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VOLUME 8 NUMBER 11
Vector Chairman Ferris Lehman
Editor Ralph Petersen
Advertising Manager Mike Johnson
Circulation Manager Max Clements

S. I. R. is now seven years old and already the largest active homosexual organization in the United States. S. I. R. is dedicated to giving freedom to the homosexual male and female, freedom from guilt, harassment, and social injustice.

Articles represent the viewpoints of the writers and are not necessarily the opinion of the Society for Individual Rights. Copyrighted 1972. Application for second-class entry is pending at the Post Office, San Francisco, California. Advertising rates available upon request.

ABOUT THIS MONTH'S COVER:
The photograph above is one of a collection of 18 which was photographed by John David Hough exclusively for Liberty Arts. Some of these were displayed in the recent After Dark show at the Upper Market Street Gallery. Liberty Arts offers these 18 different shots in plaque form in sizes from 4x6 through 11x14, mounted on 1/8 inch masonite ready for hanging on a wall. Also, 6 of the most popular photographs are now offered as a set of 4x4 coasters. Each plaque or coaster is a print made from the original negative. For a free illustrated brochure, send to Liberty Arts, P.O. Box 414, San Francisco, Calif. 94101.
HEALTH AND LIFE INSURANCE
HANG-UPS FOR GAYS

Nobody likes insurance companies. Neither did I, mainly because I could never tell whether or not they were cheating me, or charging too much premium, or giving me a policy full of loopholes. And there are companies which do all of those things, out to get your money while intending to pay few if any claims. I have learned that most companies are basically fair and honest, yet almost all companies, mine included, really do discriminate against gay applicants. I have seen it happen again and again, and these incidents have prompted me to pass on these insights which will aid my friends in obtaining the insurance coverage they need and deserve.

I have before me photo copies of papers which clearly indicate the discriminatory denial of coverage to gay persons. You may look and see for yourself what information an insurance company obtained concerning an applicant we will call George:

Applicant is known to be employed at [a company] for the past several years and we learned of no criticisms of your applicant or his financial reputation. Prior to this employment your applicant was known to be employed as [a profession].

Applicant is known to be single and to reside with his boyfriend in an older middle class to lower middle class residential area. We learned of no illnesses, operations, or injuries during this investigation. Your applicant has maintained a good reputation in the community.

We learned during this investigation that your applicant is a homosexual and that he has been going with this one particular man for the past ten years. Applicant is a known homosexual, however, it is considered not to be venereal (sic) due to the fact that he is known to have only one boyfriend, as known to outside sources contacted. He only has one boyfriend, being the man that resides with him at present residential address.

It is the job of an underwriter in the Home Office to take the client's application, along with all other information gleaned during the Company's investigation, such as the above, and make the important decision of either offering the coverage to the applicant or declining to do so. Obviously, the main concern is the state of the applicant's health. If he has no history any more serious than an appendectomy or the mumps, he is a good risk and will be accepted. If he has heart disease, he will likely be declined. If he merely has a bad knee, he will be accepted, but with the bad knee excluded from the health coverage (or full coverage for the knee, if he will pay an extra premium for the additional risk involved).

As for George's state of health, the reader can judge for himself by seeing the medical history indicated on George's application:

Have never been a patient at any hospital or been sick at home during the last twenty years.

In the Company's official underwriting guide, where every conceivable item of medical history is discussed, the underwriter is advised to consider "homosexuality" on the basis of whether or not the applicant has been involved in psychotherapy, any arrest record, evidence of frequent roommate changes, or employment instability. The guide advises the underwriter to "treat favorable cases liberally."

George has a perfect health history. He is young, only thirty. No job instability. No arrest record. He has had the same "roommate" for ten years. If I had been the first to pick up his case, George would have been issued a policy immediately. But the underwriter who saw the case on initial review sent the file, just to be sure, to the Medical Committee, composed of a Company doctor and a couple of supervisors, to obtain their rubber-stamp approval. The photo-copied papers before me show that the underwriter told the Committee: "Thirty-year-old homosexual applying for major medical and disability income coverage. Manual states 'use individual consideration.' Okay to approve on a standard basis?"
Committee's word would have been final. The fact that they department." If it had been considered a medical question, the -less. The most favorable applications are those which state the obtained this favorable comment; him how easy it would be to embarrass the Company and involved in individual cases. The slightest slip, and no job, you or your agent put on your application for insurance is scrutinized carefully. When you declare your medical history, you know what can be done when you for the information. An example here is important: if you report "eye operation," the company will need to investigate that doctor's name, and then gone to a new doctor after the coverage was issued, without admitting even to that doctor that she is untruthful to yourself (which he would do only by omission), it is always required. You may be a personal friend of your doctor and believe the situation works wonders. 

The Application. 

The company refuses to remove the records from your file, you can hire a lawyer and threaten not only to sue for the removal of the word "suicide" will be.) Sometimes saying anything at all, anything that could ever possibly require any kind of medical information they have would unfairly jeopardize issuance of whole or in part, to information contained in the report; and provide the name and address of the company who did the report, so the applicant may go there to inspect the information (except it also sends identifying information, including date and state correct age; not usually a drastic difference. (Misstatements of prediction here the exact results of misstatement of age, as insurance contracts, state laws, and court interpretations differ.) Small distortions can be explained easily and
obviously. But explaining how you got from April 6, 1929, to October 24, 1948, might be difficult!

The Medical Information Bureau is hardly under scrutiny by the federal government. On May 10, 1972, Mr. J.C. Wilberding, MIB’s executive director, testified before the U.S. Senate Antitrust and Monopoly Subcommittee, Committee on the Judiciary. Hearings were to continue in June, and a report by the Subcommittee was to follow eventually. The results have not crossed my desk, if they have even been reached yet. However, I seriously doubt that MIB’s activity will ever be disclosed to the applicant the “nature, medical information the Bureau has on you.” The MIB would have to “disclose to the applicant” the “nature, medical information the Bureau has on you.” The MIB would have to “disclose to the applicant” the “nature, medical information the Bureau has on you.”

