We The People

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Serving Lesbians, Gay Men, And Their Friends In The Redwood Empire — June 1989 Vol. II No. 2 FREE!

March By Candlelight

PHOTO BY MARK WATT

People from all over the Redwood Empire and beyond participated in the International AIDS Memorial Candlelight March on Sunday, May 30 in Santa Rosa.

Gay Veterans Testify In Congress

By Chuck Schoen

Last month Veterans C.A.R.E., Redwood Empire, along with San Francisco's Gay and Lesbian American Legion Post #448, New England Gay and Lesbian Veterans and San Diego Veterans Association was invited to attend the "Speaker's Eighth Annual Conference on the Concerns of Vietnam Veterans". This event was hosted by the Honorable Jim Wright, Speaker of the House and sponsored by the William Joiner Center for the Study of War and Social Consequences, University of Massachusetts at Boston.

The conference was started eight years ago by the Speaker of the House to acquaint Congress with the needs of Vietnam Veterans. Each year more issues have been added and more participants invited. This year was especially significant and important to the gay and lesbian community, because gay and lesbian veterans were invited to participate.

Issues discussed included Agent Orange, Employment, Housing, Minority Veterans, to include Asian-American Veterans, Black Veterans, Gay and Lesbian Veterans, Women Veterans and others. In addition there were topics like discrimination in the Postal Service. POW/MIA Servicemen, Small Business and other legal and pertinent issues.

Because of limited time, gay and lesbian veterans centered on one main issue, that of upgrading discharges of those veterans who served honorably yet received less-than-honorable discharges. Such upgrading would allow these veterans to access the VA health care system. We also included the sporadic discrimination of gay and especially lesbian veterans already entitled to veteran benefits.

Monday, May 1 was devoted to workshops. I was impressed by the number of non-gay veterans who attended the gay workshop. Their participation in the discussion and questions indicated their interest. We had the pleasure of a visit by Congressman Gerry Studds of Massachusetts, who also provided our meeting room. Aides of other congressional members attended and made com-

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The Celebrated Resolution

The following resolution is being presented to the Sonoma County Board of Supervisors on Tues. June 6, 1989. If you would like to attend the meeting and need more information call 528-6244 before June 6.

Resolution of the Board of Supervisors of the County of Sonoma, State of California Proclaiming the week of June 18 through June 23, 1989 as Lesbian and Gay Pride Week.

WHEREAS, during the week of June 18 through 24, 1989, the Lesbian and Gay Community of Sonoma County will be joining with Gay men and Lesbians throughout the nation in observing Lesbian and Gay Pride Week; and

WHEREAS, throughout the United States celebrations, rallies and parades will be held recognizing the diversity and strength that has developed in the Lesbian/Gay Community; and

WHEREAS, Lesbians and Gays have played and continue to play a critical economic, cultural, and social role in every sphere of the community in Sonoma County by constituting a significant portion of the labor force, business community and consumer population; and

WHEREAS, the people of the Sonoma County Lesbian and Gay Community remain one of the major sources of private money, volunteer hours and creative forces battling the AIDS epidemic; and

WHEREAS, by acknowledging these contributions, Lesbians and Gays gain respect and acceptance as vital community members,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Sonoma County Board of Supervisors does hereby proclaim the week of June 18 through 24, 1989 to be Lesbian and Gay Pride Week.

The Anthropology of Homosexualities

By Julia Elliott

Mildred Dickemann is a Professor of Anthropology at Sonoma State University. She first came to SSU in 1968, where a year later she helped to found the Anthropology Department. Some of her earliest work was in the areas of educational anthropology and ethnic studies. As she began to integrate her interests in biology, she pursued research in behavioral ecology and sociobiology. It was this work that brought her to her current interest in gender studies. This spring she has been teaching a course at SSU on "The Anthropology of Homosexualities". Julia Elliott, a student in the course, interviewed Dr. Dickemann at her home in Berkeley.

PHOTO BY CHERYL TRAENDLY/PHOTOGENICS

Dr. Dickemann at Sonoma State University

JE: You're teaching a new course at Sonoma State on the Anthropology of Homosexualities. What made you decide to do that now?

MD: I ask myself that all the time. If you define yourself as a homosexual but not a lesbian, you tend not to think of yourself as part of a gay community. I defined myself as a homosexual ever since I learned the word, and even before, but I didn't define myself as a woman. I was one of those people who believed that somehow I was born in the wrong body. So you could say I was a dyke. I didn't like the word lesbian because it makes it very clear that you're a female gay. Of course I couldn't be a feminist until I decided I was a woman. It took me a long time, and a lot of therapy, to accept that I was a lesbian. When I finally began to redefine myself I realized I wanted to be part of a group of people who were like myself. So I started going through a process that I call "coming in".

JE: By that do you mean coming into a community that you felt outside of?

MD: Yes, and it's very interesting how hard it's been. One of the things that I did as a very conscious strategy for "coming in" was to attend the conference in Amsterdam [Dec. 1987: The Third International Conference on Gay and Lesbian Studies.] I met people there and very gradually ever since the little network has expanded. That experience both credentialed and self-validated me. It was a

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Ups and Downs in AIDS Education

By Jaye Miller

Believe it or not, the Catholic school system of Sonoma County has by far the most comprehensive and humane AIDS education program in our area. During the course of the past three years, the Catholic Diocese of Santa Rosa has been developing an age-appropriate instructional program which has the backing of parents and teachers.

Recently, I completed the last of three full-days of talking to students of Ursuline and Cardinal Newman students about AIDS prevention. I was encouraged to discuss the AIDS crisis in detail and to include explicit information on safe sex and the correct use of condoms. I shared with the students that I was gay; I also told them that some among them would also probably have a gay or lesbian sexual identity as they grew up.

With the exception of one parent and one faculty member, I was welcomed and warmly supported in my talks. The coordinator of AIDS education at the two schools has wonderful plans and enthusiasm for providing greater depth in the future, including the possibility of student peer counseling and student drama productions around AIDS. Since I was given such broad support for dealing explicitly with safe sex, condoms and homosexuality, I felt no compromise in also stressing the value of abstinence and monoga-

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Sonoma County 3rd Annual
Lesbian & Gay PRIDE WEEK '89

Picnic

SUNDAY, JUNE 18/Noon to Sunset
Spring Lake Park, Santa Rosa

1 p.m. SAN FRANCISCO GAY FREEDOM BAND
turn-of-the-century style band
3 p.m. ROWLAND REVIEW
musical and comedy entertainment
Bring... picnic lunch, family and friends
(Grills available)

Spring Lake has... camping, boating, swimming, fishing, trails for horses, jogging and bikes.

DIRECTIONS:
Enter at Newanga gate, follow signs to Jack Rabbit Picnic Area
$2 day use fee (car pool advised)

Pay attention Heloise—a new use for Nylon Net! Yards and Yards of Yellow Net add up to a stunning Scarlett (David) O'Hara. The fantasy Ball was a fundraiser for "In Celebration of Life", a lesbian and gay group for people involved in 12 step recovery programs and their friends. And no one came dressed with curtain rods attached!

Patrick Satterthwaite

Straight? Talk!

Dear Editor.

I have worked in the service industry since 1980 here in Guerneville. I have watched Women's Weekend grow from a couple of hundred visitors in 1980, when we called it May Day Weekend, to this year's crowd of several thousand. The last couple of years I have been the ear to many, many women expressing frustration and anger about a number of things. One being admission fees. After much thought, I don't feel that the admission fees are really out of line. $5 or $10 for a day of fun in the sun plus entertainment is reasonable. Many of us have paid $10-$15 to see solo acts at the Vets Hall for a three hour period. I think the frustration comes because we want to see and/or check out all that's happening all weekend at both Fife's and the Woods. So all the fees add up, but still it is not bad for three nights and two days of dancing, lots of entertainment, seeing old friends, and meeting new ones. A free drink upon purchase of admission would be a nice gesture and relieve some of the sting many women felt.

I do empathize with women on the lower end of the economic ladder, who are many. The entire weekend adds up with lodging, food, drinks, entrance fees and maybe a souvenir. But going away for a weekend anywhere these days is costly. I rarely do it myself. I also understand running a business, especially in a summer resort town. There is very little revenue in the winter months, but there are still the bills. Businesses here have to spread out the profits of summer the entire year to make up for the loss of business the many months of winter. A good summer means survival to many businesses here. So, the fees I have accepted even if it means that I might not get to see everything.

Much anger and frustration was expressed to me from many women around another issue—not enough bathrooms and lack of toilet paper. A dozen or so toilets for most of the weekend, flooding bathrooms, garbage everywhere you look, makes for a lot of angry people. Lots of money was paid and basic services are expected. There is no excuse for this. I became angry around this issue as a guest and embarrassed as a service industry employee. It was no surprise, thousands of women were expected. More trained security personnel to handle traffic at both resorts, and more bartenders to servecustomers are needed. Portable toilets should have been rented, and more people should have been hired to constantly service the bathrooms and keep *all areas* clean and free of garbage.

If prices for all events had been printed on the schedule of events and posted everywhere beforehand, ticket-takers would not have had to feel the frustration that was vented towards them. If both establishments were kept clean and tidy at all *times* and people did not have to spend time waiting for dirty paperless bathrooms and waiting at the bar, they would at least feel they were getting the basic services that they paid for— and most of the frustration and anger would not have been there.

And so I suggest to the Gemini Corporation to get their act a little more together next time and use some of the profits of this weekend to provide the services that are rightfully expected. A better time could be had by all, and we could feel quite pleased to have been so well taken care of, and we would look forward to returning to these establishments where *service in all areas* was an obvious first priority.

Erin Mahony

Resolution Commentary

By Georgia Prescott

The value of the 1989 Lesbian/Gay Pride resolution is not in its adoption by the Sonoma County Board of Supervisors but in the courageous act of advocating for its adoption by the Sonoma County Lesbian/Gay Community. Each time we begin the debate we become stronger. They tell us the community is not ready to acknowledge the contributions of lesbian and gay men in Sonoma County and we ask if perhaps our contributions are premature as well. Should we organize a one—day boycott by lesbian/gay health providers, educators, city bus drivers, bankers, and gerontologist? Would one day's absence of lesbian/gay employees make a difference in the productivity of Hewlett Packard or the smooth operation of Sonoma State Hospital? What would happen to life in the Redwood Empire if all lesbians and gay men who were employed by the county of Sonoma stayed home? How many of us remember "Alice Doesn't Day", the feminist boycott several years ago? "Rock Doesn't Day has a nice ring." A simple resolution has a nicer ring.

