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Co-Parenting in the Age of AIDS

Lesbian Mom, Gay Dad. Is It Still an Option? (Yes.)

by Ron Hendricks

A long with many other changes, trends and upheavals in the two decades since the Stonewall Revolution, a reassessment has taken place of the possibility and significance of parenthood for lesbians and gay men. At one time, coming out almost seemed to carry an implicit rejection of having children. Being childless was considered to be part of the freedom that "the lifestyle" brought us.

However, since many men and women had been in straight relationships when they came to terms with their sexuality, they often took children with them into their new lives. Many felt socially enclosed by parenthood. But a process of acceptance has led the community to a point where it is both a common sight and a source of pride to see lesbians and gay men parading their children up market street under the rainbow banners.

In the second decade since Stonewall, another development has occurred: the emergence of lesbians and gay men choosing parenthood after they have come out. This decision may involve adoption, surrogate mothers or anonymous sperm donors. However, a small but increasing number of lesbians and gay men have crossed the gender barriers within our own community to share the process of becoming parents.

This year, daughter of gay sports figures Sara Lewinstein and Tom Waddell, came into the world in 1983.

The amount of cooperative parenting between lesbians and gay men has declined since AIDS.

witnessing much media fanfare, controversy, and social change and finally a new sense of cooperation and respect between two spheres of gay community involvement. Although the AIDS epidemic that took the life of Jessica's father has not lessened the progress of the cooperation in parenting, the desire to have children has continued, and co-parenting between a heterosexual and a gay man goes on.

The vast majority of lesbian and gay parents are still those who had children as part of a previous heterosexual union. Ed Etzkorn, president of Gay Fathers of the Bay Area, for example, is unable to think of a single case in his organization of a gay man who elected to become a father as a gay man.

Cooperative Gay Parenting

Still, an increasing number of both men and women are discovering that having the closet does not preclude taking part in this important aspect of what it is to be human. "People are being innovative about creating new family structures," says Robert Achtenberg, director of the Lesbian Rights Project. "There's a good side and a bad side to the situation we're in as homosexual people. On the one hand, our relationships tend to be more fragile because we don't have the support and the societal reinforcement that helps hold people together. But the good side is that we have more freedom. People like to create all kinds of arrangements of family life. "There's every kind of arrangement that you can imagine," says Achtenberg.

Some question exists as to the actual number of lesbians and gay men who are electing to bring children into their lives through adoption or birth, within the context of their gay identity. Ellis Schindelman, of the Lesbian and Gay Parenting Project, roughly estimates a thousand such families in the Bay Area, based on those who have directly or indirectly made use of the services of the Project, which is jointly sponsored by the Lyon-Martin Women's Health Services and the Lesbian Rights Project. "The number seems to be going up every year, but a lot of this is guesswork," she says.

Decline Since AIDS

The amount of cooperative parenting between lesbians and gay men has declined since AIDS. Anonymous HIV testing sites will not disclose information to an individual, but the individual tested, although a woman's private physician can test a potential sperm donor for that woman and report the results to her.


"I've heard this story many times," says Schindelman. "Lesbians have gay male friends that they want to co-parent with, but the man is anybody positive and they go to another friend and he turns out to be anybody positive, too. Finally, the women give up because they don't want to have a child with somebody who's a stranger."

Trend Reversing

But Schindelman and her colleague, Cheryl Jones, believe this negative trend may now be reversing itself. Says Schindelman: "Things have been affected by legal issues and AIDS, but from what I see currently, there seem to be as many women wanting to parent with either a known donor or with a man who will participate as the father, as those who are choosing to have unknown or known-at-18-type sperm donations, where the father can be known to the child when the child reaches 18 years of age.

"It's becoming much more of concern to people to either have a biological father involved or at least be known," adds Schindelman. "And people are not able to do this, even though they'd like to because they don't know any gay man who they have enough of a relationship with to be able to parent together."

A single lesbian with whom to co-parent. "A lot of lesbian couples want it both ways," says Traiman. "They want to have an anonymous donor and then they want to find a gay man to be involved with their kid. And if you're not the parent, you don't have any rights at all. The women can just say 'you screw.'"

"It was real interesting," Traiman told of his efforts, "because I got in touch with my anger over the situation. Aside from trying to meet lesbians at the parenting group, I also put an ad in a gay paper. And I just put the word out. There were several times when I met women and we talked at length. Each time the women that I spoke with chose not to do it, and each time it was very interesting because the women said it wasn't me personally. It was the concept of surrendering power to somebody else.

"I can certainly understand these women's perspectives, particularly when there was history of lesbian motherhood that these women had to fight men, former husbands, for custody. They were lesbian women, and their husbands were straight. But obviously, what we were proposing was new. Yes, come on, we're both queer! It's been a very interesting journey."

Resources for Gay, Lesbian Parenting

Books


Support Groups

Lesbian and Gay Parenting Project
SF, CA
641-0220

Lesbian/Gay Parenting Group
157 El Camino
Berkeley, CA 94705
635-4816

Gay Fathers
PO Box 3182
SF, CA 94113
841-0306

Latina Lesbian Mothers Groups
335 Valencia
SF, CA 94110
550-1506

Agyencies

Parental Stress Line
Family Service Agency
SF, CA 441-5437

Parents United, Inc.
375 Woodside Ave.
SF, CA 731-7740

Single-Parent Resource Center
1435 Market
SF, CA 94114
841-1881
Continued from previous page

Traiman talked about the Lesbian Gay Parenting Group: "It's a transitional group — both sides of the bay — I've been part of it for about three years. It was originally called Gay Men's Parenting Group and it was for gay men who were interested in becoming parents. I got involved in that many years ago and then, when the AIDS crisis started becoming a reality, I sort of dropped out of that and realized, Leland, you can't become a parent because you might be carrying the virus.

And then in July of '83, when the test became available, I got tested because I specifically wanted to know if I could become a parent. When I — much to my shock and surprise — came back negative, I said, 'Oh, I can do this,' so I got involved with the group again, which at that point was being transformed into the Lesbian-Gay Parenting Group."

But it is wrong to conclude that it is only men who have been frustrated in the search for a parenting partner. Schindelman tells of some women's experiences: "I know two lesbian couples who I've talked to recently who had the parent biologically with gay men. men who have been friends of theirs for a long time, and when it actually came time to inseminate, the gay men freaked out and the women were left with no way for their whole plan to succeed."

"The other way I've seen people succeed," adds Schindelman, "is if they don't have all the complications of all the partners. The partners can get feelings like, 'Hey, here are the biological mom and the biological dad, and who are we? And how is this all going to work out?'"

"The difficult thing is not proving to someone that you're HIV-negative; it's making a decision and it was for gay men who have been friends of theirs for a long time, and when it actually came time to inseminate, the gay men freaked out and the women were left with no way for their whole plan to succeed."

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Continued from previous page

favors to me. It still feels like it's 6:30 in the morning and it's raining and her hair is at the other house. Do you really get two of everything? That's the reality.

"Asking about the issue, bigotry from her daughter's teachers and friends, Reardon spoke of the advantage of living in San Francisco. "I may be missing something but so far I don't think so. Andrea has made some friends at school, and I make a point of introducing myself to their parents. It's not a secret at all. It's also something that she talks about quite openly." Redmond told how, when he first made the decision to tell his daughter's principal, the principle casually informed him, "Andrea told us in kindergarten.

Consensus Parenting

"Cheryl Jones is not only a counselor at the Parenting Project; she herself is a mother of two. The father of her first child, Carla, was a gay male friend who for many years was not involved in parenting, but who has been introduced to the child more recently. Jones, lover, Wendy, is the biological mother of her second child. The father is another gay friend, David, who is taking an active role in parenting. The older daughter is now seven years, the younger daughter, Kelly, eight months. When addressing some of the ups and downs of gay lesbian co-parenting, Jones is in a unique position. "I think it's different, depending on which one of the three of us you talk to: me, Wendy or David. For Wendy and me, it's meant taking a third person into account in our own relationship, in a very deep kind of way. We've had to deal with issues around privacy and having enough space for our relationship, particularly when Kelly was first born and David was in the hospital virtually every day. And we had been used to really a lot more private space than that. There would be situations just used to that. "I had a lot of control or power or whatever with my older daughter. I was dealing with the primary person for her. It was really my decision for a long time. And I'm not in that spot with Kelly. None of the three of us are. We're in a negotiation process, coming to a consen sus about how to handle things. But I find that exciting, and Kelly seems to think things are fine. She's a very happy kid."

Pregnant in a Lesbian Bar

In her landmark book Gay Pare nting, The San Francisco Chronicle discusses the lack of support often faced by lesbian and gay parents in their own community. Specifically, she describes how she wanted her right to go into a lesbian bar white public.

Cheryl Jones has noticed changes in the lesbian world since she was pregnant with her eight-year-old girl, Carla. She feels that the gay community is a lot more open behind on that subject. When I was pregnant with Carla, I had a similar relationship as a lesbian dance where a friend of mine came up to me and said, "I hope this doesn't mean you've gone straight on me." I got lots of that, people looking askance. I've insulated myself from them. I don't hang out with people who feel that way.

"But also, there are a phenomenal number of babies being born in the lesbian community. If your friend has a baby, you can no longer carry around the assumption that lesbians have no babies. There's even a sense among some lesbians now that you have to count on motherhood, that you can have babies. And that's not necessarily good, either. There is still no good reason for having a child, except that you want one.

"Co-parenting is starting to make a connection between the two communities (lesbian and gay) that I really find exciting. With the AIDS epidemic, people stopped doing that for a while, but I've seen it again. It's a really great way to communicate because when you start talking about having kids, that's a real gateway in your life."

Should you take the AIDS antibody test?

Possible Benefits

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

The San Francisco Department of Public Health offers AIDS Testing which is voluntary and anonymous. Counselling and referrals are also available. To make an appointment for testing, call 621-4986.

Every Thursday

Look for the San Francisco Sentinel at these new and continuing Bay Area outlets...
ELECT
PAT MONTCLAIRE
EMpress
1989

Voting
Saturday, February 18, 1989
9 am - 6 pm The Stevenson Room
San Franciscan Hotel
8th & Market
San Francisco, San Mateo or Marin County Photo I.D. Required.
For information call 431 - 1337

ELECT
JERRY COLETTI
EMPRESS
1989

Voting
Saturday, February 18, 1989
9 am - 6 pm The Stevenson Room
San Franciscan Hotel
8th & Market
For information call 431 - 0253
San Francisco, San Mateo or Marin County Photo I.D. Required.
"You're kidding; you really want me to father your child?" And I said: "Yes, more than father..." And by now we're already crossing the bridge and almost got into a car accident. I said, "I was thinking about talking to him about a child. One evening we were driving home after we spoke at UC-Berkeley to a couple of gay groups there. We started talking and I asked him about children. You know how you can get close real fast? That's what happened. He got tears in his eyes and talked about how he had always wanted a child. Oh, God, he started crying, and here we were, crossing the Bay Bridge. And I was just ecstatic at his reaction. He thought never he'd be able to father a child and I was: "WTF! The reason I'm saying you is that you are a child, and I think it really could be wonderful. It was a little difficult. I don't know if you mind if we stop somewhere before we get killed and never get any farther."

So we came right here to Artemis. We were closing and I said goodbye to the women of the community. “We're closing, we want to stay and finish our talk.” Time just went so fast... Suddenly all the alarms are up on the top of the building and here we were with a cold bowl of soup in front of us that used to be hot. We were so excited. I told to Tom, "I think you're wonderful. I don't want you to just die and never come back.

Sara Lewinstein
After the Games. Whether it would be the red or black, we didn't know, but regardless we knew we were going through. So we decided to do that the first two-month break and went off together to our families for a little rest.

That was when I started thinking with the thermometer, what time of the month and what have you, directly after the Games... That was when artificial in­sumption, you ask? No, we did it naturally, right in the bedroom. It was a very natural act of God... or the second woman, whichever you choose.It was a wonderful time. We talked about how we wanted a child and how we wanted to go into details, but we did have a great time. And I got pregnant right away.

I said, "OK, Tom, this is what we're going to do," and we went down to Los Angeles in August. Our marriage was on the national news. My brother owns a furniture company so no one could say, "Who are you?" Just because God forbid something would happen, there would be not one dead but three or two, and we would be leaving Jessica. This little all America family would be having an orphan. So I didn't try for the second child.

Did you know Tom had AIDS when you married him?
Tom did get some symptoms. ARC. We thought it was the flu. His father had just died and someone very close to him had just died on the East Coast and he was very sad. I still thought he had the flu. But when that was over, he thought it was mostly, because we just loved each other so much and I wanted Jessica to know how much her parents loved each other. And the biggest ecstasy of love that two people could know, I think, is marriage. We wanted to do that for ourselves. And so we eloped in Las Vegas and we photon our marriage licenses.