Rules of the MIB have already been revised to comply with the new Fair Credit Reporting Act. On January 6, 1972, a staff member of the Bureau of Consumer Protection, Federal Trade Commission, indicated that the MIB was in proper compliance with the law.

By signing the proper papers, you can obtain the nonmedical information the Bureau has on you. The MIB would be required to “disclose to the applicant” the “nature, medical information the Bureau has on you.” The MIB would have to “disclose to the applicant” the “nature, medical information the Bureau has on you.” The MIB would have to “disclose to the applicant” the “nature, medical information the Bureau has on you.”

Unfortunately, going to the trouble of finding out exactly what information the MIB might have on you does not necessarily get the information removed from its files; nor does it necessarily get you the insurance you applied for. So your biggest efforts might best be directed to other aspects of the situation, especially toward obtaining a reversal of the insurance company’s decision.

II. IF AND WHEN YOU ARE REJECTED

The first step in getting to the bottom of your rejection is for insurance to find out why you were rejected and where the company got its information. Just asking the company why and where will get you a reply like this: “We regret that all information the Company obtains during its investigation is confidential in nature and may not be disclosed.” Therefore, you should pump your agent for an answer. “MIB has on you?” The MIB would have to “disclose to the applicant” the “nature, medical information the Bureau has on you.” The MIB would have to “disclose to the applicant” the “nature, medical information the Bureau has on you.”

Don’t let any of the above keep you from applying and trying, as some companies are more liberal than others, and some may give in to your pleading. But don’t be overly optimistic. Don’t keep your letters too neat and firm, but which will not destroy respect. Avoid the attitude that you can afford to be cold and harsh since you have the arm of the law in your favor. Be warm and courteous, regardless.

Finally, there are several pointers of a general nature that people should know concerning the obtaining of insurance. Some companies have more liberal requirements than others.

A newspaper application, for example, is one form of easy-to-obtain insurance. However, the most comprehensive and most reliable coverage is that which is obtained through a company which does do an investigation— a company that is selective. As a very general rule, the harder it is to obtain the coverage the better the coverage. The insurance which is obtained without evidence of insurability, no health questions is asked, is usually renewable at the option of the company, or is merely a limited hospital plan made to sound like a good deal but not really very comprehensive: it probably has little or no surgical coverage and no major medical expense coverage, etc. Hard-to-get plans, on the other hand, are usually the non-cancellable ones: the company cannot drop you as long as you pay the premium, unless they drop everybody insured under the plan, regardless of how many claims you have presented.

Be sure to obtain insurance while you are well. Insurance companies do not profess to offer coverage to sick people. To wait until you “need” insurance to fight for your rights is to wait until you are in a hopeless position.

We may not like the system as it exists, and perhaps we will eventually have better, more formalized socials of health care; we may wait until we have, which is all the way. Remember that the tone of your letters could easily be responsible “is vague. How could you “hold the company responsible,” is meaningless; “I will hold you responsible,” is our usual practice not to insure persons with this particular history.” And that will be final. That is within the company’s rights. A denial on the basis of merely being a homosexual should be contested, but do not expect favors if you:

1. have a history of mental/emotional treatment or therapy within the past five years;
2. have an arrest record, particularly during the past five years;
3. have a record of instability, evidenced by numerous changes in employment, love affairs, or residence;
4. have any serious health history, such as heart disease, attempted suicide, etc.

Don’t let any of the above keep you from applying and trying, as some companies are more liberal than others, and some may give in to your pleading. But don’t be overly optimistic. Don’t keep your letters too neat and firm, but which will not destroy respect. Avoid the attitude that you can afford to be cold and harsh since you have the arm of the law in your favor. Be warm and courteous, regardless.

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San Francisco is a challenging market for any photographer to pursue. In addition to its reputation as a city which spends little on its art, San Francisco has more than its share of fine photographers and the competition is strong. The solution to this logical puzzle, of course, is that San Francisco is a beautiful city, with creative people pushing on all of the frontiers of culture, and therefore a particularly satisfying home for creative photographers.

John David Hough has been in the professional end of the photographic world for only the last ten months of his fifteen-year career, but already he has distinguished himself as one of San Francisco's finest young professionals. The photographs on these pages feature Les Boday, a dancer with the Pacific Ballet Company, and they should give some indication of the quality of David Hough's art. He has contributed photographs to both Vector and After Dark magazines, and some of his work recently appeared in a spectacular exhibit of After Dark's West Coast contributing photographers at the Upper Market Street Gallery in San Francisco.
David's main interest is photographing people, preferably in a relaxed setting, and he is generally opposed to a lot of retouching; the natural look is best. He likes to meet his subjects prior to shooting their photographs, to get to know and understand them better. He is completely open to suggestions as to how a photograph could be best created; sometimes reviewing other photographs can lead to new ideas. Hough's large downtown studio is one possible location for shooting, but any other place can be considered, depending on what you decide together. Advertisers who have used John David Hough's services include the Pacific Ballet Company, The Town Squire, Bert's Carpets, The Rich Street Baths, and Michael Payne Flowers. His interest in advertising is growing, and his rates are reasonable. And his work is outstanding.
Interview

by Duke Smith

A candid conversation with the man behind those classified ads, San Francisco's expert on sadomasochistic sexual relations

After years of seeing his ad in almost every local publication, Vector felt the world should know if there was indeed such a man as the "BENEVOLENT AUTOCRAT." There is. His name is Paul Newton; and he is alive and well in beautiful downtown San Francisco happily "doing his thing." Here is an exclusive interview gotten at great risk to life and limb by Duke Smith, one of our brave reporters (now recovering at the local tubs and contemplating his requested transfer to Viet Nam).

REPORTER: Why did you first put your ad in the papers, Paul?

PAUL: I was out of the scene when I first came to town, because I was living with a slave whom I had lived with for over twenty-five years. But whenever a slave falls in love with someone else, as Tom did when we first went to Japan, I dismissed him, and said you may go your way. So that's why I put my ad in. When we came back from Japan I moved to the Tenderloin and was free again as it were. That was a little over three and a half years ago.

