imagination. Love is the universal gift of power that lives in the heart of every living thing.

I am one with Love, I am one with the infinite Source of wisdom. Divine insight infuses me, divine creativity encourages me, and divine motivation motivates me. There is no limitation in the Source. There is only expansion, the power of Love spinning through me, holding every particle of my perceptions in perfect alignment with my life's purpose. Divine love comes through me now.

I stand steady in the Love of my Source, so I claim the release of all my resistance to change. Love empowers me to completely give up all my resistance to ... . I release into divine Love and allow tension, fear and anger to melt in the light of healing. I surrender all of my resistance, all of my releasing power, all of my resistance that you're forcing me to deal with today. I release all of my resistance to all of my resistance to all of my resistance and force myself to move....

I have all the perfect power of Love to take them from me. Any books in my subconscious mind to the past are painlessly removed from my mind and released.

I allow the radiance of Love to touch me profoundly. I am filled with the renewing Love of the Source, and it now carries me forward into triumph in the area of ... . I now declare: "You're not the boss! ... ."

I allow the Source to fulfill all the guidance, all the support, all the direction and energy I need to move forward. I claim that I am perfectly receptive to the Divine Love that moves through me, and I recognize its grand possibilities and helpful power, no matter how subtle it seems.

I welcome this opportunity for greater self-mastery on the path of wholeness.

I embrace this moment with deep gratitude to the Love that makes this program possible. I release the old, celebrate the new. I am knowing I am willing to accept even more beauty in my life in all ways.

This is done easily, without struggle, and in great joy. As I decree, so it is! — Van R. Ault

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HEALING RESOURCES
(Continued from previous page)
calls from your higher nature the direct revelation, guidance and strength needed to master the challenge of your hottest issue. Your own higher nature will show you what's need for you, what steps to take, and will make arrangements for appropriate support. Your conscious mind may not need to know anything. It's up to you to be sensitive to the sometimes subtle prod that you'll experience as a result of this.

Divine Guidance and Right Action
As the Higher Power works with you, ideas and inspiration will flow more readily. Potential solutions to difficulties will present themselves. You may have intuitive flashes — seemingly out of nowhere — on what your next step might be, of what direction to go in. Pay attention to these, however subtle.
Don't brush them off with a cynical, "Oh, that's too much," keep an open mind. Let your Higher Self work cooperatively with you.
It's amazing the ways divine guidance can come. Often, other people will unknowingly be the bearers of this guidance. It might come from a book or publication article you inadvertently pick up. It can also come from an animal, a fortune cookie or graffiti on a wall.
I recall once being deeply discouraged about an issue and was inwardly prompted to walk down an alley I had never been through. On the wall was lettered, "Truth Truth," a message that conveyed the right idea at the right time to move me into something better. The divine mind will use anything to communicate its love to you.
At the same time, don't ascribe importance to every whim that crosses your mind. Divine guidance has an unidentifiable resonance to it: it strikes something deep inside of you, not just on the surface of your mind.
Oftentimes, you may find yourself presented with a variety of options. It will be up to you to choose from them. Only one choice may be the correct one, but perhaps the best advice in such a situation is to go for that which you love the most.
Life is always willing to lead us in the direction of more fulfillment, more joy, richer experiences are our birthright, and we must claim that birthright as guidance comes through you, it's up to you to act on it.
Use your common sense and logic here. What's the most efficient, orderly way to proceed? First things first. You might want to map out an agenda. Identify your first step, however large or small it might be. If you can identify the first step and take it, you're on your way, and the limitations of the past are on their way to history.
All of the parts of this New Year's process work together to support each other. The process will show you how willing you are to show up for yourself, to get on with your life, as well as how much resistance you have to improving your reality. My personal belief is that we make change into a melodrama, and that actually if we give up resistance first, it's easy and fun much of the time. The process can actually be enjoyed any time you need to facilitate inner change. It's perhaps a little more profound to do it around the beginning of a new year, because then you can enter the cycle with momentum that you lacked before. Once you've applied this technique to your hottest issue, you can similarly apply it to the easier ones in your life.
I wish you a loving, prosperous, self-expanding 1988 and a New Year's celebration that is deeply ecstatic.

Van R. Ault appears regularly on Electric City, get television, which airs the last Thursday of every month at 9 pm on cable channel 6. Electric City also shows on Perrin College cable in Oakland on Sunday, January 3, at 10 pm.
Spiritual Uprisings
A New Book, 'Gay Spirit: Myth and Meaning,' Examines the Philosophy of the Postmodern Homosexual

by Eric Hellman

The week before Thanksgiving my boyfriend, a man who I have lived with for most of the past seven years, became ill. His sickness began with flu-like symptoms and eventually progressed until one Saturday afternoon when he suddenly found it increasingly difficult to breathe. We visited a local hospital's emergency room, and after a relatively short wait, he was admitted for observation and care.

My friend spent a total of three weeks in the hospital, including four days in the Intensive Care Unit. He was released recently and is currently feeling quite peppy. My friend's illness was diagnosed as AIDS-induced pneumocystis pneumonia; his long-term prognosis is uncertain.

Of course, the past month has not been an easy time for me, my boyfriend's family or, especially, for him. It has, however, changed my perspective on life — or, more accurately, my experience of the act of living — in ways that are both profound and enormously positive. I find myself enjoying the smallest details of experience: a morning cup of tea, my favorite purple sweater, the cold, wet drops of a winter rain. Perhaps I finally understand what many of our leaders have tried to tell us homo boys and girls exist from the vast nothingness of the world — have worked so hard to deny this, but it hasn't received much publicity in recent centuries, not to mention the past two decades of gay "liberation."