I was coaching my younger sister, who was having a baby. I called Tom and said, "I'm feeling this feels so natural to me. What I want with you is that we would share the child with our respective lovers in a sense, but we're the mother and the father and I want a full involve­ment and sharing experiences and to be there and go to Lamas classes. Was there anything you had a hard to explain about? You know, just donate the sperm. I would love for you to be in­volved, because it's not going to be the same. You mentioned that you would share the child with our respective lovers in a sense, but we're the mother and the father and I want a full involve­ment and sharing experiences and to be there and go to Lamaze classes. Was there anything you had a hard

When did AIDS come into the picture?
This was all before AIDS was actual­ly talked about. Maybe you've already a story, and it wasn't rele­vant at all to anything. And we were just going around as a couple, and we were even going around as a couple saying we were pregnant and even after I had Jessica. I was getting ready for Games II, and I was still attending events and teaching softball and playing my sports and traveling, traveling across the country. At the time, Tom and I were speaking at gay games for gay women to meet gay men, and we were introducing them and setting them up. When you ask me about AIDS, I think it's more of a factor. After Jessica was born, I learned that Tom had contact with someone who was gay and whose time was coming up. ‘Let's go and announce anything. I'm mean pregnant. We were planning for the Games at the same time and decided to give ourselves a two-month break right

And so we care for a parent, a child. You're kidding; you really want me to father your child? Tom said: "Yes, more than father..." And by now we're already crossing the bridge and almost got into a car accident. I said, "Before we co-parent a child, do you mind if we stop somewhere before we get killed and never get any farther?"

If you thought about having a child before you met Tom?
At the time, Linda and I were lovers, and she had talked about how we'd always wanted a kid. We did a show on ABC many years ago and on that show we mentioned how we wanted to have a child, waiting for the right guy, how we were going to do that; artificial insemination and exactly how much the man would have. And at that time I had several friends who to father a child with different

Famous Lesbian Mom
was obvious.
Lewinstein, whose photograph hung on the wall. The resemblance
She told me — ordered me — to sit
used to get crushes on in junior high.
dreamy love stories I had ever heard in
I was soon rewarded with potato salad. I
never been heard in my life, told for the first time in its en­
the epic came out at all times, with
very few questions or prompts, each sentence interrupting the one before
They were just such a wonderful man that
the children I've ever heard of in my life.
and Tom were getting involved, it was just forming. I got
and Tom were speaking about it with their parents. Because they're treating her awful. I just remember that Tom was fromTyped on textured paper with a typewriter.
the was being done before the testing was even
that our timing was off. We have a great time. And I got pregnant right away.
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NEWS INTERVIEW
Famous Lesbian Mom Reveals Her Story
Sara Lewinstein: Legend Over Lunch
by Ron Hendrick
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the counter, had a Lesbian sign in the window. The Olympic hero Tom Wadde11, and mother of Jessica Waddell Lewinstein, whose photograph hung on the wall. The resemblance
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kind of involvement. And then, when I met Tom, it all sort of fell in place with me. He was just such a wonderful man that basically we fell in love with each other. And who for who we are, him and myself be­
ing gay.

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LETTERS

Lip Reader
To the Editor:

"Read my lips!"

Everytime George Bush slapped as with this bullying quip during this past campaign, I wanted to pull one of my man friends up close to me, smack a luscious kiss together and retort, "Read My Lips, George!"

Despite the bad press and the dismal return on the money we pay our government, we all know that our lesbian/gay love, our sexuality, our relationships, our ways of seeing and being in the world are potent and powerful. We are also learning that it is our love empowerers as when we let the world see it, alive, healthy, creative, even demanding!

Soon we'll be celebrating Valentine's Day, a day of love and lovers. This year I'd like to inundate the White House, Congress, the Supreme Court, ABC, CBS, etc. with lesbian/gay Valentine wishes.

So I invite you all to play along and head to your favorite lesbian/gay card shop, find your favorite postcards of men or women kissing, color them with a few red hearts, inscribe them with a "Read My Lips" and any other quips you fancy. Then send them off to George Bush, Justice Rehnquist or O'Connor, or to whomever you'd like to read your lips. Let our collective lips daringly speak our love.

Do be my Valentine!

Micket Peters

Mesch Steps Down:
To the Editor:

I want to thank our community for the loving support they have given me during my year as executive director of Community United Against Violence.

Many of you welcome us of your way to welcome me to the community. Many of you wished me good luck in the challenging task I'd taken on. And many of you generously shared your knowledge of people, politics and money with me.

Although I am bidding aloha to CUAV, I want you to know that your love and encouragement have been enormously important to me. It was a great way to come home to San Francisco.

Reverly Mesch

PR at Names Project
To the Editor:

In regard to Charles Linebarger's investigative report, "Reflections on the Quilt. What About the Future of the Memorial Quilt?" which appeared in the Dec. 23, 1988, issue of the Sentinel, I have the following observations:

I comment Mr. Linebarger for bringing to the public's attention both the issues of the Quilt's purpose: reiterated and "expanded" ("remembering the dead") and the Project's accountability to the public — in own and as a comparative for other AIDS-related projects and organizations.

The Quilt has in positive ways, in addition to its primary purposes, taught the public about who we are as gay and lesbian people. However, in these times of backlash, I also believe that to equate "gay" and AIDS, as some suggest the Quilt does, may in fact hinder its purpose in all regards. If gay and AIDS continue to be presented as equivalents, those who do not identify with our community may remain prone to a sense of invulnerability.

Gabor

Contributing Editor

Wind City Times

Men With AIDS — AIDS Activist

Gay Republicans
To the Editor:

So what else is new? We are informed that ultra-conservative religious zealots are demanding that all gay-oriented Republican organizations in California be denied access to membership in the state Republican party because "you cannot support family values and homosexual values at the same time."

Since when are family values the sole concern and property of heterosexuals? And just what do these pious Republican folks consider to be "homosexual values?" Gay people all have fathers, mothers, aunts, uncles, and cousins just as heterosexuals do. If gays are not considered a part of these families, it is usually because the heterosexual family members have turned their backs on their gay members — not the other way around.

And let us never forget, there are legions of gay men and lesbian women out there who are the loving parents of children of their own, courageously raising families whom they are striving to imbue with the highest ethical values, just as their heterosexual counterparts are attempting to do with their children.

Lastly, the most intriguing issue that this whole matter raises is the question of what machoistic impulses compell some gays to want to be members of the Republican party in the first place. A much beloved author, T.R. Wimsatt, in a tongue-in-cheek article entitled The Lighter Side of Socialite, listed in his first and most important advice that "you should fill yourself at once if you are gay and a registered Republican."

Are you reading this Thomas M. Edwards?

Dusty Hardbeck

Perplexing Report
To the Editor:

I am perplexed as to why you would print Charles Linebarger's article as an "investigative Report" when it is obviously not fair to an agency such as Open Hand, which he perceives as overstaffed. Granted, the AIDS Emergency Fund does work out of one office with low overhead. But they can.

Open Hand provides two meals, 365 days a year for more than 500 people. That's more food orders, storage, preparation, cooking and packaging of these meals before they are strategically assigned for timely delivery all over the City.

Anyone who has ever worked in any size restaurant knows that to accomplish what Open Hand does takes a tremendous amount of teamwork, salaries and volunteers both.

It doesn't seem productive for our community to be commending one charitable organization at the expense of others when they are all needed so very much.

Joan Crittenden

Suspend Sammon
To the Editor:

Last Oct. 19 I attended a press conference of religious leaders against Proposition 102. I was one of the instigators of this effort to defeat Dan Nessmay. In his statement against the initiative, Archbishop John R. Quinn said: "It is imperative to keep a balanced view and not turn to policies which adversely affect freedom and human dignity."

Regrettably, Quinn's eviction of Dignity from St. Boniface Church does just that. This action flies in the face of Quinn's own teaching and puts the archdiocese in conflict with the United States Constitution and with the City Charter.

I strongly urge Mayor Art Agnos to suspend Peter Sammon's appointment to the San Francisco Human Rights Commission until the matter can be resolved.

Fernando Miller

Chaplain Coordinator
Gay & Lesbian Ministry to Prisoners
NEWS INTERVIEW
Gay Mom & Pop

Fourteen Years in the Raising

by Mark Salzwedel

A pretty simple, little love story" is how Nikki Wright describes how she and her husband Ron came to be living in Berkeley with a menagerie of pets and their fourteen-year-old daughter. Ron: Are you really having a good time today?

In 2010, Nikki moved up to Canada to be part of a free school. Ron: Are you really having a good time today?

Now after 18 years they look back at their relationship and how the lesbian and gay community and society-at-large have changed. Ron: Are you really having a good time today?

As one of the first members in the local Lesbian-Gay Parenting group, how would you (Nikki) compare your situation to that of others in the gay parenting community? Ron: Are you really having a good time today?

Five years later, they met and talked and talked. Ron: Are you really having a good time today?

They met and talked and talked. Ron: Are you really having a good time today?

Roni: It seems a little ironic that you had separate residences for a while. Roni: Are you really having a good time today?

Nikki: We're the best of friends. Roni: Are you really having a good time today?

 Roni: Are you really having a good time today?

Nikki and Carla’s view was that "Such a relationship as this is the same as any other relationship. Then Ron moved in..." Roni: Are you really having a good time today?

Is there a bond of love between us that transcends all the headaches and hassles that a child can raise: child care issues, money issues, everything? There’s a just a steady feeling between us that’s pretty remarkable in any relationship these days." Roni: Are you really having a good time today?

Nikki: Yes, we have been together for a couple of years. Roni: Are you really having a good time today?

Women want to have kids, and a lot of these kids are going to be boys. Roni: Are you really having a good time today?

Ron: We don’t really have a lot of choice. Roni: Are you really having a good time today?

What have you done to preserve the bond between you? Roni: Are you really having a good time today?

Ron: There’s a bond of love between us that transcends all the headaches and hassles that a child can raise: child care issues, money issues, everything. There’s a just a steady feeling between us that’s pretty remarkable in any relationship these days. Roni: Are you really having a good time today?


doesn’t often come across in the lives of gay parents. Roni: Are you really having a good time today?

We've never been tempted to actually live together. Their bond is over the kids, so they have to develop a relationship between them. Roni: Are you really having a good time today?

In 2010, Nikki moved up to Canada to be part of a free school. Ron: Are you really having a good time today?

Now after 18 years they look back at their relationship and how the lesbian and gay community and society-at-large have changed. Ron: Are you really having a good time today?

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ViRx, a private clinical research center, wants you to know about an upcoming drug study for the treatment of anemia, a common problem in HIV-seropositive patients.

There are two studies available: one for persons who are currently taking zidovudine (AZT) and who have a hematocrit of less than 30%; and one for persons not taking zidovudine and who have a hematocrit of less than 30%.

Study participants will receive:

- $200 cash stipend ($25 initially, $175 after 3 months), and $25 upon study completion
- Free treatment with drug for final six months of study
- Free laboratory tests and monitoring of anemia during the nine-month study
- Physician consultation associated with the study at ViRx Medical Group, Inc.
- Same day results at no charge
- $60 per T-cell count
- Virus Testing
- Aids Testing

Enrollment for this study begins November 21, 1988.

If you are interested in this trial, or future clinical drug trials, please call ViRx Medical Group, Inc. at:

(415) 474-2233

The Rev. Matt Garrigan at a Radiant Light service. I asked the Rev. Carol why I had to wait two months for my rescheduled interview, and I was told it was because Radiant Light was undergoing a restructuring and the ministry would have clearer answers for me in February after the restructuring.

After having no luck interviewing Garrigan, I called the number for Radiant Light in hopes of getting an annual budget for the organization. I was told by Rev. Michael, who works as CFO for Radiant Light, that the ministry does not make public its annual budget, but that monthly financial statistics are often made available. He said he would send some statistics, which I have yet to receive.

I have neither quotations from Garrigan nor a budget for Radiant Light to help me answer my questions about this organization. I do know Garrigan has admitted (Sentinel, Dec. 3) to an income of "about a hundred thousand," apparently in contributions and teaching fees from his congregation of largely gay men and lesbians.

What I'd like to do is prod the Sentinel's readership into helping provide me with answers. Anyone who has personal knowledge of Radiant Light and Garrigan's role is asked to write me, care of the Sentinel, and give me any useful information. Any former staff people from Radiant Light who can provide helpful answers are encouraged to write.

Questions Without Answers

Unenlightened About Radiant Light

by Charles Linebarger

I have a lot of questions about the Rev. Matt Garrigan's Radiant Light Ministries, and few answers. If the Rev. Garrigan has anything to say about it, I may well remain in the dark for the foreseeable future. I set up an appointment to interview Garrigan for the first week in December. Unfortunately, the day before our appointment, Rev. Carol called from Radiant Light to reschedule our appointment for the first week in February.