REPORTER: How did you first get into S&M?

PAUL: Over thirty years ago when I first started in the business, Vector fell in love with someone else, as Tom did when we first went to Japan, I dismissed him, and said you may go your way. So that's why I put my ad in. When we came back from Japan I moved to the Tenderloin and was free again as it were. That was a little over three and a half years ago.

REPORTER: Would you say that your scene and love don't mix?

PAUL: Not at all. I think that love is not only possible, but it is probable. As a matter of fact the slaves that I have had live with me became so involved emotionally, they couldn't get over the idea of being attached to me.

REPORTER: Would you say that your scene and love don't mix?

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REPORTER: Speaking of variety, Paul, how many answers per week do you get?

PAUL: About twenty percent of those, ten to twenty a week.

REPORTER: Would you say that the twenty percent figure is because of your selection or because they don't wish to carry through?

PAUL: A little bit of both. I would say that half of those that phone don't really intend to come over. They fall pretty much into four or five categories. One is a jack-off scene. They want you to talk to them while they are masturbating. That isn't my scene. I'll do it once if I think that they are going to get over here eventually. But I find that the people who start that way never get over as a rule.

NUMBER 2 are those people who are sin-cerely curious. I will talk to them at some length over a period of months if necessary, to help them unwind, because I know that they will talk to others as frankly as they can talk to me. Then there are those that try to put you down by obscenities or by making dates that they have no intention of keeping. There are also the ones who try to play themselves up. Of course, lots of them give themselves away because they have very mature voices and they say that they are 22 with a 10" cock, 5'11", weighing 140 lbs. That is not much of a phone person. If you'd like to make an appointment and come over
and visit, I'd be glad to talk to you.

REPORTER: What publication is the most productive, now?
PAUL: The Advocate for out of town, and if you are interested in what is going on today, I and the Advocate is Number 2.

REPORTER: By having this run so long and with all of the answers that you get, is there any point in you saying that you have become slightly lop-sided in the direction of sex?
PAUL: I'll say that it has always been loped in the area of sex. I love sex very much. I first came across it in the very early 1950s, a switchboard operator in a place where I was working. I offered her a little more for her services than she had made, I think, and then I accept. Food is one of my two vices. Sex is the other one and I'm "Fucking." Said, "Well, I asked, don't you?"

REPORTER: Would you say that the males that answer your ads are predominant homosexual or heterosexual?
PAUL: Not at all. Frankly the ones that turn me on most are the ones that think that they are straight. I can give you an example that that turns me on my pride and joys. He is a very outstanding doctor in the research field, employed by one of the largest corporations in the Bay Area. He told me last year, he is 25 years old, he answered my ad, that he was answering my ad only because he couldnt find a woman. He also had been framed in a 399 and 419 which was going to be sugar coating and you are going to fuck and I said, "yes, you are enjoying these things." He laughed and said, "Well, you can try it but I will never get married within six months as I was doing for cock and begging to be fucked. And I said, "This is a physical organism that responds to the same sex as well as to the opposite sex. All you have to do is learn." He is quite a conformity to adjust to it. I can give you many examples of that. I can show you now. I am a respondent from people who came to me as heterosexuals and who now say "I would like to be your slave and whatever you want me to serve, it be men or woman." These are some regular people who want to come to me and come to me in their colleges. I have about four people coming to me that are in position in their fields. There are two doctors. One is a research chemist at the University of California in the chemical engineering field. These people are all day long telling other people what to do and making them jump. They come here for a complete swing of the pendulum, and say "Use me. I am well trained to be there." REPORTER: How many ads are you currently answering?
PAUL: I'll be honest with you, I don't know. Let's list them Berkeley Barb, Forbes, Forum,颜值性, Sexual Freedom League and BAR. Those have been the most productive through the year.

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THAT CERTAIN SUMMER

by David/Mark Joshua

For years commercial television has been
handful of heroes, just why or who is responsible for
锟e" shooting up sagas, and in usual variety
in soap operas, situation comedies,
losed its audience, existing on the
ences indeed need "lulling" is a prehis­
the particular attitude that video audi­
and no one has ever accepted the blame.

For years commercial television has been
new, the various think tanks of
the major networks have been beside
keen, the going with ABC, NBC, and CBS
programming and material con­
the way. It happened last year, when CBS's out­
ragous gamble, ALL IN THE FAMILY, ran away with the Nielsen Ratings and the community's fantas­
tic success, the various think tanks of the major networks have been beside
the mark until now. But fast, (ABC, NBC, and CBS) are tripping over each other in an endeavor to provide "socially relevant" entertainment for video masses.

Perhaps because it has weathered many battles with the FCC and its sponsors, CBS appears to have tapped one of the networks in the rush for the "new, "relevant" entertainment, and time to "think things out" into the

commissioners, the rubric to the soaps. Although the setting is a typical small-town situation, ABC's "That Certain Summer," although not the fresh air of its predecessor, was a rare occurrence in video-drama, and ABC would do well to sign them to long­
running contracts, but fact.

Cynicism within the lives of four sensitive, loving and very real people is the story's plot. Hal Holbrook, Hope Lange, Martin Sheen and Scott Jacoby portray the four likeable people with quiet aplomb, concentrating on the fact that regardless of their particular natures, their spirits moved to do so.

THAT CERTAIN SUMMER, an original teleplay made for ABC Wednesday Night World Premiere Movie, was a groundbreaking event for American televi­sion.

Television and newspaper advertising played heavily on the theme of homosexuality. (When staff writers and producers wrote this drama the theme, its place, the plot, and the result was a stunning accomplishment for both ABC and the viewers, pictorializing America as a decadent time and planning remains a question. It

ABC's "That Certain Summer." While a gay affair was very much a part of the script, the television's social respons­
s have one thing to say about that... No Comment. That statement was made to the TV critic. But ABC has won a lot of the public's affection, and the show is seen by more than 25 million viewers, going well past the usual network's target audience, and the program's social message is transmitted.