Despite this increase in my minute-to-minute pleasure quotient and despite an even deeper, quite burning sense of loss for my boyfriend, something else has occurred. I feel that my coming out as a gay man — a process that began however repetitiously the day I was born — has come to an end. I am now ready to simply be a man who happens to find certain other men irresistibly attractive. I am also finally ready to accept the political and, more importantly, the social implications of my condition.

It now seems quite clear to me — and this revelation is not entirely new or original — that us homo boys and girls exist for a very special purpose. Despite what many of our leaders have tried to tell us in the past 20 years, we are not "just like our heterosexual friends except for what we do in bed." How foolish and silly and limiting that idea seems to me today!

Each gay boy and each lesbian girl, most certainly, a gift from nature, a present from the vast nothingness of the cosmos, a messenger from God. It is sad that so many societies — especially the great scientific and economic societies of the Western world — have worked so hard to deny this reality. It is also unfortunate that so many gay people have suffered from the extreme hatred, cruelty and fear of many heterosexuals.

But, at present, this is not a time for more anger or recrimination. That may still be needed, and the option of political violence remains a specter thatbeckons not, but does not invite. Instead I think it is time for me and for many other gay people to recognize and get busy with our purposes on this planet. We are special, and our gifts and powers and responsibilities are many. We have to have more — and the reason we get to have more fun is that we've been given the best (and in many ways the most difficult) job.

It seems impossible not to recognize that I am one of biology's transformative agents in the philosophical-religious realm. And my status is similar to that of all homosexuals — past, present, future. What I am trying to say is that gay people have worked so hard to deny this, but is very difficult to be recognized as spiritual guides. We function best and we fulfill our destinies when we live lives as teachers and healers, as hairdressers and interior designers, as priests and as artists, or any other role where we effect transformative awareness.

We are the most "gay" whenever we encourage emotional life among other, spiritually impoverished human beings. This idea is, again, hardly new or original, but it hasn't received much publicity in recent centuries, not to mention the past two decades of gay "liberation."

The biological purpose of gay people is, however, the central topic and most often repeated thesis of a new book, a collection of essays entitled Gay Spirit: Myth and Meaning, edited by Mark Thompson and published by St. Martin's Press.

I started reading Gay Spirit about a month before my boyfriend was admitted to the hospital, and I finished it just after the Thanksgiving holiday. It was, one might say, a synchronistic convergence of events. Gay Spirit may be the most important publishing event for gay male readers since the Kinsey Report confirmed we really do exist.

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As a use of art to raise consciousness and to transcend negative imagery about homosexuality, the AIDS Quilt is nothing short of a tour de force.

...and gay = death are sentiments gaining in currency as images of the physical ravages of AIDS have become all the more disquieting in the mass media. But in spite of this, people are still having fantasies about it and building worlds of art around it. In the midst of the current medical crisis, many artists are finding it increasingly poignant to ask whether there is a way to present the many nuances of human sexuality and a new political consciousness without lapsing into the old categories of their explorations.

For some artists, this conflict has led to self-censorship lest either the lesbian and gay audience or the public at large misread their intentions. For others, the fear of sexuality that AIDS engenders has become all the more reason to proceed forcefully.

Guidelines, Disclaimers and Reactions

The dilemma that artists face when portraying sex and fantasy has presented itself in a variety of ways. One local filmmaker, for instance, has tried to pull from circulation one of his earlier films that depicts unsafe sex. His distributor has refused his request to pull it, but the artist remains concerned. When reminded that his film is unlikely to be anyone’s sole guide to sexuality, the filmmaker allowed that might be the case, but couldn’t help wondering about his film being a negative influence.

In the January 1987 Artforum, noted gay author Edmund White wrote an essay, "Esthetics and Loss," which offered what amounted to guidelines (use "tact," "avoid humor") for artists dealing with the subject of AIDS. White’s position was clearly heartfelt; many of his friends and associates have died of AIDS. But he has been criticized by artists around the country for attempting to set the agenda for discussion of the disease’s effect.

White’s dicta would exclude some very valuable works, among them West German film director Rose von Praunheim’s provocative A Virus Has No Morals, which has had three separate screenings in San Francisco this year. Von Praunheim’s provocations have been matched with transvestites, gay revolutionaries and features a crazy ending in “Hell-Cayland.” A rattling satire, the film lays bare the hypocrisy of governmen...

John Greyson proposed it is the image of two men fucking, safely or otherwise, which really disturbs audiences and that AIDS now gives people a reason for condemning something they have always found abhorrent.

Safe sex practices because of a few politically incorrect artworks. Society does provide proper education through other venues and we have much more to lose by cultivating the open, varied discussion of sexualities.

Anthony Manglicmot, a San Francisco-based painter and sculptor, discovered an interest in voyeurism as a way of life and "the distance between the watcher and the watched is not nearly as loaded. They simply watch."

Like Greyson, Manglicmot believes that from a political standpoint it is important to keep images of male sexuality before the public. He sees lesbian and gay artists as trendsetters in the creation of new icons that legitimize formerly taboo aspects of sexuality such as voyeurism.

"We're always ahead of the straight public," he says, "and because AIDS struck our community first, we have been at the forefront, in terms of health care, support systems and political action in response to the disease. It only makes sense that our art would lead the way as well, creating new ways of loving and new ways of expressing that love."