To those who tell us the resolution will provoke gay baiting and bashing because we will be more visible, we say we embrace that visibility. This resolution is commemorating a week of national lesbian and gay pride activities which are designed to break down isolation and promote positive images of lesbian and gay people. The solution to gay baiting and bashing is not the hide but educate. We have acted as if we don't exists for years and years and it's resulted in increased alcoholism, increased suicides, more harmful stereotypes, and greater hardships for those of us who cannot pass. If we see an increased incidence of abuse as a result of this resolution, we will deal with it. This argument is as goofy as the argument that women should not wear tight pants if they don't want to be raped. We have a right to be gay and not be beat up!

To those who tell us pride is an inside job, we say we did not fall off turnip trucks and we know that! Sonoma County lesbian and gay men have long history of strong political involvement, excellent community media, large participation in addiction recovery programs, and leadership in the fight against AIDS. We are doing the footwork from the inside, and it's reasonable to ask government to put into motion the vehicle regularly used to acknowledge community groups such as ours.

To those who tell us we are creating divisiveness in our community with our request for passage of this resolution (especially when we know there is little support) we say the Board of Supervisors is responsible for the divisiveness when they deny our request. If we waited to be certain, the door would open before we knock. We would be poor students of the Human Rights Movements. Ernie Carpenter may be bored with Human Rights but we are not! Sonomawall is here and we are ready. We must be in prideful attendance to be heard on June 6. It may mean arranging vacation hours or calling in sick but if possible this situation calls for this sacrifice.

Issues in HIV Disclosure

By Doug McCulloch

The eleventh National Lesbian and Gay Health Conference took place April 5 through 9, and I was able to attend a pre-conference workshop on Sex, Dating and Intimacy in the Age of AIDS. One of the important issues raised at this workshop was the question of HIV disclosure. Many participants questioned; Do I have a moral obligation to tell my partner I'm HIV+?, If we are having safe sex does it matter? Of course, no single answer can suffice for every situation, but it is my contention that those of us who are HIV+ must share that information not only with our partners, but with our families and communities as well.

There was a time when being gay in this country was much more difficult than it is now. This is not to say it is easy now - we all know the difficulties presented us by society. But we certainly enjoy a less inhibited atmosphere than that of our pre-Stonewall era. By the same token we now find ourselves in a situation very similar to that of the pre-Stonewall times regarding the "viral closet". Until more infected people "come out", HIV infection will remain a stigmatized mystery from which the larger public will draw its own misconceptions.

Until the public begins to see that we are just "regular folks" trying to live regular lives, and not some misconceived evil monsters, HIV infection will continue to be perceived as a moral rather than a medical issue. As an example of how one might "come out" let my share my story:

On March 14, 1988, I believed that AIDS was a bad dream, a nightmare. It could not be real, especially after what we learned in the 60's and early 70's about sexual freedom. Was this our reward?

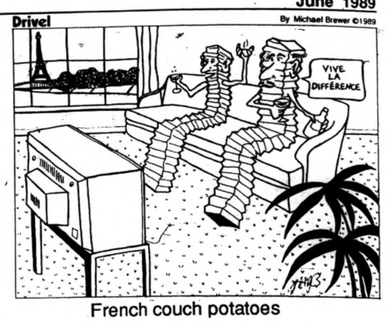
On March 15, I realized my nightmares of the day before were merely sweet dreams. The real nightmare was receiving a positive result on my HIV antibody test. I was so sure that my test would be negative. After all, I had not had thousands, or even hundreds, of sex partners. I could count on one hand the number of unsafe sexual experiences I had had. And those were so long ago. And I was so healthy. I was in a daze, to say the least, and horrified.

My first reaction was to spend. You know, when the going gets tough, the tough go shopping. I figured if I'm going to go, I'm going out with my credit cards at the limit! Fortunately, I came to my senses before I had spent myself into oblivion. After the initial shock and the associated feelings of doom, despair, and guilt, I began to get a grip.

I applied for coverage with a local HMO and began to take charge of my health. My doctor began to monitor my immune system every three months with all of the appropriate blood tests. I felt great, and for the first time in my adult life I began to gain weight. I did not comprehend the gravity of this health care decision until January, 1989, when my lover of nine years was diagnosed with AIDS. He had also tested positive but had not begun immune system monitoring. In January he found himself in ICU on a respirator suffering a severe bout of Pheumocystis pneumonia. He almost died. It was a very scary time for both of us.

We both now realize how important it is to take charge of our health. A positive HIV test is not a death sentence. We should not fear the test or its results. We should use the test result to make informed decisions about our health care.

Many of you feel that this could not happen to you. I used to feel the same way. I know differently now. I have learned a hard lesson, but the lesson had not defeated me. It has made me a stronger, better person. With the knowledge we have now, no one has to learn this lesson the hard way. You can prevent the spread of this nightmare by protecting yourself. I am a better person now, but believe me—there are times when I wish I was the person I was before I became infected with HIV.



French couch potatoes

We The People

We the People is published by the Northern California Gay Media Project, a collective of lesbians and gay men, and is being produced to serve the lesbian and gay community of Sonoma County and the Redwood Empire by providing forum for information, communication, community building, public consciousness raising, networking, access to resources, the exploration of lesbian and gay cultural history and for the reporting of the news in a forthright manner.

We the People welcomes contributions of news articles and features and seeks the participation of lesbians and gay men interested in its publication. Articles should be limited to 500 words, with suggested editing for length if needed. The copy deadline is the 12th of the month before the issue. Include your name, address and telephone number. Contributions may be sent to: We The People, P.O. Box 2204, Santa Rosa, Calif., 95405. Telephone (707 526-7464). Subscriptions / $12 per year, 526-7464.

This issue was put together by Lester Bush, Julia Elliott, Magi Fedorka, Robin Gail, Sandy Lowe, Kris Mazure, Jim Melancon, Jaye Miller, Melvin Muller, Jerry Noakes, Lois Pearlman, Patrick Satterthwaite, Bill Shelley, Dilys Shippam, Cheryl Traendly, Nick Valentine, Mark Watt, Janet Zagoria.

Circulation 5,000

Local Costco Store Reinterprets "Spouse"

By Jim Melancon

(Note: Susan K. Minde, in "The Costco of Homophobia" (We The People, July, 1988) described the discrimination she had encountered at Costco. She had responded to an invitation from Costco to apply for a free "spouse" card, but was denied the card when a membership clerk at Costco learned that her "spouse" was a woman.)

The local Costco store has changed its policy on issuing spouse cards to lovers of gay members of Costco. Recently, Costco member John Walker, who had earlier been denied a card for his lover, Fred Oettinger, was contacted by the new membership manager of the Santa Rosa Costco, Greg Schierholz. Schierholz told Walker he had come across the denied application for Walker's partner, reviewed it, and decided to offer Oettinger a spouse card. Schierholz also refunded the $10 Walker had paid to obtain a regular membership for Oettinger when their spouse card application was refused.

Traditionally, Costco has offered spouse cards free of charge to married members. Membership manager Schierholz explains that the official policy of Costco is not to issue a spouse card to the partner of a Costco member unless the couple is in a relationship recognized by the state of California as a legal marriage. This policy would exclude all couples, gay or straight, who are merely living together. The justification has been that if California doesn't recognize gay couples as having any legal rights, then why should Costco?

Each store has some latitude in observing official policy, however, and Schierholz has opted to grant a spouse card to gay Costco members who "are bold enough to come in and ask for it," provided some evidence of being a couple, such as a joint checking account, is also offered. Of course, the usual requirements for a Costco membership must also be met.

Schierholz adds that unmarried straight couples must also provide some proof of being in a committed partnership; simply sharing the same address is not evidence enough. He says he hopes the Santa Rosa store's decision indicates a trend in recognition for gay couples. As Costco stores expand in the San Francisco Bay area, the issue will continue to arise.

CHERYL TRAENDLY/PHOTOGENICS

The Human Race, was run and we won. The photo is of the group of runners/walkers for Face to Face. Not shown are the many participants who put their love and energy into this event and raised over $22,000. Talk about pride and love here it is with a wonderful mixture of straight , bi, and gay. And we all are the winners.

My Brother, AIDS and Fear

By Karen Justice

I remember the day I told my older brother, a gay man, that I was a lesbian. He jumped into the air, shrilling in his most dramatic and excited voice, "I knew it! I knew it!" He and his lover told me the hardest thing about the gay lifestyle was "living through the hell others sometimes put you through," and the next hardest thing was "living through the hell you put yourself through."

That was over 11 years ago. Today, I find some comfort in those words. Words I consider to be the most helpful in dealing with the pains associated with the lifestyle I share with my brother.

I used to be pleased to have a gay brother. But, since 1981, when I first learned of Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome, I have been gripped with uncertainty and fear. Then over a year ago, one of my fears came true—my brother tested HIV positive. Today I am almost sorry my brother is gay. Today, as I go through the process of dealing with his diagnosis it's difficult not to be afraid for him, myself and our community.

If statistics play themselves out, a very large number of men will perish from this ugly disease, among them many friends and, unthinkably, my brother. The dilemma facing our community hit me when I realized my inability to talk about how I felt about AIDS. Not only had I not been talking to my friends, but I have talked only superficially with my brother. It wasn't until a friend asked me how I felt about my brother being HIV positive that I realized I felt anything at all. It was an odd question, and yet I was overwhelmed with how much I did feel. I had had no difficulty talking about statistics or medical advances, but I could not find the place far inside me that held closed the door to my fears surrounding my brother being positive.

There was a silence between us. If we allowed ourselves to talk about our secrets, then surely they would materialize. He and I were protecting each other and all the other people in our lives. I wondered if it was possible that our community was reacting in the same manner. AIDS and issues surrounding it seemed to have become the elephant in the living room no one wanted to talk about. And this silence paralyzed me, drew me farther away from my brother and my community.

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REFLECTIONS...

By Robin Gail

It's Time for Gay Pride

One of the problems with a monthly newspaper is the timeliness of news. As I write this, well before the June 1 publication date, I can't know whether the Sonoma County Board of Supervisors approved a measure declaring June 18-24 Gay Pride Week. It's doubtful. It has become a political issue, and somehow it's our fault county officials don't acknowledge us.