The director Lumont Johnson treated homo­
and the reality of the family's total respon­
sibility is the only evident antagonist.

There is a protagonist in the piece, and the reality of love's total respon­sibility is the only evident antagonist.

The latter appears moderately successful, but it's probably the best performance of his television career. Her contribution was particularly laudable in view of the fact that she is a practicing gay person and in a character that has not been shown on television. Sheen also did well for his part in the show, and his son, with whom his continuing

Lenore Jacoby played the part of the son with just the right amount of simple

broad-mindedness and doubt. His actions are well­tempered and notably lacking in his­
toys. His "run-away" encounter with the very "together" cable-car men is sheer delight, blending his search for a place and time to "think things out" into the

story's pattern beautifully.

Alphabetically, kids are in order for
ABC. It is the first network to not only
realize there is a thinking adult audience
out there in video, starring for loyal
TV entertainment, but also the first to serve it well. For those who missed "That Certain Summer," look for it to be

reshown in early May.

The Orpheum Circus
Alumni Association
has
Bar tenders, Busboys
Waiters
Available for Private Parties

Alumni Association
has
Bar tenders, Busboys
Waiters
Available for Private Parties

WA1nut 2-0294
GAY ARRESTS IN SAN FRANCISCO

I received a phone call from a staff member of one of San Francisco's gay newspapers about a report of 32 gay arrests, in one weekend, that had been pid. I phoned Blackstone, S.F. Police Community Relations Officer. He hadn't heard of any such incident. But he did say that he was a past-president of S.R.A., who had evidence of mass arrests of gays accused of prostitution. He told me Vice Squa men answered liberty calls for hairy guy who disappeared from an knit on the streets. In one case, six officers were alleged to have arrested one gay, in the presence of ninety-nine officers. Several attorneys who handle gay cases reported a large number of new clients. Later that day, Officer Blackstone reported that all he could discover was that Vice Squad was 2 late. He promised to check arrests records the next day. The results of that check revealed that six arrests were made for various infractions of the Penal Code as well as violation of the new anti-prostitution laws. Our problem surfaced that has plagued the efforts of San Francisco's gay community to help those gays arrested on these charges. It is apparently quite common to fast a charge on the arrest record other than one of the sex laws. For example, if a gay is arrested for 647a (solicitation) it is later discovered that there is an outstanding traffic ticket, then the arrest is listed as a traffic warrant. When we attempt to verify rumors mass arrests, we are unable to do so without the names of those who have been arrested, because we can not guess the many ways in which the arrests might be listed. This also burdens our efforts to secure statistics that show just how many gays are arrested monthly for these kinds of offenses. Our past efforts to obtain this kind of information were frustrated. I again requested the necessary Police Chief OK, for this data. Chief Scott denied my request with out reason, his office speculating that cost might be a factor. I did however manage to get out the Statistical data that they do have. Unfortunately, it is not organized in such a way that it is easily computable. I made an outline for area code, but many of the area codes are for many of the men or women. I do think we can learn some things about police activity from looking at these proceedings.

The preliminary police report lists the number of offenders for each code violation, and then breaks that down into adults and/or juveniles. The report is set up so that it can be broken down to any level of detail, from the total number of arrests down to the number of arrests for each code violation. The actual report records broken down to any level of detail, from the total number of arrests down to the number of arrests for each code violation.

In the preliminary report is 223. Of these, one hundred were arrested for solicitation, one hundred and sixty were additional charges with seven juvenile charges. I do not know how to make those figures to make them equal out. Then when we turn to the April felony-misdemeanor breakdown we get these figures. For 18 year and older felons we have eight men arrested for pandering and two for pimping. No women. 18 and over misdemeanors show 27 men arrested for 647a and 72 women which amounts to 99 -- very close to the 100 figure from the preliminary report, but not to the 130 figure from the arrest records.

All I can think is that in April of 1972 at least 52 men were arrested on a first charge of prostitution and an unknown number with prostitution listed as a second charge. Tracing the other penal code charges is even more difficult, because only prostitution is listed alone on several records, while the others are often grouped together. But we are helped a bit, since most of the other charges are almost never applied to women. The preliminary police report for the period Jan. 1 to Sept. 1972 gives three figures. Solicitation (647a) (569); oral copulation (280a) (133); and oral copulation (280c) (29); lewd and lascivious behavior, indecent exposure, etc. (314, 315) 263. This figure of 1000 for the first nine months of 1972 does not include those who violate codes dealing with minors (under 18 yrs) nor 620g, outgoing public decency, nor any of the many codes that could be used to barar gay people, such as obstructing a sidewalk, restring arrest, failure to identify and so on.

In addition, the statistics show that a full half of more than two thousand the thousands of felony charges are for the victimless crimes that begin with 647. Several hundreds of people are arrested every month on marijuana FEELING charges. Typically, five to six hundred felony charges are processed per month. The statistics I am aware of is that Charles McGee's contention that 80% of police budget and time is spent on victimless crime.

KEY ELECTION RESULTS IN THE S.F. AREA

San Francisco again justified its reputation as the anti­theist of southern California's Orange County. McGovern consistently won all local and state offices. The defeat of Proposition 13 failed in S.F., while falling statewide. The re-institution of the death penalty and the ban on housing for the homeless were defeated here, while passing statewide. City voters contributed large majorities to such California measures as adding 'privacy' to other constitutions and to the United Farm Workers, defeating a stringent censorship­ right and mixing big business-tax deductions for anti-pollution devices.

On local propositions, San Francisco made decisions on eighteen measures. They denied an increase of 300% in the state's medical and public officials to open meetings. They did not open up the police, fire and planning commissions, as many had hoped for, but did decide to open two police stations that the police commission had closed. They granted Sheriff Honig's requests to extend the predominant minority participation in the primary. They defeated the primary election measure that would have effec­ tively barred minority participation in such city races as Mayor and Board of Supervisors.