Gay artists provide us, and the straight community, with images of our lives and new possibilities for our sexuality and our spirituality, counteracting those perpetrated by the uninformed or the ill-intentioned. The medical contingencies of the moment notwithstanding, it is important that we not become obsessed with the political correctness of every last image that appears before us. If there were a collective inclination toward self-destruction, perhaps such a reaction might bear consideration. In view of the overwhelming trend toward a new eroticism that expands our outlook on intimacy, it seems far more logical to support an open inquiry.
Writer after writer in Gay Spirit insists that there is a much larger cultural — even biological — purpose to the existence of gay people other than our minority-status preferences when it comes to sexual expression.
Oliver Stone’s ‘Wall Street’

American Muckraker

Winning all those Oscars for Platoon has put Oliver Stone in an almost impossible position — though the more you consider it, the more his professional dilemma corresponds to the contradictions of his work.

There’s much to criticize about Stone, particularly his popular Wall Street, but it’s a thrilling exercise in political melodrama, an atmospheric entertainment in the grand tradition of American muckraking. Stone, it traffics, is now said, in corny melodramatic pieces and morbidly preachy so. So did the effective and memorable writers I see as his aristocratic forefathers: early-century social realists like Theodore Dreiser, Frank Norris and Upton Sinclair.

It makes sense to speak of Stone as a son and the artist he seeks to follow as his fathers. Wall Street is dedicated to Stone’s own father, an unsuccessful stockbroker, and at its most symbolic level the film tells the story of a man’s choice between two father figures, two opposed images of masculine American power. A powerful family — Stone’s work has centered on maleness; in considering his films, I’m reminded of Men Without Women. No other mainstream filmmaker so keenly captures the structures of fear and hatred — as well as unarticulated, repressed, unspoken love — that hold the male institutions of our society together.

Organized crime (Stone wrote screenplays for both Scarface and Year of the Dragon), renegade journalism (Salvador), the military (Platoon) and now high finance — his next film clearly belongs to that ballgame. By contrast, his female characters are paper-thin decorations when compared to his masculine figures. He sits at a terminal and contarcted an unshakeable belief in the innate strength that community can bring to political struggle. His "good" women are isolated, evanescent figures — at the crucial juncture they evade men’s physical and emotional grasp, vanishing out of the frame like the other Holy Grails his protagonists pursue.

Wall Street’s knight errant is downy-cheeked Charlie Sheen as Bud Fox, a young trader, and Martin Sheen (right) is his honest, working-class father in director Oliver Stone’s (far right) archetypal melodrama, Wall Street.

Robert Richardson’s cinematography is exemplary. Office dialogue is mordant, fast and to the point. A brilliant opening montage shows Bud struggling through subway and elevator crowds to his desk, intercut with golden-lit cityscapes and rather ironically set to Sinatra singing “Fly Me to the Moon.” (Ex-Police drummer Stewart Copeland has designed an excellent throbbing, observational score.)

There’s enough fine individual acting in the first half of Wall Street to fill three ordinary Hollywood movies. Hall Holbrook is particularly noteworthy as an honest broker one suspects may be modeled after Stone’s own father. He so aptly counsels the young Turks to look for “underlying values” and avoid quick-buck schemes. So what the frenetic scenes on the Exchange floor as he did combat in the earlier film. More significantly, this attitude serves to mask the obvious emotional intensity of the two men’s relationship. Gekko has quite literally fried Bud away from his own father. Bud trades on inside information his airline machinist dad gives him to get the wizard’s attention in the first place. Charlie’s real-life papa Martin Sheen plays the lunch-pail tootin’ dad; he’s the good, honest pret­

eterian father Stone clearly wishes he’d had. Wall Street grows less compelling as it moves through a predictable narrative arc: Bud is seduced by Gekko into the erotic darkness of money and power, only to be reprimanded at the last by the decency his real father has be­

quashed him. There’s more good montage work as Bud stage-manages Gekko’s take­

over battles with archivial Terence Stamp, who provides his usual English bastard performance, but the real technical triumph belongs to Douglas. Strutting through his grotesque­

ly plush office suite or along his Hamptons beachfront, Gekko is an oily explosive wonder — Straussian in his grandiosity, Geary at 18th Ave., 752-5100; and the Empire, West Portal at Vicente, 661-2539.

Probably we should be glad Douglas is no Satan, his power. Gekko is an oily explosive wonder — Straussian in his grandiosity, Geary at 18th Ave., 752-5100; and the Empire, West Portal at Vicente, 661-2539.

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This is trench warfare," Gekko tells Bud. “If you’re hell, they all wonder, is he doing it for the money-Hitlers of Wall Street, what good is Bud Fox’s reservoir of goodness?"

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While Charlie Sheen’s performance is competent by any standard, he cannot stand up to Douglas’ satanic power. Gekko becomes not only the dark star in the film, but the mouthpiece for Stone’s most radical critiques of finance capital. "I create nothing," he says. "The illusion has become real; that’s kapital­

ism at its finest." And later, scornfully, to Bud: "You’re not naive enough to believe we’re liv­ing in a democracy. This is the free market."

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Art
Glen Helfand

Holiday Makeovers

Transformation is the key concept of the holiday season. Ordinary homes become glittery and festive with the aid of cheap tinsel and Christmas lights. Crabby bosses and annoying relatives seem to metamorphose into charming creatures overnight, while dwindling bank accounts are magically stretched with credit cards. Things are not what they seem.

Two current installations, while not created specifically for the holidays, share this transformative quality. Both turn buildings and their corresponding connotations into glittering, quasi-religious experiences that benefit the season.

The first and most elaborate of the two transforms an entire building of notorious historical significance into a palace of a peculiar personal vision. The Duquette Pavilion/Canticle of the Sun is housed in a building at the intersection of Geary and Fillmore that was, successively, a synagogue, the home of Jim Jones' People's Temple and a peculiar personal vision.