Just what *is* the problem? Official recognition of Gay Pride Week should be simple—acknowledgment of the contributions made to society by lesbians and gays. But they hesitate and then turn it around to make it appear that by asking!, we've crated a problem! None have done so much to battle the personal difficulties and public ignorance and apathy experienced during the AIDS crisis as lesbians and gays and friends, but it has been suggested that the request for official recognition of gays will interfere with future AIDS work in the county. The real problem is not that lesbians and gays want recognition but that the official representatives of straight culture can't handle it.

Seems to me elected officials ought to realize that even though we don't vote in a block, there is a large gay constituency everywhere! It's frustrating that they insist we be invisible because they can't deal with us.

It's like women not being allowed to take off our shirts in hot weather. We women have to hide our breasts because *men can't handle their* own sexuality. We are guilty of a crime when we go shirtless because men have historically blamed their lack of control on women. It's blame-the-victim mentality. And so it is with homophobia. Straights seem to be afraid their religions, their families and their cultures would collapse if people were allowed to love whomever they choose. What crap. If same sex affectional preference were acceptable, I am convinced there would be no more gay people than there are today — supposedly about 10 per cent of the total population. There would simply be a lot less hatred and a lot more tolerance and acceptance. Those institutions whould still function if they're useful.

It has been suggested that if every gay person who is a member of the helping professions came out publicly it would astound the anti-gay bigots. If every lesbian or gay teacher, nurse, psychologist, doctor, nurse's aid, or dental technician spoke up — every gay volunteer worker who cares for elders, children, the infirm, the developmentally disabled, or every gay person who works with plants or animals — if every one came out and said, "Look who has the heart and the energy and the love to take care of you," the convenient and ignorant image of gays would be confronted and confounded.

But even the liberals are so afraid to see our humanity that the simple request for official recognition of Gay Pride Week is too much for them to deal with. That hurts. There are three basic opinions expressed during such governmental discussions: acceptance, rejection, and pretend acceptance – disguised rejection – "Gays are just like everyone else, who call attention to them? We don't have a special week for other groups." Maybe if we ignore them they'll go away. Liberals can be so mealymouthed! How easy it is for the Ernie Carpenters of the world to walk away from our struggles. After all, it's not *his* problem!

So of course, it is on us to be tolerant and understanding as usual. We know current anti-gay sentiment begins with ignorance and misinformation and is supported by fear of AIDS. We know people who live in fear are to be pitied. But so what? We can be tolerant till it kills us, and it sometimes does. It may be true that for our own peace of mind we need to be tolerant, but we don't have to thank them for the privilege or kiss ass.

Twenty years ago, in 1969, gays at Stonewall fought back. The stuffed anger and pain of hundreds of years of gay repression exploded in a resounding, "No!". And that resistance flowed around the country as gays and lesbians realized we could indeed be gay and strong and proud of it.

Hence Gay Pride eek. We honor and recognize ourselves, once more not waiting for a backward, ignorant dominant culture to catch up.

So anyway, this is the month of Gay Pride with picnics and parades and joyous recognition of our numbers. Go forth and be Proud! And thank you to Magi Fedorka and Adam Richmond and others who say for all of us, "Hey! We're here and we're not going away. You may as well deal with us."

Cruising the River

By Patrick Tifer

WOMEN'S WEKEND. . . .Even though it was a month ago, people are still talking about the successful Women's Weekend. Local businesses all reported full houses. It was estimated that close to 4,000 lesbians visited Guerneville for fun and frolic. We were all glad to welcome them and show them some Russian River hospitality.

It was interesting watching the reaction of some of the locals. There was Joan from the local Gasco out making new friends. Torch and Keri headed for the Sacramento hills to duck the crowds. Cheree and Joan lead a successful team of women in the local dart games at Molly's. What really stood out though was the numbers of local lesbians who spend most of the year unnoticed in town, out showing off our local sights. The River works because of the diversity of its citizens. Women's Weekend reminds us all of the contributions women make to our community.

One sidelight. . . .getting swept up in the fun of Women's Weekend were two of the River's favorite drags Scott and Stuart. "Kristal and Neenah" entertained from one end of town to the other.

SPEAKING OF. . . . .two of the town's most dynamic women, Torch and Keri, are planning to enter a large float representing Food For Thought in the upcoming Gay Day parade in the City, June 25. They need volunteers to help work on the float and to staff the promotional booth later that day. Anyone wanting to help promote this most worthy group (and have a good time to boot) should contact Keri at 869-0151.

MORE ON. . . . Torch is famous in town for more than her work with Food For Thought. Torch also is an accomplished musician, singer and entertainer. A few years back, Torch had a hit in the national pop charts and recently attended a recording session in the City. Torch and her lover Keri are living examples that you can be in two places at one time.

CHANGES. . . . .The River welcomes our newest bartender. You can meet Roger at Molly Browns. You may recognize him as the barkeep from the Special down in the Castro. Curt Kooperud is now waiting on tables at the Woods. Eric, the former waiter at Scott's can now be found at Jenner By the Sea. Sadly, we may be losing Eric to Phoenix unless we can convince him not to move to the baking desert.

MONDAY MOON. . . . .Molly Browns Saloon brings back its Monday nite Moon Over the River contest. Every Monday, 4 to 5 contestants, male and female, vie for restaurant and bar prized by showing us River folks their moon. And I don't mean the one in the sky! Goes to show you how easy it is to get someone to drop their shorts. It's all in fun. Check it out.

NEW OWNERS. . . . .Carolyn Whyte is the proud new owner and manager of the famous Rusty Nail. The Nail was one of the original gay bars here on the River and helped establish the popularity of the area. Carol says that while the new Rusty Nail will be open for everyone she does promise, and I quote, "to have the best meat in town". I think she was referring to her restaurant. Welcome to the river, Carol.

FINALLY. . . . It looks like the River is going to have an athletic gym for a quick workout and tone up. The new owners, two guys from Southern California, are planning to open their gym on Main street next to the Union 76. You'll hear more about this place in the future.

LATEST ENTRY. . . . .in the name John Mackin Contest. Bird Legs Mackin and Dots Mackin. these names were submitted to us from the friends of Little Nell Rice Paddy Daddy.

PEG AND CHAR. . . . .are proud to announce the opening of what could be one of the River's favorite spots for our out of town friends. For those who want quiet, this is it. The new Hacienda del Sol offers a 25 acre private estate available for the exclusive use of its guests. The main living quarters consists of 6000 square foot hacienda style house complete with interior courtyards. The grounds have over 4 acres of formal gardens, fish pond, waterfall and pool. The Hacienda hosts, Peg, Char, Papa G, Ted and Randy invite your inquiries about this new addition to the River scene.

G/L Volleyball Needs Manager

Community Volleyball, a recreation program run through River Community Services for lesbians and gay men, is looking for a new manager for the 1989-90 season. Tom Stanley, the current manager is moving on to manage the Guerneville Guerrillas, the men's volleyball team. The Guerrillas are preparing for the Gay Games III in Vancouver in August of 1990.

The new manager must be an enthusiastic individual with an ability to teach basic volleyball skills. She/he will be responsible for coordinating the schedule with the Guerneville School, working with River Community Services, managing a budget and reaching out for new members, especially women. This is a volunteer position.

Community Volleyball currently meets on Mondays from 6-8pm. Next year the program will be able to expand to three hours one night a week. Those interested in this position or in joining Community Volleyball should call Tom Stanley at 869-9696.

AIDS News

By Doug McCulloch

Last month, the Buddy Connection safer sex workshops got underway. The first workshop took place Saturday , May 13. We were pleased to have twelve participants, and their commitment to attend an indoor workshop on such a beautiful day is an inspiring testament to the importance of this subject.

The workshop is a combination of experimental exercises and group discussions, as well as one-on-one discussion. Topics of discussions range from how AIDS has affected your life, to what do you miss about the old days, what do you like about safer sex, and to how do we eroticize safer sex. An informative and enlightening condom application demonstration wraps up the first half of the workshop. After the break, participants are given the opportunity to work out their difficulties in discussing sex and limitations in two different role plays and one "body" exercise. The workshop concludes with a guided visualization and music.

Feedback from participants indicated they felt they gained some useful knowledge, had many questions answered, and above all, began to feel good about sex again. They also had fun.

June workshops will be Tuesday, June 13, and Wednesday, June 21, from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m., at the Public Health Rotunda, 3313 Chanate Road, Santa Rosa (across the parking lot from Community Hospital).

In an effort to accommodate the needs of the Russian River community we will be offering two Buddy Connection workshops in Guerneville this month in addition to those in Santa Rosa. The first Guerneville workshop will be June 6, at the Face to Face office, 16632 River Road, , from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. A second workshop will be offered in Guerneville in conjunction with Gay/Lesbian Pride Week June 22, also at the Face to Face office.

A $20-$35 gift certificate provided by an area business will be raffled off at the end of each workshop. Some of the businesses and individuals donating gift certificates include Randy Rowland, assistant manager at the Santa Rosa Inn; Jerry Noakes, Body Benefits Massage; Karl Evans, Apropo Hair Salon, Rainbow Cattle Company, Empire Nursery, Ireko, Floral Arrangements, Maggie Bradley, Hair Cutters, Molly Browns Saloon, and J. S. Chase and Company. Thanks from the AIDS Project to these people for their generous support of the Buddy Connection. Also, thank you to Face to Face for the use of the facility this month. See you at the next Buddy Connection!

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By Lois Pearlman

PHOTO BY JANET ZAGORIA/PHOTOGENICS

When I first moved to Sonoma County nine years ago, living with my boyfriend and lacking a car, I took a long bus ride to SSU, walked into the Women's Studies office, and asked the woman behind the desk, "Where can I meet women?" Her response was less than helpful. Well, I have changed, and after exhaustive research in the field (which, incidentally, is a great way to meet women), I have come up with my own answers to this ever-timely question.

As one woman boasted with youthful enthusiasm, "I can meet women anywhere in the world by being willing to start a conversation". However, many of us, lacking the time and energy for such universality, might want to concentrate our efforts in ways and places that are most likely to put us in contact with like-minded individuals.

You can begin, like I did nine years ago, with the Women's Studies Dept. at SSU. While you are there, go to the bookstore and pick up a schedule of classes. Full semester classes begin in September and February-- but shorter classes and one time events happen all year long. Classes can be expensive and time-consuming, but events and lectures are often free. Friendships, intimate relationships and feminist projects have been initiated through the contacts made in these classes. You might even learn something.