In City races, Maillard was elected to the House of Representa­ tives in a closer than he feared 2 years ago. Gay's in San Francisco, for the most part, did not get behind either candidate. The four candidates that did survive a close scrutiny of past performance, thereby winning considerable gay sup­ port, were, in alphabetical order: Phillip Burton for Congress, John Burton and Willie Brown for the State Assem­ bly, and Mayor and Board of Supervisors. Many gay people in San Francisco felt that Ron Pelosi, Mark's opponent, was doing a good job on the Board of Supervisors and should to finish his term.

In the East Bay, three candidates who had managed to get a large gay support were elected. Ron Dellums was re-elected to Congress. John Burton was elected to the state Senate. Tom Bates easily won election to the Alameda County Board of Supervisors. Alameda County also supported George McGeogh for the state board. Graduate McGee's victory over Tom Bates in the mid-term primary election for the state seat will serve as a harbinger for next year's general election. The defeat of the primary election measure that would have effectively barred minority participation in such city races as Mayor and Board of Supervisors.

One of the important results of this election is the increase in the political fortunes of Willie Brown. The notion of the far left as a political force has been discredited this year. Devoting this to defeating a proposition塑造ing the best of two evils, and standing the worst. Unless you vote for one or the other candidate, you should stick with the best of two evils. Without doubt, the best of two evils. It is not that we cannot do better than the candidate.时光 for two evils. It is better to be with one or the other candidate, even if you think we can learn some things about police activity from looking at the other penal code charges. Typically, five to six hundred felony charges are processed per month. The statistics I am aware of is that Charles McGee's contention that 80% of police budget and time is spent on victimless crime.
PHOTOGRAPHIC STUDIES by EDDIE VAN
JAY, KEN and JOHN
THE BIG LIE
by
Randy Wicker

Coppola in the bank's doorway as the crowd cleared.

Littlejohn's mother, called Terry by family, and friends, had also been called to the scene. Swallowing her fierce family pride, Terry called Carmen Wojtowicz, John Wojtowicz's sister, to the scene. John had pleaded with her to come. They had not been informed by the police, although Littlejohn still visited his wife and children once or twice weekly. Carmen, Dawn, and Scan, 24, as an excuse.

She said she had no baby-sitter. Later, Carmen called her best friend and told that the bank had been forced to close while she wasWanting to quietly and extravagant, saying she refused to go to the bank because she feared becoming a fugitive and being overinvolved.

An FBI agent driving the啉me, pulsed a concealed 30.30 caliber revolver, and the two men exchanged a verbal signal from other agents — "Will you be there?" — before the bank was suddenly turned into a scene of pandemonium.

Two days before the robbery, John had visited Littlejohn at his luxurious apartment on Sheridan Square, and had been informed by Littlejohn that he had been discharged from St. Vincent's Hospital after a bout of hepatitis and Littlejohn was the one friend who had made the four-hour trip by rail to the hospital and been allowed to be recovered from an operation a few months earlier in a hospital out on Long Island.

Randy Wicker, known to members of New York's GAA and Brooklyn's GAA as "Littlejohn Basso," tried robbing the two-name bank, which had been known for years as the Pig Bank. The robbery was to take place at the Bank of America building at 757 3rd Street in Brooklyn Tuesday afternoon, August 24th at 2:30 p.m. But the robbery didn't go planned. Police arrived and surrounded the bank with Littlejohn and his partner, Saul Naturner, who had been a bank robber in the back of the bank and was under arrest. Arty Westerberg, the alleged third member of the trio, passed two shotguns into the bank waistpack as a package and then fled in the getaway car, which the police pursued.

The siege at the bank continued for fourteen hours. Littlejohn was immediately labeled the "Great Littlejohn Basso," by the media when he demanded that Ernest Aron, a trans-sexual male whom he had married in a full drag wedding the previous December, be brought to the scene from Kings County Hospital, where he had voluntarily signed himself in for a few days' treatment after recurring bouts of depression had triggered a suicide attempt some forty-eight hours earlier. Littlejohn also summoned Pat Coppola, a lover of sorts whom he had known for two years and had been having an affair with Aron had rejected him during the few months preceding the robbery. Littlejohn kissed Aron in the bank's doorway as the crowd cleared.

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John Fitzgerald, a rotund politician, and other infidels of G.A.A. of Brooklyn Heights. Littlejohn, which had split from G.A.A. second Hour.

three drag queens on the Church Hall's area. Recently John and Henry, his McGovern slate in the Brooklyn Heights years, had become familiar

He registered as a Republican because he "wanted to vote for Nixon. I chided good-naturedly in John's ear. I never told Hell that Littlejohn was sexually sadistic with me. He never was. I wouldn't allow it. He might have been the other way. At the most, we'd have a little rough sex.

Littlejohn, always prone to tell the gullible a wild story, bragged of his sexual sadism, and even wrote an article for the GAB Gay Pride Week newsletter declaring himself a sadist.

"As a Sadist," Littlejohn wrote, "I try to please my partner. I try to fulfill his nix-ds and desires, and he tries to fulfill mine. No self-respecting Sadist or Masochist will ever force an individual to do anything against their will. In any relationship, there is a certain degree of sadism and masochism, but any relationship can work if each is willing to make the other happy. Try it, you'll like it."

"I was drugged. I was confused. I was frightened," Aron recalls. "I spoke with John on the phone from a barbershop the FBI had set up as a communications headquarters next door. He wanted to surrender but he said Sal wouldn't let him and he'd let Sal kill the hostages."

While in the barbershop, Ernie also talked with Arthur Bell who was on the scene covering the story for the Village Voice. A few days later he would find out what he terms "the distortions, the lies, the misquotes Bell put in that Force article."

"I never told Bell that I took the overdose because I knew about the robbery and was upset over it," Aron insists. "My suicide attempt didn't have anything to do with Littlejohn and the robbery."

"I never told Bell that Littlejohn was sexually sadistic with me. He never was. I wouldn't allow it. He might have been sexually sadistic with other people. If you could believe some of the wild stories he told you. But he never was that way with me. At the most, we'd have a little rough sex.