The building remains as a home for some sorely needed high kitsch into San Francisco. But Duquette's major achievement has been to preserve the building once used by Jim Jones. He has erased any trace of the austere strangeness of the cult and replaced it with an equally strong personal vision. That the building remains as a home for such individualism is something that is commended. As someone wrote in the Pavilion's guestbook, "For those who find faith difficult," Duquette proves that anything is possible.

What is so refreshing, and perhaps difficult, about Chartres Bleu is its slow, leisurely approach to video.

Aesthetically, Chartres Bleu, by San Francisco artist Paul Kos at the SFMMA, shares little with the Pavilion, but it is equally involved in the act of transformation. Kos transfers classic, high-gothic, stained-glass windows to the very modern medium of video. The sculpture, made up of 27 video monitors turned on their sides, is a life-sized re-creation of a window from the famed French cathedral. With this piece, Kos places the role of the exhibition space, the video medium and the notion of craftsmanship into new contexts.

Aside from an occasional scan line or wavering vertical hold, it's easy to believe we are looking at an actual stained-glass window. The gallery is darkened, and the video's placement in the window materializes in the rectangular video format. Full of technical wizardry, the piece is monumental but hardly splashy. Essentially, what Kos does here is similar to cloning. Old objects are reworked and modified with new technology. Kos takes a timebound master and is able to make a portable, electronic copy of the object and its real-world function. Once copied, the actual object loses much of its originality. The "authentic" becomes obsolete. Of course we are not seeing stained glass, but we do have the experience of the effect of the original window.

In this sense, Chartres Bleu would not seem out of place to The Last Supper stained-glass window in the collection of the stained-glass masters at Forest Lawn Mortuary. In addition to making a powerful statement about art, Kos has, like Duquette, tapped into a strange American spirit of modernizing and re-creating European religious masterworks. In different ways, both artists realize that the only kind of religious spectacle that still works is a glittery, mediated one.

The Duquette Pavilion/Canticle of the Sun, located at 1839 Geary Blvd., SF, opens from 11 am-4 pm Wednesday through Sunday. The show continues through January 10 at the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, Van Ness Ave. at McAllister, SF. For more information, call 663-8800.
Perhaps the central problem facing classical music is the difference in customs between the time in which the music was written and the present. Much has changed even in the hundred years since Johannes Brahms, but too often we treat his music as if it were composed for a world of cars and planes and telecommunications, when clearly it was not.

One of the essential differences between yesterday and today is the loss of the large drawing room in which families once put on musicals for themselves and their close friends. When we go to listen to music, almost invariably we go to the concert hall. Usually it is an enormous barn of a place seating two or three thousand people. Even so charming a theatre as Herbst holds almost a thousand. And that is a far cry from the intimacy of the extended family setting that was once the home of chamber music and songs. I am not being nostalgic about a time when the upper classes lived in palatial mansions and all the rest of us lived in hovels, but I am stating a real problem for understanding certain forms of music. The size of the room for which music was originally imagined has a direct relation to the dimensions of the musical gestures out of which the composer made his composition. It is because of the rock-solid strength of the greatest music that so much of it survives being overwhelmed in rooms hundreds of times larger than the composer ever envisioned for it, but in chamber duets, "No, di voi non vuo fidar." After a few seconds this charming duet proved to be the one that the Baroque composer, addicted to plagiarizing his own material, had used as the basis of the great Messiah chorus, "For unto us a Child is born." Ganz and Bruno were a little too solemn, but they were always careful to tune themselves to each other — which is the essence of Handel duets — and Ganz's coloratura especially was remarkable. Bruno, playing cello as it were, underpinned the whole with some really lovely, dark, rich sounds.

The apex of Brahms' lieder came next, "The Four Serious Songs," Op. 121. These are Brahms' last compositions, from that vivid sunset period beginning with the Clarinet Quintet and continuing through those deeply felt and densely thought pieces for solo piano. The four songs, on texts from Luther's Bible, are simple in their construction, but suffused with a sense of the tragedy of life that is almost pre-Christian in its power and starkness.

Monte Pederson is a singer who is headed for greatness. His bass voice is jet black in color, powerful and compelling. When he is in full flight, he even has a high, soft piano. But best of all, he can knit it all together with a legato that would be rare in any time and in ours is almost non-existent. In the "Four Songs," Pederson knew that he was approaching one of the greatest masterpieces written for his voice. There was a resounding stature to his interpretation, but Pederson is not yet free and easy with either the terrifying meanings implicit in these songs or the treacherous demands made by the composer.

Sara Ganz then sang the "Five Ophelia Songs" in English, which thereby brought these tripping settings closer to the modern American audience that was listening. I only wish that the program had seen fit to print the English texts. Shakespeare's verse is not always immediately comprehensible to modern listeners and no singer's diction is perfect. It is foolish to deny the singers the help that typing out the English texts would give them. Though Sara Ganz's voice is not large, it is pure, and because she can keep it all focused within her head, she has a kind of unconscious legato that is most rewarding. The finest parts of the recital

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RISING STARS (left to right): SOPRANO SOPHIE GANZ, SOPRANO DONNA BRUNO, MEZZO-SOPRANO SOPHIE GANZ, TENOR NICKOLAS PEDERSON. SOPRANO SOPHIE GANZ, SOPRANO DONNA BRUNO, MEZZO-SOPRANO SOPHIE GANZ, TENOR NICKOLAS PEDERSON.