The Real Questions

And now my questions:

1. Does anyone out there have an actual copy of the Radiant Light budget?
2. How much money do they take in on Sunday mornings?
3. Where is all the money going?
4. What percentage of the money is going to Garrigan?
5. What is Garrigan doing with the approximately $100,000 he admits to making?
6. What are the interpersonal contacts between Garrigan and the individuals in his congregation like?
7. What reason could Garrigan have for avoiding an interview with the press?
8. Do the members of the Radiant Light congregation have any qualms about donating to an organization according to whose by-laws they are not even members (Sentinel, Dec. 3)?
9. What legal reasons might be served by a religious organization that explicitly says that its members are not really members?
10. Since Radiant Light does not operate a foundation with a mission to serve the public, and Garrigan is not saving money to build a church, what purpose is served by collecting money from the congregation every Sunday?
11. Have any of the former "members" of Radiant Light come to have second thoughts about Garrigan's ministry?

Anyone who has information about Radiant Light, please contact me at the Sentinel, and I promise a future column which will provide some answers.
ACT-UP protests drug trials at SFGH.

by Be Hurston

The people from San Francisco ACT-UP (AIDS Coalition to Unleash Power) rallied Friday at the main pharmacy of San Francisco General Hospital to demand access to a new drug. Drug testing of foscamet, an experimental drug used to treat people with AIDS who contract the eye disease CMV retinitis, is riling both patients and researchers.

Foscamet is manufactured by Astra, a Swedish pharmaceutical company, and has proven active in vitro against homologous CMV retinitis, but testing of foscamet is currently in its first phase of clinical trials at UCSF. Five to ten percent of people with AIDS will contract CMV retinitis, which ultimately leads to blindness.

Until now, the available treatment has been DHGP (ganciclovir), a highly toxic therapy which has only marginal success and is completely incompatible with AZT. Foscamet is believed to be superior to DHGP.

ACT-UP is a group of researchers who is working by researchers to obtain funding for their clinical trials to patients and researchers who have not used DHGP or any other CMV therapy, in order that they may determine the fate of such patients.

Dr. Sutton, then stated, "We need well-controlled studies with homogeneous patients. If we let everybody do what they want to, we end up ten years from now not knowing any more than we do right now."

Dr. Mark Jacobson

UCSF

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EDITORIAL

Who is "We the People"?

President's Farewell

Ignores "We" on Eve of Dr. King Day

The 40th president of the United States said goodbye to the country — just days before the nation honored Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. — in a speech marked more by what he did not say, or even allude to, than by his all too worn-out sentimental tags about "our rising" and "our strength." Just as he has for eight years, Ronald Reagan looked the American people in the eye last Wednesday night and told them, "We did it... We meant to change a nation, and instead we change a world."

Now we ask you, Mr. Retiring President: "Just who is we?" For some 20 minutes last week — indeed, for some eight years now — your word has never included Hispanics. You've never had included Asian Americans. And, lo and behold, in a surprise we're sure to everyone of Dr. King Day Hillary Rodham Clinton declared a national holiday in Dr. King's honor. You question whether civil rights leaders are motivated by selfish career gains rather than social injustice.

President-elect Bush celebrated Dr. King's birthday by praising him as "— in contrast to your own silence Monday."

"We" didn't want to miss all those ballots being cast this time around, although we must admit we lost credibility if we did," he said. Yet even the Guardian ran not one but two reviews of Torch Song Trilogy: "We the people" proved to ourselves and to the world that when tragedy strikes, we aren't going to run and hide. "We the people" insisted on our own shoddy civil rights leadership.

Mr. President, as throughout our two centuries of history, "We the people" persevered. "We the people" found death head-on, and "We the people" emerged perhaps a little bit bolder, a lot more resilient to those attempts to silence us and wipe us out of the national makeup. "We the people" proved in the streets and in the world that when tragedy strikes, we aren't going to run and hide. "We the people" insisted on our own shoddy civil rights leadership.

New York for short-sightedness. I asked the editor of the Bay Guardian last year why we allowed "We the people" to be left out of the discussion of AIDS — except, of course, to label it a homosexual disease — in a day and age when some federal action might have curtailed its spread to every part of this nation. Your administration held its tongue and pulled its parenting tighter as the death toll started to mount, and to its farewell address to the nation you simply chose to ignore the fact that the massive spread of AIDS is part of your legacy. Yes, your legacy, Mr. President. As you retire to your beloved ranch in California this weekend, we the people want you to remember that many have died because of your inaction, and even though you, no doubt, will continue to choose to ignore it, many will continue to die because of what you would not do when you sat at the pinnacle of power in this nation.

"We've done our part," you told us last week. "We did it. We weren't just marking time; we made a difference." Well, Mr. President, we can only differ. You originally opposed the national holiday in Dr. King's honor. He said that Dr. King's work by defying the civil rights leader's example had "destroyed segregation, transformed a nation's history, restored a nation's virtue and realized a great people's noblest promise."

Meanwhile, all around the country, the people marched as they did in San Francisco Monday, winding up Market Street bearing "Living the Dream" banners. We the people celebrated the slain leader's 60th birthday — in spite of our own shoddy civil rights leadership.

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Saving Big Bucks on Lawyer Fees

Popular Legal Guide Reissued

by Ken Cady

The old adage is that you get what you pay for. Most of us who have had the necessity of purchasing the services of a professional might question that. Sometimes it's true, but sometimes you get $90 or $100 per hour seem pretty high for the results obtained. At least when you pay a lawyer for an hour, you get an hour. Therapists

It seems that today there aren't many ways to save money on legal matters. Prices continue to rise as lawyers continue to increase. The smart gay or lesbian can, however, learn to take many legal matters into their own hands and do without lawyers. Even if that goal is elusive, they can still learn the laws pertaining to their case enough to save time when they finally do get the lawyer's meter going, and to monitor their lawyer with enough legal sophistication to cut costs as the case proceeds.

This home remedy is available to all of us, thanks to the folks at Nolo Press who specialize in self-help law books. Nolo has just released the Fifth Edition of A Legal Guide for Lesbian and Gay Couples. Authors Hayden Curry and Denis Clifford have updated their popular manual to take into account not only changes in the law, but changes in our lives since the book was last revised. More couples, particularly lesbians, are becoming parents, and tragically, more of us are needing to learn about estate planning, medical emergencies, as well as the intricacies of probate law.

If you are like the average person, you will not take a look at your legal needs until they hit you in the face.

Then it's often too late to improve your situation, and usually too late to save money on lawyer fees. If you can discipline yourself enough to shell out $17.95 for the Legal Guide, you'll at least have it on hand for reference when a tricky legal problem arises. A little more time with it can save you major money on lawyer fees. If you can save $500, $1000, $1500 then you're the owner of an older edition of the Legal Guide then available and recommended it to you. Because the book is so well written and easy to understand, I considered it a real contribution to our community. The price tag is not high for a book of its size, and the fact that it will actually save you money makes it an even better value. When I looked over the new issue, I decided it was time to meet the person responsible for this effort.

Relaxed. For a Lawyer... Since there were two authors, I chose to introduce myself to the gay one. Hayden Curry. We met over lunch in Piedmont last week to get acquainted. Curry has the luxury of avoiding the coat and tie look, and I found him to be a relaxed and congenial fellow, for a lawyer. We agreed that lawyers are often responsible for this effort.

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First it was Mayor Clint Eastwood, then Mayor Sonny Bono. Now Mayor Sterle Wonder? Wonder is a Californian, but he says he would like to move to Detroit (his hometown) and run for mayor. The current mayor of Detroit, Coleman Young, plans on running again this year, and Wonder says he won't challenge Young. "Maybe it won't be '93; it could be four years after that. I hope it's as soon as possible, but I am serious."

Wonder hinted at what his being mayor would be like for Detroit: "ShOULD and when I become mayor, we'll have music in the chambers all the time."

San Francisco's Board of Education continued to show its division in a divided vote for a new board president. In a close 4-3 vote, Libby Dennisen finally realized her dream to be board president. Her opponent, Rosario Anaya, was backed by Sodonia Wilson and newcomer Leland Yee. Dennisen received the support of JoAnne Miller, Myra Kopf, and newcomer Fred Rodriguez, who was elected vice president.

Two Bay Area senators are proposing a 10 cent gas tax hike for transportation projects. Becky Morgan and Quentin Kopp introduced legislation that will provide about $16 billion toward transit projects by 2000.

Currently, California only charges a 9 cent tax, one of the lowest in the country. Another aspect of the bill would force Bay Area Transit agencies to merge into "four or five."

A Catholic priest, who chose not to be identified, told me that Archbishop John Quinn may want to become a cardinal, thus explaining his Dignity diminishing behavior. American archbishops like Quinn and Seattle's Hunthausen have been under intense pressure from the Vatican to tow the line on gay issues. Why is the Vatican not being equally aggressive toward heterosexuals using birth control? Isn't this appointment a "knowing insensitivity." Both feel it is an indication that Agnos isn't taking their concerns seriously. "It was a hasty remark — an unthought out response," said Larry Bush, another spokesman for Agnos. "The Mayor and all of us take their concerns seriously," Bush said about the furor.

Gay leaders on the panel include Foster Ten Wolffe of the San Francisco AIDS Foundation, and Myra Delaney of Project Inform.

Keep your PIN bar ready for another SF AIDS Foundation Lays Off Thirteen

by Dennis Conkin

AIDN Foundation Bans Off Thirteen

A half-million dollar deficit in projected revenues has forced the San Francisco AIDS Foundation (SFAF) to lay off 13 employees. Their leaving include a new three-person technical assistance consulting team, and several staff members in a program that markets AIDN educational materials to corporations, schools and other institutions around the country. "The agency is healthy — will continue giving across the board sponsorship. The impact on clients will be minimal," said Tim Wolffe. SFAF executive director.

The early January lay-offs are due to a shortfall in expected profits from the sales of educational materials such as "AIDS in the Workplace," an instructional video aimed at the corporate market.

According to Wolffe, for profit health care and educational instruction companies have entered the AIDS educational market — and can often produce materials faster and more cheaply than the non-profit foundation. "That is an enormous competition," Wolffe said.

The lay-offs primarily affected staff in the marketing and education programs of the seven year old agency. Only one position in the Foundation's client services program was eliminated. Three other employees have been offered transfers to other positions.

The staff cuts were "painful" but "prudent management," said Anne Goddard. SFAF communications director. Projected lay-offs are often used in planning program expansion and staffing needs in non-profit agencies.

According to Goddard, the reductions in the SFAF marketing service ensures that funds ear marked for client services will not be affected. "The bottom line is that clients must be served and that AIDS education must continue." We're in this for the long haul," she said. Ironically, Goddard's own position was cut to half-time.

The budget can represent about ten percent of the San Francisco AIDS Foundation $67 million annual budget.

.skil week giveaway!

You could win: A New Mexico ski excursion for two, complete with roundtrip airfare from San Francisco to Albuquerque, a rental car, a week's stay at a mountain lodge, and six days of lift tickets and ski lessons. Trip dates are March 27 to April 2.

How to enter: Call 415-976-5757 for details. You are eligible to enter every time you use 976-5757 from now until February 28, 1989. A winning personality code number will be selected at random by computer on March 4, 1989.

Good luck!
BEYOND THE BAY

New Lawyer is Life-long Activist

Lambda Hires Lowe As Staff Attorney
Compiled by Catherine Siebold

Lambd Legal Defense and Education Fund announced today that it has hired Sandra J. Lowe as staff attorney, effective December 1, 1988. She replaces Paul L. Etterthick, who was appointed the organization's legal director in August.

Ms. Lowe, a graduate of CUNY Law School at Queens College in Queens, N.Y. and most recently a litigator at the Defender Association of Philadelphia, considers her new appointment an "incredible opportunity" in a life-long commitment to social change.

"I was a child when Emmett Till was murdered, but that day I lost my naivete," noted Lowe. Till, a 15-year-old black boy, was visiting relatives in Mississippi in the summer of 1955 when he was beaten, mutilated and lynched for allegedly looking at a white woman.

"I was a child when Karen Kowalski was murdered, but that day I lost my parents," stated Lowe. Ms. Kowalski, a 30-year-old lesbian who has been legally prevented from seeing her two children in adulthood in New York City, was Ms. Lowe's first case as a staff attorney.

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HEALING RESOURCES

TANTRA FOR THE NEW AGE
Sacred-Sex/Applied Sexuality
by Ted Cutter

Dear brothers, we as gay men are now facing challenges for growth and change at a pace faster than ever before. With this idea in mind, this epidemic is one of our biggest challenges yet.