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"Why? Why did you do it?" Littlejohn sobbed. "I thought things were going so well with us." John was with two friends, one blond and one dark-haired, who didn't come upstairs but waited in the lobby.

Less than two days later Aron was summoned by the police and taken to the bank where Littlejohn and Sal were still holding nine hostages. He hadn't shaved for several days and was seen wearing only a frilly hospital gown.

When he arrived, Sal was holding a gun on the hostages and Littlejohn from inside the bank. Littlejohn was strutting up and down in the sidewalk in front of the bank ordering the police lines to move back. They moved back and he could see that Littlejohn was agitated and under severe strain, so he initially declined to go to John in the bank fearing he would get caught in the crossfire should shooting come about.

"Littlejohn had expected to get $1500 to $2000 in wedding gifts," Aron elaborated. "At the wedding itself there were several people who were pressuring him for about $300 he owed them and we had only received $147 in gifts. Littlejohn was running around like crazy trying to get the money from friends at the reception to pay off his creditors. Some of them were professional loan sharks, not very nice people. Somehow, John got enough money to put them off till after the reception. If he had robbed a bank, he'd never have had to go through all of that, now would he?"

John and TLIF Rohlicry. I'ifl want$l to sff hffti a^sigiifd to do tlif story on Littlf-

John tillfspif, a rotund politico, and other iiifinlxTs of (iA.

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DEC 1972

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- Relax in our cozy Sundae Garden...

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Come, watch us make the ice cream before your very eyes... dancing boys... music... banana splits... indecent ice cream orgies nightly.

1738 POLK

(weapon by Clay & Washington)

TIL MIDNIGHT EVERY NIGHT

Ernest Aron, Photographed by Eric Stephen Jacobs of GAY magazine.

PAGE 30
tricked her by saying they were "going to a house party" the day of the ceremony.

Littlejohn had brought home both Ernie (Garly) Aron and Pat ("Dingbat") Coppola, often leaving them lounging around the house with the family while he was out on errands in the evening.

A violent argument erupted when Littlejohn broke family etiquette and had Aron stay over one evening last December.

Littlejohn got into a fight with his brother Michael, 27, when he objected, the first time Littlejohn had ever physically beaten his brother, who weighs 125, takes pills for his nerves, doesn't work, is single and lives two women's disabled." When John Sr. called Ernie a faggot and other derogatory names in June, Littlejohn grabbed two knives and attacked his father. Terry spent the next hour and a half "spurting them, getting a slight cut on her arm in the process. It was three incidents that Mark Landeman, Littlejohn's court-appointed attorney, emphasized in Federal Court Sept. 11th to win his plea that Littlejohn be committed for observation to determine if he was indeed sane and could stand trial.

John Sr. still bears a grudge against "Garly" because of the wedding. However, Pat "Dingbat" Coppola, John's latest boyfriend, is friendly with and well liked by all members of the family. He

visited with the family and they go to visit John and to court together. "Pat is their daughter-in-law," Carmen comments bitterly. "I bet he's shifted two kids out for them already."

After the Life writer left, I stayed for dinner with Terry, Pat and John's brother Michael. We became friendly. I arranged for a phone to be installed the next morning so they could be in contact with the lawyer, John's father came home later. He was cordial but reserved.

In the days which followed, I took the family to the Detention Center each visiting day. I petitioned various gay groups for financial help for Littlejohn—no avail.

But slowly, I began checking out the wilder stories I heard about Littlejohn. What about the $4000 he had shown me? "Sure, he's a crackhead, in the 'gutter?" Terry pulled out a bankbook. It showed a $400 loan taken out the previous week with 10% monthly payment and no slips now due. Littlejohn had been middle America before becoming bizarre the last eighteen months. He had worked at various banks for nearly ten years, had a Unicard, and a good credit rating which he could use for funds when necessary, even though he hadn't worked for over a year. "He's a sociopath," he said. "He didn't care if they caught him."

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months — a fact he was ashamed of and tried hiding from friends. Fortunately for Littlejohn, his bank-teller's habits carried over into his private life. He kept detailed financial records. Terry kept his credit rating high by repaying any loans Littlejohn got for her out of John Sr.'s, an employed machinist, salary.

"Oh, John used to tell me those stories. He told people to impress them." Terry chuckles. "He told me everything. We were very close."

"Somebody said he'd flown to Miami and San Francisco chasing Ernie," I ventured. "He told them he didn't have to do this. He asked them one time since his arrest ten days previously and didn't know what was happening.

His bouts of dysentery which he had almost died of once while serving in Vietnam seemed to have temporarily improved. Littlejohn put my name on his official visitor list. It was approved. Finally I got to see him. He looked thin but otherwise appeared to be in good health. He appeared calm and rational, complained that he had only seen his lawyer one time since his arrest ten days previously and didn't know what was happening.

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**THE SOCIETY FOR INDIVIDUAL RIGHTS**

**SPECIAL NOTICE**

**SIR Open Meeting**, Wednesday, December 20, 1972

"INSIDE REPORT ON THE JUAN CORONA TRIAL" / "HOMOSEXUAL MURDERS??"

A Detailed Report by George Mendenhall who has been attending the Trials.

SIR Center, 836th St. — 8 p.m.

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Informal sketching with an instructor. Thursdays, 8 p.m., S.I.R.

**DEAF GAY DISCUSSION GROUP**

Informal discussion of a different topic each week. For this week's topic, contact the Silent Society at S.I.R. No charge.

**MARRIED MEN'S GROUP**

Discussions between married men (only) who also have homosexual rights. Bill has served as an officer in the Tavern Guild not once, from the office of treasurer he was elected to the presidency and served in that capacity for five years consecutively.

In the 2½ years since Bill has served as president of S.I.R., that organization has gone over its goal of 1,000 members and Vector subscriptions have reached an all-time high.

**LUNCHES — FOR SENIOR CITIZENS**

Free lunch and entertainment for senior citizens. Wednesdays, 1 p.m., S.I.R. Center. No charge.