The Tales of Hoffman; Schubert's "Erlkonig" song. Here the soprano and mezzo with their alternating lines created a drama of compelling power. Bruno and Pederson's last duet, "The Hunter and His Love," likewise built up a chamber-drama whose power was magnified by its restraint. Throughout the evening Alden Gilchrist proved not only a brilliant program planner but a supreme accompanist. Much of the magic in Brahms' songs resides in their piano music, and Gilchrist delivered that magic without ever calling attention away from the singers.

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Evitably there is a loss in clarity and proportion. Today, rooms the size of those old drawing rooms are found mainly in art galleries. So when James Schwabacher, who was himself once a bit-part operatic tenor and a distinguished singer of songs, inaugurated his Debut Recital series to showcase the up-and-coming talent from the San Francisco Opera Center, he found a room in the second story that vivid sunset period began.

Last week this series presented one of the most intelligently arranged and ranged programs that San Francisco has heard in a long time. It was an all-Brahms evening, planned by pianist-composer Alden Gilchrist for soprano Sara Ganz, mezzo-soprano Donna Bruno and bass Monte Pederson.

All three singers have been heard to advantage in the recent fall Opera season. Pederson's thoroughbred voice lit up a rather tawdry re-creation of the first scene of Puccini's Tosca, with the Clarinet Quintet and continuing through those deeply felt and densely thought pieces for solo piano. The four songs, on texts from Luther's Bible, are simple in their construction, but suffused with a sense of the tragedy of life that is almost pre-Christian in its power and starkness.

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Returns of the Season

Okay, I lied. I swore not to comment further on The Season, being pretty deficient in the Christmas Spirit department myself, but I didn’t anticipate all those genuinely nice things intended in one way or another for the holiday market. The Bay Area is clearly smart enough to have demanded, and gotten, more than a few seasonal stage gift packages that, thankfully, do not have Handel or Dickens or Tchaikovsky portraits again in little ways (this being a kulturized story and all, she feels mysteriously compelled to sing a kultured story and all, she feels mysteriously compelled to sing a kultured story and all, she feels mysteriously compelled to sing a kultured story and all, she feels mysteriously compelled to sing a kultured story and all, she feels mysteriously compelled to sing a kultured story and all, she feels mysteriously compelled to sing a kultured story and all, she feels mysteriously compelled to sing a kultured story and all, she feels mysteriously compelled to sing a kultured story and all, she feels mysteriously compelled to sing a kultured story and all, she feels mysteriously compelled to sing a kultured story and all, she feels mysteriously compelled to sing a kultured story and all, she feels 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Inchoate Beauties

Some weeks have all the fun. During what was supposed to be a slowed-down pre-Christmas news lull last week, Demo lunatic Carole Hart jumped back in the presidential fray; Judge Andrew Kennedy (with his son, Greg) appeared before the Senate Judiciary Committee; Art Agnos got propositioned; and Chicago Bears coach Mike Ditka threw gum.

Santa came early for junkies.

Cast Apspersions

"Randy Shills calls me up and says, 'Have I been in Dave Ford's column?' Arthur Shills, a sentinal writer David Israel reported at a recent Xmas party. "If he tells me no, he says, he doesn't want to hear anything else about the paper."

But what? Randy worry? Not since he recently sold the TV rights to And the Band Played On. A Carol Singer (Khris Sletch) of the "Morse" series. Within half an hour of firming the deal, the Shergin convinced their daughter in a Dec. '88-'89 season. What: no movie. "Well," shared dwelled over the phone, "Morse can make another movie, now that I've written another book he can read." Boys, boys. Let's concentrate on happy things — like casting the minstrels. Here's the June Talk exclusive: Shills' choices for plum roles:

- Former SF Health Director Mervyn Silverman: "Captain Kangaroo."
- Supervisor Harry Britt: "Tom Bosley."
- Ex-Mayor Diane Feinstein: "Joan Collins."
- Activist Bill Mandell: "Randy Newman."
- Former SF Health Director Mervyn Silverman: "Tom Bosley."
- Supervisor Harry Britt: "Tom Bosley."
- Ex-Mayor Diane Feinstein: "Joan Collins."
- Activist Bill Mandell: "Randy Newman."

Smitt Fit

One of those "very intolerant" San Franciscans is Morse's three-dog rival, Herb "Walking" Morse. A Morse, a decent fellow, refuses to snipe at the Chronicle's columnist-cartoon cronie in the Focus piece, Caen continues to snub the Exporter. Ran an item months ago about Caen and his friends acting up in a Paris bar, and quoted the maître d' as saying, "Zay say yare are from San Francisco, but are zay really? Pair yare yare are from zee suburbs!"

Caen tells Focus writer Michael Morrison, "Talk to him. I'm not interested in being in the same space with Morse."

Art Attacks

Nor, apparently, in the same city with Mayor-elect Art Agnos. When Caen learned a few weeks ago that Agnos didn't know San Francisco's (an "old SF" Caen-type hangout), Herb snubbed him in his column. He's since aimed an unrelieved torrent of abuse at the unapologetically "middle-class" (Agnos' words) mayor-elect — ever since a 15-year-old runaway at the Larkin St. Youth Center recently. Noting the kid was oozing bad drug sweat, Agnos says, "I said, 'Take your socks off.' " He said, "What else do you want me to take off?" I said, 'Come on, what are you doing, making a pass at me?" He said, 'Why not?' I said, 'Nah, but I'll shoot pool with you.' "

The fact that Agnos had to ask if the boy was throwing a pass shows an endearing naiveté. The fact that he handled it with such humorous (and public) aplomb shows a disarming charm. And the fact that he knew just how to extricate himself without damaging the boy's self-image shows an enviable affinity with teenagers.