Looking at our options is the next step. Specifically, the gay culture has evolved from one of repression (closed expression) into a free form expression. In the '70s, this was especially true in the area of sexuality whereby the main focus was on genitality. Going through this period, we as a gay community realized that there was more to us than a sexual connection. In the '80s and the so-called "Age of AIDS," we learned that emotions and the heart connection were important parts in building relationships and intimacy.

Practitioners of each traditionfocus on three functions of the sexual act:

a. Charge — being just that, uses breath, relaxation and movement, techniques for charging bodies, e.g., breath, relaxation and movement, which clears the mind of any fears, anxieties and other inhibitions that may dull the sexual experience.

b. Release — of stress, mental limitation and physical discomfort that results from orgasm, which is not the same as ejaculation. The purpose of release is to clean out the circuits, so to speak, so one's body can sustain higher degrees of energy.

c. Healing — This is an aspect of sexuality that few, without some training, ever experience. Healing uses both release and charge and release as steppingstones to reach higher, more intense states.

A very important note is that you don't have to throw away all your past experience and start over. On the contrary, all that experience is a great plus here.

The gay society as a whole has now evolved to where these skills and practices can be used in the evolution of our sexuality and culture. So the past couple of years I have been studying what energy, health and macro-vascular nervous points are all about. So I find a combination and you can enjoy all the benefits from deep tissue massage to lymphatic drainage through energy balancing.

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The present opportunity is to get beyond our need to "fit in" and be excepted, and to know that we are a people of great value and service to this society. This challenge is to expand our knowledge of ourselves and the attainment of total health, as well as to make our unique contributions to society.

We are now at a point whereby our sexual connection can be a means of bonding as opposed to a separation from society. To do this, there are many resources available to us from other traditions; especially Tantric, Taoism and Quodoshka. Common to each of these disciplines is that sex is an integral part of one's total life and a basis for balanced, well-rounded relationships.

Tantra, one of the forms of Yoga from India, is a tradition and practice originally developed for royalty. At that time it was very common for royalty to have a harem. To preserve their sexual energy, Tantra became a practice developed out of perceived necessity as well as choice.

Tantra, introduced to China by Buddhist monks, and which was integrated into the culture, was practiced as a spiritual discipline both by the monks and royalty. The Taoists believed that by the conscious retention of the seed of life, one could rechannel this energy within themselves to reach higher states of consciousness and perceive life from higher planes of reality.

Quodoshka, a Cherokee word, for the practices and applications within the Native American Culture of sexual sexuality, was an important aspect of the development and progression of the tribal system. The teachings of sacred sexuality were originally taught to children from an early age as part of their preparation for rights of passage into adulthood. This was a time when individuals were expected to think for themselves and reach higher, more intense erotic states.

The freedom of the '70s is but the beginning. The building blocks are now available to us for consciously focusing the energy of the body for our own past experience, we can empower ourselves with the common knowledge that the bond of male-to-male love can dissolve any illusion of gay disease in any form.

The freedom of the '70s is but the beginning. The building blocks are now available to us for consciously focusing the energy of the body for our own past experience, we can empower ourselves with the common knowledge that the bond of male-to-male love can dissolve any illusion of gay disease in any form.
The Homeopathic Approach to Healing
by Denise Buzbuzian

Homeopathy is a 200-year-old branch of holistic medical science which is founded on the premise that minute quantities of certain plants, animal components and minerals can induce a healing response. Dilute amounts of these substances are introduced into the afflicted body in order to stimulate the innate healing process.

The foundation of homeopathy is a concept called the "law of similars." This principle essentially states that a substance which creates a certain symptom in a large dose can trigger the same symptom in an infinitesimal quantity of a substance that would normally induce that condition in order to purge the body of the offending energy.

Dr. Samuel Hahnemann (1755-1843) was a medical doctor who is credited as the founder of homeopathy. In 1790 Hahnemann rediscovered the law of similars and formulated the doctrine, "Let similars treat similars." He promoted this approach to healing and it was widely employed for medical treatments.

By trial and error Dr. Hahnemann learned that a medicine will help a patient if his own symptoms correspond almost exactly to the symptoms induced by a medicine in larger quantities. The dilute solutions used by Hahnemann have been catalyzed and expanded on by his followers.

Homeopathy operates under the belief that disease can be triggered by the body's responses to it. A homeopath stimulates a kind of energetic catharsis which balances an imbalanced condition.

Homeopathic medicines do not view symptoms as something to be alleviated by a drug, but rather as indicators of what the basic problem is. Allopathic medicine seeks to suppress and alleviate symptoms, and this type of superficial treatment may actually encourage the progression of illness from an acute to a chronic stage.

The treatment of sexually transmitted disease with massive amounts of antibiotics is believed to have laid the foundation for the rapid development of the AIDS epidemic. For too long the standard response to the symptoms of any type of illness has been to throw a pill at it. Penicillin may destroy the outer barrier of the body but it does nothing to correct the energetic deficit which permitted these diseases to become a problem.

By allowing an energetic imbalance to remain and be aggravated with repeated surface treatments one sets up the perfect condition for the development of chronic conditions such as AIDS. This deprivation of the vital force is aggravated by an unhealthy and chemical laden diet. Other factors include drug abuse and environmental stress.

Although homeopathy does not claim to have a cure for AIDS, a good homeopathic practitioner can enhance one's vitality and reduce the likelihood of opportunistic infections. A homeopath will take a detailed personal history and develop a program compatible to blockages and weaknesses in your vital force.


THE SILENT WAY
Spiritual Counselor & Teacher
Julian has 15 years as a metaphysical counselor, teacher and channel. His healing work is empowering. No matter how lost you are—loving, humorous and most of all—loving.

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FLYING, Jan. 30. rules good for you: facing, looking or forming a figure of Eight directly in the north sign of Taurus.

TODAY, Jan. 23. Up the Full Moon of Aquarius," to order for the Full Moon to occur when the Sun is in Aquarius as it is now, the Moon must be in the sign of Leo. Aquarius rules the water, especially in well and in the air. The water that Aquarius will win victory over is in the air. The Full Moon will illuminate where you are totally unique in the world. You can do something as a group to give you a clue to this.

December 1989 was about dropping work that we're doing because of societal/financial pressures and starting to do what you love. The Sun is in Aquarius.

When you see your uniqueness, make sure you ripe up your new name. I guarantee this to be the most exciting day you've spent in a long time if this recipe is followed.

On Jan. 21, 22, learn love how of your new plans. If you are not out with acceptance, this relationship may be an early departure. Monday puts the Moon in love of course; an end decision should be postponed.

Tuesday and Wednesdays are excellent business days. Plan for good work and self-desire a high. (Move in Virgo.)

Thursday, Jan. 26, after 9 am leaves coming on to us that both parties get better.
NEWS INTERVIEW cont.

me that they let the kids come up and actually barrage me with so much talk to people because everyone is in tears, and I just laid this crying and tears with you. And you share those moments, and that's certainly a peek around their attitudes. The situation was evolving, I think. When the liaisons being set up, both Nikki and I "Hey, we've got to at least be friends." I never would have believed would've participated in such a thing. He loves it. He's got a son. He's thrilled.

And I had full time health care all set up in the house with friends of mine all taking care of things, except Tom dying. And when I say nothing else existed, it was not Tom the folk. I was nothing else that meant anything to me. I was nothing else but the world around me.

Tom died a year and a half ago. In July, I've been a break from publicity, I didn't want to do news interviews after Tom's death. I did want to promote that there were people dying of AIDS. All kinds of people, not just gay. And sexually makes no difference to anyone's dying of AIDS. My biggest effort has been to get out. Tom's situation has enabled me to have the media's attention, the world's actually, to be able to get something out. It's a very sad story. But people can learn and benefit from hearing it.

There are so many stories, fun stories. Tom died and left some tapes. I don't hear them until afterwards. I remember one of the tapes I listened to — and I didn't want to listen to them because I thought they were so difficult. One story: I was teaching him how to ride a bike. And Bill Mandel would come down and they're so macho. It was up to Olivia and me to really kick them out. And we did very well at that. And on one of the tapes that Tom left me — we were crying, listening, it was very hard. And he would be talking to Jessica about "Mama" — he always called me Mama and I always called him Daddy. "By the way," he said, "you know all those racquetball games that you beat me on? I let you win!" It was after his death that I got to hear this. Even after his death, he would give me little things. It just shows that there was a lot of natural love there that wasn't to be defined. Call it a gay relationship; it was an open, sincere relationship. There was just a lot of affection. And Jessica gets that.

Are you still in touch with Tom's family?

His mother was just here. I flew her out here from Florida to spend the holidays with us. So I am in touch with everyone. It's what Tom wanted, and I'm fulfilling that as much as possible. I'd rather be here to help...

I go between here and Tom's house in Alameda. I love my Artemis. I'll be here 13 years come November. You might mention that, by the way. Bill Mandel's personal account of the team tournament results will be printed in next week's edition.

Continued from page 7

 peak around their attitudes. The situation was evolving. I think. When the parenting group started up about five years ago, I quickly realized that this wasn't going the way I had planned or hoped it would come about. When I saw these liaisons being set up, both Nikki and I was very surprised to wonder how they're going to do when they hear as reality, while behind them the shadows and lights reveal an interplay of men moving along carrying various instruments, through time.

The LAB Gallery is located at 1807 Divisadero St. (at Bush) in San Francisco.

Plato's Cave Premiers in Lab Gallery

T he LAB presents the premiere of Plato's Cave, a structural installation combining elements of sound and light to create an evocative translation of Plato's allegory of the cave. The 60-foot collaborative installation by Bob Davis, resident composer for Son 3 theatre, and visual artist Regina Japon and Sheila Chidlon is the result of a 1988 New Langton Arts Interdisciplinary Arts Grant. The exhibition opened in early January. Japon and Chidlon designed and created the installation. Plato's cave's mean spiritual composed of sheets of translucent plastic, lit from below, and is an open, sincere relationship.

Liss Tabenker, the one that the cave's existence is but a shadow of the real. Davis is a partner at the sound design group Faraway Productions, twice winner of the Bay Area Theatre Critic's Circle Award. He has created numerous Bay Area theater and performance concerts and works with Laura Anderson's sound engineer on two European and American tours. Regina Japon received a 1984 NEA collaboration grant with Deborah Slater and Bill Fontana, has worked mostly in the Bay Area for the past 10 years. Sheila Chidlon's work has most recently appeared in Julie Artinian's Gallery in New York City and in the Hakkin Gallery in Raleigh, N.C.

The inspiration for the piece is Plato's allegory of the cave, and is based on the three prisoners who are able to see only what lies before them interpret the shadows they see on the walls and the shadows they hear as reality, while behind them is a fire illuminating the true reality of the race moving along carrying various objects.

The LAB Gallery is located at 1807 Divisadero St. (at Bush) in San Francisco.
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**PROFILE**

**Tips on the New Tax Laws You Get What You Pay For**

by Robert Silver

What comes only once a year and is always very expensive? You guessed it: INCOME TAX TIME! Oh, that dreaded time of the year when the most well-intentioned and yet widely beaten of Uncle Sam is blowing into regions better left unbathed upon. But really, the onerous requirements of the tax laws seem to be ever present as we jump to collect restaurant receipts, parking validations, and repair bills in the hope that a few dollars come our way on April 15th. No other arm of the government is so prevalent in our daily lives than the IRS with its Big Brotherly inquiries about our marital status, income level, and exactly how we spend our money.

Nur has Congress seen fit to make matters any easier for us. About two years ago, Congress passed the Tax Reform Act of 1986. This act significantly changed or removed numerous tax provisions just when we were finally getting used to them. Among the changes were: the elimination of a deduction for state and local sales taxes; elimination of “itemized averaging”; a reduction, leading to a total elimination, of personal deductions; and the elimination of some very profitable tax shelters by prohibiting the use of “passive losses” focused on rental activities or through participation in a limited partnership.

**Irritating Out Wrinkles**

If you were not confused enough after 1986, Congress has remained busy with the task of ironing out the wrinkles that add and subtract, and adding, dropping, and changing things that did not suit their respective fancies. The result is a revision of the Revenue Act of 1986. Yet! A whole new set of tax laws have been born. In 1988, like 1987, the two basic tax rates are 15% and 28%. The bad news is that (if that is not enough) that with income over certain amounts, the “benefit of the 15% tax rate is phased out.” While that seems English, for example, that if you are single, the marginal tax rate is 33% on your taxable income between the ranges of $41,750 and $89,560. For every-body with taxable income over $89,560, the IRS rewards you by “phasing out” that’s phrase again, the deduction for personal exemption. An “exemption” is an amount you get to subtract from your income before having to calculate your tax liability. The good news is that at least Congress has increased the amount of the exemption each person may subtract (“deduct”) for himself and each dependent from $1,900 in 1987 to $2,000 in 1988. The amount goes up again to $2,000 in 1990.