ClaireLight Women's Bookstore and the Lesbian Voters' Action Caucus (LVAC) also produce women's events on a regular basis. One of my sources recommended the smaller less well-attended events at ClaireLight (especially the readings) as a comfortable setting for striking up a conversation with someone new. ClaireLight publishes a monthly calendar of events you can obtain by putting your name on their mailing list. And We The People lists them in the calendar.

Other sources for women's events are the lesbian social clubs. "The Other Side", which has been in existence since the early 70s, and "Women in Touch" both offer events open to all women (the lesbian police do not check your ID at the door). Every month "Women in Touch" hosts a Sunday potluck brunch, attended by a wide variety of singles and couples, where good food, friendly conversation, and an informal atmosphere prevail. Other functions

'I can meet women anywhere in the world by being willing to start a conversation'.

vary from month to month since all members are free to organize an event and place it on the calendar. The same is true for "The Other Side" which also publishes a monthly calendar. Both groups provide one complimentary newsletter to newcomers and then charge a nominal fee for a year's worth of calendars. Write to PO Box 936, Cotati, 94931 for "The Other Side" and call 526-2938 for "Women in Touch".

Other types of organizations fall into five main categories: support and recovery groups, business/trade/professional organizations, spiritual/ religious groups, political groups, and athletic teams.

For myself the monthly Women's Ritual in Guerneville is a great place to sing and shout and dance about with new and familiar members of the women's community. See the calendar of We The People for time and location. Other spiritual or support/recovery groups are listed there too.

If you are interested in meeting other women in your business/trade/profession try the Bay Area Network of Gay and Lesbian Teachers (BANGLE), the Lesbian Business Owners' Association, and Tradeswomen, Inc. Lesbian/Gay political organizations in Sonoma County include the Lesbian/Gay Democratic Club, Veteran's Care, LVAC, and the Newly Formed ACT UP. Meetings for these groups are also in the aforementioned newspapers.

Perhaps you enjoy expressing yourself in a more physical way. There is lesbian softball, basketball, and volleyball.

Teams for various levels of ability. However tracking down a lesbian team requires a little more ingenuity than merely phoning the department of recreation. "Just ask around", I was told. I considered posting a wanted ad at a place like ClaireLight. You could even put a classified ad in We The People or Women's Voices, and three is the new Social-Life Club for lesbians/gays in the redwood empire. Speaking with women at ClaireLight, the Artemis Club, the Women's Resource Network or Face to Face might net some results.

Finally, there are those fabulous weekend events; the West Coast Women's Music Festival and theWomen's Weekends held in May and September at Fife's and the Woods. Never having attended the Music Festival I will leave it to others to extoll its virtues as a happy hunting ground. However, the Women's Weekends offer an opportunity to meet thousands of women right here in Sonoma County.

And for the month of June a staff member of We The People recommends attending the lesbian/gay picnic at Spring Lake. It seems that she met her own beloved there last year.

With all these possibilities you would be hard-pressed not to find a club, team, event, class, or meeting that meets your needs and desires. So -- here you are, in a roomful or playing field full of fascinating women -- what do you do now? Several of my most helpful interviewees suggested that the best way to feel comfortable in a new situation is to volunteer. Offer to come early and help set up: hook up the sound system, help in the kitchen, be willing, flexible, accommodating. If you arrive early to a dance and hang up balloons and streamers, you feel like an old hand by the time the festivities begin.

Feeling comfortable, surrounded by the kind of women with whom you have much in common you see a special face across the floor. You casually make your way over, sidle up, and say - What? Here are some suggestions. If you don't like them or if they don't work, come to the next "Women in Touch" brunch and complain -- that's where I got them.

"Have you ever thought of filing for bankruptcy? I did. Here's my card if you need some help."

"My work is my top priority, but ..."

"I'm single. I'm available. Here's my card."

"I don't look for lovers. I just try to be the best person I can."

"You look familiar to me. Do I look familiar to you?"

"I haven't seen you anywhere in this community before. That's really interesting,"

"Do you play basketball?"

"You look like you run."

"You must be an Aires, Taurus, Gemini, etc."

"I know this is a line, but ..."

"Here's my card."

As you can see, a card with your name and telephone number is a necessity in this brave new world. Ardy Tibby, who recommends "Janet's Jungle" in Rohnert Park (one thousand cards for $17.50) told me, "The first thing I did when I found out my address was to have cards made".

Are you ready now? You have your calendar of events, your class schedule, 1,000 crisp new cards, and you know what to say and do in any situation. Good luck. Have Fun. May you're juiciest dreams come true. Let me know how it goes.

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Anthropology CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

wonderful crash course in all the research that's being done in that area, all around the world.

JE: So all this happened over the past three or four years. Do you feel like you're more out at work now?

MD: My becoming obviously out at work was a very slow process. I think I was practically the last woman at Sonoma to wear pants when they became acceptable for women because I was scared. Then gradually I just began dressing more and more "masculine". So by the late 70s I was totally obvious.

JE: What do you think anthropology has to offer to the study of homosexuality that's different from the other social sciences?

MD: I don't think anthropology has any well-developed theory about gender yet, but it has a method that is tremendously useful — it's cross-cultural and comparative. Some people are beginning to see that certain forms of society generate certain forms of gender definition and thereby certain forms of homosexuality. What we really need to look at is what the correlations are — with more sophisticated questions about family structure, sex roles, socialization of the young, political structure and so on. You have to start looking at heterosexual sex roles to understand homosexual sex roles, whether we like it or not.

JE: What is your theory about that?

MD: One is looking at a shift from a situation in which parents or the close family are making the primary decision about children's sexual futures, into a situation in which it's more rewarding for parents to train children to be able to make their own choices. Once you make that shift, you create a new danger — that some of the children won't perform the sexual roles that you would like them to perform. So homosexuality gets stigmatized, but at the same time it also becomes an acceptable role. That sounds like a contradiction, but it's not. You don't want all your children to be homosexuals, but there are certain times and places when it's an appropriate role for some children.

JE: You said in class a social constructionist ["socialized to be gay"] point of view is very broadly accepted among social scientists, but it seems to me that a more essentialist ["born gay"] point of view is popularly taken for granted among lesbians and gays. Why is there this big difference?

MD: I think it's true, especially of people who are in any sense politically aware, that they tend to be essentialist. It's a satisfying position for people who feel on the defensive. If you feel threatened, it's more effective to justify yourself as being natural rather than contrived, because if you're contrived, people can say — well, stop it. Supposedly scholarship frees you from these gut reactions. If you do it cross-culturally or with any kind of historical time depth, you can't avoid the fact that differences [in homosexuality] have occurred and you have to explain them. Historians and cross-cultural social scientists are forced to recognize social construction, though I don't think we have a very good explanation of how the construction works.

JE: Often people seem to assume that there can be only one underlying cause of homosexuality — that the explanation has to be either essentialist or social constructionist, but not both. It seems to me that we've all developed in different ways for different reasons. There can't be any one explanation for everybody.

MD: Exactly — As Franz Boas [early 20th century anthropologist] said, the same result can be produced by many different causes. That's much forgotten.

JE: I can imagine some people may find these notions controversial. In teaching the course do you feel that students are surprised by any of the ideas you're bringing up?

MD: Absolutely. They're surprised, and I designed it that way. I wanted people to have a feeling of confusion about what I assumed would be their own stereotypical definitions of gayness — so that we could become conscious, not only of the ways that we define homosexuality today, but of our natural tendency to read it back into the past without change. If you expose people to enough historical time depth, or enough cross-cultural diversity, you have to destroy their universalistic, essentialist assumptions. I guess that's the main goal of the course. It's very hard to reconstruct one's fundamental way of looking at reality, especially in the area of gender — to keep reminding oneself that one's unconscious assumptions are just very limited.

JE: What are some of those assumptions?

MD: That gayness is defined in terms of specific sexual behaviors. We tend to think that the Greeks had male homosexuality, but then when we go and study it, it turns out to be a lot of married bisexual men, and that's true for a great deal of European history. So what is it that we're talking about? Our whole tendency to categorize into either straight or gay comes into question as we look back into history. With women it's this other very peculiar phenomenon of those who, whether married or unmarried, were having intense passionate relationships with other women which they didn't label as sexual. Whether they were sexual or not, we don't know — they labelled them as friendships. So all of a sudden we discover that even our definition of friendship has changed. We make very clear assumptions about what gender you are and where sexuality fits in relation to that gender, what kind of sexuality goes with what kind of gender — and those are very specific to our time and place. They're not universal at all.

JE: So your course, the Anthropology of Homosexualities, is to study this plurality. Why do you use the plural?

MD: There isn't any one homosexuality. We don't really know what we're studying. Once you realize that the Greeks were bisexual, and Shakespeare was bisexual, and these 19th century women were cuddling in bed and maybe mutually masturbating but didn't know they were having sex — what does the word mean? I know what it means right now to you and me, but I don't know what it is that we're studying. But it's fun.

Ups and Downs CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

mous marriage for those who found that appropriate in their own lives.

Unfortunately, the same cannot be of the public schools in Sonoma County. For two years the Sonoma County AIDS Education Task Force has been attempting to train teachers and to make classroom presentations on AIDS prevention. The Task Force recently completed a county-wide survey of Sonoma County schools, and the results confirmed our frustration. Of the 117 public schools in the county, only some 40 schools returned the survey even though a cover letter urging them to do so was signed by Vance Montgomery, executive director of the Red Cross, Marshall Kubota, Chair of the Sonoma County Commission on AIDS, and Marvin Adams, Superintendent of Schools for Sonoma County.

Of those schools returning the survey more than 50 percent have no written policy or program for AIDS education. More than 75 percent indicated their programs are just being developed or need improvement. It appears that close to half the schools need teacher training. Only 15 percent have a system to monitor or evaluate their programs. Since these results come from only those schools involved and concerned enough to respond to the survey, it seems fair to conclude that AIDS education in the entire system is even worse than indicated by the survey.

The major obstacles to developing AIDS eduction in the county include: the difficulty of reaching and coordinating activities among the 42 schools districts of the county, the bureaucratic inertia of the Sonoma County Office of Education, the fear of public and parent reaction, and the lack of training and support given public school teachers.