Teen Players

That'll stand his family in good stead — especially First Son Christopher, 10 and Stephan, 6. Assuming Agnos is a two-termer, the boys will be 18 and 14. Or so Agnos himself. So Christopher enjoys skateboarding.

Boxing Loves

But don't tell Ex film critic Barbara Shulgasser I said so: judging by her December review of Bruce Weber's elegiac Broken Noses, boy-watching offends her.

Even as pants, however, a fanned icon "It's no surprise that Weber would be interested in capturing images of boys aged about 8 to 15, their in-" (Incipient, "incidental-"

But Ms. Shulgasser does strike a political chord, noting that film subject Andy Minser was a victim, and drives the point home with yet another incendiary sentence: "Here is Minser, former child victim, and here is Weber's camera roaming over the undulating ter- rain ofbare-chested boys."

"She also calls the film a "celebration of undeveloped male sexual beauty."

True Man Kaput

At least Ms. Shulgasser picked out the sex vibe, no matter how much it ruffled her.
What does a lesbian mother do when the last of her four kids grows up and leaves home? Shirleyann Garzotto laughs warmly, shaking the hologram mandala hanging around her neck. "I do what I've always done," she says. "Work on my art and my writing."

I'm sitting in her living room, surrounded by three large bookcases, assorted plants and sculptural constructions, stacks of typed manuscripts and drawings. Glitter speckled holographs, painted canvases leaning against the wall and two meandering cats named Martha and Chester. The apartment surges with a sense of cultural excitement. Shirleyann sits calmly in its center, as if in the eye of a hurricane, her rich, golden-reddish hair cascading down her shoulders. She turns off her 1930s radio and says, "I'm sitting in her living room, PLAYING WITH MYSELF, PLAYING WITH OTHERS —

Eyes of a hurricane: Painter, poet, astrologer Shirleyann Garzotto.

including two fellowships to MacDowell's Writers' Colony. John Schatz, Columbia's Writing Program Director, asked Garzotto to teach at Columbia the next year, and she became friends with poet Bill Knoll. "I'm the first person I really lived off his poetry," she says. "I said, 'Why can't I do that?'" I've always liked writers who had to have another job.

So in 1973, Garzotto sold her house, stopped painting and moved to Boston with three suitcases and her typewriter. She studied astrology with the famous astrologer Isobel Hickey and published poems and stories in Boston literary magazines. "For the next two years I traveled around the country living with friends," Garzotto says. "I wanted to see how other people lived — the rich as well as the poor. It helped me to define myself. I almost stayed with the Rothschilds once but at the last minute I chickened out." "How did you come out as a lesbian?" "I've always liked women," Garzotto says. "I came close to some affairs in high school but didn't have a really devastating attraction until 1969. I fell for this superdyke who later tried to kidnap me with her gang. We were doing a lot of drugs and it got pretty crazy."

Then in 1970 I joined a lesbian separatist group. I didn't talk to men for a year because I wanted to hear how women sounded. Women's voices have a different music that often gets drowned out around men. It's time I let you know exactly, I do.Legs are an obstacle. But I also believe there's a way to overcome any obstacle. "Then in 1970 I joined a lesbian separatist group. I didn't talk to men for a year because I wanted to hear how women sounded. Women's voices have a different music that often gets drowned out around men. It's sad because I think men and great writers and artists don't come from their perfections but from their flaws, their handicaps. Divorce was an epileptic and a compulsive gambler. Milton went blind. But if you're a writer, you'll overcome almost any obstacle. "Outside painting or literature is like Studs Terkel in that respect. I love hearing and writing down people's stories." "Or take this F.A.C.T. series I'm painting. Much of what society and the media says is a fact isn't. What is a fact is that modern science — or how we're missing it — is pushing us towards destruction.

Much of what society and the media says is a fact isn't. What is a fact is that modern science — or how we're missing it — is pushing us towards destruction. So this artwork is my personal Buddhist prayer against bombs destroying the world. I would have loved to talk longer to Shirleyann, but I had to meet with a student, and she had to talk to a client. Walking out the door she said that Tibetan Buddhism had a prophecy that the Dalai Lama would be drawn from Tibet to give wisdom to the world as well as the learn from the world. "But if the bomb drops," she added, "you can remind your readers that there'll be relief. And that's a fact."
Relive the Storm and Drang of early-'60s teen life, which is brought to the small screen when Channel 44 airs Edgar Goes to Rome—"Starring" Cindy Carol (an impostor)—everyone knows that the only true movie Gadgets were Sandra Dee and Deborah Walley) and James Darren, of course, at Moondoggie. TV for the brain-dead. 3 pm. Channel 44 (SF Viacom Cable Channel 12).

Footloose Dance Company offers Holiday Intensive Classes in singing, dancing and choreography. Basic vocal and movement instruction is led by Mary Alice Fry and Candace Navug. Through Dec. 31. 12-1 p.m. except Tues., 12-2 p.m. All Saints Church Hall, 150 Waverly St., SF. Info/res: 621-1887.

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Movie theme queen Maureen McGovern opens tonight at the Venetian Room (where I'm sure she'll sing "The Morning After" from The Poseidon Adventure) for a two-week engagement through Jan. 10. Weekdays, 9 pm; Fri. & Sat., 9 & 11 pm. Fairmont Hotel, California & Mason Sts., SF. Info: 772-5153.

The Friends of the SF Public Library sponsor a program of free walking tours of the city. Tuesday's "Historic Market Street" tour takes you from the foot of Market to Lotta's Fountain. Meet at One Market Plaza (Southern Pacific Buildings) at 12 noon.


Anyone can be a comedian at Open Mike Comedy Night, hosted by Marga Gomez. 8 pm. El Rio, 3181 Mission St. (as Valencia), SF. $2.