**SIR BUSINESS MEETINGS**

**GENERAL MEMBERSHIP**

Business of S.I.R., reports, plus social hours. S.I.R. members only. First Wednesday, 8 p.m., S.I.R. Center.

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Seventeen S.I.R. Board members meet to run important business. Two executive positions. From the presidency and served in that capacity for five years consecutively.

**WAYS AND MEANS**

Recommends financial matters to the Board. Every Monday, 7 p.m., S.I.R. Center. Members may attend.

**SIR COMMITTEES**

Readers may participate in many of S.I.R.'s committees by contacting S.I.R. at 781-1570 or by visiting the S.I.R. Center and getting the chairman's name and phone number. The regular, standing committees of S.I.R. are: Community Service, Legal, Fundraising, Political, Publications, Public Relations, Religious, Small Activities, Social, Vector, and Membership. Contact George Coffman, Office Manager, at 781-1570.

**OPEN HOUSE PROGRAMS**

Forums, lectures, films . . . A different program every month. Seventy-five years of monthly programs. Every third Wednesday, 8 p.m., S.I.R. Center. Call 781-1570 for details. No charge.

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Rap sessions about psychology with Martin Show. Mondays, 1 p.m., S.I.R. Center. Call 781-1570 for details. No charge.

**SIGN LANGUAGE CLASS**

Learn sign language. Join class at any time. Sponsored by the Silent Society at S.I.R. No charge.

**SIR THEATER WORKSHOP**

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Speakers available for speaking to schools, groups, et. al. Call 781-1570 for scheduling.

**THE SOCIETY FOR INDIVIDUAL RIGHTS**

**VECTOR INTERVIEW: BILL PLATH**

The president of the society for individual rights indulges in some knowledgeable political talk about the gay rights movement.

Trying to get busy Bill Plath to sit down for an interview is no easy task. Bill works at the Orpheum Theater and restaurant on Market Street (next door to the Orpheum Theater). Until his term is up in January, he will continue to serve as president of the Society for Individual Rights, an organization dedicated to giving service to the Gay community and working to achieve equal rights for the homosexual.

Bill was born in Chicago ("So I could be near my parents") and came to San Francisco in 1953. For the next eight years he worked in the advertising department of the San Francisco Examiner. During his last year working for the Examiner he became involved in the Gay business and since that time has worked in, managed, or owned his own bar business. He began his career in that business at a now-extinct bar called Bond Street. Many of the drinking establishments that Bill has had a hand in in one way or another, such as the D'Oak Room, Whatever's Right, The Dial, The Opera Club, and of course the Orpheum Circus, will be familiar to our readers.

Being an Aquarian may explain why Bill seems to be able to get along with just about everyone, as well as being involved in the homosexual's fight for equal rights. Bill has been a member of both the Mattachine Society and the League for Civil Education (L.C.E.). He is an S.O.B. (Son of Bilitis) an honor conferred upon him by the Gay women's organization, the Daughters of Bilitis. Bill has served as an officer in the Tavern Guild not once, from the office of treasurer he was elected to the presidency and served in that capacity for five years consecutively.

In the 2½ years since Bill has served as president of S.I.R., that organization has gone over its goal of 1,000 members and Vector subscriptions have reached an all-time high.

Bill and his lover of 16 years live in a Victorian home, now almost 100 years old. It was sitting in the living room at Bill's home that we were told S.I.R. was first born in this very room in 1964, and that since its conception Bill has been one of the few original board members still working in that organization for the goals of the Society.

We asked Bill why so few of the original members remain and why there seems to be such a high turnover of officers and members in S.I.R.

PHILL: There has always been a turnover in both members and officers in the Society. It really boils down to the purpose of why some people join in the first place. Some people have the impression that if they join S.I.R., the organization will provide many social contacts for them—you know, thousands of friends, etc. If they happen to be assholes, just membership alone isn't going to help. Others do indeed make friends and then go their way. Some people join for a specific reason (usually those that work in the organization as officers, board members, or committee workers). Once they have resolved their reason for joining, they leave. Others continue to work in other ways, finding new goals to work towards.

A good example of this leaving after resolving needs was the tremendous jump in membership just after opening the S.I.R. Center. We were holding dances every Saturday night, which were tremendously successful. At that time none of the bars had facilities or licenses for dancing and S.I.R. was able to provide this activity. The young crowd turned out in long lines at the door. Members were allowed in free while non-members had to wait until someone came out so that they could enter. We took in memberships like crazy at that point because people joined so that they could get into the Saturday night dances. Within the same year how-
Plath: Yes. I've had many small activities groups to provide social alternatives for homosexuals. Of course, I was never interested in going to bars without needing to go to bars. For example, the bowling league that meets at Park Bowl has grown so large that it broke off from S.I.R. but continues to provide fun for a segment of the community. Another example is the theatrical groups. Then too, there's the political club, the A. B. Toklas Memorial Democratic Club. S.I.R. has been a launching pad for a lot of special interest groups. It has served to get them together and they have since branched out on their own. We feel S.I.R. will always be able to provide activities to interest members.

Interviewer: While we are discussing the political club, the Alice B. Toklas Memorial Democratic Club, would you like to comment on it as a result of coming together under the aegis of S.I.R.? The Tavern Guild grew in size and membership from an organization that was trying to get other bars to join to one where bars that opened would come immediately to join. Now, I'm not sure if you think that the S.I.R. Center is back in operation. We're working towards two goals. We are going to have to channel things towards their interests. Interviewer: It sometimes appears to me that the tensions of the Gay Movement are caused by the male segment of the Gay community. What do you think might be the reason for this? Do you feel that S.I.R. might be able to resolve this problem? Plath: Well for the last part, I certainly hope S.I.R. can effect changes. The explanation for women being left out, I think, is due to a lack of understanding. There really isn't that much in common between men and women but for the fact that they're both Gay. Each seeks out others of their own sex. The two groups rarely cross at any point.

Interviewer: Do you think Women's Liberation might have something to teach S.I.R.? And do you think Gay women still continue to see Gay men as their lover Dick. Do you have any words of encouragement to others as to what might make a relationship last, as yours has?