After talking with high school students in the county, I am convinced the youth of Sonoma County definitely follow national trends both in a high level of sexual activity and very low knowledge and practice of safe sex techniques. While it will remain difficult to reach and motivate the public schools to adopt comprehensive AIDS education policies and programs, it is clearly important that the gay and lesbian community work hard through such events as the Names Project display, the coming AIDS candlelight vigil, and the Gay Pride Resolution to raise community awareness of the AIDS crisis. Here is a place where self interest and community interest overlap.

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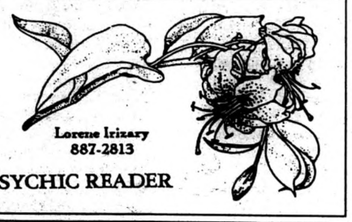
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Snaps of a Women's Weekend on The River

The annual early May bash in the Guerneville area was a huge success, with wonderful weather and crowds of happy women. Based at Fifes and The Woods, weekend events are recalled in this photo collection by Janet Zagoria and Cheryl Traendly / Photogenics.

Diane Davidson at The Woods.

Just dancin' and laughin'

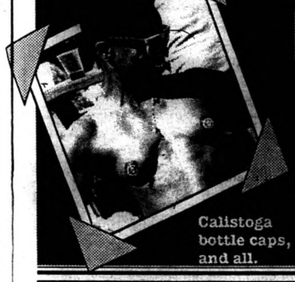
Anita Kennedy & hair stylist Vicki Oleski of mLavelle

Improv Group, Over Our Heads

Monica Grant

Char Priolo of the Dyketones

DeeAnn Hyde and Melanie Mayer from Guerneville play the *Newlywed Game* at Fifes.


Calistoga bottle caps, and all.

ASL interpreter Marilyn Van Veersen *sings* with Lisa Cohen

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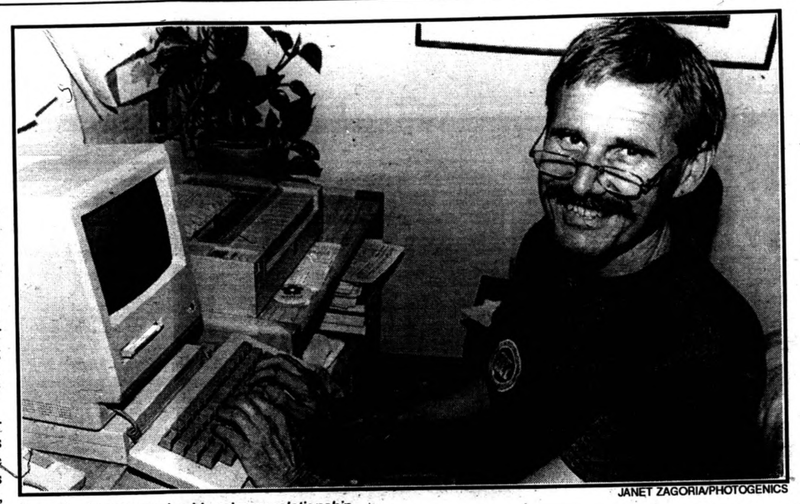
JERRY NOAKES: A PROFILE

The Shaping of a Dream

By Jim Melancon



JANET ZAGORIA/PHOTOGENICS

Jerry Noakes romancing his primary relationship.

With the publication of the May issue, We the People celebrated its first birthday. Along with Sandy Lowe, Melvin Mueller, Robin Gail, Lois Pearlman, Jaye Miller, and others, Jerry Noakes is one of the core group of people who initiated publication of We the People a year ago. He has remained constant in his dedication to the paper, working as managing editor, advertising coordinator, typist and chief distributor. Jerry earns his living as a massage therapist at his Body Benefits studio in the Flamingo Hotel.

He recently turned over the managing editor responsibilities of We the People to Magi Fedorka, and this has freed him to pursue another of his dreams: the development of an active and vital gay community in this county. It seemed appropriate to profile this energetic, idealistic and dedicated man to let our readers know who he is and to thank him for his hard work.

Jerry first landed in Sonoma county in 1973. In his early thirties then, he considered himself straight. A year later, Jerry and a close male friend, Doug, moved to an isolated ridge top near Covelo to try what he calls now his "homesteading trip." The two became lovers and continued their experimentation with alternative living in Mendocino County for four years. Living without running water or electricity, they raised goats for milk, yogurt, and cheese, and earthworms for gardening purposes, an enterprise Jerry now laughs about.

By 1978, disillusioned with the climate of northern California, where the dry summers made it nearly impossible to grow vegetables, they moved to upstate New York. But after three years of frosts during the summer and long periods of subzero temperatures in the winter, they viewed New York's climate as even less hospitable than the west's.

For a few years, Jerry had been working as Homestead Editor for RFD, a semi-monthly journal for gay men living in rural areas. Through his contact with RFD, Jerry had heard of a gay collective in Murfreesboro, Tennessee, south of Nashville. Tired of the "survival techniques" required of them in northern New York, Jerry and Doug migrated south.

The members of the gay collective viewed them as politically incorrect, however, because they were monogamous. So Jerry and Doug joined a small straight commune whose members appreciated their hard work and reliability. They lived "a life of recycling, gardening, you know, all that stuff," says Jerry.

Then 1984 Doug left Tennessee to attend massage school in Gainesville, Florida. Jerry stayed in Tennessee. That was the beginning of the end of their relationship. When Jerry went to Gainesville to meet Doug at the end of his massage school training, Doug told him that he had met a woman, the two of them were "involved," and they were leaving together—without Jerry. "And that was it," Jerry says. An abrupt end to a ten-year friendship and love relationship.

Jerry recalls, "I was a mess. My heart was broken and I was in Gainesville, where I didn't know anybody. Somehow I got it together to go to massage school."

I started thinking, all right, what's our community here? Is the AIDS Network the community?

After he finished massage school in '85 Jerry returned to Sonoma County because he had friends here. He didn't know any gay people here, and he hadn't had much of an opportunity to be "out" among gay people previously, because he and Doug had lived in relative isolation among mostly straight people. "I heard about Face to Face and, because of my political ideology, I felt it was an important group to be involved with," recounts Jerry, and he's been active for almost three years with the AIDS-services agency as both an advocate and an in-home care provider.

"During the time of working a lot on We the People, I started thinking, all right, what's our community here? Is the AIDS Network the community? In a way, Face to Face is a community, but there's got to be a broader community. So that's when I decided to start The Social-Life Club, for people who like to do things. I've had people ask me, what's there to do if I don't want to join an AIDS group, a twelve-step program, or go to the bars? Here's one answer."

Jerry's plans for building a community extend beyond We the People and the Social-Life Club. He wants to schedule a lecture series for gay men; monthly speakers would address issues or problems facing gay men and would disseminate information and bring men together. He will participate in the local Unitarian Church's June symposium on what the needs are of area gay men and lesbians. For example, he wants to determine the need for a weekly drop-in group for men and women who are just coming out or wondering about it. He would like to facilitate a ten-week discussion group of men and women on issues of separatism between gay men and lesbians. Obviously, this man is going to be busy.

Jerry readily admits his idealism is both a fault and a virtue. "I'm always having to check my reality," he says, and one feels that the world must often fall short of his vision. "Working for change is how I grow," he explains.

He reads a favorite quotation: "If one asks for success and prepares for failure, he will get the situation he has prepared for" (Florence Scovel Shimm). With Jerry, you can feel that he's asking for and preparing for success.

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Recovery

By Carolyn B.

Beyond Our Wildest Dreams

In the movie "Field of Dreams," the main character, Ray, hears a voice as he walks through his Iowa cornfield. Ray is just an ordinary guy, but he has enough of the sixties in him to take the voice seriously. Throughout the story, the voice asks him to do several things that seem completely bizarre to him and to the people around him. Ray can experience: his wildest dreams and more, because he is willing to listen to the voice and follow its direction, even in the face of ridicule and potential ruin.

Ray is not unlike any of us in recovery who secretly cherish beautiful dreams of who we could be and what our lives could be like. Perhaps we've had our dreams shattered in the wreckage of the past or perhaps we've even forgotten them through the pain and losses of our diseases. In recovery we glimpse the possibility that we can experience our wildest dreams and more, but some sacrifices are necessary.

To realize our dreams, we need to come to believe that there *is a Voice—that it* knows more about what we need and how to make our dreams come true than we do. That Voice is neither the Great Ogre or the Great Parent in the sky. Sometimes it seems like more of one than the other, but if we pay attention, we usually find that it's a little of both.

The Voice is the greatest mystery of the universe, yet it comes to very ordinary people in very ordinary ways. Someone in the movie asks Ray, "Is this heaven?"

"No," he replies, "this is Iowa."

Realizing our wildest dreams through recovery is about doing very ordinary things by using some very extraordinary tools called the 12 Steps. Often in recovery, the Voice asks us to do some not so ordinary things—things that we don't think fit our image or that don't seem reasonable at the time.

Recently I was asked to provide material for this column on a monthly basis and to use some space in this article to introduce myself. I took that as "the Voice" giving me instructions, so . . . Hi, I'm Carolyn, and I'm a recovering alcoholic, recovering ACA, recovering incest survivor and recovering compulsive debtor, spender and pauper. No doubt, I qualify for other programs too.

In some ways my story is very ordinary; in other ways, it's unique. In the past few years of recovery I've begun to get my life back, and I've experienced the joy of giving away what I've gotten through service and through my work as a counselor, consultant and educator. I have lots of grey hair, and I'm definitely not 23 anymore, but recovery has truly given me parts of my life back that I would never have had otherwise. Like Ray, I've experienced that if I'm willing to listen to the Voice and follow its direction, I get to have a life—and my wildest dreams too.

The Big Book of Alcoholics Anonymous tells us that a total transformation of the personality is required in recovery. I believe that it's also absolutely necessary in order to realize our wildest dreams. How else could we become READY for that much joy and serenity?

Next issue "Transformation and Recovery."

Gay Veterans

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

ments.

The next day, the entire conference assembled for workshop reports and visits by many senators and representatives, including Speaker of the House, Jim Wright, Sen. Edward Kennedy, and other senators or their aids. Representatives Barney Frank and Nancy Pelosi spoke and acknowledged the gay veterans' presence. The workshop reports were presented between the visits of congressional members. Of all the reports, the gay and lesbian report was the only one to receive applause, which indicated to me the conference participants' respect and recognition of gay and lesbian veterans. This made me particularly proud. Of course, the bottom line will be if we are invited back next year.