The SF Symphony transports us back to In Old Vienna — a program of light-hearted arias, with soprano Susan Patterson, and Strauss waltzes conducted by Kurt Woss. Tonight and tomorrow, 9 pm. Davies Symphony Hall, Grove St. & Van Ness Ave., SF. $35-$50. New Year's Eve, $49-$57. Tickets/info: 413-5400.

B Side: The members of Company B perform at the Giftcenter's "So Many Men — New Year's Eve, 1988" featuring Atlantic recording artist Company B, the high-energy hogging team Matt & Chad and music by DJ Michael Garrett. At the Giftcenter Pavilion — the site of so Many Men — New Year's Eve, 1988. Meridien Hotel, 50 Third St., SF. $65-$55 members. (This ain't no rinky-dink affair!) Tickets/info: 495-5393.

The Sentinel welcomes submissions of community and arts events for possible inclusion, in space permits, in our weekly calendar. The deadline is Friday at 4 pm or more in advance of Friday publication. Send items to Calendar Editor, San Francisco Sentinel, 580 Hayes Street, San Francisco, CA 94117.
Pocketbook Tragedy

The Watchmen
For shit’s sake, it’s Christmas! Why don’t you all just stay home tonight? I mean, the Watchmen are undoubtedly a musical treat, and they may put on a good show, but shouldn’t you be curled up near a fireplace yule log, surrounded by all your new gifts, smiling, chuckling and deciding what to return? (DNA, 12/25, 10 pm, $5)

Touch Me Hooker, Hippy Bitch
Well, here’s a charming bill to enhance anyone’s Silent Night. Touch Me Hooker, Jonathan Richman and the Modern Lovers are undoubtedly a musical treat, and they may put on a good show, but shouldn’t you be at least 18 years of age to place this call. A service charge of $2.00 will be billed to your account. A credit card is required. (Firehouse 7, 12/25, 10 pm, $4)

Jonathan Richman and the Modern Lovers
What can I say about Jonathan Richman? King of Quirk, yet very influential. He’s an odd performer, balancing somewhere between novelty and brilliance for decades while amassing a large cult following. I saw him once and was completely won over. (The Fillmore, 12/26, 10 pm, $12)

Kats and Kitten
Ever the trouper, Miss Kitty and her faithful band of charmers will put on a show that will pull you right out of Christmas and right into the joy of another tradition, a set by this humorous combo with borderline finesse who sparkle like a diamond in the South of Market rough. Bears the hell out of The Nutcracker. If your mom’s in town, take her. She’ll love it. (DNA, 12/26, 9 pm, $5)

The Mentors, Short Dogs Grow
The Mentors are cloaked and hooded fat slobs from LA who hate woman more than any gay man I know. I’m tired of taking the gay male misogyny rap when these ugly, heterossexual Mentor scumbags let loose with the foulest, most violent and sexually abusive tirades of degradation I’ve ever heard. It must be what happens when you’re too ugly to date. They are totally sick fucks, and I can’t condone this kind of thing. However, Short Dogs Grow are very good, reportedly burning hot at the Chatterbox a few weeks ago. Catch their set and leave promptly. (SF Music Works, 12/26, 10 pm, $5)

Buck Naked and the Bare Bottom Boys
Like the Mentors, Buck and crew dabble in a bit of sexism, only in a more humorous, nonviolent and naughty way. Matched to R&B and rockabilly styles and scantily clad band members, it all comes off as politically correct. I mean, they sing, “Sometimes I Like You for Your Money, Sometimes I Like You for Your Tits,” while exploiting their own bodies. They should open for U2. (The Chatterbox, 12/26 midnight, $3)

Camper Van Beethoven, Spot 1019
Why do I hate CVB so much? Their jumbled, playful plodding through a variety of international folk influences, novel in-jokes and an old hippy freak-out record collection has always left me cold. Openers, Spot 1019, have a good record out and a touch of adolescent humor and charm. (I-Beam, 12/28, 10 pm, $7/$8)

Red Hot Chili Peppers, Faith No More
I’ve seen the Red Hots about four times. Half of the shows were great, the other other half stunk, but all of these shows had one thing in common: sex. These guys are almost always at least half-naked onstage, a plus considering what fine strapping specimens of manhood they are. In fact, if you’re lucky, you might see a bit more than bare chests. Enough on the visuals, soundwise this foursome delivers a cross between funk and heavy metal that predates the gluttony of this combination that dominated the charts a year ago. I hope they pull off a tight show; I know they can. Openers, Faith No More, haven’t been playing around much lately. Their second LP, Introduce Yourself, went by without the notice and praise it deserved. They’re humorous, furry and formidable — with a lot of that scumbag integrity intact. (The Fillmore, 12/28, 9 pm, $15)

The Cramps
So I guess the Cramps vocalist, Lux Interior, has returned from the dead. Not really, it was just a rumor. However, I believed it, was quite sad and almost eulogized him in my column. The Keatones started the rumor, but guitarist Poison Ivy says that Lux starts the rumor about himself every year. I’ve always thought of him as the decomposing corpse of Elvis anyway. The Cramps are a killer band. Perversely butt-kicking and grungy, they’ll ring in your new year with an act from a turgid, steamy swamp to a haun in hell. Fathers, take your sons; Mothers, take your daughters. There’s no time like now for that important lesson about touching yourself in public or deep throat using microphones. The extraordinarily high tickets price includes party favors and free champagne. (The Fillmore, 12/31, 10 pm, $27.50)