Also increased this year is the “standard deduction.” The standard deduction is one of the few items Congress has placed in the tax laws that benefits people who do not make a lot of money. The standard deduction is another subtraction a person is allowed to make from income before calculating tax. The standard deduction is used by people who do not deduct their personal expenses such as medical expenses, home mortgage interest, and charitable contributions. The standard deduction is set at a single person, for example, at $3,500. If your personal “itemized” deductions for such things as mortgage interest and charitable contributions total more than the standard deduction, you can deduct them in stead. What is fair is that each person get his or her own standard deduction amount.

As extremely important benefit for people who are self-employed or small business owners is the allowance for a separate structure (like a greenhouse) to grow what knows what) that is attached to your house or residence. For those of you who try to claim a home office deduction, you must “regularly” and “exclusively” use the home office for your trade or business. It is on the “exclusively” part that a lot of people get caught. Do you use the room just for your employer’s convenience, for the convenience of your employer? If you get audited, they will definitely ask you if you have a TV in there. As we all know, nobody has a TV in their “office.” In addition to the “regularly” and “exclusively” requirement, you must claim a home office deduction you must use the office in one or more of these ways: as a place of business; as a place to meet and deal with clients, customers, or clients in the normal course of your business; or, in connection with your business, if you are using a separate structure (like a greenhouse) grow what knows what) that is attached to your house or residence. For those of you who try to claim a home office as an “employee” remember the office must be “for the convenience of your employer” and not your own convenience. For example, not wanting to

cross the bridge on Saturday afternoon for your convenience.

**Freelancers Beware**

One of the most costly changes in the new law is the increased complexity of “self-employment tax” all self-employed workers must pay. Self-employment tax is the equivalent of Social Security taxes for freelance individuals. For 1988, self-employed people must pay 15.3% of their profits (up to $45,000 in profits) for this tax. For 1989, that rate remains at 15.3%, but the maximum is raised to $49,000. The law requires anyone that earns with $400 or more to pay self-employment taxes.

When does one pay self-employment taxes? Well, you pay them right along with your estimated tax payments. For 1989 income taxes, estimated tax payments are required (because it is my birthday, and because April 15th and 16th fall on the weekend), June 15th, September 15th and January 15th. Remember, when you pay your estimated taxes, you must include both the income tax and self-employment tax due for that quarter.

If you underpay the correct amount of total taxes you owe, either through withholding or because of underpaying your estimated taxes, the IRS will hit you with a hefty penalty of one-half of one percent of the tax owed, up to 25 percent. So how are you supposed to know how much in taxes you are going to owe? Well, the IRS, graciously, gives you four ways to avoid the underpayment penalty. You do not owe this penalty if the tax shown on your return, less the amount you paid through withholding is, less than $50. Also, you can avoid all the penalties if you owe no tax in 1988. The most practical approaches to avoiding the penalty, however, is to pay either 100% of your 1988 tax liability as estimated taxes in 1989, or to pay 90% of your 1989 tax liability as estimated taxes by the people you use for the latter two methods.

**Procrastination Penalty**

Let me offer one cautionary note for those “you wait until April 15th to file your taxes every year, don’t quite make

the due, then file the Automatic Extension of Time to File (Form 4868). You will get a real “live” person from the IRS to answer your questions over the phone. Of course, however, you get what you pay for.

Bob Silver offers tax seminars in the Bay Area. He is a tax and business consultant and is a former IRS attorney. For more information on Bob’s seminars or for the name of a local seminar, please call 800-424-1040 (clever) and ask for “Tips on the New Tax Laws You Get What You Pay For” a seminar that Bob Silver will delight you with his amusing and unconventional approach to disseminating information.

**P.O. Box 100 San Francisco, CA 94114**

**Free Tax Services**

Lists all the publications that are available as well as other free services for the weary taxpayer. These services include information for the blind, tax counseling for the elderly, and a walk in service. In San Francisco, you can call 800-424-1040 and get a real “live” person from the IRS to answer your questions over the phone. Of course, however, you get what you pay for.

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Joy Schulenburg on the Art of Gay Parenting

Athough there have been gay parents for many decades at least, few, if any, have been the outspoken advocate of a "minority within a minority" that Joy Schulenburg has become. She has taken up the concerns of gay parents before the viewers of Geraldo! and Donahue, audience of straight parents and professionals as well as gay ones, and the boards of the San Francisco Gay Pride Day Parade and the International Ms. Leather competition.

Sitting in the Height Street flat that has been home to her, her eight-year-old daughter Veronica, and two gay men with whom she shares the room, she talks about the eight years she has spent as a parent and their children. You know, how they really doing? "The P.D. research indicates that they're probably more intrinsically loved and supported by their parents and they're really happy kids. I really want to find out because I was getting asked about the children and how they were doing with their kids and how their kids were. And I got to meet them, their kids, and their lovers. It was really nice, and the kids were amazing.

You divided the kids into two groups — those under and those over 12? Right. I had two separate questionnaires. Some of the kids obviously aren'tarrnent because it's been a couple of years now, but large and small groups probably would have some or have some kind of forwarding. And I tried to think of other things that people might ask. Some people said, " Gee, I'd go to church with my kids, except I didn't know that there was any area in my life that would support it." So I tried to find things that would support it.

What sort of solicitation did you get? Actually, that's a really amazing thing. The public response was tremendous. I got so many calls from people across the country that had read the book or wanted more resources or just called us to say things like, "I'm a parent of a group like this, and I just wanted you to know." That's exactly what I'm doing. To build the national clearinghouse for gay parenting issues. I started as ad hoc little group and now it's, I think, nine or ten people on the national clearinghouse for gay parenting issues. I started as ad hoc little group and now it's, I think, nine or ten people on the national clearinghouse for gay parenting issues. I started as ad hoc little group and now it's, I think, nine or ten people on the national clearinghouse for gay parenting issues.

Haven't you done a series of men who led to talking to the children of gay parents, or talked about them? I asked on the questionnaires, "What effect will this have on your child?" And also, "What's it like for you to have two fathers?" — because we've confused by the fact that she has two fathers. A lot of it, they want to know, "Is that even possible?" And I usually let her answer for herself. "I can count to three. I know. Daddy, Mommy and Papa ."
with her book Detour — A Hollywood Story now a paperback bestseller, Cheryl Crane can rest assured that her voice has been heard. Daughter of the legendary Lana Turner and Hollywood restaurateur Stephen Crane, Cheryl grew up a Hollywood princess, isolated and misunderstood. At 14, she suddenly came to Hollywood restaurateur Stephen Crane, Cheryl grew up a Hollywood event caused a sensation the reverberations of which, fueled by fatally stabbed Lana’s lover, Johnny Stompanato. The scandalous her mother’s defense in the middle of a violent lovers’ quarrel and

30 years later.

Her unhindered and fascinating ac­count of a difficult childhood is not an exercise in finger-pointing, but rather an attempt to clarify the confusing and often painful elements of her upbring­ing. Cheryl Crane’s charmed existence isn’t seem to stay put. Father figures in a household where familiar faces did often impossibly distant. Most unfor­tunate was one stepfather (a star of adolescent Cheryl’s bed. inflicting his himself a horribly familiar figure in pre­

several yean were no less agonizing as she was preparing to leave San Francisco for a national tour to publicize the paperback edition of her book. She and LeRoy moved to the Bay Area three years ago from Hawaii, where they had been successfully involved in both the real estate and restaurant businesses.

I asked if she had read Christina Crawford’s book about her mother, Joan, Mummmie Dearest, or My Mother’s Keeper. B.D. Hyman’s book about life with Bette Davis. Having been unsure about writing her biography, Crane admitted. “My final push was B.D.’s book, in which she said I had been having an affair with Johnny Stompanato. I had to tell my own story.” Crawford had been an old acquaintance of hers, a sympathetic figure from her early boarding school days. “Christina was and is a friend of mine and has always been very kind to me. But she never told me what she was going through. Of course, when the book came out, I rushed to read it like everyone else. I was so angry for her! And I was 100 percent on her side. My mother had naturally rushed to read it, too, and I asked her, ’Did you know about this?’ She said, ’Yes, a little.’ And I said, ’For God’s sake, why didn’t anyone do anything?’ But of course I realized there was not much anyone could have done. It was such a closed atmosphere. In the old days in Hollywood, we were all so afraid of the press.”

Privacy has always been a loaded word in Hollywood, and keeping up ap­pearances of the utmost importance. On the issue of being the daughter of a star and growing up in this hyper­conscious environment, however, “It wasn’t a hard path of my parents—
my mother being in show business, my father being near to it — were ac­customed to it. They didn’t have any real prejudice or a lack of understand­ing for the lifestyle. It was never the ‘Oh, my God, my child is gay.’ As a child, I didn’t know there was a pre­judice to any type of thing. I didn’t learn that at home. Only as a teenager, when I set out in the world. They just wanted me to be happy.” Of her mother’s reaction to her tale now, she says, “We’re very, very close.” She often visits her in Los Angeles. “At last year Josh and I even had an old­fashioned Christmas — with both our mothers and the time was wonderful.”

Cheryl Crane’s story will go on even more public when it is presented next season as a miniseries on CBS, with Alan Carr producing. With the roles of Cheryl and Lana yet to be cast, Crane was making no predictions. Was she anxious at the thought of this kind of exposure? “If you’re honest with peo­ple, they can’t really attack you,” she said.

Cheryl Crane is one brave lady. Detour, by Cheryl Crane. Avon Books, $4.95.
MOVIES

Burt Reynolds Stars In Physical Evidence

J oe Paris is a cop on suspension from the police force, a hard-luck character with a history of violence who's just been arrested for murder. Jenny Hudson, his court-appointed attorney, is everything her client isn't—an articulate, ambitious, sharp, chic, cool sophisticate. They might as well be from different planets. But murder has driven the two to share a shaky and dangerous common ground. For Jenny, the high-profile case is a gamble to secure her future in the legal profession. For Joe, it is a case of survival.

Burt Reynolds and Theresa Russell star as the incompatible Joe and Jenny in Martin Ransohoff's production of Physical Evidence, a gritty murder mystery set against a courtroom backdrop. Directed by Michael Crichton, the Columbia Pictures presentation also stars Ned Beatty as a district attorney confident he can convict Joe.

Physical Evidence was written for the screen by Bill Phillips from a story by Steve Ransohoff and Phillips. Don Carmody is the executive producer. It all begins with the bad news that the Boston police have a particularly grizzly murder on their hands. The good news is that they immediately catch the obvious killer. He is none other than one of their own. Joe Paris, a cop on suspension with an intense dislike for the corpse in question. Joe is a hard-luck character in a swift tailspin, and now he has hit rock bottom. Things can't get worse, Joe comes face to face with his public defender, the one person standing between him and an indelible murder conviction.

He is an ambitious female attorney and a monumental mismatch. Under normal circumstances, they wouldn't even consider dating a cop. But they detect the fact that they need each other—she, to advance her career; he, to stay out of prison—and the proverbial sparks begin to fly.

The movie, which evokes the spirit of 1940s film noir fare, also features Kay Lenz, Kenneth Welsh, Tom O'Brien and Ted McGinley, plus Ray Baker and Ken James.

Kay Lenz is cast as the hot-blooded and mysteriously motivated Deborah Ken James. Her character, a newly wed mobster with oldschool headstrong attitude, is cast in the role of tough and mysterious character Jenny.

Speaking of his character in Physical Evidence, Reynolds, a veteran of more than 40 films, says: "This seems to be the first true victim I've played in movies. He's a dedicated cop who has lost his temper, lost his job and now he is about to lose his freedom. He's a loser who drinks too much and is emotionally volatile. Joe is not a particularly sympathetic character."

"Rather than coming in the rescue and taking charge, this time I must turn to someone else to try to bail me out."

Regarding the character she plays in Physical Evidence, Russell says: "What particularly intrigued me about Jenny was that she is as strong as her male counterpart in the film—actually stronger in most ways. He is dependent on her, and that is rare on screen today. Joe and Jenny have a clear, adult relationship, the kind that seems to be regaining popularity with audiences. They meet, they assess and test each other, and they know they will never change the other."

While Physical Evidence has the flavor of movies from another era—those big-city dramas that featured tough and mysterious characters sever at a loss for words or action in the face of bewildering odds—it is set in Boston in the late 1980s. Principal photography began in September 1987, with filming taking place in Boston, Toronto and Montreal.

The film is a Columbia Pictures release in the United States and Canada, with Rank Film Distributors Ltd. handling foreign distribution. It is one of the motion pictures made as a venture produced Martin Ransohoff in the 1980s and in 1986 with Columbia Pictures, Rank Film Distributors Ltd. and Vestron Video.