Wednesday, May 3, Stan Berry of the San Diego Veterans Association and Cliff Arnesen of the New England Gay and Lesbian Veterans Association, as gay Vietnam Veterans, testified before the House Veterans Affairs Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigation, Chaired by Rep. Lane Evans. They spoke on upgrading and recognition of gay and lesbian veterans.

Lily Adams, of the American Legion Post #448 of San Francisco dealt with both the gay and lesbian issue and that of all women veterans. Most VA Medical Centers are not adequately equipped to deal with women veterans, whose numbers are steadily increasing.

WHAT DID WE GAIN?

Recognition by the Veterans Community and making Congressional members aware of the injustice suffered by gay and lesbian people, in the military and after discharge.

While there I had time to visit the "Wall", the Vietnam Memorial. The deep feeling of loss and honor has never changed. Each visit to the "Wall" makes me appreciate peace more and more. The peace those named on the "Wall" can never enjoy.

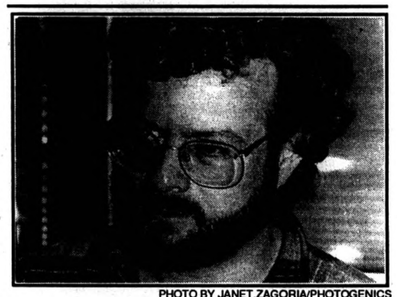

PHOTO BY JANET ZAGORIA/PHOTOGENICS

Randy Shilts, National Correspondent of the San Francisco Chronicle spoke at the Sonoma County Press Club in April. Shilts was one of the first writers to push for extensive coverage on AIDS on a major metropolitan newspaper . Because of his pioneering efforts, the truth about the AIDS story finally began to come out. He educated the public and his colleagues on the politics of AIDS. His book, ***And The Band Played On,*** *a national best seller, has been hailed as a fascinating piece of history on the AIDS epidemic. Shilts is a partime resident of Guerneville.*

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Portfolio

By Peter Maslan

Michael Tabib

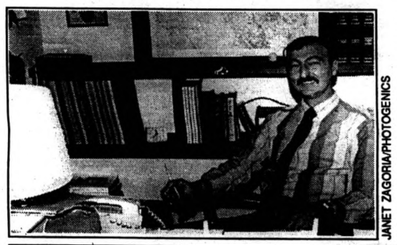
We The People is pleased to welcome Michael Tabib into its staff as a theatre reviewer, Michael is not new to theatre, He says he "got his start" at the age of four dancing solo at his uncles wedding before any of the other guests got onto the dance floor. He remembers his parents asking him if he felt self conscious appearing in front of so many people and his response was, "Well no! We're here to have fun aren't we?"

Apparently Tabib has been having fun ever since. His early life parallels that of many theatre people — a childhood of putting on plays with every available bedsheet in the house.

Michael was born in Lebanon, and at the age of 15 came to the United States with his family. He continued his work in high school and later received his Bachelor of Arts from UCLA in theatre. He worked in community and regional theatre in the Los Angeles area for a few years and then moved up to the Bay area with his partner Dennis.

Michael chose to leave Southern California and the opportunities for professional theatre in order to maintain his relationship of 18 years and because he didn't feel that the rat race of that kind of life was worth personal sacrifice. Michael, who was one of the founders of the River Repertory Theatre Company, currently lives in Windsor and supports his art as a real estate agent. He is now a member of The Actors Theatre in Santa Rosa.

I have talked Michael several times over the past few months. One thing that is apparent to me is that Michael lives theatre. He proudly owns his passion for the art and for its existence in Sonoma county. Because so much of his life centers around presentation it seems appropriate to offer the rest of this interview in dialogue form.



JANET ZAGORIA/PHOTOGENICS

PM: Do you feel that there is such a thing as Gay art?

MT: I think so but I really don't know how to define it. While I feel there is a distinction between gay art and straight art, I don't feel that that one is any more or less valid than the other. There seem to be certain qualities which exist in gay art such as a great sense of the ridiculous which we now see as "camp". A certain kind of warmth and sensitivity exists in gay art; and the subject matter doesn't have to be gay.

Tennessee Williams is a perfect example of this. His work is full of gay culture in terms of expression, poetry and musicality which I associate with gay art. There exists an undercurrent of understanding and a perspective of dealing with one's situation of being gay and apart from the straight world. To me art is the reflection of the artist's life. And in that sense gay art exists because the gay culture exists and is distinctly different from the mainstream.

P.M. What do you feel are the trends in gay theatre?

M.T. I think that one of the most important things that is currently happening is the work that Theatre Rhinoceros is doing — gay people getting together to do gay theatre and presenting it to gay and straight audiences. And of course the inescapable major theme these days is AIDS. More recently than in the past, gay theatre presents the truth about our culture. Boys in the Band, while sensational and innovative for its time, was really rather incomplete. It presented all the negative aspects about being gay — the bitchiness, loneliness and manipulative games people can play with each other and none of the beauty. It typified the self hatred which was the public image of all gays at that time.

PM: Do you think there is a difference between gay and lesbian perspectives in art?

MT: I would say yes. Although there are a lot of common issues there still exist issues that are distinctly different for the lesbian community as well as the gay community. What I would like to see more of is that the two communities find it possible to make the joint effort, certainly in theatre, in addition to maintaining their own identities through art. I see these efforts as a type of communal marriage through art. I think we are in a state of healing from the '70's where there were so many differences between the lesbian and the gay community; now we have the shared effort and concern of AIDS.

PM: Do you have your own personal statement that you try to make through theatre?

MT: My own personal statement would have to be centered around issues of honesty. In my own work I try to create an atmosphere for my fellow artists that can safely allow them to be more vulnerable. That's the only way you can be creative — to put yourself in the most vulnerable position and yet remain safe in being whoever you are, both as yourself and as the character you are portraying.

My Brother

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

What kinds of things did I keep to myself? I have planned a thousand times what I will do when, or if he gets sick. I have thought out every conceivable option of care for him. I have read every piece of literature looking for answers. I have mother-henned him to take better care of himself, to slow down, be careful. I have buried and re-buried him until I can no longer close my eyes for fear of the images my mind conjures up. I have put his name on every panel of the AIDS quilt. I have prepared myself for the worst and hoped for the best. I have clutched atnews of new drugs or treatments, hoping for a cure. And every night I have prayed for him to beat this monster, stay healthy, and live a long, happy, wonderful life. And my brother is still healthy, very healthy in fact. So why am I so haunted? Why this nightmare?

There are no easy answers.

To end the silence I spoke to my brother and shared my secrets, hoping to find some answers. As we talked, I wondered if we mirrored the rest of our community. My most important question was how do gay men view lesbian involvement with AIDS? His reaction was not at all what I expected: he said he personally was grateful for all the support and tenderness the women's community had shown him, and that many men needing support services felt the same. He said he considered women's involvement part of sticking together, and, if the tables were turned, the men's community would do the same.

I asked if he felt there was any animosity towards the women's community because of the low risk factor. He didn't think there was but hesitated to speak for all men, explaining that—just like in the women's community—there are people who do harbor other resentments that could fuel some animosities. When I asked him how he felt about the low risk factor with lesbians he replied, "Thank God, not just for the women, but for the men in the community who are testing negative as well."

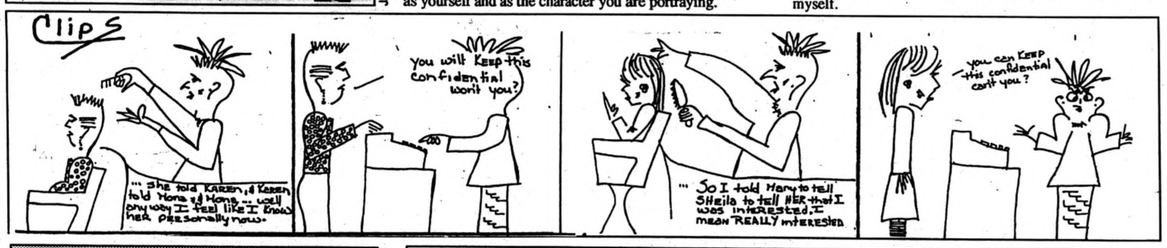
On the topic of silence, he reminded me that AIDS is a very sensitive subject. Even he avoids talking about it unless specifically asked. I asked him how he felt about the silence associated with AIDS, and he sees it as possibly doing damage in years to come.

After talking with my brother, I spoke with several men friends of mine. I asked them the same questions and got similar replies.

I know now it was my fear that set up my assumptions about how the men's community felt. My fears kept me on the safe side of AIDS, living with the realities yet with my back turned to protect me.

I had made for myself a kind of purgatory. I was afraid to approach the men's community for fear of being turned away, and afraid to approach my sisters who pointed in the direction of volunteer and helper, when I had little energy to give to anyone. What energy I did have I selfishly kept to myself to save up for the day when, or if my brother would be the one in need.

I had put myself through one of those hells my brother and his lover warned me about. Fortunately, I was able to summon the courage to seek some solution to the fears. Surely, if nothing else comes of any of this, I will have at least acknowledged the fears that have kept me isolated from my community, my brother, and, maybe more importantly, myself.



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Room Available: For sublet in Santa Rosa ... May & June, possibly longer. Sunny 2 bdrm house with yard & garden. Pets negotiable. Looking for tidy, health-conscious lesbian. $235/ mo. + utilities. Call Kathleen or Kirsten 528-4423.

Townhouse for Rent, Novato easy commute North or South; 3 bdrm, 2-1/2 bath, closet organizers, oak cabinets, laundry, fireplace, deck, pool; $950, available June 1; responsible mature couple preferred; references required and security dep. Call 1-415-897-2342

"To Be or Not To Be" Men and women interested in group therapy to explore issues around being gay in Sonoma County. Singles and couples groups availabe. Call Ralph P Ascoli, MFCC, (707) 763-5358

Jim S. Come hell or high water, we stand side by side in this March of Pride. Heartfelt thanks, Magi

Living In The Light, a meditation and study group for women forming in Santa Rosa, based on Sharti Gawain's book. Day and time decided by group. No Fee, Just a willingness to grow and explore. For more info call Sherri 584-0746.

JaZee, the honeymoon can't be over so soon. MF

Housemate Wanted: Gay male graduate student with dog seeks non-smoking gay man to find and share country home near SSU. Call John Z. 823-1208, Mornings and weekends preferred.

Male, Looking for country house in Sebastopol Area to share/rent 3 days a week, Fri, Sat, & Sun. (415) 665-9999, Dave.