Fishbone, The Limbomaniacs
This could be a great New Year’s Eve choice for an upbeat, danceable and wild time. Fishbone puts on a highly energetic, action-packed show with horns, dancing and the works. Their amalgam of styles (ska, funk, rock) has seen them through two unique LPs and a growing reputation as a live act. Openers, the Limbomaniacs, have a solid debut disc out that’s getting rave reports. Nice name, too. (Kennel Club, 12/31, 10 pm, $15)

Chris Isaak
Out with the old and in with the new? Yeah, right. (The Stone, 12/31, 9 pm, $25)

Spanish Elvis
Also included on this bill are Special Guests, the hot new band appearing almost everywhere on New Year’s Eve. Spanish Elvis seems to be the love at Nighttrain, like beer and sake. Free food and drink! (Nightbreak, 12/31, 10 pm, $15)

Kats and Kitten
What could be more fitting than SGMA’s Grand Dame Miss Kitty presiding over the night’s festivities at the Paradise? This sounds more like it! You know she’ll be carrying on in a big way. Even better, all evening, the Paradise won’t be charging a cover. I don’t know how they do it, but I hope they never stop. Free champagne will flow at midnight. (The Paradise Lounge, 12/31, 10 pm, free)

Boss Hoss, Noize Boyz
Raw rock and roll, the purest party sirens, will be Beckon from the Chatterbox. It always does. Free champagne. (The Chatterbox, 12/31, 10 pm, $4)
December 25-31, 1987

AFFECTION. Despite that rough 'n' tough image of self-sufficiency, it's obvious you're totally dependent on this relationship. If you would have been horridly dead and meaningless without your companion's love, and it's time you admit it.

GEMINI, THE WOLF (May 21 - Jun 20): In '87 you searched everywhere for the perfect relationship and it eluded you. Spend this week going back through your diary and reconnecting with the numerous people you met on your quest for true love; take a second look at those gentle people you hastily discarded months ago. There's one special friend who's tagged along behind you despite your constant denials. Stop looking for perfection and enjoy what you've got.

SAGITTARIUS, THE CRAB (Jun 21 - Jul 22): Immediately discard your defenses before it's too late. Those ardent lovers who have been pounding on your door all year long are just about ready to give up completely. Set aside all your petty qualifications and justifications; they only reveal a horrible disgust with your own inner weaknesses. Open up to the love which others keep trying to give you. You have nothing to lose except your loneli-ness.

LEO, THE SNAKE (Jul 23 - Aug 22): 1987 has proven that you can go for a whole year without romance, without sex, without money, and nobody even notices. Previously you could manipulate your lovers with a playful smile and devastate your friends with a passionate hug, but all that seems so childish now. To be honest, simple lusts have been fully satisfied by your dearJune-John who lives with you day in and day out. Is this a sign you've finally grown up?

VIRGO, THE PIG (Aug 23 - Sep 22): The havoc of '87 is that you're much better at taking care of yourself than at trying to save the world. Time after time, your valiant attempts to rescue humanity from its dense have fallen completely apart. You've discovered that the job is just too big even for a dedicated volunteer like you. Put your miracle power to work exclusively for yourself and your dearest lover. Let all the others take care of themselves.

LIBRA, THE LION (Sep 23 - Oct 22): What would your father think of your accomplishments in '87? That's a strange but effective question you should ask yourself several times this week. You've been bouncing off the walls of personal frustration like a bozo driven by compulsive consumerism. Your dad's the only one who ever had enough guts to say "No!" It's time to eliminate the debt you've created with your quest for true love; take a second look at those gentle people you hastily discarded months ago. There's one special friend who's tagged along behind you despite your constant denials. Stop looking for perfection and enjoy what you've got.

SCORPION, THE HORSE (Oct 23 - Nov 21): If there's one thing you learned in '87, it's that you work better behind the scenes rather than in front of the crowds. You've finally realized that you're not cut out to be a superstar; nevertheless, you are amazingly capable of putting your power behind the ones you love. Now figure out a way to ensure a decent income from such dedicated service by impressing your team with absolute commitment.

AGITATARIUS, THE ROARER (Nov 22 - Dec 21): Over and over again in '87 young people and childish adults attached themselves to your strong parental nature. As a result you've matured way beyond your years. Reaffirm your dignity and personal pride because there are signs even more children will gather around you this year. Be the teacher, the model, the leader, the lover. But don't expect much back in return.

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We like you to get tied up and experience erotic bondage. I have been tying men for 8 years; respect limits, discreet, safe. 563-0067.

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Good looking, well hung bodybuilder wants to meet good looking, well hung men 20-35 who keep in good physical condition. Photo not necessary, Prefer phone number, brief description and best time to reach you. Sentinel Box 522.

I need to be provided for emotionally and materially. Tommy, Sentinel Box 528.

AIDS CURE IS IT POSSIBLE? IS THERE HOPE?

Research is being conducted by an independent scientific team on a solution to the AIDS epidemic. We are now running tests on a preventive substance. For legal reasons we are unable to promise a cure. However we are now in the process of recording our results. Should our tests prove successful, we need volunteers completely confidential for information or an application send to: Control Studies, PO Box 218, Orem, Utah 84057.

LEARN TO PLAY CHESS:

Tad Waggoner, director of Quicktricks Chess Club, announces a ten-week series of fun, low-key beginner's classes aimed toward the establishment of a gay chess club. Classes to be held at 7:30pm, Friday nights, beginning January 8, at Metropolitan Community Church, 920 Euclid (between 18th/19th Streets) No-smoking, no alcohol, no drugs. Free. Please bring own chess set and a friend. 415-847-7038.

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Continued on page 33
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Continued from page 31

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