British Organist Makes Paramount Debut

The Oakland Paramount Organ Presentation Series continues its 1988-89 season with British theatre organist Simon Gledhill making his Paramount Debut, Saturday, January 28 at 8 p.m.

Simon Gledhill

"We're adding international flair to the POPS!" exclaimed Paramount General Manager Bob Holsinger. "Neither is an exciting entertainer and we're thrilled to have him perform at the Paramount!"

Gledhill's program will include theatre organ classics by composers such as Gershwin and Rodgers-Hart, as well as pieces that are recognizable British. Born in Hallifax, West Yorkshire, his interest in theatre pipe organ was piqued by a performance by Ernest Broadbent on the Wurlitzer organ in 1982, at the age of sixteen. Broadbent was named Britain's Northern Young Theatre Organist of the Year and was invited to make some recordings on the B.B.C. theatre organ for national radio. He has since performed over every major theater organ installation in Britain. In addition to his current American tour, Gledhill is scheduled to play in Australia and Holland. Gledhill's program on the Paramount Organ POP5 series include Grace Cathedral organist John Ferriman, playing a bustling score to the 1925 silent movie, "The Phantom of the Opera" on March 11, 1989; theatre organist Warren Weller, with his first major Bay Area performance on April 15, 1989, and a duet concert featuring Gledhill with partner Carter Curley on the Allen digital organ at David Keiley On Piano Tuesday, Friday and Saturday

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NOW! Look for the SENTINEL every THURSDAY!!!

BUZZIN' AROUND

by Lee Hartgrave

What makes Buzzin' the ultimate gossip columnist? Subtle, shining natural gossip in every shade of scandal. Only Buzzin' gives you several helpings of gossip. The exclusive items are so beautifully guess-proof. It's a stroke of brilliance. It brings out the best in you. The you that was born to gossip! Everyone needs a favorite gossip columnist. Someone to guide them through the maze of intricacies, juicy items and ribald secrets in their formulative years of learning. And — I'm yours!

CHANCE ENCOUNTER. OR... Graphics Coz Kirk Frederick made so much money this year that he took his entire staff to Hawaii for a week. While strolling down the beach one marvelous afternoon, he saw someone in the distance that looked much like Theater Baron Charles Dejuan. "Was this a Mirage?" he asked himself. As the figure got closer, he saw the young hunk (his name is Shaun) next to the mirage. Frederick knew then that this was real. No island is too small!

THERE'S ONLY ONE KITTY LITTER! (Everything else is just filler.) Producer Carole Shoenstein Hayes, who made a big success by producing Fences in San Fran, moving it to Broadway and a Tony, is going to produce Prelude to a Kiss at the Curran Theater. This will be a pre-Broadway engagement. Kiss played the Berkeley Rep last year and was a resounding success. The story, since you ask, is about a newly wed couple. At the reception, the bride kisses an older man (Sidney Walker, in Berkeley). Through this kiss Walker takes over the bride's soul. You can imagine the hilarious situations that arise, when the groom deeps with someone who looks like his bride but thinks like a man. Buzzin' has also learned that ACT will produce St. Joan, starring Primo Cabereno, Andrews Marowick. There are a few people, other than St. Joan, at ACT that Celebs would like to see burned at the stake!

PLAYING MONOPOLY WITH THE BANK: So you're tired of paying an annual fee to have a MasterCard. Buzzin' discovered this little secret. Call up — cancel your account. A couple of weeks later, a sweet young thing will call you and ask if there was any problem with service. Tell 'em you canceled because you felt that they were taking advantage of you with a yearly fee. Like magic, they say, "What if we didn't charge that fee to you? Would you reopen your account?" Do it! It works!

YOU'RE ONE DELICIOUS HUNK. LOVE THAT HAIRY CHEST. Celebs are fascinated with the KRON-TV provocative ad for the 49'ers hoopla. It taunts "The People". They know how important it is to have heroes!

LONDON UNDER YOUR FEET. (Or — "Beat Me Daddy, Eight to the Bar!"") The London tabloid The People headlined this story a couple of weeks ago. They said that Madonna spent New Year's Eve "trussed up like a turkey" after being hysteric, staggered to an armchair and left alone for nine hours. This story, of course, has been denied by Penn, and Madonna has dropped charges but has filed for divorce. Celebs complain, however, that the really big stars have all the fun! Our fave gendre: London oddsmakers are saying that Jerry Collett looks like the "Best Bet" to become San Fran's next Emperor. No word yet from "Jiminey the Greek." Celeb, by the way, is putting together a package to bring the Gay/Lesbian Theaters in San Fran's Gay Woods, to help the AIDS Organization Food for Thought (serves Santa Rosa, Guerneville, Sonoma and Russian River). Collett is shelling out for the transportation (the gay is made of money), plus giving a monetary donation. "Is he the man of the year?" Time Mag., where are you? If you can't travel to San Jose to see some torture in Sweeney Todd, you can catch some in Joe Turner's Come and Gone. The end of the play has an actor slit his chest from apple to apple. Realistic, yes, and fun for all you pain lovers, but the rest of the play is convoluted mish-mash. Celebs say. And much too worldly!

HORRORS! BUZZIN' MADE AN ERROR: It is Frank Banks, not Frank Burns who plays the piano at Charpe'i Grill (Thurs., Sat. & Sun.) Banks has been around town for a long, long time, and his playing will make you laugh, cry and wish he were there every sate. We couldn't print it if it weren't true!

EXPOSING THEMSELVES NATIONALY: Singer/Actress Darlene Popeovo, Picket Family Circus performer Larry Poon, Radio Man Rick Clain and Rap Master Moonzy, Paddy Mooney have made a 3-D Commercial that will be shown of the Super Bowl. The Diet Coke spot will then be given to the Music Museum of N.Y. (Celebs didn't know there was one). In 4-D Popovic will be at the Galleon on Feb. 19th in a Benefit for the AIDS Emergency Fund called An Evening With Darlene. GO AHEAD — TOS HIM ASIDE LIKE AN EMPTY COLA BOTTLE — NO DEPOSIT! Louise Renne, who came into political prominence when she was announced on the board of Supes, by then Mayor Diana (The Joe Exum look-alike) Feinstein, met her bunny Paul in Law School. Now they are getting married, according to Celeb. More politics: Jerry Brown will run for Prez, Joe Alter will run for Governor of State. Meanwhile, the Italian Princess (sing following to popular Italian melody) Mama Mia, Mama Mia, Mama Mia Angale, was spotted at Harry Bollt's Coronation. Tom Ammiano was at the Alotta Bash. Angela said to him: "We Italians must stick together." He said, "Let's get married — that will make news!" Some people will do anything to get ahead, Celeb says.

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kickoff stampede for stan the man
buffet - entertainment & dancing

** **

jan. 20th
benefit for food bank
enjoy the barbary coast cloggers
cover charge $5.00
i'lleene will buy you a drink

** **

jan. 22nd
49er day
watch the game with us.
beer - all you can drink - free food
open 1 pm - western dancing after the games.
cover charge — $4.00

* * *

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24 san francisco sentinel * january 19, 1989
Violin Magic and Wagner Blahs
by Bill Huck

The San Francisco Symphony opened the musical new year with a pair of violin concertos. The first brought the long debut of the 17-year-old Japanese wonderkind, Midori, playing Antonin Dvorak's tuneful extravaganza. The next week the Symphony's concertmaster Raymond Kobler rose from his chair to play Max Bruch's 'Unsung Heroes' romantic fantasy on Scottish Themes. Both weeks the orchestra and soloists were under the baton of Polish-born conductor Jerry Semkow.

Midori, who presents herself to the public without the benefit of a last name, is not only an extraordinary violinist with a big, rich sound, but a sensitive and able musician as well. Davies Hall can be cruel to violinists: its dry, acoustically well-dampened and closely gowned, and her highest notes shined more with light.

not gold, and by the time this Overture reaches its height, the composer has descended to the hubbub of triangles and cymbals sparking in the breeze. Wagner's revolution reached its first apogee in the Prelude to Lohengrin, with its diaphanous string textures and its yearning melodies. Here, when Wagner brings in the cymbal, the effect is miraculous rather than cheap. The world of Max Bruch is c的力量
cmpared to this floating iconoclast, even though Wagner's music, too, has its drippingly romantic side.

"Siegfried's Funeral Music" from Gotterdammerung, which came next on the program, showed Wagner in the full flight of his mature inspiration, with the glorious leitmotifs all woven so sublimely together, but the music that formed the crux of Wagner's great experiment came in the Tristan Prelude. Edward Hanslick, the prominent Viennese critic of the time, who did not like Wagner's music, compared this music to an old Renaissance painting of a Christen martyr whose entrails were being unwound onto a spit. To the comfortable Victorian sensibility that Hanslick embraced, the Tristan Prelude was exactly that shocking. It was in this music that the modern world was born.

If the programming of this concert was a revelation, it must be admitted that it made its effect in spite of, not because of, the Orchestra's playing. Throughout the Wagner selections on the Friday night I heard them, the San Francisco Symphony sometimes veered off course, the sound was so sharp that it nearly lifted me out of my seat. The brass blurred and brupted all through their sumptuous passages in the "Siegfried Funeral Music." The cello line alone finely executed their work, especially in the long drawn-out opening of the Tristan Prelude. The woodwinds, which had done a respectable job of the Prelude, turned around and lost control in the Tristan.

Some responsibility for this chaos must be borne by the conductor, Jerry Semkow. He's an awkward man, who wielded a 3½-inch bow to frequently jerky effect. The long lines of Wagner's melodies were never carried through gracefully. He rushed the subtle ritard before the cymbal crashes of the Lohengrin Prelude and thus robbed them of their organic effect. Equally, the tautness of the Tristan music had no sexual tension; in fact, it had no tension whatsoever. One wondered why Hanslick had been so shocked by it. And the hushed bejeweled murmur of "Siegfried's Funeral Music" were fearfully unsteady—the timpani was continuously out of step in its nursing of the muffied trombones. All in all, it was a most unsettling affair, with little musical meaning and no musical excitement.

However, before we dismiss Semkow totally, let me recall the fine job he did at the Midori concert with Robert Schuman's great C major Symphony. Semkow had his own way with this music. It was not so superficially nuanced as Seiji Ozawa's performance last year at SF Symphony Pension Benefit. Nor was it so straightforwardly athletic as Denis de Coteau's reading with the San Francisco Ballet Orchestra for James Kudelka's Dreams of Harmony. But Semkow's reading was structurally more satisfying: tight and opening, instead of being an individual high-point, became a true introduction to the exuberant first movement, which gathered superb momentum as it progressed. The quick witted silence of a lighter worthy of Mendelssohn's fairy music and the achingly beautiful adagio was wrought with a yearning that for some reason the orchestra did not capture in the Wagner music. Perhaps Semkow had better stick to the pure music of the great symphonic traditions of Schumann and Brahms and leave the extravagantly pictorial music of Wagner to others, more poetically inclinat...
**CENTER OF ATTRACTION**

Gay Society Comes Out

by Gary Meenger

The hard demands of the eighties have made the gay community in San Francisco more sober and serious minded than ever before, and we've found a greater level of acceptance in mainstream society, at least in part because of the political and business organizations we've succeeded in forming, and the philanthropic foundations, the volunteer support organizations, etc. But still there exists within our community a hard core of colorful little fantasy world with an Imperial Court and a Royal Court and assorted dukes and baroques, populated by people who like to dress up in colorful costumes and address one another by invented names and titles. Such a fantastic gay subculture now is in most major cities, but the prototype was created — of course — in San Francisco.

It all began two decades ago when Jose Santos and a few board members of the Tavern Guild had an informal meeting to discuss some ideas around. According to Jose, the notion of having a drag "Empress" to preside over special member bar parties, and appointing dozens to fill the role, was his own idea. Some others remember it a little differently. (This is one of the people involved wasn't young even then, and when old geezers get together over a bottle of good old days there're bound to be distortions and detail conflicts!) Then came the emperors. Less than a decade into the empress tradition someone perceived that a consort to escort her most imperial wieners from bar to bar would be a desirable adjunct. But the emperors decided they'd like to be more than just escorts. The first was "Mr. Marcus" (Hernandez), who had a sharp tongue and a skinned pen, and the power of a well distributed gay publication working for him. He hardily upstaged his empress, as did Bob Cram, the successor who inaugurated the prestigious Cable Car Awards. This is not a "battle of the sexes" — both emperor and empress have always been men, at least in this city. Same with the dukes and duchesses, etc., etc. (The currently reigning emperor corrected the misconception that drag emperors become empresses and leathermen empresses; he said that, in fact, more empresses than emperors have come from the "leather community." )

"The trip" to a drag affair (there being no really defining term) has grown. In 24 years we've seen two dozen empresses, each doing her (his) best to outdo all predecessors... and now we're coming up on the 16th emperor, which has become an equally colorful fantasy.