Plath: Yes. Patrons that go into bars of whatever, at whatever hour, can find out who's there by looking at the crowd. The only way to accomplish that is to band together. I was also a member of the Mattachine Society. Both of these organizations were not interested in the money being put into Mattachine and I.C.E., the benefits were not enough. The main reason for formation of S.I.R. was to band together. I was also a member of the Mattachine Society. Both of these organizations were not interested in the money being put into Mattachine and I.C.E., the benefits were not enough. The main reason for formation of S.I.R. was to band together. I was also a member of the Mattachine Society. Both of these organizations were not interested in the money being put into Mattachine and I.C.E., the benefits were not enough. The main reason for formation of S.I.R. was to band together. I was also a member of the Mattachine Society. Both of these organizations were not interested in the money being put into Mattachine and I.C.E., the benefits were not enough. The main reason for formation of S.I.R. was to band together. I was also a member of the Mattachine Society. Both of these organizations were not interested in the money being put into Mattachine and I.C.E., the benefits were not enough.
Gay Theatre

Gay Theatre San Francisco has arrived. The seeds that were sown almost two decades ago have come into full fruition, from the lip-synning pantomimes in the bars, to Joe's five camp operatic interpretations at the legendary Black Cat, to the first production of a hit Broadway bookshow, S.I.R.'s The Bay Friend (1967), through the innumerable subsequent productions by S.I.R., City Players, S.F. Independent Theater, and private groups formed to produce a single show, to the recent production last May which was a remarkable breakthrough. It enjoyed a critically tempering by the Yonkers Production Co. was subsequently brought back in September in the wake of the trailblazing lessons taught by Lion Women, advertising, promotional their own (longest-running All-Male Cast impressive "first achievements" list of breakthroughs, etc.). was available, the rights to the show wen-th Thomason-Bergner. It is to his credit, ripe for the big lime. was able to benefit from the astute de-pictions of Hello, Dolly! and Hello, Dolly, again and not with a whimper by Noel Hernandez of the production verges on outright dis-regard Chronicle-Examiner; their disregard regarding Gay Theater, S.F. It has been points to other ideas, other questions con-cerning Whili-liesth's. Likewise, Gay Theater presented a sharp, biting, clever skit in which a phallic-conscious society was saturated. The phallic-powerful king was in the end dephallicized (i.e., sterilized). All of the roles were joyously and delightfully played by gay women. (This also brings to mind: Why aren't gay women participating in Gay Theater, S.F.? Or is the latter basically a closed club, a private society that really does not encourage the full and extensive participation of women?)

The S.I.R.'s and Gay Women's Guerrilla Theater skits are the beginnings to a theater of gay consciousness. This theater must be encouraged to develop, grow and prosper. Eventually, it may prove to be the most significant contribution that gay theater can make to the performing arts. Certainly it can go hand-in-hand with the other productions by City Players, S.I.R., Youkers, etc. Hopefully, they will add productions of this sort to their regular schedules. Certainly they have the acting, staging, and financial resources available. Just as straight life is imitated, its ups-and-downs joyously celebrated in Mame and Dolly, so should gay life be brought to the stage through revues, skits, and plays.

Possibly Lyon Phelps' new S.I.R. Gay Theater Workshop will be innova-tional and a leader in this direction. Hopefully so.

and the Meaning of MAME

Gay Theatre
Sexual Identification and the Role of the Male Homosexual

by Doctor Inderhaus

A magazine distributed to the medical profession (Medical Aspects of Human Sexuality, September 1972) contains an article on "Men's Liberation" which is important for the gay population to consider. I will quote freely from it in this essay.

"The teenage boy searching for manhood is confronted by . . . homosexual men publicly declaring and asserting themselves, men who do not look or act in a manner noticeably different from the young men's image of themselves. To make matters more difficult, campus leaders are choosing the Gay Liberation Movement as an ideological and political involvement almost rivaling civil rights and women's lib in its contemporary relevance."

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"The homosexual, by incorporating himself from the things contemporary society holds most dear and that the male feels are his by right of his masculinity (money-making, political power, pre-eminence in science), then the re-thinking must go on along other lines. And a curious phenomenon has developed in the almost non-existent "men's liberation movement"; He has been forced to look closely and seriously to the only already liberated male: THE HOMOSEXUAL. The homosexual has been forced to redefine his place in society simply to live as a human being. The homosexual, by incorporating himself from the things contemporary society holds most dear and that the male feels are his by right of his masculinity (money-making, political power, pre-eminence in science), then the re-thinking must go on along other lines. And a curious phenomenon has developed in the almost non-existent "men's liberation movement"; He has been forced to look closely and seriously to the only already liberated male: THE HOMOSEXUAL. The homosexual has been forced to redefine his place in society simply to live as a human being."

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It is thus clear that "The adolescent struggling to become enlightened can no longer flippantly dismiss homosexuality as an unhealthy choice made only by disturbed people, without risking the self-accusation of being closed-minded." Indeed, our heterosexual brothers, because of the Women's Liberation Movement, must look to the homosexual for guidance! S.I.R., in its political activities, its lecture series, its informational pamphlets, and its many publicly-announced social events, is one way in which the heterosexual is being turned on to the gay life style. The many books, articles, and speeches of gay men and women have made the general public more aware. The gay student associations on many high school and college campuses are other ways of disseminating the gay life style; and not least, is the growing acceptance by many churches of gay ministers and lay leaders. By joining in these activities you can help your straight friends to understand what the liberated male is all about, and break down the barriers of ignorance and prejudice that have stood for so long.

In 1948, Kinsey wrote: "The world is not divided into sheep and goats. Not all things are black or all things white. It is a fundamental of taxonomy that nature rarely deals with discrete categories. Only the human mind invents categories and tries to force facts into separate pigeonholes. The living world is a continuum in every one of its aspects. The sooner we learn this concerning human sexual behavior, the sooner we shall reach a sound understanding of the realities of sex."
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