Adam, At last a link between SR and GV - with Pride. M.

A Closeted needle worker? Knitting B's are as old as the hills. For info on a new Sonoma Co. Men's Stitch and Bitch. Call Paul 765-6346

Two Clean/Sober, very stable women and cat looking for quiet, sweet, 2 BR rural home, with easy access to SSU. W. Petaluma is our 1st choice but we're open to other places. Pls contact us if you know of the serene environment we're seeking. Jessica/Denise 586-0944.

Cottage for rent, Sebastopol, country atmosphere in town. Newly remodeled. One-bdrm, laundry, enclosed carport, water/ garbage pd. $600/mo + 400 dep. Avail. June 3. 829-5945.

The Wishing Well

To place a personal in the Wishing Well, print your ad clearly, count the words and multiply by 10 cents. To use the Wishing Well AD number add an additional $8.00. Mail to Wishing Well, P.O. Box 2204, Santa Rosa, CA 95405. Your replies will be forwarded to you weekly for two months. To answer a Wishing Well Ad that used the AD number, mail your reply to Wishing Well, AD number, P.O. Box 2204, Santa Rosa, CA 95405.

Seek Gay/Bi Senior Male (55-65) Loving friend? Friendly lover? Prefer retired, possible "live in". P.O. Box 733, Santa Rosa, 95402

Sebastopol, GWM, 33 Well Read, Well Fed & Hopefully Well Worth It. . .Seeks male companionship w/motivated, self-sufficient individual(s) who're not heavy alcohol/drug users, smokers okay. I'm new to the area 8/88 & spend too much time alone/ in need of long conversations with benefits. Please respond to Buddy c/o **AD # 601**

Looking for a gorgeous, slightly butch dyke to take me dancing, fuck me silly, then disappear until the next Friday night. Nothing serious - this girl just wants to have fun! **Reply AD # 602**

Dutch Lesbian Woman urgently needs to find gay man, 35-45 for friendship and marriage. Can you Help? **Reply AD #603**

Very handsome, intelligent man, 26, into recovery, therapy, and communication seeks same, 23-33, to hang out with and poss. dating/sex send short letter to **AD 604**

19 year old Femme Lesbian. Looking for honest, caring young lesbian (under age 25) to be in a monogamous relationship. Would you be interested in going on long walks, hikes, swimming, sunbathing, and/or dancing? Do you enjoy city lights in San Fransisco? Do you like modern, soul or rap music while staring at beautiful art work? Let's meet! Where are you? Please, no sex addicts, drug or alcohol abusers. **Reply AD 605**

Photographer Shows Work

Cheryl Traendly, internationally known sports and portrait photographer, will be exhibiting her work at ClaireLight Women's Bookstore during the month of June. Her images capture the fluid action, grace and sensuality of great woman athletes, ie., Gabriella Sabatini, Martina Navratilova, Louise Ritter (high jump), and Judi Brown (hurdles). She is also skilled in creating portraits reflecting something special about the subject. A certain mood or expression that shows the subject's spirit and beauty.

Cheryl's photography may also be seen at the Artemis Club, 3262 Airway Drive, Santa Rosa, and at Brother Juniper's in Forestville.

All photos are for sale, and Cheryl may be contacted at Photogenics, her stock photoagency, at 887-9828 in Forestville.

Social-Life Club

Fun Among the Redwoods

The Redwood Empire social scene is finally coming together. The *Social-Life Club* is a social club for gays, lesbians, bi's and their friends, who are single or coupled and who want to do fun things with other gays and lesbians. May was the first month of planned activities and it was very successful. Although it is not meant to be a dating service, the chance of meeting someone is always there and will probably be a motivating force for many who join.

Membership in the *Social-Life Club* includes a monthly newsletter announcing activities and events. For June there is scheduled an easy hike, a boardgame night, VCR night, a bowling afternoon, a card party, a brunch, museum outing, movie night, rafting trip, dining out and a picnic. There is lots happening, and it's only the beginning!

Wondering how to join? Just send a self-addressed stamped envelope to *Social-Life Club* PO Box 2204, Santa Rosa, CA 95405. After that it is up to you to get involved, meet and have fun with our community of wonderful people who know how to have fun. If you have questions please contact Jerry (526-7464).

Redwood Empire Star-Guide

June 1989

By Chipper Bohlender

GEMINI, May 21 to June 20
If that new love hasn't happened yet, honey, don't worry. Again this month trashy affairs are in order. You've got to look for it, so start cruising. Focus all your wits on helping your co-workers. Maybe your new love is at work, who knows?

CANCER, June 21 to July 22
If I've told you once, I've told you twice. Listen, girl, you're spending to much money again. Watch out for those rainy days. Time to take responsibilities graciously. Who am I kidding? Look who I am talking to. Just keep quiet, smile lots and be polite.

LEO, July 23 to Aug 22
If you have thought of joining any clubs, there's a great one for you based in NYC: The Pussy Boy Slut Whore Club. Grab your tit clamps and go for it. If you're not into bondage, you should be.

VIRGO, Aug 23 to Sept 22
Health plays an important part of your month. So time to quit all those bad habits and join the fitness craze. Get some tight shorts and let them ride high. Since pressures at work are less demanding, give more of yourself to others. Oh, you tramp.

LIBRA, Sept 23 to Oct 22
Family, family, family. Give to them until it hurts. They are very important and they need your support this month. And stop pigging out, guy, for you'll not be the only one watching your weight. Again, finances are a source of worry.

SCORPIO, Oct 23 to Nov 22
Watch your actions or you'll get on everybody's nerves, especially when nothing happens. But you will be you, so hold off until the end of the month when it will be appropriate for you to create a stir. Girls will be girls.

SAGITTARIUS, Nov 23 to Dec 21
Your autograph is finally worth some money. So watch what you sign, honey, for it can mean a long cycle of paying for what is not worthwhile. And stop wearing red. It's just not you. Test the waters before you jump in, or should I say, check the mattress first before lying down.

CAPRICORN, Dec 22 to Jan 19
Bitch, bitch, bitch. Stop and smell the roses, baby. Things aren't that bad. Stay home more and work around the house, or people will start working their way around you and your attitude. On the bright side, honey, a wonderful surprise comes via the phone.

AQUARIUS, Jan 20 to Feb 18
Patience wins esteem. No time for delay or the waste of valuable energy. Seize all (except my lover, honey!). The number three is positive for you this time. Dinners for three? 3-ways? Oh, yes, go for it, you can have it all.

PISCES, Feb 19 to Mar 20
You're always unhappy with yourself. So stop it and go with the flow. Enjoy life! You have lots of power over others this month. If you're a bottom, try being top. You'll never go back.

ARIES, Mar 21 to Apr 20
Fight for your rights but avoid self-righteousness. Others are looking for you to lead. Pamper yourself. Get that face lift, tummy tuck, nose job you have been wanting for so long. You need it, believe me.

TAURUS, Apr 21 to May 20
Sudden changes. Money may flow into your pockets. (you can send me some c/o this paper.) Talents, which until now were hidden, come alive. But, honey, you're no Clark, Cary or Rock, so cancel that screentest.

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Thur, June 22	7-10pm	Face to Face Office 16632 River Rd, Grnvl

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Calendar

JUNE/JULY

SATURDAY JUNE 3

AIDS, ARC and US -The Journey Back to the Heart, all-day conference offering love, support and information on holistic healing and the power of the mind to PWA/HIV positive, friends, family, lovers and AIDS caregivers. 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m., El Rancho Tropicana, Santa Rosa. Sponsored by Santa Rosa Church of Religious Science. $10. Registration: 546-4543.

Dignity, gay Catholic organization, meets 1st Saturday of the month. 6:30 p.m. Mass at 7 p.m., followed by potluck dinner. For info call Jim F. at 544-1769 or Mert at 579-5308.

Teresa Chandler in concert, singing gutsy blues and scorching jazz. 8-10 p.m., ClaireLight. $5-10 sliding scale. 575-8879.

SUNDAY JUNE 4

ClaireLight's Third Birthday Party. Refreshments and door prizes as well as 10% of all regularly priced books and jewelry. Noon-5 p.m. 575-8879.

Paul Mariah of ManRoot Press reads from his work. 7 p.m., Sweet Life Cafe, S. R.

Womyn's Goddess Ritual, all womyn welcome. 7 p.m. For info come by Yalode, Main St., Guerneville, or call 869-3445.

MONDAY JUNE 5

Paul Mariah of ManRoot Press reads from his work. 7:30 p.m., Russian River Writers Guild, Sebastopol.

TUESDAY JUNE 6

Lesbian/Gay Pride Resolution will be presented for a Board of Supervisors vote. We need to be in prideful attendance to be heard! 8:30 a.m., 575 Administration Dr., Santa Rosa. Date may change so call 527-0485 or 823-5082 or 795-9687 to confirm.

Buddy Connection/Safer Sex Workshop. 7-10 p.m., Face to Face, 16632 River Road, G'ville. For more info call 579-AIDS.

Naomi Woronov, author of **China Through My Window**, will read from her book which is based on diaries and letters from the two years she lived in China. 7 p.m., ClaireLight. No admission charge. 575-8879.

Veterans C.A.R.E., gay and lesbian veterans and their friends, meets 1st Tuesday of the month. Dinner, 6:30 p.m., Petaluma Vets Bldg. For info call 829-5393.

WEDNESDAY JUNE 7

Sonoma County Lesbian/Gay Democratic Club, meets 1st Wednesday of the month. 7:30 p.m. For info call 527-0485.

FRIDAY JUNE 9

Gay Fathers Group meets 2nd Friday of the month for potluck in members' homes. For info call 823-6190.

SATURDAY JUNE 10

Over Our Heads, great Bay Area improv comedy. 8 p.m., Unitarian Church, Stony Point and Todd Rd., Santa Rosa. $7. For more info call 584-0746 or 829-2119.

SUNDAY JUNE 11

Monthly Ritual of MCC Russian River Womyn's Spirituality Group. 7 p.m. For more info come by Yalode, Main St., G'ville, or call 869-3445.

TUESDAY JUNE 13

Buddy Connection/Safer Sex Workshop. 7-10 p.m., Public Health Rotunda, 3313 Chanate Rd., Santa Rosa. For more info call 579-AIDS.

Healing Alternatives Group, for people with AIDS/ARC or HIV positive, meets 2nd Tuesday of the month. 7-9 p.m., Face to Face, G'ville. 865-2411.