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THEATER

Two New AIDS Plays Premiere

Remember My Name by David Lemon, at the Zephyr Theatre, 25 Van Ness. Tickets $5. available at Box Office. January 11 through February 19 at 8 pm.

Passing, by Robert Planz, at Theatre Rhinoceros, 2374 16th St. Tickets $10 to $15, January 14 through February 18.

by Michael Gansaulns

With the proliferation of AIDS comes the proliferation of plays about AIDS. Two new AIDS plays opened this week. While they obviously contain similarities, they are each different and unique and worthy of viewing.

Remember My Name is David Lemon's attempt to capture the Names Quilt on stage. Hauntingly we meet the men and women at The Names Project who sew together the patch that comprise the quilt. Each has his own sad and sometimes funny story to tell about the person whose panel they are making. The action primarily takes place in the offices of The Names Project.

Passing, on the other hand, takes place in the hospital room of a young man dying of AIDS. In addition to the young man's family, we see a "tribute" of his imagination as a death watch ensues.

Both plays offer a chance for fine ensemble acting, but no one stands out as a star in either production. Remember My Name begins memorably with the recitation of names. Huge slides of AIDS victims are projected on a backdrop and the impact is immediate. However, this is the only time the slides are projected and it would be quite effective to keep these images appearing throughout the evening.

The lighting by Joseph Williams adds power to the hospital room design by John Bonard Wilson. As the AIDS crisis continues there are sure to be more plays. Those two latest works, Passing and Remember My Name, will indeed be remembered for their contribution to our understanding of this human tragedy.

By Aerie Lockerbie

As a star in either production.

Joe Turner's Come and Gone

by August Wilson, the Lorraine Hansberry Theatre and the American Conservatory Theatre, have combined energy and resources to create a passionate and elaborate production:

"To give the audience one of the great playwrights of our time the chance to perform his work is immediately. However, this is the only time the slides are projected and it would be quite effective to keep these images appearing throughout the evening."

"As the AIDS crisis continues there are sure to be more plays. Those two latest works, Passing and Remember My Name, will indeed be remembered for their contribution to our understanding of this human tragedy.

ACT's Joe Turner: Rich, Full Theater!

by Aerie Lockerbie

Joe Turner's Come and Gone by August Wilson. ACT's Geary Stage, 450 Geary Street, through Feb. 11. Tickets range from $9 to $29. Tickets may be charged at (415) 473-6440 and are available at STBS on Fillmore Square.

Playwright August Wilson, the Lorraine Hansberry Theatre and the American Conservatory Theatre, have combined energy and resources to create a passionate and elaborate production: Joe Turner's Come and Gone has come to San Francisac, and the wonder and beauty the play weaves won't be gone for a long time. The play is set in a boarding house, and each person who passes through its kit­

Death scene from Passing.

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"Remember My Name" is a play that asks us to look at AIDS through the eyes of those left behind. The play is set in a hospital room of a young man dying of AIDS. In addition to the young man's family, we see a "tribute" of his imagination as a death watch ensues. The play is set in a boarding house, and each person who passes through its kit-

James Craven & Amber Russ

Like a weaver spinning threads of gold, Lemon crafts layers of tales over each other as the main storyline — that of the turmoil at The Names Project of­

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OUTLOOK — Monthly lesbian/gay video magazine presents an all new episode. Dan Carlisle visits the Castro Country Club. A profile of Kairos House. Coverage of Dignity's move to a new location and the accompanying protests. Also featured will be an in-depth interview with Ken Dixon, artistic director of Theatre Rhinoceros. 8 pm on Cable Channel 30 in Mountain View; also 8 pm at Club St. John in San Jose.

DEMONSTRATION COUNTER-INaugural! — Assembly at 5 pm at UN Plaza (near Civic Center BART) for march and rally. Say "no" to cutbacks, homophobia, bigotry, the criminal neglect of the AIDS crisis and US wars in Central America with the Middle East. Information: 821-6454, the Counter-Inaugural Coalition.

MIXERS, PARTIES
GAME FEST! — Fraternal Order of Gays. Board games, card games, meeting new people, making new friends, refreshments, snacks and lots of fun. FOG House, 304 Gold Mine Drive. 8-10 pm, 641-0999.

TGF — Bay Area Career Women, an event on both sides of the bay. In SF at Charpe's, 131 Gough, 6-9 pm. In the East Bay at Just Rewards, 2520 Camino Diablo, Walnut Creek, 5:30-8:30 pm. Every Friday in January. 495-3953.

MUSIC
NO INAUGURAL BALL? — The Ventures, The Hell Hawksounds at the I Beam, 1748 High St.

PERFORMANCE
BALLET — Four evenings of dance, the 25th Annual Ballet Theatre, Jan. 20, 21, 27, 28, 8-30 pm. Theatre at Third Wave, 3316 24th St. (1st Mis­simil), 810, 474-6297.

DANCE THEATRE — "This Get Up Brings Me Down," Fobo Gallery, 375 3rd St., 8:30 pm. Presented by the Doug Landry and Philip Horvitz.

THE NIGHT HEARTS — By Jerry Ackerman, and The Eggkeeper by Mary McGuire, presented by the Phoenix Theatre Company. 8 pm Fridays and Saturdays, through Feb. 11. 301 38th St. at Folsom. 621-4423.

BLACK CAT'S TALE — Talk Spinners Theatre presents Kimberley Brown's fictionalized account of one night in the sleazy North Beach bar of the 1960's, the Black Cat. 8-30 pm Jan. 20-22 and 3 pm Jan. 22. The Studio, Theatre Rhinoceros, 2926 16th St. near South Van Ness, 981-6079.

BODYHOUSE — Black Jackal Theatre, 8:30 pm Fridays and Satur­days through Jan. 29. Fort Mason Center, Building C, Room 300. $7 general, $5 students and seniors. 386-4406.

VIDEO

MIXERS, PARTIES
BWTM — Monthly inter-racial rela­tionship workshop social mixers. 7-10 pm. All Saint Episcopal Church, 1350 Weller St. (a block south of High between Masonic and Ashbury), $5 donation, doors open 6:30 pm. Small group discussions followed by social period. 641-5706.


BENEFIT CABARET — "A Queer Evening/Una Noche Curiosa," the lesbian/gay benefit for Nicaraguan hurricane relief. In association with the 10th anniversary of television magazine presents an all new cabaret evening. Unitarian Center, 1187 Franklin, 7:30 pm. 648-8455.

TRASH OUR DANCE — Bring recyclable goods as your entry fee to an evening of dancing. Raise money for the community efforts sponsored by the Bernal Greens. 8 pm to mid­night. 647-5995.

BOOK PARTY — Celebrate publication of Prime Time by Douglas Dean (Dean Goodman) — a witty, reflective tale of a man's everyday passions, romances, angels and friendships. 8 pm. A Different Light, 498 Castro.

CEREMONY
SIGNING Entertainer Michael Patrick King and Stanley Williams, ar­tistic director of Lorraine Hansberry Theatre, sign the STBS "Wall of Fame." 12-3 pm. STBS tickets booth at Union Square. 433-STBS.

CONCERT
PATI LABELLE — Circle Star Theatre. San Carlos. 7-30 pm and 11 pm. 641-5079.

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DANCE
AT AMELIA'S — Desolation Post­er Party. 6 pm to 2 am. Learn line dances and how to two-step with instructor Alene Freund. Wear boots or shoes that slide. Only $4. 747-6950.

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MIXERS, PARTIES
BOOK PARTY — Celebrate publication of Prime Time by Douglas Dean (Dean Goodman) — a witty, reflective tale of a man's everyday passions, romances, angels and friendships. 8 pm. A Different Light, 498 Castro.

CEREMONY
SIGNING Entertainer Michael Patrick King and Stanley Williams, ar­tistic director of Lorraine Hansberry Theatre, sign the STBS "Wall of Fame." 12-3 pm. STBS tickets booth at Union Square. 433-STBS.

CONCERT
PATI LABELLE — Circle Star Theatre. San Carlos. 7-30 pm and 11 pm. 641-5079.

DANCE
AT AMELIA'S — Desolation Post­er Party. 6 pm to 2 am. Learn line dances and how to two-step with instructor Alene Freund. Wear boots or shoes that slide. Only $4. 747-6950.
Old First: Olivier, Rayna, Klingelhofer, 8 pm Jan. 27.
FOG — Mardi Gras Trip Social, trip to New Orleans for Mardi Gras. Fraternal Order of Gays, 8 pm, 304 Jewish Community Center, 3200 California St. $3.50 members; $4.50 non-members. 346-6040.
ISRAELI — Folkdance parties. Snacks will be served. Also, information on other FOG trips. California St. $3.50 members; $4.50 non-members. 346-6040.
939-3579 or 261-3246.
SOLANO — AIDS Task Force third information line at (707) 553-5552.
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Workshop Career Strategies — For Women at Midlife. 10 am to 1 pm, Room 130, Clinical Sciences Building, 521 Parnassus. University of California-San Francisco Women's Resource Center. 476-6586.

Benefit Names Project — Drag, comedy, leather stripper, at Bench & Bar, 120 11th St., Oakland, 8:30-10:30 pm. Benefits the Names Quilt Project. Quilt panels will be used as backdrop.

Slide Show — From hurricanes in Nicaragua to exhuming bodies in El Salvador, a Central American tour will be presented in a benefit slide show, 7:30 pm, Le Pena, 3106 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. Proceeds will benefit victims of Hurricane Joan. 431-7760.

Meetings Gay Male Relationships — Meeting someone special, getting started, removing obstacles, resolving conflicts, making it last. Everett Middle School, 450 Church St., Room 105. Through mid-March, no meetings Feb. 13 or 20, 6:30-9 pm. Register by coming to any Monday evening class. Sponsored by San Francisco Community College District.

Poetry Reading — Judith Barrington, author of Trying to be an Honest Woman, will read from her forthcoming collection of poetry. History and Geography, 7:30 pm, Modern Times Bookstore, 968 Valencia. 282-9246.

Other Cinema — Artist's Television Access presents an evening of Memory and Militancy around AIDS issues to inaugurate its spring '89 schedule. 8:30 pm, #4 admission. 922 Valencia.

Volunteer SOLANO — AIDS Task Force third volunteer training, Jan. 21 and 28. Open to anyone who would like to become a task force volunteers. Participants must attend both days.

Support Vietnamese — Lesbian and gay support group, every third Sunday, 5-6:30 pm. For location, call other information, women may contact Dung Nguyen and men may contact Tony Nguyen, 771-7586.

Video Electric City — Deena Jones in concert, the abortion conflict and pro-choice, our newest find, Georgette, and cabaret star Michael Feinstein. Cable 35, 7 pm.

Dance Classes — Plus (Advanced) Square Dance Classes, 120 Golden Gate (Central YMCA), 8:15-10:15 pm, sponsored by Western Star Dancers, a club for gay men, lesbians, and their friends. Call Eddie, 431-2054.

Meeting Gay Male Relationships — Meeting someone special, getting started, removing obstacles, resolving conflicts, making it last. Everett Middle School, 450 Church St., Room 105. Through mid-March, no meetings Feb. 13 or 20, 6:30-9 pm. Register by coming to any Monday evening class. Sponsored by San Francisco Community College District.


Recital — A 40-minute recital of Chopin and others, performed by Seth Chopin and others, performed by Seth Montfort, pianist. New location: Golden Gate Metropolitan Community Church, 48 Belcher, between 14th St. and Duboce. 4 pm. $6 donation.

Support Vietnamese — Lesbian and gay support group, every third Sunday, 5-6:30 pm. For location, call other information, women may contact Dung Nguyen and men may contact Tony Nguyen, 771-7586.

Meeting Forum — "How We Heal Ourselves." Sharing experiences between people with chronic illnesses: AIDS, cancer, arthritis, Epstein Barr, hepatitis, etc. Tuesday afternoons, Metropolitan Community Church, 2-3:30 pm, 150 Eureka St. 771-8280.

Typhoid Vaccine — Using Cataplas Protocol in the treatment of AIDS, 6:30-8:30 pm every Tuesday at AIDS Benefits Councillors office, 1547 California St., between Polk and Larkin. 771-8280.

Abortion — Feminists vs. the Right Wing: Showdown Over Abortion. To celebrate the 16th anniversary of legalized abortion. Panel: 7:30 pm, preceded by home-cooked dinner at 6:45. Proceeded by: 864-1278.

FORUMS
Seth Group — For people with concerns about AIDS/ARC/HIV issues. Weekly, 6-8 pm Wednesdays. Rest Stop, 134 Church St.
Why Me? — Coping with grief, loss and change. Speaker: Rabbi Pesach Kraus. San Francisco Jewish Community Center, 3200 California St. 7:30 pm. Free. Sponsored by Northern California Board of Rabbis, the AIDS Project of Jewish Emergency Assistance Network and Visiting Nurse Hospice of San Francisco. 346-6040.

Video Cuba — The Uncompromising Revolution, a new film documenting the unique approach taken by Cuba in its three-decade-long struggle to build socialism. 7:30 pm Wednesday, Le Pena Cultural Center, 3106 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. Also Jan. 28, 7:30 pm, Women's Building, 5848 18th St., SF. 826-4838.

Writers Gay and Lesbian — Older writers, 60 and over, every Wednesday 6-8 pm at Operation Concern, 1853 Market St. Free. Sponsored by Gay and Lesbian Outreach to Elders (GLOE). 626-7000.

San Francisco Sentinel • January 19, 1989 29
ROCK

Learning the Rules of the Game

by Maryhope Tobia

just when you think you’re hip and cool, they change the rules and you end up knowing less than you did when you started.

For instance, why are bands like Poison, Ratt, Cinderella and Whitesnake allowed to perform in public? Why are bowling shoes so ugly? Why are tampon dispensers in public restroom always empty? Why are they called “vagina rooms,” anyway? And what the hell does “dreaming the cube” mean?

The Square Root, The Trebles. Benefits for the Surfside Foundation. 1/13, Suisun: Before the show even started, Charlie I would’ve come. “Because we’re professionals, dammit,” I called. The Trebles are an unmemorable quartet that methodically plays mostly American roots and rockabilly. The lead singer periodically abused a harmonica, and the guitar player didn’t sweat as all during their 50-minute set… I don’t trust guitar players who don’t sweat. The crowd danced somewhat halfheartedly; the band did a brief encore and disappeared as the big video screen came down in front of the stage.

Between sets, KGO DJ Doug Wendi played a tape of accompaniment videos, which were mostly of world-champion surfing and skateboarding meets (matches? games?). The closest I’ve ever come to surfing was in the waves at Fire Island, getting knocked on my face and eating sand, and that’s as close as I’ll ever get. How do they do that?

Finally, Square Root took the stage. A nine-piece “surf-via-band,” they lay down a base of ska and reggae while splashing bits and pieces of American roots music. Their cover of the English Beat’s version of “Tears of a Clown” was hot — the crowd erupted into a frenzy of dancing that scared the hell out of unsuspecting adults. The fast, jumpy dance tunes proved to be the band’s strong suit. Slow numbers, including a waltz tempa la the Fat Boys, dragged, and the woman singer’s voice wasn’t strong enough to carry over the heavy horn section.

Pearl & the Kozmic Blues Band, 1/19, Fall Mous’ Naboo, $40.50, 9:30 pm: Tri-Fest in Latin Joplin. This kind of show makes me a little nervous. Will they be as good as the original? Better? Will it be staff? Only one way to find out. Today’s J.B.’s birthday, by the way. (1920 Third St., 468-6190).

MCM & the Monster, Surf MC’s, 1/19, Suisun, $5 adv/$8 show, 8 pm: Of course, you’d rather live in the present than remember the long dead past, this show will wake you up all right. Probably give you nightmares, too. (412 Broadway, 391-3827).

Ventrilo, The Hoffsouls, 1/20, I Beam, $7.50 adv/$9.50 show, 10:30 pm. Forget that “Wipe Out” is used in a Clearasil commercial. The Ventrilo rule as the best-selling records among instrumental group ever. Wear something polyester, talk over old “Hawaii Five-O” episodes, look for Delorean, son of Denise, tuning up the dance floor. (7148 Heights, 668-6006).

Pride & Joy, 1/20 & 1/21, Great American Music Hall, $16, 9:30: Dance, dance, dance! Hip crowd, gentle setting. If your tastes in crowds run more to homo than to hetero, then Pride & Joy’s got the Lady’s tribute to Sylvester instead. ($9 O’Farrell, 885-0755).

Pieti Lathore Takes Sylvester, 1/20 Club du Paris, $5, 9:30: The Sentinel” and the Shanti project, in conjunction with the San Francisco Star Theater and Promotions by Fred Backlund.

The Ventures

are pleased to bring you this very special evening in honor of a very special person. (Whipple Exit, Hwy. 101, San Carlos, call 777-CARE/2273 for ticket info.)

Mystery Train with Kathy Peck, 1/20, Ireland’s $3 adv/$5 show for 5 hours: hot-up and coming band features Kathy Peck, who has fans in all sorts of high places (1920 Geary Blvd., 386-6173).

COUNTRY MUSIC

Loretta Lynn: “Who Was That Stranger?” by Ronald Vieth

I n a classic, almost comical case of not seeing the forest for the trees, country music and its critics have been so involved in the current “return to roots” feud that we’ve often overlooked the very people we abandoned in the first place. And more than often, that is just where many of these artists belong, in first place. Such is the case of Loretta Lynn, whose new album on MCA Records, “Who Was That Stranger,” has just been released.

With due respect to the k.d. lang’s and the K.T. Oslin’s, the original “Queen of Country Music” has returned with an album so fresh and original that all other attempts fail by comparison. Where others strive to sound cliched, but by all means call it country. Unashamedly, “Who Was That Stranger” is the most country album since Rock Owns’ “Hog Dog,” another late 1988 release that signals the start of the art of country music in 1989. If for any indication, said critic can hardly wait for 1990.

This is the album that even Reba McEntire would have recorded, it is that traditional. Given the promotion that a Reba McEntire album would receive, “’Who Was That Stranger’ could enjoy a healthy and lengthy life on the charts and bring to a whole new generation the sound of the lady who brought women’s liberation to country music when she recorded “The Pill,” and true to form she’s preaching again in two anthems that are not necessarily best when they were from “Married” instead. “Who Was That Stranger” is the most country album since Rock Owns’ “Hog Dog,” another late 1988 release that signals the state of the art of country music in 1989. If for any indication, said critic can hardly wait for 1990.

For instance, why are bands like Poison, Ratt, Cinderella and Whitesnake allowed to perform in public? Why are bowling shoes so ugly? Why are tampon dispensers in public restroom always empty? Why are they called “vagina rooms,” anyway? And what the hell does “dreaming the cube” mean?
Mayor Art Agnos opens West Coast Challenge XVIII.

The Gay Games Are on the Right Track

by Jack McGowan

The consensus of opinion as to the future makeup of the Gay Games — both Celebration '90 in Vancouver and future games — is that the original intent of the Gay Games I founders, in the days when there was a policy of inclusion with equal participation by athletes and the arts, is being followed and neither of the two segments will be allowed to dominate.

Mark Brown, to whom, incidentally, credit must be given for the work and dedication he devoted to the initial concept and staging of Gay Games I, says: "It's a simple fact that the Gay Games original constitution calls for a 50-50 emphasis on cultural and athletics — and that's the way it should be." He also emphasizes nothing good will come from dredging interest of the international gay community in mind."

continued on page 32
SPORTSCOPE

by Jack 'Irene' McGowan

Super Bowl Sunday...at last. Bars up and down Castro and Polk, on Market Street and even at the Rawhide — where everyone is wondering who the hell the 45's are — are planning parties for San Francisco's third Super Bowl try in the '80s that should put New Year's Eve to shame.

Everyone in town is rooting for Montana, Rice, Craig and the rest of Walsh's boys to repeat 1982's Super Bowl 26-21 win over Paul Brown's Cincinnati Bengals. Not so...Pigskin Brent...Irma — a lifetime Raider and AFL rooter — is taking bets on Boomer and Irkey. The 49'er with their wishy-washy press left crying in their ears — are going to be clawed by Enason's passing and Wood's running.

Cincinnati's big offensive line of USC's Anthony Munoz — 286 pounds; Bruce Reiners — 295 pounds; Bruce Kozier — 287 pounds; Max Montoya — 285 pounds; and Brian Blades — a mere 315 pounds, will prove the difference by their handling of the 49'er nose tackle Michael Carter and his fellow inside linemen.

The best bet in Vegas and Reno is the 8½ point spread being offered Cincinnati supporters. Lots of Eastern money is going to bring that figure down right before game time — so jump on it, boys, and don't forget — you heard it here first.

Someone else is leaning toward the Bengals. Dr. Ruth Westheimer, the sex lady who looks a little like Neil Christie in drag (more about him later), says that since Cincinnati management is a little more lenient than the 49'ers as to wives and have been together for some time — that to be together the night before a game, husbands mixing on the night before games, the Bengals should have the edge.

"I do believe that if it's a steady relationship — a marriage, or a couple who have been together for some time — that to be together the night before a game can be very helpful," Westheimer said, "even if they have what is called a 'quickie.' It relieves tension."

Speaking of football — and we were, I think — I was delighted by the sports column of the latest University of California Gay and Lesbian Alliance (UC-GALA), and especially the recount by Pauline Vela, of the recent Big Game 19-19 tie between California and Stanford.

Pauline's analysis and comments presented a mature and well-worded picture of the action that took place before a packed Berkeley Memorial Stadium. Her post-game criticism of California's poorly planned drive toward what should have been the winning points was right on.

As in all fields, youth will prevail, and it absolutely thrills me that young gays — in this case a gifted young woman — are picking up the mantle of sports leadership as well as reporting and are running with it. We older writers will have to watch our laurels. I for one welcome the new blood and the challenge they offer.

In fact, I have invited Pauline to join our sports page in reporting the sporting activities on the Berkeley campus — both participation-wise and spectator-oriented.

Now back to Neil Christie. His welcome back letter to the editor — so subtly sarcastic — completely missed the point of my congratulatory remark toward Lou Holtz, coach of Notre Dame's national champions.

It mattered not what the infraction — Holtz tolerated no player or players acting or thinking they were above the rules because of their talent. Ms. Christie, I dare say, will learn a little of that axiom or spend a miserable summer with his "fantastic 14" (and incidentally recruiting 14 of the best local gay softball players is certainly more than akin to the recruiting of 20 or 30 national stars from the hundreds of thousands of football players in the country).

Upon reading Neil's letter, I spring — like the wounded Mama Bear I am (Neil, having started in an All-Star game for me and against me in years past) — to the offense. After a week of digging around and chasing rumors, I could find no dirt about him. His past is spotless; his glowing reputation unqualified. In fact, the most exciting thing about the man is his rumored recent change in hair color...or what else...boring brown.

One more thing. In watching him and his bulking-morning cohort — Mike Gray — at the recent CSL meeting, I was reminded of the old story about the jockey who fell in love with the All-Star basketball center.

The affair only lasted for a short time. The jockey kept complaining that when they were "toe to toe," his toes were in it, and when they were "toes to toes," his nose was in it...Dear Heart!

"Till next time, keep winning — And remember, if you can't play a sport, be one."
NEW SPORTS CALENDAR BEING COMPILED

All organizations — both those now included and new organizations — are invited to furnish up-to-date information and schedules for January 1989 and future editions. All information should be directed to:

Mr. Jack McGowan
Sports Editor
S.P. Sentinel
747 Hayes St.
San Francisco, California 94102

Continued from page 32

this with no objection being gained — and in fact an irrepugnable, unnecessary split would occur.”

Rikki is a board of director member for Gay Games II, was a personal selection of Dr. Tom Waddell for the Gay officer and driving force behind the Games. She is also an ardent supporter of the Gay Games Board because of their similar philosophical makeup. She is also an arts and culture enthusiast. One of the issues Rikki feels strongly that the whole matter is a tempest in a teapot and IMs need not develop the arts, in order to have appropriate balance and check powers to protect the athletes. However, should that happen, he is sure that future Boards will have to control their own destiny and will decide to what extent arts or sports will be involved.

Shawn Kelly, tournament director of Gay Games II in San Francisco, also feels that the Games are headed toward the right direction and strongly defends the full participation of the arts.

Shawn stresses that inclusion of arts was vital in Gay Games receiving $30,000 in city funding. Without the inclusion of cultural events, Gay Games might not have obtained either. He doesn’t see the cultural portion of the Games endangering the emphasis on athletics. However, should that happen, he is sure that future Boards will have appropriate balance and check powers to protect the athletes.

Sara Lewinstein — valedictorian at the success of Gay Games I and II, states frankly, “There is no way the cultural aspect can overshadow the accomplishments and achievements of gay athletes. There will be 4,000 or 5,000 athletics parading in the opening ceremonies. How can the cultural participants ever eclipse that?”

While there were those who echoed Martin’s fears — Arthur Lauree being the most outspoken. Arthur, Gay Games I and II accountant and CPA, says: “Games are just that...Games — the pros far outweigh the cons.

This reporter has reams of quotes and opinions on this matter — including his own opinions — enough for two more articles. They will be published in the future. But for now...on with the celebration. Artists-athletes, they are all welcome — as this era, the gay community, can bask in their glory.

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