WEDNESDAY JUNE 14

BANGLE, Bay Area Network of Gay and Lesbian Educators, meets 2nd Wednesday of the month. 7:30 p.m., SRJC, Faculty Senate Room. For info call Jaye Miller at 433-9158.

Lynette Sheppard, through slides and music, shares a journey of spiritual awakening and growth - the Anasazi ruins, red rocks and endless skies of the Four Corners region of the Southwest. 7 p.m., ClaireLight. Admission by donation; all proceeds to benefit Face to Face. 575-8879.

Safe Sex Workshop, fashioned after the Buddy Connection workshops of the SF AIDS Foundation. Sponsored by the Napa Valley AIDS Project. 7 p.m. For more info call 258-8421 or 258-AIDS.

THURSDAY JUNE 15

Janice Spotswoods channels the Council. 7:30 p.m., Yalode, Main St., G'ville. Donation requested.

FRIDAY JUNE 16

"Deep Dish" - Gay Men's Potluck meets 3rd Friday of the month at 7 p.m. For info call 544-4109.

SATURDAY JUNE 17

Gay Men's Quarterly Vegetarian Potluck. 119 W. 7th St., Santa Rosa. For more info call Mike at 546-2503.

Summer Solstice Party, Ritual and Camp-out. On womyn's land in Cazadero. By reservation only. $8 donation. For info come by Yalode, Main St., Guerneville, or call 869-3445.

SUNDAY JUNE 18

Third Annual Lesbian/Gay Pride Picnic. Noon-sunset, Spring Lake. For more info call Magi at 528-6244.

LGRN Men's Potluck meets 3rd Sunday of the month at 6:30 p.m. For info call Mert at 579-5308.

WEDNESDAY JUNE 21

Buddy Connection/Safer Sex Workshop. 7-10 p.m., Public Health Rotunda, 3313 Chanate Rd., Santa Rosa. For more info call 579-AIDS.

THURSDAY JUNE 22

Buddy Connection/Safer Sex Workshop. 7-10 p.m., Face to Face, 16632 River Road, G'ville. For more info call 579-AIDS.

Marcia Mengelberg will talk about stretches, massage, and her thesis project on PMS and using foot massage to help relieve symptoms. Wear comfortable clothing. 7 p.m., ClaireLight. No admission charge. 575-8879.

FRIDAY JUNE 23

Rainbow Dance, sponsored by Sonoma County Lesbian/Gay Democratic Club. 9 p.m.-1 a.m., Cotati Vets. $5-10 sliding scale.

TUESDAY JUNE 27

Fair fighting and communication skills for lesbian relationships, workshop with Frances Fuchs, CET, CHT and Mary Hinsdale, MFCC. Information, discussion and exercises regarding skills necessary for conflict resolution and intimacy. 7 p.m., Santa Rosa Senior Center. $10. Contact Frances at 578-4322, or Mary at 795-3279.

SATURDAY JULY 1

Dignity, gay Catholic organization, meets 1st Saturday of the month. 6:30 p.m. Mass at 7 p.m., followed by potluck dinner. For info call Mert at 579-5308.

TUESDAY JULY 4

Veterans C.A.R.E., gay and lesbian veterans and their friends, meets first Tuesday of each month. Dinner, 6:30 p.m., Petaluma Veterans Building. For more information, call 829-5393.

WEDNESDAY JULY 5

Sonoma County Lesbian/Gay Democratic Club, meets 1st Wednesday of the month. 7:30 p.m. For info call 527-0485.

TUESDAY JULY 11

Healing Alternatives Group, for people with AIDS/ARC or HIV positive, meets 2nd Tuesday of the month. 7-9 p.m., Face to Face, G'ville. 865-2411.

WEEKLY MEETINGS

AA Gay Freedom Group Thursday, 8 p.m. Methodist Church, 17790 Greger Ave., Boyes Springs.

AA Gay Men's Group Sunday, 8 p.m. Unitarian Church, Stony Pt. and Todd Rds., Santa Rosa.

AA Gay Newcomer's Group Friday, 6:30 p.m. Benton St. Clubhouse, 1055 Benton St., Santa Rosa.

AA Gay People's Meeting Friday, 8 p.m. Benton St. Clubhouse, 1055 Benton St., Santa Rosa.

AA Gay Petalumans Tuesday, 7:30 p.m. First Presbyterian Church, Petaluma.

AA Gravenstein Gay Group Wednesday, 7 p.m. Church of Christ, 420 Murphy Ave., Sebastopol.

AA Stein Group (Lesbian) Sunday, 8 p.m., 167 High St., Sebastopol.

AIDS Healing Group. Spiritual Healing Group for those involved with and affected by the AIDS crisis, facilitated by Dan Perdios and Laurel O'Neill, meets every Monday, 7:30-9:30 p.m. Call (707)865-2159 for more info and location.

AIDS/ARC Support Group, facilitated by Marjorie Thirkettle, MFCC (ML021923), meets every Thursday, 12:45-2:15 p.m. No fee (donation accepted). For info call 869-3304. Sponsored by the Russian River MCC.

Gay and Lesbian Support Groups, weekly ongoing sessions. Presented by Ministry of Light, 1000 Sir Francis Drake Blvd., San Anselmo, Marin County. For info call (415)457-0854.

HIV/ARC/AIDS Health Maintenance Group, a closed entry level process group focusing on how we can care for ourselves. Facilitated by Donna L. Jones, RN, FNP and Marjorie Thirkettle, MFCC. A 10-week commitment is asked of each member. Limited to 8-10 people, the group will repeat every 10 weeks. Meets every Monday night in the library conference room at Community Hospital, Santa Rosa. For info call 578-0855 or 869-3304.

HIV Positive and Spirituality Support Group, meets every 1st and 3rd Tuesday of the month. 7:30-9 p.m., Knox Presbyterian Church, 1650 West 3rd Ave., Santa Rosa. For info call Dennis at 575-5132. Sponsored by the Santa Rosa MCC.

HIV Positive Support Group, facilitated by Marjorie Thirkettle, MFCC (ML021923), meets every Thursday, 2:45-4:15 p.m. No fee (donation accepted). For info call 869-3304. Sponsored by the Russian River MCC.

HIV Support Group, sponsored by the Napa Valley AIDS Project, meets every Thursday. 6 p.m., 2281 Elm St., Napa. For info call 258-8421 or 258-AIDS.

Lesbian and Gay Overeaters Anonymous, meets every Wednesday at 8 p.m. Christ Methodist Church, 1717 Yulupa Drive, Room 5, Santa Rosa. For info call 823-5845.

Lesbian Co-Dependents Anonymous, meets every Monday at 7 p.m. Santa Rosa Senior Center, 704 Bennett Valley Road. For info call Faye at 829-5392.

Lesbian Support Group, facilitated by Marjorie Thirkettle, MFCC (ML021923), meets bimonthly, Fridays at 7 p.m. For info call 869-3304.

Living with AIDS Support Group for PWA/PWARC, facilitated by Carol Owens, MA, meets every Monday. 7-9 p.m., Face to Face office. No fee. Call 887-1581 to enroll.

Positive for Positives, support group for HIV+/AIDS/ARC, meets every Wednesday at noon. For info call 865-1834 or 869-3255.

Rainbow's End, gay/lesbian/bisexual youth project sponsored by the Ministry of Light, meets the 1st, 2nd and 3rd Thursday of each month for support and discussion. Ages 15-21. Ministry of Light offices, 1000 Sir Francis Drake Blvd., San Anselmo. For info call (415)457-1115.

Santa Rosa AIDS Awareness Group. An open informational/support group committed to decreasing the isolation of people with HIV, ARC, and AIDS. Sponsored by Face to Face. Thursday nights, 7-9 p.m. in the library conference room at Community Hospital, Santa Rosa. Newcomers, family and friends welcome. For info call 578-0855.

Support group for lesbians living with life threatening illnesses, facilitated by Carol Owens, MA, meets every Wednesday. 6:45-8:45 p.m. For info call 869-0869.

Support group for women lovers of women who were sexually abused as children, meets every Tuesday. 7-9 p.m. Free. For info call 523-3953.

Weekly Groups Now Forming: **Couples Group where one or both partners are HIV positive or have AIDS/ARC**; and a **Support Group for women who are HIV positive or have AIDS/ARC**. Both groups facilitated by Marjorie Thirkettle, MFCC (ML021923). For info call 869-3304.

OTHER PROGRAMS

Cheryl Traendly, internationally know **sports photographer**, has an exhibit of her sports and portrait photography at ClaireLight, 1110 Petaluma Hill Rd., Santa Rosa, through June.

Dip Me in Honey- Original lesbian musical comedy returns! Open auditions for lead and ensemble roles scheduled for July 15 & 16, 2-6 p.m. at Church of Science of Mind, 251 Windsor River Rd., Windsor. Bring song and prepared speaking piece. For info call Tamara, 887-9885 or Teri, 544-2658.

Lesbian Business Owner's Association meets once a month. For dates, times and further info call 585-7654.

MCC Santa Rosa meets Sundays at 11 a.m. at 3632 Airway Drive. All lifestyles welcome. For more info call 526-HOPE.

Napa Valley AIDS Project offers an ongoing Support Training for volunteers. For info call 255-6917.

Russian River Metropolitan Community Church is a church for all people regardless of sexual orientation. Service every Sunday at noon. 14520 Armstrong Woods Rd., G'ville. For info and counseling call 869-0552.

Second Conference for Homophobia Educators, "Strategies for Homophobia Education". Participants will showcase their work, network with others, and examine resources in print, slides, film and other media. June 30-July 3, UCLA, Los Angeles. For more info call Jaye Miller/BANGLE at (707)433-9158.

Second West Coast Conference and Celebration of Old Lesbians will be held at San Francisco State University Aug. 4-6, 1989. Contacts in the Bay Area for more information are: Natalie Zarchin (415)528-0018 and Sally Binford (415)989-5372. Registration materials will be available on request from West Coast Conference and Celebration, P.O. Box 31787, San Francisco, CA 94131.

Women in Touch, a lesbian social group meets every second Sunday for brunch. For info call 526-2938.

Items for the Calendar of Events should be submitted in writing by the 15th of the month. Late items will be included as space permits. Please note that because of our press time, events scheduled before the fourth of the month should be submitted two months in advance. We the People, P.O. Box 457, Graton, CA 95444.

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